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Two candidates vying for La Mesa mayoral seat in Nov. 8 election



Incumbent Mark Arapostathis and challenger Kristine Alessio are on the
ballot to be the next mayor of La Mesa. (Photo credit: Kendra Sitton)

By DAVE THOMAS

Will La Mesa retain mayor
Mark Arapostathis or elect a new
one in challenger Kristine Alessio?

The two are running to lead La
Mesa into 2023 and beyond. The
winning candidate will be seated
on Tuesday, Dec. 13, the first
meeting in December.

La Mesa Courier recently caught
up with both candidates to discuss
topics ranging from issues facing
residents to bringing added busi-
ness to town and more.

LMC: What motivated you to run for this position?

Arapostathis: I am running
for re-election because I have
the knowledge and a clear un-
derstanding of how our local
government can best serve the
needs of the residents of La Mesa.
I want to continue to serve my
city. I was born and raised in La
Mesa attending Lemon Ave., La
Mesa Jr. High and graduated from
Helix High School. I have been

volunteering and serving La Mesa
since I was a child. I am a teacher
of 30 years, currently teaching in
La Mesa. I speak with the people
in La Mesa daily and have a deep
understanding of their concerns
and hopes. Our city can and will
do more to make life better for
businesses, visitors and residents.
I love and care about this city and
feel a duty to serve.

Alessio: La Mesa is the city
we live in and love, yet, there
are things we should preserve
and there are things that must
change to make it more livable.
Watching residents and busi-
nesses try to navigate the infinite
red tape at City Hall, watching
our neighborhoods change for
the worse while elected officials
shrug their shoulders and say
their hands are tied, are two big
reasons I decided to run for mayor.
Do we windup like Lemon Grove
or El Cajon or remain the wonder-
ful and unique Jewel of the Hills?

SEE MAYORAL RACE, Page 3

Candidates seek pair of La Mesa Council seats in Nov. 8 election

By DAVE THOMAS

With fall in the air and the hol-
idays around the corner, election
season is in full swing.

Four individuals are run-
ning for two council seats in La
Mesa. Candidate Kathleen Brand
dropped out of the race earlier this
month.

The candidates are civil rights
advocate Mejgan Afshan, busi-
nesswoman Patricia Dillard,
La Mesa Councilmember Laura
Lothian, and Pastor Tony Orlando.
Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

La Mesa Courier recently caught
up with the candidates to discuss

topics ranging from issues facing
residents to bringing added busi-
ness to La Mesa and more.

LMC: What motivated you to run for this position?

Afshan: As a legal observer at
the May 30th incident in 2020,
I witnessed the unraveling of
the peaceful protest into sheer
and utter chaos. It was a miracle
none of us died that day. I real-
ized then, that I had to get more
involved on the local La Mesa
level and advocate towards better
civic engagement with our mar-
ginalized community members
and young residents. It's critical



Four people are running for a pair of council seats in La Mesa.

that we create more equity and
inclusion for all La Mesans, no
matter your ethnicity, faith, race
or socio-economic background.
Having lived in La Mesa for 31
years and grown up here, I know

what a wonderful city we are and
how much potential we have to be
an even better place where every-
one can thrive.

SEE COUNCIL RACE, Page 4

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La Mesa Oktoberfest proved quite a hit



Countless locals and visitors descended on the 49th annual La Mesa Oktoberfest event Sept. 30 – Oct. 2. The popular event offered attendees a wide array of attractions, music, food and drink. (Photos credit: Alec Basanec/Spearheadmedia.com)

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Mayoral race

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

There are so many things that we could be doing better in La Mesa, from potholes (too many) to police (too few). We need someone who understands both private and public sector concerns, and has the tools to fix our problems. With my background in law and government as well as being a former councilmember, I see simple solutions that will improve quality of life for all La Mesans without costing money and raising taxes. La Mesa government needs to be all La Mesa, all local. I have a five-point plan to improve the City for everyone: We need to change street repair schedule so that the streets that need the most repairs get them first; Provide the Fire Department with smaller more efficient vehicles to get to calls faster; Provide the Police Department with additional officers, decreasing wait times for lower priority calls; We've grown, our police force hasn't. Require the Public Works Department to have a plan for maintenance of City owned property; Presently, you must complain to get something done. It should be part of the everyday business in keep the Jewel of the Hills shining. Giving the Community Development Department precise guidelines for neighborhood engagement on large and small development projects. The City, not Facebook or Next Door, needs to be engaging and informing you; Develop a review process for the planning department staff to ensure your permits and applications are processed quickly. Having to wait over a year to get permits to remodel a bathroom, add an ADU, put a sign in front of your business, or add solar panels is crazy. I will ensure that changes are made to make these things easier for you.

LMC: What do you see to be the three top issues facing La Mesa residents as we wind down 2022 and move into 2023?

Arapostathis: As a teacher in La Mesa I have the opportunity to speak to hundreds of La Mesa residents weekly. In addition, every two years we survey the residents of La Mesa. The top three concerns in La Mesa are: 1. How to take care of the unsheltered homeless population so they are not living on our streets. 2. Well-trained and staffed Police and Fire Departments that will continue to keep our neighborhoods safe. 3. What art, culture and recreational programs does the city offer residents and how are we maintaining and improving parks. Our HOME (Homeless Outreach and Mobil Engagement) program has placed over 70 people in permanent housing. We are also preventing families from becoming homeless through our rental assistance program. We have entered into a contract with the Home Start Program to link more people to housing and services. This year I am proposing to



Mark Arapostathis

expand the funding for these programs to help solve the homeless crisis. Since each case and individual is different, we triage and prioritize funding and resources to help those who are experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health problems. I will work with the Chiefs of the Police and Fire departments to ensure that we are operating at 100% of staff. I will support funding that will provide the most advanced equipment and training which will continue to retain the most experienced police officers and fire fighters. In addition, I will increase positions in both departments to guarantee that our public safety response time continues to keep every neighborhood safe for our growing population. I co-founded the La Mesa Arts Alliance and most recently helped create the La Mesa Arts and Culture Commission in order to promote the arts, along with the historical, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of the community by using the arts as a mechanism to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. I was a leader in bringing the La Mesa Farmer's Market to the downtown village every Friday night. This offers the community the opportunity to purchase food, produce and merchandise from a wide range of diverse vendors. I continue to lead in the renovation and upgrades of our parks that create greater access to facilities while maintaining clean safe spaces. In addition, I have proposed and implemented new recreational facilities including new play structures and new pickle ball courts. I founded the free Sundays at 6 concerts in Harry Griffen Park and support our free movies in the parks and at our swimming pool.

Alessio: 1. Again, to repeat, adequate police and fire protection. La Mesa has grown and is growing, neither our police force nor our fire department have the staff to ensure that they can meet the community's needs. We cannot have an undersized police force stretched so thin that it takes them 30 minutes to respond to a lower priority call. We cannot have a fire department that would have to request mutual aid if there were a large car accident because they are dealing with a homeless person. These are not negotiable items. They must happen, to keep us all safe. I am proud to be endorsed by both the La Mesa Police Officers Association and the Heartland Fire Fighters of La Mesa. 2. Cost of living and inflation. We cannot allow La Mesa to be more expensive than our businesses and residents



Kristine Alessio

can afford. We must not adopt policies that lead to expense for basic household necessities such as power and food. Currently, there is a plan being suggested to ban the use of natural gas in La Mesa for new development and for home remodels. As the *Los Angeles Times* and other newspapers have noted, this will drastically increase the cost of living for the average person. To these we must say no. Nor can we allow additional taxation for projects benefitting the City of San Diego, that's just wrong. Recently La Mesa's SANDAG representative voted to add a vehicle mileage tax to every car trip a resident takes. Again wrong. Current leadership at City Hall did not even feel the need to let La Mesans know that this SANDAG vote was happening. We already have high prices for everything in California, La Mesa must not impose burdensome new fees and taxes on those who can least afford them. 3. Housing balanced with preservation of neighborhoods: Land use in La Mesa are established by General Plans and Specific Plans. These are how a local government exercises what is left of local control over land use. La Mesa has multiple outdated Specific Plans – the Downtown Village Specific Plan, the Eastridge Specific Plan and the Grossmont Center Specific Plan. They have not been updated since the late 1980's to 1990's. These must be updated and tailored to the unique parts of La Mesa where they apply. There are a lot of state laws that trumps local laws, but Specific Plans are a way to work around State law. In addition, we also need general design guidelines for the City as a whole. Our goal? Visit Santa Barbara, and you will see the result of careful planning and design guidelines, the way new developments fit with the existing neighborhoods. We must demand the same high standards. Given the projects our elected officials have approved, we were on our way to a far different looking and feeling La Mesa. Growth and housing are not inevitable, but they must be done in a way that does not change the look and feel of La Mesa. Again, we do not want to become Lemon Grove or El Cajon.

LMC: Politics in general have taken a nasty turn nationwide in recent years. What is your message to La Mesa voters as to how you will govern with those having different viewpoints to yours?

Arapostathis: Unfortunately, in this election I have been the

SEE MAYORAL RACE, Page 9

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Council race

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Lothian: I saw our City spending too much time on global talking points and not enough time on local issues: Police. Permits and Potholes. With homelessness and crime on the rise, residents and businesses struggling to get permits, and litter in our parks and on our streets, I believe the City's resources need to be invested within La Mesa's boundaries; in my time as a council member, I have done just that. I also witnessed, with dismay, COVID restrictions hurting our children's childhoods, destroying our small businesses, and depressing people's lives, and felt our city should have done more to help our community like allowing outdoor tables in public spaces to help restaurants survive the shutdown and not padlocking our parks (that was disgraceful). I will always fight against government overreach and employ pragmatic, common-sense solutions to problems.

Orlando: My motivation for running this year comes down to the essence of a quote from philosopher John Stuart Mill in 1867 with these words, *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* After being a resident of this great city for 21 years, it was time to stand up and become more proactive in the cause of a better La Mesa. I saw a city rioted in May of 2020, while businesses were struggling to exist during COVID. With much grief



Meigan Afshan

in my heart, it became apparent it was my time to serve. I want to see La Mesa get back to the essence of what has made it great for many years as the jewel of the hills.

LMC: What do you see to be the three top issues facing La Mesa residents as we wind down 2022 and move into 2023?

Afshan: The top three issues that residents and businesses continue to bring to my attention as we canvass and phone-bank week after week, are first and foremost homelessness. As councilmember, I plan on expanding the HOME Program so that we have more people on staff and hours of service available which will also take pressure off our La Mesa Fire Department and La Mesa Police Department and allow them to focus on their more pressing work. The second is our environment and I will push for fulfilling our Climate Action Plan goals and hopefully create more incentives and support for our La Mesa residents and businesses to



Laura Lothian

become more cleaner, greener and sustainable. And lastly, affordable housing, which I will work on with my fellow Council members to make sure working families are protected with rental assistance to prevent more families from becoming homeless and creating 5-10% more lower to very low affordable housing options in the new development being built in La Mesa.

Lothian: 1. With the shocking rise of homelessness, America's cities are rapidly deteriorating. La Mesa's homeless problem is bad, and actions must be taken before it reaches crisis levels. Concrete steps I support are placing non-addicted & mentally stable homeless people seeking help in temporary housing spread throughout the City - not building homeless shelters or homeless hotels, demanding MTS enforce trolley fares for passengers (not enforcing fares abets the homeless riding the trolley in and out of La Mesa and is a major factor in La Mesa's homeless problem), disallowing encampments - especially ones with large groups of homeless



Tony Orlando

people, providing extra police presence where the homeless gather (especially trolley stops and parks) to deter vandalism, fires, shoplifting, assaults, harassment of passersby, loitering, graffiti, etc. 2. Helping our local economy by helping our small businesses thrive. One of the most maddening hurdles faced by our small businesses (and residents) is La Mesa's painful permit process. Improving the permit process is one of my top priorities. At my prodding, the City Council now receives a Quarterly Permit Activity Report which allows us to monitor permits in the queue. The City Manager hired a Permit Consulting Firm to provide the City Council with a blueprint for improving and expediting the permit process. Their recommendations are imminent. Our yes vote will save La Mesa residents and small businesses time, money, and aggravation. I also spearheaded funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be awarded to La Mesa's small business community. I was happy the mayor and city council joined me in a 5:0 vote for

allocating \$500,000 to La Mesa's Commercial Facade Improvement Program, which will provide small businesses with funds for painting, windows, doors, signage, lighting, awnings, canopies, landscaping - anything related to the front facade. The first \$5,000 is free and the remaining money is split 50/50 between the City and the small business up to \$25,000. This effort will improve curb appeal, customer traffic, and the surrounding community. Contact the City or me for more details. 3. This one is a tie: Funding the police and letting the La Mesa Police Department do its job keeping La Mesa safe (I am very proud of the La Mesa Police Officer Association endorsement). Preserving the charm of La Mesa's Historic Downtown Village by faithfully adhering to La Mesa's Downtown Village Specific Plan which establishes criteria such as prioritizing beauty, historic and heritage preservation, avoiding unnecessary height and bulk, and new buildings being compatible with historic buildings.

Orlando: Homelessness, fighting tax increases, and increasing our public safety efforts.

LMC: Politics in general have taken a nasty turn nationwide in recent years. What is your message to La Mesa voters as to how you will govern with those having different viewpoints to yours?

Afshan: As a proud La Mesan who attended La Mesa Middle

SEE COUNCIL RACE, Page 5

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Council race

CONTINUED FROM **Page 4**

School, Helix High School, and Grossmont College, I am dedicated to building a more equitable and inclusive community for everyone. When we win and I become Council member, I look forward to a continuous, open-minded and thoughtful dialogue with all parts of our community. I don't shy away from asking difficult questions, love learning new things, and am committed to understanding the different perspectives here in La Mesa.

Lothian: Hostilities due to party affiliation take a back seat to safe, clean, beautiful, thriving communities. With my record of helping La Mesa's small businesses, initiating a litter pick-up program, prompting City Hall to no longer purchase and throw away disposable plastic bottles, successfully lobbying for pickleball stripes to be added to an under-utilized tennis court, and drastically reducing recycling fines, I enjoy support from Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

Orlando: This is a question that I have given much thought. I think we have lost the art of having conversations. I'm highly interested in listening to others, especially those who do not agree with me. I think that creates a healthy culture of authenticity as well as transparency if we can be open to dialogue even if someone does not see eye to eye with myself. My hope is that we can

set aside our differences and find the issues that we can come to an agreement on that places the residents of La Mesa at the forefront.

LMC: What will you do as a council member to bring more business to La Mesa?

Afshan: As your next Council member, I look forward to creating more opportunities for improvement in serving our local businesses, increasing the diversity of types of businesses, and hosting more events where businesses can showcase their specialties whether it be hosting a Spring Festival, industry market events, or inviting more business roundtables to generate new ideas.

Lothian: Improve the permit process, help implement the new Commercial Facade Improvement Program funded by ARPA money, continue my positive relationships with the La Mesa Village Association and the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce who represent La Mesa's business community, spearhead a buildings mural program which will bring tourists and commerce, spearhead artist-painted crosswalks like Downtown Long Beach has to attract tourists and commerce, support events throughout La Mesa enjoyed by locals and visitors.

Orlando: We must eliminate roadblocks that hinder business from operating as well as regulations and requirements that hinder growth and development. For example, if a business needs an awning to shield its customers

from the elements, it should be a very simple permitting process that should not take months to resolve. La Mesa should be a destination for businesses to want to be here and allow them to thrive.

LMC: What is something positive you can say about your opponents?

Afshan: They are creative, I give them that.

Lothian: Tony Orlando is one of the nicest, most friendly people you will ever meet. When he says he wants to be a public servant, he means it. He's bright with a good sense of humor. If we both serve on the City Council, our city would have less litter, less homelessness, less crime, and more vision. I have only met Patricia Dillard and Mejgan Afshan once, at the La Mesa First United Methodist Church Candidate Forum, and they were both friendly and polite. Ms. Dillard appears to be liked by many La Mesans.

Orlando: I have met or have a relationship with all of the candidates. I have a tremendous amount of respect for anyone who is willing to sacrifice and run for public office. I wish them all nothing but the best and hope to work with each of them in any capacity regardless of the outcome on Election Day.

Editor's note: Candidate Patricia Dillard declined a request to submit answers for this story.

—Reach editor Dave Thomas at:
Dave@sdnews.com.

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A circular portrait of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and looking slightly to the left.

A wooden-textured background with various event announcements and icons. At the top center is the La Mesa Village Association logo, which features a circular emblem with a sun and a mountain, followed by the text "La Mesa Village Association". Below the logo, the text "Dine, Shop & Explore La Mesa Village" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script. Underneath this, the text "Trick-or-Treat in the Village" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "October 31st, 4- 6 pm". To the right of this text is a pumpkin with a smiling face and a basket of candy on top. Below the trick-or-treat text, the text "La Mesa Village Farmers Market" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Every Friday from 3 - 7 pm". To the left of this text is a small green car with a basket of flowers on top. Below the farmers market text, the text "Holiday in the Village" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "December 3rd, 12 - 9 pm". To the right of this text is a gingerbread house with a star on top. At the bottom of the image, there is a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "@lamesavillageasso" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "@lamesavillageassociation" and "LaMesaVillageAssociation.org". To the left of the text are three social media icons: Instagram, Facebook, and a globe icon.

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La Mesa Democratic candidates stir support as election nears



By MITCH WAGNER

Republicans are turning to local elections to rebuild, after losing the city of San Diego, the county, and state. They're leveraging school boards and the governments of small cities — like La Mesa — to spread their toxic, MAGA, white supremacist, Trump-supporting, election-denying, forced-birth, LGBTQ-phobic agenda.

But Democrats are pushing back, as we saw at a recent, rousing club meeting, where we heard from more than a dozen candidates for La Mesa local offices—as well as a few surrounding communities—who will make East County blue(r) this year.

The big news from the meeting is that Kathleen Brand said she's dropping out of the La Mesa City Council race. That's a bitter-sweet development. On the plus side, it leaves us with two strong Democratic candidates for two open seats—Mejgan Afshan and Patricia Dillard. We'll avoid the infighting that cost us the city council seat last year, when two Democratic candidates ran for one seat, and lost to Republican Laura Lothian.

However, the development is also sad, because Brand would have been a great city council member. She said she plans to run for the next open seat, in two years. We're looking forward to that, and we thank Brand for making a difficult sacrifice.

Afshan told club members about her background as a 31-year La Mesa resident who attended local schools as well as

San Francisco State University, interning for Gavin Newsom and working for Nancy Pelosi. Her goal is to focus on houselessness, fulfill the city's climate action plan and “do right by community members” who are struggling, to provide equitable policy change and equitable access to government resources. The city needs to take advantage of federal and state government funding for programs such as programs to the Home Investment Partnership Program and increasing mental health services, she said.

Dillard told those at the meeting she ran at the urging of community leader Mary Castellanos and Dr. Akilah Weber (currently State Assembly member, recently on the La Mesa City Council). Dillard serves on the city's Police Oversight Board, “Which is where I have worked countless hours with dedication to help protect our black and brown community from police brutality, excessive force and racial profiling,” she said. She supports unions, equal pay, and working wages for all.

Her priorities on the council will be to support clean, renewable, and sustainable energy—including more charging stations for cars—clean air, public spaces and parks, walkable communities and a safe environment.

Matt Strabone, who's running for La Mesa City treasurer, turns an election that would normally have been dry into an interesting race. “What if I told you we could raise more money for La Mesa—hundreds of thousands of dollars—without raising taxes or cutting services?” Strabone said. The city has a rainy day fund

more than \$60 million, which is being invested poorly, earning less than 1%. The Treasurer's job is to invest that money wisely. “I have a clear, well-researched, prudent, and safe plan to do just that,” Strabone said.

While Strabone is running on sound fiscal policy, Strabone's opponent is a MAGA Republican, who donated thousands of dollars to Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, and Ted Cruz.

Those were just a few of the speakers we heard from this month.

Also speaking:

- For La Mesa-Spring Valley School Board: Rebecca MacRae, current board president, running for re-election; Brianna Coston; Caitlin Tiffany.

- Andrea Beth Damsky, running for Helix Water District, Division 2

- Debbie Justesen, for Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Governing Board. Justesen is currently board president.

- Arnie Levine, for El Cajon Mayor

- Mike Schaefer, for State Board of Equalization, 4th District

- Victoria Abrenica for Spring Valley Community Planning Group

- And Steve Jesionka, speaking on behalf of Stephen Houlahan, who's running for U.S. Congress against MAGA favorite Darrell Issa.

To watch a video of the entire meeting, go to mfdems.com and click the YouTube link at the top of the page.

—Mitch Wagner writes on behalf of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.

Letters

Dear Editor,

Just read the Courier vol.12, issue 9...

In the "Real estate/News/Seniors" section, the article by Council member Lothian is clearly not news, rather an obvious political opinion piece. It is misleading to your readers to include this type of political ad in this section.

Especially when said Council member is running for re-election...as more clearly shown on the back cover, full page ad for her campaign.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for future placement of political opinion pieces.

Linda Johnson
La Mesa

Dear Editor,

Though we live in the unincorporated area of La Mesa, we receive the Courier regularly.

While the paper typically does a fine job of sharing articles with information that is of interest to our community, Laura Lothian's recent piece (Courier vol.12, issue 9) regarding the efforts to deal with climate change are myopic and self-serving.

One needs to look no farther than the recent examples of the rampant effects of climate change (call it what it really is; global warming) by the incredibly destructive hurricane that struck Florida as well as California's own decades-long extreme drought.

That a realtor, let alone an elected official, ignore these devastating impacts on people far and wide simply so they can retain the choice of having gas-powered gourmet kitchen appliances in their homes and luxury cars spewing fumes is beyond the pale. In the very same issue of the Courier, Ms. Lothian took out a full-page ad touting her purported achievements. Wow.

While it's understandable that the Courier accepts advertising to cover the costs of publishing the paper, having a columnist who also pays for personal ads while serving in a position of authority. Be better than that.

Side note: The final straw came in today's mail with the so-called “La Mesa Democratic Voter Guide” with it's endorsements. Guess who the guide endorsed for City Council; yup, the very same Laura Lothian (who also amazingly was endorsed by every conservative Republican mouthpiece). Enough is enough!

Thanks for taking the time to read my diatribe.

Dave Kesner
La Mesa

RWCNC holds annual fashion show, readies for November election



By WENDY HAUFFEN

Republican Women of California, Navajo Canyon was excited to hold our annual fashion show earlier this month with more than 120 guests.

This fun event featured models from RWCNC wearing fashions by Glamour Girlz, and we got to hear from Stephanie Brown from Saved in America. We also have fundraising to support Saved in America, a non-profit organization of volunteers who are former law enforcement officers, special operators, and Navy SEALs. Since December 2014, Saved in America has assisted

in rescuing more than 250 children nationwide from human trafficking.

In November, we will return to the Legacy Hotel in Mission Valley for our monthly luncheon to hear from investigator Tony Johnson, a peace officer for more than 39 years.

He was employed by the San Diego Police Department for 32 years, during which time he served over six years as a homicide detective. He joined the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in November 2011 and has been assigned to the DA's Cold Case Homicide Team for the past four years. Johnson was recognized with the Blue Night Award by the San Diego County Crime Commission for his outstanding work on a cold case homicide.

Election season is gearing up - you should have received your ballot. We recommend you vote early and return your ballot to any official ballot drop box, which are all staffed by the San Diego Registrar of Voters at all times.

It is time to get involved and make your voice heard. You can support candidates with your time, your money, and most importantly, your vote. Reach out to any candidate that you support to see how you can help with easy, fun activities such as envelope stuffing, making phone calls, door knocking, and more. The last envelope stuffing opportunity we attended had more than 75 attendees.



Grossmont High School has quite the history when it comes to preserving architecture and more. (Courtesy photos)

GHS has quite a history to look back on



Foothiller Footsteps

By CONNIE AND LYNN BAER

One hundred years ago, Grossmont High School's granite façade "Castle" was completed. Among the oldest high schools in San Diego County, amazingly, Grossmont is the only school to have preserved its original school, which was used by its students until 2006, when it became entirely the GUHSD office.

In 1920 Colonel Ed Fletcher gave most of the land for the school for a \$10 fee, along with several lots donated by James and Mary Murray. The architect of the building was T. C. Kistner; the contractor was N.H. Beer.

During its two-year construction, GUHS students attended school at the now closed Riverview HS campus in Lakeside. In Sept. 25, 1922, students first attended classes at Grossmont in the "Castle". However, the building wasn't completed until Jan. 13, 1923.

The original Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Grossmont Union High School: Aug. 14, 1920 - Dec. 5, 1928, reveal fascinating details of the cost of the building's construction:

July 21, 1921:

Architect Theo. C. Kistner: paid 6% of \$127,405.25 cost of the project for a total of \$7,644.32

Young and Beer Builders: paid \$105,500 plus extra fees for excavating work \$325; footings \$216.30; foundation walls \$471.45; boiler room \$1,775; balcony truss \$227; reinforcing steel \$1,000.

Southern Electric Co. paid \$6,447.50.

Feb. 10, 1922

Updated bid for Rohde Bros. plumbing and heating of the "new High School building": \$9,100 total for steam heating with pipe covering (\$4,605) and plumbing of water closets and lavatories (\$4,495).

San Diego Hardware: \$2,243 for "all hardware, pursuant to the plans and specifications"

June 20, 1923

While the granite for the exterior of the building was donated by Colonel Ed Fletcher from his

nearby granite quarry, there was a charge made for the "extra expense of getting out gray stone of uniform color", which was partially approved: \$1,100.

After 90 years of use, **from 2012-2014**, the interior of the school was modernized and lovingly renovated, preserving the original character and history of the building. One exciting renovation was the reopening of the "rotunda" to allow visitors to walk directly into the back wing, which was originally the auditorium. While the 1937 WPA-funded Old Gym was being built, the 1922 auditorium wing was torn down and remodeled into a two-story classroom building, explaining the stucco exterior of the north wing, which is not encased in granite as the rest of the building.

Today, throughout the renovated building, many of the structural support beams in the ceilings have been exposed, a reminder of the building's history and a contrast to added steel beams. Further reminders of the building's 100-year history are the dual glaze replicas in the style of the original windows and the re-use of the 1922 hardwood floors in the hallways.

The GHS Museum has many artifacts from the original school such as the iconic front red double doors, windows, doorknobs, an original school bell, and more. The school's original 1922 clock hangs on the wall in Grossmont High School office lobby, greeting students, staff, and community as it has for 100 years.

As 1924 yearbook editor Helen Moriarty wrote, "The beauty of the structure gives the students of Grossmont great pride in knowing that their school is a fitting and lasting monument to the patrons of the district." For 100 years, it has been.

The "Castle" is part of the 2022 La Mesa History Center Home Tour on Saturday, Nov. 5 (sdnews.com/16th-annual-la-mesa-history-center-home-tour-nov-5/).

We will be available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions, and at 11 a.m. GHS Historian Don Ginn will present his Power Point presentation of GHS history from the 1920s-1990s.

For more information and to reserve your ticket, contact LMHC at: lamesahistory.com or Connie and Lynn at ghsmuseum@guhsd.net or (619) 668-6140.

—Connie and Lynn Baer write on behalf of the Grossmont High School Museum.



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Helix Charter High School designated Blue Ribbon School

By LAUREN KNUTH

We are proud to announce Helix Charter High School has been designated an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School for 2022 by U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona. Helix is one of 297 schools in the nation and one of four high schools in California to be recognized this year.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes outstanding public and non-public schools and is an important part of the U.S. Department of Education. The program celebrates school excellence, turn around stories, and closing subgroup achievement gaps. The award is both a high aspiration and a potent resource of practitioner knowledge.

Helix Charter High School was given this award based on our high-performance. We are among the state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Our school community

takes great pride in our long journey to improving outcomes for all students.

Prior to becoming a charter school, when we were still on the traditional six period day schedule, student outcomes at Helix placed us in the bottom third of schools in the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD). Converting to a charter school and implementing the 4x4 block schedule are two of the most important reasons that Helix has become a top performing school in GUHSD, California, and the nation. Our success as a charter school stems from our commitment to effective collaboration, innovation, and holding ourselves accountable to improving student outcomes for all students.

When we converted to being a charter school, our staff began exploring various alternative educational reform models in an effort to identify a more flexible and effective schedule that would allow us to better meet the needs of our students. Our goal was to identify

a schedule that provided students the opportunity to focus on fewer subjects for longer amounts of time to support student mastery of their learning. We also wanted a schedule that allowed students the opportunity to take concurrent academic support classes and provided teachers more time to prepare and collaborate. With these objectives in mind, our staff focused on implementing the Copernican Plan, 4x4 block schedule. In the 4x4 block schedule, students have the opportunity to take three or four 90-minute classes a day each term, and there are two terms each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The 4x4 block schedule allows students to take up to eight total classes for the year instead of the typical six. The two extra periods afford students the opportunity to take extra elective classes, concurrent academic support classes, and remediate failed classes during the year rather than in summer school.

On the 4x4 block schedule, teachers teach three periods per



Helix Charter High recently received a National Blue Ribbon School designation. (Courtesy photo)

day and have a 90-minute preparation period. Teachers teach approximately 90 students rather than the typical 175 students.

Having fewer students and longer preparation periods provide teachers the time to more thoroughly review their students' work and assessments as well as more time to plan and design curriculum and instruction.

The alternative 4x4 block schedule has been the key to improving the collaboration and innovation efforts of our staff. The schedule allows staff to think about how to use time more creatively and effectively. The 4x4 block has also reduced failure rates across all disciplines, which has freed up teachers to teach more elective courses and has afforded students the opportunity to take more elective, community college dual enrollment courses, and a fifth year of a course in the four core subject areas.

Our staff looks forward to exploring more opportunities to collaborate and innovate on behalf of our students in the future. We are grateful for the school community's continued support and know it is only possible to achieve high standards when we have it.

—Lauren Knuth is the community relations & engagement coordinator at Helix Charter High School.

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CONTINUED FROM Page 6

At La Mesa Oktoberfest, we were proud to have over a dozen cars in our car rally where we helped spread the word about Amy Reichert's candidacy for County Board of Supervisor, District 4. She is proudly running against Nathan Fletcher, who recently called the Republican Party a deranged cult. Standing up for your rights should never be considered "deranged" but rather, the ability to do so is the foundation on which our country was built.

To find out more about our club, or to become a member, visit: www.rwcnavajocanyon.org.

16th Annual La Mesa History Center home tour Nov. 5

The La Mesa History Center (formerly Historical Society) home tour enters its 16th year. The event will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year the event returns for an in-person home tour centered on, and partnering with, the century old institutional landmark Grossmont High School and its original “Castle” school building. Once again, the tour features a mixture of classic, revival, contemporary, and modern designs emblematic of these rural suburban “foothill” neighborhoods.

In addition to partnering with Grossmont High School in recognition of the centennial of their original, restored, “Castle” building (which opened in September 1922)—and which will be included in the tour, the Brier Tract and Grossmont/Mt. Helix communities present a unique opportunity for realizing San Diego’s distinctive suburban residential dreams.

From the Brier Tract and Grossmont’s early 20th century plans for creating rustic bohemian artist colonies of arts & crafts influenced organic residences though the popular “revival”



Views inside and outside are available during the 16th Annual La Mesa History Center home tour. (Courtesy photos)

styles homes of the inter-war years or the post-war mid-century modern visions of “nuclear family” nirvana—this year’s tour provides an invitation into this local architectural heritage—and some of the area’s most noted builders and architects.

For these 20th century home makers and builders, the rocky, hillside view lots provided a natural canvas for California’s legendary indoor-outdoor lifestyle. Tapping into that intersection of organic architecture and arts and crafts aesthetic made logical sense in fulfilling the rural suburban dreams of these varied

periods of community development. Individual lots and creative, innovative and forward-thinking residents and designers found the semi-rural landscape perfect for these eclectic versions of suburban bliss. Visionary designers and builders of San Diego found design palettes, and willing clients, here in Brier Tract, Grossmont and Mt. Helix.

Tickets to the event are available only through the La Mesa History Center Order tickets or memberships online at: lame-sahistory.com or mail check for ticket payment by Oct. 31 to: La Mesa History Center, P.O. Box

882, La Mesa, Ca. 91944. All “Tickets” are picked up on tour day. No tickets will be mailed.

Continuously running shuttles are included with admission and will provide access to the homes. Due to narrow streets and minimal parking at the homes, no personal vehicles can be allowed on the tour. The home tour is not ADA accessible and guests will be required to walk up and down lengthy driveways to access several homes.

There is day of check-in and shuttle center service available at Grossmont High School, 1100 Murray Drive.

Mayoral race

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

target of false negative mailers that are intended to fool and confuse voters. I have always taught my students and lived my life with honesty and integrity. This is the only way to be a servant leader. I have never and will never say anything negative about others. The city council represents all La Mesa residents. I have and will continue to listen to all viewpoints. During my time on the council I have always tried to treat everyone with kindness and civility. La Mesa residents care about their neighbors and I am proud to be part of this community.

Alessio: If I may quote Bill Maher, “No one really loves America who only loves 50% of its people”, I will be a people’s mayor. I will take into consideration all viewpoints. And we will focus on La Mesa issues, not irrelevant national or state issues. La Mesa all the time and nothing but La Mesa. Most La Mesans can come together despite any political party affiliation for La Mesa issues. The outpouring of

SEE MAYORAL RACE, Page 14



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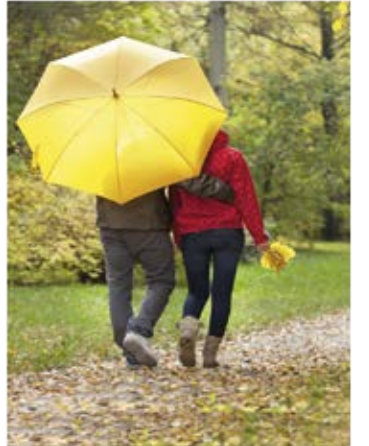


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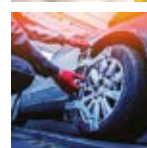
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Art goes wild in La Mesa



The Foothills Art Gallery is one of La Mesa's best-kept secrets. Founded in 1949, it has been helping the local art community grow and prosper. With annual dues as low as \$35, artists exhibit their work and participate in weekly art groups with fellow artists. Currently, some groups focus on watercolor, acrylic and oil painting, life drawing, and colored pencil. In addition, there is a group that focuses on giving friendly critiques to help you improve your art. Art exhibits change monthly. Original art done by professionals can be found that fits almost any budget. If you love art and want to enrich that part of your life, you will want to check out this wonderful gallery.

The annual Wildlife in Art Show, hosted by Foothills Art Association, is one of Southern California's longest-running open/juried art shows. The opening of this year's show on Nov. 2, at the Foothills Gallery in La Mesa will mark the show's 33rd consecutive year.

The show attracts top artists from throughout Southern California. This year's show anticipates 100 entries from 55 artists. From these, the juror will select 65-70 pieces for exhibiting in the show and will award



Birds of a Feather - Drew Bandish

approximately \$2,500 in cash and merchandise to award winners—proceeds from the show fund an annual donation awarded to the Helix High School Art department.

The show includes fine wildlife art in oil, acrylic, watercolor, colored pencil, mixed media, collage, pastel, graphics, and non-functional sculpture. An award reception will be on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Foothills Gallery, located in Porter Hall at 4910 Memorial Drive, at the intersection of La Mesa Blvd & Memorial Drive. Stop by to view the show; we'll serve refreshments and drawings for wonderful raffle prizes.

Foothills is honored to have noted wildlife artist Kathryn Hansen as the show's juror this year. Hansen's drawings display her passion and devotion to animals and nature. Her approach to capturing animals has garnered extensive coverage in magazine articles and some of today's leading publications.

The Wildlife in Art Show runs from Nov. 2 to Dec. 7 at the Foothills Gallery. Admission is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery location is at La Mesa's Porter Hall.

More information can be found at their website: foothillsartassociation.com.

Article written by Jo Ann Bray - a full-time Foothills member.



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Foothills Art Gallery exterior

Roasted butternut squash

What's Cooking with Julie
By JULIE WHITE

The earthy sweetness of butternut squash is a very fall vegetable. This recipe is worth the extra trouble.

INGREDIENTS:

- 7-8 cups of peeled, seeded and cubed butternut squash (All stores now carry ready-to-go squash but you can buy a whole one and prepare it yourself. I find

I almost cut off a finger when I do it myself)

- 4 tbs. olive oil
- Salt and pepper, light sprinkle
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 3 tbs. butter
- 2 tbs. honey
- 1 tbs. lemon juice

COOKING:

- Heat oven to 425 degrees
- Toss the squash with oil, salt and pepper, cumin and cinnamon
- Spread out on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper or foil
- Roast for 30 minutes
- Melt butter, honey juice and fresh herbs if desired (Chopped Thyme or oregano optional)
- Drizzle the butter mixture over the roasted squash and serve.

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NEWS BRIEFS

LMCC ASSISTING HOMEBOUND SENIORS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The La Mesa Chamber of Commerce encourages you to join them and make a difference in the lives of La Mesa homebound seniors.

Each year the Chamber has assisted homebound seniors. This year they will assist a total of 16 seniors, 12 women and four men. The Chamber is now beginning to gather items for these seniors. It is the goal of the Chamber to collect, purchase and assemble items and place them in large gift baskets and gift bags.

All these gift bags are delivered by the La Mesa Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol. Due to delivery schedule, the deadline to receive the gifts for seniors is Friday, Dec. 2. They ask that if you wish to donate items from your pantry, double-check the expiration date on those items and make sure they have not expired.

Here are items the LMCC suggest you can purchase to donate to this year's gift baskets:

Canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, packets of crackers, packets of pasta or macaroni & cheese, bars of soap, tubes of toothpaste, packs of tissues, bottles of hand soaps, bottles of hand sanitizer, pens and pads of paper. Gift cards in any denomination from the following locations: Walmart, Target, or any grocery store. If you have other items you believe will put a smile on their faces, by all means drop them off.

They may be delivered to the La Mesa Chamber office: 8080 La Mesa Blvd., Suite 214, La Mesa to Fran Smith. Monday - Friday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Mary England is also available seven days a week to meet donors and pick up those items directly.

Contact England at (619) 251-7730 for more information.

Curbside Eatery + Drinkery: Craft cocktails and more in the heart of La Mesa Village

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

Have you ever been in La Mesa and felt the need for a Radler? No, not a rattler snake - a Radler drink.

Originating in the Bavarian region of Germany it is a half beer, half soda or juice concoction. In this case grapefruit. It is typical lower in alcohol and very refreshing on a warm day. And where would you get one? At Curbside Eatery + Drinkery, of course.

Located in the heart of La Mesa Village, Brenda Leek has owned the establishment since January 2019. Bought it, and like everyone shut down for COVID in March 2020. Not the way you want to start your new business, but they survived and for that, the village is grateful.



They offer an assortment of unique cocktails, craft beers and tasty food to go with it. Leek takes her years of experience in the hospitality industry and love of food to a new level. "I'm honored, humbled and proud of what Curbside has become," she said.

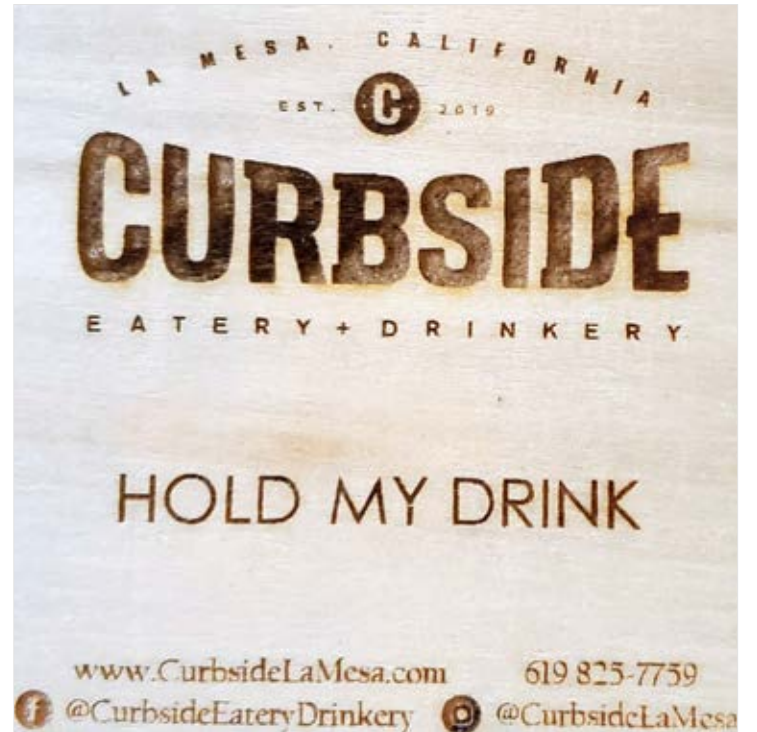
"We're a craft bar and scratch kitchen. At least some part of every dish is made in our kitchen. Everything we serve is fresh; nothing is frozen."

"We're not just a sports bar even though we have the largest television in the village and multiple TVs throughout the restaurant. We're a gathering place for people to enjoy a delicious drink and good food," Leek added.

There are outdoor tables and bar seating facing the street (great for seeing your friends or neighbors as they stroll the boulevard or viewing events such as the Farmer's Market every Friday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. rain or shine), as well as inside tables and bar. Don't worry if you get chilled, they will offer you a blanket to keep warm.

"The Rose", a cocktail created in memory of Brenda's late mother Rose, features Broken Shed Vodka, muddled fresh strawberries and basil, fresh lemon juice, and house-made simple syrup.

Also worth trying is the Oaxacan around La Mesa (pronounced like walkin' around La Mesa) made with Aperol and mezcal or their signature Apricot Old Fashioned made



Craft cocktails and more are waiting for you at Curbside Eatery + Drinkery. (Photos by Robin Dohrn-Simpson)

with bourbon infused with apricot tea and made to perfection.

There are some creative tequila drinks including the Dobel Skinny Margarita; the Tequila Old Fashioned and the Tequila Rosa featuring a Rosa Blanca Tequila aged in a wine barrel.

On tap, there are many craft beers to choose from including Hanger 24 Brewing- Swingin' Friar Pale Ale, Mother Earth Brewing Co- Cali Creamin' Nitro - Vanilla Cream Ale. For a gluten-reduced option try Duckfoot Brewing- Drink This or the Bees Die, Golden Honey Ale.

"We take service seriously. We have a large staff who are always ready and willing to make our guest's experience pleasant," Leek commented.

Curbside Eatery + Drinkery is located at 8353 La Mesa Blvd. For the latest menu, visit: curbsidelamesa.com/.

They are open Wednesday through Monday. Hours vary; however, try them for brunch, lunch or dinner.

—Robin Dohrn-Simpson is a local food and travel writer. Reach her at robindohrnsimpson.com.

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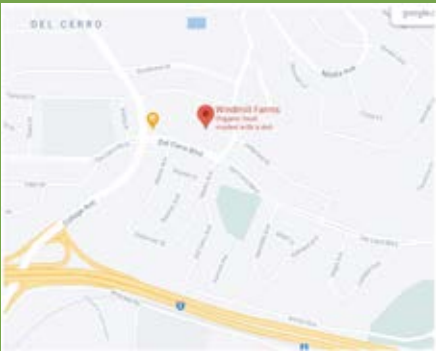


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Second term moving along at Helix Charter High



Helix Highlights

By LAUREN KNUTH

We are well into our second term of the 22-23 school year and enrollment for the '23-'24 school year is on the horizon. Stay up to date by visiting helixcharter.net/enroll.

Members of our staff will fly to D.C. in November to accept the National Blue Ribbon award. We look forward to speaking and sharing our story with representatives from the Department of Education and other high-performing schools around the country.

We are in the process of renewing our WASC accreditation (Western Association of School and Colleges).

During this process, we meet as a school to determine the policies and procedures that are working for us and what we could improve upon. This is generally done every six years and it is a huge process that involves a lot of reflection from every staff member as well as focus groups of students, parents and community members.

This is just one way that Helix continues to improve and strive for excellence.

PARENT INFORMATION:

The announcements section of our homepage on our website is updated daily with important information.

We have two new helpful pages on our website – a Community page that connects students with community service opportunities and a Volunteer page

that connects parents with volunteer opportunities.

School will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day and during the week of Thanksgiving from Nov. 21-25.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Family First Thursday Info Nights

Every Thursday night at 6 p.m., we cover a wide variety of topics that parents and students may find helpful. In November, we have a very interesting presentation on Teenage Brain Development from our very own child psychology teacher Ms. Damschen on Nov. 3 and on Nov. 17, our English Learner Advisory Committee will discuss their program. You can find the complete schedule along with zoom links by going to helixcharter.net/FamilyFirst.

College & Career Center:

We have a lot of great things happening in the college & career center throughout the month of November, including informational meetings about college applications and financial aid. You can find a schedule here or on the homepage of our website in our layered school calendar. Stay updated with them on their Instagram page here.

Athletics:

CIF Playoffs - check the athletics calendar on the Helix website homepage or helixathletics.net for detailed information.

Performing Arts:

- Choir performing at Disneyland - 11/5
- Marching Band Competition at Mira Mesa High School - 11/5
- Fall Cabaret at the PAC - 11/15 & 11/16 at 7 p.m.

—Lauren Knuth is the community relations & engagement coordinator at Helix Charter High School.

Mayoral race

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

support after the riots is an example, MAGA Republicans and Progressive Democrats working side by side, with one goal, cleaning up our downtown. Another way to overcome any divides is to listen, and respect diverse viewpoints and acknowledge them. Too many of us are afraid of partisan ridicule and contempt. This will not be the case for La Mesa, open dialogue and communication is necessary. As a councilmember I spearheaded various initiatives with others that were not of my political party. By keeping national and state issues off the agenda and insisting on basic manners from the Council we can bridge political differences in a way that shows regard for all residents. As mayor I will hold open office hours one day a week and make myself available to all.

Come talk to me, I will listen. I will be there for La Mesa.

LMC: What will you do as mayor to bring more business to La Mesa?

Arapostathis: Business is the backbone of our city. I have always created opportunities to allow business to start and thrive in our community. Most recently I worked with our staff to create the La Mesa Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (LEAP). This is a grant program that offers up to \$20,000 for new business startup in La Mesa. Our business department and all of city hall is now working on a culture of "yes". Finding ways to help come up with solutions. We are working toward being a city of outstanding customer service. After the devastation businesses faced during the pandemic I am committed to finding new ways to help business

SEE MAYORAL RACE, Page 15

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Mayoral race

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

be successful. Allowing for more outdoor dining, reducing the cost of business licenses, offering grants to improve the exterior of business and allowing business associations to take over events, such as the LMVA (La Mesa Village Association) now running Farmers Market. I will partner with businesses to create a system for greater ease to access city services.

Alessio: This is crucial, without vibrant businesses La Mesa is broke. I will make it easier for businesses to do business and prosper by insisting on simple guidelines for staff and promoting business development. I will talk with business owners and leaders meeting once a month to stay updated on their concerns. I will personally reach out to anyone who wants to start a business in La Mesa and walk them through the process. Here I have experience and having already helped multiple businesses - from barbershops to breweries navigate the City's permit processing department, I've seen a lot and believe me, a lot needs to be changed. Here is an example to show what businesses are currently up against. A local businesswoman wanted to improve her store signage. The City's response - go get an aerial photo of your building. Imagine the cost?! She was in tears. What the City didn't tell her was that she could

just copy a photo from Google images. So simple but the City left her hanging with what seemed like an insurmountable problem. Imagine being told that the lattice covering your air conditioner unit is slanted the wrong way so your renovations cannot be approved? These are crazy and true things that are happening today to businesses in

La Mesa. This is unacceptable. It takes a business owner to see the problems and find the solutions and I aim to do that when elected. I will also ensure that there are adequate police and fire responses to the needs of businesses. Homelessness as we know is out of control, and businesses across the City are being vandalized,

and their employees harassed and threatened. The police and fire departments must have what they need to be able to prevent this.

LMC: What is something positive you can say about your opponent?

Arapostathis: Ms. Alessio is a loving supportive parent.

Alessio: He is a loving and dutiful son and conscientious neighbor. He directs a great theater program for kids, my daughter is an alumni. His dedication to the kids and school is unparalleled.

—Reach editor Dave Thomas at: Dave@sdnews.com.



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Located in downtown La Mesa, MesaView Senior Assisted Living offers Independent Living, in a smaller, home-like environment. Experience the comforts of home while benefiting from trained staff who put your safety, health, and well-being first every day. Completely remodeled and updated, MesaView's quaint and inviting feel is met with extensive outdoor space and gardens, as well as newly designed living spaces. MesaView promotes the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of its residents' lives, embracing cultures and celebrating their experiences. A short walk to local stores, restaurants, and coffee shops, MesaView offers independent living services for those who are able to live on their own but want to live in a community setting or prefer a living situation that includes housekeeping, social activities, dining, transportation, security. MesaView Senior Independent Living does not provide care or supervision to its tenants, does not hold itself out as doing so, is not a residential care facility for the elderly, and does not accept or retain residents who demonstrate the need for assisted living care or supervision. Schedule a tour to learn more about MesaView Senior Assisted and Independent Living!
619-466-0253 • 7908 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, Ca 91942

Senior Apartments in the Heart of La Mesa

Offering senior (55+) Independent Living services in single level cottage style apartments around a secure courtyard in downtown La Mesa.

Offering: meals, laundry, housekeeping, access to transportation and social activities, activity room and patio, all apartments fully renovated including walk in showers, kitchens & access to awake staff 24/7.

Call Today! Limited Availability! 619-466-0253 • 7908 La Mesa Blvd. La Mesa, Ca 91942

VOTE!
MORE DAYS.
MORE WAYS.

VOTE CENTERS OPEN!
October 29 through Election Day, November 8

YOUR VOTING OPTIONS

MAIL IT. **Complete your ballot** in the comfort of your home. Sign and date your return envelope, seal your completed ballot inside, and return it through the U.S. Postal Service – no stamp needed!

DROP IT. **Return your ballot** to any of the Registrar's official ballot drop box locations around the county **starting Monday, Oct. 10 through Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8.**

VISIT. **Vote in person or drop off** your voted ballot at any Vote Center daily from **Saturday, Oct. 29 through Monday, Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, voting hours change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SDVOTE
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

A list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations are available at sdvote.com

MAIL IT. DROP IT. VISIT.

Main (858) 565-5800 | Toll Free (800) 696-0136
sdvote.com | @sdvote #SDVOTE

While I was La Mesa City Councilmembering...

- Improved and will continue to improve the permit process
 - Effectively advocated for La Mesa businesses and homeowners
 - Support the LMPD publicly and fiscally
 - Eliminated disposable, single-use, plastic water bottles at City Hall
 - Protected law-abiding gun owners' rights
 - Won \$100K in ARPA Funds for litter pickup in La Mesa
 - Won \$500K in ARPA Funds for La Mesa's small businesses
 - Inspired the newly formed Arts & Culture Commission to consider public murals
 - Added four Pickleball Courts to La Mesita at minuscule cost
 - Reduced organic recycling fines from \$200, \$400, \$1000 to \$25, \$50 and \$100 (State Law. SB 1383)
- I was also Real Estate Agenting...**



Laura Lothian recognized as a Top Producer

1.49%

Realtor Nationwide

2022 RealTrends, Wall Street Journal

WSJ

2022 RealTrends America's Best
Real Estate Sold by Real Experts

AMERICA'S BEST



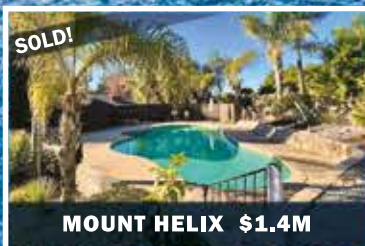
SELLING or BUYING?

Call Me

I can't wait to get started!

619.540.7744

Laura@LauraLothianRealEstate.com



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