



In case you missed it

The top stories on MalibuTimes.com this week



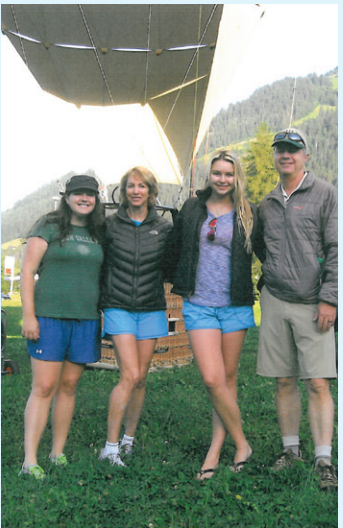
Fireworks Shows Set for 4th of July in Malibu  
Malibu residents had three firework displays to choose from this year.



Diesel and Howdy's Closing Country Mart Locations  
Howdy's owner plans to relocate locally; Diesel owners have no plans for new Malibu location.



Hey, Sprint, Can You Hear Me Now?  
Cell phone users still struggle to find signal in Malibu and Sprint agrees to take action.



Adamson Family Files \$53.8-Million Suit Over Balloon Crash  
The Adamson Family is taking legal action in the wake of Grant Adamson's death.



Man Dies At Zuma Beach  
A 66-year-old man from Arcadia died of an apparent heart attack Monday.

Letters to the Editor

The Malibu Times requests that letters to the editor be sent by U.S. mail or hand-delivered to The Malibu Times, 3864 Las Flores Canyon Rd., Malibu, CA 90265; e-mailed to malibunews@malibutimes.com or by fax to 310.456.8986. Name, address and phone number must be included with all letters for verification purposes. Typed letters must use sentence case (please avoid submitting correspondence typed entirely in capital letters or in cursive). Letters should be brief, 350 words maximum, and may be edited for clarity or length. Deadlines are Tuesdays at noon.

Sparking motivation

Thank you Arnold York for discussing the water quality dynasty, in light of the California Coastal Commission in our state. California needs leadership, not dictatorship. Your editorial hits hard and true; this is not a good omen for Malibu's immediate future, unless Zev Yaroslavsky would take up the fight as he heads for Sacramento!

Zev done a great job for us—his constituents. We need his help to raise awareness of the out-of-control state agencies, which will wreck, rather than improve, California. How can we get him to take notice? Might he react to your strong words and take a lead for California?

Anne Payne

Malibu's money

This coming Monday evening, July 14, the planning department will be recommending that the city council appropriate approximately \$850,000 to pay an outside team of planners and consultants to generate the Civic Center Specific Plan and Design Guidelines. This money will have to come out of the general fund reserves, currently estimated at \$16.4 million.

Anyone who knows Malibu knows that another Civic Center Specific Plan will be D.O.A. long before it is submitted to the council for a vote. The winning

firm, M.I.G., apparently doesn't know this, as they have painted a rosy picture, stating that the Malibu "... community has shown its willingness to accept new development ... provided tangible community benefits are provided." And they are more than ready to use this complete misreading of the residents to take \$1 million from us to play planning games for the next couple of years.

So the questions are numerous. Why are we about to throw 6% of our reserve funds away? Why are we giving our money to a planning firm that, according to their website, doesn't even have a Los Angeles office (and clearly doesn't understand the community sentiment)? Why would the city council deny Malibu Unites, a 100% local organization with the health and safety of our own children at heart, \$25,000, yet approve 40 times that amount on what any local knows is a quixotic adventure in pie-in-the-sky theoretical planning? Why did the City Council not side with the residents on the formula retail ordinance, thereby forcing one of our local families to reach deep into their pockets in order to essentially do the city's job? Why do we have \$16.4 million? How did we get it?

I encourage you to come to the City Council meeting on Monday, sign a speaker slip and request that your elected representatives answer these questions before spending a ton of our money. That's right; our money.  
Lester Tobias



From the Publisher  
Arnold G. York

Round 3: The City Council

As you may recall, recently a group of citizens, led by Rob and Michele Reiner and others, circulated a petition to move the long-stalled chain store ordinance toward the ballot box. They circulated a petition and 2,300 people signed it, far more than the 1,400 needed to put it on the ballot. After the County Registrar verified they were valid signatures, the next step was to send it back to City Council for a decision of sorts.

It's probably no surprise that the voters came up with a petition to force this issue to the ballot, since City Council kind of fiddled around with the issue for a couple of years until it became apparent that they weren't terribly eager to come to grips with the problems of commercial growth and the invasion of national chains. Part of the Council's reluctance was simply prudence. They surmised that this might very well end up in extended litigation, which is both expensive and time-consuming. What they hadn't counted on is that many citizens of Malibu were very unhappy with the changes going on in the city. Many citizens didn't seem to think that turning Malibu into a shopping destination for the benefit of some high-end shoppers was such a good idea, particularly when the citizens of Malibu were paying for it with increased traffic congestion, higher policing costs, parking problems and increased city maintenance costs.

Next Monday, Malibu's City Council is going to have to make choices: adopt the ordinance, without changes, or not, and then put it on the ballot, either for Nov. 4, 2014, or push it off to the next city election on April 12, 2016. The process is actually more involved, but those are essentially the choices.

Recently, City Council did what city councils do when they are faced with a decision they really don't want to make: they sent it out for a detailed staff report to evaluate all the impacts. They got back a document describing the legal impacts, a fact-check of the petition, a report on its consistency with the General Plan and land use impacts, and a financial and fiscal analysis. The staff reports

for the first three have already come in and the last part is coming. You might say that the staff report is a 103-page smorgasbord, with something for everyone to like and something for everyone to hate, but no real commanding direction. It can't help make a decision for us because what's involved is not a question of what the staff thinks, or what the consultants think. The issue ultimately to be decided is: what do the voters of Malibu think? What do we want our town to be? And what don't we want it to be?

I have friends that think the Reiner initiative is a terrible idea. They believe it will sink us into litigation and they insist many of the new people like the way the town is changing. They like these stores, they shop in these stores and their women are all size four or smaller and their children are all well above average. And it's only the old-timers (meaning me and others, and that's not the actual word they used) are stuck in our ways and opposed to change. They also see the new construction coming as a sign of a vibrant community, changing, growing, inviting to young families who are filled with optimism.

I have other friends who are less sanguine about the future, particularly in the Civic Center. They see a flood of visitors and little parking; they see this as thrusting additional financial demands on the city, all for the benefit of a few landowners in the Civic Center area. They see the center owners and many of their tenants giving very little back to the community, and they're very unhappy about it. They know that recently the Malibu Village Shopping Center sold for \$120 million, which is substantially more than it was only a few years ago. That means that the value of real estate in the Civic Center is skyrocketing, which always means that commercial rents are going to go up even more.

These are two conflicting scenarios and, in a democracy, that's what a ballot box is for, to give us all an opportunity to stand up and be counted. I trust the City Council will put this on the ballot in November and not let this issue fester.

From the Web

Editor's note: The following are comments responding to articles posted on malibutimes.com.

Kind words for Grant Adamson

I miss Grant ... his calm cheerfulness, having lunch and listening to his stories about the history of Malibu. It was a history he lived, and I fear that much of that history was lost with his death. He did so much for our community, never seeking the limelight, so accordingly many don't realize his profound contributions. As I observe the oftentimes-acerbic civic discourse in our town, I am struck by the irony that Grant, whose family founded Malibu, was always the consummate gentleman. Always polite and gracious, even with those he disagreed with. I hope he knew, and that his family knows today, how much he inspired and led, not by his words, but by how

he comported himself. That is a true legacy.

Posted by "Don Schmitz" to "Adamson Family Files \$53.8-Million Suit Over Balloon Crash"

Support for our mayor

Thank you Skylar for doing a good job. You are the only one on the City Council who represents the citizens over your own interests and biases.

Posted by "andychoka" to "Letter: Praise for Peak"

Dangerous driving in Malibu

He was apparently stopped

for driving erratically. He will lawyer up and get a tap on the wrist, if anything. Driving under the influence in Malibu is a right of passage. Isn't it obvious?

Posted by "MMA" to "Disney Star Arrested in Malibu for DUI"

Trouble communicating

This is great news! However, the problem isn't just in Western Malibu. It's all throughout the area. I have calls dropped continually between Big Rock and Las Flores, not to mention at Pepperdine and when passing Geoffrey's.

Posted by "MalibuMa" to "Hey, Sprint, Can You Hear Me Now?"

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