

Council Elections 2012

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8



Councillor Salvestro-Martin with evidence given to police. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO 15/8/12

Fresh evidence could charge Ryde dumper!

Crucial evidence obtained by The Weekly Times from last week's 'Street of Shame' cement dumping incident in Ryde is being used by Gladesville Police detectives to help identify and charge a key suspect. The evidence includes photographs and samples of the concrete splashed on cars in Samuel and Colston Streets last week. TONY ROSS investigates ..

The good news is that Ryde City Council staff believe they have identified the contractor truck involved in this month's mysterious concrete spill in streets surrounding Ryde's Civic Centre precinct, using CCTV footage.

The bad news is that a "human unfriendly" chemical - believed to be a form of acid - will need to be washed through the sub-road drain network to avoid potential blockages caused by cement.

Ryde City Councillor Jeff Salvestro-Martin said a (suspected) contractor had blamed the incident on a "rogue driver" but an explanation about why his truck was in the area at the time did not make sense.

"Council staff explained that this truck was transiting from a construction site to a waste facility on the north shore via Samuel Street," Cr Salvestro-Martin said.

"I'm sure residents will be amused with this explanation but non-residents may be interested to know that

Samuel Street goes nowhere, it's a cul-de-sac."

Cr Salvestro-Martin has for some time been calling for an overhaul of contractor arrangements to improve resident safety.

"I think this latest incident proves we must act now," he said.

Residents in Samuel Street, Colston Street and Griffith Avenue woke up earlier last week to discover that a concrete truck had dumped a seven tonne load of pre-mix concrete, some of it splashing onto residents' cars.

Mystery surrounds the early morning spill, with many residents suspecting there could be some element of retribution involved, with strong opposition to the controversial Civic Centre proposal coming from residents in the area, located immediately to the west of the precinct.

The clean-up operation, involving two teams of six staff, bobcats, street sweepers and a water truck, took nearly a day.

POLICE ROUNDS

Police arrest a suspect stalker

Eastwood Police have captured and charged a man suspected of stalking and indecently assaulting women in Eastwood.

The 30 year old suspect from Baukham Hills was captured and arrested at Epping Railway Station around 9pm on Sunday night following a wide-spread investigation into the indecent assaults which took place last month.

Police said the suspect had followed a number of females from the railway station on Sunday and exposed himself to them.

"The female victims had given thorough descriptions to Police and after investigations by Eastwood detectives and with the aid of CCTV, the male was identified," police said.

He was taken to Hornsby Police station where he was charged with three counts of Commit Act of Indecency and three counts of Stalking and Intimidation.

In other crime news, two youths have been charged with break and enter offences in Eastwood.

Eastwood Police arrested a 14 year old male from Punchbowl and a 16 year

old male from Castle Hill late last Wednesday in relation to a break and enter that occurred in Rowe Street at Eastwood.

It is alleged that the two males entered a unit in Rowe Street some time between 4:20pm and 5pm, while the male victim was at home in the bathroom.

The two males stole the victim's wallet and mobile phone.

"A witness provided a good description of the two males and they were located a short time later in the Eastwood and after a short foot pursuit with Police, the two were apprehended at the Eastwood railway station," police said.

They two males were taken to Ryde Police station where further checks on the two males revealed that they were in breach of their bail conditions.

They they were charged with break and enter and breach of bail and will appear in Parramatta children's court on 24th September 2012.



THE REAL WINNERS IN THE CIVIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Dear Resident,

One of my ongoing concerns in relation to the Civic Centre Redevelopment proposal is the lack of fairness with the deal, which appears to **monstrously** favour the developer.

The Project Team says the new civic structures (to be built at the northern and western edges of the site) will be worth \$79M, but we don't know what this figure actually means. *We do know* Council's specification calls for 7,002 m2 of floor space, and that a reasonable cost estimate of \$3,000 per m2 could be applied to suggest the

developer is up for \$20M to \$25M to provide our new buildings and parking.

But in return, the developer is getting the major and most valuable part of the site, upon which it plans to build 630 units in two low-rise and two high-rise towers. At an average unit value of \$800K this indicates the developer's unit complex would be worth \$500M.

The land input cost to the developer therefore represents only 4 to 5% of the project value.

Now try and recall the percentage cost of the land when you purchased your home. My bet is it was nowhere near 4 to 5% of your costs.

It is very easy to see who the real winners are and it isn't the Ratepayer. I'll not be party to this rip-off.

I am grateful to all those residents who continue to support me in the fight for fairness and equity for the people of Ryde

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Salvestro-Martin
CENTRAL WARD ALP Councillor