



# COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
March 9, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Davies  
(619) 405-2741

### Senior Transportation Comes to Carmel Valley

*Lightner highlights Jewish Family Service's Rides & Smiles program*

SAN DIEGO – Julie Saltman has waited a long time for this day.

The 88-year-old Carmel Valley resident will be the first passenger to receive a ride through Rides & Smiles, a senior transportation program run by Jewish Family Service. Her driver will be Councilmember Sherri Lightner, who has been instrumental in helping secure funding for expanding this much-needed program to Carmel Valley.

Since Carmel Valley has no access to public transportation, it makes simple tasks such as grocery shopping or getting to a doctor's appointment costly and complicated for many area seniors.

"Access to transportation is a critical issue for Carmel Valley seniors," Lightner said. "Right now, it is difficult for many seniors without cars to do the everyday things many of us take for granted."

Because of that, Saltman began advocating for senior transportation nearly three years ago.

Saltman contacted Councilmember Lightner, who represents the Carmel Valley area, and Lightner began working with Jewish Family Service to secure funding for the program. With the help of a grant from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), there is now enough funding to expand the Rides & Smiles program to the northern San Diego region, including Carmel Valley.

"Kudos to Julie for her leadership on this issue," Lightner said. "I also want to thank Jewish Family Service and SANDAG for their help in making this happen."

Jewish Family Service hopes to be able to provide some 6,500 rides to seniors in northern San Diego region this year. To accomplish this, the program will need volunteers to help drive seniors where they need to go. Lightner urged everyone to get involved and volunteer for this program.

"I can think of no better way to give back to the community than by helping make the lives of our seniors more convenient and rewarding," Lightner said.

To learn more about Jewish Family Service of San Diego, please visit their website at [www.jfssd.org](http://www.jfssd.org). For more information about On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults as well as the Rides & Smiles program, go to [www.jfssd.org/onthego](http://www.jfssd.org/onthego) or call (877) 634-6537.

*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

###