



The Emerald News

Office of
Council President Pro Tem
Marti Emerald



Volume 7, Issue 4

April 2015

District 9

Communities

- Alvarado Estates
- Azalea Park
- Castle
- Catoctin
- Cherokee Point
- Chollas Creek
- Colina Park
- College Area
- College View Estates
- Corridor
- Denstedt Point
- East Falls View
- El Cerrito
- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Village
- Fox Canyon
- Hollywood Park
- Islenair
- Kensington
- Mesa Colony
- Mountain View
- Mt Hope
- Ridgeview
- Rolando
- Southcrest
- Talmadge
- Teralta-
East & West
- Willie Henderson

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking the time to read the April issue of the Emerald News.

I am proud to share with you that Council recently approved a \$120 million bond that will help address our city's need for infrastructure repairs and improvements. Specifically, \$49 million will go towards repairing our streets, \$1 million will go towards improving our sidewalks, \$4.3 million will go towards ADA improvements, \$21 million will go towards storm drain improvements, and \$43 million will go towards new fire stations and libraries. As Chair of the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee, I am thrilled to see the bond include funding for 5 fire stations.

Our council also recently approved CDBG funding for several organizations providing great services to our city. Many of the organizations who received grants serviced district 9, including Center for Community Solutions for legal and advocacy services to Mid- City families impacted by domestic violence, La Maestra Family Clinic for improvements in radiology services for low income populations for their City Heights clinic, City heights Community Development Corporation to help improve a multi-family rental property in City Heights, the Union of Pan Asian Communities who will be providing business development workshops and technical assistance to immigrants and refugees, and Community Housing Works who helps create homeownership opportunities for households through lending services. Funding was also available to install and improve sidewalks in the Altadena community of District 9.

I am also proud to share with you that the City and the Police Officers Association has reached a compensation agreement to help retain and recruit officers. The proposed terms and conditions of employment for POA involve increases to nonpensionable compensation, including increased flexible benefit credits, uniform and tool allowances, tuition reimbursement, and discretionary leave.

- Marti

202 "C" Street, MS-10A
San Diego, CA 92101

MartiEmerald@sandiego.gov

(619)236-6699

INTERNSHIPS

San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Emerald's office is currently accepting applications from motivated high school and college students looking to gain experience interning for an elected official. Interested applicants should e-mail Julio Rivera a cover letter, résumé and at least one letter of recommendation to jcrivera@sandiego.gov. Please feel free to call (619) 236-6725 with any questions.

Community Representatives

Rudy Vargas

Azalea Park, Castle,
Cherokee Point, Corridor,
Fairmount Village, Swan
Canyon, Teralta—East/
West, Colina Park
(619)533-5897
rvargas@sandiego.gov

Ralph Dimarucut

Kensington, Talmadge
(619) 236-7042
dimarucutr@sandiego.gov

Chris Pearson

Alvarado Estates, College
View Estates, College
West/East,
El Cerrito, Rolando,
Saranac-Mohawk,
Denstedt Point
(619)236-6681
cpearson@sandiego.gov

Julio Rivera

Mount Hope, Mountain
View, Southcrest,
Fairmount Park,
Ridgeview, Chollas Creek,
Fox Canyon, Islenair
(619)236-6725
jcrivera@sandiego.gov

202 "C" Street, MS-10A
San Diego, CA 92101
(619)236-6699
www.sandiego.gov/

Public Safety



Unknown Suspects Wanted for Arson Up to \$2,000 Reward Offered

April 3, 2015

I teamed up with the San Diego County Crime Stoppers and investigators from the Metro Arson Strike Team to help identify and locate the suspect(s) responsible for a series of fires in the Mid-City area. To help catch the culprit, I matched the \$1000 award and we are now offering up to a \$2,000 reward for anyone with information that leads to an arrest in this case.

UPDATE: Detectives from the Metro Arson Strike Team (MAST) announced an arrest resulting from a fire deliberately set on the porch of a home in the 5200 Block of Ogden Street. Officers responding to the fire stopped a 24 year old male who was found walking away from the area of the fire. Subsequent to questioning by detectives, he was booked into County jail. San Diego Fire-Rescue crews quickly extinguished the fire and no injuries were reported. Evidence located by detectives also linked him to two fires set on March 31, 2015. The investigation is ongoing, but I want to thank all our officers who are out there putting out fires, catching these culprits and keeping us all safe.

Taxicab Permits Now Available

As of April, San Diego Taxicab Drivers will be able to apply for their own Taxicab Permits!

Several drivers approached Council District 9 staff last year to find ways to improve their working conditions. After several hearings, Council late last year voted to lift the cap on the number of taxicab permits in San Diego. Instead of having to pay weekly cab leases to rent their vehicle (some have been charged well over 400\$ a week), drivers will now have the opportunity to apply for their own permit, start their own business, and work for themselves. This has been quite the process, I know that seeing this policy finally be implemented means so much to so many people in District 9

Those interested in applying for permit should contact MTS for the applications and list of qualifications.



Empowering the Community

I recently met with community leaders, bike advocates and city staff literally on the street at the corner of College Ave. and Montezuma to discuss the future of the Community Plan for the College Area, specifically regarding the proposed class 2 bike lanes, the 6 car lanes, and SDSU/mitigation resulting from the South Campus Plaza Project.

There is definitely a need for smoother automobile traffic, safe bike lanes, mass transit access, and pedestrian enhancements at the intersection of College and Montezuma with emphasis on improving College Ave. between Montezuma and I-8. I was there to listen, and will continue to work with everyone involved to improve this area. I want to thank those who came to share their time and expertise.



City Heights Ten

Back in 2013, City Heights CDC partnered with Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation to improve our City Heights community by rehabilitating 132 affordable homes at 10 developments scattered throughout our neighborhood, and I was in full support of their efforts. It is important that we continue to create and improve affordable housing projects in our community. By working together, these two nonprofits were able to complete a challenging and much-needed renovation of the 10 properties, now known as City Heights Ten. Now complete, the City Heights Ten bring a number of benefits to residents and the community, including improving the quality of housing in City Heights to help spur further revitalization in the area. As you may know, safe neighborhoods are my top priority and this amazing project furthers my goal of making all of our neighborhoods more livable. Congratulations to the CDC, Wakeland, residents and everyone who made this possible. I look forward to working with you all on our next project.



Fixing Our Sidewalks

The Super Cocina restaurant, a member of the City Heights Business Association, reached out to my office with a request to fix the sidewalk in front of their business. The cracked sidewalk made it difficult for them to move forward with a parklet proposal and was a hazard for pedestrians walking along University Ave. We want to thank city staff and the community members who reached out to our office who helped make this happen!



Before



After

March Highlights

Advocates for Change presented the "Ask Me About Social Host" campaign during San Diego City Council public comment. The youth group, made up of several young adults from Mid-City, wants to raise public awareness of local laws that prohibit adults from knowingly hosting underage drinking parties on property they own, lease or otherwise control.

With prom and graduation season just around the corner, ACT hopes that the "Ask Me About Social Host" campaign will prevent well-meaning parents from hosting parties where alcohol is served to teens.

I was honored to have joined Council President Sherri Lightner early in March in presenting a resolution to the Women's Museum of California proclaiming March, 2015, to be "Women's History Month" in the City of San Diego.

