

THE SPOTLight

News From Councilmember Sherri Lightner
City of San Diego, District One

May 7, 2012

Representing the communities of:

- Black Mountain Ranch
- Carmel Valley
- Del Mar Mesa
- La Jolla
- Pacific Highlands Ranch
- Rancho Peñasquitos
- Torrey Highlands
- Torrey Hills
- Torrey Pines
- University City

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City's Credit Rating Continues to Improve

As further evidence of San Diego's ongoing financial recovery, Standard & Poor's raised the city's credit rating by two notches from A+ to AA-.

Standard & Poor's said the improved credit rating was the result of "strong financial management practices" and that the city has put in place improvements that will contribute to "continued transparency, timeliness, and accuracy of its financial statements."

The credit agency also boosted the city's rating for its long-term bond from A- to A+.

The continued recovery is a

far cry from the mid-2000s when the city's short-sighted decision to underfund its pension liabilities meant its credit rating was suspended, and the city was locked out of the bond market.

"Your credit rating doesn't go up if you are doing something wrong," Sherri said. "This shows that all the hard work, fiscal discipline and sacrifice of the last few years are paying off."

Higher credit ratings translate into lower interest rates, so it is less expensive to borrow money for much-needed infrastructure projects.

While Standard & Poor's praised the city's healthy



San Diego's higher credit rating means it can access the bond market at lower interest rates.

financial reserves, Sherri said it is no time to get complacent or go on a spending spree.

"We need to continue to enact pension reform and managed competition so we can assure our financial stability while responsibly restoring services and improving our infrastructure," she said.

\$75 Million For Street Repaving and Infrastructure

On April 9, the City Council unanimously approved an investment of \$75 million to improve San Diego's infrastructure—from roads to storm drains to fire stations and libraries.

The City will issue bonds, with

\$30 million of the funds raised going to another round of road resurfacing.

The plan also calls for:

- \$15.5 million for storm water repairs
- \$16.3 million for upgrades to fire stations,

libraries and other facilities

- \$2.5 million for street-light improvements
- \$1.5 million for park and recreation upgrades
- \$8.2 million for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements

Update: Save the Historic La Jolla Post Office



More than 400 people met with U.S. Postal Service representatives to express their concerns about the potential sale and relocation of the Wall Street post office.

On April 26, Sherri joined more than 400 concerned citizens to meet with U.S. Postal Service representatives to discuss the fate of the historic post office in the heart of La Jolla's downtown Village.

Earlier this year, the Postal Service announced it planned to close and sell the post office on Wall Street to help bolster the Postal Service's bottom line.

During the productive discussion, U.S. Postal Service representatives expressed a willing-

ness to work with the community on possible alternatives to the proposed sale.

Diana Alvarado, regional property manager for the Postal Service, said her organization was undergoing a 90-day study and had hired a historical consultant .

Sherri applauded the community's civic involvement and pledged to continue working to find a solution that makes sense for everyone. "Whatever solution we come up with has to

benefit both the community and the Postal Service," Sherri said. "The most important thing is to keep the lines of communication open."

Please submit your comments on the proposed sale of the post office by May 26 to: Diana Alvarado
USPS Pacific Facilities Services Office
1300 Evans Avenue, Ste. 200
South San Francisco, CA 94188-8200

To learn more, please visit www.savelajollapostoffice.org.

"Responsibly investing in arts and culture is good for our quality of life and is essential in growing our economy."

Focus on the Arts and Culture Economy

The impact of arts and culture on San Diego's economy was front and center at the April meeting of the Economic Development and Strategies Committee, which Sherri chairs.

Victoria Hamilton, executive director of the San Diego Arts Commission, provided an over-

view of the economic benefits that its targeted funding program has brought to San Diego.

According to its analysis, 68 arts and culture organizations employ 6,000 workers, generating \$170 million in direct local spending and attracting more than 2 million visitors a year.



"Responsibly investing in arts and culture and nurturing a creative class is good for our quality of life and is essential in growing our economy," Sherri said.

Update: One Paseo



The One Paseo project is moving through the community planning process. Now is your chance to give your feedback.

The One Paseo project proposed for Carmel Valley continues to make its way through the community process.

Sherri urges everyone to find out more about One Paseo and to provide their feedback.

The draft environmental impact report for the project is available [here](#). Click on the "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notices & Documents" section.

Comments on the report must be submitted to the City of San Diego by Tuesday, May 29.

You can submit your comments to DSDEAS@sandiego.gov. Include the project name "One Paseo" and the project number "193036/SCH No. 2" in the subject line.

The Carmel Valley Community Planning Board will hold a meeting on Thursday, May 24

at 7 p.m. to discuss its proposed comment letter to the city.

Although Sherri is frequently asked to weigh-in on projects during the approval process, [by law](#) councilmembers must remain neutral until a project is heard at City Council.

Have a question about One Paseo? Contact Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611 or sherrilighner@sandiego.gov.

Sherri Around Town in April



Sherri worked with Recycle San Diego to hold e-waste recycle events on April 7 both at Curie Elementary in University City and Solana Pacific Elementary in Carmel Valley, benefitting local libraries.

Sherri joined Mayor Sanders to help break ground on the new LPL Financial Headquarters at La Jolla Commons in University City on April 23.



Sherri helped kick off the annual Creek to Bay Cleanup with Congresswoman Susan Davis, Council colleague Lorie Zapf and a group of dedicated Girl Scouts on April 28.

On April 24, Sherri recognized the Imagination Club, a group of remarkable fourth and fifth grade girls from Torrey Hills Elementary. The club's goal is to find ways to make the world a better place.



Carmel Valley's Fire Station 24 Gets a New Look

The drab and dingy garage doors of Fire Station 24, on Hartfield Avenue at Del Mar Heights Road, were an eyesore in the community and to the firefighters who call the station home.



So Sherri spent \$3,000 in sav-

ings from her office budget to repair and repaint the apparatus doors.

The firefighters at Station 24 expressed their appreciation when Sherri visited them to get a firsthand look at the improvements on April 29.



Before



After

"Sherri used \$3,000 in savings from her office budget to repair and repaint the fire station's apparatus doors."

Local Business Spotlight: La Jolla Travel Information

Every month Sherri likes to highlight a new or unique business in District 1.

Here's this month's selection:

Who: La Jolla Travel Information, an online resource for visitors to San Diego.

Where:

www.LaJollaTravelInformation.com

What you'll find: Illustrated blog posts that promote activities and attractions in La Jolla, many of which the average visitor to San Diego is likely to

overlook.

The upside: This site, written by Elizabeth Hansen, works to promote La Jolla and bring business to the area. Hansen also uses social media such as Facebook to highlight all that La Jolla has to offer.



Elizabeth Hansen is the writer of www.LaJollaTravelInformation.com.

Working for You in the Community



Need assistance in getting a pothole fixed? Call Sherri's office at (619) 236-6611. We are here to help.

Helping constituents get potholes filled, streetlights fixed and other neighborhood repairs is one of Sherri's top priorities. Here is a sampling of projects her office worked on this past month:

Potholes:

- Right-hand turn lane on Torrey Pines Road to La Jolla Village Drive
- La Jolla Colony Drive, from I-5 to Palmilla Drive
- Westbound La Jolla Parkway, right-hand lane, just past the La Jolla Scenic Drive North off-ramp

Cleanups and Repair:

- Weeds sprayed and litter

removed along sidewalk of northbound Torrey Pines Road from Glenbrook Way to La Jolla Village Drive

- Damaged asphalt repaired in bike lane on southbound Genesee Avenue, just south of La Jolla Village Drive
- Street sweeping throughout Torrey Hills, including Senda Luna Llena, Via Mar de Delinas and Gracewood Place
- Water leak repaired on eastbound Governor Drive at Erlanger Street
- Irrigation leak fixed at Durango Drive and Del Mar

Heights Road

- Graffiti removed from sidewalk at the following intersections: Bloch Street and San Clemente Terrace and Bloch Street and Barkla Street
- Damaged asphalt repaired in bike lane in front of bus stop on Arriba Street

Streetlights and Traffic Signals

- UC Library parking lot lights repaired
- Streetlight repaired at Nobel Drive and Judicial Drive
- Streetlight installed at Honors Drive and Fried Avenue
- Streetlights repaired in front of 5901 and 5972 Dirac St.

Sherri is on the Web at

sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/

Follow Sherri:



Facebook: www.facebook.com/SherriLightner



Twitter: www.twitter.com/#!/SherriLightner



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Your Community Representatives

If you have a concern or question about an issue in your neighborhood, please contact our constituent services representative, Janie Hoover, or your community representative. We're here to help!

Torrey Hills / Constituent Services (street repairs, water leaks, traffic issues, code compliance, etc.)

Janie Hoover jmhoover@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

La Jolla

Erin Demorest edemorest@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

Black Mountain Ranch / Rancho Peñasquitos / Torrey Highlands

Stephen Heverly sheverly@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

Torrey Pines

Mo Kantner mkantner@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

University City / UCSD

Jesse Mays jmays@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611

Carmel Valley / Pacific Highlands Ranch / Del Mar Mesa

Mel Millstein mmillstein@sandiego.gov (619) 236-6611