



# Friends of El Corazon

**A Park in the Heart of Oceanside**

## *El Corazon is....*

...465 acres located in the heart of Oceanside  
...an opportunity for all of us to create our own park with something for everyone

### **The Mission of the Friends of El Corazon**

is to support the implementation of the El Corazon Specific Plan as stewards of the Park

Our goals are to ensure that:

- ♥ All development in the Park is consistent with the community's vision
- ♥ The Park will be designed and operated for the benefit of the residents of Oceanside
- ♥ Community resources are available to support the development and operation of the park
- ♥ Outreach and education programs will be provided to engage the community

*The Vision for El Corazon is to create a 465 acre park in the center of Oceanside with a rural look and feel to the trails, roads and amenities so that the park provides an escape from city life.*

.....

### **Team Effort Beautifies Park Border**



As you drive along the western edge of El Corazon on El Camino Real, the Coast Sunflowers are blooming in a sea of yellow. A City crew did a great job planting those flowers with a hydroseed spray. One problem: during the summer dry season, those plants will go dormant and the 500 ft long slope that starts at Mesa Drive won't have much vegetation.

Friends of El Corazon worked with the Oceanside Public Work Parks Department to create a native landscape that combined seasonal color with year-round green vegetation, required minimal maintenance, used drought-tolerant local native plants, and discouraged loitering and trash accumulation. The plan was accomplished by planting Hollywood berry (Toyon) and Quailbush which will eventually cover much of the block wall. Low-growing native cactus will discourage loitering and the beautiful and endangered Nevin's barberry will complete the upper portion of the slope. Coyote bush ground cover along with sage and deergrass will provide a lower evergreen carpet along the road. Mulch from composted green waste will be applied to control weeds and retain moisture. The existing sunflowers will continue to provide a seasonal display of bright color. The city will provide "drive by" watering from a water truck to help establish the new plantings and to maintain the site.

Volunteers from the Buena Vista Nature Center worked alongside the City crews to plant 140 California native shrubs. One hundred of those plants were grown at the Nature Center and donated to the City.

El Corazon is over 450 acres so there are many slopes like this on the property. This cost effective solution is beautiful, sustainable, eco-friendly, low maintenance and water saving. *(See more photos on page 2)*





### **Gardener's Alert - Free Classes!**

AgriService, the operator of the compost facility on El Corazon, offers free classes for gardeners on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the El Corazon Senior Center.

In March the class will cover the use of bamboo in the garden and starting the spring garden.

In April the focus will be on citrus and avocado trees.

In May a second planting rotation and unusual edibles will be discussed.

In June summer fruit tree care will be taught.

In addition to the monthly classes AgriService is offering two very special programs. The Master Composter Series where you can become a Compost Ambassador to your community and Compost Bin Design Workshop which will guide you through the process of constructing a compost bin using repurposed items from your home. Both of these programs require prior registration which opens on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.elcorazoncompostfacility.com](http://www.elcorazoncompostfacility.com) to register and for more information about the free services that Agriservice makes available to Oceanside residents.

### **Stirling Housing Development at El Corazon Update**

Stirling Properties has revised their plans for the parcel they own at the proposed entrance to El Corazon opposite Ocean Ranch Blvd. They have submitted a formal proposal for 80 standalone condos on the parcel just south of the entrance road to the park. A limited number of housing units are allowed on El Corazon, but only as second story units above commercial. None are allowed in the park entrance area. This key entrance area is to be a hotel and commercial development that would generate revenue to help pay for the park. Changing it to residential will make Oceanside's job-housing balance even worse. Stirling promised for years that they would follow the Specific Plan, yet their first proposal is vastly different and would require a major modification to the Specific Plan. We hope this developer listens to the community and revises their proposal. The community's vision for El Corazon is a park in the heart of Oceanside, not another housing development.



### **El Corazon Border Beautification Project**

*February 2014*





### Groundbreaking Ceremony

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the City of Oceanside and Sudberry properties held the groundbreaking for the So Cal Sports Complex. It was a great community celebration!

Friends of El Corazon and the Soccer Club of Oceanside were both surprised with generous donations from Sudberry/Field of Dreams.

Thanks to FELC board member, Joan Bockman and Buena Vista Audubon, we were able to provide a back drop of oak trees that helped remind everyone this is all about a park in the heart of Oceanside. See KOCT's Special News brief of the event at [http://koct.org/video/detail/newsbrief\\_el\\_corazon](http://koct.org/video/detail/newsbrief_el_corazon)



### Swim Hall of Fame Complex Proposed for El Corazon

Last month the City Council agreed to a 6-month period to negotiate an agreement with the Swim Hall of Fame. Their concept proposal would require 7 acres of land for a planned hotel/dormitory for athletes and approximately 43 acres of parkland for the training center and water park. While some of the components of the proposal sound good, like an Olympic swimming complex, this is a commercial enterprise to train elite athletes, not a public facility. It is proposed to be built on public parkland which we think should be for the public. What do you think? There is no harm in our council discussing this proposal but let's make sure at the end of the day the community has a swim facility with more than a museum displaying Mark Spitz's old swim trunks.



### YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EL CORAZON

**Q. Will the soccer fields be open on time?**

**A.** No one has a crystal ball- but all signs are that first tournaments will be held in July 2014 as planned. City staff are working on contingency plans to make sure things stay on schedule - even if that much delayed rain comes or there is not enough dirt coming to the site from other construction.

Send us your comments, and questions and we will try to answer them in future editions.

**Welcome to Our New Members!**

Margery Pierce, Stevan & Eileen Turk, Michelle Lawrence, Bob Drew, Marge Collins, Teresa Ellis, Susanne Buelna - Nitto Denko Technical, Michael & Margaret Malik, Esther L. Newman

Thank you! We appreciate your support!



**We Need You!**

Like all volunteers organizations, we can't do anything without volunteers and that means YOU.

Our immediate need is for a **Grant Writer**. Money will determine how fast the park at El Corazon gets built. Grants are an important part of the overall funding plan. If you have some expertise and a commitment of time to make it happen, we'd love to hear from you!

Other volunteer opportunities include setting up the website, planning our first fundraiser, staffing the outreach table at local events, or even joining our Board.

Please contact Diane at 760-724-3887.

**Help to make a park at El Corazon  
Join the friends of El Corazon today!**

Make a tax deductible donation

Type	Amount
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Group	\$50
Other	\$

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I am able to:

Become a Charter Member

Help at events

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Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Friends of El Corazon Board**

**President** Diane Nygaard

**Secretary** Joan Bockman

**Treasurer** Rita Koor

**Board of Directors:**

Bill Buelna Jan DesRosiers

Teresa Ellis Ken Hacker

George McNeil Tina Ortiz

**The Friends of El Corazon**

**Board Meetings Held on the Second Monday at 6:00pm**

King of Kings Lutheran Church

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*FELC is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation*

