



ROTARY CLUB of La Jolla

## ***BITS of News***

02.23.24

**Coming next Tuesday, February 27th  
Shawna Anderson, Executive Director of  
the San Dieguito River Park JPA<sup>1</sup>, on  
implementing the open space 55-mile-long  
Coast to Crest Trail.**



**Shawna Anderson** is a change maker<sup>2</sup>. Before becoming Executive Director in 2020, **Shawna** was the **San Dieguito River Park's Principal Planner for 20 years**. As the JPA's leader, she is responsible for overseeing the JPA's staff and operations including management and maintenance of the River Park's assets and capital projects and representing the JPA on behalf of its Board of Directors.

Today, Shawna's focus is on closing 21 miles of gaps along the Coast to Crest Trail by securing

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<sup>1</sup> The San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Park Joint Powers Authority (also known as the San Dieguito River Park JPA) is the agency responsible for creating a natural open space park in the San Dieguito River Valley. The Park extends from the ocean at Del Mar to Volcan Mountain, just north of Julian.

<sup>2</sup> A change maker is someone who spots opportunity that will contribute to the greater good. They creatively set about innovating to fulfil that opportunity. The change maker inspires and influences others to join and support them in their change making journey, persisting until the positive difference is achieved.

public grants to accomplish the River Park's objective of completing the 55 mile Trail.

Shawna has planned and implemented several miles of trails throughout the San Diego River Park, (SDRP) including leading project teams, obtaining construction permits and approvals, and managing special projects. Before joining the San Dieguito River Park JPA, Shawna managed a variety of environmental and land use projects while at private environmental consulting firms in San Diego.

Shawna has a BA in Urban and Regional Planning (Cal Poly Pomona) and a master's degree in Geography from SDSU.



Part of the Beautiful San Dieguito Trail



Please RSVP to Natasha Vossen's email re: our next luncheon on February 27<sup>th</sup> [nataschavossen@san.rr.com](mailto:nataschavossen@san.rr.com)

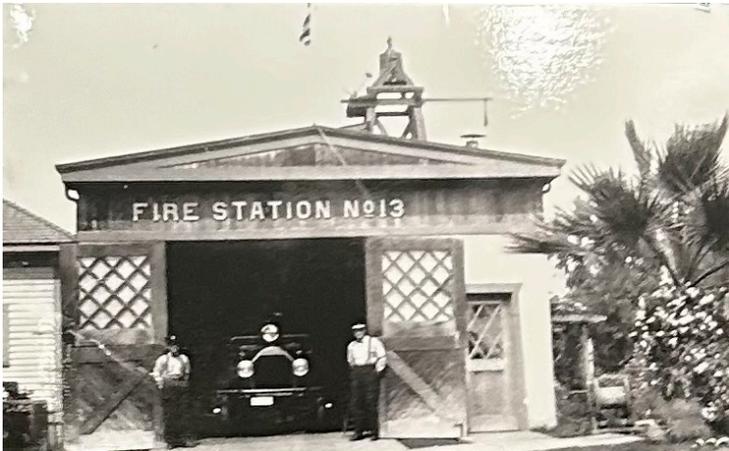
Last week, Getting together at the historic downtown Shepherd YMCA Firehouse







Our host, fellow Rotarian and **Executive Director of the La Jolla YMCA, Vince Glorioso** gave us a glimpse of the beginnings of the La Jolla Firehouse built in 1913, and its transformations over the century.



The 1913 original 7877 Herschel Avenue Firehouse #13.

In 1937, fire station #13 was rebuilt by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on the same property. Simultaneously, it also housed La Jolla's first city hall, a police station, a hospital room, and the water department until 1976. The architect was Harold Abrams.





Photo taken of the Herschel property in the 1940s, note the police car. The police used this facility as a substation until 1968 when they moved out and eventually moved into the Northern Division Police Department in 1971.

In 1976, the Fire Department moved Station #13 to 809 Nautilus, where it remains today. The old fire station building stood vacant for nearly 10 years. In the 1980s the YMCA leased the property. In 2013, the YMCA sought to revitalize the building as part of a satellite branch for the La Jolla Village community.



Designed by architect Trip Bennett III, known for his architectural work in adaptive re-use of historic structures, the \$1.5 million renovation of the space included considerable restoration of the historic firehouse's exterior. But it also included significant changes to its interior that made plans for the space achievable. Most noteworthy, perhaps, was the opening of the interior spaces through the addition of a mezzanine, the removal of several walls, a move of the building's staircase and changes to the roof structure.

The facility renamed "the Shepherd Firehouse YMCA" opened to the public in January of this year. It is a multiuse community resource and can be used in a variety of ways, including as a KinderCare for young families. The space may also be rented out as an event venue.



## Coming in two weeks, Michael McHale President, and CEO of St Paul's Senior Services



As the new President of St. Paul's, **Michael McHale** will discuss his plans for the strategic development and growth of services that will increase the scope and scale of the resources available to seniors at St. Paul's.

Reporter and Chief Editor Denise McGuire  
Copy Editor Chuck Marsh