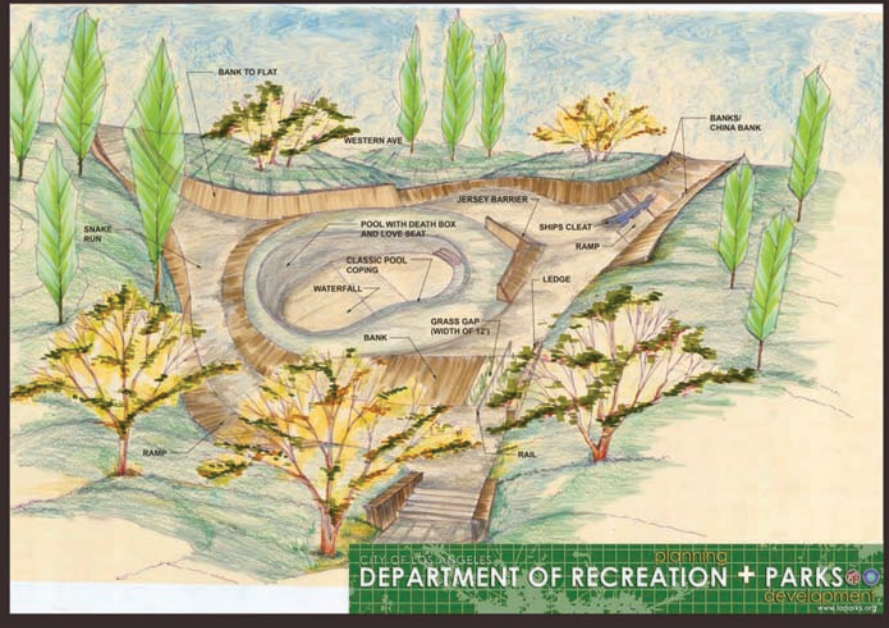


NORTHWEST ADVOCATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL • FEBRUARY 2012

PECK PARK SKATE SITE PERSPECTIVE



Peck Park Skate Park

Peck Park is growing! San Pedro, the home of Southern California skate boarding, is getting a new skate park at Peck Park Community Recreation Center. We have been hosting several community meeting to get local skaters, parents, police and other public members input on what would make this skate park great. Thanks to the input from the public it looks like Peck Parks skate park will be around 8,000 square feet of jumps, ramps, rails and a pool. Keep your eyes and ears open for the ground breaking day, which we hope will be April 2012.

Come Out Swinging in 2012!

Greetings from Peck Park! With the end of the holidays and winter winding down we have an exciting year ahead of us! Peck Park also has youth baseball registration starting in February 4 for youth ages 5-1. In April we will be starting our annual summer camp registrations and Spring Break Camp; stop by the Peck Park Community Recreation Center office this season or check us out on line at laparks.org/peckpark for a complete listing of all the great activities or call us at (310) 548-7580.

Youth Employment Education Fair May 19

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is hosting a youth employment educational job fair. It is open to people from the ages to 16-25 who live in the San Pedro area. The event will be held Saturday, May 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Peck Park. Pre-registration is required.

On hand will be representatives from businesses, and the private sector who will be holding workshops to assist the youth of San Pedro in pursuing valuable knowledge needed for searching for a job.

The committee is looking for any groups or individuals who would be able to contribute to this event. Financial and/or in-kind donations will be very much appreciated. Proper recognition will be given accordingly.

The committee is also looking for anyone who would like to help make this exciting event more successful. Please contact us at the address below.

If there are any businesses able to hire for the summer, please contact the council at the address below and/or participate in the fair.

Some of the workshops include, but are not limited to, resume writing, internships, proper attire and many more. The event will feature a motivational speaker and numerous breakout rooms.

Please watch for more information as the event date nears. Should you have any questions, please contact either of the council websites at www.nwsanpedro.org or board@nwsanpedro.org. The telephone contact is (310) 732-4522.

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

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Attn: POSTAL PATRON

1,135 Units Proposed for Ponte Vista Site

Have you been wondering what is happening with Ponte Vista?

Well, the property is now being developed by I-Star, the original primary lender. I-Star has been preparing the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) on its proposed plan for 1,135 units.

As required, the EIR must also evaluate alternatives, in this case a reduced unit count (something under 1,000), a strictly single-family home development, and a no-build option.

The latest estimate is that the DEIR will be released in February or March and there will be a 45- to 60-day comment period.

The new developer has been more cooperative than the previous developer. Their staff met with our Planning and Land Use Committee on several occasions and have been more reasonable, in our estimation, in their traffic calculations.

Still, there are many issues remaining to be addressed, including impacts on the local schools, impact on services such as police, fire, libraries, and on the water supply and sewer capacity.

The owners have indicated that their plan is to sell off parts of the property once they obtain entitlements. This may be particularly important because it is not certain the density bonus entitlements can be modified.

There is also a possibility that after the DEIR is released, the developer MAY decrease the proposed number of units. The Planning and Land Use Committee and your council will be looking closely at the DEIR and anticipate submitting comments on it.

As always, the committee welcomes and encourages anyone with an interest in this important issue to attend the committee and share your ideas and concerns. If you would like to submit comments or receive notices of our Planning and Land Use Committee meetings, please e-mail us at board@nwsanpedro.org, and take the survey on our website, www.nwsanpedro.org.

NWSPNC Survey Results

In our last issue, we posed three questions which we put on our website. Here is what we heard from you:

1. Parking Meters in Downtown San Pedro:

67 percent thought the parking meters should be reduced to 25 cents per hour and nine percent to 50 cents per hour; 21 percent thought they should be taken out completely; one person thought they should be left at \$1.00 during the week and made free on Saturday.

Unfortunately the motion that Councilwoman Hahn introduced has languished at city council. Hopefully this is something our new councilperson will take up.

2. What is the proper level of development for Ponte Vista?

50 percent single-family homes

17 percent mixed use, density of the Gardens

8 percent condos; density of the Gardens

25 percent left vacant, turned into gardens or similar use

One person suggested it should be 100-percent senior housing.

No one thought it should be unlimited.

3. We asked for specific ideas of how to improve our community and received a number of responses.

The majority of the responses dealt with improving the entrance to San Pedro, Downtown San Pedro, and Ports of Call including a suggestion for creating an enterprise zone, ideas for beautification, and limiting the number of tattoo parlors, halfway houses, nail parlors, and Mexican restaurants.

A number of responses dealt with traffic and crime reduction with suggestions for increased foot patrols and a need for quicker response time. Some of the other suggestions included a Bristol Farms, Joann's or Michaels; increased choices for youth such as a skate park; filling Dunn Canyon; and bringing back the thermal baths at Royal Palms.

Thank you to everyone who responded. Our Issues Committee is reviewing the many good ideas that were submitted. Check our website and take our survey www.nwsanpedro.org.

Community Service Award 2012

This award is for \$500 and open to anyone between the ages of 17-23. The recipient must meet the following requirements:

- Have a minimum GPA 2.5 and be attending a high school, college or vocational school;
- Demonstrated voluntary community service that is not required by schools or other programs between January 2010 and the present;
- Performed the service within the boundaries of the San Pedro neighborhood;
- Live, work or attend school in the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood boundaries.

Interested applicants can get the application on line at the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council website OR contact Barbara Schach, (310) 832-3056 Monday or Tuesday only.

Application is due to Barbara Schach by June 1, 2012.

**NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
638 S. Beacon Street, Box 688
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 732-4522
board@nwsanpedro.org

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NWSPNC Committees

Budget and Finance

Recommends budget, reviews funding requests.

Community Involvement and Collaboration

Deals with youth, education, and community engagement.

Elections and Bylaws

Deals with elections and bylaws matters.

Community Issues

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.

Safety and Security

Deals with community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning.

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 6:00 p.m.
in the Peck Park Auditorium,
560 North Western Avenue**

President's Corner

By Diana Nave, President

Congratulations, Joe Buscaino. This will be an interesting and challenging time for you! We look forward to working with you!

Citywide, the biggest issues are the city budget, economic development, and employment. The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates have been diligently studying the city budget and will once again be making recommendations to the mayor and city council. Craig Goldfarb represents our council in this effort. He would love to hear your ideas.

Our biggest issue coming up is likely to be the plan for development of Ponte Vista (see article on page 1). Marymount College will also be releasing their draft EIR for their campus on Palos Verdes North and we expect to comment on it.

In addition, the long-awaited local community plan update looks like it may soon emerge from the Planning Department for comment. The plan sets important parameters for development in San Pedro for the next five to 10 years, so it is important that we participate in what it includes. These issues will all be discussed at our Planning and Land Use Committee. Our Port Committee is addressing railroad engine train horn noise and rail tank car and truck tank car safety studies.

This is an exciting time to be in San Pedro. Many years of efforts by many different people are about to pay off. Our air is getting cleaner and our community is getting greener. The Governor has signed the legislation to create an Enterprise Zone to encourage business development. Work is about to begin on the downtown water cut. The USS Iowa and "Crafted at the Port" are both expected to open in July. Improvements are coming soon to Plaza Park, and we just heard that the South Bay Light Opera is coming to the Warner Grand!

A little over six months ago we began working with the council office and Department of Recreation and Parks to develop another skate park facility in San Pedro. Space was identified at Peck Park and Recreation and Parks worked very closely with local skateboarders and the San Pedro Skate Park Association under the leadership of Andy Harris, to develop a conceptual design for this facility (see diagram on page 1). They are hoping to have it open before the Channel Street facility has to temporarily close for the improvements to the 47/110 transition.

Changes are continuing on North Gaffey. Development has begun on the Harbor Highlands Homes (Gaffey at Gatun) and on a new storage facility at the corner of Basin. The bird store and San Pedro Sheet Metal have both been recently sold. The Sanitation Department is getting ready to landscape the hillside between the field of dreams and the North Gaffey Multiuse Pathway.

Check out the new restaurant in Northwest, Pumarin Thai, 28368 South Western (in the shopping center with Smart & Final). I can tell you from personal experience that it is excellent. Affordable, too!

As always we would love to hear from you. All of our meetings are open and we encourage you to attend. Check out our website at www.sanpedro.org or e-mail us board@nwsanpedro.org.



Carolyn Grayson



I am happy to be joining the board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. I think neighborhood councils give stakeholders an important voice in projects that affect the community. I am currently also serving on the

NWSPNC Safety and Security Committee.

I, and Ashley Grayson, my husband, represent authors' manuscripts to publishers and negotiate the terms of publishing agreements. We also operated a marketing consulting firm to assist manufacturers in launching computer industry products. When we traveled for business I would think how much I would love to see Los Angeles adopt more and better European-style public transportation systems. (Hop on the streetcar to run up and down Western? I could hope.)

I have lived in San Pedro for about 23 years. I also volunteer with The Associates, a fundraising support group for the Palos Verdes Art Center, and with the South Coast Rose Society. I enjoy gardening and occasionally reading books that are already between covers. I hold a B.A. from Wellesley College, and M.B.A. from U.C.L.A.

Katie Marrie, DVM



We made San Pedro our home in April, 2010. My husband, Dave, found our house and happily, I found a position as medical director of Spay Neuter Project Los Angeles (SNPLA) right next to the Harbor shelter on Gaffey.

Animal overpopulation is a huge concern and I am happy to be able to make a difference right here where I live. San Pedro has also become the home of our yellow lab, Landie, and our cat, Nala.

We fell in love with our neighborhood and our neighbors. They have been incredible—making us feel welcome from the day we moved in. We love the "small town" feel of San Pedro and it is close enough to the harbor for Dave to get back and forth to Catalina Island where he is the director of Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI).

I look forward to representing my community and helping make San Pedro a better and safer place to live.

WWW.NWSANPEDRO.ORG

What It Means to Be on the Board

By Scott Allman

For me, being on the board means that I get the chance to serve my community with other people who want to get involved in what is happening in our neighborhood.

I did serve on my homeowners association board for two years, but I still didn't know really what to expect when I became a board member of NWSPNC, a Los Angeles neighborhood council. I learned right away that the people serving on the board are really there because they care about where they live.

It has been an eye-opener for me to see how many different departments the City of Los Angeles has in order to provide services to the people of the city.

I am still learning how the city operates with each department and how the structure of the departments overall affects the city.

Attending a few events at city hall concerning

the neighborhood councils showed me that the city really sees the importance of neighborhood councils. They look to us for input on many different things.

It was easy for me to be an armchair quarterback before I became a board member but when you spend your time getting involved in the issues you see other sides of issues that you may not have been aware of.

I do get surprised from time to time at what people and/or the city deems important when it comes to spending money or asking for money.

I am very proud to be on the NWSPNC and to serve with my fellow neighbors. I would encourage everyone who is reading this newsletter to come to at least one board meeting, at Peck Park on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., this year to see if serving your community is for you.

Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Report to the San Pedro Community

Friends and neighbors, it was a whirlwind 2011. In July of last year I had the immense honor of being elected to represent the 36th Congressional District. I served San Pedro in Los Angeles City Hall and now I have the pleasure of serving you in the United States House of Representatives.

I may work in Washington, D.C. these days, but San Pedro continues to be my home. Travelling back and forth to the east coast nearly every week isn't easy, but I love serving you in Congress.

All of us understand the challenges facing our community and the nation. Here in San Pedro and around California, we continue to face high unemployment, currently hovering around 12 percent. That is unacceptable.

That's why rebuilding our economy and creating jobs is my number one priority.

Last year, soon after my election, I was named to serve on two important committees that deal directly with these issues; Small Business and Homeland Security.

Small businesses create the majority of our new jobs each year, and form the backbone of the American economy. I wanted to work on the committee that could give them the tools they need to thrive. In my first months in office, I met with over 50 businesses in the district—large and small—listening to their needs and concerns.

Working with them, I have authored legislation to address the key issues they brought to me, providing these businesses easier access to capital and less red tape to deal with along the way.

We know very well here in San Pedro the importance of our ports and the challenges they face. The Port of Los Angeles is a tremendous economic engine, linked to 1.1 million jobs in our state, and another 2.2 million all across the country.

Every one of the millions of containers that come through our port complex each year represents opportunity and commerce, but it also represents risk. We know that our ports face serious threats. We know how much pollution they can create. Our ports must live within the community. That means operating cleanly, efficiently, and safely.

That's why in October, I teamed up with Ted Poe of Texas to form the bipartisan PORTS caucus. The PORTS caucus mission is simple yet powerful; for our economy to grow we must have strong and secure ports.

To protect our ports and LAX, I authored legislation to maintain funding for critical security programs that train police and firefighters. In addition, I have asked the Department of Homeland Security to take the necessary steps to ensure that LAX has the proper number of customs agents at work to reduce delays for international travelers. We want LAX to be a welcoming gateway to our city.

I'm also very pleased that this January we celebrated the opening of my new congressional office right in the heart of downtown San Pedro. Located at 140 West Sixth Street, my new office will serve the entire district and will always have its door open to you.

I hope your 2012 is off to a fantastic start and I look forward to seeing each of you.

San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau Seeks to Boost Area Tourism

Tourism—visitors, meetings, conventions—is the biggest industry in Los Angeles. But historically San Pedro has not had anyone promoting it as a destination for this business.

Until recently.

The San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau (SPCVB) is a relatively new organization, launched two and a half years ago, to serve as the key entity attracting and serving visitors, meeting and reunion planners, and others responsible for making decisions about where to go.

Many are surprised San Pedro has never had a convention and visitors bureau. But not many are surprised to learn that all of the transit occupancy (hotel) tax revenues generated in San Pedro go elsewhere, in particular to LAInc, as the Los Angeles Convention & Visitors Bureau calls itself.

Thus, SPCVB does not receive tax funds. It operates privately.

The value of San Pedro having its own destination specialist organization was demonstrated during Navy Days last July. When the Navy finally made contact with the community, there was just two days to organize volunteers, materials, and activities for the nearly 5,000 sailors and 100,000 visitors who came to San Pedro.

SPCVB was able to do all of that, staffing a welcome center at the USS Abraham Lincoln, a canteen at the Croatian Cultural Center of Greater Los Angeles, guides at the cruise terminal, directories, special offers, and more.

The organization has also hosted reunions, the visit of the Russian tall ship Pallada, and promoted San Pedro throughout the world.

Its biweekly events calendar, which is distributed to all hotels and many other visitor destinations throughout the Harbor area as well as online, has become a popular source of information.

SPCVB has a number of other publications all specifically targeted for visitors and meeting planners coming to the San Pedro and the Harbor communities, including a visitor guide, welcome newsletter, special events guide, and a travel agent guide.

It maintains an extensive presence on Facebook and other social media sites to promote San Pedro as a great place to visit.

The key to San Pedro finding success as a tourist destination is to have a specialist organization that knows how to reach the marketplace. That's the San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

San Pedro Convention & Visitors Bureau

(310) 729-9828 / www.SanPedroTourist.org / email: info@spcvb.com



Peck Park Pool Mural

Members of the San Pedro community are replacing the painted mural that has delighted the Peck Park Pool patrons for almost a decade. Approximately 10 years ago, Diana Chapman painted the festive underwater scene that is now showing its age. A mosaic mural will be its replacement.

The Peck Park Pool community and our neighborhood council voted on eight designs that local artist Julie Bender designed. The bright colored mosaic of individual sea creatures was the favorite.

This mosaic will have all kinds of tile, many of which will be handmade. The creatures will have a black outline and a black frame. The handmade frame tiles will have fun facts written in them about the animal it surrounds. So, the mural will be sharply defined and beautiful from afar, like seen from the tennis courts, but up close is where the real fascination will entertain the onlooker.

Thirteen Girl Scout Troops signed up to help Julie Bender in the mosaic process. Girl Scouts and a special group of people from Peck Park Community Center have created about 3,500 handmade tiles, glazed them and, when the time comes, will put them on the wall. People have donated beautiful tiles from their remodels and some are going to tile stores and finding discarded tiles that couldn't be sold.

The work on the wall will be done on the weekends from the end of January to the end of April. Julie Bender is heading up the organization of the project so if you want to help in some way, you can contact her at 6benders@cox.net.

Other ways to help are donations. We need Thin-set, grout, tiling tools, sponges, buckets, hammers, eye protection, tile and, of course, money. If you want to donate money, please do it through www.laparksfoundation.org, click on "support a park" then "ways to give" then type in "Peck Park Pool" and use your credit card.

The cost of this mosaic is projected to be under \$2,000, but in reality it will be "priceless" from the amount of love for the pool and all its healthy attributes, to the fun of creating a permanent art piece as a community. We can't wait to get to the wall and create!

Skateboarding Accidents a Concern for the Community

By John Mavar, NWSPNC Vice President

As you drive through San Pedro you have undoubtedly encountered skateboarders racing down the street and suddenly appearing from nowhere. A number of residents have expressed concern about this issue.

Unfortunately this behavior recently resulted in the untimely death of a young skater. Could this have been prevented? Now more than ever, we need to rally, as a community, to prevent future accidents and deaths.

Micheal Borojevich was only 14. The San Pedro High School freshman was passionate about skating, like every other skateboard enthusiast. He and his friends were skateboarding around Western Avenue and 25th street when the accident occurred. His passing reemphasizes the need to find a way to increase skateboard safety.

The sport is about learning as many tricks as you can and to test your limits. As former skate boarder, I took my risks. But the level of intensity with our youth has increased.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and San Pedro Skateboards Association have worked closely with the Department of Recreation and Parks to make sure we provide another place for skaters at Peck Park.

The skate park, still in the planning stage, is only a step toward by providing a safe and usable space. Our Neighborhood Council will continue to work with skaters, LAPD and city officials to find ways to increase skateboard safety.

If you have ideas on how to improve skater safety or others issues please contact board@nwsanpedro.org.

New Year Looks Bright for USS Iowa

Happy New Year to All!

The New Year has arrived and so much has happened with the IOWA and with Pacific Battleship Center. As you know, on September 6, 2011 we got the call from the Navy and I recall the first thing they said was "Congratulations Pacific Battleship Center, you have been awarded the IOWA."

That was the day I knew would change many of our lives. I want to thank you all. It is because of many of you that we joined together to save the IOWA and bring her back to life.

All of us at Pacific Battleship Center look forward to having you aboard the USS IOWA in the very near future and are still planning to have a grand opening in July 2012. I will send you a notification once the details has been confirmed.

Thank you,

Trish Place, Membership Coordinator

Pacific Battleship Center / USS IOWA BB-61

MOMS Club of San Pedro Assistance League

By Brynn Utovac

After the birth of my first child, I decided to forfeit the lifestyle afforded by dual-income in exchange for the opportunity to nurse, bathe, battle, feed, change (and change again) my young son. Although I was in my late twenties, I was the first of my friends to have a child, and thereby, the only one from my grad-school flock to be spending afternoons playing on a rug with Thomas the Train as opposed to taking the Blue Line in the morning in order to spend the day seated at a desk. Yes, I was jealous (*a ton, admittedly*) of those who still resided in "Adultlandia" and I, too, longed for a schedule filled with checking off to-do lists and emailing back people who expected things of me (read: the time before Facebook was the single source of adult interaction).

Isolation, I learned the hard way, truly is the proverbial enemy of stay-at-home-moms everywhere; it first befriended me on one of those long days on the couch, between diaper-changes and that third switch out of soiled clothes. But, we really became acquainted right before nap-time was 'supposed to occur' but didn't, because it happened to be that anomaly-afternoon. In those exact moments, I remembered I had added a new tool to my Mommy's-in-a-crunch-resource-kit, the MOMS Club monthly calendar. With its daily activity list and other local members, who were just about as starved out for adult company as I was, were waiting. No need to call or text- I just simply had to refer to the calendar on my fridge, grab the diaper bag, and go!

In all honesty, I can't remember how I first came to learn of the San Pedro chapter of this international non-profit organization. However, the acronym MOMS, quite appropriately reduced from, "Moms Offering Moms Support," lives up to its intention. So, at this time, let me extend a very belated "Thank you" to the mother that first mentioned this group to me, albeit I no longer can recall this Angel of Mercy. Meeting other moms who were new at parenting, trying their best, making all kinds of mistakes, and yet still finding Mommy-friends and arranging play-dates along the way was the sort of initial support I needed.

If this first-year-mom story is a snapshot of your life or if you are a working parent wanting to spend some activity-centered time with one of your young ones, here is the information I wish I had a month *before* delivery! And yes, the MOMS Club of San Pedro welcomes pregnant first-timers as well!

General meeting info: last Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Peck Park "ABC" Room in the community building

560 Western Avenue, San Pedro

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/sanpedromomsclub/home>

Membership VP Marcia Parker: sanpedromomsclub@yahoo.com

Local Soroptimist International Group Nears 70th Anniversary

Established in the mid-1940s, the Harbor group of the Soroptimist International has been extremely active in the local community for many years.

They support services for women here in the LA Harbor area as well as on a national basis—and internationally—with some of the beneficiaries being local Girl Scouts, a women's halfway house, local schools, a Mexican orphanage, and a training program in rural South India which educates "untouchable" girls to become nursing assistants.

An endowment was established 10 years ago by the SILAH which benefits low-income women by providing free mammograms and other health support; \$10,000 has been given to the PMCM Hospital yearly.

The major fund raiser for this generosity is the What A Pair "art bra" gala and auction, which has involved numerous individuals, community groups, businesses, and healthcare providers.

What A Pair will again be a San Pedro event this March 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Croatian Cultural Center, Seventh and Pacific. Tickets (\$65 or two for \$120) are available, as are ad purchase for the souvenir brochure and information as to how to create/sponsor an

artist or art bra, or to even make a donation.

There will be live music, working artists creating original work on-site from a figure model, complimentary finger foods, and other surprises. The goal is again \$10,000 to go to our local imaging center/hospital.

The Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization which focuses energies on improving the health, emotional, and economic well-being for disadvantaged girls and women.

The local SILAH welcomes potential members, as well as invites community members to join them in participation at What A Pair.

Call Marta Valladolid at (310) 832-5482 for more information on Soroptimists, their mission, to purchase tickets or an ad, or to provide support.

Welcome to a New San Pedro Business
Happiness Nails & Spa
28130 S. Western Avenue #8
In the Albertson's Shopping Center
(310) 464-0696
Stop by and say hello!

Have Your Say! Take the City's Annual Budget Survey Online

Go online and take a few minutes giving the mayor and city council your opinion about the city's budget priorities. Your response will help determine how Los Angeles spends taxpayer dollars. The link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>

The San Pedro South Bay Chapter of the Assistance League is located in Weymouth Corners. Most of us know them for their wonderful store or a quick postal stop. The store and post office are just ways to raise money to provided needed services in our community. Last year their Operation School Bell provided clothing to almost 2,000 children from 35 schools and their Dental Center handled 2,353 patient visits.

Operation School Bell

This program provides children who need them with two sets of clothing, a pair of shoes, and a backpack filled with personal grooming items and school supplies. They have had children arrive in wet clothes, no underwear, wearing their mother's shoes, brother's shirt or not having clothes laundered in many weeks.

In addition, each student can choose a new book to take home. So many children have never had a new book of their own and they are very happy to receive this special item. Some of the children that come are embarrassed, others are extremely sad, but all have huge smiles when they leave.

Their volunteers contribute an average of 1,594 hours each school year. Most children write thank you notes or draw pictures, before leaving. Those small tokens, along with the smiles and laughter, make it all worth the volunteer's time. School supplies, soft cover books or monetary contributions are always appreciated.

Frances J. Johnson Dental Center

Since 1941, the Frances J. Johnson Dental Center has been open five days a week and staffed by an accredited dental team, providing quality, low-cost care to children of preschool through high school age from low income families. Last year, the center handled 2,353 patient visits.

The licensed dental staff consists of one dentist per day, one full-time and one part-time Registered Dental Assistant, and a part time Registered Dental Hygienist. They have 20 volunteers who are scheduled to help at the front desk, assisting in providing oral health education, assist at health fairs and help with the promotion in the community.

In addition to 2,353 patient visits, the center also provided 650 dental screenings and fluoride varnish treatments and oral health education during three local community health fairs.

The Dental Center is currently participating in a research grant with UCLA School of Dentistry and funded by Delta Dental. The research grant is "Reducing Microbial Levels in High Caries Risk Adults." The specific aim of the study is to determine how long the bacterial levels in the mouth will remain lowered for up to three months by using a two-step over-the-counter mouth rinse. The patients participating in the study receive a small stipend, electric tooth brush, oral hygiene instructions and updated list of Resources for Low-Cost and Free Dental Services in Los Angeles County.

The Dental Center has completed a successful "Soda Free Summer" campaign to promote good oral health and nutritional habits. They are working on a hand hygiene and cough etiquette program to reduce cases of flu and the number of absences from school and canceled appointments due to illness. Most patients come from Spanish-speaking homes and the center's materials and education are bilingual.

The dental care provided by the center includes caries risk assessment, oral hygiene education for the patients and their families, comprehensive exams and x-rays, fluoride treatments, sealants and other preventive treatments, fillings, pulpotomies, stainless steel crowns, root canals, extractions and space maintainers.

The fee is \$10 per visit and services are for uninsured children of low income families only. Also, through a generous designated/restricted gift, the center is helping to subsidize complete orthodontic care for 43 patients. The local orthodontist they refer to are treating the center's patients at a discounted fee.

The center is more than a dental clinic. It is a dental home for its patients and their families. It provides them with information of other services available to them in the community. Through the generosity of volunteers and dental staff, they even do their best to make sure patients' holidays are a even a little merrier and bright. They are always so thankful!

Dental Center staff are also happy to report that, each year, several patients express their desire to pursue a career in the health professions as they graduate from high school and complete the program.

The Dental Center is very fortunate to have such a wonderful organization as part of the community.

Civic Light Opera Docks at the Warner Grand

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities has reached an agreement with the Warner Grand Theater and the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs to take residency at the historic Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro.

Executive Producer and founder of the Civic Light Opera, James Blackman, a third generation, native Angelino, is excited to be working in San Pedro, Los Angeles's little San Francisco.

He can't wait to contribute his energy and company resources along with local entrepreneurs, businesses and citizens as San Pedro concludes its full revitalization. The Civic Light Opera is the winner of four Ovation Awards (the Los Angeles Tony Awards). Most recently for "Miss Saigon."

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities is the most awarded Theater Company in Southern California. This not-for-profit, cultural arts institution is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of this unique, American art form known as musical theater.

"The More the Merrier"—we are looking for office, warehouse and storage space. If you can lend a hand, email us at updateclo@gmail.com. For ticketing and subscription reservations, please call (310) 372-4477 or visit www.civilightopera.com.