By Barbara Ransom

I attended the Venice Beach Boardwalk Lottery, July 21, as an observer.

A fascinating eclectic mix of people stood around chatting, drinking coffee, and waiting, waiting for their chance to claim a ten by ten spot on the Venice Boardwalk for the coming week or weekend. Each person put their seller’s card into a green tumbler and, precisely at 8:30 am, the drawing for the weekend began.

As the official from Parks and Recreation drew the cards from the tumbler fifteen at a time, talking would hush as he announced the vendors’ names through a speaker system. The chosen vendors would then go sign up for the available spaces. There are 100 “I zone” spots and 100 “P zone” spots on the boardwalk, each zone with different vending rules, and each with a separate lottery.

About 300 people were gathered for the “I zone” lottery and perhaps 200 for the “P zone” – seemingly, not very good chances for either one. But, at least everyone has a fair chance. Just like Abbot Kinney, back in 1902, when he won his half of the city of Ocean Park that we now call Venice with a coin toss.

—continued on page 4

By Jennifer Smith and Jim Smith

The recent battle over permit parking has kept a spotlight on Venetians’ continuing dilemma of where to stash their cars. Yet, no solutions have yet been proposed that would address the problem – with or without pay parking – with a long-term solution.

Much of the dialogue has centered on having not enough parking. But what if we look at it from the perspective of too many cars?

Live Free Or Drive!

Unlike most of Southern California, Venice began as a planned city that did not exalt the role of the automobile. In the first years of the 20th century, it was unclear whether the car would become king.

At that time, most visitors traveled to and from Venice via the Pacific Electric Railway, also know as the Red Cars. Once in Venice, short distances made walking convenient and prevalent. In addition, there was a miniature train that traveled around central Venice and there were trams on the Ocean Front Walk.

—continued on page 10

An artists’ protest was held on the beach, July 25, to call attention to the flea market atmosphere on Ocean Front Walk that discriminates against local artists. Photos by Pegarty Long.

CASUALTIES IN AFGHANISTAN:
756 U.S. Dead - 40 this month

IRAQ:
4,330 U.S. Dead - 7 this month
31,446 U.S. Wounded

Iraqi Dead: 1,339,771
Cost of wars: $892+ Billion

Sources: costofwar.com • antiwar.com •icasualties.org
What a life indeed

Dear Beachhead,

I’m sitting at Abbot’s Habit, enjoying my first of what I imagine will be many of their delicious sandwiches, and today marks officially one week that I’ve lived in Venice.

I picked up the beachhead as I was waiting for my order, and was greeted with Eino Hill’s inspiring first-ever article about all the possibilities that this city has to offer.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate that my life has brought me here at this point, and I look forward to discovering all the magic the place has to offer.

Kudos to Eino on a great article and an even better outlook, and I look forward to becoming a regular beachhead reader.

Thank you both!

Tim SYRNG

Camping Area Needed for RVs

Dear Beachhead,

With a new city attorney, Mr. Trutanich, many feel that “quality of life” issues, such as the invasion of Neighborhoods by Campers/ RVs will be immediately addressed.

If people sleep in their cars or vehicles, they will be apprehended and prosecuted. After all, you agree that people who convert their motor vehicles into “living quarters” either overnight or day by day are otherwise in violation of the Los Angeles Municipal Code 85.2.

I oppose OPDs. I also feel that your community should locate some land or area which is an appropriate venue for these residents, and make some arrangements so that they can have a safe and secure location.

Let’s work together. We both are opposed to OPDs and we both agree that camping in front of someone’s home indefinitely is also wrong, inappropriate and unlawful.

Happy Summer, Michael Millman

The Actually Existing Health Care System

By Carl Ginsburg

There is nothing inherently wrong with spending 17 per cent of GDP on health care if the result is a really healthy population. Just like there is nothing wrong with a “big” budget deficit if the money goes to making good jobs for working people, cleaning up their cities and environment and bettering schools instead of making rich financiers richer. But given the fact that countless pregnant women go without sonograms, diabetes is near epidemic proportions, pregnant women go without sonograms, diabetes is near epidemic proportions, and unlawful.

There is nothing inherently wrong with the nation in a news conference, July 22, and repudiate his interpretation of their comments within days) and you go before the nation in a news conference, July 22, and devote the presentation to existing government programs.

American health care is reeling because it is a profit center where gouging is the norm. For-profit clinics and hospitals print money, paying out hefty dividends and huge salaries to management. Not-for-profits operate along similar lines. Ask Michelle Obama, who pulled down a reported $400,000 a year at a Chicago hospital doing non-medical work. But that’s just a small piece of the action.

There is so much gouging, so much greed and gross profiteering, that you have to wonder why Bernie Madoff didn’t go that way.

The CEOs of numerous health insurance companies have pulled down huge salaries to management. Equity firm, Carlyle Group, a few years back reported $400,000 a year at a Chicago hospital doing non-medical work. But that’s just a small piece of the action.

There is so much gouging, so much greed and gross profiteering, that you have to wonder why Bernie Madoff didn’t go that route and save himself a lifetime in prison.

Among the worst abuses was the conversion of non-profit insurance companies to for-profit institutions over the last decade. The CEOs of numerous insurers walked away with hundreds of millions of dollars, each.

United Healthcare’s boss got close to a billion bucks for handing over the reins...
As the Crow Caws
(One Sassy Bird’s Opinion)

Well, I suppose I should first introduce myself before I start mouthing off. My name is Lily Crow and I live here in Venice.

Anyway, there has been a lot of hoopla over those big RV’s parking in the streets. Now ordinarily, crows stay out of human affairs for a flock of reasons. One: humans are stupid. Two: their affairs are predictable and repetitive. Three: we are busy ourselves with plotting the take over of the Universe. And many other reasons I cannot tell you without breaking the corvid’s oath.

It was difficult, however, to ignore the war against the RV’s and the dwellers in them. So much rushing around on both sides -- meetings and flyers and voting and voting again. From an aerial view point, we crows were quite perplexed: What was the big deal? Why were the humans battling so hard? And more importantly, would we get any carcasses out of it?

Thank the Morrigan for the Beachhead! One of our clan managed to steal a copy and find out what exactly had happened. We were so impressed by the Beachhead’s coverage of the OPD battle that we decided you would be the perfect place to air our own important parking battle.

To tell you the truth, as I must (being a crow and all), this new battle I think is so important hatches out of a strong bias I have towards one of you humans. He is so well-trained by us crows that we could almost call him a slave to us – but we hate that word. He admires, respects, and most importantly FEEDS us lots and lots of peanuts. So we have decided to take up one of his personal battles. Besides, he drives a beautiful, shiny black car with a HUGE bird on the hood. Something even a crow can admire.

Anyway, this fellow’s car keeps getting smacked while it is parked. Time after time after time. Front bumper, back bumper and even occasionally, the door. It’s especially entertaining when his wife catches the person hitting his car! We think she is part banshee. This brings me to the next parking battle: whether to allow people, at any hour of the day or night, to park in the streets who do not know how to parallel park. You know, those people who think bumpers are for bumping into. I wish I could tell you these Bumper People come in one color, one sex, one class, or one type of car. They exist EVERYWHERE.

One idea we had is to have all Venetians tested to see if they can parallel park. We figure there could be a special zone created by the City where humans could prove their parking prowess. Those who pass would receive a special sticker, preferably with a picture of a crow on it. We crows like to see our image everywhere.

Those who fail the parking test can then be removed by the City to Bumperville, where they can bump their hearts and heads away with one another. Oh – and Bumperville should be miles and miles away so as not to create a stigma in Venice.

We crows feel that if Bumper People were forbidden to park here in Venice there would be such an enormous wave of goodwill from our man’s heart that it may very well spread through all of Venice. And, although you may feel this has nothing to do with OPDs and RVs, Bumper People have something in common with RV haters: they look in their rear view car mirrors and see only themselves!

So, Bumper People Be Gone! And another thing, could someone please tell me why people are worried about human waste on the street when the evidence points to big, steaming piles of dog shit? (which my other human ally, typing my thoughts, suddenly realized she had stepped in by the horrific odor coming from her sandals.)

Ok, enough time wasted in human affairs. And remember – we crows are all around you, watching you when you think we are not, prepared to tell the truth no matter what it sounds like.

Time to fly!

Lily Crow
By Amy V. Dewhurst

Where Are Our Volleyball Nets??

There are a total of three volleyball nets north of the Breakwater on the 600 block of Ocean Front Walk (eight total in Venice). For more than a month one third of them have been missing.

Whether from natural wear and tear, an act of vandalism or simply a lack of maintenance, the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation has disappointed the citizens of Venice. Despite several calls to their office, two ineffectual posts still stand netless. A subculture staple who preferred not to be named cried that he is outraged at the lack of attention to this basic fundamental aspect of our community.”

Multimedia writer/director Peter Tahoe is despondent because of the city’s lack of response citing “I look forward to Sundays because that’s our weekly community get together. The unfortunate destruction of one of the nets has inhibited that.”

Enervated by this equivocation, five year Venice residents Brooke and Jelani Lawson purchased a net for neighborhood use. Jelani, a lawyer, declared “It’s a shame that in the current economic crisis, the city of Los Angeles seems to lack the resources to maintain the public space and that private citizens have to do the job of the city.”

To join in the cause to replace the net please call 310-305-9511.

Artists Protest Commercial Vending on Ocean Front Walk

—continued from page 1

But as time went on, the rumblings of frustration began in the crowd. I walked around and listened in. Many of the vendors are disheartened with the lottery process for two main reasons.

First, apparently, there are people cheating to get a spot. Some people are supposedly getting their family members seller’s permits and then entering all of them in the lottery to improve their chances of getting a spot. The rumor is that there are families of ten doing this and people are even getting cards for their children. And then there are apparently people who don’t plan on selling anything on the boardwalk who enter cards into the lottery. When they get a spot, they then sell their spots to others for cash.

But, most frustrating to many, is the commercial vending. Anyone, as they walk down the boardwalk, can see the large amount of commercial vending. In one block, there are several different spots selling the same mass produced made-in-china necklaces, bracelets, or plastic encased insects. These items are obviously inexpensive, easy to get, and sell well. They are a quick and simple way to gain income in a down economy. So, what’s wrong with that?

According to a group of local artists, it is not only against the ordinances of the boardwalk to sell these items, but it is also offensive to the “spirit” of Venice. They feel that the boardwalk is becoming a “flea market” or “swap meet” instead of the free speech zone it was intended to be. They’d like to see local artists with handmade items get priority in the lottery over the commercial vendors. They would like to see the ordinances enforced by someone, and they would like to see those who
The wonder and beauty of Life in this section of the Cosmos is that it is all connected with Love. I'm not sure how It works in the other sections. I hope to understand It all someday. In the meantime, I'll cultivate gratitude for the endless blessings that daily come my way.

A lot of people seem to be short on gratitude. Plenty of ego out there. However, we seem to be short on gratitude. Why is that? I don't know, but ego could eliminate gratitude, and vice versa.

Gratitude could commence with a pure, joyous, fearless love of Life. With that foundation a thousand opportunities for gratitude would rise up in daily living, I feel sure. I'm certainly looking forward to it.

In the meantime, I'll be spending my time attempting to out maneuver my ego, that cunning rascal, who pops up everywhere I appear.

G-d damn him to Sausalito, and I say that with all due respect. If you are wise and kind, ego will eventually serve the good with its own dissolution.

It's always reassuring to remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is within us. The center, foundation and essence of spiritual life, is subjective meditation. Herein lies the answer to world peace, if you have any questions about that. It all starts, and ends, with I; and there is no I. There is no ego as well. Go figure. Maybe it is all Maya. And then again, maybe It's just an illusion. Who knows?

Send in those letters and post cards with your answers. There may be prizes, but don't count on it. If you're happy, content, at peace, creatively active, socially fulfilled, evolving emotionally and sexually viable, what's your problem? If you're not, never mind those cards and/or letters.

**Rotary Club Returns to Venice**

By Don Culton

To many, a Rotary Club means a group of conservative old men in suits having lunch and badly singing patriotic songs.

That image may have fit the Rotary Club of Venice when it was founded in 1942. But, for the past several months a reborn club has been having weekly breakfasts on Thursdays at the venerable Firehouse Restaurant at Main and Rose. Only occasionally has a suit been seen, and nobody has sung a song yet.

For many years the club was the Venice Marina Club and met at various restaurants in Marina del Rey. But, with a motto of “Service Above Self,” the local organization has concentrated most of its service projects in recent years in Venice.

Annually it sponsors a Crafts Awards program, an Awards of Excellence Luncheon, where honors students receive letterman type jackets, and a Career Day, all at Venice High School.

This past year more than $20,000 was granted to local schools as part of the Adiba Shaby Memorial Grant Program. Senior citizen lunches, a Christmas party for the handicapped students at McBride School, scholarships for graduating seniors, and sponsorship of the Culmination Ceremony at Mark Twain Middle School, have kept members busy.

A recent pancake breakfast for Los Angeles Fire Department Company 63 raised more than $4000 to assist in upgrading facilities.

The club admits to having fun to go along with the service projects. They won an award this past year with its entry in the Marina del Rey Boat Parade, had a fund raising Bingo Night, a wine tasting, and a members only cruise in the Marina.

Club President Armando Diaz, Associate Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, has vowed to keep meetings on time, beginning at 7:30 am, over by 8:45, and including a short program featuring guest speakers, usually on a topic of relevance primarily to Venice.

Rotary is an international organization of over 1.2 million members in 200 countries. With a matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign is close to its goal of eliminating this crippling ailment from the world.

Worldwide, the Rotary wheel can be seen on parks, playgrounds, schools, and clubhouses that have been built by Rotarians. Members do not worry about being labeled “Do-gooders.” Guests are welcome at meetings.

**MOVIE NIGHT**

with the Venice Justice Committee, featuring:

“Vietnam: American Holocaust”

Narrated by Martin Sheen Written and Produced by Clay Claiborne

Friday * August 14 * 7:30PM

Venice United Methodist Church - Peace with Justice Hall

1020 Victoria Ave, Venice (corner of Lincoln and Victoria)

Donations Appreciated

- no one turned away for lack of funds

Movie snacks will be available!

For more information, call 310 398 7192 or email justicecommittees@fastmail.fm

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Car Show Stops Traffic on Rose Avenue

By Greta Cobar

More than a hundred sparkly cars, motorcycles and bicycles rolled onto Rose Ave, June 30, as the Venice Community Housing Corporation (VCHC) successfully put on its first “Venice Beach Rides for the Community” Car and Motorcycle Show. The event was awesome, to be surpassed only by its mission of raising money for low-income housing in Venice and Mar Vista.

While strolling between Lincoln and Main Street, Venetians and out-of-towners found it almost impossible to decide on the winner of the event: the perfect beach weather, cherried vintage cars, beautiful people, art rides, street food, hot rods, bands, muscle cars, Venice’s world-famous street performers, motorcycles, custom-built bicycles or eco rides.

Trophies were awarded to several participants in different categories, but Venice itself was the true winner of the event, as the money raised will be used by VCHC to fulfill its mission of “preserving the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice and the surrounding area by maximizing affordable housing, community and economic development opportunities and by providing needed social services to low-income residents.”

Although we Venetians get a chance to breathe fresh air every day, even to us this event felt refreshing after the nasty Overnight Parking District battles, the harassment of the car dwellers by the LAPD, and the ongoing yuppies’ efforts to transform the city into another gated community.

As VCHC proved at this event, reaching out and helping each other, raising money for one another as opposed to trying to get rid of each other is a lot more fun, constructive and good-karma-providing than the bitter clashes could ever be. Let’s let this event serve as an inspiration for what we can and do accomplish here to persevere the true spirit of Venice, which can never be defeated.

Photos by Krista Schiewimmer

Red Enough? VW Vans and Venice have had a long-time romance
By Mark Lipman

While attending the opening of the 2nd Biannual San Francisco International Poetry Festival (July 23-26), I had the opportunity to speak with its organizer, San Francisco’s poet laureate, Jack Hirschman.

Sitting in his white linoleum kitchen, around a bottle of Russian vodka – all he’ll drink – we started reading poems to each other, swapping stories and debating just who Lenin’s true heir really was. Jack said Stalin. I said Trotsky.

“I grew up in New York during the Second World War,” Jack continued. “I remember my mother telling me back then that if Russia fell to the Nazis, England would be next and then the rest of the world. She was terrified that fascism would come to America.”

“But fascism has come to America,” I answered. “Hitler may have been defeated, but what about his backers? It was the same Rockefellers and Bushes back then that financed and supported Hitler that have brought fascism to America today.”

“Well, that we all know,” Jack replied. “Vietnam was my war,” he continued after a pause.

“You’re anti-war,” I offered.

Looking up, he shook his head. “Yes, that’s right. I was teaching poetry at the time at UCLA. 250 kids in one class, 400 in another and I found out that if you got A’s in school, you wouldn’t get drafted.”

“So everyone got an A?”

“That’s right,” he smiled. “Only I couldn’t give everyone an A, or the school would know what was going on, so they all thought I was sexist. You see, girls weren’t being drafted for Vietnam, so I gave them B’s.”

“How did you get involved in communism?” I asked. “Oh well, that was in Venice. I was translating this book, Rainbow for the Christian West, by Rene de Pestre and it just opened my eyes.

“I became a communist in Venice, California.”

In Venice? Could that be true? Does Venice have that much of an impact on people? Well, knowing Venice, I guess it does.

“Then you must know about the Beachhead?” I asked.

“The Beachhead!” Jack’s eyes lit up. “Of course I know about the Beachhead. I love that paper. My son used to write for the Beachhead.”

What a small world and Venice keeps winding up at the center of it. Just then I remembered that I had some copies of the Beachhead with me. We started going through them and sure enough, on page 12 of the November 2008 issue, we had printed a list of all the collective members from present and past and about half way down the first column was his name, David Hirschman.

A smile grew on Jack’s face as the memories came back. Venice touches all of us in its own way.

David Hirschman, former Beachhead collective member, died of leukemia a few years back. He is remembered and missed by all his friends at the paper.
City of Dreams
By Hillary Kaye
City of dreams workers imagining themselves in good hands a new President - the lies the greed the fascist tv fades into the back of our skulls the easier softer world appears magically before our eyes The rhythm of sucked up resources the sky's the limit mentality the war ravaged countries – the armless faceless legless bodies – not adding up the souls The victims – the victims but you don’t think about yourself that way You have achieved self satisfaction in a dying world megaton bombs created out of the fury of demented cultures indigenous ways of life torn off the face of the earth No crying now no crying No faceless no voiceless crying out any more the perfect scene now is silence.

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Free Venice Beachhead • August 2009 • 9

By Philomene Long

"As for me, I delight in the everyday way, Amist wrapped vines and rocky caves. Here in the wilderness I am completely free." Cold Mountain -- Han Shan

Silver days at the Ellison Longest rainstorm in ten years Beneath the slippery sky The Ellison glistening Dangling raindrops Silver sounds

Sunset I slip out to the sea I am the only person On Venice Beach Grey sea, grey sky, grey seagulls I am wearing a bright pink raincoat The seagulls believe I am the sunset They turn their backs to the sea and face me They assume their sunset viewing positions Chests forward Motionless. Except for An occasional scratch of the ear The flutter of a wing We watch each other I act like the sunset for them I raise my glowing pink arms I stand motionless for a long time Kneel, then recline upon my heels Alone on Venice Beach It is all so slow, so simple Being a sunset Back at the Ellison Alone at the black iron gate I look up Soft rain sliding Over the red bricks Two red brick wings open As if to embrace me Two ghostly shimmering red wings We watch each other I look at the Ellison As the sea gulls looked at me I love this old building! I love this old building! Ah! yes, Kukai, the gulls and Yes! Even these stones Will become Buddhas

Philomene recites a poem

By Jim Smith

Philomene stalks her prey She approaches the microphone innocently, slowly Suddenly like a lioness her mane flying she pounces on the unsuspecting poem teeth flashing, she bites, tears and slashes the flesh of every word every phrase, every nuance is ripped from the page and floats in midair for all to see even letters are not immune from being stretched across long moments of time Her bite goes deep, sucking out every morsel of meaning no wonder she was cast to play a vampire when she is through feasting on the poem it will forever be hers never again can it be read without thinking of Philomene

To Philomene

There is a miniature portrait of you, in black & white that perches on my desk containing a single poem of yours. i keep it there this tiny chapbook -- conscience musing over my own work. We never met in life. i learned of you only in your death, only through your poems. Poems that pierce through the reader, that generate a presence that is of you not about you. i wish i could tell you in person how you made me howl with laughter by becoming a pink sunset for the seagulls; or cry silently on LA Transit buses as you wrote mercilessly about Cold Ellison & its roaches.

Now, you are among the immortals, having made the Great Escape first in life, then in death; your spirit no different than Han Shan’s spirit, your words on Venice walls like his on the rocks of Tientai Mountains.

You’ll be happy to know, the Lady still resides in Venice (though i have yet to see her) and that you are remembered deeply, sweetly by those who you knew and those who wish they had once met you. –Krista Schwimmer

The 2nd Annual Philomenian

Celebrating the poetry of Venice’s late, great poet laureate, Philomene Long

7:30 PM Friday, August 21
Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. • 822-3006

Readings of her poetry • tributes • films
With Wanda Coleman, Mariana Dietl, Susan H även, Hillary Kave, Pezerty Lona, Harry Northrup, Jim Smith, Mariano Zaro

THE GHOSTS OF VENICE WEST

By Philomene Long

They are already ghosts John and Philomene As they pass Along the Boardwalk This highway of poetry and death Where ghosts and poets overlap As they pass, the gulls Ghosting above their shadows Everything’s haunting everything Already ghosts John and Philomene Under the ghostly lamp posts Of Venice West Their cadence The breath of sleep At rest Lost at the edge of America Already ghosts And each poem Already a farewell Everything’s haunting everything The sea is the ghost of the world
that carried passengers all the way to Santa Monica. Cars were a luxury that few could afford. Even as late as the 1960s, fully half of Venice residents had incomes beneath the poverty line. Many Venetians at that time could not afford a car or had at most one old car for an entire family.

As Venice became gentrified, incomes soared as did the number and size of vehicles per household. A full-scale parking problem became part of life at the beach. At the same time, visitors to the beach from other parts of Los Angeles County, and beyond, were more likely to drive than take the bus. The Red Car was destroyed by the 1950s in a proven conspiracy by the auto makers and oil companies. Today, Venetians are often marooned without a car on summer weekends, since they are not able to return to a convenient parking place after their outing.

We believe Venice would be better off with less cars, or none. It could lead California and the nation in withdrawing from the addiction of car dome. However, with any addiction there has to be a cure available. Weaning ourselves from cars is necessary both because there is no place to put any more of them, and because the earth is suffering from global warming, much of which is caused by carbon pollution from millions of vehicles.

There exist some alternatives to present to automobiles. They include the superb Santa Monica Blue Bus, the MTA, bicycles and walking. But none of these have enticed the majority of drivers to abandon their cars. There are several reasons for this. First, notwithstanding the parking problem and more and more traffic, cars are convenient. You can hop in your car and usually find free parking at your destination. Secondly, cars are cool. Even Venice had a recent car show. Millions of dollars are spent on advertising to convince you that you'll be a better, more attractive person in a new car. The auto industry has followed the advertising gimmicks pioneered by the cigarette manufacturers.

For years after the Surgeon General’s cancer warning began appearing on cigarette packs, tobacco companies continued to tout the “coolness” of smoking. It was only with the gradual curtailment of advertisements and a growing public opposition to smoking that cigarette use nose-dived.

Are automobiles as dangerous as tobacco? Cars are one of the biggest direct killers of people. Last year 37,017 people were killed in auto accidents. But cars also kill indirectly through pollution. According to a Common Dreams report, citing a recent European study, auto emissions kill 40,000 people annually in Austria, Switzerland and France. If these three countries are typical, then auto pollution could account for more than three million deaths annually worldwide. Tobacco is estimated to account for five million annual deaths worldwide. However, it is a much smaller cause of pollution and global warming than is the automobile industry. Also, childhood obesity is linked to transportation options that do not also provide exercise.

How can we, in Venice, begin to back off from our addiction to automobiles?

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

1. MAKE SOME STREETS PEDESTRIAN ONLY. This will begin to show other uses for the huge amount of our city that is paved. Windward Avenue from Pacific to Speedway would be an excellent place to start. Restaurants could add outdoor tables. A farmers market could be held, as well as numerous festivals during the year.

2. TURN SOME STREETS INTO PARKING LOTS. Diagonal parking would fit on Main Street from Rose Avenue to the “Traffic” Circle and on parts of Venice and Washington Blvd.

3. CREATE LOCAL ALTERNATIVES TO CARS. Legalize pedaled and electric rickshaws, revive the OFW tram on Speedway (This would also open up the public beach on the peninsula to swimmers and sun bathers). Create a shuttle that circles Venice for the benefit of visitors and residents, alike.

4. USE A BIKE FOR CONVENIENCE AND EXERCISE. All of Venice can be reached in 10 minutes or less on a bicycle (See Typical Travel Times Around Venice, Nov. 2002, (http://tinyurl.com/j55x)). The only problems are that it can be dangerous (try biking down Lincoln Blvd.) and there is a lack of bike parking. Many streets are wide enough for separate bike and car areas. Abbot Kinney Blvd. is a good example of the anti-bicycle attitude that prevails at the city’s Dept. of Transportation. When traffic lines were repainted a couple of years ago, the result was that a center lane was created that is virtually unused. Instead, the parallel parking could have been moved far enough away from the curb to allow bike lanes that separated them from car traffic.

Venice is the perfect place to ride a bicycle. Flat terrain, excellent weather, mixed use developments, and limited parking all contribute to the sense of using your own power to get from here to there. Infrastructure improvements must keep up with the community’s desire to have transportation options. Infrastructure improvements send a signal that alternative modes are valued and encouraged. The more bicycles there are on the road, the safer bicycling becomes.

Venetians need to pressure local governments and transportation planners to make bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure a priority.

5. STOP REQUIRING PARKING IN NEW CONSTRUCTION. This increases the cost of construction and lessens the possibility of affordable housing. Low and very low income residents are less likely to need large amounts, of vehicle parking if any. Requiring expensive parking areas makes buildings much more expensive to erect and is a disincentive to building affordable housing. Even middle-income housing and most commercial construction should not have a parking requirement.

Not only does it increase the cost of the building, but it also forces landlords to charge higher rents which can only be afforded by chain stores and upscale businesses. Parking requirements and more parking lots are driving (pardon the pun) gentrification. If businesses on Abbot Kinney Blvd., for instance, were not able to offer parking to their customers, it is more likely that over time more and more businesses would cater to the thousands of Venetians who live within walking or biking distance of the boulevard.

Each off-street parking space uses 300-400 square feet of land. Land in Venice is expensive. Using space for parking results in missed opportunities, such as renting or selling the land, which would result in more tax revenue. When looking to park, it’s nice...
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Artists Protest Commercial Vending

The Actually Existing Health Care System

when it seems to be free. But free parking is not really free. Someone is paying for the land — between the owner who is providing parking, better fit the goals and uses in the community.

No minimum parking requirements are usually set by local jurisdictions based on the highest predicted demand at single-use suburban sites. So, the minimum amount of parking a mall is required to provide is calculated based on demand on Christmas Eve. The result is obvious — a large supply of vacant, paved land is unused for nearly every other day of the year. Suburbs are built around ample free parking because there are few or no transportation alternatives available. This model of minimum parking requirements is not appropriate in denser urban contexts. Communities are forcing their planners to evolve. The wasted, paved space is no longer acceptable in many municipalities. Newer models of determining parking requirements are based on what other communities have developed, independently of the traditional car-centric model. New standards, for shared parking, bicycle parking, and maximum parking, better fit the goals and uses in the community.

6. PAYPEOPLE NOT TO DRIVE. The government (federal, state and local) subsidizes auto travel to the tune of billions of dollars. Use some of that money to reward people for giving up their car or buying an electric car. While electric cars still cause pollution in their manufacture, and their non-biodegradable parts such as batteries, they may be the step in the right direction.

7. MAKE MASS TRANSIT FREE. This also beyond the reach of we Venetians, but it is a concept that could cause a massive shift away from cars. As it is fares account for only about 15 percent of operating costs. Some of these suggestions are modest and others are far reaching. All of them are likely to draw opposition from someone.

Yet, if we don't begin to face our addiction to cars and work to eliminate it, we'll soon choke on our own pollution. On the other hand, we can make Venice a walking and biking community that is a pleasure to live in. The choice is up to us.
Saturday, August 1
12-5pm - Venice Community BBQ Potluck Picnic & Cookout - Prizes for the best BBQ, side dishes & desserts. Games and bounce house. VNC hosts the grill & entertainment. Community potluck. Oakwood Park Oakwoodbbq@venice.org 606-2015 Parrilla comunitaria de Venice, Evento gratis para toda la familia en Oakwood Parque. Musica para todos. Traiga su platillo favorito y participe en un concurso, actividades para todos, concursos y premios. Los Bomberos cocinan para todos. Vengan a divertirse con la familia en este evento. Oakwoodbbq@venice.org 606-2015

Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9 (2-day event)
11:30am- 7:30pm - Venice Beach Music Fest
The 4th annual event continues its tradition of celebrating music, art, and the eclectic - at the west end of Windward Avenue - free. www.myspace.com/venicebeachmusicfest Saturday's musical acts include The Hard Goodbye, Horny Toad, Steve Watts Band with Michael Hinton.

Wednesday, August 12
7:30PM - Is the economy getting you down in the dumps? Come hear some Strong Woman Blues with Kathy Leonardo. Also Greg Cruz, country / blues guitarist - extended happy hour till 9pm for this show only! 23 Windward Ave. - 566-5610.

Friday, August 14
7:30pm - Movie night - “Vietnam: American Holocaust” - Venice United Methodist Church - Donations.

Thursday, August 6
6:30pm - Prevent & control diabetes & heart disease without medicine - Dr. Ben Weitz, Chiropractor & Nutritionist – Abbot Kinney Library - 821-1769.

Friday, August 7
7-11pm - First Friday on Abbot Kinney Blvd. - Shops open late - Drinks, snacks and entertainment.

Saturday, August 8
7:30pm - A Summer Night with Maureen Cotter - How Charles Manson got caught, as told by the guard and the inmate. Part of Cotter’s autobiography. Tickets $7, $5 students/seniors. Beyond Baroque.

Location Guide
- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. marinedeplayreylacounty.gov
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- The Good Hurt, 12249 Venice Blvd, www.goodhurt.com
- Hal’s Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Oakwood Recreation Center, 757 California Avenue.
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x15.
- Talking Stick Coffee Lounge, 1411c Lincoln Blvd. 450-6052 www.thetalkingstick.net
- United Methodist Church and Auditorium, 2210 Lincoln Blvd. (at Victoria).
- Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.
- Vera Davis Center, 610 California Avenue. (310) 305-1865. Fax 305-0146.
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave.) 606-2015

August 6: Americana Rockers! Dave Alvin & the Guilty Women (Downey) - Paul Thorn (Tupelo, Mississippi)
August 13: Multi-ethnic, Multi-lingual World Beats - Idan Raichel Project (Israel) - Elijah Emanuel (Bilingual Reggae from Panama)
August 28: Social Action and Surfboards Venice - Lukas Nelson & The Promise of the Real
August 27: Latina Diva & Latino Roots Lila Downs (Oaxaca, Mexico)
Very Be Careful (Colombian Vallenato)

Maureen Cotter

Beachhead Capitalism
T-shirts - Now $15
Pete Seeger poster by Earl Newman $30
Become a Sustainer - $100 and get 4 free business-card-sized ads
Send check to Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice 90294

September 3: Patti Smith and her Band.