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MAKING WAVES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH 21, 2014



BRINGING BACK THE MILE

The Encinitas Mile, the inaugural event co-founded by North County runners Mark Sarno and Daniel Seidel, saw several racers head down a portion of Vulcan Avenue and back again on March 16. Above: Runner Brian Sullivan, in front, takes an early lead out of the starting gate during the men's elite race. See more photos on page A13. Photo by Tony Cagala



The City Council agreed to put in a confidential offer for the Pacific View property for consideration. If the Encinitas Union School District declines the offer, it will proceed with a planned auction March 25. The dilapidated school on the site closed a decade ago. Photo by Jared Whitlock

At 11th hour, city submits offer for Pacific View site

By Jared Whitlock

ENCINITAS — Just before the clock struck 11 p.m. on Wednesday, the City Council announced it would submit a confidential offer to buy the Pacific View property.

It was the eleventh hour of not just the night, but also negotiations with EUSD (Encinitas Union School District), the property's owner.

Last week, the city sent a letter asking the district to meet one last time in hopes of averting the March 25 public auction for Pacific View. A response letter from EUSD stated the City Council must submit an offer of at least \$9.5 million by March 21 in order for the district to consider a deal.

The City Council,

which voted 3-2 in closed session to make an offer, did not disclose the price or terms.

"We hear the community's concerns and we agree it's a legacy property — we don't want to give up," Mayor Teresa Barth said after the council meeting.

On March 24, the EUSD board of trustees will decide whether to accept the city's offer during a special meeting.

Barth said the terms were confidential in light of the pending auction.

Scott Chatfield, who started SavePacificView.org, an online campaign that's generated nearly 700 emails from residents urging the board to stop the

TURN TO PACIFIC VIEW ON A24

Mission Ave road improvements halfway done

By Promise Yee

OCEANSIDE — By March 31, phase I of the Mission Avenue improvement project will be halfway completed and the north side of the street will be fully open for pedestrian use.

"March 31 is a big mile-

stone," Terry Jones, principal with Arcadis Company, said. "We'll be halfway done. People can use the sidewalk and enjoy it."

Currently a narrow fenced-in walkway is open to pedestrians on the north side of the street, as road-

work and sidewalk replacement is under way.

Businesses have done their best to endure the roadwork, which began in November, to improve the road from Clementine Street to Coast Highway 101.

During initial roadwork

Jones said businesses reported sales had dropped by half. At that time roadwork was under way between Clementine Street and Ditmar Street. Most businesses along that section of Mission

TURN TO MISSION ON A26



Just in time for spring:

Look inside this issue for the spring 2014 Home & Garden supplement to find local businesses and tips to help bring a new look to your home.

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Council supports reversing 2010's Citizens United ruling

By Jared Whitlock

ENCINITAS — The city joined a growing national movement to reign in campaign spending.

Council members unanimously passed a non-binding resolution last week to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling.

Due to the decision, corporations, unions and individuals can contribute freely to Super PACs and their affiliated 501 (c) 4s to influence elections.

Several public speakers warned the decision could open the door for additional outside spending in local campaigns.

According to city rules in place, an individual or organiza-

tion can't give more than \$250 to a council candidate.

But in the aftermath of Citizens United, contributors could potentially skirt the code by funneling money into Super PACs and 501 (c) 4s.

Those groups can't coordinate directly with candidates' campaigns, but they could spend money on advertisements to support the candidates.

Diane Lane, representing the local chapter of Keep Money out of Politics, said the resolution is symbolic, yet it will send the message to national legislators that Citizens United should be overturned.

"The point is to flood congress with support for overturning Citizens United," Lane said,

noting 500 cities across the U.S. have passed the same resolution, including three other cities in the county.

Councilman Tony Kranz said he's in favor of reversing Citizens United.

However, he believes draft amendments to overturn it would give the government too much power to regulate political speech. Hence, it's key that any amendment is written carefully, he added.

"For me, the key is getting congress to propose an amendment to the constitution that I could support," Kranz said.

Encinitas' \$250 contribution limit was established in 2001.

Council also voted for city

staff to bring back a report on chaining the city's campaign contribution limit to the consumer price index, which measures price changes for a variety of consumer goods.

That way, council members said the contribution cap is tied to the standard of living, and the limit wouldn't have to be reexamined on a regular basis.

Solana Beach and the city of San Diego, for instance, automatically make adjustments to contribution limits based on the consumer price index.

A city staff report cited six cities in the county that don't cap contributions, while the remaining 12 cities limit contributions, ranging from a \$100 cap to a \$4,100 ceiling.

In a separate move, council members also voted 4-1 to increase the mayor's salary by \$100 a month beginning in 2016.

Currently, the mayor and councilmembers take home \$1,186 a month.

Councilmembers agreed that being mayor comes with added responsibilities, justifying the raise.

Councilwoman Kristin Gaspar, the sole vote against the motion, said she would prefer that the mayor's vehicle allowance was increased \$100 instead of the salary raise.

In November, Encinitas voters will directly elect the mayor for the first time, doing away with a council majority selecting the position.



LPA's rendering shows a proposed design for a performing arts center at the Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad. Courtesy image

CUSD sets goals for facility improvements, new theater

By Rachel Stine

CARLSBAD — The CUSD Board of Trustees set priorities for upgrading facilities, safety, and campus access for disabled students as well as reviewed proposed designs for Sage Creek High School's new performing arts center at its Wednesday night meeting.

The Board reviewed the district's new facilities master plan, which sets construction priorities at the various campuses and offices for the next five years.

The priority projects outlined will cost the district an estimated total of over \$60 million. So far the district has about \$44 million in available capital improvement funds, and staff anticipates it will be able to obtain the remainder of the funds over the 5-year period.

Both Board members and district staff are aware of several district buildings that do not meet current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations and are difficult to access for disabled students, teachers, and campus visitors.

Carlsbad High School was designated to receive a \$1.2 million redesigned administration building so that people in wheelchairs would not have to leave campus to access the front of the building.

The Cultural Arts Center was also assigned an interior upgrade in the coming years for increased ADA access and better building space for the theater's scenery and props.

Enhanced safety features, including better fencing, security systems, and

designated campus entry points, are planned for numerous campuses as well.

The Board also viewed three architecture firms' proposed designs for Sage Creek High School's new performing arts center, which will be built at the campus's main entrance.

All of the designs incorporated the Board's requests for a 250- to 350-seat main theater, black box theater, orchestra pit, sustainable construction and amenities, as well as a \$9 million budget.

The first proposal, from Rachlin Partners, incorporated a modern looking, rounded metal facade that resembled the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Announcements for performances and school activities could be projected onto the front of the building.

The two-story space included a theater with 340 seats, an orchestra pit that could be converted for extra seats or stage space, interlacing catwalks, and doors in the back of the stage for projections to shine through onto a screen or scenery.

"We thought you need some drama in a performing arts center," said Michael Rachlin, a partner at the firm.

The next design, from Sillman Wright Architects, consisted of a front-facing lobby housed by two-story windows with a metal roof that wrapped around the side walls and an adjacent metal ticket booth.

With a design created to inspire and teach, Larry Sillman said, "Our building responds to the 21st century educational goals."

The rendering incorporated a sculpture plaza for students to gather and a theater space with 345 seats and a convertible orchestra pit.

The last design for the center focused on constructing a building that would blend well with the rest of Sage Creek High School's campus with sandy bricks and a metal roof.

LPA's proposal featured a roof that would filter rainwater to treatment in a landscaped area below.

It also included a 300-seat theater with another orchestra pit that could make way for additional stage space.

Kevin Leslie, the building's designer, said the team strived to "design a building that creates a gateway to the campus, a new front door."

The Board members complimented Rachlin's design for its modern, professional, and dramatic look and the theater's acoustic features, but expressed concern that it would stick out from the rest of the campus.

They voiced favor for Sillman Wright Architects' lobby layout, but were not thrilled with the ticket booth being front and center to the campus entrance.

They admired LPA's focus on sustainable design and how it fit with the rest of the school's design, but acknowledged that it had the fewest amount of theater seats compared to the other proposals.

The Board will select a firm at a later meeting once they have the chance to ask follow up questions about the designs.

MiraCosta president resigns, takes chancellor position in Los Angeles

By Tony Cagala

REGION — Not long after celebrating his fifth year as president and superintendent of MiraCosta College, Dr. Francisco Rodriguez announced on March 13 that he would be resigning his position.

Rodriguez has accepted a position to become chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District.

His resignation will become effective May 31.

According to Cheryl Broom, director, public relations and governmental relations, marketing and communications, Rodriguez will remain working at the college until that time.

A timetable to find a replacement should take place within the next several months, Broom said.

"During that time the Board will decide if they want to appoint an acting president from within MiraCosta's leadership or go outside and try to find an interim president," Broom said.

In a statement released by the college, Rodriguez said that, "I have no doubt that the college's outstanding reputation will attract superb candidates to serve as the next superintendent/president."

Since his joining the college, Rodriguez has been credited with helping the college district balance the budget and more than double student graduation numbers.

Rodriguez was making \$256,200 annually while at MiraCosta.

Broom said the college does have a number of projects that they've made a



MiraCosta College Superintendent/President Dr. Francisco Rodriguez announced Thursday his resignation. He's accepted the position of chancellor with the Los Angeles Community College District. Photo courtesy of MiraCosta College

lot of progress on, but none that would be affected by Rodriguez's resignation.

"We're hoping that we'll find somebody else to come in with the same level of enthusiasm and be able to help us see what we're doing to the end," she added.

Prior to joining MiraCosta College in January 2009, Rodriguez served for six years as president of Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, Calif.

The Association for Community College Trustees conducted a 10-month-long search to fill the role left vacant when then-Chancellor Dr. Daniel LaVista resigned in June.

Rodriguez will be replacing interim Chancellor Dr. Adriana Barrera, who was appointed by the LAC-CD Board of Trustees on July 1, 2013.

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