



Congratulations Scholarship Winners!

What a busy time of year. Kids are out of school and travel plans are gelling. Our Heritage Museum will be open every first and third Saturday of the summer months from 1-3 p.m. Please visit us in La Colonia Park -- and if you'd like to join our museum crew, please let us know.

May was a busy month. Our volunteers were out at Fiesta Del Sol, the opening of the new playground at La Colonia Park and at Memorial Day Celebrations. Plus, with 13 applications this year, our scholarship award selection committee, led by Education Chair Pat Coad, really had their work cut out for them. Every applicant was worthy, so it was difficult to pare the field down to our three winners. We are thrilled to award each of these students \$3,000 to help them pay for their college educations. Learn more about each student below and on the following page. Come meet them in person at our June 5 Scholarship Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m. at Tony's Jacal Restaurant. [Click here to RSVP and prepay online](#) or complete and (quickly) mail the form on page 5 with a check.

At Tony's, we'll also install our 2024-25 Society Executive Board. I am also thrilled that current members have agreed to continue their duties. . . but we still are seeking a Hospitality Chair to help plan a family oriented event for the fall! Join our Board and share your ideas...

Jolene "Jojo" Dodson Bogard

Kaede Ward graduated from Sunset High School in Encinitas with a 3.84 Grade Point Average (GPA) and twice received Sunset Standout awards for academic excellence. He attended Torrey Pines High School in 2020 through 2022. Kaede has been accepted to the honors program at the University of Hawaii, but also has applied to the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University.

An avid surfer, Kaede has served as Torrey Pines Surf Team Captain and earned two Cal State Games silver medals for surfing, as well as two Sneedside Memorial invitations -- a local surfing honor. He has volunteered with Paddle for Peace and Project Moonlight, which provide surfing lessons to children with special needs and who face barriers to entry for the sport.

In addition to currently working nearly full time at Chipotle Del Mar, where he is in training for kitchen and store manager, Kaede volunteers on weekends for Solana Beach Backpacks for Kids, which distributes food to local families in need. He has also been recognized for outstanding participation as a volunteer with Coast Academy's Best Buddies program, which pairs young adults with peers who have intellectual and/or physical disabilities. "Applying to volunteer felt like a natural transition after . . . working with Project Moonlight," Kaede told us in answer to our application query: "What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?"

He worked out a white-board communication strategy with Jake, who has autism and was easily overstimulated by conversation. And Kaede reported his "sheer delight" when Landon, a 22-year-old Buddy who had been confined to a wheelchair by cerebral palsy, stood and used a walker to receive his diploma. "As I write this essay, I realize that maybe I'm answering a different question: What has your community done to make you a better person."



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Janidy Vergara carries a 3.42 weighted GPA at San Dieguito Academy and has applied to Cal State University Fullerton and San Marcos, as well as Mount Saint Mary's University and Mira Costa Community College.

Janidy credits her academic success in large part to Casa de Amistad. Since 2001, Casa has provided tutoring, mentoring and enrichment support to underserved -- often immigrant -- families in North County. That's why she gives back to the organization by volunteering as a mentor and tutor to kindergarten and third grade students. "My parents immigrated to the United States, this beautiful country, so my brother and I can have opportunities they never had," she told us. "Because I am bilingual, I am able to see the world from a different perspective . . . I can help families that come from similar backgrounds just like my own

family." Through her involvement with Casa, she was able to participate in Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp and the Model United Nations.

Janidy also has participated in The Changers organization since middle school. The teen group helps spread awareness about the negative effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco -- including vaping. She is an altar server at Saint Leo Catholic church, where she also participates in Youth Group Leadership.

Janidy's dream is to achieve a Masters in Nursing after earning an undergraduate degree in biology. "This scholarship . . . would help me pay for my dreams," she said. "To change the world one child at a time, one family at a time, and this results in a community being transformed for the better."

Jasmin Benetiz had to fight for the right to take advanced classes at Torrey Pines. "It started in second grade when I was tested for learning disabilities and provided an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)," she shared in her application essay. "I struggled to keep up with my classmates. What they could do in a limited time always took me longer."

However, by middle school, she was earning mostly As and Bs and never used any of the accommodations provided in her IEP. As a freshman, she signed up for English Honors, but was blocked by her case manager. "I realized that if I wanted to take advanced classes, I had to prove. . . that I could handle them. I wanted the opportunity to challenge myself because I knew I could persevere." Persevere she did, finally testing out of her IEP in her sophomore year, and going on to earn a 3.67 weighted GPA. "She has challenged herself by taking some of the most rigorous courses we offer," noted Rosa Velazquez, a Torrey Pines math teacher and coordinator of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which is designed to assist first-generation, low-income and other underserved students. Jasmin will be the first in her family to attend a four-year university.

"Overcoming the stereotype of a Latino student was one of my greatest accomplishments," Jasmin told us. "It made me feel capable of achieving anything I set my mind to." She has applied to four California State universities, UCSD, the University of San Diego and Hawaii Pacific University.



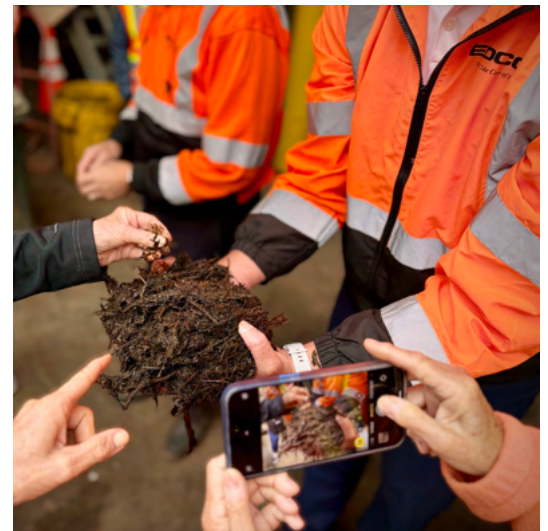


SeaWeeders meet their Mulcher!

Your Garden Club achieved a long-sought dream of visiting the EDCO Anaerobic Digester facility in Escondido on May 23! Yes, we are mulch geeks. And that's what the Digester does: it turns our green and organic -- aka food -- waste into rich "digestate" that EDCO sells to area farms and makes available to us each Fall on Bulky Waste Day as free mulch for home and public gardens.

We got our hands dirty sampling, fresh-from-the-Digester, still-steamy mulch, which becomes a finer compost as it further breaks down due to --well -- digestion by millions of microorganisms that "eat" food waste, green waste, fats, oils and greases. When this happens in landfills the process releases methane gas, which contributes to atmospheric warming and climate change.

"Anaerobic digestion" (AD) happens in huge, closed tanks without oxygen. Microbial breakdown helps heat the green and organic waste to 131 degrees; "stirrers" constantly agitate the matter to speed processing. The methane gas is contained and converted onsite into Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), which EDCO uses to fuel its more than 200-truck fleet. The AD opened in 2021 and operates around the clock, processing 1.5 million pounds of green waste daily. In fact, the digester needs constant "feeding" or the microbes die off and the decomposition process fails! A second AD facility is planned south of downtown San Diego next year. [Learn more in this video.](#)



Photos by Mark Meenie

Continued on next page

EDCO, continued . . . and tips for Recycling Right!

In addition to organics, EDCO processes recycled materials at its Escondido plant -- one of five it operates in the county. In the state-of-the-art, 70,000 square foot Escondido Resource Recovery (ERR) facility, your blue bin contents get fed into labyrinth of varied conveyer and magnetic belts -- and past a small army of human sorters. Recyclables are separated, processed, cleaned and baled (in the case of aluminum, paper, plastics and tin) or crushed (glass) and then are sold for repurposing. EDCO says that 95% of its recycled products are made into new products by U. S. companies; only 5% now is shipped overseas. Aluminum cans become cans again. Clear milk jugs can be turned into colored plastic containers. Stiffer, colored plastic jugs might become paint cans or plastic pipe. The company estimates that its ERR facility will keep 250,000 tons of recyclables out of landfills yearly. To learn more, [click to watch a video](#).

Perhaps it was flattery: EDCO told us that Solana Beachans are the best in the county at proper recycling! Still, we can do even better to keep plastics and organic waste out of landfills. How?

- Don't put plastic bags into your blue bin. "Plastic bags are the number one contaminant in our recyclables stream," EDCO General Manager Jim Ambroso told us. No newspaper delivery bags or chip/snack bags, either. If you gather your recyclables into plastic bags, tumble the contents into your blue bin and save the bag for shopping.. Better yet, stop using plastic bags all together! Bring a tote to the grocery store.
- Don't put soiled disposable plates, cups, paper towels, parchment paper or tissue in your blue bin; those can go into the green bins as part of the organics recycling stream. Same goes for pizza boxes.
- Reduce the "ick" factor of saving kitchen scraps and other organics by requesting a [free, dishwasher-safe caddie from EDCO](#). Dump the contents in a paper bag for transport to your green bin.
- Never put batteries in your recycling bin; they can start fires as they move through the sorting facility.

We learned soooo much from our generous hosts, Jim Ambroso, Bob Hill, Director of Recycling and Marketing, Elmer Heap, Director of Market Development, and Logan Betz, Accounts Representative. More than fits into this newsletter, so watch for tips and tools in future editions and on our Society and SeaWeeder websites, as well. Thank you EDCO!

Chamber of Commerce Corner

The past few years have been tough on retail business, office work and restaurants. Solana Beach commercial centers have seen the departure of Leaping Lotus, the Antique Warehouse and others. Restaurants that had been mainstays -- Tidewater, Java Depot and California Pizza Kitchen, also closed their doors.

However, the restaurant scene may be improving. ALCE 101 took over the Java Depot location in the Covid era and became a popular with locals and visitors. After closing for a short time to revamp its space and menu, ALCE 101 reopened in April. And a new eatery is planned in the Boardwalk in 2025.

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

2023-24 Executive Board

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 Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond
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 SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond

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Dra. Beatriz Villarreal
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Latino Community Leader

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55+ BIKE AND E-BIKE SAFETY WEBINAR AND COMMUNITY CYCLING CLASS




Please join the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, the City of Encinitas, and the Scripps Trauma Prevention Team for a bike education series focused on riders age 55 and older. You are encouraged to participate in one or both classes.

FREE ONLINE WEBINAR: THURSDAY 6/13 6 - 7:15 PM

- Free webinar that will cover road rules, where to ride, general bike safety, age-related considerations -- including fall prevention -- and more for all levels of bike riders.



SCAN TO REGISTER:
OR VISIT
ENCINITASCA.GOV/EBIKES

COMMUNITY CYCLING CLASS: SATURDAY 6/22 9 AM - 12 PM

- The Community Cycling workshop is an in-person 3-hour class that includes a lecture, on-bike skills drills, and a guided road ride to put the learning into practice
- This is NOT a learn-to-ride class*
- Course fee: \$25 (\$10 for Encinitas residents)
- Location: Encinitas Community Center



SCAN TO REGISTER:
OR VISIT
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Reserve my seat! Wednesday, June 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. Society Scholars Celebration and Board Installation Dinner

\$30 for two items from the "A Su Gusto" menu (includes 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 by June 3, please!