

# The Emerald News

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## DISTRICT SEVEN COMMUNITIES

Allied Gardens  
Alvarado Estates  
Chollas Creek  
Colina del Sol  
College Area  
Del Cerro  
El Cerrito  
Fox Canyon  
Grantville  
Islenair  
MCAS Miramar  
Oak Park  
Rancho Encantada  
Redwood Village  
Rolando Park  
Rolando  
San Carlos  
SDSU  
Tierrasanta

## Going Above And Beyond to Provide Clean and Safe Neighborhoods

As temperatures soared past 100 degrees, scores of volunteers toiled under the blazing San Diego sun for a cause. Volunteers worked on a cause bigger than themselves and more pressing than the heat to make the Creek to Bay Canyon Cleanup a roaring success. On September 15, volunteers young and old gathered trash, cleared dry brush and removed toxic waste from our canyons throughout Mid-City.

I visited eight of the cleanup sites in our Mid-City neighborhoods that day. Many of the volunteers were children and their parents, bonding behind the worthy cause of protecting the delicate balance between nature and urban living in their sprawling canyons. By 7am when the earliest workers converged at canyon rims and sign-in stations, the mercury had already hit a prickly 80 degrees. Teams of volunteers worked quickly on slopes in Cherokee Point to plant new ground cover, under the watchful eyes of supervisors urging them to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water.

Along Chollas Creek, high school student volunteers dragged shopping carts, old tires and furniture, and discarded paint tubs out of the creek bed and tangled bramble along the water's edge. The pile of rubbish they collected required an extra trash dumpster to haul away. These students were putting in volunteer hours needed for a class project, and I commend them for enduring the strenuous work at 102 degrees.

At Swan Canyon, it felt like the whole neighborhood turned out to make quick and thorough work of their canyon and streets, further enhancing the streets' colorful murals that reflect a community's pride and determination to become more unified.

It is easy to volunteer when the weather is nice or in air-conditioned comfort. But our Creek to Bay volunteers went above and beyond in the blistering heat that weekend and made a remarkable difference for our environment and in how we view the neighborhoods we share. I would say we are in pretty good hands. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this year's big cleanup a big success!

*Thanks, Marti*

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## Safety Speaks

At a recent Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee meeting, the Committee cleaned up the Abandoned Waste Program, which collects hazardous waste, such as oil spills. The Fire-Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials Incident Response

Team (HIRT) is a highly trained group of firefighters who have historically handled this important function for the City. However, these fire fighters spent too much time responding to routine calls.

Late last year, the Fire-Rescue Department initiated a 90 day pilot program with an outside contractor for routine hazardous waste collection. Fire-Rescue implemented an effective call screening process that routes hazardous waste incidents to the contractor, who then provides quick and effective service response.

The pilot program met its goal by reducing out-of-service time for our firefighters, and as a result more fire crews are available to respond to immediate health and safety emergencies. Because public safety is Councilmember Emerald's priority, she helped to fund the 90 day program with savings from her budget through the remainder of FY2012.

- Call the Customer Service Line at (858) 492-5004 for information on the disposal of household hazardous wastes such as paints, oil thinner, polishes, pool chemicals, pesticides, etc.
- Call Ocean Blue Environmental at (619) 294-6682 for Hazmat Emergency Response.
- For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

## Providing Stronger Protections For Public Space

On September 7th, Governor Brown signed SB 1169, a bill authored by Sen. Christine Kehoe, to protect San Diego open space and canyonlands. It allows the City of San Diego to convert City owned "designated" open space to "dedicated" open space. Dedicated land has a stronger level of protection and cannot be converted to other uses without a vote of the people.

"By supporting land preservation, we provide future generations with irreplaceable open space and recreational opportunities in our neighborhoods," says Councilmember Emerald. A proposal to dedicate approximately 10,000 acres of City owned open space will be heard at the Land Use and Housing Committee on October 17th and is expected to move on to City Council in November.

San Diego Canyonlands, a local non-profit organization, spent a year in efforts to facilitate the public vetting process and presented a proposal to dedicate acres of City owned lands as protected parklands and open spaces. To view areas of proposed dedicated space, please visit: [www.sdcanyonlands.org/land-information/information-packages](http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/land-information/information-packages).

# What Are Your Priorities For The Capital Improvement Program (CIP)?

The City of San Diego is inviting the public to participate in development of the Fiscal Year 2014 (July 2013 - June 2014) Capital Improvement Program budget. This year the public is encouraged to suggest projects (studies, design, construction) before city staff starts work in December. Capital improvement projects include physical assets such as buildings, roads and sidewalks, traffic signals, bike paths, parks, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Each community planning group is asked to submit their top priority projects for the City to consider for future funding.

The goal of public input on the Capital Improvement Program is to -

- Increase public involvement in identifying or prioritizing needed community projects,
- Provide better communication from City Staff, and
- Increase transparency over the CIP process.

## District 7 Community Planning Groups

### Upcoming Public Hearings

City Heights Area Planning Committee  
Monday, October 1, 2012 at 6:30pm  
Metro Career Center, Conference Room  
3910 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee  
Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 7:00pm  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Parish Hall  
2725 55<sup>th</sup> Street, San Diego, CA 92105

College Area Community Planning Board  
Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:00pm  
College-Rolando Library  
6600 Montezuma Road, San Diego, CA 92115

### Past Public Hearings

Tierrasanta Community Council  
September 19, 2012 at 6:30pm  
Tierrasanta Recreation Center  
11220 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92124

Navajo Community Planners, Inc.  
September 24, 2012 at 6:00pm  
Temple Emanu-El  
6499 Capri Drive, San Diego, CA 92120

# Think Green This Halloween

## *Creative and Fun Things You Can Do to Have an EEK-O-Friendly Halloween*



**TIP #1** Have children collect Halloween candy in reusable bags or containers they can keep and use afterwards. According to the EPA, over 380 million plastic bags and more than 10 million paper bags are used each year in the U.S. alone. Reusable bags are more durable than plastic and paper bags, which can tear and spill treats.

**TIP #2** Make your own Halloween costumes instead of buying one you will discard after the first use. By going to thrift stores or yard sales and using some creativity, you and your child can spend quality time together and design something with your own personal touch. Also, avoid non-recyclable materials such as polyvinyl chloride, which can emit dangerous toxins as well.

**TIP #3** Give trick-or-treaters EEK-O-Friendly goodies. Think not only healthy, but consider candy or treats with little or no packaging that can be recycled. The treats can be small boxes of crayons, colored pencils, Halloween-shaped erasers or other inexpensive items you can find at your nearest dollar store.

**TIP #4** Instead of driving around town to other neighborhoods; stay close to home for trick-or-treating. Walking is great exercise and reduces fuel consumption and air pollution. If you must drive, consider carpooling with other families.

**TIP #5** If you are throwing a Halloween party, use dishes, utensils and tablecloths that can be washed and reused instead of thrown away. Also use recycled and recyclable materials to make decorations or use household items—like white sheets to make ghosts—that can be returned to normal use after the party.

**TIP #6** Put your old jack-o-lanterns and pumpkins in your compost bin. If you don't already compost, this is a good time to start. With falling leaves and other food waste, you can create good soil for your garden to grow more pumpkins for next year. For information on composting, visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/composting](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/composting).

**TIP #7** Reuse Halloween decorations each year. Properly store your decorations so they can be used next year, just like you would your Christmas, Hanukkah, or Thanksgiving decorations.

**TIP #8** Properly dispose of candy wrappers. Make sure children throw away wrappers when they get home, or throw them in trash cans along their trick-or-treating route. Take an extra, reusable bag to pick up litter along the way.

**TIP #9** Remember to conserve energy by turning off any electrical decorations when you go to bed. This will not only save on your electric bill, but can prevent possible fire hazards.

*The Environmental Services Department's (ESD) has an extensive listing of recycling information on their web page: [www.recyclingworks.com](http://www.recyclingworks.com). ESD also has Recycling Specialists on staff that can provide technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful recycling program in your home, office or organization. Call: 858-694-7000*

# Creek to Bay Cleanup Brings Communities Together



Councilmember Emerald visited eight cleanup sites in City Heights during the 28th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. She greeted and thanked dedicated volunteers for their selfless and arduous efforts.

### Snapshot of Clean-Up Results:

Manzanita Canyon (brush management) had 20 volunteers, 20 yards of fire hazardous green waste were removed from canyon and recycled, 30 CA native plants planted, 10 cubic units yards of wood chips dispensed, 4 large bags of trash were removed from Poplar St., 2 pickup loads of rickety deck and debris were removed from an elderly neighbor's defensible space behind his home.

Manzanita Canyon (north gate entrance) had 10 volunteers and 40 yards of invasive plants and debris removed.

Swan Canyon (south of Olive St) had 9 volunteers and 10 yards of invasive plants removed.

Hollywood Canyon had 32 volunteers, 20 yards of invasive plants and debris were removed, wood chips dispersed on trails and park entrances on Sumac St.

Chollas Creek at 54th Street had 20 volunteers, 40 yards of invasive plants and debris were removed.

47th Street Canyon (trash removal & brush management) had 26 volunteers who removed 17 tires, one couch, two mattresses and a large amount of discarded miscellaneous trash. They removed palm frowns and dead overgrown plants. The cleanup area covered approximately a quarter of a mile of canyon open space, and volunteers filled an entire dumpster.



**Saturday  
October 27,  
2012**

**The Boulevard  
BOO! Parade &  
Carnival**



Come out, come out  
where ever you are...  
to San Diego's only  
Halloween themed  
parade. The parade starts  
at 10am and runs along El  
Cajon Boulevard, from  
59th Street to Rolando  
Boulevard.

This free family friendly  
event is filled with ghoulish  
floats, vintage cars, and cos-  
tume characters.

Following the parade, the  
BOO! Carnival will be held  
at Clay Park (4759 Semi-  
nole Dr.) beginning at  
11am.

For more information,  
please visit:

[www.collegeareabid.com/  
boo/index.htm](http://www.collegeareabid.com/boo/index.htm)



## October Community Events

### **Sunday through Saturday, October 7-13, 2012 – Fire Prevention Week**

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and the San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation will be holding a series of open houses during Fire Prevention Week. Fire Station 10, in the College Area, at 4605 62<sup>nd</sup> Street will be open from 2 – 7pm with a fire station tour, demonstrations, and home fire escape plans. For more locations, please visit: [www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/pdf/fireprev121007.pdf](http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7/pdf/fireprev121007.pdf)

### **October 12 – 20, 2012 – San Diego African Restaurant Week**

Enjoy the tastes of Ethiopian, Kenyan, Eritrean and Somali foods at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual San Diego African Restaurant Week. African Restaurant Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the food, music and culture from this region of the world that now has a growing presence in the San Diego's diverse neighborhoods. For more information, please visit [www.theboulevard.org](http://www.theboulevard.org) or call (619)283-3608.

**Saturday, October 13, 2012 - Aja Open House Student Gallery** in City Heights at 4089 Fairmount Avenue. From 1– 4pm, there will be free food, music and an excellent display of photographs telling the story of these young artists. For more information, please visit: [www.ajaproject.org](http://www.ajaproject.org)

### **Saturday, October 13, 2012 – Tierrasanta/Murphy Canyon's 23rd Annual Oktoberfest**

Join your neighbors and friends from 4 – 7:30pm, at the Tierrasanta Community Park, 11220 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Traditional German fare of specially made bratwurst, cold potato salad and sauerkraut will be served starting at 5pm. There will be a polka band and a grand finale fireworks show.

### **Saturday and Sunday, October 13 & 14, 2012 – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cambodian Cultural Festival and Soccer Tournament**

This two day fun-filled-fest promises food, dancing, entertainment, games, prizes, and a chance to get to know your neighbors, Cambodian style. Join us at Colina Del Sol Park on October 13th and 14th, 2012 from 8 am – 6 pm. For more information, please contact Phal Chourp at (619) 501-1074.

**Wednesday, October 31, 2012 – Colina Del Sol Rec Center Halloween Carnival** will be a safe and family-friendly Halloween from 4:30 – 7:30pm. Play games with the family and win prizes and candy. There will also be costume contests for kids ages 5 through 14. For more info, please visit: [www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/colina.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/centers/colina.shtml).