

## DA Notes

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good intentions, but there are always bad actors waiting to take advantage of disaster victims.

Working as an unlicensed contractor during a state of emergency is a felony. Keep these tips in mind when selecting a contractor:

- Ask for proof of licensing such as a pocket license and a second photo ID.
- Always verify that the license number matches the contractor you are dealing with.
- Beware of scare tactics, odd calls or unsolicited contacts.
- Make sure the contractor carries workers' compensation and liability insurance.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, debris-clearing scams often surface. Do not provide payment upfront and be sure to ask where the debris is being taken. Scammers often ask for money up front and then disappear. Sometimes they dump debris on a neighbor's property or park, which may cause you to be responsible for the costs and penalties.

The public is also warned to be cautious when dealing with persons soliciting for purported "victim relief" charities. Many legitimate organizations seek contributions during or after an emergency, but scammers often use phony charitable pleas in times like these. Potential contributors should insist on seeing proper credentials before offering to help. Also, make sure you thoroughly vet anyone posing

as an insurance agent to verify that the person is a legitimate professional.

Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution that can result in a year in jail and or a fine of up to \$10,000. Violations are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation, injunctive relief and victim restitution.

If you would like to file a price gouging complaint, call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit at (619) 531-3507.

—District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated more than 29 years to serving justice and victims of crime as a prosecutor. Visit: [sdca.org/office/contact](http://sdca.org/office/contact) to contact her.

## Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels providing cool vibes and more

What's on the menu?

By ROBIN DOHRN-SIMPSON



Cool vibes, good music, food and drink. That is the motto of the newly opened Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels.

Located on the north side of The Townsend Apartments, or as some call it, the back entrance to Fashion Valley Shopping Center, they join other supporting businesses for this new housing area. Grab a cup of coffee for the road, on your way to the office or school, meet friends, or sip and study for your current class.

"We opened our third San Diego location in late December. We are looking forward to creating a great community at this location. We have already started getting a following and getting regulars. At the Seaport Village and the Gaslamp locations most of our customers were tour-ists," said Kaylee Otto, manager.

There is plenty of convenient parking, a large outdoor patio that will feature future events and indoor seating. "We love puns. Our decor is playful focusing on puns and plays on words. One of the main themes is a "Pot Head Coffee" with a smiling coffee pot wearing Vans, sunglasses and carrying a to-go cup of steaming hot coffee," said Otto. "Our coffee is our private blend. We have a person who oversees and creates our coffee profiles of flavors."

On the menu, you will find an array of caffeinated drinks, both hot and cold, teas, and specialty-crafted drinks. You can "Make it Extra Dope" and add vanilla, caramel or hazelnut.



In the mood for some coffee and bagels? If yes, head on over to Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels. (Photo courtesy of Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels)

"Our bagels are made fresh daily. You can 'Roll Your Own' mix and match bagels with spreads. We offer a flavor of the month for both bagels and cream cheese," added Otto. There is a large assortment of both. If you are looking for gluten-free goods, currently only their toasts qualify.

If you're visiting after breakfast hours they also offer "All Day Sandos", which are gourmet ba-gel sandwiches such as Lox, Stock and Bagel or a BBL(t) which is peppered bacon, tomato, lettuce and garlic aioli.

"Our owners are great people who have also owned bars and have recreated that life in the coffee scene. They have a great management style - let people be who they are, which reflects in the employees. They're very helpful and happy employees. We like fun people. Both customers and employees," added Otto.

Located at 525 Camino De La Reina, call (619) 233-3836 or order in person or online at [www.spillthebeans-sd.com](http://www.spillthebeans-sd.com).

They are open Monday -Thursday from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday through Sunday 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.

## Neighborhood cleanup ends up being quite a success



With nice weather to work in, area residents came out recently for a cleanup project. Nineteen people participated from the El Cerrito Community Council, the Colina Neighborhood Group, Terry Hoskins' campaign, Teen Challenge, and the D-9 City Council Office. Those in attendance cleaned up both sides of 54th Street between Trojan and University Avenues as well as the Colina Recreation Center along Orange Avenue. With community support, organizers will reportedly make it a monthly event. To suggest areas that need cleanup or for further info, email Lorna Zukas at: [elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:elcerritocommunitycouncil@gmail.com). (Courtesy photo)



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