

# LACAVA'S COLUMN

Your District 1 News Update



## Friends,

'The only constant in life is change,' is a phrase that has really been put through the ringer this last year. In the upcoming days we are going to surpass a grim anniversary - the first anniversary of enacting the statewide Stay at Home Order.

A year ago we were scared and unsure about what lay ahead. Since then, I'm proud of the progress we've made.

I want to take a moment to recognize the adaptability and tenacity displayed through the past year. Together we've seen librarians become COVID testers and firefighters become vaccinators, we've witnessed communities rally behind their members and small-businesses pay what little they had forward.

At the same time, we've experienced loss like no other: loss of work, loss of stability, even loss of life.

This past year has been a tumultuous time, but as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's inspiring to think not just about surviving the pandemic, but how we can thrive in a post-COVID world.

I firmly believe we can.

## Yours truly,



**Councilmember Joe LaCava**  
[joelacava@sandiego.gov](mailto:joelacava@sandiego.gov)

## COVID-19 Updates

## ***District***

### **Don't Miss Your Chance to be "Biotalkin" on March 22 at 5:30p**

As the District 1 Councilmember, I have the honor of representing one of the highest concentration of biotech and life science organizations in the country. These companies are not only leading the fight against COVID, but they also producing cutting edge work on everything from gut bacteria to Ebola.

This field, right in our own backyard, is one of the fastest growing fields, rich with lucrative and rewarding career paths. This is a field hungry for new talent, and we are a city hungry for opportunity.

That's why residents, specifically high school aged ones, are invited to attend my upcoming webinar 'Biotalkin': A Conversation with Biotech Professionals." Attendees will not only learn about the field, but also about opportunities readily available to them.

The webinar will take place Monday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. and feature Dr. Sheila Rao, a senior scientist at Janssen R&D Immunology Drug Discovery, and Karmin Noar, the executive director of BIOCOM Institute. Those interested can register at <https://bitly.com/biotalkin>, and students who would like to get a jumpstart on internship applications can learn more about the 'Life Science Young Leaders High School Internship Program' [here](#).

The biotech industry has proven time and time again its durability, adaptability, and importance. This is a field that is not going anywhere, and I look forward to connecting our future generation with this future-facing industry.



**Biotalkin'**  
A Conversation with Biotech Professionals  
*Presented by Councilmembers Joe LaCava, Monica Montgomery Steppe, and Vivian Moreno*

Hear from our own community members in the field about their path  
Learn how to apply for internships from BIOCOM itself  
Get your foot in the door in a field that is thriving with well-paid careers

  
**Sheila Rao, PhD**  
Janssen R&D Immunology Drug Discovery  
Senior Scientist

  
**Karmin Noar**  
Biocom Institute  
Executive Director

MARCH 22, 2021 | 5:30 P.M.  
VISIT [BIT.LY/BIOTALKIN](https://bit.ly/biotalkin) TO REGISTER



## ***City***

### **Rent and Utility Assistance Application Opens March 15**

Beginning March 15, City of San Diego residents may apply for COVID-19 rental and utility assistance through the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) Housing Stability Assistance Program.

Those interested can apply [here](#). Additionally, if you need application help or do not have reliable access to a computer or the internet, call (619) 535-6921 for assistance.

### **Small-Business Outdoor Dining Fund GRANT-ed**

The City of San Diego is now offering \$3,000 grants to help build decks and platforms that comply with standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.) Additionally, businesses located in low- and moderate-income areas and/or are owned by low- and moderate-income persons can be eligible for up to \$5,000 in funding and expedited grant processing.

The grants may be used to cover the cost of labor and materials including ramps, framing materials, railings, and hiring a civil or structural engineer to produce plans, among other allowable uses. The City will cover permitting fees until funds are depleted.

For more information on the grant program and outdoor business operations, please visit [sandiego.gov/TOBOgrant](http://sandiego.gov/TOBOgrant).

### **City Outlines Stimulus Priorities**

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the City of San Diego will receive an estimate \$300 million in federal aid. In a statement, Mayor Gloria outlined the following funding priorities:

- Defeat COVID-19 - support vaccination efforts in communities of concern to create a more equitable recovery;
- Protect cores service and jobs - address the City's immediate budget crisis; closing these gaps will preserve jobs, avoid salary cuts and ensure employees will continue to provide vital services residents deserve;
- Equip San Diegans for a better tomorrow - use funds to create a foundation for long-term stability for the City and its residents.

### **Let the Games Begin Again – City Resumed Permits for Outdoor Sports Programs**

The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department resumed issuing permits for outdoor sports programs per the CDPH guidelines.

To ensure proper protocols are being followed, sports organizations must provide [reopening plans](#) based on the CDPH Youth and Adult Sports Guidance.

### **Operation Shelter to Home to Wind Down**

Operation Shelter to Home, which has enabled the Convention Center to serve as a homeless shelter since April 2020, will begin relocating residents to the City's reconfigured shelters. Move-out begins the week of March 22.

## ***County***

### **Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Arrives in San Diego**

On March 8, the County received its first shipment of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which will be distributed at local vaccination sites, the same way as Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Unlike other vaccines, this one can be completed in a single dose.

***For details on groups currently eligible and vaccination opportunities, visit [www.vaccinationsuperstation.com](http://www.vaccinationsuperstation.com).***

## ***State***

### **\$6.6 Billion for the Kids**

On March 5, Governor Newsom signed a \$6.6 billion package to accelerate the safe return to in-person instruction across California. This additional funding supports safety measures for in-person instruction and expands learning opportunities such as summer school, tutoring, and mental health services.

This legislation also codified allocating 10 percent of the State's vaccine supply to education workers and strengthening school data reporting requirements.

### **State Taking Equitable Vaccination Actions**

On March 4, the Newsom Administration announced that the State set aside 40 percent of vaccine doses for the hardest-hit communities. They also announced a vaccine equity metric – which seeks to increase vaccinations in those communities – to be incorporated in the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), which governs the conditions under which California's economy can safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Local Power Granted to Halt Commercial Evictions**

On March 4, Governor Newsom signed an executive order extending authorization for local governments to halt evictions for commercial renters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through June 30, 2021.

***[You can track daily COVID case numbers, deaths, tests, and ICU capacity here.](#)***

## ***Federal***

### **\$1.9 Trillion in Aid is on the Way**

On March 11, the federal government passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. This act includes the following:

- \$1,400 stimulus checks for individuals making less than \$75,000 a year and for married couples earning under \$150,000;
- An extension of a \$300 federal supplement to state unemployment benefits;
- \$14 billion for accelerating vaccine distribution;
- \$130 billion to help schools reopen safely by providing for improved ventilation, hiring extra janitors, and distributing more personal protective equipment;
- \$7.25 billion for the PPP small-business loan program;
- \$350 billion to state and local governments (San Diego is expected to receive an estimated \$280 – 306 million);
- \$4.5 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- \$25 billion for a new grant program for "restaurants and other food and drinking establishments" administered by the Small Business Association;
- \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance, including \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers for people experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence and victims of human trafficking;
- \$34 billion to temporarily strengthen provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including significant increases to subsidies for middle-income Americans who buy private health insurance on the exchange marketplace;
- Provisions to increase the annual Child Tax Credit to \$3,000 for children ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 for children under age 6.

## **News from City Hall**

### **[City Council Unanimously Passes Climate Equity Fund](#)**

On Tuesday, March 9, City Council voted unanimously to create the Climate Equity Fund (CEF) - a fund to accelerate the implementation of projects that advance climate justice, resilience, and adaptation in disadvantaged communities through supplemented resources.

I was happy to support this item.

Infrastructure investments are needed citywide, but we have to approach this problem equitably if we are serious about reversing the decades of neglect to too many communities in this city.

I want to ensure that this funding is truly supplemental and the Council and Mayor find ways to leverage these dollars for the greatest impact. As a civil engineer who has seen a lot of projects come through the City, I've seen underfunded projects lag, only to become more expensive and years behind schedule. This happens everywhere, but when it happens in a neighborhood with a low Climate Equity score, it prolongs exposure to pollution, increases urban heat, or puts people at risk on a busy street.

The Climate Equity Fund will help mitigate this risk and allow climate infrastructure projects to be funded more frequently and with greater urgency.

## **Socially Distanced Fun Around District 1!**

### ***Inaugural 'Take-Out Taste of the Village' to run March 22 - 25***

If you're looking for a way to support some phenomenal District 1 businesses, check out the first-ever 'Take-Out Taste of the Village' presented by the La Jolla Village Merchant Association.

This event, running March 22 – 25, will offer residents the chance to enjoy a four-course meal from some of La Jolla's finest eateries. Additionally, 20 percent of each ticket will go back to restaurants struggling due to COVID-19 closures.

Learn more at <https://lajollabythesea.com/event/takeout-taste-of-the-village/>.

ENJOYA LA JOLLA PRESENTS

# TAKE-OUT TASTE OF THE VILLAGE

CELEBRATE SPRING WHILE SUPPORTING  
LA JOLLA'S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY!

**MARCH 22-25**  
**4-7PM**

TICKET FOR TWO: \$85\*  
EARLY BIRD (BEFORE FEB 28): \$80\*

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT:  
LAJOLLABYTHESEA.COM**

Experience the culinary delights of La Jolla Village with a 4-5 course take-out meal for two.

- Each day features a unique theme and four restaurants.
- Choose to enjoy at home or at one of La Jolla's beautiful outdoor dining spots.
- Proceeds from every ticket and 100% of gratuities go directly to participating restaurants!

\* Ticket good for one date of participation only. Menus subject to change.  
\* Covid rules and regulations strictly enforced.

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## ***Hop on Over to a Spring Grab 'n Go Event!***

Head over to your nearest Recreation Center to join us for the City of San Diego's 'Spring Grab 'n Go Event.' Those looking for some springtime sweets can walk or drive up to participating recreation centers for some food and fun. The following District 1 centers will be participating:

- Ocean Air (4770 Fairport Way) Saturday, March 20, 2021 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Doyle (8175 Regents Rd.) Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Nobel (8810 Judicial Dr.) Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Standley (3585 Governor Dr.) Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- La Jolla (615 Prospect St.) Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.\*
- Carmel Valley (3777 Townsgate Dr.) Friday, April 2, 2021 from 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m

*\*Please note this location does not offer a drive-up option.*

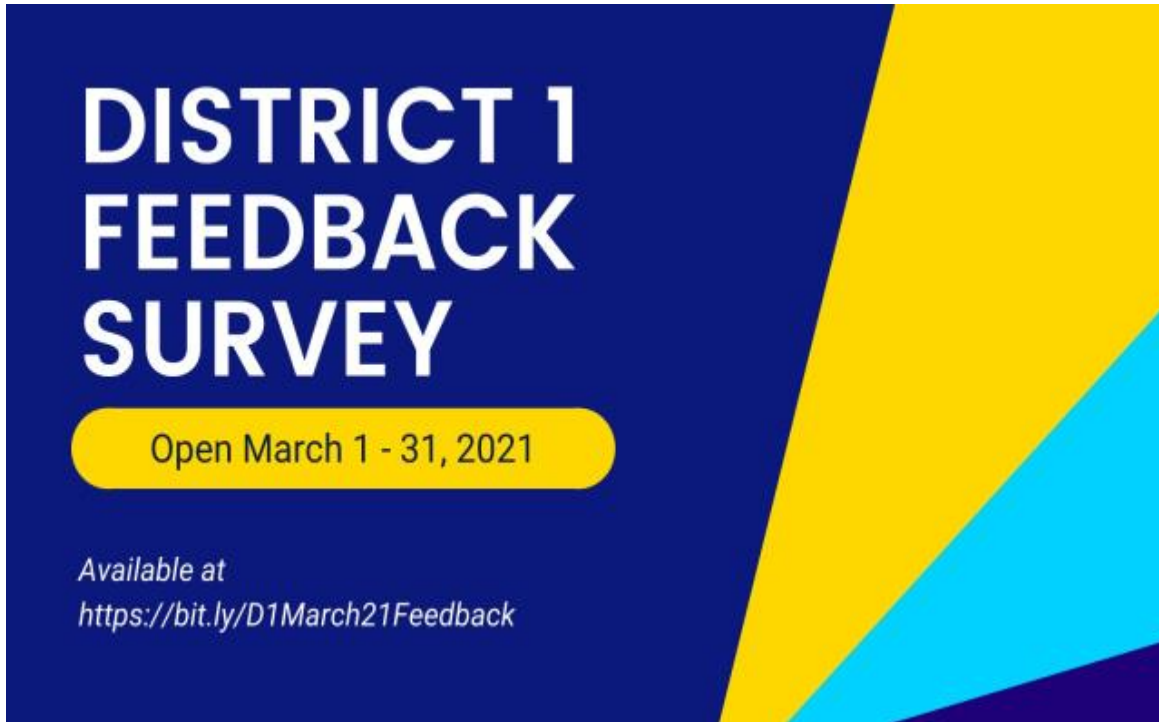
## **How are we Doing? Let Us Know in the**

# District 1 Survey!

With three months of work under our belt, I want to hear from you, District 1's residents, about how we've done and how we can better serve you in the future.

The survey is open March 1 through March 31, only takes about 5 minutes to complete, and can be found at <https://bit.ly/D1March21Feedback>.

Thank you in advance for your time and input!



## Community Representative Office Hours

If you haven't had a chance to say hello yet, stop by your community representative's Zoom "office hours" happening each week!

- Brian Elliott ([belliott@san Diego.gov](mailto:belliott@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **Del Mar Heights office hours** from **10 – 11 a.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Kaitlyn Willoughby ([kwilloughby@san Diego.gov](mailto:kwilloughby@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **University City office hours** from **10 - 11 a.m. on Fridays** ([link here](#))
- Ricky Flahive ([rflahive@san Diego.gov](mailto:rflahive@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, and Torrey Hills office hours** from **11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesdays** ([link here](#))
- Steve Hadley ([srhadley@san Diego.gov](mailto:srhadley@san Diego.gov)) will be hosting **La Jolla office hours** from **1 – 2 p.m. on Mondays** ([link here](#))

## Stay Connected with District 1

To stay up to date on all district news and updates, make sure you follow me on Twitter, (@JoeLaCavaD1) Facebook, (@JoeLaCavaD1) and Instagram (@joelacava\_d1) and invite your neighbors to sign up [here](#) to receive email updates like this one!

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