Senator Isadore Hall Hosts Disaster Response and Port Security Meeting

On March 31 at the Port of Los Angeles building, Senator Hall brought together various first responders and community leaders to discuss disaster response plans for our community. The Plumas All American, Rancho LPG facility on Gaffey across the street from Home Depot, whose 40-plus-year-old tanks contain 25 million gallons of refrigerated butane and propane were a predominant focus.

These tanks sit on an earthquake rupture zone with a potential of 7.3 event and are built to a seismic standard of only 5.5 to 6.0. In the event of a leak, the blast radius, according to most experts, is 3.1 miles. (Rancho LPG executive Ron Crow claims a worst-case scenario is a half-mile blast radius.) A railroad with only 30,000 gallons has a reported blast radius of .425. Whether you agree with a half-mile blast radius or 3.1 miles, the potential for a catastrophic event is there.

The meeting is on video at senate.ca.gov (click on Media Archive, go to the 3/31/16 meeting “Senate Governmental Organization Subcommittee on Emergencies, Disaster Response and Port Security” link). The meeting video is 2.24 hours. Please take the time to at least watch the last hour or so. Knowledge is power.

NWSA Provides Grants to Local Youth Groups

For the second year in a row, NWSA challenged San Pedro youth based/youth lead groups to submit proposals for grants for their organizations or themselves. Submissions were judged by the extent the project would benefit health, environment, arts or humanity in San Pedro. Priority was given to groups based in Northwest San Pedro and youth lead groups.

While we would have loved to fund them all, our budget was only $2,000. The following three were chosen:

- Park Western Elementary School’s last years’ grant request for a Buddy Bench was a huge success. The students sit on the bench when they are feeling bullied and need a buddy. The first one is working so well they requested funds for a second Buddy Bench for the younger students on a separate playground.
- Alliance Alice M. Baxter College Ready High School students submitted a proposal to beautify the neighborhood with a mural in Anderson Memorial Park. Their hopes are that this will inspire more community pride and family events at the park. The mural will be of a garden with different types of flowers and the vision is to have it say “Every person is a different kind of flower and all together make this world a beautiful garden.” This submission came from students ranging in age from 14 to 16.
- UCLA Uni-Camp is an organization that partners with Dana Middle School to send up to 80 students to a residential outdoor summer camp that emphasizes the need for building leadership, relationship, nonviolent communications and character development.

We are so very proud of the San Pedro youth and take great pleasure in being able to offer them support!

Mark Your Calendar: 
Party @ the Polls! 
June 11, Peck Park

It’s time to vote for your neighborhood council board. Whether you are passionate about Ponte Vista (now called Highpark) property, Rancho LPG butane tanks, the homeless people on the streets, bike lanes and so many other issues, now is the time to let your voice be heard by choosing a candidate that best reflects your views! There are nine seats that will be decided on Saturday, June 11, and we need your vote! Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m.

If you live, work, own property, participate in a religious organization or a nongovernmental agency, or if you or your children attend school in NW San Pedro and you are 16 years of age or older you are a recognized stakeholder in this election. Meet the candidates at one of the two forums being held at Peck Park Community Center, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. or stop by the NWSA tent in the park and meet them individually. Dave Widow and friends will be singing out the Election Day Blues for us from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Check our website www.nwsanpedro.org and our Facebook page for the latest in activities scheduled for that day. Many fun and exciting activities are in the planning stages and we wouldn’t want you to miss out!

Available positions and candidates are:

- Non-Government Organization Representative (one position)
  Candidate: Lee Williams

- At-Large Representative (one position)
  Candidates: Brion D’Angelo and Laurie A. Jacobs
  Census Tract 2951 (one position)
  Candidates: Melanie Labrecque and Anthony Mercadante
  Census Tract 2963 (one position)
  Candidate: Raymond Regalado
  Census Tract 2964 (one position)
  Candidates: Gwendolyn Henry and Mike Pulsich
  Census Tract 2970 (one position)
  Candidate: Chris Valle

Candidate statements are on page 3.

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

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

The NWSPNC Governing Board and stakeholder meeting is on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Peck Park Auditorium, 560 North Western Avenue, San Pedro.

NWSPNC BOARD MEMBERS
RAY REGALADO, President
LAURIE JACOBS, Vice President
CYNTHIA GONYEA, Secretary
SARAH VALDEZ, Treasurer
ROBERT J. BRYANT
PETER BURMEISTER
ROGER CUEVAS
DAN DIXON
CRAIG GOLDFARB
MATTHEW DIMEGLIO
DIANA NAVE
MIKE PULISIELCH
BARBARA SCHACH
GEORGE THOMPSON
CHRIS VALLE
LEE WILLIAMS
DARLENE ZAVALNEY

NWSPNC Committees
Budget and Finance
Chair: George Thompson
Recommends budget, reviews funding requests.

Bylaws and Elections
Chair: Scott Allman
Elections and bylaws matters.

Community Issues
Chair: Dan Dixon
Traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees.

Planning and Land Use Committee
Chair: Diana Nave
Planning and land use issues.

Port Committee
Chair: Phil Nicolay
Port-related issues.

Safety and Security Committee
Chair: Robert Garcia
Community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning.

Sustainability
Chair: Sarah Valdez
Environmental issues.

Youth and Outreach
Chair: Darlene Zavalney
Youth, education, and community engagement.

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

Farewell to Longtime NWSPNC Board Members
Diana Nave

NWSPNC owes so much to Diana Nave, as does the entire Neighborhood council system in San Pedro. Diana was one of the founders of the neighborhood council system and worked to decide most every detail of NWSPNC board and bylaws.

She is always recruiting stakeholders for either the board or for a function that we’ve got planned or to encourage participation in board meetings. It is the only reason that when we need to know “how to” or “can we” or “is it ethical”.

It is with a very heavy heart that we inform the community that Diana has decided not to run for another term. She will be missed more than we can say. However, she has agreed to stay active as the chair of the planning and land use committee.

From all of us on the board and all the NWSPNC stakeholders, thank you, Diana! We love you.

Barbara Schach

Anyone who is close to someone in education will tell you that the work day for those in education starts at sun up and generally lasts until maybe an hour before their head hits the pillow at night.

Barbara Schach, a vice principal for three schools’ special needs students, has been a member of the NWSPNC board for over 10 years. During that time, Barbara has served as chair of the youth committee and co-chair of youth and outreach. Her dedication not only to youth, but to our community as a whole, is amazing and exemplary. We wish her all the best in her retirement and will miss her as a member of our council.

From all of the board of NWSPNC and the community stakeholders, thank you, Barbara, for all your hard work and dedication. We will miss you!

George Thompson

We bid a reluctant farewell to George Thompson who will be leaving the NWSPNC Board in June after 12 years of dedication and participation.

Before coming to the board, Captain George, as he was better known, spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy and 15 years teaching in public schools.

During his time on the board, George served as secretary, vice president, chair of the budget and finance committee, chair of the bylaws and elections committee, and member of the issues committee. He was known for his short, but pithy, comments and “Let’s just get it done” attitude.

When reflecting on his time on the board, George said “As I walk or drive around the Northwest San Pedro area, it is gratifying to see things taking place that I know I played a part in bringing to fruition. The hours I spend in these endeavors are rewarded by the opportunity to take part in discussions, listening to the different viewpoints or proposed solutions of my fellow members.”

While George will no longer be an elected board member, we know that he will still be an active participant and share his wisdom with us.

Update on the San Pedro Christensen Science Center

In January, LAUSD District South Superintendent Christopher Downing reported to the NWSPNC that LAUSD was planning to close the Christensen MST Center at the end of the 2016 school year. Shortly afterward, it was announced that community focus groups would be formed to begin a conversation about the future of the site.

Attended by District staff, invited representatives of Central, Coastal, and Northwest San Pedro NCs, and most recently, teachers from Harbor Area schools, these focus groups have been cooperating to shape a proposition by District South to replace the MST with a STEAM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Arts/Mathematics) Magnet school for grades 6-8.

At the first focus group, a more general conversation about the potential role and function of the site was used to review LAUSD’s stance and communicate broad community priorities.

These included residents’ desire to see the educational and developmental opportunities the MST provided continue and evolve, while also seeking to avoid the recurring budget crises that have plagued the center’s existence for decades.

The District clearly stated its need to stabilize and expand student enrollment to ensure that the facility was financially self-sustaining, as opposed to its historical presence as a $400,000-per-year line item in the LAUSD budget.

At the second meeting, it seemed clear that whatever third-party sponsorships/partnerships might be available, the District South approach was based in the concept of a magnet school that would compete with charter and other private schools, as well as strengthening the backbone of LAUSD’s commitment to Next Generation Science Standards.

Going into the third meeting, elementary and middle school teachers were able to add greater practical insight into their needs for instructional resources, and LAUSD representatives explained the long-term process of developing a plan that could be presented to the LAUSD board for consideration in the upcoming budget.

As it stands now, there appears to be a good-faith effort in the works by LAUSD District South to develop a 21st-century educational facility that will preserve many of the functions of the previous incarnation, including elementary school access and professional development/resources/materials for teachers, while broadening its scope to include STREAM education that serve San Pedro and the Harbor area going forward, as a center for applied science learning that potentially serves port-related industries, 21st-century tech careers, marine science, with flexibility to develop new programs as needs change over time.

The next step is to invite more community input and prepare to present our consensus view to the school board. As always, we invite your questions, comments, and participation at board and committee meetings, as well as in online social media. The time to let LAUSD know our priorities and demonstrate our commitment to world-class education is now. Please join the process, and make it stronger.
Who’s Running: NWSNPC Candidate Statements

Business Representative

one position open / four-year term

Lee Williams

Lee Williams holds a business seat on the NWSNPC. He leads a top real estate team and also publishes BestoftheSouthBay.com, a blog focused on the things that make the South Bay a great place to live. My main motivations for joining the council are the desire to bring about, first, improving the quality of life for San Pedro residents through business improvements, home renovation and new home construction. I intend to participate in making sure these businesses bring positive actual improvements to our quality of life with an emphasis on keeping San Pedro family friendly. Second, waterfront improvements should be designed to bring more jobs to San Pedro that keep folks employed and tourist dollars local. Projects like Alteasa and Ports O’Call should help people lift income to work with good paying jobs and a short local commute.

Lastly, I support gardeners, beekeepers and those who are making San Pedro Green/Sustainable. San Pedro is changing together like never before and I’m proud to be a part of it.

Non-government Organization Representative

two positions open / four-year term

Robert Jay Bryant

Let me introduce myself: I have lived in San Pedro all my life and it is a great place to live and raise a family. I was the regional commissioner in AYSO for 12 years in San Pedro. I have served on our church vestry twice at Saint Peters. I served on the school board at Saint Peters from a member to chairman for 14 years. My wife and I worked on fund raising at the Boys and Girls Club. I was one of the founding members of The San Pedro Youth Coalition. I publish the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Newsletter. I have served on this council from August 1985 thru June of 2019. I have been the Outreach Committee chair and youth committee chair. I have spent most of my life trying to make my community a better place to live. But we still have a lot more to do, so to speak. This council can make a difference. Thank you.

Carlos M. Garcia

I am a former NWSNPC Board member and am currently serving on the NWSNPC Port Committee. I am a retired Government Accountability Office (GAO) senior analyst and am a lifelong San Pedrano. I earned a BA in History from Loyola University and a BS in Accounting from Long Beach State. I belong to Holy Trinity Catholic parish. I am deeply interested in the redevelopment of Ports O’ Call and the San Pedro waterfront, and enhancing the quality of life and public services in San Pedro.

School Representative

one position open / four-year term

Steven Skrumbis

No statement provided.

At-large Representative

two positions open / four-year term

Bron D’Angelo

My family and I moved to San Pedro for the express reason that it is a community in every sense of the word. From the local businesses to the historical neighborhoods, everything about San Pedro is a reflection on its inhabitants, which in turn shows a community with local roots and history. I am running for a seat on the council for the express reason that I want to do everything I can to improve San Pedro, yet maintain its essence, by keeping it a community to participate in the determination of its future and maintain its integrity and diversity. As a trained mediator and human rights advocate I believe all community members have a right to engage their elected officials, city leaders and community agencies in providing a safe and welcoming community.

Census Tract 2964

one position open / four-year term

Gwendolyn Henry

I am a born & bred Angeleno. Relocated to San Pedro from Santa Monica, this quiet, family friendly and diverse community is now my home. Don’t take San Pedro for granted. Treasure SP’s cultural and economic diversity. 30 years ago, Santa Monica was just like this town. You could hear fog horns & an owl hooting at night. Neighbors knew each other & kids ran from house to house. There were seniors, retirees, 1st time home owners, artists, family-owned businesses. It wasn’t perfect (homelessness & crime) but there was a sincere effort to raise everyone up & keep the small town spirit.

Now, it’s gone. No history. Global forces have made it overdeveloped, overcrowded & insanely expensive. SP is on the brink. Forces are leveraged to sell this place to the highest bidder. Not local investors...global investors. Good people who have worked and lived here for generations will be pushed out.

Step up. Become involved. Be vocal. Attend meetings. You deserve to share in this extraordinary place!

Mike Pulisich

No statement provided.

Census Tract 2870

one position open / four-year term

Chris Valle

I have served and will run again for the NW San Pedro Neighborhood council because I believe that quality-of-life is about involvement and engagement with my community and encouraging other people to get involved as well. San Pedro has serious issues to address, but many things to celebrate as well, and I want to be part of making this neighborhood, the town of San Pedro, and the City of Los Angeles a model for citizens taking responsibility for their future, our future, the future of the city. I hope to be part of it, to learn and grow with it, while helping maintain San Pedro’s cultural values of civic duty and service.

Neighborhood Council Oath

I pledge to represent my Neighborhood Council and Stakeholders with dignity, integrity, and respect.

I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own.

I will respect, value, and consider every one’s opinion.

I will adhere to all local, state and federal laws as well as hold other board members accountable to do the same.

I will find the good in my neighborhood, praise it and promote it.

I will work to honor diversity, build community, forge bonds with neighboring communities, and promote participation in city governance and the decision-making processes, to improve the quality of life for all South Bay Stakeholders.

To the neighborhood council system, to my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.
What’s Coming Up at Peck Park

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2016 – Nine Weeks of Day Camp, June 13-August 12. The camp is a supervised recreational program for children 5-12 years of age. Camp includes a variety games, sports, arts/crafts, field trips and special events all centered around a weekly theme. Camp hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Cost for full-time (five days) is $140 per week plus a one-time $20 registration fee. Full-time includes weekly field trip and lunch daily. Various part time options are available. Contact the recreation office at (310) 548-7580 for more information.

SUMMER TEEN TRAVEL CAMP 2016 – Teen travel camp is for ages 11-15. Four weeks of camp are planned this summer – July 5-29. Teens travel every day to amusement parks, sporting events and area attractions. Weekly fee is $175 or $47 per day.

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT – Teen travel camp is for ages 11-15. Four weeks of camp are planned this summer – July 5-29. Teens travel every day to amusement parks, sporting events and area attractions. Weekly fee is $175 or $47 per day.

SUMMER BASKETBALL 2016 – Basketball league for boys and girls ages 4-13. Practices begin in June, games begin the week of July 9. Several age divisions to choose from plus girls ONLY leagues. Cost is $125 and includes jersey, trophies, game fees and staff fees. Deadline to sign up is Thursday, May 26.

TEEN TENNIS LESSONS SUMMER 2016 – Learn the game of tennis. Beginning and Intermediate level lessons are available. Classes are available for ages 6 to 89. One hour class per week, 10-week session. Summer session begins the week of June 6. Fee is $75. For specific class times, please contact Peck Park at (310) 548-7580.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL 2016 – Don’t miss the 2016 Flag Football season for ages 5-13. Online registration begins July 25, walk-in registration begins August 6. Fee is $125 and includes uniform, game fees, trophy and park staff. Practices begin in September, games in October.

GIRLS FALL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE 2016 – Volleyball league for girls ages 8-13. Practices will begin in September, league play in October. Registration begins August 6. Fee is $85 and includes uniform, trophy, match fees and staff fees. Deadline to sign up is Friday, September 16.

TENNIS LESSONS SUMMER 2016 – Learn the game of tennis. Beginning and Intermediate level lessons are available. Classes are available for ages 6 to 89. One hour class per week, 10-week session. Summer session begins the week of June 6. Fee is $75. For specific class times, please contact Peck Park at (310) 548-7580.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL 2016 – Don’t miss the 2016 Flag Football season for ages 5-13. Online registration begins July 25, walk-in registration begins August 6. Fee is $125 and includes uniform, game fees, trophy and park staff. Practices begin in September, games in October.

GIRLS FALL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE 2016 – Volleyball league for girls ages 8-13. Practices will begin in September, league play in October. Registration begins August 6. Fee is $85 and includes uniform, trophy, match fees and staff fees. Deadline to sign up is Friday, September 16.

Planning Update

Highpark
Highpark is the new name for Ponte Vista. They have begun grading the site and have implemented dust control measures. If you see any dust, you should contact them at (651) 757-0838. NWS/PN/SC sent the owners a letter regarding our unhappiness with the new name.

Gaffey Beautification
The council office has entered into an agreement with LANI to develop the Phase I implementation for the Gaffey Street Beautification Plan. There is approximately $1.5 million left from when CalTrans relinquished Gaffey to the city that can be used. Phase I will consist primarily of things that can be implemented quickly and make the entrance to San Pedro more welcoming, such as coordinated street furniture, decorative signage, and replacement of the median. CD 15 anticipates that Phase I implementation will be done by late 2016 or early 2017. They are now applying for a grant for an additional $1 million for Phase II implementation.

When the city acquired the property on Gaffey at the end of the Harbor Freeway, it was their intention to take down the blue cinder building and create a view corridor to Bandini Canyon. Unfortunately, they found that the building is actually acting as a retaining wall for the street. They are now exploring options.

As a result of our efforts, the city cleaned the trash off of the parcel they own at the corner of Gaffey and the 47 on ramp/Miraflorres. We have requested that the city transfer this property to Recreation and Parks so it can be incorporated into Leland Park East.

Waterfront Development

The revised plans for Ports O’ Call have been released. The project is now called the San Pedro Public Market. The Port anticipates finalizing the lease with the developers by early summer. To learn more, go to www.yourlawaterfront.com.

Ten plans include a Red Car running the length of the property – it would use Red Cars placed at grade. The NWS/PN/SC has requested that the Port extend the Red Car to the fountain as soon as construction will allow and that plans for future further extensions be discussed.

Work on the Sampson Way Realignment is expected to start sometime this summer. This work needs to be completed before work on Ports O’ Call begins.

Central San Pedro
There has been an increase in interest in development particularly in downtown San Pedro. The lot at 550 South Palos Verdes is in escrow and the new owners intend to build the previously entitled mixed-use structure.

There is an application pending for a new mixed-use six story structure on the water side of the Vac. The city is preparing a request for proposals to determine interest in developing the parking lot between Eighth and Ninth streets off of Pacific (behind O’Reilly). Any new development would be required to include a comparable number of parking units.

There is legislation pending at the state that would enable to transfer of the courthouse from the state to the county and the county intends to then go out to bid for a developer for that parcel.

Stay tuned...

Welcome, Banfield Pet Hospital

NWS/PN/SC welcomes Banfield Pet Hospital to the Garden Village Shopping Center, 28114 South Western Avenue.

Banfield is the largest pet hospital in the nation with over 900 sites, most of which are located inside of Pet Smart Stores. Manager Lauren Gordon and several staff members are San Pedro Residents. When asked about why they chose this location, Lauren replied that they like the neighborhood and there is a lot of opportunity here.

They are open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. They are a full-service pet hospital performing everything from routine physical exams to involved surgery. One thing they do not do is keep any animals overnight.

For more information, visit banfield.net or call (310) 831-1899.