

# Fair Game

By TOM JOHNSON

Stu News Newport July 19, 2022

## ***Topping out ceremony at new animal shelter offers feel-good celebration, oh, and raises another \$100,000***

If you want to know how to get the people out, think kids, or perhaps, better yet, pets. Yesterday was the **“Topping Out Ceremony”** for the city’s new animal shelter. The ceremony is where everyone present has the opportunity to sign a board to be enclosed in the construction which will become a permanent, albeit hidden, part of the shelter’s history.

The dignitary turnout was impressive and included the **Hon. Diane Dixon, Hon. Joy Brenner, Chief of Police Jon Lewis, Fire Chief Jeff Boyles, Animal Control Supervisor Valerie Schomburg, Recreation & Senior Services Director Sean Levin, Newport Beach Chamber CEO Steve Rosansky, Friends of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter Board of Directors President Jon Langford**, plus board members **Tom Fischbacher, Sharon Esterley, Robyn Grant and Sandy Meadows**.

Yesterday’s ceremony also included the installation of an **American Flag** and the **City of Newport Beach Flag** to the construction site.

Why do it? Well, to some an event like this is inspiring, hence on-site donations in excess of \$100,000 were realized. That brings the project within about \$200,000 of the initial goal of \$3,000,000 which covers the purchase of the property, the design and construction.

It’s going to be an important part of Newport Beach moving forward simply because the new shelter will include a single-story, 1,600-sq.-ft. building with 750 sq. ft. for a kennel to house dogs, cats and other animals, plus parking, a front yard greeting area and a secure rear area to exercise the animals housed there.



Courtesy of City of Newport Beach

(L-R) Councilmembers Joy Brenner and Diane Dixon join in the Topping Out Ceremony for new animal shelter. Completion is expected this Fall, at which time FONBAS will donate the finished project to the City of Newport Beach. They could still use donations and/or new members to FONBAS (Friends of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter). Go to [www.FONBAS.org](http://www.FONBAS.org). Remember, for a gift of \$5,000 or more, there will be a dedication wall recognizing those individuals.