

Jonathan Sellers & Charlie Kever Educational Activity Center



The Sellers-Keever Park is a memorial to two boys who were murdered along the Otay River in 1993. It has been located along the Bayshore Bikeway at the end of 13th Street since
The death of the boys was [portrayed in the newspaper](#) as part of a "bloody spree" and an "unprecedented wave of violence that hit the South Bay" in March 1993, leaving 11 people dead in a two-week period, including 13-year-old Charlie Kever and 9-year-old Jonathan Sellers who lived near their Juarez Lincoln Elementary School.



A [U-T story](#) Nov. 26, 2012, described the park's design: "The floor of the activity center is in the shape of a nautilus shell. Small pictures of the boys are embedded in the tiling. Big benches have been placed there for kids to climb, and wildlife viewing telescopes overlooking the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge have been erected." [Another story](#) described the 19-year-old mother of one of the boys' mother to create the memorial: "The Chelsea King/Amber Dubois drama that unfolded in the media in 2010 brought back many memories and was a catalyst for Mile Sellers-Phillips. After the deaths of Chelsea and Amber, Sellers-Phillips decided last year to pursue a park that a politician had promised nearly two decades ago to honor Jonathan and Charlie King. She went to see San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, who had been police chief when the boys were killed. He suggested she and Keever go to the county, which they did and began working with : Greg Cox. Nine months later, the county supervisors approved construction of the small park at the end of 13th Street overlooking San Diego Bay in Imperial Beach, less than a mile from where the boys died. The action came on the 19th anniversary of the day the boys were abducted and killed. The park is "such a beautiful place," Sellers-Phillips said, as she looked out toward the San Diego skyline. "This is such a positive, positive thing."

Vice Chairman Greg Cox, the County of San Diego, &
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Cordially Invite You to Attend

The Jonathan Sellers & Charlie Keever Outdoor Educational Activity Center Ribbon Cutting

Monday November 26, 2012
2:00 p.m.

at the
San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge

North end of 13th Street
along the Bayshore Bikeway
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Event will take place rain or shine

Please R.S.V.P. to
Shannon.Singler@sdcounty.ca.gov



Directions

I-5 South to Exit 5A for CA-75/Palm Ave.
Turn right on CA-75/Palm Ave.
Turn right on 12th St.
Cross Cypress Ave.
Turn right into open field

Carpooling is encouraged.



This was the announcement of the park's dedication Nov. 26, 2012, and includes a small map of the location.



The family of slaying victim Jonathon Sellers looks on as a tree is planted in his memory Monday at Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School. Staff photo by Paul Martinez

A living memory of slain boy

Tree is planted at school to honor Jonathon Sellers

By Miriam D. Uribe
Staff Writer

SOUTH SAN DIEGO — Memories of a happy 9-year-old Jonathon Sellers went into each shovel of dirt that will give life to a tree planted in his memory Monday at Juarez-Lincoln Elementary.

Students and teachers joined the slain boy's family in a ceremony at his former school to help plant a tree that will remind them and future students of Jonathon.

Jonathon and his best friend, 13-year-old Charles Keever failed to return home after a bicycle trip to a local fast food restaurant in March. They were found strangled two days later near the banks of the Otay River.

"We lost a very special person and we want to honor him and to let you know that life goes on," Principal Constance

Smith reminded those present of Jonathon's love for basketball, riding his bike and making people happy.

Jonathon's mother Melina Sellers, said she doesn't want people to forget Jonathon.

"He was here . . . This means he will always be a part of the school," she said.

Sellers said the school staff has been very supportive and the tree planting shows how much they care. During the ceremony a poem written by Jonathon's sister Natasha was read.

"John, Charlie we want you to come home," it said. "We won't leave you alone. The man who took your life had no right."

Chula Vista Elementary School District Board President



The newspaper story of June 23, 1993, described the living memorial tree planted at Juarez Lincoln Elementary school where 9-year-old Jonathon Sellers went to school. "The tree, a *Podocarpus*, was donated by Robert Masaluski of Moennig Nursery in La Mesa. A granite marker, donated by Edward and Barbara Poe of Seaman-Poe Monument Company in San Diego, stands beneath the tree. Jonathan's mother Melina Sellers, said she doesn't want people to forget Jonathan. "He was here . . . This means he will always be a part of the school." The tree and its marker are well-maintained today by the school, with new grass planted every year around the tree **in an area near the school entrance** that is heavily traveled by students.

A Global Wellness Day for the mind, body and soul.
Promoting the safety and well-being of children through education.

The Jonathan Sellers and Charlie Keever Foundation would like to invite you to our

4th Annual "Ride for Safety"
San Diego Community Bike Ride & Child Safety Fair

Family Bike Ride Saturday, June 11th 8:00 am - 9:00 am.

Immediately following the bike ride join us as we teach young children the skills they need to stay safe at the free **Child Safety Fair 8:30 am - 10:00 am**

505 12th St Imperial Beach, CA 91932

FREE GIFTS! **FUN ACTIVITIES!**

CHILD SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Stella Jay: "When you don't know what to do, 'Always Fly Away.'"

Logos: RIDE FOR SAFETY SAN DIEGO JS@CK, GLOBAL WELLNESS DAY, PIER SOUTH, NATIONAL BICYCLE SAFETY COUNCIL, OUTDOOR SAFETY, WILDCAST

For more info go to jsck.org

Each year since 2013 the **The Jonathan Sellers & Charlie Keever Foundation** has sponsored the "Ride for Safety" community bike ride and child safety fair.



This is a drawing of Bikeway Village that is under construction on the opposite side of the bikeway path from the park. A [Reader article](#) in January described the project: "Bikeway Village will feature a large outdoor deck, bicycle parking, a water-bottle refill station, and public restrooms. The project is also intended to be the "greenest development on the bay" not only by encouraging bike transit but also by using solar power cells on the roofing and using paint and finishes that have minimal pollutants. The project will involve 30,000 square feet of land, renovating existing warehouses to cut large doorways that will have roll-up door access for retail stores, and the building of a "mock pier" in the nature area, according to architect John Sheehan (the same company that designed Imperial Beach's Pier Plaza). The project also involves the San Diego Association of Governments and the LandLAB design firm. Costing \$4.5 million, construction will employ up to 40 construction workers at a time, according to Terry Arnett of TSA Contracting, who added that there has been five years of pre-construction already. Imperial Beach was the missing link in the chain" of Coronado, National City, Chula Vista, and San Diego, said Imperial Beach City Council member Lorie Bragg. "It's going to be a world-class development. Spending too much time in Imperial Beach," quipped county supervisor Greg Cox, who was also at the ceremony. Cox said the goal is to create connecting paths all around the bay. Someday you'll be able to ride down a tube under the Coronado bridge," Cox said of a plan to suspend a tube-like structure under the Coronado Bridge to accommodate bikes and pedestrians.

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