

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

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DOWNTOWN

VIDEO: Vista Celebrates New Affordable Housing for Seniors



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A new affordable housing community in North County celebrated its grand opening today.

Santa Fe Senior Village is a 54-unit apartment building located on North Santa Fe Drive in Downtown Vista. It is the city’s first permanent supportive housing.

The new development provides homes for extremely low to low-income seniors and veterans 62 years old and up. It features 51 studio apartments and two 1-bedroom apartments, with 27 units fully furnished for individuals and families who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The pedestrian friendly senior community is located next to the Vista Transit Center Station providing residents with close and convenient access to public transportation. Santa Fe Senior Village is also within walking distance of a grocery store, public park, restaurants, a public library and a medical clinic.

“This project meets a critical need for affordable housing and allows our seniors and working families to stay in the community they love, said County Supervisor Jim Desmond. “I’m proud to support this effort, which serves as a model for how we can make North County more livable and accessible for everyone.”

Developed by National Core and the San Diego Community Housing Corporation, Santa Fe Senior Village is the result of a public/private partnership including the County and the City of Vista. The County provided \$9.3

million in funding and 53 Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers for long term housing stability. The County’s Behavioral Health Services also offers support services including case management and care coordination.

“Santa Fe Senior Village is proof that as a community we can come together to provide the appropriate housing and services for our most vulnerable neighbors,” said Kimberly Giardina, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the County Health and Human Services Agency. “Safe, affordable housing is critical and combining it with much needed supportive services will have lasting positive impacts on this community for years to come.”

Santa Fe Senior Village amenities include a community room, computer lab, barbeque area, community garden, outdoor terrace and laundry facilities.

Visit National Core and Santa Fe Senior Village for wait list information.

Since 2017, the County has invested more than \$325 million into affordable housing, using excess land, its Innovative Housing Trust Fund, and other state, federal, and local funding sources administered by the County. Those funds have helped open doors to over 2,588 homes, 1,593 new units just for seniors, with 3,292 more on the way.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 15, 2025

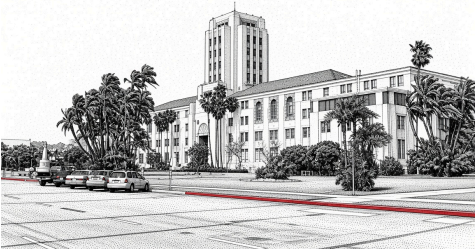


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COUNTY County Invites You to Family-friendly Budget Open House

Editor’s note: This story was updated May 22, 2025. The June 9 date for the budget public hearing meeting has been changed to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 3. The earlier budget hearing will take place that same day beginning at 9 a.m.

Learn how the County budget affects you and have a little fun, too.

An informational open house will take place Thursday, April 17 at the County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa. Drop in any time between 5 and 7 p.m.

You can find out how the budget process works, ask staff on hand questions about the County’s many services and give your feedback.

You’ll also get a chance to see some of our County services firsthand. Bring the kids so they can check out adoptable animals, meet a park ranger with a live hawk, see a dog-sniffing demonstration and look at a bomb squad vehicle and other emergency vehicles up close.

This open house will be the first of three designed to help residents learn about the budget and how it works.

The second open house will take place after the Chief Administrative Officer’s recommended budget is released on May 1. This open house invites visitors to stop by anytime

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Invites You to Family-friendly Budget Open House

between 5 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 22.

A third session will be held virtually on Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28.

If you would like to attend the April 17 open house, visit Engage San Diego County for details. You can register to let us know you are coming or request language and accessibility services.

Budget hearings will take place before the Board of Supervisors at 9 a.m. on Tuesday June 3 and at 5:30 p.m. June 3. *(See Editor’s note at top of story about date change)

The Board will hold deliberations and adopt the budget on June 24. The adopted budget takes effect July 1.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 14, 2025

COUNTY

County Takes to the Sky Again to Fight Mosquitoes

San Diego County’s Vector Control Program is scheduled to conduct its first routine aerial larvicide drops of the year next week on up to 52 local waterways to help stop mosquitoes from potentially spreading diseases like West Nile virus.

County officials said helicopter larvicide drops will be done on Wednesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 24, if necessary, to cover nearly 1,400 acres of hard-to-reach potential mosquito breeding areas.

The County conducts the aerial larvicide drops roughly once a month from April through October.

The solid, granular larvicide does not hurt people or pets but kills mosquito larvae before they can grow into biting mosquitoes.

The County started using helicopters to drop larvicide on hard-to-reach areas of standing water in rivers, streams, ponds and other waterways where mosquitoes can breed in the early 2000s after West Nile virus arrived.

West Nile virus is mainly a bird disease. However, mosquitoes can pass the potentially deadly virus on to people by feeding on infected birds and then biting people.

West Nile virus’ effect has been relatively mild in San Diego County in the past few years. Three or fewer people

have tested positive annually since 2017. But it can still be dangerous, and people should avoid mosquitoes.

The larvicide drops are just one part of Vector Control’s Integrated Vector Management Strategy . County Vector Control also monitors approximately 1,600 potential mosquito-breeding areas each year and applies larvicide through a variety of techniques—aerial drops, boats, trucks and hand-crews. It also gives out free mosquito-eating fish to the public, tracks down and treats neglected swimming pools, tests dead birds for West Nile virus, and monitors mosquito populations for potential mosquito-borne illnesses.

County Vector Control officials are also reminding people to help protect themselves from mosquitoes in and around their homes by finding and dumping out standing water to keep the pests from breeding.

Protecting against mosquitoes has required more help from the public in recent years because invasive Aedes mosquitoes, or “ankle biter” mosquitoes, have established themselves here. These mosquitoes prefer to live and breed around people’s homes and yards, and can potentially transmit diseases not naturally found here, including Zika, dengue and chikungunya.

County Vector Control officials said the best way people can protect themselves from mosquitoes is to follow their “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines.

Dump out or remove any item inside or outside of homes that can hold water, such as plant saucers, rain gutters, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires, and wheelbarrows. Mosquitofish, available for free by contacting the Vector Control Program, may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard standing water sources such as unmaintained swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs. For more tips, go to Vector Control’s Prevention Toolkit website.

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne illnesses by wearing long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors. Use insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good condition and secured to keep insects

out.

Report Increased Mosquito Activity and Dead Birds

Report increased mosquito activity, stagnant, unmaintained swimming pools and other mosquito-breeding sources, as well as dead birds — including crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls — to the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality’s Vector Control Program by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

If you have checked around your home for standing water and are still experiencing mosquito issues, you can request an educational mosquito inspection by contacting the Vector Control Program at (858) 694-2888.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 16, 2025

COUNTY

Everyone Has a Role in a Disaster

First responders make up less than 1 percent of people who call San Diego County home and if a major disaster occurs, they will respond to the highest priority calls.

Those priority calls could be related to residential responses or include threats to a critical service like regional water supply or an area hospital.

That is why it’s a great idea to have some basic first aid skills and have a preestablished plan for various disaster scenarios. To help you gain the knowledge you need to prepare for these types of disasters, County Fire, Emergency Services, Animal Services and the Sherriff’s Office are partnering with Deaf Community Services, Red Cross, and the San Diego Regional Center to offer a free presentation from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 19 at the Alpine Library, 1752 Alpine Blvd.

The presentation will cover the four phases of a disaster and what residents can do to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from one. The training is funded by a grant from LISTOS California. ASL interpreters will be at the event.

The four-hour presentation highlights preparedness for pets and people, mitigation such as wildfire prevention and home hardening, evacuation planning, the new Genasys Evac map, what local assistance centers are, and an outline of the recovery process. All attendees will receive a personal disaster

plan book to start their own emergency plan.

The course helps people through various prevention and preparation steps to prepare people for what might happen and how they can help themselves and their families or neighbors.

For those who want to learn more disaster skills, the Community Emergency Response Team is a group of trained community members who learn from emergency responders how to manage some emergency situations such as small fires, search and rescue and providing medical aid until emergency responders can arrive and take over.

To register, call or text Teresa Greenhalgh at (619) 857-8050 or email at Teresa.Greenhalgh@sdcounty .ca.gov .

County of San Diego news release · Apr 15, 2025

COUNTY

VIDEO: County Employees Donate \$110K to Community

The County Employees’ Charitable Organization (CECO) distributed \$110,002 to 73 community organizations and over \$15,000 to the CECO Employee Crisis Fund during its annual awards ceremony at the Southeastern Live Well Center Friday.

All the community organizations are local to San Diego County and include Alpha Project for the Homeless, Foundation for Women Warriors, Rady Children’s Hospital Foundation and San Diego Black Pride. See the full list .

Formed in 1956, CECO distributes 100% of the funds it raises back to the community and has given more than \$7 million back to San Diego County.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 14, 2025

COUNTY

County Offers Guidance Following Increase in Tijuana River Valley Sewage Odors

The County is monitoring reports of an uptick in primarily overnight hydrogen sulfide (H2S) readings in the Tijuana River Valley, creating odor issues in the South County.

The hydrogen sulfide readings are provided by the Air Pollution Control District which operates a specialized H2S analyzer network. In

addition, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) that operates a sewage treatment plant and works directly with wastewater officials in Mexico provides data on flows into the river valley. The County also works with state and federal agency partners.

The increase in odors appears to be associated with reports from the IBWC that sewage infrastructure work in Mexico has resulted in the release of up to 5 million gallons per night of sewage into the Tijuana River Valley. This is in addition to rogue sewage flows being investigated by the IBWC with its partners in Mexico.

County Public Health experts advised APCD on hydrogen sulfide guidance . For affected residents, guidance includes limiting outdoor activities when odors are bothersome, keeping doors closed, increasing air circulation with indoor fans, and using air purifiers indoors. APCD offers free purifiers for those in the three principally effected ZIP codes remain available .

People with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or other chronic lung conditions should have emergency medications such as rescue inhalers readily available. If symptoms from strong odor persists, are worrisome or worsen, seek medical care.

“Our friends, co-workers and families who live or work near the Tijuana River Valley deserve access to clean air and beaches,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, the county’s interim public health officers. “While the County continues to advocate to the federal government for a solution that stops the flow of untreated wastewater, we also want people to be aware of the steps they can take when confronted by offensive hydrogen sulfide odors.”

The County of San Diego urges federal officials to continue working with their counterparts in Mexico on stopping the flow of raw sewage and bringing an ultimate resolution to this longtime source of water and air pollution.

More information about the response to the ongoing flows of wastewater into the Tijuana River Valley are available from the APCD , IBWC and the County .

County of San Diego news release · Apr 14, 2025

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Illustration

BUSINESS
Boil Daddy Ribbon Cutting

Photos courtesy of Carrie Smedley Photography

On April 9, Boil Daddy opened its doors to a crowd of over 750 eager guests, marking the grand opening of its 21st location (and its first in San Diego!) at 2558 Laning Road, Suite 102 in Liberty Station.

Photos courtesy of Carrie Smedley Photography

Known for its bold, flavorful Cajun seafood , Boil Daddy brings a taste of the South with signature dishes like head-on shrimp tossed in rich Daddy sauce, clams, spicy wings, Cajun fries, steamed rice, and buttery corn on the cob. The grand opening offered guests a glimpse of what makes this spot a standout in the seafood

boil scene and a taste of what’s to come.

The evening was festive and full of energy, with live jazz setting the tone and a mariachi band closing out the night. Guests mingled and dined, sipping on drink specials and enjoying the welcoming, family-style atmosphere that Boil Daddy is known for.

Photos courtesy of Carrie Smedley Photography

A special ribbon-cutting ceremony took place as owner Dinesh Shah was joined by his wife and young daughters, who proudly cut the ribbon, making it a true family affair!

Whether you’re a seafood lover or simply craving authentic Cajun flavor, Boil Daddy is ready to serve up Southern hospitality right here in our own backyard.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Apr 16, 2025

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight:
Navy Region Southwest
Headquartered in San Diego,

Navy Region Southwest oversees and manages 10 bases throughout California and Nevada. The Navy’s Southwest Region comprises the largest concentration of military personnel in the world, while coordinating base operating support functions to the vast military community.

Military consumers are loyal and have high-spending power, but the audience can be difficult to reach. Commercial Sponsorship and Advertising with Navy MWR connects brands with the Navy Region Southwest community of service members, families, and the DoD civilians who support the mission.

Navy members contribute \$52B to the local economy. As a brand partner, companies can participate in bringing relevant products, goods, services, and experiences to our warfighters. Partnering with Navy Region Southwest delivers measurable ROI. As a bonus, the contributions made through corporate

advertising and sponsorship bridge crucial gaps in the ongoing mission to deliver Quality of Life programs and initiatives for sailors.

Advertising and event sponsorship aboard our installations gives your company direct exposure to the military community of over 500,000 members. Through MWR advertising displayed in high-traffic areas across six Navy installations in San Diego County, companies can build awareness and excitement for their products or services with digital ad signage, large format advertising, email blasts, vehicle wraps, and social media marketing.

Partner with one of the premier sales and marketing teams in the US Navy to receive:

- Sponsorship opportunities to promote brand awareness at annual base events
- Modern, measurable marketing platforms with proven impact
- Customized partnership programs aligned with your strategic

vision – The satisfaction of supporting Quality of Life programs for our nation’s warfighters

Partnership opportunities are available year-round. Begin building your brand awareness with the Navy’s military consumers.

Contact the Navy Region Southwest Commercial Sponsorship team to learn about sponsorship opportunities and preferred advertising space.

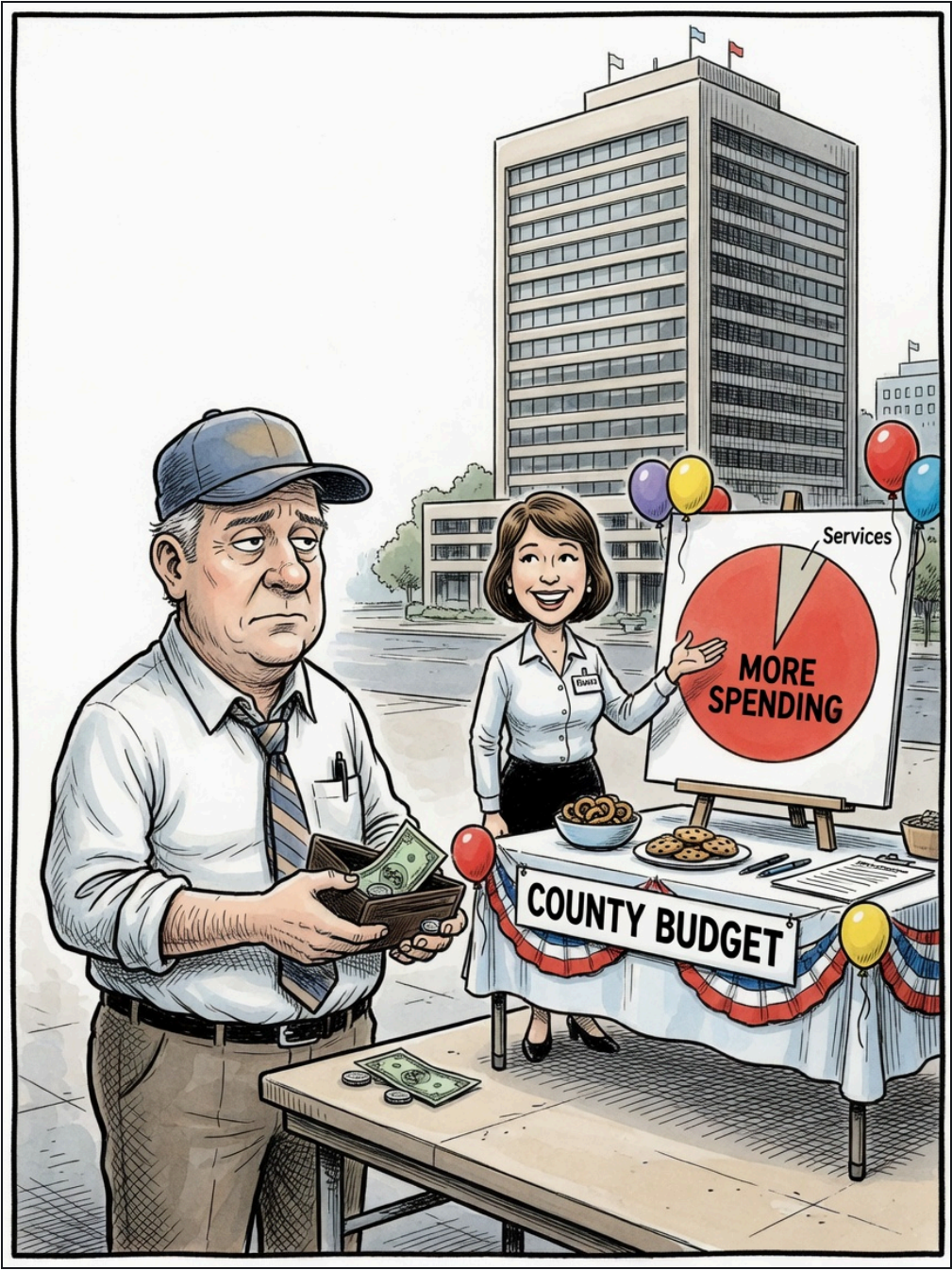
Visit navylifesw.com/advertising or email us at cnrswnafsponsorship@us.navy.mil to get started.

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San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Apr 14, 2025

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Taxpayers Face Mounting Costs From Sexual Abuse by Government Employees, Warns John Moorlach

The senior fellow and director of the Center for Public Accountability at the California Policy Center argues that recent laws extending statutes of limitations for childhood sexual assault claims will create another fiscal disaster for California cities, counties and school districts.

John Moorlach, senior fellow and director of the Center for Public Accountability at the California Policy Center, says taxpayers have become the "deep pockets" that public leaders rely on when government employees commit sexual abuse against children.

Moorlach, a former president of a summer camp board, writes that liability insurance premiums for organizations working with minors are driven largely by the risk of child molestation

claims. He notes that without adequate coverage, the financial burden falls directly on local taxpayers for school districts, juvenile halls and social services providing foster care.

Moorlach recalls warning his colleagues as a California state senator in the 37th District that extending the statute of limitations for childhood sexual assault claims would lead to a "fiscal train wreck in slow motion."

The legislation, which Moorlach references, "extends the time for commencement of actions for childhood sexual assault to 40 years of age or five years from discovery of the injury; provides enhanced damages for a cover up, as defined, of the assault; and provides a three-year window in which expired claims would be revived."

Moorlach points out that prior law had limited such actions to "within eight years of the date the plaintiff attains the age of majority or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers or

reasonably should have discovered that psychological injury or illness occurring after the age of majority was caused by the sexual abuse, whichever period expires later."

He criticizes the official analysis of the bill for concluding there would be no costs. The analysis acknowledged "potentially significant workload cost pressures to the court [system] to adjudicate cases filed within the expanded statute of limitations that otherwise would have been time barred" and warned of "potentially major out-year costs to local school districts to the extent litigation is successfully brought outside the current statute of limitations and/or the districts are liable for treble damages" along with higher insurance premiums.

Moorlach draws parallels to previous fiscal disasters he predicted. In 1994, he foresaw the Orange County Investment Pool collapse that resulted in the largest Chapter 9 bankruptcy in U.S. history at the time. Five years

later, he warned that Senate Bill 400, which increased public employee pension benefits by 50 percent retroactively, would strain budgets. That change, pushed by the California Highway Patrol union, led to the cities of Vallejo, San Bernardino and Stockton filing for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection because of unaffordable unfunded liabilities.

The article argues that the tragedy is compounded because the sexual abuse has been perpetrated by employees of taxpayer-funded governmental agencies. Moorlach writes that efforts to compensate victims could bankrupt many California cities, counties and school districts, with Los Angeles County potentially brought "to its financial knees."

Even if Los Angeles filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy, Moorlach warns, it might discharge litigation settlements in federal court, leaving victims without full recourse. He emphasizes that California residents are

already taxed enough and that the state's fiscal outlook is bleak because taxpayers remain the ultimate funders for liabilities sought by public employee unions.

Moorlach concludes by expressing hope that guilty perpetrators will have their personal assets seized to reimburse employers, their pensions revoked to cover costs, and that they will serve prison time. The perversion committed against children and now against public budgets must cease, he writes.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Apr 14, 2025

ABOUT THIS PAPER

San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

It's Spring, Time to Clean and We Have Tips!

It's April—and that means it's the time of year again to break out the supplies and start those annual spring-cleaning projects.

From cleaning, to recycling, to creating the all-important fire-defensible space around your place, you want to do a good job. And you want to be safe doing it.

So here are a handful of tips, some online links and things to keep in mind to help you make this a great spring cleaning.

Getting rid of stuff is a huge part of spring cleaning for many of us but these items don't have to end up in the landfill. You can give your usable items a second life through donation. Some alternatives include websites and groups that allow you to donate things you no longer need, like Buy Nothing, Offerup San Diego, Craigslist

and local nonprofit donations centers.

For blue bin recyclables like paper, cardboard and cartons, metal and aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles and containers, remember to Recycle Right by keeping your recyclable material empty, dry and loose.

If you have any questions about where to donate usable items and/or convenient options for proper disposal of HHW and e-waste, visit WasteFreeSD.org or check out the County Department of Public Works' recycling page, R1Earth.org.

Some materials, like Household Hazardous Waste and electronic waste, must be disposed of or recycled properly to avoid environmental harm. Everybody has them—old household cleaners, paints, used motor oil, pesticides, batteries and more. It's illegal to dispose of these hazardous materials into landfills, down sewer systems or storm

drains, and they need special recycling attention.

Not to worry. Here's a link to the County's Household Hazardous Waste Web page with more information about it and links to places where you can safely recycle it.

Cleaning the Garage or Shed? Use Wet Cleaning Methods

Spring cleaning is often the time we're cleaning out the garage, or tidying up that shed in the backyard, or maybe even a cabin if you have one. These are places where wild mice and rodents can get in. Unfortunately, wild rodents can potentially carry hantavirus, the dangerous virus that can be inhaled through contaminated dust, feces and urine. If you have to clean up an area where rodents have nested, be safe: NEVER sweep or vacuum. Instead, use "wet cleaning" methods : ventilate areas, spray them with bleach solutions or disinfectants, and use sponges and mops!

Protect Yourself; Prevent Mosquito Breeding

Spring cleaning is also the perfect time to get the jump on protecting yourself and your family from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can transmit a lot of different diseases. West Nile virus is still a threat here. And last year the County had its first two "locally acquired" dengue fever cases—meaning that for the first time, mosquitoes here in the County transmitted dengue to local residents by first biting someone who got infected traveling outside San Diego County, then returned home sick.

So, prevent mosquitoes from breeding . Patrol the inside and outside of your home to get rid of any standing water where mosquitoes can multiply. Dump out or remove any items that can hold water, such as plant saucers, rain gutters, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires, and wheelbarrows.

Here are some County links to get more information about West Nile virus and actions you can take to protect yourself from mosquitoes.

Wildfires are an ever-present danger in San Diego County. So help protect yourself, your family and your property, and give firefighters a safe area where they can potentially defend your home from fire by creating 100 feet of "defensible space ." Don't wait for the summer heat. Remove debris, including dry leaves, firewood stacks and trash (including on the roof and in rain gutters); trim away tree branches that overhang your home and cut low branches on trees; prune or remove dried-out bushes and plants; and properly dispose of tree and shrub clippings in a bin. For more information about wildfire preparedness, go to AlertSanDiego.org.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 10, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

Name change? Probate? Summons?

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