San Diego Data Portal Now Online

San Diego's public open data portal is now online at data.sandiego.gov. But it's not just for nerds or techies! The data provides new insight about how the City functions and gives both the public and software developers easy access to frequently-requested information such as solar panel permits issued, water quality or parking meter statistics.

Providing a public portal for data gives every citizen the opportunity to become more engaged while at the same time making our government smarter and more efficient. Our employees will have as much use for this as the public.
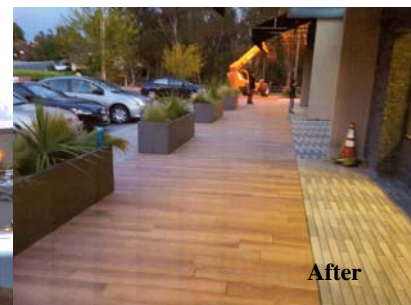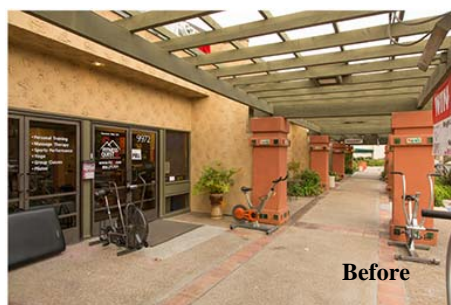
This is also a major step toward more government transparency. When I was first elected to Council, I sat down with local tech entrepreneurs and developed the City's open data policy which was eventually adopted by the City Council in November 2014. The first 44 datasets are available with this release but many others will be added as time goes on and the data online now will be updated automatically, something that makes San Diego's data portal stand out from other municipal data portals. Explore the data and let me know what you think!

Scripps Ranch Village Gets Storefront Improvements

The City of San Diego Storefront Improvement Program gives San Diego businesses design assistance and financial incentives to help revitalize building facades. The Scripps Ranch Village Center on Scripps Ranch Blvd. recently qualified for a $16,000 rebate through the program. The funds helped pay for exterior paint, improved walkways and new landscaping in front of the small businesses located within the center like Fitness Quest 10. Learn more about the program at www.sandiego.gov/storefront.

Before

After

After

District Five Business Profile: Sesame Donuts

Located in District Five's Carmel Mountain Ranch, Sesame Donuts has been a staple in the community for 20 years. The local shop prepares freshly baked donuts and donut holes in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Owners Chin and Jennifer Kim are passionate about providing high quality service and food to every customer who walks through the door.

I recently visited Sesame Donuts on National Donut Day and had a chance to talk to them about their business and plans for the future. If you haven't experienced Sesame Donuts, I encourage you to visit their shop. On the weekend, don't be surprised to see a line out the door. Their donuts are that good! So prepare to arrive early and spend some time chatting with your neighbors.

Sesame Donuts
11040 Rancho Carmel Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
Open: 24/7
www.facebook.com/sesamedonutscmr

MLB Brings All-Star Festivities to San Diego

Petco Park is hosting its first Major League Baseball All Star Game on Tuesday, July 12. There are a ton of fun and exciting ways to participate in the festivities aside from going to the game.

Play Ball Park (July 7-12) in front of Hilton Bayfront: Fun, engaging and free educational activities for youth baseball and softball players and their families.

All-Star Fan Fest (July 8-12) at the San Diego Convention Center: Baseball legends host batting clinic and autograph signings.

All-Star Concert Series (July 8-9) at the Embarcadero Marina Park South: Performances by One Republic, Tori Kelly and Gwen Stefani.

Soul Pose MLB All-Star Yoga (July 9) at Waterfront Park: 1,000 yogis per session can participate in a group yoga class.

The Color Run MLB All-Star 5K (July 10) at Waterfront Park presented by Nike: a just-for-fun race in which thousands of participants are doused from head to toe in a different colored powder at each kilometer.

MLB All-Star Sunday (July 10) at Petco Park: Tickets start at just $20 each for entrance to see the All-Star Futures Game and All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game.

Check out all of the festivities at mlb.com/all-star-game.

Bonus: If you decide to head downtown during this week or anytime in July, Cox Communications is providing free wi-fi through the placement of 100 different hot spots throughout the area.

Community Calendar

Talking Baseball Celebration

July 9

Saturday, July 9, all day
San Diego Central Library
330 Park Blvd.

www.sandiego.gov/blog/talking-baseball-central-library

Scripps Ranch Theatre: Out on a Limb Festival

July 14

July 14-17, 21-24; Various times
Legler Benbough Theatre
9783 Avenue of Nations

www.scrippsranchtheatre.org/

Symphony in the Park: The Heroes

July 17

Sunday, July 17, 6 p.m.
Hoyt Park
10158 Aviary Dr.

www.symphonyinthepark.org

Summer Movie in the Park: The Good Dinosaur

July 22

Friday, July 22 at 8 p.m.
Carmel Mountain Ranch Community Park
10152 Rancho Carmel Dr.

www.summermoviesinthepark.com

Summer Movie in the Park: The Good Dinosaur

July 30

Saturday, July 30 at 8 p.m.
Rancho Bernardo Community Park
18448 W Bernardo Dr.

www.summermoviesinthepark.com

National Night Out

August 2

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 5-8 p.m.
Rancho Bernardo Community Park
18448 W Bernardo Dr.

www.rbcommunitycouncil.com

Summer Water Safety

The San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation has partnered with Rady Children's Hospital to promote summer water safety. They recently launched the Water Watcher Tag campaign with the goal to reduce the number of drownings and injuries related to near drownings. The campaign includes a tag with a whistle meant to be worn by an adult supervising children in the water.

You can pick up your FREE Water Watcher Tags at locations throughout the region including the Rancho Family YMCA in Rancho Peñasquitos at 9140 Fairgrove Lane, San Diego, CA 92129.

Keep a "Water Watcher" tag at your next pool party and assign a responsible adult to the important job, which includes:

- Keeping a constant eye on children in or near water
- Staying within arm's reach of children in water
- Avoiding distractions like texting on the phone
- Avoiding drinking alcohol before or during your Water Watcher time

Orchids & Onions

Make your voice heard… nominate an Orchid or Onion in your neighborhood! Orchids & Onions are annual awards given by the San Diego Architectural Foundation to celebrate the hits (and to recognize the misses) of recently developed projects of all types in the San Diego region. Nominations close July 31st. Go to www.orchidsandonions.org to place your nominations.

My Photo Stream

With the Scripps Ranch Old Pros at the annual Fourth of July parade.

Honoring Rancho Bernardo volunteer Robin Kaufman.

Touring Manzanita Roasting Company in Rancho Bernardo.

Children, teens and adults will have the opportunity to win prizes for reading as part of the San Diego Public Library's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Read for the Win," and participants will receive points for reading at least 10 books or completing 10 hours of reading through Monday, Aug. 15.

Prizes include free meals at participating restaurants, passes to local museums and the San Diego Zoo, toys and much more. Prizes will be available while supplies last.

Participants can enter the following categories based on age:

— Babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 2)   — Pre-Readers (ages 3 to 5)

— Kids (ages 6 to 11)   — Teens (ages 12 to 18)

— Adults (ages 18 and up, only available at participating branch libraries)

For more information and to register for the program, visit www.sandiego.gov/public-library/kidsandteens/summerreading.