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Moving 'Forward'

The public still has time to comment about SANDAG's 35-year regional transit plan. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

SANDAG's 35-year plan anticipates density, population growth and transit needs

By Dave Fidlin

After 2.5 years of hashing through the finer points, leaders of a San Diego area intergovernmental planning agency are taking the wraps off a plan that addresses long-range transportation issues across the county.

The San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG, on April 24 released for public consumption a 172-page draft document, "San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan," that includes a vision for greater uses of various forms of public transportation.

SANDAG's lengthy plan addresses projected population and density growth in many areas of San Diego, including the city's Uptown, Mission Valley and Downtown areas.

Sustainability is also incorporated into the plan, with a variety of environmentally friendly practices

that call for a reduction in greenhouse gas.

As a next step in the process of minting the plan, SANDAG officials will hold a series of public workshops in communities across the county, including several in the city of San Diego. Two formal public hearings will be held in June — an overture SANDAG officials say will assist in making possible refinements to the plan.

Taken as a whole, SANDAG's plan that extends through 2050 calls for building a regional transportation network, an ambitious endeavor that carries an estimated \$200 billion price tag over the course of the project.

Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents most of the neighborhoods in San Diego's Uptown area, also serves on the SANDAG board. Gloria is among a handful of governmental officials across the county who had a role in shaping the plan in its draft form.

Gloria described San Diego Forward as a "critical document" that will assist in planning for the region's future. Components of the plan, he said, are designed to

see SANDAG, page 16

A funny man calling the numbers

Ken Williams | Editor

Barry Shingle was a good little Catholic, even an altar boy, but he never got into his parish's favorite pastime: bingo.

Flash forward to his adult years, and Shingle is now known far and wide for his popular "Bingo with Barry" act at the swanky Rancho la Puerta spa in Tecate, Baja California, Mexico.

Shingle will bring "Bingo with Barry" to Uptown on June 6 as a fundraiser for the San Diego Indoor Sports Club in Bankers Hill. The fun evening will raise money for the repainting of the club at 3030 Front St. The club will soon be renamed Bankers Hill Clubhouse after the makeover.

The fundraiser will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour showcasing the expansive views of San Diego Bay and Point Loma. Visitors can also tour the building, which has been a "home away from home" to the disabled community since the 1950s. Bingo will begin at 7 p.m. with Shingle at the helm.

A resident of Hillcrest when he is not working at Rancho la Puerta as the resort's activity director, Shingle says he never intended to be one of the funniest men in bingo.

"When I started working at Rancho La Puerta 15 years ago, they punished the new employees

see Bingo, page 8

Stars in their eyes

FilmOut's 17th annual festival returns with big-name celebrities

Ken Williams | Editor

Zachary Quinto and James Franco, both marquee stars of today, and Tab Hunter, the golden boy from the golden age of Hollywood, will be among the top attractions at FilmOut San Diego's film festival later this month.

The 17th annual LGBT Film Festival will run May 29-31 at the historic former Birch North Park Theatre building, now home to Observatory North Park, presented by the FilmOut board of directors and supported by a slew of dedicated volunteers.

Hunter, the blond-haired, blue-eyed boy next door who crushed it at the box office and on the music charts in the 1950s all the while hiding in the closet from his legions of fans, will be featured in "Tab Hunter Confi-

see FilmOut, page 9



(l to r) James Franco and Zachary Quinto star in "I Am Michael" at FilmOut San Diego's LGBT Film Festival, showing May 31. (Courtesy of "I Am Michael")

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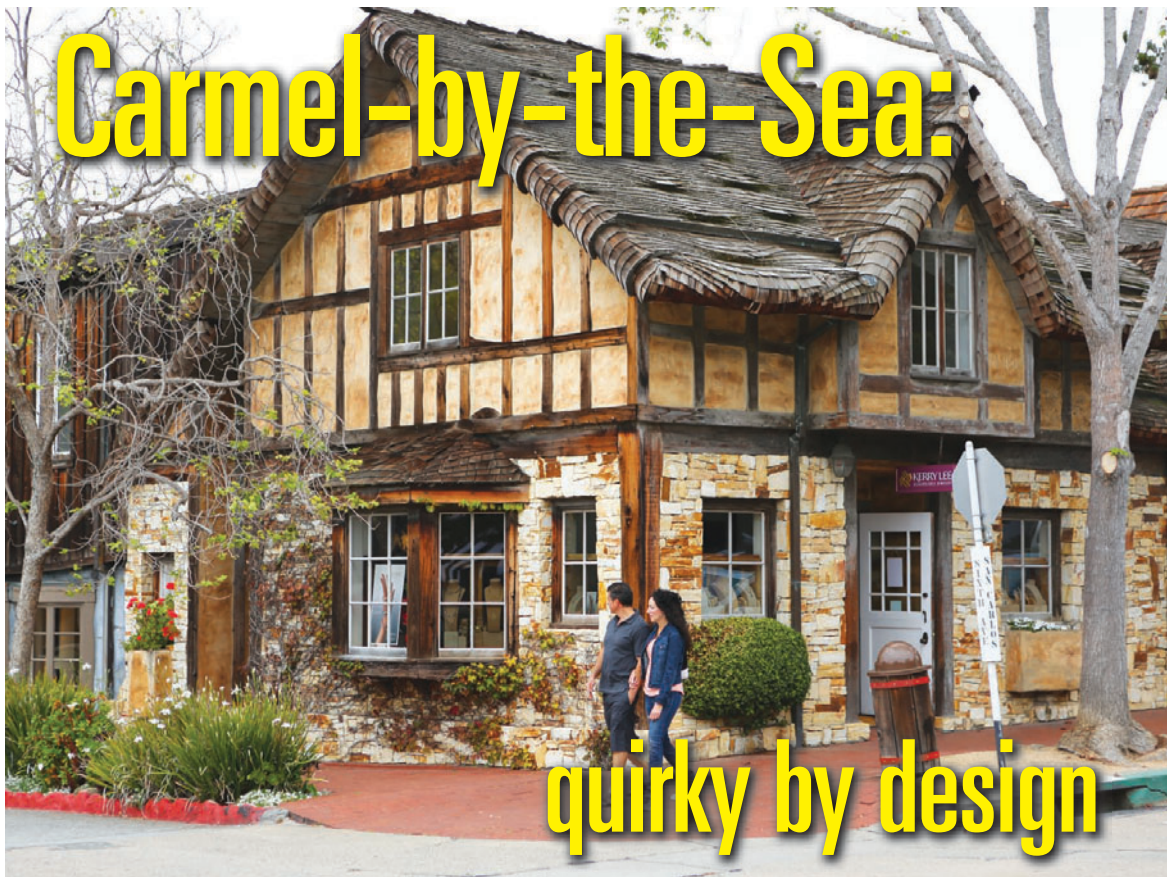
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Carmel-by-the-Sea might remind you of a seaside English village. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Global Gumshoe

Ron Stern



Imagine a sleepy coastal town whose lifting morning fog reminds you of a cozy English village set among towering pines and cypress trees. Now picture the same place with no street addresses, sidewalks, parking meters or streetlights; a place where houses have names like Periwinkle and Sea Urchin and where four-legged friends are as welcome as the two-legged variety. Is this a dream? No, you are in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Not willing to become a conventional city, early residents consisting of writers, artists and studios types decided to make Carmel-by-the-Sea, sometimes referred to as Carmel, a very special and unusual place to live. Built on a slope overlooking magnificent Carmel Bay with its white-sand beach, one of its most famous architects was Hugh Comstock. In 1920, he constructed a small fairytale doll cottage to house his wife's expanding doll collection. Complete with rolled eaves and asymmetrical designs, these "Comstock houses" were in high demand. Today, 21 survive, including the Tuck Box Restaurant on Delores Street where, in keeping with the English theme, you can enjoy afternoon tea.

You might feel sorry for a new

UPS driver in Carmel as, unlike any other city, this one doesn't have any street addresses. Rather, residents pick up their mail at the post office, which was meant to encourage meeting your neighbors. How do you find a house, you ask? Simply head three blocks north of Mission to the green house on the west with the name Purple Petunia.

What other oddities mark this town? How about no high heels or ice cream cones. Yes, you heard right. The former was owing to the uneven nature of the streets due to intruding tree roots, which a city attorney a long time ago felt was a liability issue. The law has been on the books since the 1920s, but, never fear, you can get around it by going to City Hall where they will issue you an official waiver. Actually, nobody was ever cited for this offense, and the certificate is more for show than anything else. Men can even apply ... in case the mood strikes.

As for the ice cream cone ordinance, rather than see sticky goo end up all over their nice streets, they simply banned the sale and eating of this confection. Enter Clint Eastwood, aka Dirty Harry, who ran for mayor on a pro-business platform in 1986 and repealed the law.

All this isn't to say that Carmel doesn't have much to offer visitors. Quite the contrary. There are 45 small inns, about half of which are dog friendly; 90 art galleries; 14 wine tasting rooms; and 60 restau-

rants, all within 16 walkable blocks.

For a city that is only 1 square mile, you can choose from quite a range of food options (including ice cream). There are, reportedly, more restaurants per capita here than in any other place on Earth.

At Trio Carmel, you'll sample fine wines, vinegars and olive oil. The Carmel Bakery on Ocean Avenue is a popular place for coffee and pastries, and their humungous chocolate macaroons are a popular choice. The Cypress Inn, located at Lincoln and Seventh, is co-owned by Doris Day and is, of course, pet friendly. You can spend the afternoon or evening in their emerald-lit bar watching Doris Day's old movies, having a meal and enjoying some Prohibition-era cocktails. Try the Orange Blossom that comes with a side of jellybeans, a popular choice when Ronald Reagan was filming here.

If you visit, make sure you are in good health because Carmel doesn't have a cemetery. The only exception is for the town dog, Pal, who is interred on the grounds of the Forest Theater.

As day gives way to evening, you'll also notice another Carmel peculiarity — darkness. Except for the internal glow of some houses or businesses, you will find yourself walking along uneven streets in pre-Edison days. The reason is simple, to be able to see the stars and moon, which is a nice thing. So make sure you bring a flashlight to light your way.



(left) the Cypress Inn in Carmel is co-owned by Doris Day. (top and right) Carmel restaurants range from simple to elegant. (Photos by Ron Stern)

Carmel-by-the-Sea may have its quirks but that's what makes it such an amazing place to visit. When you're not out shopping or eating, you can relax all tucked in at a local inn, sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine and listening to the sounds of the waves lapping the ocean shore. Go ahead and live the dream.

FTC disclosure: Promotional considerations and sponsorship provided by those mentioned in this article.

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