



The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

April 2005

Standing Up to Thug Violence

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

East County ramps up efforts to stamp out gangs after surge in violence

To say that East County doesn't have problems with gangs is to live in denial. Gang-related crime is on the rise, especially in Spring Valley, Lakeside and in the cities of Lemon Grove, Santee, La Mesa and El Cajon.

Consider the 15-year-old boy shot in the leg at Grossmont Center after a pack of gang members demanded that he and his two siblings declare their allegiance to a gang.

Area schools have reported a surge in gang happenings on campuses, and in 2004, the number of gang killings in East County reached a sky-high 13.

The bad news: the problem is real. The good news: East County is refusing to put its head in the sand. Instead, an energetic coalition of leaders is standing up to thugs.

Grossmont Union High School officials, the Sheriff's Department, Probation, the District Attorney's office, police agencies, East County officials and I have been meeting regularly to strategize ways to address gang activity. Yes, the effort is fairly new, but it's gaining momentum at a quick clip.

At my request, the Board of Supervisors has taken a first step to launch an East County Gang Task Force. The County is currently analyzing staffing and funding levels needed to fight the problem effectively. With prosecutors in East County weighted down by gang-related caseloads and law enforcement officers stretched thin responding to gang incidents, the County is quickly crunching the numbers. Preliminary figures are due out next month.

It is said that East County alone didn't foster the recent spate of gang crime. Many believe that effective anti-gang programs in other parts of the region have driven the criminal element to the east. Admittedly, we have homegrown gangs too.

Law enforcement officers who are veterans of gang wars in other corners of the County recommend a regional approach to thwarting gangs. The successful tactics of the North County Regional Gang Task Force, for example, can be employed in East County to keep us from inheriting thugs who have been driven from their old stomping grounds as well as help us break up existing gangs.

Last month, the City of La Mesa adopted an urgency ordinance to fight gangs. Under the leadership of Councilman Ernie Ewin, the city plans to establish "intimidation-free zones" at all parks, schools and public property used for after-school recreation.

The ordinance makes it illegal to harass a young person in or within 1,000 feet of those areas. It's based on a similar County

With a dedicated alliance of leaders committed to a real solution, East County is serious about gang abatement.



No Thugs.....Page 1
No Thugs/West Nile.....Page 2
Community Matters.....Page 3
Get the Journal.....Page 4

No Thugs Continued on Page 2

No Thugs

Continued from page 2

ordinance, which has been in effect for sometime and has given law enforcement an important tool to fight gang recruitment.

Experts say the reasons why kids join gangs are varied. Some are drawn by parties and drugs, others are looking for a sense of respect and power. Some kids find a sense of family within a gang, while others view gang life as a business venture and hope to earn money by running drugs or guns.

Some kids grow up in

neighborhoods where gangs are a way of life and are forced to join one gang in order to protect themselves from another.

Experts also warn that kids with problems at home, particularly kids who are physically abused and kids with parents who use drugs, are more susceptible to the gang lifestyle.

We can't ignore the many reasons why kids turn to gangs. Stepped-up law enforcement is a big part of the battle against street gangs. Preventing kids from joining gangs in the first place is

another important part.

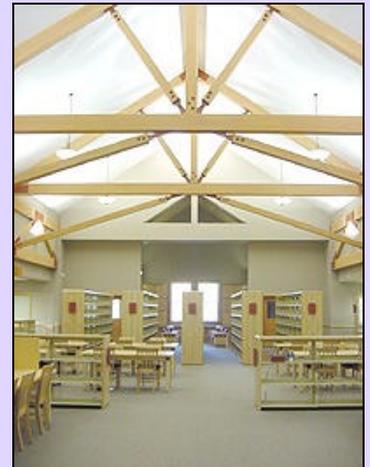
In addition to seeing the East County Gang Task Force through to its official launch, I plan to continue my efforts to create safe and healthy activities for young people. Teen centers, sports fields, skate parks, libraries, riding and hiking trails have been especially effective.

In the months ahead, East County will surely ramp up its war on gangs. With a dedicated alliance of leaders committed to a real solution, East County is serious about gang abatement.

A New Chapter for Community Libraries

With computer labs, comfortable discussion rooms and a wealth of audio-visual equipment, libraries offer much more than books these days. That's why the San Diego County Library wants to know what kind of programs you think it should provide. The County is holding community forums around the region to listen to your suggestions. Want to learn computer skills or take part in a writing workshop? Now is the time to make your feelings known. Check the list below for the library forum in the community nearest you. Or, call the County Library at (858) 694-2415.

Modern Lit: Libraries, like Julian's, pictured right, offer more than books.



Lemon Grove	Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Spring Valley	Tuesday, April 26 at 4:30 p.m.
Jacumba	Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m.
Potrero	Saturday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m.
Alpine	Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m.
Descanso	Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Pine Valley	Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.
El Cajon	Saturday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m.
Poway	Monday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Crest	Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Santee	Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Casa De Oro	Thursday, May 12 at 3:00 p.m.
Fletcher Hills	Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.
La Mesa	Thursday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m.
Campo	Friday, May 13 at 2:00 p.m.
Julian	Saturday, May 14 at 12:30 p.m.
Ramona	Saturday, May 14 at 3:00 p.m.
Lakeside	Saturday, May 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Lemon Grove Branch Library	8073 Broadway
Spring Valley Branch Library	836 Kempton St.
Jacumba Branch Library	44605 Old Hwy. 80
Potrero Community Center	25771 Potrero Valley Rd.
Alpine Community Center	1803 Alpine Blvd.
Descanso Town Hall	24536 Viejas Grade Rd.
Pine Valley Club House	28890 Old Hwy. 80
El Cajon Branch Library	201 E. Douglas
Poway Branch Library	13137 Poway Rd.
Crest Branch Library	105 Juanita Ln.
Santee City Hall	10601 Magnolia Ave.
Casa de Oro Adult Health Center	9805 Campo Rd.
Fletcher Hills Center	2345 Center Place
La Mesa Community Center	4975 Memorial Drive
Mt. Empire Community Center	976 Sheridan Rd.
Julian Branch Library	1850 Hwy. 78
Ramona Branch Library	1406 Montecito Rd.
Harvest Christian Fellowship	12150 Woodside Ave.

ONE CLASS ACT

Supervisor Jacob was especially glad to present a County proclamation to Ani Asaro, a fifth grade teacher at Murray Manor Elementary School. Ani was recently named County Teacher of the Year by the County Office of Education and Cox Communications. Ani is pictured with sixth grader Annie Konarska. Annie is the student body president at Murray Manor.



Wet Winter Spawns West Nile Virus Warning

Got standing water near your home? In a pond? In a non-working pool? You've created a breeding ground for mosquitoes and put your family at risk for West Nile Virus, a potentially serious illness that can cause fever, muscle weakness and even death.

Mosquitoes that suck blood from diseased animals carry the virus. It can be transferred to humans by bite. Record rainfall has the County on alert for a potent mosquito season. Last year, 829 infections and 27 deaths were reported in California.

For more information about West Nile Virus, or to report mosquito breeding areas, or to find out where to pick up free mosquito-eating fish, call 1-888-551-INFO (4636). You can also visit www.SDFightTheBite.com



COMMUNITY MATTERS

Power Line Tune Up

Be on the look out for construction crews upgrading overhead electric transmission lines in the Boulevard area. Crews are preparing the system to carry power generated by a wind farm now under construction on the Campo Indian Reservation. The project's 25 wind turbines will eventually crank out enough power to serve 50,000 homes. The State approved the project last October.

Parents Can Grow Too

Want to talk to the experts about discipline strategies that actually work for kids? Want to learn more about children who bully or get tips for successful parenting? The County's Commission on

Children, Youth and Families is hosting a Parenting Conference Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event takes place at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center at 1895 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. The \$5 cost includes parking, breakfast and lunch. Contact: (858) 514-4660.

Fields for Fitness

Efforts to build the McGrath Family YMCA in Rancho San Diego got a boost recently from the County. Supervisor Jacob helped secure \$140,000 to build the facility's soccer field and baseball diamond as part of the first phase of the project. Future phases call for a YMCA building and a pool. Several years ago, the County contributed \$225,000 to the project.

Coffee and Conversation

Join Supervisor Jacob at a friendly coffee to talk about what's on your mind

Friday, May 13, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Guy B. Woodward Museum
645 Main Street, Ramona

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.

Name _____

Signature _____

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone/e-mail _____

We hope to hear from you soon!

APR-05

(619)531-5522

The Second District Staff

Geoff Patnoe

Chief of Staff

Caroline Braun

Field Representative

Jeff Collins

Senior Policy Advisor

Erin Farris

Policy Advisor

Darren Gretler

Senior Policy Advisor

Nate Karlsgodt

Field Representative

Donna Sievert

Office Manager & Scheduler

Jennifer Stone

Communications Advisor

Adam Wilson

Policy Advisor

DIANNE JACOB

*Supervisor, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101*

*(619) 531-5522
(800) 852-7322 toll free
(619) 696-7253 fax*

*e-mail:
Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov*

*website:
www.diannejacob.com*