Marymount College Announces 20-year Plan for San Pedro Campuses

Only a few years ago, Marymount was a small two-year college with declining enrollment. After Marymount was granted accreditation as a four-year college in 2010, the college experienced a tremendous transformation. Within recent years, Marymount:

• Increased student enrollment by more than 70 percent.
• Added new programs in business, media, global studies, psychology, American studies, premedical studies and forensic science investigation.
• Was admitted to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.
• Established one of the nation’s most comprehensive and integrated service learning programs that included providing 16,000 hours of volunteer service in one year to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor.
• Established the Waterfront Campus in San Pedro.
• Invested more than $7 million in facility construction, renovation and development at all four campuses.
• Planned for the college’s first graduate programs in 2013.
• Developed online programs.

The plan for the college’s residential campus in San Pedro, at 1600 Palos Verdes Drive North, allows for the development of classroom facilities, with construction beginning in 2013. More classrooms and residential, dining and recreational facilities will be built in phases over 20 years. Ultimately, this campus location will serve 1,500 students.

The Board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, has given initial support to the project and commended the college’s “early presentation, openness to substantive recommendations and collaborative approach to the planning process.”

The college has established an advisory group of San Pedro leaders to guide the college in its continuing development at all San Pedro locations. According to Marymount College President Dr. Michael Brophy, “We are pleased with the considerable support we have received in San Pedro.”

The Harbor area and Bay Side have been home to Marymount College for more than 50 years. The college has awarded thousands of degrees and served local families with special programs for children enrolled in pre-K through 12th grade.

Today the college is a Catholic liberal arts college devoted to sustaining the values of its founding order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, whose mission is to “serve others so that all may have life.”

Besides providing high-quality higher education, the college has a $40 million annual economic impact on Los Angeles County and generates at least 1,500 jobs in the local community. The proposed comprehensive long-term plan for the college’s campuses allows for adequate financial and fundraising planning for Marymount to become an even larger contributor to the region’s economic growth and vitality.

“We believe our 20-year vision brings educational, cultural and economic benefits to local communities for generations to come,” said Marymount College President Dr. Michael Brophy. “Since our founding, Marymount College has been a good neighbor, providing students from all backgrounds with a transformative educational experience.”

Marymount College
1851 North Gaffey Street, Box 688
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 508-2576
nwsanpedro.org

Get your Free Sign Now!

Ready to Start or Expand Your Business?
Free services for entrepreneurs and small business owners:
• One-on-one Business Counseling
• Small Business Workshops
• Access to Capital

Available at NWSPNC Monthly Board Meetings or e-mail us at nwsanpedro.org

Tell Us What You Think About...
• Ponte Vista
• Cost of parking in Downtown San Pedro
• Issues in our community

Go to www.nwsanpedro.org and take our online survey or send your thoughts to us at 638 S. Beacon St., Box 688, San Pedro 90731
Welcome, New Businesses

By Mark Anthony Shoats

On behalf of the Northwestern San Pedro Community Council, we welcome new businesses in our area. Located on the 1000 block of North Western Avenue, Suite 102 is Yogurtland, a hip new place to bring all family for a wholesome treat. My wife, Nancy Shoats, recommends “filling a cup with both vanilla and chocolate yogurt and adding fresh strawberries and almond chunks.”

An exciting new addition to our newsletter is our “New Businesses” section where we welcome new businesses in our area and feature existing businesses! Let us know if you know of a new one opening.

The Assistance of San Pedro South Bay, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, is devoted to philanthropic programs that serve the needs of children, families and seniors of our community. Chartered in 1936 the Assistance League funds many programs to care for families throughout the South Bay. We have four main areas of philanthropic care. We fund a program, Operation School Bell, for children in need of school uniforms, shoes, socks and school supplies. Last year we provided uniforms to 1,808 children. We have a Pediatric Dental Center that provides dental care for children of working poor families, ages 5-graduation from High School. We treated 1,445 patients last year. We also provide vouchers for eye glasses for children in need, conduct food drives during the holidays give assistance to Beacon, Sage, Shaw House and St. Paul’s Soup Kitchen. Another area is Operation Hug. This program provides teddy bears to local hospitals for traumatized children. Last year we donated 3,499 teddy bears. Layettes are also provided to mothers who attend parenting classes, prior to childbirth. Assault Survivor Kits are donated to local hospitals for victims of abuse. On our premises we staff the only all volunteer Post Office in the United States. Run a beautiful gift and consignment shop, with one of a kind items. There is a program for visually impaired adults who attend monthly luncheons at our Chapter House.

All these programs are funded with grants and our main fundraiser—Annual Appeal. This endeavor reaches out to our community and urge citizens to take advantage of their services. Until next time, remember to always first shop San Pedro!

Assistant League

The Assistance of San Pedro South Bay, an all volunteer non profit organization, is devoted to philanthropic programs that serve the needs of children, families and seniors of our community.

• The NWSPC Governing Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Peck Park Auditorium, 560 North Western Avenue

By Diana Nave, President

One of the most important decisions affecting our community is about to be made—who will represent us on the city council?

There will be a number of opportunities to learn more about the candidates between now and the November 8 primary election. As part of this campaign, we have asked each prospective candidate four questions pertaining to Ponte Vista, the Rancho Holdings butane tanks on North Gaffey, the proposed DWP rate increase, and the city budget. These are just a few of the issues impacting our community. Please take a few minutes to read and consider their responses and then continue to ask questions of each and every one of them.

Another opportunity will be a candidate event NWSPC is planning as a part of the Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at Harbor College. (See article for details.) We will be posting information about the event on our website www.nwsanpedro.org and sending it out to our e-mail list (you can join our e-mail list on our website). Most importantly, don’t forget to vote!

Some of our recent activities include:

• Working with Marymount College on their expansion plans, including working to minimize traffic impacts. This is an exciting addition to our community. (See article.)

• Development of the infrastructure for Harbor Highlands development is now underway. They plan a slow phasing in of development starting with the portion of the property closest to Gaffey.

• Ponte Vista has informed us that they anticipate releasing their EIR in October/November. We will be reviewing it and plan to comment at that time.

• Working on the creation of a Skate Plaza at Peck Park. (See article.)

• Joining with other Neighborhood Councils to successfully advocate that DWP not increase its rates until the Ratepayers Advocate has been appointed and has the opportunity to review and report on proposed increases.

• Requesting that Target improve water drainage.

• Asking the City Attorney to investigate whether or not a new EIR is required for Rancho Holdings butane tanks on North Gaffey given changes related to the transportation of fuel.

• Advocating for San Pedro being kept together during redistricting.

• Submitting comments on the environmental review for the I-110/I47 enhancement project.

More information about most of these issues can be found on our website www.nwsanpedro.org.

An exciting new addition to our newsletter is our “New Businesses” section where we welcome new businesses in our area and feature existing businesses! Let us know if you know of a new one opening.

We always be looking for volunteers. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors and have an impact. You can send a message to board@nwsanpedro.org to let us know issues that concern you, join our e-mail list, take our survey at www.nwsanpedro.org “like” us on Facebook, join a committee, and attend our board meetings.

Clinico Offers Low Cost Spay/Neuter

Clinico (www.clinico.org; 888-WL-SPAY-LA), located next to the San Pedro Animal Care Center at 638 S. Beacon Street, provides a variety of low cost services. For example, in addition to providing spay/neuter services, they are offering reduced rates for cat sterilization—$25 for females and $15 for males. They also offer free sterilization for cats and pitbulls or pitbull mixes for residents of 90710, 90744 and 90731.

Clinico is funded by Los Angeles Foundation, privately-funded, Los Angeles-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to animal welfare. They work to improve animal shelter processes, fund pet sterilization research, promote effective animal welfare policy, and provide funding to area shelters and spay/neuter clinics. The organization also sponsors and promotes pet adoption, pet spay and neutering, microchipping programs, and various animal and pet-related events. In December they will sponsor an adoption event at the Animal Care Center.

President’s Corner

By Diana Nave, President

One of the most important decisions affecting our community is about to be made—who will represent us on the city council?

By Diana Nave, President

One of the most important decisions affecting our community is about to be made—who will represent us on the city council?

By Diana Nave, President

One of the most important decisions affecting our community is about to be made—who will represent us on the city council?

President’s Corner

By Diana Nave, President

One of the most important decisions affecting our community is about to be made—who will represent us on the city council?
Four Questions for the Candidates

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council asked candidates in the special election for the 15th council district to answer four questions on issues affecting our area. All but three (John Delgado, Jr., Candice Graham and Frank Perezdy) responded.

The election to fill the vacancy created when Janice Hahn was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives is set for Tuesday, November 8. If no one receives 50 percent of the vote, there will be a runoff between the two with the highest vote totals. That election will be held Tuesday, January 17.

The Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, area chambers of commerce, Rotary, and Los Angeles Harbor College are presenting a candidate forum on Saturday, October 22. Please see page 4 for details.

What actions, if any, should the City take related to the Rancho Holding Company butane storage operations on North Gaffey Street?

JUSTIN BRIMMER This concern falls under one of my four priority points, to Restrengthen our Communities! Despite Amerigas abiding by "all the rules", I believe the explosive threat of Amerigas is too great for the community to bear! The butane storage facilities make San Pedro an even larger target for terrorist attacks. Therefore, I will reinstate the City’s Relocation Task Force, but also demand Homeland Security to join the discussions. Industry must begin to relocate storage more than 1000 feet away from the city within 100 days. The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to ensure that the safety, environmental standards and emergency management plan for the area are up to date and in line with the best available technology.

RUDY SVORINICH, JR. As the Councilman for 4 years, I knew then, and know now, the challenges of first time home-buyers and seniors wanting to downsize. The eventual Ponte Vista development (which is now many years away due to the condition of the housing market) should be comprised of various housing stock - single family homes, some townhomes, some condominiums and a senior housing development.

What level of development and type of development would you support on the Ponte Vista property on Western Avenue? What factors would you consider in making your decision?

JUSTIN BRIMMER This concern also falls under one of my four priority points, to Restrengthen our Communities! I will support a single-facility development that is low density with minimum traffic impacts. I believe San Pedro has more than enough apartments, with vacant signs on almost every block! What our residents and future residents need, is access to homeownership. Young professionals, first-time homebuyers, and new residents deserve a chance and access to the AMERICAN DREAM! 66% of CD51, including my family and I, are renters, and most of us are not renters by choice, but due to lack of homes at reasonable prices.

What are housing types you think should be comprised of various housing stock? What factors would you consider in making your decision?

REBECCA CHAMBILSS Simply put, R-1. It was purchased as an R-1 development and should remain as such. Anything more would further impact surrounding property values and I don’t believe we have the infrastructure to support more than R-1 in that location.

PAT McOSKER I believe that residential housing should be built at the Ponte Vista site. The existing blight leaves a terrible impression as one enters San Pedro. I would like to see a project similar in size and density as that of the Gardens. I am in favor of a mixed-use project that does not displace the 2000 units originally proposed. This project will bring new developer-financed traffic mitigation on Western Avenue, including left turn signals, right turn pockets into existing businesses, and commercial shuttle buses. Any project approved for the site must include dedicated access to and from Mary Star of the Sea High School so that Taper Avenue is not the only entrance to the school.

What actions, if any, should the City take related to the development and should remain as such. Anything more would further impact surrounding property values and I don’t believe we have the infrastructure to support more than R-1 in that location.

JAYME WILSON The site is R-1 and that is the appropriate development.
Four Questions for the Candidates

Do you believe the Department of Water and Power has justified the proposed increased rates? Why or why not?

JAYME WILSON Rate increases for the DWP should not be considered until the Rate Payer Advocate has been selected, and has the sufficient staff and resources to evaluate any proposed increases.

JORDAN TEUBER The ratepayer cannot afford dramatic rate increases. DWP has committed to goals which are not achievable in the time frame proposed. We need to live within the limits of this transition. LADWP faces some of the most difficult mandates of any public utility in the nation. They need to be implementing management techniques and streamlined procedures in their internal operations to keep pace with the radical changes that are approaching quickly. DWP was once the shining star of the public utility industry. Management must restore a culture of excellence to this vital city asset.

RUDY Svorinich, Jr. The DWP has not justified their increases to rate payers. The monitor “Department of Wasteful Practices” (for DWP) is not far off the mark. Greater accountability and efficiencies need to be implemented prior to any serious consideration of a rate increase. As the Council’s Vice-Chairman overseeing the DWP for eight years, I was diligent in overseeing the DWP and made sure they ran a tight ship. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. Only a councilman who has the experience in managing the DWP can bring positive change to this department for the benefit of ratepayers.

The budget for the City of Los Angeles presents numerous challenges including a projected deficit for the current fiscal year of nearly $200 million. What are your priorities for balancing the budget?

JOSE BUSCAINO My priorities for the budget include getting a better handle on the city’s pension obligations, holding city managers accountable for their respective departments, and ensuring that essential city services become more efficient and that our district gets its fair share of city services. I will take an active role in the budget process to ensure we are not wasting any other money because we simply cannot afford to.

PAT McOSKER As President of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, I have seen first hand that the City’s budget has been cut to dangerous levels. The only way to ensure a safe and balanced budget is to increase the City’s revenues, and this requires robust economic growth. LA needs to reinvent itself as being business friendly and help new businesses, in properly planned locations, bring needed jobs and increase our tax base. The 15th Council District can do its part by finally completing the San Pedro Waterfront plan from bridge to breakwater. It is time to take advantage of the City’s greatest asset, demolish Ports O’ Call, and create a commercial attraction that will bring tourists, diners, and shoppers from all over southern California.

GORDON TEUBER We need to live within the limits of this transition. LADWP faces some of the most difficult mandates of any public utility in the nation. They need to be implementing management techniques and streamlined procedures in their internal operations to keep pace with the radical changes that are approaching quickly.

REBECCA CHAMBLISS While supporting increased investments in cleaner energy and the goal of ending the use of coal-generated electricity, I strongly believe that it should not be solely on the backs of ratepayers alone. It should be a balance of departmental reform measures, investments from the City and if necessary a gradual rate increase that could further support the overall investment of making Los Angeles a more energy efficient city.

WARREN FURUTANI The DWP has articulated various reasons for a rate increase, including the condition of the infrastructure, requirements for renewable energy and increasing costs for production of electricity and delivery of water. However, without the ratepayer advocate in place to represent the interests of residents and businesses, those justifications cannot be adequately scrutinized. No rate increase should be considered until the advocate is in place.

JOE BUSCAINO I don’t believe the DWP has provided a good case for rate increases, especially in light of the rate increases being proposed before the hiring of the ratepayer advocate and the threats of a higher rate increase unless the proposed one is agreed to. One of my top priorities as Council-member will be holding DWP accountable.

RUDY Svorinich, Jr. The DWP has not justified their increases to rate payers. The monitor “Department of Wasteful Practices” (for DWP) is not far off the mark. Greater accountability and efficiencies need to be implemented prior to any serious consideration of a rate increase. As the Council’s Vice-Chairman overseeing the DWP for eight years, I was diligent in overseeing the DWP and made sure they ran a tight ship. Unfortunately, this is in no longer the case. Only a councilman who has the experience in managing the DWP can bring positive change to this department for the benefit of ratepayers.

JAYME WILSON I am the only City Council candidate who is refusing public funds for my political gain. The City spends $8,000,000 each election cycle for politicians, that is wrong. I am the only candidate who will not take a single political dollar. Elected officials should lead by example. Work together with the Neighborhood Councils, I will advocate for the programs that best serve our community. The true public servants are the volunteers who tol hours and hours working to improve our community, not the politicians who re-sell them to the special interest groups who finance their campaigns and spend thousands of dollars on ‘independent expenditures’, supporting their election. Complete transparency throughout the budget process is required. The City faces many challenges in the coming years and I will use transparency and common sense to ensure that our community’s interests are served.