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ISSUE 4

April 14 – May 11, 2023

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Take a walk on the wild side

Spring is wildflower time at Mission Trails Regional Park. Flowering plant species create a palette of delightful colors. None is more showy than the California poppy, the state's official flower. Its vibrant golden hues can carpet the hillsides in a good year. If you come to MTRP to enjoy the wildflowers, we suggest that you come on a weekday as weekends have been very busy. Also, visitors must stay on trail and picking and walking on the flowers is prohibited. This photo is from a previous MTRP photo contest by Kaitlin Creamer, and the view looks southwest from the saddle trail between the North and South Fortuna peaks. Text: Fred Cramer (Trail Guide president) and Jennifer Morrissey (Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation executive director).

Patrick Henry High School teacher works against human trafficking

By JESSICA MILLS

San Diego is a hotspot for human trafficking, with up to 8,000 victims per year, reported by the San Diego County District Attorney.

While anyone can be a victim of trafficking, youth are at an increased risk. Tactics such as deception, fraud, coercion and force are regularly used against targets, on or near school campuses and online networks.

Terri Clark, a teacher at Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) implemented a unit that specifically covers human trafficking in her physical education classes. After her niece befriended a boy that helped abduct and sell her to a

trafficking ring, Clark decided that she wanted to raise awareness on this issue.

"[My niece] was taken. They cut and dyed her hair and drugged her, she was missing for nine days," Clark recounted. "A friend who had some connections did some deep digging, [my niece] was found on a site that no longer exists where girls are advertised. She lived in Sacramento and was found in Reno. She was bought and sold many, many times within those nine days. They try to do everything they can for people to lose track of that person."

Clark uses a curriculum from A21, one of the largest

SEE HUMAN TRAFFICKING, Page 9

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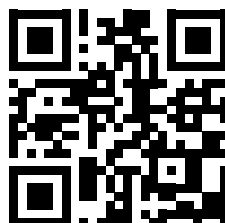
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³ Based on January 2022 to December 2022 U.S. Energy Information Administration form EIA-816M. Visit sdge.com/rates for more information and charts.

Future plans for MTRP discussed at San Carlos Area Council meeting

San Carlos Area Council
By **MICKEY ZEICHICK**

At our March 15 meeting was the Executive Director of the Mission Trail Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation, Jennifer Morrissey, who provided updates and future plans for MTRP. Some of this includes continuing to acquire East Elliott land, prioritizing parcels that provide trail connections. Also, onstructing a permanent restroom at the Old Mission Dam Staging Area. There is continued improving wildlife movement, reconfiguring the SR-52 Right-of-Way fence lines at Oak Canyon. Also, improving the section of the Visitor Center Loop Trail from the San Diego River Crossing Staging Area to the Visitor Center to create a wider, more accessible trail. Other plans include constructing a new loop trail from the South Fortuna Trail to provide rock climbing access to the eastern face of South Fortuna Mountain and constructing a new trail connection from the Climbers Loop Trail to Kwaay Paay peak to create a loop trail over Kwaay Paay. There will be an effort to improve the surfacing of the Oak Grove Trail to provide all weather access.

Finally, plans call to construct a new East Elliott hike/bike loop trail and support efforts to create a publicly accessible Stowe Trail corridor, just to name a few. To find out more about MTRP, visit: mtrp.org and sign up for their newsletter. Also at our March meeting Gary Blume, founder/CEO/president at Total Altruism Project, gave an update on the exciting things happening in our area with this program. What is the "TAP" project ... The idea of the project is that if a random act of kindness, such as picking up a piece of litter, was made more convenient then more people would do it out of the kindness of their hearts. The name of the project is the Total Altruism Project. Their motto is "T.A.P. Into It". It has been proven that when someone does something out of the goodness of their heart they feel better about themselves. The project believes that if picking up a piece of litter was made more convenient, more people would feel a bit better about themselves, plus our environment would benefit from that increased act of kindness...and then the maintenance workers at the park would benefit from that added help...and local governments that budget for litter control would benefit. And isn't this a good example of walking the talk we give to our kids. Did you know that Mission Times Courier has daily news updates? Go to: sdnews.com/mission-times-courier. Our San Diego County Supervisor, Joel Anderson, will be the guest speaker at our May 17 meeting. Prior to being our Supervisor, Anderson served in the State Assembly and in the State Senate. Prior to that, he served on the Padre Dam Municipal Water District and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego Board of Directors. He has been a longtime grassroots advocate for issues he cares about, and we care about, ultimately it was his experience running his own business that inspired him to run for office to make California more friendly towards small business owners. Elections for the SCAC are coming up in May we need more Board members. We have received three applications to become a Board Member, but there is room for more. I promise you we do not have heavy demands on anyone's time. The requirements for being a board member are you are at least

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Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks show is a go for 2023

Fundraising and planning are in full swing for this year's Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks show on the Fourth of July.

With a total cost of about \$100,000 the committee needs the community to step up monetarily.

This year's music headliner will be Republic of Music, a group of world-class musicians, vocalists and dancers covering all the mega hits. Confirmed food vendors include Windmill Farms, Dang Brother Pizza, Corbins, and Tiki Treats.

"Last year was a huge success," according to Melissa DeMarco, the nonprofit Lake Murray Music Fest and Fireworks committee's 2023 president. "I had so many people tell me how much this day means to them and their families. This event spans generations, I attended when I was at Patrick Henry and now, I lead the committee. It's a unique opportunity for all of us to connect and celebrate what makes our community, city, and nation great."



(Photo Credit: Brett Alan Photography)

Music, games, and food at Lake Murray Playground will run from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on July 4, culminating in a dazzling firework display over Lake Murray that can be seen throughout the Navajo community. With five permits required, the committee has completed and submitted all to the respective entities, along with securing all logistical requirements. The volunteer committee is raising funds through a combination of business sponsorships, individual neighbor donations, and restaurant nights. La Mesa's Stormberg Orthodontics has returned as the event's title sponsor for the fifth consecutive year.

SEE LAKE MURRAY, Page 12

Celebrate spring at the San Carlos Community Garden

In the garden
By JESSICA MILLS

Officiated by the National Gardening Association in 2022, April is recognized as National Garden Month. The observance brings together gardeners and those who appreciate the innumerable benefits that gardening brings to individuals and their communities through various events, educational activities and much more.

The San Carlos Community Garden (SCCG) invites all to celebrate Spring and National Garden Month on April 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., during their



Come out for the spring celebration at San Carlos Community Garden. (Courtesy photo)

Spring Celebration. This annual and free event welcomes all to enjoy live music, see the garden's spring blooms, mingle with other community members, enjoy tasty treats and refreshments and much more.



Musical entertainment is part of the fun planned at SCCG. (Courtesy photo)

Musical group, "The Almost Compost Band" will perform live, playing tunes that will inspire all ages to dance amongst the flowers while interacting with the dozen or so garden education exhibits, community partner information booths, and playful activity stations for kids and adults, including a Garden scavenger hunt.

There will also be lots of free giveaways including tasty bags of kettle corn, fresh fruit provided by Keil's Grocery Store, hot and cold refreshments provided by Brew Coffee Spot, and SCCG's Produce Swap smorgasbord of herbs, produce and Ms. Bree's "almost famous" homemade sourdough bread.

As part of their "Growing Community" mission, the SCCG will also be collecting non-perishable food items that will be donated to Good Shepherd Food Bank and gently used books for the SCCG's "Little Free Library."

Also taking place on April 15 from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. is the Upcycled Garden Art workshop. Led by Paige Kries, founder of Plant It Again, a non-profit that creates careers for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In this make-and-take workshop, Kries will demonstrate how to take everyday objects and turn them into creative and unique pieces of garden art.

Participants are encouraged to bring a teacup or can choose from a provided selection. After participants design their garden art, succulent cuttings and soil will be provided to plant inside their teacups — a potential handmade Mother's Day gift.

Advanced registration is required for the workshop. Garden members can register for free and non-garden members can attend for \$10. More information and registration can be found at: san-carloscommunitygarden.com/garden-workshops.

With so much growing and happening in the Garden, ongoing activities happening in the garden, this is a fruitful time for many to plan a visit and become involved with the San Carlos Community Garden.

—Jessica Mills is a volunteer for the SCCG and senior at the University of San Diego. Mills helps with communication and marketing projects for the garden and the Youth Ambassador program.

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Rolando residents still seeking help with homeless issue



There are still requests coming from Rolando residents to local officials to do something about the homeless issue in the area. These are a few recent scenes local residents continue dealing with on Seminole Drive by the Andrew Jackson Post Office. For a prior related story, visit: sdnews.com/residents-want-action-on-homeless-encampment-around-former-drug-store/. (Courtesy photos)

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Getting things done in Del Cerro

Friends of Del Cerro
By JAY WILSON

Friends of Del Cerro (FODC) continues working together with Del Cerro residents and the City of San Diego by emphasizing the benefits of using the "Get It Done" APP.

The FODC would like to thank you for contacting us and requesting we submit street sign replacements through the "Get It Done" APP on your behalf.

If you have a faded or damaged street sign or any city related issue, please let us know by leaving a comment on our website freindsofdelcerro.org/contact.

The most recent success is the replacement of street signs at Camino Estrellado, at Navajo Road. There is another sign to be replaced soon at Navajo Road and Margerum.

Thank you for your feedback and your concerns for city-related issues which we periodically submit through the "Get It Done" APP. It works for streetlights, street signs, road signs, potholes, red curbs, sidewalk repairs, storm drains, flooded streets, illegal dumping, parking issues, graffiti, and much more. Or try it yourself at sandiego.gov/get-it-done.

We would now like to hear from you.

What are your five most important city-related concerns for Del Cerro? Is it parks, open space, traffic congestion, development without community input or potholes to list a few? Go to friendsofdelcerro.org/contact.

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Proposal in play for off-leash dog park at Allied Gardens Community Park

District 7 Dispatch
By RAUL A. CAMPILLO

Happy April, everyone.

Spring has officially sprung, which means my favorite season is here... Baseball season. That also means spring festivals and, as the weather warms, more opportunity to spend in our glorious San Diego weather.

As always, it's a pleasure to share what happened in District 7 for the previous month and what's to come.

MEETING SET FOR APRIL 20 ON ALLOWING DOGS OFF LEASHES

This month, the City's Park & Recreation Board will consider my proposal to establish an off-leash

SEE DISTRICT 7 DISPATCH, Page 10



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'Trust me!', says the City to Rolando residents

In the community
By JAN HINTZMAN



The City's slick new initiative, 'Equity FORWARD, San Diego' is a signal that we should believe our leaders' commitment to communities that have been left behind. We ask, "Just how have you earned our trust?"

The communities served by the College-Rolando library have made concerted pleas for equity for our community and for our library for nigh on to seven years, without result.

In 2016, the City abandoned its plan to purchase the property next to our library should it ever come up for sale. That decision placed our library on a slippery downhill path.

Why was a City land purchase important for the future of the library? Because the City shorted our library at its beginning. It didn't purchase sufficient land, and it built more than 1/2 of the library's required parking and its driveway on land borrowed from that next door property. Now the adjacent property is being redeveloped with high density housing.

The floodwaters continue to rise as the library remains poised on its slippery slope, lacking guaranteed access. Soon the library will land underwater, without its driveway and parking. The "T's" are being crossed and the "i's" dotted at this very moment as the City completes its review of the details of a dense residential/hotel development. This development will cripple our library forever.

When asked to choose between protecting our library, and approving the investor's often requested increases in density, the City, in-explicitly and repeatedly, chose the investor's requests.

The City supported an investor's plan to increase the density of allowed development, not once, not twice, but four times, starting with assurances to do so even before the 2017 private purchase. Then in 2019, the City granted an upzone for a hotel, followed in 2021 by city support to initiate a zone upgrade to enable high-density residential. Then in 2022 the residential restriction on development, that it had placed on the property just two years before, was cast aside by the City, giving the investor a green light to build high-density residential.

The investor's return multiplies, and the library is further compromised with each City decision. It's hard to explain why the City made this series of choices.

All signs are that, when the library lands at the bottom, it will be partially submerged as it was in 2017.

In 2017, when the owner chained off his property, library usage dropped by 50%. It was just too hard for parents with young kids, the elderly, the disabled to access the library. Our library was isolated.

We can't explain why the City allows our library to slip underwater when it supports libraries in wealthier communities. It recently completed construction of a branch library in Mission Hills. Land for parking was scarce



The College-Rolando Library continues making concerted pleas for equity for the community and this facility. (Courtesy photo)

there, too. What did the City do? It created 80 spaces, in three levels of underground parking, at great cost. And when Scripps Ranch faced problems with competing use of its 80 spaces, the City today is spending over \$4 million to double the amount of parking there.

Yet, the City naïvely asks us to trust them. Trust them when they promise to 'some-day' get around to paying attention to our lack of parks and our failing pipes and roadways.....as they plan to double, even triple the number of residences here. Experience tells us we will remain at the end of the line when it comes to city investments.

Can we trust the City's new initiative, 'Equity FORWARD, San Diego'?

We've been a non-white majority since the 2000 Census. The 2020 Census reports that our minority population is over 60%. Whites are 38%. The next largest group is Hispanic with 32%. The remaining Asian/PI, Black and other smaller racial groups total 30%. Our 2021 median household income is

reported as \$54,000. That is \$30,000 below the median of the city as a whole. The library serves a community of 54,000, many struggling for equity.

The new City initiative is about amplifying minority voices in city decision-making. Our experience suggests that it is actions, not initiatives, that we need. We have been loud and persistent in urging our leaders to take off their "housing at all costs" glasses and look at the roadblocks to equity that result from their decisions affecting our library.

Our leaders know that housing development in San Diego these days is a very good gamble, and this investor's bet would have landed elsewhere. How can they, in good conscience, intentionally send our library underwater? Why should we trust? This is our last chance to act to protect our library.

Email MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov and SeanEloRivera@sandiego.gov. The deal's not signed.....yet.

—Jan Hintzman is president of the College-Rolando Friends.

Letter to the Editor

Dave,
Wow.... Really.... An opinion piece that was in the February 10 through March 9 issue of the Mission Times Courier. Written by Sean Quintal of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.

The headline read "If death walks among us, he's definitely a registered Republican" If that isn't a hateful and unnecessary heading for an opinion article, I don't know what is.

I did not read the article because with a heading like that the author loses all credibility with me. You mentioned in your requirements for opinions and letters that you reserve the right to edit, that would've been a wise move to exercise your right in this case.

Craig Leonetti
San Diego, Ca.

Mission Trails' volunteers honored

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation
By JENNIFER MORRISSEY

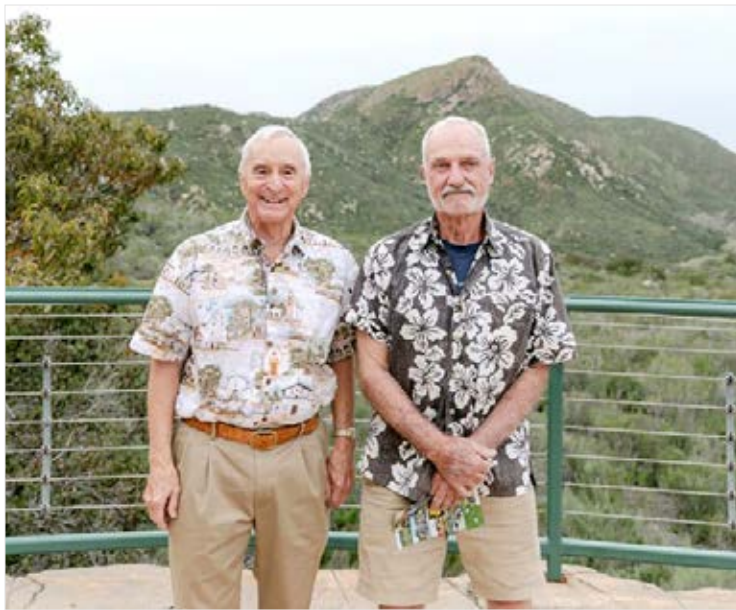


Last month, City of San Diego staff and the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation hosted an appreciation dinner and awards ceremony for the park's volunteers.

At the event, Councilmember Raul Campillo (D-7) presented a proclamation that March 18, 2023, was Mission Trails Regional Park Volunteer Appreciation Day in the City of San Diego.

Following a buffet dinner, more than 40 volunteers received awards for their dedicated service.

Longtime volunteers Terry Gaughen and Fred Kramer received awards for their 30 years of service. Kramer is president of the park's volunteer Trail Guides and is also on the MTRP Foundation Board, and Gaughen is the park's honorary horticulturalist and can be seen out in



Longtime volunteers Terry Gaughen (on right) and Fred Kramer were honored for decades of service. (Photo by Angie Ollman)

the park among the plants or with his trusty green pickup truck. We thank each and every one of the park's more than 100 active volunteers for continuing to make Mission Trails an incredible resource for the community and visitors to the region.

Volunteer opportunities at the park range greatly; there's something for everybody.

Outdoors, volunteers can join one of the trail crews, including park beautification with Ranger Julie Aeilts and habitat

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PENINSULA BEACON



Local organization helps the Earth and community

By JESSICA MILLS

For the past seven years, San Diego-based Food2Soil has diverted 498 tons of food-scrap away from the landfill and reduced 323 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

Composed of chefs, farmers, businesses, individuals and innovators, Food2Soil Composting Collective was started by Inika Small Earth, an organization that looks to unique, affordable and sustainable solutions for turning waste into a social, environmental and economic resource.

Part of Food2Soil's mission involves decentralized composting — a network of neighborhood compost hubs that coexist alongside commercial resources. Their team offers neighborhood dropoff hubs for individuals and households that don't have the time or space to compost on their own. For businesses with a minimum of 32 gallons of food scraps on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, Food2Soil offers scrap pickup services where the food remains are taken to a nearby urban farm or community garden for composting.

Founder and Executive Director of Inika Small Earth, Sarah Boltwala-Mesina, manages the Food2Soil project and supports its composters, farmers and team members.

"Everything that Food2Soil does is enterprise based," Boltwala-Mesina said. "We are trying to generate a respectable livelihood for



Sarah Boltwala-Mesina and Food2Soil continue doing good things for the environment. (Courtesy photos)

our farmers and our composters. It's not grant run so the idea is not only neighborhood-level but making these things profitable again for the people who are engaged in it."

In January, Boltwala-Mesina started Food2Staples, urban farm patches that grow food staples for community members in a neighborhood garden.

Open to the public every Sunday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., individuals and households can harvest and

transport their own fresh foods, mingle with others and learn about composting, farming and other ways to benefit the earth. Baskets and harvesting tools are provided upon arrival.

"If communities and neighbors could get their staples from plots like this, it could take so much of the burden off of the carbon miles that food uses," Boltwala-Mesina said.

Ayzsha Smith, a local farmer and program manager for the Food2Staples program, attends the weekly event and assists with harvesting and supplies information about the crops, soil and other aspects of farming. She helps greet and guide visitors through the garden and answer any questions they may have.

Additional information about the project, the garden's location, how to purchase a pass and more, can be found at the QR code (in the photo).

Further details about Food2Soil, their services and more is located at: food2soil.net/.

A photograph showing several people in a garden, harvesting green leafy vegetables. The garden is lush with various plants.



SUNDAYS 10-NOON
tinyurl.com/soil2staples

SCAC

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

18 years old, a resident or business owner in San Carlos, have a desire to be involved with the community, attend our bi-monthly meetings and board meetings when scheduled. Contact me at: SanCarlosAreaCouncilPres@gmail.com if you have any questions or to request an application.

Join us as we hear updates from our representatives from the offices of: Congresswoman Sara Jacobs; State Assembly District 78 Christopher Ward; County Supervisor, Joel Anderson; SDUSD Trustee, Shana Hazan; and our "Happy" Librarian, David Ege.

The next meeting of the SCAC will be in May as noted at the San Carlos Branch Library (7265 Jackson Drive) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.



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Human trafficking

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

organizations in the world that fights against human trafficking at local, domestic and international levels. The group believes education is essential to ending trafficking.

“I really loved their curriculum and felt like it did a better job with high school students in terms of engaging them,” Clark said. “I then bring in the second half of the education prevention which is a program called ‘No More’ out of Point Loma Nazarene University. They put together a dramatic presentation and interpretation of how kids are trafficked in schools. It shows [the students] how it takes place right under their noses. The whole point of the curriculum is prevention, education and awareness.”

Sophomore Kyle Flora appreciated that Clark included this unit in his physical education class.

“I think all schools should use this human trafficking unit, it’s very important,” Flora said. “I knew a little bit but [the class] gave me a lot more information on what else to be aware of.”

According to the U.S. Department of Education, some youth are more at risk than others. Minorities, histories of poverty, family instability, physical and sexual abuse and low support systems are a few aspects that can increase a child’s likelihood of being targeted.

“In any school, you have kids living in the margins and they’re so much more susceptible,” Clark said. “A kid that doesn’t fit in, that has a ton of alone time, a lot of access to technology — there’s so many things that make kids vulnerable.”

PHHS Principal Michelle Irwin believes that by giving students knowledge about human trafficking, they’ll be better prepared to face societal dangers.

“We need to make sure our students know these risks,” Irwin explained. “Our hope is [that] our students stay safe. Unfortunately, there are dangers lurking just a keystroke away and this is what we are hoping our students avoid. Knowledge is power.”

Prior to the class, sophomore Nico Dorio didn’t realize the severity of this issue.

“I didn’t know how often [human trafficking] happens in San Diego, I didn’t think it was as big of a problem as it is,” Dorio said. In fact, Children of the Immaculate

Heart reports that the average age for victims to enter trafficking is between 14 and 16.

For sophomore Giselle Bravo, Clark’s class has taught her a few valuable lessons, as well.

“I think you should trust people but you can never be too trusting,” Bravo remarked. “Even loved ones that you trust can do something like that to you so it opened my eyes to be more aware of my surroundings.”

Although Clark prioritizes teaching this topic directly to her students in a classroom setting, she encourages parents to continue conversations about this topic at home.

“My next goal is to bring it to the parents,” Clark said. “I’m not trying to scare any kids or sensationalize anything but as an adult, [they] too can be a preventative measure.”

Despite Clark’s niece being found and safely returned home, there are many individuals and families that lack the resources and information to protect themselves and others.

After recognizing her power and not wanting to feel helpless, Clark is now arming current and future students with the skills to protect themselves outside of the classroom.

CSC Competitive and Grassroots (Recreational) divisions spring seasons are well underway

By JAY WILSON

The Crusaders Soccer Club’s Competitive and Grassroots (Recreational) divisions spring seasons are well underway following a series of delays due to the ever-present rains and unplayable fields.

As a result, the last game for our Grassroots division is now Sunday, May 21 which will complete their 8-game season. Our Competitive division’s spring season commenced the end of March and the teams will be playing on weekends through the middle of May.

Congratulations to our Competitive 2006 Girls team for keeping their winning ways. Over the weekend of March 25 and 26, they traveled to Las Vegas and won their division in the annual Vegas Cup Spring Classic.

Crusaders Soccer will be holding Competitive team tryouts for all boys and girls born between 2006 and 2008 from April 24-29.

Go to crusaderssoccer.org and click anywhere on the “Competitive Tryouts” graphic on our home page.

Come join us for our annual 3v3 Festival. Have fun under the sun for a day of soccer on Saturday, May 20.

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District 7 Dispatch

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

dog park at the Allied Gardens Community Park. This follows a public workshop held in September 2022 and the Allied Gardens Recreation Council's unanimous support to approve the project in November 2022.

This is an important project as it will be the first off-leash dog park in the Navajo community and something that many residents have waited a long time for. Should the proposal be approved by the Park & Recreation Board, City staff is on track to install fencing and amenities this summer.

Members of the Navajo community are encouraged to attend and make their voices heard. Details have been included below.

Balboa Park Club Ballroom
2 p.m., Thursday, April 20
2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego 92101

The public can also access the meeting via Zoom, or submit public comment on Item 102

SEE DISTRICT 7 DISPATCH, Page 14

Much awaited Hot Chickz chicken sandwich shop is now open

What's on the menu?
By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON

Hot Chickz owner Sam Abbo noticed the trend in the chicken sandwich industry for Nashville-style hot and spicy chicken and decided to create a brand that everyone can enjoy on Camino del Rio North.

"We have been in the restaurant industry for quite some time with restaurants under our belts such as Crack Taco, and Crust Kitchen. We are very proud of the concept that we have created and hopefully will be opening more of this concept in San Diego County in the near future," said Abbo.

Nashville-style hot chicken is fried chicken with a major dose of spicy sauces and cayenne pepper topped with a zesty sauce drizzled on the bun.

"We came up with a few recipes that stand out above the rest for our spicy chicken sandwich and tenders. We also have Mac & Cheese, corn, Cole slaw, and Texas toast for side dishes," Abbo said.

The chicken is moist and perfectly cooked. Buckle your seatbelt if you order hot, because when they say hot, they really mean it. But not to worry, you can choose the heat level of your chicken: from mild to hot. People have different tolerance levels, choose your heat levels Naked, Mild, Medium, and Hot. Perhaps



Chicken is the calling card for Hot Chickz on Camino del Rio North. (Photos by Robin Dohrn-Simpson)

try a mild or medium on your first visit.

Currently, the menu is very simple with chicken sandwiches and chicken tenders served in five different plate variations that include French fries, pickles, Texas toast, and Hot Chickz sauces such as Ranch, Honey Mustard, and Sweet Heat. The sandwiches are served on a toasted Hawaiian Bread bun which is a great contrast to the

spice of the chicken. Pickles also help to balance the heat.

It will be fun to watch this restaurant expand to other locations in San Diego.

They are located at 4242 Camino del Rio N, San Diego. Call (619) 269-5827 to place your to-go order.

Their website is under construction; however, they can be found on Instagram @hotchickzsd.





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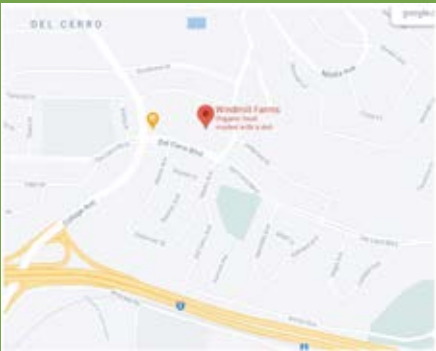
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Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club holding community open house April 27

Allied Gardens/Grantville

By SHAIN HAUG



Our March 28 meeting featured a presentation by Gary Blume on the operations of his “Total Altruism Project” (TAP).

Gary has placed trash pickers and bags in the Allied Gardens Recreation Center grounds for us to use in keeping that important community amenity clean. We hope to give you more information in our Newsletters in the near future. In the meantime, drop us a note in the “Contact Page” of our website if you want to find a way to support this effort.

This is a good time to touch on some opportunities, in addition to TAP, for community involvement.

The Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club will hold a Community Open House on Thursday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. at Palisades Presbyterian Church, 3301 Birchwood. This great organization is about to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of its place in the community. Here is your chance to learn more about their work, their place in your neighborhood, and how you can support their activities. No advance registration, just show up. There has been discussion of the possibilities of refreshments.

Councilmember Raul Campillo, Council District 7, holds Office Hours on the fourth Wednesday each month between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. where he meets with and listens to his constituents. The next office hours will

be held on Wednesday, April 26 at the Serra Mesa Library. Reservations are required. To get a time slot to meet face to face with the Councilmember contact staff member Anthony Hackett at hacketta@sandiego.gov or Cheryl Willis at cherylw@sandiego.gov. It has been our experience that he acts on what we tell him is important to our neighborhoods.

We need to get off-leash dogs out of the areas of the park where we and our children play and engage in group activities. We can do so by establishing a designated space for dog owners. Thanks to the insistence of Councilmember Campillo the creation of an off-leash dog park in the open area between Benjamin Library and the swimming pool is closer to reality.

The next step will be taken on April 20, 2 p.m., when the City’s Park & Recreation Board considers public comments. If approved, the City will install fencing and support amenities this summer. The meeting will be held in person at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom located at 2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego 92101. The public can also access the meeting by Zoom at <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1612801118?pwd=Y0huUUJCVEEvTjMxUmZ-JUXpGZjJyZz09>; or can submit public comment at <https://www.sandiego.gov/boards-and-commissions/public-comment> (item number to be determined) of the agenda.

The agenda can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/parkandrecboard/meetings>.

Further information can be obtained from Anthony Hackett of the Councilmember’s staff. This is your opportunity to get past the reluctance of the Park & Recreation to provide this much needed space. The numbers of us who show up and make comments will be the determinative factor in their decision.

The Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (NCPI) regularly meets on the second Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. NCPI has returned to in-person meetings and now convenes at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 6660 Cowles Mountain Blvd, San Diego, CA, 92119.

The agenda for this meeting can be found at navajoplanners@gmail.com. This organization is recognized under the terms of Council Policy 600-24 to make recommendations to the city on Navajo Area land use and development matters, but a recent amendment to the policy reduces our influence with the city and the Planning Department. Your attendance at the NCPI meetings will counteract this unfortunate development.

It is our job to preserve our neighborhoods. We do so by participation with organizations such as these mentioned above and so many others. Join the Allied Gardens/Grantville Community Council in its work and receive notices of the activities of the Navajo Community Planners, Inc. by registering through the “Contact Us” page of aggccouncil.org.

—Shain Haug is president, AGGCC.

Lake Murray

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

Other confirmed local business sponsors include Angela and Mark Krasner, Windmill Farms, Precision Concrete, FBS Property Management, Fletcher Hills Tennis, Superior Ready Mix, and Mission Trails Dentistry.

Individual donations are accepted online through PayPal (paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2233619) and Venmo (@LakeMurrayFireworks). In addition to social media posts on Instagram (@lmfireworks) and Facebook, volunteers will get the word out through a neighborhood flyer campaign. Anyone interested in helping with flyer distribution is encouraged to email: lakemurrayfireworks@gmail.com.

Also, it is time for new committee members to join in and take over.

“We have it so well organized, but events like this only get better with fresh perspectives, so we encourage others in the neighborhood to get involved.” said VP Brandy Kern.

For more information on the 2023 Lake Murray MusicFest and Fireworks and how you can get involved, log on to: lakemurrayfireworks.org.



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Shining retirement for Enhancery Jewelers co-owners after some 45 years

By JURI KIM

Martin and Kathleen White, co-owners of Enhancery Jewelers, are retiring after running their business for some 45 years.

In 1978, Martin and Kathleen started Enhancery Jewelers as a young married couple.

At first, the store was in the Rolando area next to a Food Basket grocery store at the time. They originally started with fashion jewelry but expanded to gold and diamonds and added jewelry and watch repairs. At last, they found out that many of their customers had jewelry they no longer wore but wanted to make changes and re-

purpose. Eventually they became full custom jewelers who are responsible from start to finish.

“The most important value is listening to your customer to determine what they need rather than just trying to sell what you have,” said Kathleen. “We have learned a lot from our customers over the years and always strived to do our best to offer what they wanted.”

They enjoyed supporting many local schools and community organizations, mentioning institutions such as Globe Guilders, Del Cerro Chapter of Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego Zoo RITZ, San Diego Madres, Soroptimist International of San Diego and La Mesa, and Patrick Henry Grad Night.

Kathleen also described that the best part of their job is getting to know such a diverse group of customers over the years and helping multiple generations of the same family as their legacy jeweler. Additionally, she showed



Martin and Kathleen White are finally getting a chance to catch their breath after many decades in the jewelry business. (Courtesy photo)

affection to their staffs for being together, Maria, Laura, Brittany, Norma, and other staff members who retired but still come back to help or to shop as customers.

Maria Hopkins, who has been working for Enhancery Jewelers for 25 years as a store manager, is moving into a new chapter as an owner of the shop with her husband Mike. She is enthusiastic to be taking this next step and looks forward to what the future holds.

As Martin and Kathleen have been great role models as business owners, Maria learned a lot about the jewelry industry along with providing training and schooling opportunities. Not only in dealing with customers but also with the many vendors that they deal with on a daily basis, they have shown her how to be an upstanding retailer.

“I am not planning on making any notable changes to the business as I want our customers to continue to feel comfortable and secure knowing that it is still a

family jeweler like the one they have been coming to for years,” said Hopkins. “I want to continue providing excellent service and maintain strong relationships with all of our loyal customers and our new customers yet to come.”

After Martin and Kathleen step back from the business, they are going to spend more time with their family and their 18 grandchildren. Moreover, they hope to travel the world for gems.

Kathleen is a gemologist and taught gemology for many years at the San Diego Gem Society and was a board member for the GIA Alumni Association in Carlsbad.

Martin graduated with a business degree from San Diego State University.

They have been to Antwerp in Belgium, mines in Brazil, Australia and South Africa, gold factories in Vincenza, Italy to buy direct and learn more about the gems from the source.

For Martin and Kathleen White, they are shining examples of what successful business owners look like.

MTRP

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

restoration with Ranger Heidi Gutknecht. If you’d like to participate in trail work, it’s recommended to do so before the summer heat arrives as many trail crews take a hiatus during those months. If you’d like to help improve and maintain the park’s trails, contact Ranger Dan Kimpel. Once a year, MTRP offers a Trail Guide course where one can become a volunteer Trail Guide for the park. These folks lead educational nature hikes at MTRP and assist staff in field trips and educational programs. The 2023 Trail Guide class just graduated but contact Ranger Chris Axtmann if you’d like to be on next year’s Trail Guide interest list.

If you’d rather work indoors, we have opportunities for you.

We need friendly volunteers who love Mission Trails to staff the front desk and gift shop. These public-facing volunteers provide trail advice, answer questions about the park, and help guests explore the Visitor Center’s offerings. The Foundation especially needs volunteer help on the weekends.

For those interested in educational programs, the Foundation’s children’s story time and craft program Trail Tykes is always in need of readers.

To learn more about these opportunities, visit: mtrp.org/volunteer.

—Jennifer Morrissey is executive director for Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.



Councilmember Raul Campillo was on hand to present a proclamation honoring Mission Trails Regional Park Volunteer Appreciation Day. (Photo by Angie Ollman)



Grand Opening New La Mesa Care Home

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Local Boy Scouts were quite busy placing eggs in various neighborhoods Easter weekend. In the group picture are: Ethan Shehee, Christian Stromberg, Brandon Kratt, Torin Zeis, Brady Cox, Josh Oelschlager, Vince Oelschlager and Steve Oelschlager. (Courtesy photos)

Boy Scouts make Easter weekend egg-citing for local kids

It was an egg-citing Easter weekend for many area kids thanks to the 2nd Annual Egg My Yard fundraiser put on by BSA Troop 975.

Scouts placed more than 2,000 eggs at more than 50 homes in the following zip codes: 91941 (La Mesa), 91942 (La Mesa), 92019 (Dehesa), 92020 (El

Cajon), 92040 (Lakeside), 92104 (North Park), 92115 (College Area/El Cerrito/Talmadge/Rolando); 92116 (Kensington, University Heights); 92119 (San Carlos); 92120 (Allied Gardens/Del Cerro); 92123 (Serra Mesa); 92131 (Scripps Ranch).

To join the announcement list for next year, email: bstroop975sd@gmail.com.



Those looking for the eggs had fun in the pursuit.



Among the kids hiding eggs are Torin Zeis and Brady Cox.

District 7 Dispatch

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

once the agenda is released one week prior to the meeting, through the City's website.

DEL CERRO RESIDENT ROSE SCHINDLER HONORED AS A "WOMEN OF DISTINCTION"

In March, we honored and celebrated influential "Women of Distinction" across the city of San Diego.

I was privileged to nominate and recognize former Del Cerro resident Rose Schindler.

Rose was a pillar of the community, mother, grandmother, an Auschwitz survivor. She co-authored the book, "Two Who Survived: Keeping Hope Alive While Surviving the Holocaust," with her husband, Max.

Rose passed away after a long life on Feb. 17, 2023. She had a great impact

SEE DISTRICT 7 DISPATCH, Page 15

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Ice beginning to thin in local residential real estate market

Real Estate Update
By SARAH WARD



The ice is finally starting to thin in the San Diego residential real estate market. Mortgage rates have drifted lower for five consecutive weeks and this is likely the strongest factor that explains real estate activity. Back in November, mortgage rates peaked in the low seven's and that really took the air out of the market combined with the slower winter months. But now with some mortgage rates in the high five's, buyers are coming out and looking for a home. Well priced properties are selling fairly quickly and with multiple offers. The most difficult issue currently is a lack of inventory. Historically, the inventory of available homes for sale is near an all-time low. When a nice property comes on the market, priced reasonably, the open house will be busy, multiple offers will come in, and that property will likely be in escrow within a week or two. San Diego has a strong job market with many young and highly paid skilled workers in the tech, biotech, and health industries

along with other supporting industries. Many of these workers have the down payment and income to easily qualify for a purchase. My phone is currently ringing off the hook with buyers ready to purchase. But the inventory is quite thin so what I do with my buyers is to get them fully approved for a purchase so that we can write a strong offer quickly and with a short escrow period. We are not quite in the craziness of 2021-2022, when mortgage rates were in the 3's and when a well-priced property would quickly receive ten to twenty full priced offers. But today's market is definitely warming up. I talk frequently with my escrow officer and this market is seeing quite a few all-cash and mostly cash transactions occurring. Some people are downsizing, selling their larger home, and then able to purchase a lower priced property with no mortgage or a very low mortgage. Another factor is that currently \$500,000 of primary home capital gain appreciation is tax-free for married couples on their federal tax return. Some are selling to capture the clock on another tax-free gain in maybe 10 years, if prices continue to rise of course.

Check with your tax advisor but this strategy may make sense especially if a home owner no longer needs a larger home. If you are thinking of selling, call me for a no obligation walk-through as I am very good at identifying minor improvements that would be worth undertaking to make a home more salable and I have a professional team of trusted contractors that are available for work if needed or desired in order to get more money for a property. NOTE: during more normal real estate markets, the number of homes for sale in a zip-code would typically be 50 to 75 homes for sale at any one time.

MARKET REPORT (Single Family):

- **College Area (92115):** median price down 2.7% year over year to \$900,000 and with only 19 homes for sale.
- **San Carlos (92119):** median price down 14% to \$950,000 and with only 15 homes for sale.
- **Del Cerro/Allied Gardens (92120):** median price down 9% to \$1,008,000 and with only 19 homes for sale.

—Sarah Ward is a REALTOR with Coldwell Banker West. Reach her at: sarah@sarahdoesrealestate.com.

District 7 Dispatch

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

to her community and those she came into contact with on a daily basis. Thank you, Mayor Gloria and the entire San Diego City Council for highlighting such amazing women throughout our region.

POTHOLE REPAIRS ON NAVAJO ROAD AND COLLEGE AVENUE

Potholes continue to be a problem in the City. I want you to know that I am working hard to ensure that these potholes are being addressed and that the roads in Navajo receive the treatment that they deserve. If you see a pothole, please use the Get it Done app to report it and alert my staff so that they can request to prioritize your report.

BENCHLEY-WEINBERGER ELEMENTARY MULTICULTURAL FEST

This past month I was able to attend the Benchley-Weinberger Elementary Multicultural Fest. Thank you for inviting me to your very first Multicultural Fest to celebrate the food, art, and performances of different ethnic backgrounds. It was such a pleasure meeting so many of the students and parents of the school - I had a wonderful time.

TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

Need tax help? I know many dread tax season, but there is help for those who need it. I'm happy to share that the Benjamin Branch Library offers free tax preparation help provided by AARP. This is available and free to anyone of any age - especially if you are 50 or older or can't afford paid tax preparation. Tax preparations are Mondays 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. & Wednesdays 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. through April 12. No appointments are necessary; however, this is on a first-come, first-served basis.

COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Community office hours allow you to meet with me directly to discuss community issues and/or ask me questions about certain things specific to the City of San Diego. See the details below and contact Cheryl Willis at CWillis@sandiego.gov to schedule your time. Wednesday, April 26. 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Linda Vista Public Library 2160 Ulric Street, San Diego, CA 92111 For continual updates on what is happening, follow my social media pages or visit my website at: sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd7. —Raul Campillo represents District 7 on the San Diego City Council.

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