

THE NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

ADVOCATE

Council Election June 25

by John Stammreich

The call went out for candidates for the June 25 Governing Board election and 18 stakeholders, including seven incumbents, have stepped up to run for a seat on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

If you have not filed yet and are still interested, you may file as a write-in candidate right up until the polls open at 1:00 p.m. on June 25.

All stakeholders will have the opportunity on June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Peck Park Auditorium to listen to all 18 candidates, plus any write-in candidates, talk about how they will represent your interests on the many community issues affecting Northwest San Pedro.

All stakeholders are then encouraged to vote on June 25 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Peck Park Community Center. Every stakeholder will have the opportunity to vote for one candidate in every open seat, which means it's extremely important for stakeholders to learn about more than simply the candidate running for your census tract or stakeholder interest.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) is looking for leadership and motivation for the next two years out of every candidate. Our neighborhood council area has numerous issues and concerns that will greatly affect the future of residents and other stakeholders in this community.

Significant issues such as the Ponte Vista development project, the new LAUSD high school, Eastview Little League's relocation, North Gaffey Street beautification and development, the Amerigas tanks, and the growing nuisances of tagging, shopping carts, and illegal fireworks are among those stakeholders will expect their elected board members to address.

Add in concerns about bordering issues including port security and pollution, waterfront development, Knoll Hill Dog Park, and downtown high-density residential development, and the need for board members who can take on multiple issues and work together with the 16 other elected members becomes ex-

tremely critical.

There are eight board seats up for election on June 25. Four of the seats have three candidates each vying for it, and two seats have two candidates each. The other two seats have one candidate currently unopposed, but these totals do not include write-in candidates who have until June 25 to file.

For Census Tract 2951, which covers the Taper Avenue neighborhood, Westmont Drive and north of it, incumbent Phil Nicolay is being challenged by fellow residents Andrew Mardesich and Frank Prieto.

For Census Tract 2963, covering the Capitol Avenue and Park Western Avenue areas, incumbent board member Dan Dixon is running for re-election against David Stanovich.

Continuing south, incumbent Ray H. Patricio is being challenged by Ray Olsen and Chris Giordano for the board seat representing Census Tract 2964, which includes the neighborhoods south of Peck Park, Weymouth Corners, and the neighborhoods west of Western Avenue north of Ninth Street.

For Census Tract 2970, covering the southernmost portion of our council to Morse Street and 19th Street, incumbent John M. Mavar is currently running unopposed for re-election.

For our business category board seat, all three candidates, Craig Goldfarb, George Radovcich, and Russell Etheridge, are non-incumbents, ensuring our neighborhood council of at least one new board member regardless of how the other incumbents do.

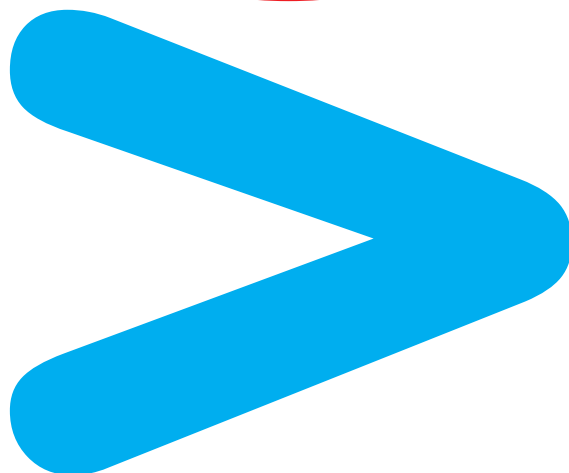
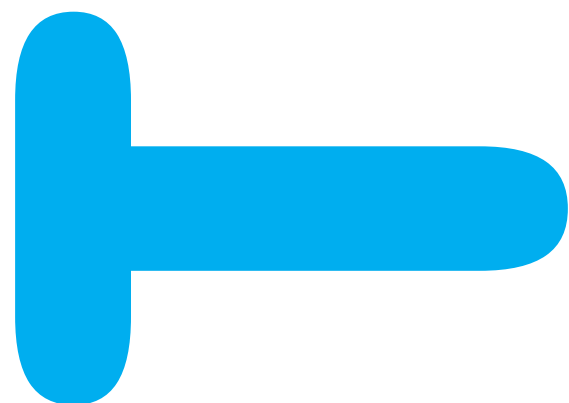
For the nonprofit organization seat, incumbent Jody James faces challenges from Mollie Abbatiello and John J. Lauro, Jr.

Education board seat incumbent Bonnie Easley is running for re-election against Larry Mersman, and incumbent Peter Burmeister is currently unopposed for the one at-large seat this year.

Stakeholders are eligible to vote in our June 25 elections if they are over 16 years of age and live, work, or own property or a business in the district, teach at a public or private educational institution serving the area; or are a member of any religious, community, business or non-governmental organization within the boundaries of the NWSPNC.

Each census tract and category is represented by two two-year seats, one of which is up for re-election each year. Stakeholders will be voting for one candidate in each census tract and category, which makes it imperative that candidates appeal to a wide spectrum of community neighborhoods and interests.

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**Northwest San Pedro
Neighborhood Council
ELECTION**

**Monday, June 25 • 1 to 7 pm
Peck Park Auditorium**

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
638 South Beacon Street, Box 688
San Pedro, CA 90731

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NWSPNC Committees

Issues / Traffic / Parks Committee—Deals with traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees.

Planning and Land Use Committee—Deals with planning and land use issues.

Port Committee—Deals with port-related issues and advises our representatives on Port Community Advisory Committee.

Youth and Education Committee—This newly-formed committee focuses on meeting the needs of young people in our community, including education, recreation, and crime prevention.

Communication and Outreach Committee—Communicates with our stakeholders through a quarterly newsletter, speaking engagements, and personal contact with various target groups and gathers community concerns and feedback.

Finance Committee—Recommends budget, reviews funding requests.

If you are interested in being a member of any of these committees, please e-mail your contact information to board@nwsanpedro.org.

The NWSPNC Governing Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Peck Park Auditorium, 560 North Western Avenue

From the President's Desk

by Diana Nave, *President*

Merhaba! (That's hello in Turkish.)

This will be different from my usual column. My husband Pat, and I are in Turkey. What a surprise to us to find that Reggie's capture made the newspaper here with a quote from Councilwoman Hahn!

Turkey is a very old and fascinating country. People are extremely proud of their country and of being a secular democracy. Since it is election time at Northwest, I want to share a little about Turkey's election process. The turnout in the last election was about 70 percent and 500 of their 550 members of parliament were replaced.

There are approximately 35 recognized political parties. However, to get a seat in parliament, a party must receive at least 10 percent of the national vote.

Many of the parties got less than 10 percent of the vote and, as a result, the dominant party, which received approximately 30 percent of the total votes, wound up with 60 percent of the seats in parliament. Some people are advocating for a change in this 10 percent rule.

COUNCIL ELECTION Continued from page 1

Starting in 2008, one of the three at-large seats will become a one-year youth seat specifically for 16- to 20-year-old stakeholders.

We encourage our youth throughout the neighborhood to start becoming involved on committees now, and to attend our monthly board meetings. Youth stakeholders can run for ANY seat they qualify for; however, the youth seat will ensure our future boards will include at least one youth representative.

As we've stated in past articles, your neighborhood council is looking for active board members who are eager to learn more about the issues throughout our community, become involved on local committees and work with a diverse community to help represent what is best about our neighborhood.

Becoming a board member requires a commitment to attend and participate at board meetings, on committees, and other community meetings. They must be dedicated toward working with fellow board members and neighbors to ensure issues and concerns reach the board and are properly vetted to ensure the council recommendations and decisions can be made timely.

Your responsibility as stakeholders is to hold every board member accountable to this standard, taken as part of our oaths of office every July.

If you are still interested in running as a write-in candidate, you can complete and submit the candidate filing form from our website (www.nwsanpedro.org) until June 25.

Regardless of whether you are interested in running this year, we invite every stakeholder to come to our candidate forum at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19, at Peck Park Auditorium to listen to the

They have both a prime minister and a president. The president is elected by the parliament, but the term of office is not the same. The current president is not a member of the dominant party.

Parliament was supposed to elect a new president in April and elections for Parliament were scheduled for December. To elect the president requires a two-thirds vote of the parliament.

The candidate for president fell about five votes short of this number. Parliament has now decided to move the parliamentary elections up to July. Then they passed a constitutional amendment calling for the direct election of the president which the current president vetoed. It's all very interesting and rather confusing.

Here in Turkey people are changing their vacation plans so that they will be able to vote in July. I hope that you will also exercise your right to vote in the upcoming elections for your neighborhood council.

candidates, ask them questions, meet them in person, and help yourself and your fellow stakeholders who should be on your neighborhood council.

More importantly, please take time out of your busy day on June 25 between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to stop by Peck Park Community Center to cast your votes for your neighborhood council.

As you've likely seen over the past year, this board hears many issues and concerns affecting you and your neighbors. It's up to every one of us to ensure this board represents the diverse background and influences throughout our community.

San Pedro is going through a lot of changes, residentially, economically, politically, and socially. The outcome of these elections will help drive those changes in the direction the community desires.

The election is being supervised by Independent Election Administrator Stephen Box, telephone: (323) 962-6540.

For additional information or if you have questions about the election, please call election committee member David Rivera at (310) 832-7022.



NWSPNC
VOTE
JUNE 25

NWSPNC Supports Youth Sports Center at Gaffey Site

by Dan Dixon

A motion supporting the development of a Youth Sports/Recreation Center at the current Sanitation Dept. Yard on North Gaffey Street was unanimously adopted by the Neighborhood Council Board at its May 14 meeting.

The motion was offered as a positive, long term community goal by the Council, following pointed community concern over the relocation of Eastview Little League and the general trend over many years of closing youth sports fields in the San Pedro area.

The Northwest Council has been in the forefront of seeking long term recreational space solutions, particularly at the Sanitation yard. A previous motion had supported building at least one field at the current mulching yard on Sanitation property, a goal which seemed possible with the cooperation of Target, Inc.

The Council is using a long term vision for beautifying and reorganizing North Gaffey Street to include using the east side of the street as a recreational and green buffer between the Port and North San Pedro residential neighborhoods.

Using the Field of Dreams and its AYSO fields as the existing and continuing anchor for this community land usage, the recently passed motion supports dedicating most of the balance of Sanitation Department property to future recreational use, available not only to Eastview Little League, but other youth sports organizations and public recreational use.

Clearly, this is a long term goal as it requires the relocation of the Sanitation yard. However, if the neighborhoods in San Pedro have learned nothing else about land usage over the years, it is that a clearly defined, and AGREED UPON goal is a crucial element in an ongoing process to monitor current and future usage of tracts of land, and to be ready not only to step up when opportunities present themselves, but to lobby actively in the pursuit of positive community development projects.

One of the most important services a neighborhood council can provide is a "sense memory" that identifies goals and continues to pursue them on behalf of the community beyond the life of a City Council term, city department philosophy, or mayoral political whim. It is up to the neighborhoods to be the keepers of their own legacies and futures.

Stay tuned. There will be more dedicated AND open recreational space in San Pedro, if we WORK TOGETHER.

KinderMorgan Tank Removal

by John Greenwood

San Pedro is known for its rumors. The latest relates to the former Kinder Morgan tank farm on Gaffey Street. The NWSPNC was delighted to be involved with helping the community take air quality complaints to the Air Quality Management District, resulting in the removal of the oil storage tanks and the construction of single family housing.

The rumor now circulating is that pollution from the site has been discovered at Y& S Auto, the tank farm site is so polluted that it cannot be cleaned up, and that residents living near the tanks should be concerned that the pollution might have extended under their homes.

The truth is that the Kinder Morgan site *is* contaminated. No surprise there. That is why the neighborhood has been so anxious to have the tank farm removed and the site cleaned.

According to Steve Schwartz of JCC Homes, as a condition of the sale of the property, Kinder Morgan has committed to completely clean the site for residential use, to the full satisfaction of the State Department of Toxic Substance Control ("DTSC), which will oversee, monitor and approve the site remediation process.

Soils tests conducted at various points on the property have shown that the contamination is primarily on the east side (closer to Gaffey Street), and that the west end of the property, near the residential areas, is relatively clean. If there is any offsite contamination issue involving the Y&S property, that should be a

matter between Y&S, Kinder Morgan, and possibly DTSC.

Demolition of the storage tanks and other structures is now substantially complete and Kinder Morgan's environmental consultant is preparing a comprehensive Remedial Action Plan for submittal to DTSC for their approval. Kinder Morgan hopes to obtain approval of the Remedial Action Plan late this year, and to commence site remediation early next year.

Current estimates of the cost to complete full site remediation are in the \$10 million range, and it is anticipated that approval by DTSC could be obtained by the end of 2008. Only when such approval by DTSC is obtained will JCC close the escrow and commence residential development of the site.

You will soon receive a letter and community survey from DTSC, giving cleanup status, inviting community involvement, and providing DTSC contact information in case you have questions.

Your Neighborhood Council will put together a forum in the near future to be sure the concerns of neighbors are being addressed. Representatives from JCC and Kinder Morgan have indicated that they will attend.

Please don't lose sight of the fact that our long efforts to have the tank farm use removed, make certain that the site was fully cleaned, and obtain a compatible new land use (detached homes) are finally coming to fruition.

Youth and Education Committee

by Barbara Schach

The Youth and Education Committee has selected 3 service awards to be given to outstanding high school students within San Pedro. They are all excellent candidates. They will be presented at an upcoming council meeting.

Recently, the committee began honoring outstanding fifth graders at our schools within the boundaries of the council. The awards are courtesy of Councilwoman Hahn's office. The awards are beautiful. The children, who have received these to date, were very excited to receive these special awards. There will be more awards given at the school's culminations this month.

We continue to meet at Coco's Restaurant. Our next meeting will be in July.



NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

'Your voice for your community'

As an official, elected part of Los Angeles, we represent your views on matters of local and citywide interest to the city government. To find out who we are, what we do, and how you can add your voice in making San Pedro, the Harbor, and Los Angeles a better place, call 310-732-4522 or go online to www.nwsanpedro.org.

Together, we can make a difference!

Mollie Abbatiello, Nonprofit Organization Seat

My name is Mollie Abbatiello, and I have been a resident of San Pedro my whole life. For thirty-five years I lived in the Northwest San Pedro area. I am employed by Pacific Maritime Association and am a member of ILWU.

In the past couple of years my neighbors and I have united with organizations working together to resolve problems we had with the Kinder Morgan facility. This experience has allowed me to feel a strong sense of community with my fellow neighbors. It showed me that we the residents have a voice, and are able to make a change in our community when we become involved. For me to be part of the Northwest San Pedro Council would be an opportunity to allow other San Pedro residents know that their voices can be heard. With the help of residents and the Northwest San Pedro Council we can improve our community.

Peter K. Burmeister, At-large Seat

I was born in Germany and have lived in San Pedro for thirty-eight years with my wife of thirty-five years, Jenny. I am retired. I currently am on the Board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and am running for re-election because **I care**. I won't let special interest groups take away our quality of life in San Pedro and want to be sure developers have something to give, not take away, from our community, our kids, our green spaces and sports complex and not cause gridlock on our streets.

Dan Dixon, Tract 2963 Seat

I am proud to serve with the current board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, a group of dedicated volunteers who really strive to look out for our community.

Through our committee system, we work with city departments, officials and community members to try to find reasonable solutions for a variety of issues, including the most difficult questions about the future of San Pedro.

I have been surprised by the amount of work required to move issues forward. Our council's success in helping secure monies for revitalizing Peck Park, creating a vision for the future of North Gaffey St., assisting the neighborhood in removing the Kinder Morgan tanks, and helping keep city departments more accountable on even the toughest issues convinces me that it is worth the effort, and that Neighborhood Councils can serve as real problem-solvers for our community.

I ask for your continued support on June 25.

Bonnie Easley, Education Seat

I've been an educator for over 35 years; currently Executive Director of the Los Angeles Harbor College Foundation. Taught in both high school and college. Am also past President and Captain of the Long Beach Mounted Police.

Craig Goldfarb, Business Seat

I am a 10 year plus resident of San Pedro a native Californian born and raised in Los Angeles. I am self employed doing consulting, selling textiles and textile machinery. My wife and I chose to move to San Pedro from Torrance because there is a true sense of community here where people know and appreciate each other. We have a daughter attending Dodson Middle School and a son going to Taper Ave. Elementary. Our children play at the local parks, go to the YMCA and our son plays baseball at Bloch Field for the Hawks.

I have been on the Planning and Land Use committee (for NWSPNC) for close to 2 years now. I chose to run for the business seat on the council in an attempt to support and give back to the community. My major interests in the community are traffic and that the proper infrastructure is put in place to support our continued growth.

As a community we need to see our future as not a series of individual issues but as many interconnected issues that can have long term consequences. We can't stop growth but we can manage it so it improves are quality of life. We need baseball fields, sports centers and dog parks these are a quality of life issue. These issues should unite us all. We need to work on these issues not just for our children but for future generations because that is the kind of community that is San Pedro.

Statements of Candidates Running for NWSPNC Board

All candidates were asked to submit statements. These individuals provided statements in time for publication.

John M. Mavar, Tract 2970 Seat

Mr. Mavar is a life long resident of the Los Angeles Harbor Area and is active in his hometown of San Pedro. In 2001, John won the position as Honorary Mayor of San Pedro after rising money for local charities. The San Pedro and Wilmington YMCA and the San Pedro Youth Coalition are 2 non-profit boards John's is part of because he feels these non-profit boards to help advocate for family and youths. Mr. Mavar has interned for Former Councilman Rudy Svorinich Jr. during high school. Later, Mr. Mavar work for Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal as a field representative. John also worked for Mayor James K. Hahn as his Harbor Area director. After receiving his bachelor degree in Business Administration from University of Phoenix, John continued his community involvement and was elected to the governing board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. Recently appointed to the Neighborhood Council Review Commission by Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Mr Mavar is working on improving the Neighborhood Council system with other leaders from all over Los Angeles.

When Mr. Mavar is not involved in community activities he is a full-time Longshoreman (I.L.W.U.) in the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor.

Ray Olsen, Tract 2964 Seat

Dear San Pedro Northwest Neighborhood Council:

I would like to be considered as a candidate for a census tract seat on the Northwest Neighborhood Council. As a native born and raised San Pedran, I am truly interested in helping to plot the course of the San Pedro community today and in the future. As a council member I will be willing dedicate as much time and energy as necessary to shape the future of our city.

Having worked in the construction industry for the past 35 years, building, developing and planning large projects throughout the city of Los Angeles and Southern California, I have considerable experience working with groups, both large and small in planning, staying on task and problem solving I believe my experience would be an asset to the Council in resolving the many issues that our community faces today.

Please consider me as a candidate for a seat on the Northwest Neighborhood Council.

Regards, Ray Olsen, Fellow Stakeholder

Ray Patricio, Tract 2964 Seat

If re-elected, I will continue to fight for our neighborhood. I stand on my record.

Frank Prieto, Tract 2951 Seat

Hello Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood my name is Frank Prieto, I am a lifetime resident of San Pedro. I attended Leland elementary, Dana Jr High, and San Pedro High class of 1980. I am a family orientated individual, I have been married for 20 years and have two children ages 12 and 18. My 12 year son attends Holy Trinity and my 18 year daughter will be starting her second year at Chico State University this August. I have been very involved in Coaching our youth at YMCA, AYSO, Mary Star, Girls Softball Association and presently involved as a coach and board member at Eastview Little League. I am presently employed at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, I have been with the County for 23 years and serve as an Electrical Instrumentation Supervisor. The reason for my discision to take part in this balloting for the Northwest Council, because I see so many changes in our community today I feel I can make a positive input in all new projects being a long time resident in this great community. This would be one of my biggest challeges of my career, I am looking foward to this task with a clear and open mind.

Thank You, Frank Prieto