



GENERAL MANAGER PERSPECTIVES SAN DIEGO COUNTRY ESTATES ASSOCIATION

Darren Shaw

As the summer season winds down, we can look forward to a busy fall filled with community events. Ramona Oaks Park will host concerts on September 7th and 21st, with the latter date also featuring a car show. On September 28th, a grand opening celebration at the new San Vicente Park will include live music and a community barbecue. The park concerts will continue October 5th and conclude on October 19th. In November, a barbecue contest is set for the 8th and 9th. For more information about these events, visit the SDCEA website calendar or contact Member-Guest Services. These events are designed to bring the community together in celebration of what makes it so special.

The benefits of a connected community are vast and deeply enriching. Being part of a community provides a strong sense of belonging, where residents feel connected and supported by those around them. It fosters relationships that can lead to lasting friendships, creating a network of people who look out for one another. Communities like SDCEA also offer opportunities for collaboration and shared resources, making it easier to solve problems, achieve goals, and celebrate successes together. Moreover, a strong community cultivates a sense of pride and responsibility, encouraging everyone to contribute to the common good. Ultimately, the benefits of "community" lie in the shared experiences, mutual support, and the collective strength that comes from being part of something larger than oneself. SDCEA is here and it wants you to be a part of it.

While the community boasts many enjoyable activities, there is also a practical side involving important business matters. Several projects are slated for completion in Q3, including the installation of an ADA lift at the Clubhouse, upgrades to the main electrical panel, new lock installations at the Lodge, and the addition of plantation shutters to the second and third-story guest rooms. We also plan to finalize bid specifications and secure proposals for the Clubhouse and IEC barn roofs. Additionally, engineering design work for the golf course hole #10 bridge will begin, and renovations to Barn C at the IEC may also start.

Budget development is also in progress. The management team will meet with the Budget Development Committee in September, before presenting the 2025 draft budget and reserve plan to the community at a public workshop on October 1. As always, the Association board faces challenging decisions regarding the impact proposed budget adjustments have on the monthly assessment. Rising costs and an increase in the minimum wage by \$0.50 further complicate these decisions. We will do our best to bring a responsible and responsive budget to the Board and community.

Finally, I want to announce that, effective November 26, I will be stepping down from my role as General Manager. Over the past three years, I've had the distinct privilege of working with an exceptional team of employees who have made significant strides in improving your community. In my remaining time, I aim to collaborate with the board to ensure a process is underway to bring on a new General Manager.