



The GreenSheet

Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee

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Candidate Forum Set to Discuss Growth Controversies

Escondido has “made the news” these past months as its city council has authorized the drafting of an ordinance that would fine landlords who rent to undocumented residents. The city has also approved a multi-story hotel that may reshape the look of historic Grand Avenue. Condominium projects are springing up all over the Downtown area. A new general plan could bring zoning changes that affect the quality of life and open spaces in and around the city.

Voters in Escondido care about these and a long list of other issues facing this community. The Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee offers a chance for all the candidates in November's election for City Council and Mayor to offer their ideas and to answer questions from residents. The public is invited.

Cosponsored by ECEC and the League of Women Voters, the Escondido Candidates Forum is set for Monday, October 9, from 7-9 p.m. at the City Council chambers, 201 N.

Broadway. The moderator will be administrative law judge Patrick Coony, who is well respected and is neutral regarding city politics.

ECEC has been sponsoring candidate forums for over two and a half decades, and has joined forces with the LOWV over the past few elections. Neither organization endorses candidates; our forums are meant to be objective and balanced. They offer the citizenry a chance to ask the candidates questions and to listen directly to the answers. As a public service, the forum is taped for broadcast on cable TV. It will be aired on the following Sunday and Monday, October 15 and 16, at 6 p.m. on channel 19, within the city limits of Escondido.

Helping coordinate the forum is ECEC secretary Rick Mercurio. “We are hoping that the public forgets about Monday night football for one evening,” he quipped. “With all the controversies swirling around Escondido we look for a lively, spirited event. Come on out!” Mercurio added.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

- ⇒ Escondido Candidate Forum
- ⇒ Monday, October 9
- ⇒ 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- ⇒ City Council Chambers
- ⇒ 201 N. Broadway, Escondido
- ⇒ Moderator: Judge Patrick Coony
- ⇒ Sponsored by ECEC and the League of Women Voters

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ECEC Educational Projects

“Planting Table” a Huge Success at Grape Day Festival

A five-year old girl with brown curls and clutching a half-eaten fluff of pink cotton candy strolls by. "Would you like to make a plant?" asks ECEC member **Jeff Lindenau** from the booth. Her eyes light up as she spots the array of cuttings displayed on the table.



"How much does it cost?" she inquires, a hint of apprehension in her voice.

"It's free, and you get to make it yourself!" Lindenau replies.

A smile suddenly beams across her pink-sugar

person to the joys of plants and nature, ECEC member **Jack Pomeroy** has been talking to the girl's parents about all the activities and outings that ECEC sponsors. He shows them his photo display of hikers and other mementos from years of ECEC events. They take a pamphlet by ECEC member **Doug Paulson** as they add their name to the sign up list.

This scene was replayed nearly 200 times at Grape Day on Saturday, September 9. The children's planting booth has proven a popular attraction for families, and makes people of all ages happy. ECEC began this tradition 16

“My plant’s going to be beautiful.”

- Small girl finishing her planting

mouth as she points to the geranium cutting and says, "Oh boy!" Lindenau explains how to fill the cup with good, rich potting soil. He then lets the girl point to the exact geranium she wants. He snips off the end and shows the girl how to place it gently into the filled cup. Next she uses her fingers to press the dirt firmly around the cutting. Finally she pours a little water into the cup.

“The amount and quality of information given out was really encouraging.”

years ago at Escondido's original Earth Day celebration, and we have continued the booth at street faires and Grape Days in the ensuing years.

Coordinating the volunteers was ECEC president **Joan Perron**. Among others, **Alexa Clausen** brought wonderful succulent cuttings that were a big hit with the youngsters. Others who helped included **Miriam Jupp, Maura Vanderschagen, Joan Van Ingen, Perla Akin, Jerri Doughty Stafford, and Rick Mercurio**.



"Will it grow?"

Lindenau grins. Just make sure it gets some sun and some water, and a little bit of love, and I think it will grow into a healthy plant with beautiful red flowers.

With obvious pride the girl holds her new prize possession and begins to walk away. She remembers something and turns around.

"Thank you!" she blurts.

While Lindenau introduced a young



City Completes Purchase of Stanley Peak Property

The City of Escondido recently completed purchasing the 103-acre Stanley Peak property, adding another important piece to Escondido’s open space.

“This is a tremendously important purchase for all of us,” says Sally Thomas, president of the Friends of Daley Ranch. The city did a great thing by making sure it will be here for future generations.

At 2,000 feet, the property is the tallest peak visible from the Daley Ranch. Its sheer cliffs and rocky outcroppings can be seen for miles around.

The land has been privately owned for many years, and conservationists have been very worried about the possibility of it eventually being developed. “This spot is vital to maintaining the scenic integrity of Daley Ranch,” says ECEC member Jack Pomeroy. “It was very important for the city leaders to recognize that fact and preserve the property.”

The Friends of Daley Ranch will be celebrating the fact that the city did exactly that. On Saturday, October 21st at 9 a.m., there will be a dedication celebration , featuring guided hikes to

the peak. The Friends of Daley Ranch will be giving away memorial medallions to the first 100 people who summit the peak. The medallions will be emblazoned with the famous, though not inspired, quotation from Old Man Stanley when he reached the peak 100 years ago: “I made It.”

Stanley Peak: While visiting Escondido in the 1890’s, a 74-year-old gent from the Kansas plains was challenged by the Escondido mountains. Thomas W. Stanley flagged his name on the peak which is Stanley Peak today. Old-timers remember when American golden eagles nested in this area.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ESCONDIDO HISTORIC SOCIETY

FAST FACTS

- ⇒ Stanley Peak Dedication Celebration
- ⇒ Saturday, October 21st
- ⇒ 9:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Meet at Parking Lot on La Honda Dr.
- ⇒ Bring water, hat, camera, sunscreen
- ⇒ “I Made It” Medallions for the first 100
- ⇒ Sponsored by the Friends of Daley Ranch



Iris Sankey Garden Work Party Makes Great Progress



Terry Badger prepares to jackhammer very hard soil

For many years the Escondido City Ecology Committee has met on Saturdays to maintain and plants native species at the Iris Sankey garden in Kit Carson park. In September, we received a huge boost when Volunteer San Diego sponsored a work day at Kit Carson park, coordinated by ECEC. 20 volunteers spent their day planting, mulching, weeding, and building a new trail.

“This was absolutely excellent,” says ECEC project manager Jerry Harmon. “Our project is really unique in the area. A group of citizens coming together and

taking on a large scale habitat restoration and enhancement project. The results are really just fantastic.”

The Sankey Garden is located by the El Arroyo picnic area in Kit Carson Park surrounding the Queen Califia’s Magical Circle. It boasts acres of orchards, native plants, a new trail made of recycled concrete, scenic median plantings in the parking lots, and an ever-expanding list of supporters. “This is such a great place,” says Bear Valley Middle School student Zoe Jackson. “I just love coming through here and seeing what they are doing.



Even without a jackhammer, Georgie Birch used her skills to penetrate a 2” water main.



Joan Perron, Terry Badger, Fred Woods, Georgie and Greg Birch (and Rowdy), James Dillane, Vernon Bluhn, Carol Stanford.



Clean up of Kit Carson Park by ECEC and about 20 people from Volunteer San Diego. They planted, mulched, weeded and constructed a new path.



Overall view of the planting area in Kit Carson Park



Upcoming Events in the Escondido Environmental Community

Escondido Candidate Forum

A chance to question candidates on the issues that effect us all

Monday, October 9 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sponsored by ECEC and the League of Women Voters
City Council Chambers
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92026
-Moderated by Judge Patrick Coony

Iris Sankey Garden

Work Parties

2nd Saturday of each month
Bring hat, water, sunscreen
Tools provided
Plant native vegetation and help ECEC maintain this model garden. Located in Kit Carson Park behind the El Arroyo picnic area by the Magical Garden

Stanley Peak Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, October 21
9:00 a.m.
Meet at Dixon Lake/Daley Ranch Parking Lot to take shuttle to the Ranch House
Join ECEC members and the Friends of Daley Ranch for a ceremony and hikes up Stanley Peak. Commemorative medallions to the first 100 people to summit the peak.

Historic Escondido Walking Tours

Old Escondido East Walking Tour
Saturday, October 14 at 11 a.m.

Rediscovering Escondido
Saturday, October 28 at 11 a.m.

Old Escondido West Walking Tour
Saturday, November 11 at 11 a.m.

Old Escondido West Walking Tour
Saturday, November 18 at 11 a.m.

South Escondido Blvd Walking Tour
Saturday, November 25 at 11 a.m.
(meets at 5th and Escondido Blvd)

All walking tours start from the SE corner of Grand and Broadway (in front of Draper's & Damon's) EXCEPT South Escondido Blvd walks which start from the NE corner of Escondido Blvd at 5th Avenue

Stop by the Historical Society Office at Grape Day Park to pick up a 2006 schedule.

Note: Since 1992 the ECEC has co-sponsored walking tours of historic Escondido with the Escondido Historical Society.

ECEC EVENTS

"With so many controversial topics, this should be really great."

- Rick Mercurio

Keep up to date on local issues at www.escondidoecology.org



Former city councilman Rick and Donna Foster work at planting native species.



James Dillane points out interesting plant species



Chaparral Species of the Month

Chaparral Communities Show Fantastic Adaptations

*Reprinted from www.calpoly.edu,
with permission*



Indian Paintbrush

Chaparral communities are dominated by evergreen, stiffly branched, needle or broad leathery-leaved shrubs mostly 3 to 10 feet tall. True chaparral is often referred to as "hard chaparral" because of these features, whereas coastal scrub is often referred to as "soft chaparral". Chaparral communities are normally extremely dense and form an almost impenetrable shrubby communities with little understory. Some stands are composed of more open stands of shrubs that sometimes gain the stature of small, bushy trees. Chaparral is a quite variable and is often composed of a diversity of different species. As a result, chaparral communities have been divided into different types depending on location and dominant species. Chaparral is the characteristic plant cover on steep slopes that are too hot and dry to support coastal live oak woodland. The soils of chaparral are generally shallow, infertile, rocky or gravelly in texture and have a low water holding capacity. Chaparral soils are highly erodible.

Chaparral communities cover approximately 10% of California and occur in scattered locations in the foothills of the mountains in both northern and southern California. In southern California, chaparral communities are a dominant feature of the landscape where they cover much of the lower elevation of the southern California mountains and are also found in the areas of lower elevation near the coast. In the coastal regions of the central and southern California, chaparral communities are closely associated to coastal scrub communities. Chaparral communities are often subject to large seasonal temperature fluctuations with high summer temperatures and low winter temperatures.



Soils encountered in chaparral communities are often shallow, rocky, and nutrient

poor. However, chaparral communities do occur on a variety of substrates ranging from stabilized sand dunes along the ocean (Herbaceous undergrowth is usually very sparse or nonexistent in mature chaparral stands due to several factors. Chaparral shrubs have been found to have chemical compounds that are leached out of the litter or canopy foliage and accumulate in the soil below that inhibit herbaceous plant growth (allelopathy). Another factor inhibiting herbaceous growth may be foraging herbivores that eat the seeds and seedlings under and near the shrubs. These are usually small birds and mammals that use the shrub canopy as protection from predators such as hawks. They often venture out just a short distance from the protection of the canopy to forage. As a result, they eat the seeds the blow into the chaparral as well as those immediately around the margin of the canopy. This is one factor that contributes to the characteristic bare zone that often occurs along the margins of chaparral and coastal scrub communities.

Chaparral communities are very closely associated with fire. Chaparral shrubs are very flammable due to the resinous foliage, woody stems, accumulated litter, and standing dead branches. Wildfires play a key ecological role in the development and perpetuation of these communities. Chaparral shrubs are highly adapted to fire by either re-sprouting from an underground burl (lignotuber) or by having seeds that are stimulated to germinate by the heat treatment of the fire and by chemicals in the charcoal left after the fire.

Dominant chaparral species have various adaptations to fire. Many species have thick, woody underground structures (root crowns, lignotubers, and basal burls) that are protected from the extreme heat of the fire by the soil's insulating properties. These readily re-sprout following fires and regenerate the shrubs quickly after the fire.



ECEC Launches Major Membership Drive

Since the Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee kicked off its membership drive in March, we have received a fantastic response, nearly doubling paid membership in just two months. "But we still haven't met our goal," says membership recruiter Doug Paulson. "We won't rest until we do."

"Our goal is still to increase membership each month so we can improve our programs and services," says president Joan Perron. "There are a lot of things that we believe we can contribute to this community. But it takes membership to get the people in power to listen to you."

"We need to show that we have a broad, committed base that really wants to improve the quality of life in Escondido."

Since 1971 the Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee has been advocating for

Escondido's cultural and natural environments. Each year ECEC sponsors a wide variety of educational programs, including:

- ⇒ Hikes at Daley Ranch, Bernardo Mountain, Bottle Peak, and other destinations;
- ⇒ The Earth Day Environmental Poster contest, co-sponsored with the City of Escondido;
- ⇒ Historic Escondido Walks, co-sponsored with the Escondido Historical Society;
- ⇒ Candidate forums prior to elections.

Membership dues are still a great bargain, at \$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family, and \$5 for students. For this you get 4-6 newsletters per year, a membership card, access to special hikes and events, and the knowledge that you are really helping your community.

Join today! It is well worth it!

"We have been really excited about how many existing members have renewed... Now we need to get new people"
- Doug Paulson

ESCONDIDO CITIZEN'S ECOLOGY COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



July 1, _____ through June 30, _____

Member _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

FAX (_____) _____

Personal e-mail _____

Additional Family Members (family memberships) _____

*Return to: ECEC Treasurer
810 Omar Drive
Escondido, CA 92027*

Cash

Check # _____

Credit Card

Amex Visa M/Card Discover/Novus

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Rec _____

Post _____

Remb _____

Member # _____

Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Student (\$5)



*The Newsletter of the
Escondido Citizen's Ecology Committee*

P.O. Box 2240
Escondido, CA 92033

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.ESCONDIDOECOLOGY.ORG

EGEG October Member's Activity

Stanley Peak Dedication Ceremony

-Sponsored by Friends of Daley Ranch-

***Saturday, October 21
9:00 a.m.***

***Celebrate the preservation of this im-
portant piece of Escondido history***

***Meet at the Daley Ranch parking
lot on La Honda Drive;
Bring water, sunscreen, and hat***

