

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

Summer Movies in the Park in Full Swing



Illustration from a photo by Angelnecoechea · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0

Summer vacation is now officially in full swing, and so is the 2026 Summer Movies in the Parks season.

The family-fun event will feature showings in two County parks this weekend and will host a special sing-along showing of Sony Pictures wildly acclaimed “KPop Demon Hunters” on Saturday, June 20 at the County’s Waterfront Park downtown.

This Saturday, June 6, Walt Disney’s 2025 animated film, “Zootopia 2” will be shown at Dos Picos County Park in Ramona. On Sunday, June 7, the Universal Pictures musical fantasy-musical, “Wicked: For Good,” will entertain at Potrero County Park.

This year, the Summer Movies in the Park’s current lineup is scheduled to show about 130 movies in parks all around the county through October. A current list of this summer’s movies can be found here .

Movies typically begin about 15 minutes after the sun sets, which is expected to be about 8:10 p.m. this weekend. Families and folk are encouraged to wear warm clothes and bring blankets as the weather can turn chilly when the sun goes down. Pre-show activities begin before dark.

The Summer Movies in the Parks program, now in its nineteenth year, started in 2007 as part of a “take back our parks” initiative and has given residents the opportunity to see great movies in great local recreation destinations, under starry skies.

As always, this year’s list of movies includes something for just about everyone — animated and live-action films that include comedies, musicals, action adventure, science fiction and romance.

There are older classics like “Beauty and the Beast,” “Goonies,” “Shrek” “Ghostbusters,” and “Ratatouille.” And there are numerous recent releases, from “The Wild Robot,” to “A Minecraft Movie,” “Hoppers,” and 2025’s “Superman.”

So, live it up this summer! Head to the movies — under the stars in the great outdoors.

For more information about the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, its parks and events, go to sdparks.org .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 5, 2026



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

COUNTY

Housing Authority Budget Advances Rental Assistance to Support Thousands of Families

The County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners today approved a \$293.7 million Housing Authority budget that will help about 11,100 low-income households — more than 25,000 residents — each month.

The budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is \$900,000 less than last year, mainly due to reductions in federal funding, which cut the Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV). The budget decrease is offset by increases in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), supporting rising rental costs for participants. In the last fiscal year, the County has transitioned about 140 EHV households to the Section 8 program. The budget also includes more than \$21 million paid monthly to local landlords.

“Every month, thousands of families in our region rely on this support to stay in their homes,” said David Estrella, director of the County’s Housing and Community Development Services and Housing Authority. “Housing stability is foundational to wellbeing. This budget allows us to maintain critical rental assistance, expand supportive housing opportunities, and continue partnering with landlords and communities to meet growing needs.”

Roughly 68% of Housing Authority households include someone who is older or living with a disability, many relying on fixed incomes. The County Housing Authority also supports 900 formerly homeless veteran households through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program.

The County has increased leasing bonuses five-fold for landlords who rent to veterans experiencing homelessness, aiming to bring more rental units into the system and expand landlord participation .

Other programs include Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), Project Based Vouchers, Emergency Housing Vouchers, Mainstream Vouchers for non-elderly people with disabilities, along with specialized programs for families, youth, and people experiencing homelessness.

Nearly 99% of the \$293.7 million

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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Housing Authority Budget Advances Rental Assistance to Support Thousands of Families

Housing Authority budget is dedicated to housing assistance, including monthly rental payments.

Most of the revenue, \$281.3 million, comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

County Investments in Affordable Housing

The County’s Housing Authority is a separate legal entity from the County and develops its own annual budget, which is not reflected in the County’s Operational Plan .

Since 2017, the County has invested more than \$334 million in affordable housing through:

state, federal and local funding sources

These investments have led to over 3,766 new homes, with another 2,279 in development, all part of the County’s long-term Housing Blueprint.

Residents can explore the Housing for All Hub , an on-line dashboard offering real-time information on the region’s affordable housing inventory, rental assistance programs, homelessness services, inspections, permits, zoning and more.

Learn more about the County Housing Authority at www.sdhcd.org .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 10, 2026

COUNTY Region Adds CAL FIRE C-130 Hercules Airtanker to Ramona Air Attack Base

San Diego County Fire and CAL FIRE San Diego announced this week that a CAL FIRE C-130H Hercules airtanker is now operating out of the Ramona Air Attack Base, boosting the region’s wildfire aviation response ahead of peak fire season.

The C-130H is part of the state’s expanding airtanker fleet and can quickly deliver large loads of fire retardant during major wildfire emergencies.

“Since its establishment in 1957, this base has played a vital role in aerial firefighting, and the arrival of the C-130 reflects decades of progress and dedication,” said County Fire and CAL FIRE Unit Chief Mecham. “This achievement strengthens our ability to protect lives, property, and the communities we serve.”

Crews will continue mission-specific and operational

training in the coming weeks as the aircraft is fully integrated into the statewide program.

Mecham thanked CAL FIRE personnel, aviation staff, partners, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and the Governor’s Office for their support.

California became the first state to own, operate, and deploy a C-130H airtanker in 2024. The aircraft at Ramona is the fourth of seven planned for CAL FIRE’s fleet.

Last week, fire officials announced the addition of a Sikorsky S-70 CAL FIRE Hawk to the region and the reconstruction of the Ramona Air Attack Base to accommodate the new aircraft.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 5, 2026

COUNTY The County Helps Older Adults Plan for Emergencies

Older adults and people with disabilities are among those most vulnerable during disasters, whether it’s an earthquake, fire, flooding or periods of extreme heat.

To help residents prepare, the County partnered with the City of Chula Vista and several community organizations to host an Emergency Preparedness Resource Fair at the Norman Park Senior Center. The event, called Silver Stay Ready , offered information, tools and support to help older adults and people with disabilities plan for emergencies.

Speakers, visual presentations and resource tables focused on helping residents understand what to do both during and after a disaster. Participants received information, tools and confidence to stay safe while maintaining their dignity and independence.

“In an actual emergency, it can be very challenging to share this information,” said District 1 Supervisor Paloma Aguirre. “Offering more public preparedness events in advance is a best practice I have wanted to provide for older adults so they feel empowered and supported in their goals to live independently.”

As people age, emergencies can affect them differently. Some people may need more time to move to safety due to mobility or physical limitations. Residents who depend on medical equipment must have a reliable power source, and people living in remote areas need to know where to access transportation during a disaster.

“One of the most important sources of safety in a disaster is having people who check on one another,” said Allison

Boyer, interim director of County Aging & Independence Services. “A quick phone call, a knock on a neighbor’s door, or a shared plan can truly save lives.”

Disaster preparedness should be an ongoing discussion among family, friends and neighbors. Everyone needs a personal emergency plan, and communities are encouraged to look out for one another.

Similar events are planned across the region.

The County’s Aging & Independence Services offers several programs that can support older adults during and after a disaster, including home-delivered meals , in-home supportive services , caregiver programs and wellness resources .

You can prepare for an emergency or disaster by taking these four steps:

Register your phone for emergency alerts

Make an evacuation go-kit and a shelter-in-place go-kit

County of San Diego news release · Jun 4, 2026

COUNTY New Probation Mobile Offices Bring Services Directly to Communities

County Probation is rolling out two new mobile service centers this month to bring critical resources and support directly to community members who may struggle to access services because of transportation barriers or limited awareness of available services.

“Our clients and the community deserve high-quality support, and we are committed to meeting people where they are ,” Chief Probation Officer Tamika Nelson said. “These mobile centers allow us to deliver services to places where they can make the greatest impact.

Funded by a state grant, the two mobile home-sized vehicles, now called Mobile Probation Service Centers (MPSC), will operate as offices on wheels. Officers can meet with clients where they live, while partner agencies join them to provide services that are not typically available in the field.

The mobile centers will offer screenings and connections to community providers for substance use treatment, mental health care, education, employment, and information on court-related programs. On-site assessments will help ensure residents receive evidence-based care tailored to their needs.

Staff will also distribute food, hygiene kits and clothing to anyone who needs

them.

By bringing these resources directly into neighborhoods and working alongside service providers, the MPSC aims to make it easier for adults and youth to access support without added stress or cost.

The mobile centers advance the Probation Department’s mission to protect public safety and help adults, youth and families rebuild their lives with dignity, stability and opportunity.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 10, 2026

COUNTY Summer at your Library: Read, Learn, Create

The San Diego County Library is hosting its Summer Learning Challenge across all 33 library branches through August 31, offering participants fun, prizes, and countless opportunities to dive into a good book.

Participants may pick up paper logs and register at any branch or join the online challenge at sdcl.org/summer . To complete the challenge, readers can choose to read 10 books, log 10 hours of reading, or complete 10 learning activities. While supplies last, finishers will earn rewards such as a tote bag or a book, museum coupons for kids and teens, including partners like the San Diego Natural History Museum, the San Diego Automotive Museum, and the San Diego Discovery Museum, and entry into drawings for larger prizes such as gift cards, toys, and more.

New for 2026, kids and teens who complete the challenge will also receive a free pass to the San Diego County Fair (valid on select dates from June 10 to July 5). This year’s fair theme, “Once Upon a Fair,” celebrates authors, books, and reading, and the fair has partnered with libraries countywide to bring this literary magic to families.

San Diego County Library branches are also offering a wide range of summer programs. Community members are invited to visit their local library to Read, Learn, and Create through hands-on crafts, live music, art experiences, and educational shows for all ages. Program listings can be found at www.sdcl.org/events .

The Discover & Go program offers library cardholders free tickets to museums and attractions throughout San Diego. By visiting sdcl.org/discoverandgo and entering a library card number, patrons can explore a rotating selection of passes,

Courts · Transit · Public safety

with new options added on the first of each month. Offerings include passes to the San Diego County Fair, the Zoo and Safari Park, multiple museums, theaters, shows, and even skating.

San Diego summers can be full of stories, discoveries, and memorable moments. The library is ready to help everyone Read, Learn, and Create .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 10, 2026

COUNTY County Supervisors Approve Three-Year Integrated Plan, Funding Behavioral Health Care, Housing and Crisis Services

County Supervisors today approved the region’s first Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan , a three-year roadmap for how the County will use funding to support mental health care, substance use treatment and housing for people with serious behavioral health needs.

Proposition 1, adopted by voters in 2024, replaced the Mental Health Services Act with BHSA . The new law changes how counties can use state funding and requires every county in California to develop a three-year plan that lays out local priorities and how all behavioral health dollars will be allocated.

To shape the plan, the County gathered extensive community feedback over the past year, including more than 100 listening sessions and feedback from over 1,900 people and 280 organizations. People repeatedly emphasized the need for faster access to services, stronger youth support, culturally responsive care, crisis services that do not rely on law enforcement and easier navigation through the behavioral health system.

“The feedback we received from our community stakeholders has been vital in shaping our first BHSA Integrated Plan,” said Nadia Privara Brahms, director of County Behavioral Health Services. “The plan reflects the ideas shared with us, integrating things like early intervention services, additional navigation supports and culturally responsive programing.”

In its first fiscal year, the Integrated Plan reports on all behavioral health funding sources and includes a \$329 million BHSA budget. The plan is expected to support more than 52,000 Medi-Cal beneficiaries annually, including more than 15,000

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

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County Supervisors Approve Three-Year Integrated Plan, Funding Behavioral Health Care, Housing and Crisis Services

children, youth, and young adults. It also provides housing assistance for nearly 19,000 people.

Behavioral Health Support Services – Funds crisis care, outpatient care and early intervention services. Fifty-one percent of this funding is dedicated to early intervention, with over half of that required to serve young people under age 25.

Full-Service Partnership Programs – Provides intensive, team-based support for

people with complex needs.

Housing Interventions – Supports short-term housing, recovery residences, board and care beds and permanent supportive housing. Half of this funding must help people experiencing chronic homelessness.

With the Board approval now complete, the County will submit the BHSA Integrated Plan to the State and begin implementation on July 1.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 9, 2026

COUNTY ‘Gramping’ Makes Everyone a Happy Camper

For grandparents raising

grandchildren, being a primary caregiver later in life is no walk in the park – except during the last weekend of May. That’s when the County of San Diego’s Child and Family Well Being Department hosts its annual “gramping” campout, one of the department’s most popular events of the year.

Gramping is an overnight camping adventure at Dos Picos County Park in Ramona for grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings and family friends raising children who are not living with their biological parents.

This year, 68 kinship caregivers participated in the free campout. Families enjoyed a full schedule of outdoor

activities, including campsite setup, games, arts and crafts, a nature walk, supper and a fire safety presentation. The evening ended with s’mores around the campfire. Participants also completed a service project by planting trees throughout the park.

“It is easy for Grandparents raising their grandchildren to feel alone since most of their friends live different lives,” said Alfredo Guardado, director of the County Child and Family Well Being Department. “Gramping is an opportunity for those grandparents to connect with families facing similar challenges and build a community of support and friendship.”

In San Diego County,

approximately 18,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Many face financial strain due to fixed incomes, physical limitations, housing instability, and the need for legal or health coverage support.

The Child and Family Well Being Department offers programs, services and connections to community partners to help ease the hardships that come with kinship care and support families in building long-term stability and success.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 8, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS Member Spotlight: Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego

Founded in 1919, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego has served vulnerable individuals and families across San Diego and Imperial Counties through programs focused on homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, food insecurity, affordable housing, immigration legal services, and family support. Guided by compassion and dignity for all, CCDSD provides both immediate relief and long-term pathways toward stability and self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities exists “to exemplify the scriptural values of mercy and hospitality” by serving the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized while advocating for a just society and accompanying those in need on their journey toward achieving their full potential.

Through a broad network of community-based programs, Catholic Charities responds to some of the region’s most urgent challenges. Services include emergency food distribution, housing

assistance, case management, refugee and immigrant support, and shelter programs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. By partnering with local governments, businesses, faith communities, volunteers, and nonprofit organizations, the agency connects thousands of people each year with critical resources and care.

Addressing homelessness remains a central focus of the organization’s work. Through programs such as Rachel’s Programs, which includes Rachel’s Women’s Center—a day center in downtown San Diego that has been serving unhoused women for more than 40 years—the Catholic Charities Day Center in Imperial County, and La Posada Men’s Shelter in Carlsbad, the organization provides shelter, supportive services, and transitional assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Catholic Charities is also proud to announce the upcoming opening of the Rachel’s Promise Center for Women and Children in Summer 2026. This expansion will build upon the existing Rachel’s Promise shelter by serving not only women experiencing homelessness but also their children, helping to keep families together while they access critical support. The new 210-bed facility will

significantly expand emergency shelter capacity and wraparound services and will be one of the largest programs of its kind on the West Coast.

To address rising food insecurity, Catholic Charities operates regional food distribution initiatives that provide nutritious meals and groceries to families, seniors, and children throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. Food is distributed across more than 21 sites region-wide, ensuring individuals and families can access support when and where they need it most.

Through its programs, partnerships, and continued growth, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego continues to strengthen the region’s safety net while advancing solutions that foster dignity, stability, and opportunity for all. To learn more about how you can support your community through Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, visit www.ccdsd.org.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 9, 2026

BUSINESS Member Spotlight: Episcopal Community Services

Inside Linda’s Mental Health Recovery at Uptown Safe Haven

Before Uptown Safe Haven,

Linda lost everything. Her car was destroyed in a flood, forcing her to drop out of school. Then, she experienced a period of psychosis, which led to a traumatizing pattern of crisis houses and hospitals. As a result, she lost her source of income and was even asked to leave her beloved choir. Linda was homeless, with nowhere to turn.

That’s when she found ECS Uptown Safe Haven (UTSH).

UTSH welcomed Linda into a safe and supportive environment. She had stayed in independent living facilities before, but they were plagued with fights and drug activity. “I was doubtful,” she said. “I was expecting it to be the same thing...but I was wrong.”

This time, she was comfortable, safe, and above all, given the tools to flourish. Living at Uptown Safe Haven allowed Linda to regain control of her life.

Linda with UTSH Program Manager Raul, whose advocacy played a role in her mental health recovery. May 2026.

She achieved goals that once seemed impossible. Now, after nearly two years with no transportation, Linda has a car. She has an income source. She even has a dog—Bam Bam— who ensures she will never be alone again.

And with the support and advocacy from Raul, UTSH’s Program Manager, Linda has also been welcomed back to the choir where she now sings and writes poetry with an incredible community of fellow artists.

Reflecting on her experience at UTSH thus far, she explained, “Having a place that’s peaceful and stable and supportive makes it possible for you to actually move forward.” This is the combined impact of accessible resources, a safe environment, and dedicated staff committed to walking with clients on their journey of healing.

Episcopal Community Services’ Uptown Safe Haven provides Linda with a safe space to heal her trauma while building a stable foundation for a future where she can thrive.

UTSH helped Linda find peace, comfort, and space to work toward stability. October 2026.

To learn more about the transitional housing program, visit Uptown Safe Haven — Episcopal Community Services.

Questions? Contact VP of Strategic Engagement, Adrienne Wilkerson, at awilkerson@ecscalifornia.org.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · May 28, 2026

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THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

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 sandiegonewslne.com.	
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MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY Rabies Cases in Local Bats Increase Ahead of Summer San Diego County is experiencing an increase in rabies detections in bats this year, with 14 rabies-positive bats so far. With summer approaching—the season when rabies detections are most common, County health officials are reminding residents how to stay safe. In May, four bats tested positive for rabies locally. Two were wild bats found at the San Diego Safari Park in Escondido: one on May 11 on	a tree near Thorntree Terrace and another on Friday, May 29 inside the Mombasa Cooker Restaurant. Another wild rabid bat was found at the San Diego Zoo on May 23 in bushes off Center Street. None of these bats were part of park exhibits, and visitors who did not touch a bat are not at risk. A fourth bat was found in Santee on May 16 at a private residence and did not expose people to rabies. People who come in direct contact with a bat, or who think they may have touched one, should contact County	Public Health Services at (619) 692-8499 immediately. “Human rabies is almost always fatal without prompt postexposure vaccination and treatment,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalilopavan, County Public Health Officer. “Rabies can be transmitted through a bite or when an infected bat’s saliva enters a cut, scrape, or the eyes, nose or mouth.” Public health officials remind residents: Give wildlife space. Bats are protected species, and it is illegal to kill, harm or keep them.	If you touch a bat, wash the area with soap and seek medical advice immediately. Post-exposure vaccination is highly effective before symptoms begin. Rabies symptoms can take weeks to months to appear, but once symptoms start, the disease is almost always fatal. Bat bites can be too small to see. Any bare-skin contact with a bat could be an exposure. Keep pets up to date on rabies vaccinations. Rabies remains rare in humans thanks to strong	prevention efforts. California’s most recent human rabies case occurred in 2024 in a Fresno County resident who was exposed to a bat in Merced County. Bats play an important role in our local ecosystem by eating insects and pollinating plants. They are most active around sunset. For more information on rabies, visit the County’s website and view local data on the County’s rabies dashboard . County of San Diego news release · Jun 4, 2026
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The news, every day.

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