



May Blooms

Have you noticed the new garden blooming at City Hall? Our SeaWeeders teamed with the Climate & Resiliency Commission's Pollinator Friendly City committee to replant what had been mostly agaves with California natives -- and they are in their glory!



For your calendar . . .

Tuesday, May 12, SeaWeeders meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club cottage, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr.

Thursday, May 28, Crafts Group workshop, 1 to 3 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center.

June 4, Scholarship Dinner at Tony's Jacal restaurant. Details and RSVP form on page 4.

Special thanks to the Garden Club for hosting our standing-room-only April meeting featuring Greg Rubin, a former aerospace engineer turned expert on landscaping with native plants to help thwart some of the aerodynamics of wind-driven wildfires. If you missed the meeting, you can read a recap on the News & Events page of our website, sb-chs.org.

This month, our membership meeting features Alyssa Muto, City Manager, who will fill us in about Solana Beach's many projects -- completed and planned. Among those planned are celebrations of the City's 40th anniversary of its incorporation on July 1, 1986. Please join us for an informative evening on **Thursday, May 21st, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center**. (See page 2) And please join us at the end of the month as a **volunteer at Fiesta del Sol**, where we hear that the anniversary party will get started! (Page 3)

By the way, as a Society contribution to the anniversary events, we are taping video interviews with Ms. Muto and each of our City Council members to capture their thoughts on the City's many accomplishments over the decades, as well as the challenges we still face. This continues a project we began in 2022 to record talks with past and present City Council members and Mayors, including my Mom, Marion Dodson who (as I've mentioned once or twice -- I'm so proud of her), served on the City's first Council. [Click here](#) to view those videos.

For more insights on the City's history, we recommend Peter House's *Making Great Better: 100 Years of Creating a Coastal City*, an updated and expanded edition of his *Tale of A City*. Peter offers free downloads of the book as his anniversary gift! (Pages 2-3) Many thanks, Peter!

And thanks to the City for managing the recent re-roofing of our Heritage Museum to help combat termites that were attacking the 200+ year-old historical home. This weekend, May 2, I'll be opening our Heritage Museum early to host visitors to the Girl Scout's "Art in the Park" event at La Colonia Park. We'll offer rock painting and a fun scavenger hunt to help folks learn about the many historical artifacts there.

Hope to see you Saturday!

Member meeting: Thursday, May 21, 5 p.m., Fletcher Cove Community Center

Join Us for an Update on our City's Many Initiatives

City Manager Alyssa Muto will provide updates on the City's many recent projects and ongoing initiatives, including plans to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the City's incorporation.

- Recent Fletcher Cove improvements
- Planning for the new Marine Safety Center
- The Older Adult Transportation Program to be launched this summer
- La Colonia Park improvements
- Planning for the Lomas Santa Fe corridor
- Planning for a park at Larrick Reservoir
- Planning for a Santa Helena Neighborhood Trail

Ms. Muto joined the City staff in 2024 year, after serving as Director of the Sustainability & Mobility Department for the City of San Diego. She grew up in Solana Beach and attended Torrey Pines High School.



Making Great Better: 100 Years of Creating a California Coastal City

Local author Peter House has expanded and updated his 2025 book, *Tale of a City*, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Solana Beach.

It was on July 1, 1986 -- after a "long and rocky road" -- that Solana Beach officially became the newest City in San Diego County, joining Del Mar, Encinitas and Carlsbad as self-governing coastal municipalities. "The road to that moment had taken 12 years of discussion, two failed San Dieguito efforts, one failed Solana Beach-only vote, and, finally, a successful campaign built on local confidence. The Town that had once relied entirely on the County now had its own mayor, council and City staff," Peter writes.

"In retrospect, incorporation was the culmination of decades of self-education and civic evolution. Solana Beach had learned, slowly and deliberately, to take responsibility for its own affairs --

to tie its own shoes. Cityhood was not the beginning of that process but its visible expression, the moment when a maturing community made official what it believed it had become: a town ready to govern itself and to shape its own future along the California coast."

Peter drew extensively upon the SBC&HS digital archives to research and write *Making Great Better*, which expands importantly on Jim Nelson's earlier histories, *La Colonia & Solana Beach* and *Early Solana Beach* by focusing on key transitions in the City's four-decades of self-governance: early subdivision and commercial development, suburban expansion, and incorporation. It also explores the City's defining spaces -- Fletcher Cove, Highway 101, Cedros Avenue, La Colonia, the suburbs and smaller commercial centers -- and how they have evolved.

Continued on next page . . .

Making Great Better ...

Making Great Better offers residents, visitors, planners, and historians a framework for understanding how Solana Beach became what it is today, and how its future will be shaped by the same process that defined its past," Peter says.

He offers free digital copies of the book as a fully-illustrated .pdf file that can be read on computers, tablets and mobile devices. [Click here for instructions to download](#), or visit sb-chs.org to find a link to the file on the News & Events page.

Printed editions (hardcover or paperback) of *Making Great Better* also are available to order at amazon.com.



CITY OF SOLANA BEACH OLDER ADULT TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

FREE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AVAILABLE!

Are you 65 or older? The City of Solana Beach will soon be providing free transportation for qualified residents to help you safely reach your destination!

Service Hours

- Every Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Every Thursday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Tentative start date: June 3, 2026

Participants will be able to call and schedule rides anywhere within City boundaries during service hours. Scan the QR Code below to let us know you're interested, and to be contacted when enrollment starts!



SCAN HERE



have a good time . . . and you could be one of them on **May 30-31**. We are seeking help with two-hour shifts starting at **9 a.m. on May 30** and finishing at **5 p.m. (latest) on May 31**.

Booth-duty perks also include before- and after-shift opportunities to browse fellow food and vendor booths and enjoy live music -- great line-up this year, [check it out here](#). If you'd like to help out, please email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com and let us know what time works for you. Thanks!

Volunteers Needed!

SBC&HS Booth

Volunteers at our shared SBC&HS/SeaWeeders Fiesta del Sol booth always

Think Global, Act Local

Friends of Solana Beach Library continues its "Civic Series" of talks on May 19, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the library, 157 Stevens Ave., with an overview of the dozens of agencies that regulate modern civic life. Guest speaker Kim Thorner, General Manager of Olivenhain Municipal Water District, will discuss special agencies and issues facing the water sector. The final talk in the series, "Show me the Money," is scheduled for June 16.

Meet our Scholarship Winners and Enjoy Dinner at Tony's Jacal on Thursday, June 4



Our final event of the 2025-26 Society season is on Thursday, June 4 starting at 5 p.m. at Tony's Jacal Restaurant, 621 Valley Ave. We will introduce our two 2026 scholarship winners -- each awarded \$3,500 to continue their educations -- and install our 2026-27 Executive Board. The cost is \$30/plate, including tax, tip and iced tea or soda. Other beverages sold separately. Use this form to reserve your seat(s).

Reserve my seat! Thursday, June 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. Society Scholars Celebration and Board Installation Dinner

\$30 for two items from the "A Su Gusto" menu (includes rice, beans, iced tea or soda, and tax)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number in my party: _____ x \$30 = _____

Make your check payable to SBC&HS. Please write "Dinner" in the memo line.

Mail to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075

[OR RSVP online at sb-chs.org](http://sb-chs.org)



Free Curbside Pick-up on Saturday, May 9th

In partnership with EDCO, this City event provides residents with the opportunity to dispose of trash, green waste and up to four bulky items that cannot fit inside regular collection carts. These

items can include broken appliances, water heaters, furniture, old mattresses, and other bulky household clutter.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: To take advantage of curbside pick-up, residents must call (858) 350-8544. Place all items curbside by 7:00 AM on Saturday, May 9th for collection.

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society a 501(c)(3) organization

2025-26 Executive Board

- President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard
- Vice President.....Michele Stribling
- Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
- Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf
- Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

Committee Chairs

- Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons
- Communication.....Robbie Harless
- Crafts.....Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde
- Hospitality.....Karen Dorney
- Membership list.....Kathleen Drummond
- Museum Curator.....Vacant
- Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond
- Nominations.....Vacant
- Parliamentarian, Programs.....Carol Childs
- SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond