

**SVC 18th ANNUAL MEETING**

South Vista Communities celebrated its 18th year with a meeting on June 12th at the Shadow-ridge Golf Club. Board members elected for the coming year are Francis Dumler, President; Cindy Farfan, Vice President; Kathy Bagwell, Secretary; Pia Romano, Treasurer; Stephanie Jackel and Tazheen Nizam, board members at-large.

We were honored to have presentations from City Manager John Conley, Sheriff Capt. John Malan, and District 4 City Council member Dan O’Donnell. Further information to follow.

**SHERIFF CAPT. JOHN MALAN:  
Safe Streets Vista**

Vista Sheriff Capt. John Malan spoke at a Town Hall hosted by District 4 Council member Dan O’Donnell, April 27, 2025.



Vista is #1 in total arrests in the County; however, good news is that crime levels are down 12% against persons, 22% for property, and 18% drug arrests.

**Safe Streets Vista Program** – for success, a collaborative relationship with residents is critical. Residents can be of great assistance when they inform the Sheriff’s Dept. of their home-mounted cameras or Ring doorbells. It decreases the time to start investigations as evidence is needed in the first 48 hours. The

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**BIKE LANE UPDATE**

• **from City Council Member Dan O’Donnell**

At the Vista City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 24, I brought forward a discussion on the newly added bike lanes—continuing a conversation we began during the May 27 meeting. At that time, I had introduced a motion to remove the berms and delineators along the stretch of road from Shadowridge to Dawson, as well as all berms extending to the Southern City Limits. However, I felt it was important to pause and allow time to gather further public input, consult with stakeholders, and conduct a thorough expert evaluation before moving forward.

Since then, I’ve met with engineers from multiple agencies, representatives from SANDAG, EDCO, the San Diego Bike Coalition, Swami’s Cycling Club, local cyclists, firefighters, traffic deputies, residents, city staff, and the Principal of Rancho Buena Vista High School. After carefully reviewing all the input and expert feedback, I made a decision grounded in both expert evaluation and the day-to-day realities shared by those who use and manage these roads.

Following these conversations and evaluations, I moved to:

- Remove all **berms** on South Melrose south of Hacienda Drive to the Southern City Boundary
- Remove all berms on Sycamore Avenue

**Delineators** (the white posts) will remain in the following areas:

- From Sunset Drive to Buena Vista Avenue
- From Shadowridge Drive to the Southern City Boundary, except for a 575-foot segment both north and south of Green Oak Road
- All existing delineators on Sycamore Avenue will remain in place

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Fourth of July to you all. Summer is here, and what better time to think of family fun activities, picnics, sports, biking, hiking, and of course visiting our South Vista parks (Buena Vista Park and Duck Pond, South Buena Vista Park, Shadowridge Park, and Thibodo Park). For those interesting in hiking, I was pleasantly surprised to see the Buena Vista Parks and the Lupine Hills Loop mentioned in the Hidden San Diego and All Trails websites.

The **Buena Vista Park and Pond** attracted particular attention. It is a small neighborhood park with grassy areas, picnic tables and a delightful pond full of ducks, egrets, and even geese. It also has a respectable trail system (2.8-mile loop) traveling along both sides of the Agua Hedionda Creek. It has flat areas, steep hills, short and long loops that offer scenic outdoor recreation in an otherwise dense urban environment. The trail heading south picks up a wide dirt path that turns west to the high point known as Mount Hinton. The trail climbs to a ridge with gorgeous panoramic views.



The **Lupine Hills Loop** starts from Lupine Hills Drive and follows singletrack and dirt roads, heading southwest to make a loop among the oaks and sage scrub. It is a 1.6-mile scenic neighborhood loop trail among the open hills between homes. Generally *Cont.* →

## BIKE LANE UPDATE *(Cont.)*

The motion passed with a 3-2 vote. (O'Donnell, Fox, Franklin)

This decision was not made lightly. It reflects extensive engagement with cyclists and advocacy groups, public safety officials, local organizations, and residents. My goal throughout this process has been to find a balanced solution that serves everyone who shares our roads—and I believe we have accomplished that.

I appreciate all of the resident communication and involvement over these past couple of months. Your feedback and concerns played an integral part in the overall conversation and decision that was made.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and encourage you to reach out to me directly regarding issues in our community at [dodonnell@vista.gov](mailto:dodonnell@vista.gov).

Kind regards,  
Dan O'Donnell  
Vista City Council – District 4

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(Cont.)*

considered an easy route, it takes an average of 47 min to complete. This is a popular trail for hiking and mountain biking, but you can still enjoy some solitude during quieter times of day. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. Of note, there is little shade in the area, and it gets hot most of the year.

**South Buena Vista Park** offers dog-friendly off-leash hours, has a doggie drinking fountain and multiple waste bag stations. It has shaded areas for wandering around, open spaces for running, many benches, a basketball court, a fenced-in playground, and a nice 0.4-mile loop trail.

Shadowridge Park has two shaded playground structures, one for older kids and one for younger children. The playground and the swing (2 regular and 2 infant *Cont. P. 3* →

## SHERIFF CAPT. JOHN MALAN: *(Cont.)* Safe Streets Vista

Sheriff's Dept. will never take video without the resident's permission.

**Pole-mounted camera** – Capt. Malan showed a camera for use in parks and residential areas that would not be hidden and would record and retain activity for 30 days. The camera would record people when actively committing a crime. Cameras are moveable if residents have a concern about where the camera is mounted. Primary placement would be in areas with high crime activity. Cameras do not deter crime; they record it.

Cost per pole-mounted camera is \$12,000. Dan O'Donnell stated that potential purchase, and how many, will be brought to Vista City Council for discussion and decision. Businesses and HOAs can also purchase cameras.

**Automated License Plate Reader** – Readers are utilized throughout Southern California, including San Marcos and Carlsbad. Vista has zero. The reader captures a picture of the license plate only and can then be seen in another city when a car has been taken. Cost is \$3,000 per unit per year. This will be brought before the City Council.

**Gunshot Detector (pole-mounted sensor)** – The detectors detect only gunshots and would be mounted throughout the City; could eventually be on deputies' phones. Detectors would be free to the City. There is a pilot program in San Marcos that would find the location of homemade fireworks. Gunshot detectors will also be discussed with City Council.

**Drones** – Vista currently has 4–5 drones. Future plan is the Vista Sheriff's Dept. to have 1 drone pilot per shift.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(Cont.)*

bucket swings) section have soft rubber padding under the structures. There is a nice-sized sand area next to the older kids structure. There are plenty of picnic tables spread throughout the park, some near trees for shade. A large basketball area (one backboard only) is used for playing variations of the game, group workouts, and by young scooter/bike users when the court is not being used. In addition, there are plenty of paved pathways for kids to practice riding their bikes or scooters.

**Thibodo Park**, located in the midst of the Shadowridge neighborhood, has a rustic appearance with giant boulders and mature large eucalyptus trees. It has a small, shaded playground, a few picnic tables and benches. It has a small sport center with basketball and pickleball courts. At the very top of the park is the Thibodo Community Center.

### SAVE THE DATE - COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, September 20, 2025 | 9AM – 12PM

Join I Love A Clean San Diego and thousands of volunteers to protect what we love.

Over 100 sites will be available across San Diego County.

Registration Opens September 1st!

#### SOUTH VISTA COMMUNITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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