

The Carmel Pine Cone

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Propane fire pits get live demo



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

They're just like having a wood fire — or not. The city's public works department demonstrated several different propane fire pits on the beach at the foot of Ocean Avenue Tuesday evening and will do so again on the sand at Eighth Avenue Wednesday, March 23, starting around 6:15 p.m. Some city officials and members of the public want only propane fire pits to be allowed on the beach.

BURNETT MAY HAVE WATER PROJECT ROLE AFTER MAYORAL TERM ENDS

By KELLY NIX

THOUGH MAYOR Jason Burnett's term ends in April, his leadership role in the effort to finally get a new water supply for the Monterey Peninsula may persist.

Burnett told The Pine Cone this week that he would like to participate, in some capacity, with the mayors' water group — officially called the

Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Authority — until a water project is up and running.

"I have a huge interest in seeing this through, both on a personal level, and of course because it matters to the community," said Burnett, who opted not to seek reelection for a third mayoral term. "But it will be for others to decide if they want me to continue."

Burnett's official role with the mayors' group will end when his mayoral term does.

Del Rey Oaks Mayor Jerry Edelen welcomed the idea of Burnett continuing to work with the water authority, saying he's done a "phenomenal job" in his role on the panel.

"I respect Jason very much," Edelen told The Pine Cone. "He has been a leader on the water authority, and he has many contacts by virtue of his position as mayor of Carmel and his family ties. He has been absolutely tireless in [securing] agreements we have with California American Water. I would love to see him involved with regards to water."

Pacific Grove Mayor Bill Kampe also said Burnett's continuing involvement would be welcomed.

"I think all of us really appreciate that he has brought an incredibly deep knowledge of not only the water issues, but also the process of the California Coastal Commission, the PUC and the State Water Resources Control Board," Kampe told The Pine Cone. "The level of dedication he has put into it has been absolutely beyond the norm and well beyond what people are aware of."

Both Edelen and Kampe, however, said Burnett's exact role and whether he would be paid would be issues that would obviously need



Jason Burnett

MoCo official wants permits for Car Week events

By CHRIS COUNTS

EVERY AUGUST, Concours Week draws thousands of automobile aficionados to the Monterey Peninsula, providing a big boost to the local economy. But Monterey County Planning Commissioner Martha Diehl said the major influx of visitors also clogs roads and strains infrastructure, and in response, she wants to see Car Week regulated — even though one-time or annual events on private property have never required permits.

While Diehl concedes that Car Week brings "vital economic activity" to the area and raises money for charity, she said it also creates "widespread significant traffic, crowds and noise."

"Residents and workers find it hard to get to home, work and school," Diehl posted on her blog at montereycountycarweek.wordpress.com. "Normally quiet areas are full of cars, trucks and visitors. Formal and informal celebrations abound. Every space that can be rented to house a person or a car is full and overflowing. Cars, trucks and pedestrians are everywhere."

Show me the permits

Despite the Monterey Peninsula's reputation as a place that's heavily regulated — particularly on land use issues — Diehl said there's little oversight of Car Week.

"I can find no permits in the Monterey County

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Hard fought campaign heads to final stretch

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE campaign for mayor and city council heading into its final weeks, and with a poll of Pine Cone readers showing a virtual tie in the race for mayor, (see results below), candidates are trying hard to draw distinctions among themselves.

At this week's forum held by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, it turned out that not everyone thinks the city needs to raise more money, but no one wants to change the rules on the kinds of restaurants that can open in town, and nobody supports a ban on smoking.

Moderated by past chamber board chair Graeme Robertson, the forum included all seven people running for office: mayoral candidates Steve Dallas and Ken Talmage, and council candidates Richard Kreitman, Dave Mosley, Jack Pappadeas, Jan Reimers and Bobby Richards.

Chamber members were responsible for the questions, which included thoughts on event fee waivers — which are supported by all the candidates in one form or another — the Forest Theater renovation, Sunset Center's master plan, median lighting (speakers generally agreed the analysis started more than a year ago should finally be completed), the farmers market (most of the candidates are happy with it, but Reimers wants analysis), and deferred maintenance on the streets and sidewalks, which everyone said should be done, though Mosley talked about planting more trees.

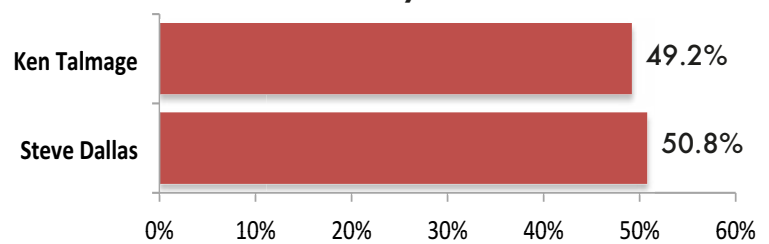
Business needs and water

When asked for their top priorities, Kreitman said his was "managing the future," while Mosley focused on infrastructure. Pappadeas wants "better cohesion with businesses and residents," and Reimers said the "real priority is to work as a team on the council, and have a work plan with clear and precise goals." Richards would focus on stabilizing city revenues, and Dallas would like to help guide people who want to open businesses in town, which would also help the city's bottom line. Talmage said water is the top priority, with the state's cease-and-desist order set to take effect at the end of the year — which would severely curtail how much

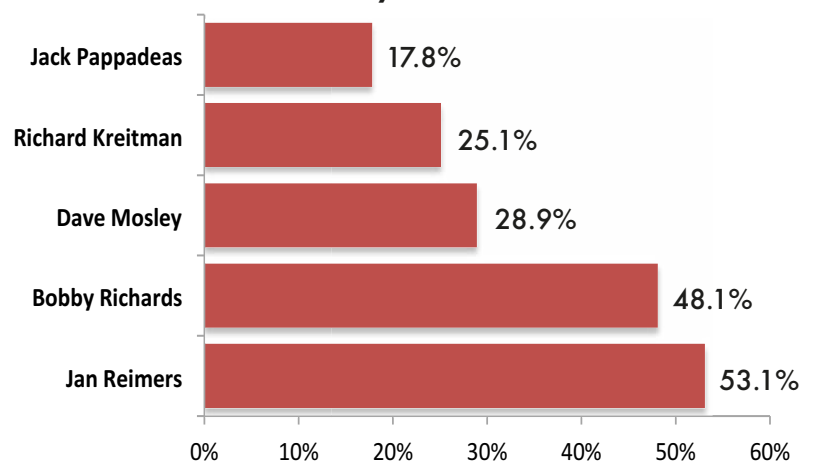
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Dallas, Reimers, Richards take lead in Pine Cone reader poll

For Mayor



For City Council



A POLL conducted this week among subscribers to The Pine Cone's email edition showed that the race for mayor in the April 12 election is essentially a toss-up, while two candidates for city council have strong leads over everybody else.

The poll, which had more than 500 respondents, showed Steve Dallas with a slight lead over Ken Talmage, 225 votes to 218. The totals for council were: Jan Reimers, 226 votes, Bobby Richards, 205, Dave Mosley, 123, Richard Kreitman, 107 and Jack Pappadeas, 76.

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