

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

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Lily Pond Debacle Demonstrates the Best and Worst of San Diego

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

When I woke up on August 12 to learn that people had damaged the beloved lily pond in Balboa Park the night before during a water gun fight, I was saddened and angry. The ignorant actions of a fraction of the large group gathered for what was expected to be a low key, innocent summer event outraged many San Diegans.

It also prompted many to take positive action.

In the days following the destruction, over \$13,000 was raised by the Friends of Balboa Park, all of which was used to help make the necessary repairs, which cost more than \$19,000. Repairs were complete by August 22 and included clearing away all damaged plant material, as well as mud, dirt, and debris; repairs to the lily pond's plumbing system; refilling the lily pond with water; water treatments to

protect the pond's fish and turtles; and replanting around the pond.

Longer-term repairs include repairing ornamental concrete caps on the Plaza de Panama fountain; repairing or replacing seven of the 26 submerged planters in the lily pond; and permanent plumbing repairs to a drainage pipe in the lily pond, which will likely occur by this winter.

I am beyond grateful to Park and Recreation Director Stacey LoMedico and her amazing team who restored order and beauty to the lily pond with great efficiency. I commend the San Diego Police Department for its work, and believe the perpetrators of the damage will be held accountable following the investigation, which is ongoing.

Utility Undergrounding Workshop: Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.

Please join Councilmember Todd Gloria for a workshop with local utility companies about the impact of utility boxes on neighborhood character, and the process for community input into the placement and aesthetics of the boxes. The workshop will be held on Monday, September 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 in the Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club.

As efforts continue to transfer overhead wires and cables underground, many questions and concerns have arisen from neighbors about the work and about the utility boxes that result.

Early this summer, Councilmember Gloria brought forward community concerns about utility boxes to local utility companies, who agreed to a series of public workshops to address common issues. The first workshop was held by the Community Planners Committee on July 24. The session at Balboa Park will focus more on public comments and questions.

Representatives from local utility companies will be present to engage in an open dialogue with the public about ways that community impacts from utility boxes and might be reduced.

Utility Undergrounding Workshop

Monday, September 24, 6:00—8:30 p.m.
Santa Fe Room at the Balboa Park Club
Please RSVP to toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

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202 C Street, MS 10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone (619) 236-6633
Fax (619) 595-1481
toddgloria@sandiego.gov
www.sandiego.gov/cd3

San Diego Commemorates 10 Years of Affordable Housing Progress

Councilmember Todd Gloria brought forward a resolution on July 31 to commemorate the progress made since the City Council held Housing Day on August 6, 2002. Councilmember Gloria's resolution was approved unanimously.

On August 6, 2002, the City Council took action to address the severe lack of affordable housing for San Diego residents. More than 1,000 people attended the special City Council meeting in Golden Hall to advocate for more affordable housing. That day, San Diego became the first municipality in the country to have a Housing State of Emergency declared, and the City Council undertook to adopt and implement a comprehensive set of programs to create significant and lasting solutions to create additional affordable housing in the City.

Make San Diego More Walkable + Have Coffee with your Councilmember

Join Councilmember Todd Gloria on Saturday September 15 at Caffé Calabria as he debuts BestWALK, a new walkability smart phone app custom made for the San Diego region. The app will crowdsource data from residents across San Diego to rate what it's like to walk in your community and contribute to a map of improvements for future funding.

Come along to help the Councilmember walk the streets of North Park, enter in data, and rate North Park's walkability.

Following the walk and app demonstration, Councilmember Gloria will hold a community coffee session, and invites all neighbors to attend and casually discuss important City issues.

Walk with your Councilmember / Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, September 15, 10:00 a.m. Walk / 10:30 a.m. Coffee Meet at Caffé Calabria, 3933 30th Street

If you can't make it for the walk app demonstration, you can still help make San Diego more walkable.

Join friends and walkers of all ages the last two weeks of September to use WalkSanDiego's new BestWALK smart phone app. Don't have a smart phone? No worries. Paper survey forms can be downloaded at walksandiego.org.

Register as a volunteer today. No experience required. All ages welcome. You can volunteer to walk 1-2 hours in September and input data. You can also become a Volunteer Leader to help recruit and organize volunteers in your neighborhood. Sign up at www.walksandiego.org/get-involved/volunteer.

"The actions taken by the City Council on Housing Day in 2002 have contributed to the improved health, safety, and quality of life of thousands of San Diego families, seniors, veterans, and formerly homeless individuals," said Councilmember Gloria, who has championed issues related to affordable housing and homelessness since before his 2008 election.

The City Council adopted an inclusionary housing ordinance that has contributed to the construction of nearly 2,000 units of affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in San Diego, and the Council approved the creation of a \$55 million fund to build affordable housing citywide, which resulted in the creation of 722 new affordable homes. The City Council also approved a program to prioritize the permitting of affordable housing, thereby reducing the cost of constructing new affordable homes.

"The work our predecessors began in 2002 has generated promising results for our region," said Councilmember Gloria. "We have much more to accomplish to ensure all San Diegans can fulfill their essential need of shelter, and I look forward to building on the successful track record."

Water Conservation Garden of the Month: West Lewis Street



This yard on West Lewis Street prominently features drought-tolerant landscaping which complements the Spanish architecture of this home at the end of a cul-de-sac. A working fountain does require water, of course, but the plant materials and lack of thirsty ground covering balance it out.

Do you have a favorite water conservation garden in the neighborhood? Snap a picture and submit it to toddgloria@sandiego.gov. As always, don't be afraid to submit your own!

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- “Dip Ahead” signage will be added to the 4000 block of Georgia Street.
- Street lights were repaired on Alder Drive.
- A hole showing an exposed water meter was closed in the 3000 block of Heather Street.

Improving Infrastructure

- Petitions are currently circulating for consideration of angled parking in the 4600 block of Campus Avenue.
- A storm drain in the 3500 block of Seventh Avenue will be repaired by November 2012. Issues with the location were thankfully reported to Councilmember Gloria by a constituent.
- The storm drain box and standing water problem at Adams Avenue and Idaho Street were repaired.
- Problematic potholes on the 300 block of Brookes Avenue were addressed when the street was slurry sealed.
- An alley near the 4400 block of Hamilton Street and an alley near the 2900 block of Kalmia Street were patched with asphalt and will be repaved should funds become available.
- An alley near the 4000 block of Arizona Street will be patched with asphalt soon.

Get Involved in North Park

North Park Recreation Council seeks new members for Citizens Advisory Board

The Citizens Advisory Board was created by the North Park Recreation Council to help advise, plan, and promote recreational programs and special events for the community. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of every even month at 6:00 p.m. at North Park Recreation Center. Individuals residing in the community or operating a business in the community are encouraged to become active members of this advisory group. If you would like more information, please contact the Gordon Bordson, Park and Recreation Area Manager at 619-235-1152.

North Park Maintenance Assessment District has committee opening

The North Park Maintenance Assessment District (NPMAD) has an opening for a resident homeowner who lives in the NPMAD's boundaries. The Committee provides a means for private citizen advice to City staff on matters relating to NPMAD landscape projects, lighting, and special community improvements.

The Committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the North Park Adult Activity Center. Nominations will be accepted at the September 10 meeting, and an election will be held at the October 8 meeting. Please visit www.npmad.org or contact Beth Swersie at northparkmad@gmail.com for more information.

- A water leak reported in the 3900 block of 30th Street was determined to be on private property, and the property owner and Water Department were able to correct the problem.
- Addressing complaints of water ponding, the 3100 block of Myrtle Avenue will be ground down before it receives an asphalt overlay by October.
- A patch of new asphalt that was damaged on Harvey Road is being repaired by the original contractor.
- After evaluation for more stop signs, it was determined that the intersections of Grape Street with Fern Street and Grape Street with 31st Street will remain as they are. More stop signs would potentially disrupt traffic flow by adding congestion.
- A metal plate was secured by Field Engineering near the 4100 block of Rochester Road.
- The 3800 block of Westgate Place was added to the City's asphalt overlay backlog.

Community Character

- Street sweeping occurred on the 3500 block of 28th Street after neighbors complained about its condition.
- Damages to a trail near University Heights Point are being repaired following the clearance of a homeless encampment by City staff.
- A dog roaming the streets of Talmadge was taken care of by the Police Department.
- Advertisements dumped on sidewalks on Cherokee Avenue will be stopped.
- Improvements are being made to the old Arizona landfill site to ensure proper drainage and to improve the gas collection system.
- Code violations are being investigated at a property in the 3900 block of 33rd Street.

Free Recycling Event for Oil, Batteries, and More

Saturday, September 29
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Balboa Park
Park Blvd. & Presidents Way

- Oil, oil filters, all batteries, antifreeze, CFL bulbs/tubes will all be accepted.
- Maximum limit: 10 gallons
- No business waste accepted.



For more information on collection events:
www.sandiego.gov/esd/recycling/events/usedoil.shtml

Tracking Todd



Todd helps break ground on improvements to North Park Community Park on August 3.



Todd attended the dedication of the new First Unitarian Universalist Church's Welcome Center on August 19.



Todd chats with constituents at CityFest on August 12 (top); celebrates resident involvement with the City Heights CDC on August 30 (middle); and participates in National Night Out Against Crime in Bird Park on August 7 (bottom).

Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Land Use and Housing Committee
- Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau
- San Diego River Conservancy

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