



# The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

August 2004

## Building a Better Edgemoor Hospital

Serving the Cities of:  
El Cajon  
La Mesa  
Lemon Grove  
Poway  
Santee

Serving the communities of:  
Agua Caliente  
Allied Gardens  
Alpine  
Barrett  
Blossom Valley  
Bostonia  
Boulevard  
Campo  
Canebrake  
Casa de Oro  
Crest  
Cuyamaca  
Dehesa  
Del Cerro  
Descanso  
Dulzura  
Eucalyptus Hills  
Fernbrook  
Flinn Springs  
Granite Hills  
Grantville  
Guatay  
Harbison Canyon  
Jacumba  
Jamul  
Julian  
Lake Morena  
Lakeside  
Mount Helix  
Pine Hills  
Pine Valley  
Potrero  
Ramona  
Rancho San Diego  
Rolando  
San Carlos  
San Pasqual  
Santa Ysabel  
Shelter Valley  
Spring Valley  
Tecate  
Tierra del Sol  
Vallecitos  
Wynola

Serving the Indian Reservations of:  
Barona  
Campo  
Cosmit  
Cuyapaipe  
Inaja  
Jamul  
La Posta  
Manzanita  
Mesa Grande  
Santa Ysabel  
Sycuan  
Viejas

County's specialized care facility gets attention it needs, deserves

Sometimes we forget. Maybe we choose not to think about it. We share our community with people who suffer from severe disabilities and the cruelest of diseases. For these special souls, a nod of the head or a simple blink of the eye is a miracle.

For the wife of a patient with a traumatic brain injury or the mother of a young person living with a debilitating disease, finding quality health care can be a heartbreaking process. That's because patients who require lifelong, complex care often are turned away from traditional care facilities, sometimes racking up hundreds of denial letters from providers. When patients have exhausted all of their options, they are welcomed by the compassionate staff at Edgemoor Hospital.

The one-time working dairy farm in Santee has been a haven for our region's frailest residents since the 1920s, when a special group of caregivers first used the peaceful setting to comfort terminally ill patients. Now, it's the facility that's receiving some comfort.

Six years ago at my urging, the Board of Supervisors began working to counter the effects of time on the old Edgemoor. Its undersized rooms and tiny hallways can't accommodate modern medical technology.

Outdated heating and lighting and disconnected buildings are a challenge for staff and a drain on operational costs.

Weeks ago, my colleagues and I did what no past Board could do for Edgemoor. We finalized plans to replace the old facility with a \$66 million state-of-the-art skilled

nursing complex. The new facility has been carefully designed to comfort patients and the professionals who care for them. What's more, it will be far less expensive to operate than the current facility.

**- Dianne Jacob**

When the County breaks ground this fall,

much of the credit should go to the health-care professionals, families, consultants, grand juries and community members who have fought to call attention to the need for better conditions at Edgemoor. Current Board members deserve credit too. Our commitment to make the new Edgemoor a reality speaks volumes about the collective character of the Board.

We look at Edgemoor as more than just a line item on a budget ledger. We believe how San Diego County cares for its most vulnerable residents says a lot about our values as a region. When our neighbors, through no choice of their own, have been handed challenges like the patients at Edgemoor, it is our moral responsibility to see that they live with maximum dignity.

*“How San Diego County cares for its most vulnerable residents says a lot about our values as a region.”*



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## High-Tech Tabs on High-Risk Sex Offenders

**H**igh-risk sex offenders are the worst of the worst.

Convicted of multiple violent felonies, crime experts say high-riskers are likely to repeat their sinister acts again and again. Experts say it's not a matter of if high-riskers will reoffend—it's a matter of when.

That's why Sheriff Bill Kolender, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis and I are doing everything we can to keep families safe. We just unveiled a website that gives visitors access to names, photos, approximate addresses, and rap sheets of high-risk offenders in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Last year, when we launched the State's first Regional Sex Offender Pin Map, which shows parents the approximate locations of registered sex offenders living in communities, many parents wanted more detailed information to keep sex offenders away from kids. We agreed! That's why we pushed to create the high-risk offender website.



We're not done yet. The County continues to encourage the State to make all information about all sex offenders—high risk and serious—available over the Internet all the time. Visit my website at: [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com) for a link.

## Gaming Revenue Brings Needed Fire Resources

**A** \$4 million pot of money that once sat stagnate in Sacramento is, at last, being divided up to help the region offset the impacts of tribal gaming.

This summer, the Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee was tasked with figuring out how to spend these dollars. I chaired the committee, and along with other members, we made fire protection our highest priority.

On the final list of items to be purchased for the region is a firefighting helicopter to be owned and operated by the Sheriff's Department.



Also on the list is a handful of brand new fire trucks for unincorporated area fire departments. Many of these agencies were first responders to last year's catastrophic wildfires.

### Edgemoor

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On the financial side, the current Edgemoor is so outmoded, the County determined that it would be more cost-effective to replace it than to renovate. Thankfully, the federal government is paying half the cost. By building a new and more efficient facility, the County expects to save nearly \$5 million a year, including the new building, operations and maintenance.

We cannot heal all the patients at Edgemoor or make their illnesses less debilitating. We can, however, build a facility that reflects our compassion and respect for those whose conditions demand intense care. If it's true that a community can be measured by how it treats its frailest members, the new Edgemoor will prove, once again, that San Diego County cares.



**Safe Haven:** Another angel at work at Edgemoor Hospital.

## Yellow Ribbon Comes Down Support for Troops Stays High



**H**e didn't wear a mask or a red suit, but he clung to the exterior of the historic County Administration Building just like Spider Man.

Last month, climbing enthusiast Frank Muramoto removed the County's Yellow Ribbon from the top floors of the building's tower in just two hours. The colorful tribute was hoisted more than a year ago to honor military troops serving overseas. Many Navy ships returning to San Diego Bay sailed passed the ribbon on the way to 32nd Street Naval Station.

Sadly, the ribbon had reached the end of its useful life. Made of wind-resistant mesh designed to withstand the sun for only a year, the ribbon had begun to fade. Supervisor Greg Cox and I reluctantly decided to take it down. We agreed, however, to keep encouraging people to support our troops.

The mastermind of the takedown? Curt Wylie of MeaCor Signs in El Cajon. Extra special thanks to the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation who generously funded the project.



**Patriots:** Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Greg Cox talk to TV crews about the importance of support for local military families.

## Community Happenings

**SPRING VALLEY**— It was a patch of weeds. Now, a dirt lot along Bancroft Drive in Spring Valley has been transformed into Lamar Park, a nine acre public park with walking trails, a playground, picnic pavilion, barbeques and shade trees.



**Time to Play:** Chairwoman Jacob and Spring Valley youth celebrate Lamar Park.

The spot is an historic one for the community. It is believed to have been the site of the first Spring Valley school. It's home to one of the biggest olive groves in Southern California.

**POWAY**— The Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Open Space Preserve was completely burned during the Cedar Fire last year. After months of loving care, the preserve is set to reopen on August 12. This should make outdoor enthusiasts happy. The area is a favorite of hikers and horseback riders.



## Bringing Emergency Care Closer to Home

Chairwoman Dianne Jacob celebrates the grand opening of the

**Sharp Grossmont Hospital  
Emergency and Critical Care Center**

**August 20, 2004 at 11:30 a.m.**

**5555 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa**

# Get The Jacob Journal!

The Jacob Journal will be mailed to you on a regular basis by request only. If you like what you've read, fill out the form below and mail it back to us at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101 or fax it to us at (619) 696-7253. You can also sign up to receive the Jacob Journal on our website at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com).

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We hope to hear from you soon!

AUG-04

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