

# Daily Breeze endorses Michael DiVirgilio for Hermosa Beach City Council

## Daily Breeze

### Hermosa endorsements

Tucker, DiVirgilio for council.

**W**ith City Councilman Sam Edgerton stepping aside, Hermosa voters will elect at least one new council member next week. To draw voters' attention, the six candidates running for two council seats have been discussing issues such as civic center renovation, curbing bellicose behavior on Pier Plaza, reducing acrimony at council meetings and improvements to upper Pier Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway.

The ballot choices consist of Janice Brittain, a retired school administrator who serves on the Upper Pier Avenue Committee; Jeff Duclos, a college lecturer and businessman; business owner Jeff Maxwell; Michael DiVirgilio, chairman of the city's Public Works Commission; business owner Michelle Keegan (no relation to City Councilman Michael Keegan); and incumbent Councilman Peter Tucker.

Brittain, Duclos and Maxwell have previously run unsuccessfully for City Council seats.

Though there are several qualified candidates, our nod goes to Tucker and DiVirgilio. Tucker, who has a long record of public service in the city, has ambitious plans to renovate the civic center using nearby city-owned land that is currently leased to a storage business. By working with the Beach Cities Health District and county, the councilman also would like to see the addition of an amphitheater, a parking garage and a community pool.

Tucker says problems on Pier Plaza should improve through enforcement of conditional use permits, redeploying police officers and better training for enforcement personnel.

DiVirgilio has a range of experience that would be beneficial for Hermosa. He's employed by a public affairs company and works with organizations and public agencies on growth- and development-related issues. He also has experience on regional concerns, having served as a representative for Rep. Jane Harman and as a member of the committee that worked to save Los Angeles Air Force Base.

DiVirgilio views problems on Pier Plaza as a managerial issue and would focus on enforcing existing laws and use permits rather than creating new ordinances. He would also encourage establishments to self-police and work with the Chamber of Commerce on bringing more "family-friendly" businesses to the city.

We would expect both Tucker and DiVirgilio to push for more long-term planning to phase in city improvements over the next four years. Voters should consider electing Tucker and DiVirgilio when they go to the polls on Tuesday.

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