

# LA JOLLA LIGHT

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Wednesday, June 13

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## LA JOLLA LIGHT

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SHERRY NOORAVI

## CROSSWALK VICTORY!

Over the past 14 years, a group representing hundreds of residents on the south side of Torrey Pines Road, drove a grassroots effort for pedestrian safety in their community. After much collaboration with the City, the group recently celebrated the City's installation of a HAWK pedestrian signal and crosswalk on Torrey Pines Road between Amalfi and Princess Street. See story, **A4**

## Geof Martin named Muirlands Middle School principal

La Jolla educator to take the reins in August

BY ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

Although it was not the path he set out on, in hindsight, incoming Muirlands Middle School principal Geof Martin was seemingly preordained for his new post. He starts in August and succeeds Harlan Klein, who will make the move to The Bishop's School as its Head of Middle School.

A native San Diegan, Martin and his wife Nancy (a teacher at the La Jolla Methodist Church preschool) have two grown children, Ryan and Kyle, who

both attended Bird Rock Elementary, Muirlands Middle, and La Jolla High schools.

"Every principal I worked with asked me if I wanted to be a principal, I always said no," Martin told *La Jolla Light*. He said he started in business, right out of high school, and worked his way up through a linen company, never even considering a career in education until his children were born. He got his teaching credential and in 1993 started teaching science at Pershing Middle School in San Carlos.

After 10 years: "I had a chance to work with a curriculum development project at San Diego State's Center for Research in Math and Science

Education," he explained. "And I really got a chance to see what teaching and learning was really about. How do you engage kids? How do you stimulate their interests? How do you provide them with opportunities to gather information and draw conclusions?"

From there, he joined a middle school leadership team and collaborated on a three-year project called the National Academy for Curriculum Leadership, under the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) in Colorado Springs.

"BSCS was one of the studies that was founded in the late '50s in response to Sputnik. There was this big push to

SEE PRINCIPAL, **A12**



ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

Incoming Muirlands Middle School principal Geof Martin

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# It takes a community to create safety, walkability and access to businesses!

## GUEST COMMENTARY

BY SHERRY NOORAVI

Each year in San Diego, an average of 20 pedestrians are killed and 500 pedestrians are wounded or seriously injured by vehicle crashes. The Residents for Torrey Pines Safety did not want to be a part of these grim statistics.

Representing hundreds of residents on the south side of Torrey Pines Road, they had no way of safely crossing this busy neighborhood thoroughfare. They organized to drive a grassroots effort for pedestrian safety.

After much collaboration over the course of 14-plus years, they recently celebrated the installation of a HAWK pedestrian signal (High-intensity Activated cross-Walk beacon) on Torrey Pines Road, between Amalfi and Princess Street, with the presence of representatives from the City.

Next to the chief benefit of saving residents from injury and death, there are many other advantages a community gains from having safe-crossing options.

These include promoting exercise, reducing the need for driving (and adding to parking congestion), and helping promote foot traffic to local businesses (for La Jollans access to The Shores and The Village areas).

This effort has taken diligence and consistent communication among The Residents for Torrey Pines Safety and La



**THE RESIDENTS FOR TORREY PINES SAFETY** — Front row: Karrar Ali, Charlie Doyle, Dian Doyle, Sherry Nooravi, Jill Peters and daughters Celeste (standing) and Camille (seated with Sky, Sherry and Karrar's Husky.) Second row: Andy Hamilton from Circulate San Diego, Lu Landers, Dori McCue, Bob McCue, Johanna Thompson, Ann Craig, Dave Duea, Mary Duea, City Council member Barbara Bry's rep Mauricio Medina, Marilyn Pobiner, Ron Pobiner, Marina Baroff and dog Dylan. Back row: Priscilla Rayon, Chuck Landers, Terry Buis, Eric Korevaar, Brenda Fake, Tom Rushfeldt

Jolla's City Council representatives. Former Council member Scott Peters began this effort; former Council member Sherri Lightner worked very hard to promote this project with design and funding; and current Council member Barbara Bry closed the loop and brought it to fruition. The Residents for

Torrey Pines Safety are grateful for their support.

If you are thinking about promoting safer conditions in your area, know that any type of large community change will require the collaboration of residents, City representatives, community groups and organizations like Circulate San



COURTESY PHOTOS

**LIFESAVER:** The HAWK pedestrian signal on Torrey Pines Road, between Amalfi and Princess Street

Diego, which is dedicated to educating communities and promoting safety and walkability.

— For more information on how to drive safely in your area, check out Vision Zero ([sandiego.gov/vision-zero](http://sandiego.gov/vision-zero)), Circulate San Diego ([circulatesd.org](http://circulatesd.org)) or e-mail [sherry@strategymeetsperformance.com](mailto:sherry@strategymeetsperformance.com)

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