

The Emerald News

Office of **Council President Pro Tem** Marti Emerald

Volume 7, Issue 9



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

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New Community Center Coming to D9

I recently joined Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, Park and Recreation Director Herman Parker and Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (CAN) leadership and youth to announce more than \$3 million in new funding to repair and renovate the old Copley YMCA building, which will become the new Park De La Cruz Recreation Center.

The City of San Diego received the \$3.1 million in grant money for Park De La Cruz in City Heights from the State of California Housing and Community Development (HCD). The new money is on top of the nearly \$4.5 million awarded to the City by HCD last year to build two innovative, multi-generational, custom built, concrete skateboard parks within Park De La Cruz and the Linda Vista Community Park.

HCD awarded the grant to the City of San Diego for the adoption of its award-winning 2013 Housing Element, a policy guide that addresses the comprehensive housing needs of the City. The City's Housing Element, which is subject to detailed statutory requirements and mandatory review by HCD, included the creation and preservation of nearly 1,000 affordable housing units during the time the City applied for the grant.

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.

Community Representatives

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National Night Out in D9

This year I joined Teralta, Colina and Talmadge at their "National Night Out" events. "National Night Out" is designed to generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Neighborhoods throughout San Diego and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside porch lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout San Diego host a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities, and anti-crime and drug rallies.



Pure Water San Diego



San Diego boasts renowned parks and museums, beautiful sandy beaches and great weather. So it's no surprise the City's population continues to grow. But San Diego has faced a long-term challenge: its lack of local drinking water sources. Eighty-five percent of the City's water supply is imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. Recurring drought, the potential for large-scale earthquakes and the rising cost of imported water threaten San Diego's future water reliability. However, there is a solution to make San Diego more water independent. The City is moving forward with **Pure Water San Diego**—a phased, multi-year program that will provide one-third of San Diego's water supply locally by 2035. Proven water purification technology will produce a drinking water supply that is safe, reliable and cost-effective.

The water purification process begins with recycled water that has been cleaned so it can be safely used for irrigation and industrial purposes ("purple pipe" water). The recycled water will then be sent to a water purification facility where it will be cleaned to near distilled quality through membrane filtration, reverse osmosis and advanced oxidation with ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide. To confirm the viability and safety of the water purification process, the City conducted a demonstration project from 2009 to 2013. One million gallons of recycled water were purified every day for a year at the City's demonstration Advanced Water Purification Facility. More than 9,000 water quality tests and rigorous daily monitoring ensured no contaminants were present in the water and that the purified water can be safely added to a reservoir. The Division of Drinking Water and San Diego Water Board approved the water purification concept and confirmed the purified water meets all federal and state drinking water standards. As additional confirmation, the Orange County Water District has been using the same three-step water purification process since 2008 and recently expanded production to 100 million gallons per day (MGD).



In November 2014, the City Council unanimously voted to approve the advancement of Pure Water San Diego. The next steps for the program include the design and construction of full-scale water purification facilities. An initial facility capable of producing up to 30 MGD is planned to be in operation by 2021. The long-term goal, producing 83 MGD of purified water, is planned to be reached by 2035. Pure Water will divert approximately 100 MGD of wastewater from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant to three future advanced water purification facilities located at the North City Water Reclamation Plant, South Bay Water Reclamation Plant and a future central area facility.

The demonstration Advanced Water Purification Facility remains operational and free tours are available to all San Diegans. During the tour, participants get an up-close look at the water purification technology and have the opportunity to compare samples of purified, tap and recycled water. Please visit www.purewatersd.org to sign up for a tour or presentation and learn more about Pure Water San Diego.

Fire Stations

I had the pleasure of preparing dinner for our firefighters at the San Ysidro Fire Station. In the upcoming weeks, I will be visiting community groups around the city to discuss my plan to design, construct and equip 19 fire stations throughout the City of San Diego. With support from voters, I hope to approve a fire house bond, a general obligation bond, which would increase a homeowners' property tax bill by \$30.00 per year (based on a property tax bill of \$500,000) which will fund the construction of the fire stations and the equipment that is currently needed to improve our city's emergency response time.





Update on Montezuma Park



We had to change City Law to do it, but now, in response to community demands; alcohol is banned from Montezuma Park. Thank you to the College Business Improvement District, the College Area Community Council, the residents of Catoctin, the Mid-City Division of the San Diego Police Department, San Diego Park & Rec, and San Diego Environmental Services, for all of their help in getting this done. This truly was a team effort to improve Montezuma Park. I especially want to thank our Community Relations Officer from the Mid-City Police Division, Terry Hoskins, for his nonstop outstanding work to make Montezuma Park a safe and inviting place for kids and neighbors.

Alcohol had previously been allowed during the day, but after continuing incidents at the park, residents and nearby businesses petitioned the City Council to ban alcohol at this one acre neighborhood park. After considering incident reports from the San Diego Police Department, and recommendation from the College Area Community Council and College Area Business District, the Council acted in August to declare the park an alcohol free zone. The park is located directly across the street from an elementary school, a factor that weighed heavily in the decision.