



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

Infrastructure Projects Get Fast Tracked

Tired of waiting 10 years for a traffic signal? Five years for a stop sign? Or, how about watching your streets and sidewalks crumble under your feet while you raise your kids and send them off to college??? Well, we're tired of it, too!

That's why my City Council colleagues and I pushed through a new plan to cut the red tape and get capital improvement (CIP) projects done faster. Our city has a whopping \$898 million backlog in long-delayed maintenance projects, plus another billion or so, sitting on shelves with no funding or tangled in bureaucratic red tape. But no more!

San Diego's Public Works team now plans to fix roads, sidewalks and sewers; parks, street lights and yes, traffic signals, and complete them much faster than before. We will work closely and transparently with community groups, do all our environmental reviews and will speed up the process. It's a rare win-win in government: creating jobs, saving tax dollars and improving our neighborhoods services.

A new website will have access to information about upcoming projects, private contracts to build them, and the repair schedules. The CIP website is scheduled to go live sometime in May.

This new effort to streamline capital projects is a direct result of your suggestions. We are listening to your concerns and making the changes necessary at the City of San Diego to help you create the quality of life you want for your communities.

Thanks, Marti

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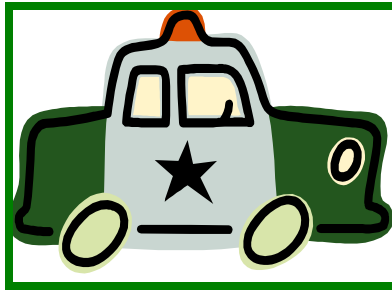
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Safety Speaks

In early 2011 the City implemented an ordinance that requires pedicab operators to have a valid California driver's license. At last month's Public Safety & Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee, we heard from City transportation staff and the Police Department regarding an update of the

code. The police department reported that it is now easier to carry out background checks on pedicab operators and that pedicab operators have been breaking fewer traffic laws and receiving fewer citations.

The Committee also discussed a new U.S. State Department policy that prohibits individuals approved to participate in the work-and-study-based - exchange visitor programs from being pedicab drivers. The pedicab industry has a history for attracting J1 Visa Student sponsor programs and has earned a reputation for taking advantage of foreign students. As committee Chair, Councilmember Emerald requested the City Attorney's Office research and report back ways in which the city can support and enforce the new federal guideline.

The Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee next meets on Wednesday April 18, 2012 at 2 pm at City Hall. For any public safety related concerns, please contact my Committee Consultant, Drew Ector, by calling (619) 236-7038 or emailing Dector@sandiego.gov.

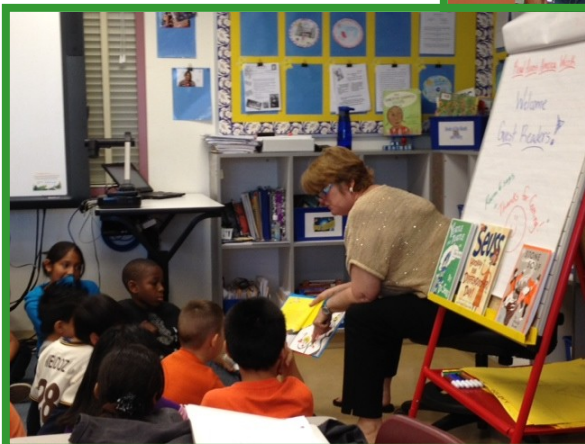
Playground Project Gets Final Approval

For the past 3 years a small group of community members envisioned a new playground for the Lake Murray Community Park. They were able to raise nearly \$185,000, along with the \$212,000 in Navajo Development Impact Fees. The City of San Diego's Park and Recreation Department will assist the group with demolition of the existing playground, new walkways, rubberized surfacing and some play equipment. The community will be purchasing most of the play equipment which include play structures for ages 2-5 and 5-12, along with ADA equipment so that every child can come and enjoy this recreation area.



However, there is still time for supporters of this project to put their mark on this playground. Individuals or families can purchase a personalized paver that will be placed at the playground which includes a personal message. For more information about the park, or to purchase a paver with your name on it, please visit: <http://www.lakemurraypark.org/LMPP/home.html>

Celebrating Community



Clockwise from the top left to right, Marti teamed up with Channel 10 for Consumer Protection Day, joined residents of City Heights for a tour of Swan Canyon, District 7 staff served lunch to Seniors at the Senior Community Centers of San Diego, read to students at Fay Elementary school for Read Across America Week, planted the first plum tree at the joint use San Carlos community garden located at Springall Academy, visited and honored the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program at their 2012 Women's Resource Fair. March was a busy month in the communities of District 7.



I Love a
Clean San
Diego

10th
Annual
Creek to
Bay
Cleanup

April 28th
9:00 am
To
Noon

Cleanup
Sites
Throughout
the County

April Community Events

Sunday, April 15th- 2nd Annual College Area Taste will take place from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Foodies will enjoy over 25 restaurants throughout this diverse neighborhood. Tickets are just \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. To purchase tickets visit www.collegeareabid.com or call (619) 233-5008. Proceeds benefit the College Area Business Improvement District.

Wednesday, April 18th– Youth-led Town Hall Meeting to address Underage Drinking– Master of Ceremonies will be Councilmember Marti Emerald. The Town Hall will take begin at 5:00 pm at the East African Community and Cultural Center located at 4061 Fairmount Avenue. Underage drinking prevention is a collective responsibility. Come join us!

Saturday, April 21st– Operation Clean & Green FREE Electronic-Waste Disposal and Recycle Drop-Off Event will take place at Patrick Henry High School located at 6702 Wandermere Drive from 9:00 am– 12:00 pm. Items accepted include: computers, monitors, televisions, car batteries, etc. Items NOT accepted: appliances, microwaves, lamps/light bulbs, alkaline batteries and other hazardous waste items.

Sunday, April 22nd– It’s Our Nature...San Diego Earth Fair 2012 will take place in Balboa Park from 10:00 am—5:00 pm. This the largest free annual environmental fair in the world with more than 350 exhibitors, special theme areas, food pavilion, entertainment venues and eARTH Gallery. Come celebrate Earth Day at this annual San Diego event.

Friday, April 27th- “Finding the Balance in Caregiving” Senior Health Fair will take place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the College Avenue Baptist Church, located at 4747 College Avenue. This event is coordinated by Marti’s colleague, Assemblymember Marty Block, in partnership with the Caregiver Coalition of San Diego. There will be a free breakfast, a resource fair, and the ability to talk to representatives from various health organizations. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to 1-800-827-1008.

Saturday, April 28th– Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Drop off your unused prescription drugs and help prevent prescription drug abuse from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at one of these District 7 locations:

1. **SDSU** – Parking Info Booth located at 6095 Canyon Crest Dr. via College Ave.
2. **MCAS Miramar Branch Medical Clinic** located at Building #2496 Bauer Rd.