Candidates Sought for Governing Board Seats

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSNPC) is now seeking candidates for 10 seats on our Governing Board. Candidates must be stakeholders, someone whose daily life is linked to the area of the NWSNPC. Specifically, a stakeholder is any person who at least 16 years of age and lives, works or owns property or a business in the NWSNPC area, or who attends, or who's children or siblings attend a public or private school, or who participates in any religious, community, business, or non-governmental organization active within the boundaries of the NWSNPC.

Candidates are sought for the following categories of seats: Census Tract Seats (must live or own property in the specific census track within NWSNPC), Business Seat (must work or own a business within NWSNPC), Education Seat, Non-governmental Organization Seat (active in a religious, labor, community, or other organization active within NWSNPC), and at-large seat (a stakeholder may qualify for this seat). Board members are expected to participate at board, committee, and community meetings (approximately 10 hours per month), provide oversight of public funds given to the NWSNPC, look for ways to improve our community, and be able to work with a diverse group of people, presenting their own ideas, as well as listening to the viewpoints of others.

Candidate applications are available in the Peck Park lobby and www.nwsanpedro.org. Applications must be received by June 4, 2012, to be listed on the ballot. An information meeting for prospective candidates will be held on Tuesday, May 22, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Peck Park. Polling will take place on Tuesday, June 19, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Peck Park.

Top 10 Reasons to Run for the Board of Directors of Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

1. Get things done. Find allies for a community project that you want to do.
2. Be informed. Learn what is really going on in your community.
3. Make a difference. Have a say in decisions about the future of your community.
4. Make new friends at the social period before our board meetings.
5. Work with wonderful board members!
6. Take responsibility for decisions about the future of your community.
7. Come to decisions based on factual information from stakeholders.
9. Give advice to city departments.
10. Learn about your government (sometimes more than you want to know).

— NWSNPC Board Member John Greenwood

Why I Serve as a NWSNPC Board Member

By Capt. George Thompson

After 30 years in the U.S. Navy and 15 years teaching in public schools, I was ready and willing to serve on the neighborhood council. It is very meaningful to me to be able to contribute in this relatively small way to furthering the goals of this very dedicated group.

I am pleased to offer my neighbors advice, suggestions or assistance when they approach me with their concerns, or some problem. As I walk or drive around the northeast San Pedro area, it is gratifying to see things taking place that I know I played a part in bringing to fruition. They also come to me with their concerns, or some problem. When I was ready and willing to serve on the neighborhood council.

City Proposes Reusable Bag Policy; Time to Comment

The City of Los Angeles is in the process of developing a policy regarding single use shopping bags (i.e., paper and plastic).

Along with being a major source of litter filling up the city’s landfills and many plastic bags winding up in our rivers and oceans where they often harm wildlife.

The proposed policy would prohibit distribution of plastic and paper shopping bags in supermarkets and retail outlets.

Youth Employment Preparation Fair June 2

The committee chaired our youth member, Anise Goldfarb, is busy planning a very exciting and productive day for any young person between the ages of 16 and 25 looking to improve their skills to procure the ideal job.

The exciting fun-filled day will begin with a light breakfast and remarks by Councilman Joe Buscaino.

On June 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., youth should plan to attend the entire day. Space is limited.

Interested youth should register early to get the workshops of their choice. To register or for more information, please visit the website: http://npsed.weebly.com.

The NWSNPC looks forward to seeing all of the participants on June 2. Note: This is a change from our prior newsletter.

Toll Lanes Coming to 110

Although your neighborhood council continues to express significant concerns about the proposal to implement toll lanes on the 110 Freeway, METRO is moving forward with their plans. Here is what you should expect:

The carpools lanes on portions of the 110 and 10 freeways will be converted to toll lanes effective October 2012. After that time, anyone using these lanes will need a transponder.

Transponders will be available from Metro for a fee starting some time in the next few months. The transponder fee will include a deposit on the transponder itself and a minimum deposit that can be applied towards tolls.

There is also a $3 per month transponder maintenance fee. The toll will vary based on traffic, with a $1.40 per mile maximum.

Car pools can continue to travel toll-free provided they meet the minimum occupancy requirements AND have the appropriate transponder.

Transponders from the 91 Freeway may be used for paying the tolls on the 110 and the 10, however they cannot be used for toll-free carpooling, only the new transponder will work for carpooling.

On the positive side, Metro projects that the project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the removal of 12,593 passenger vehicles and reduce gasoline consumption by 7.2 million gallons per year. Additionally, money from the tolls will be used to increase public transit.

More information is available at www.metro.net/projects/expresslanes/overview/
President’s Corner
By Diana Nave, President
It’s election time again. Tuesday, June 5, is the presidential primary, but did you know that there will be a second election on June 19? This one is for your neighborhood council governing board. Technically, it will be called a “special” and will be held at Peck Park from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We are seeking candidates for the council, people who live, work, or own property in Northwest San Pedro and are interested in improving our community. See the article elsewhere in this paper. Your interest and participation in our community is what makes it strong. It is very rewarding when your involvement makes a difference.

Your neighborhood council gets involved in a wide range of issues impacting our community ranging from quality of life issues to development and Port issues. One of the quality of life issues finally received the attention it needed. Residents have long been concerned about an abandoned house on North Walker. We supported them in their request and the city attorney recently filed an action against the owners.

Perhaps the biggest issue during the coming year will be the proposed development at PONTE VISTA. If the last proposal for Ponte Vista was any indication, this promises many lively discussions. In addition, discussions are underway regarding improvements to Harbor Highlands Park (the council previously secured funds for this purpose). Personally, I am excited about the arrival of the US$ IOWA arriving, the June 30 opening of Crafted at Port, the increased presence of Marymount College with their downtown campus, and the construction of the downtown harbor that is finally underway. These things taken together, along with the increased programming at the Warner Grand and Grand Annex, promise to bring more vitality to our community.

As your representatives, board members are actively engaged in our community. We are always looking for feedback and your participation to increase our effectiveness. All of our meetings are open to the public and allow time for public comment. Visit www.nwsanpedro.org to view our latest agendas and sign up for our e-mail list. Contact us at board@nwsanpedro.org.

Mandatory Commercial Recycling Starts July 1
AB 341 requires mandatory commercial recycling in California beginning July 1, 2012. Businesses or public entities that subscribe to a service of four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week must recycle. Multifamily dwellings of five units or more must also recycle.

For more information about mandatory commercial recycling, please visit http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/recycling/AB341/AB341.htm

Are You Ready to Start or Expand Your Business?
The BusinessSource Center is located in the Brown Brothers Building, 455 West Sixth Street. It is funded by the City of Los Angeles to provide a number of free services for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Services include one-on-one business counseling, small business workshops, step-by-step procedures for starting your own business, business and financial planning and business plan development, computerized accounting, use of social media, and how to get a business loan.

The center is hosting its grand opening on Thursday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit the center or call (310) 732-5733.

City Offers Free Mediation Service
Did you know that the city has a free mediation service to help people resolve disputes? Mediation is confidential, voluntary process in which a neutral third party facilitates communication between people to resolve their disputes.

The mediator does not decide who is right, but helps the parties work together to reach a fair solution. Disputes may involve neighbors, employers, or merchants.

Mediation is quick and takes place outside of the court system. Nearly 90 percent of disputes that go to mediation are resolved.

For more information go to www.lacity.org/mediate, call (213) 485-8324, or e-mail mediate@lacity.org.

Youth Community Service Award 2012
Each year, the NWSNPC recognizes a youth person for outstanding community service. 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 volunteer 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 online at nwsanpedro.org or by calling Barbara Schach, (310) 832-3056 Monday or Tuesday only. Applications are due June 1, 2012.

Crime Alert!
We are still experiencing far too many property crimes in our community. Many of these are caused by a failure to keep our doors locked, particularly our car doors.

Even when your car is in your own driveway, it is important to keep it locked and any valuables, particularly electronic items like tablets, phones, and computers, out of sight. We should all keep a watch out in our own neighborhoods and report any suspicious behavior!

Bus Benches?
Do you know of a location in Northwest San Pedro that is in need of a bus bench? If so, let us know by e-mailing board@nwsanpedro.org or leave a message at (310) 732-4522.

President’s Corner
By Diana Nave, President

Mandatory Commercial Recycling Starts July 1
AB 341 requires mandatory commercial recycling in California beginning July 1, 2012. Businesses or public entities that subscribe to a service of four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week must recycle. Multifamily dwellings of five units or more must also recycle.

For more information about mandatory commercial recycling, please visit http://www. lacitysan.org/solid_resources/recycling/AB341/ AB341.htm

Are You Ready to Start or Expand Your Business?
The BusinessSource Center is located in the Brown Brothers Building, 455 West Sixth Street. It is funded by the City of Los Angeles to provide a number of free services for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Services include one-on-one business counseling, small business workshops, step-by-step procedures for starting your own business, business and financial planning and business plan development, computerized accounting, use of social media, and how to get a business loan.

The center is hosting its grand opening on Thursday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, visit the center or call (310) 732-5733.

City Offers Free Mediation Service
Did you know that the city has a free mediation service to help people resolve disputes? Mediation is a confidential, voluntary process in which a neutral third party facilitates communication between people to resolve their disputes.

The mediator does not decide who is right, but helps the parties work together to reach a fair solution. Disputes may involve neighbors, employers, or merchants.

Mediation is quick and takes place outside of the court system. Nearly 90 percent of disputes that go to mediation are resolved.

For more information go to www.lacity.org/mediate, call (213) 485-8324, or e-mail mediate@lacity.org.

Youth Community Service Award 2012
Each year, the NWSNPC recognizes a youth person for outstanding community service. 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 volunteer 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 online at nwsanpedro.org or by calling Barbara Schach, (310) 832-3056 Monday or Tuesday only. Applications are due June 1, 2012.

Crime Alert!
We are still experiencing far too many property crimes in our community. Many of these are caused by a failure to keep our doors locked, particularly our car doors.

Even when your car is in your own driveway, it is important to keep it locked and any valuables, particularly electronic items like tablets, phones, and computers, out of sight. We should all keep a watch out in our own neighborhoods and report any suspicious behavior!

Bus Benches?
Do you know of a location in Northwest San Pedro that is in need of a bus bench? If so, let us know by e-mailing board@nwsanpedro.org or leave a message at (310) 732-4522.
Free Training in Security Awareness and Emergency Preparedness

The Port of Los Angeles and Port of Los Angeles Police Department are offering free workshops to teach residents, business owners, and people who work in and around the Port about port security awareness and emergency preparedness.

Classes are being taught by former Harbor Department Police Chief N.J. Cunningham. Each training class is two hours long.

Anyone can attend, but the maximum number of attendees per class is 30. Please sign up for the classes by calling Keith Garcia at (310) 762-3148 or emailing him at kgarcia@portla.org. He will be able to tell you the location of the classes when you call or email.

For port security, the classes will walk participants through how the port operates, the different needs that the port has for security, what kinds of events the port has, the various types of security, and how to discern if something is unusual and find the right person to report it to. You will learn more about the “If you see something, say something” and iWATCH programs.

The classes will also cover what individuals should do to prepare for emergencies, such as new outages, flooding, chemical emergencies, and so on, if you are at home, at work, or in your car. You will learn what should go into a disaster kit and how to put one together.

Both day and evening classes are available. Classes are offered two times per day— at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and again at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.—on the following dates: April 25, April 26, May 9, May 10, May 23, May 24, June 6 and June 7.

Ellen Gaines Varela is New Senior Rec Director at Peck Park

Please join us in welcoming Ellen Gaines Varela, the new senior recreation director at Peck Park. She replaced Joe Stockhouse who has been reassigned as the director at Cabrillo Beach.

Ellen worked for the Department of Recreation and Parks for the past 28 years. During this time, she has been assigned to numerous facilities, including child care, recreation and senior citizen centers.

She enjoys the diversity of her assignments. Working with people of all ages and in different communities has shaped her perspective on life.

From young people to more seasoned citizens, in all areas of the city, Ellen has found that everyone wants the same thing— a safe and fun environment for themselves, their kids and their parents.

Ellen is excited to be back at Peck Park. This is the third time she has been assigned here. In 1984, she worked at the pool, and from 1994 to 1998, she was the child care director.

Her goal for the center is to provide recreation activities for all ages and hope to provide more internships for youth. She is impressed with the great community support and enjoys having the kind of job where she gets to work with kids.

She hopes that she will be working at Peck Park for many years.

The park is accepting registration for adult basketball teams ($350 per team). Registration for Summer Camp (ages 5-15) starts May 14 and costs $150 per week. Registration for summer basketball (ages 5-12) and girl's softball (ages 9-12) starts June 9. Basketball costs $115 and softball $85. Next time you are at the park, stop in and introduce yourself to Ellen.

City’s Fiscal Crisis Continues to Present Major Challenges

Perhaps the most difficult challenge facing the City of Los Angeles today is that of balancing the budget. The estimated shortfall for the current (2011-12) year is $727 million. The projected shortfall for next year (2012-13) is between $150 and $200 million.

This is after having made significant cuts, particularly in personnel, over each of the past three years. Over the next month, the city will need to make some very tough decisions as to where to make these additional cuts.

On March 21, 2012, the Neighborhood Councils, a neighborhood organization to create private sector jobs, generate revenue, and encourage economic development, announced that they would consider pension reform for new civilian employees that will include the proposed density, traffic impacts, and impacts on infrastructure such as water and sewers.

Pension Reforms

In order to close the budget deficit, it proposes pension reform for new civilian employees that will:

• increase the retirement age,
• cap the maximum retirement allowance at 75 percent (down from 100 percent),
• reduce the retirement factor to a maximum of two percent at age 67,
• restrict additional compensation is calculated to prevent “pension spiking,”
• reduce pension cost of living adjustments (COLA),
• reduce monthly caps on retiree health costs,
• ensure the cost neutrality of the government service buyback program, and
• share the risk of future retirement cost increases with employees.

The budget also calls for the reduction of the citywide workforce by eliminating 669 civilian positions, 231 of which are currently filled, as well as an eight percent cut in the mayor’s and council’s budgets and another cut in neighborhood council budgets.

The proposed budget now goes before the city council which can, and most likely will, make changes.

To read the entire budget document, visit budget.lacity.org.

PONTE VISTA

The Draft Environmental Review Document (EIR) for the revised project is scheduled to be released in May or June. Once this happens, the developer will present their latest plans at both the NWSPNC Planning and Land Use Committees and at a Board and Community Meeting. The Council will review and prepare comments on the plan. Some of the issues to be considered include the proposed density, traffic impacts, and impacts on infrastructure such as water and sewers.

HARBOR HIGHLANDS

Construction is underway on a new self-storage facility located at Gaffey and Basin on the site of the old San Pedro Rentals. They anticipate a June opening. Call (310) 547-1111 for more information.

CHIPOTLE

Chipotle Restaurants has signed the lease with Park Plaza for the site previously occupied by Java City and anticipates beginning remodeling work soon with opening targeted for July.

CLEARWATER

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts recently recommended Alternative 4 as their preferred alternative for a new sewer outfall line. This alternative would involve tunneling under portions of Gaffey and Western and Royal Palms Beach. The NWSPNC submitted comments opposing the project. For more information about the proposed pipeline, visit www.clearwaterprogram.org/clearwater.

For a copy of our comments go to http://www.nwsanpedro.org/resolved.asp

SKATE PLAZA

The design for the skate park at Peck Park is in the process of being finalized.

SAN PEDRO COMMUNITY PLAN

The document that governs zoning and related planning land use policies is the Community Plan. The city has nearly completed the proposed updates to the San Pedro Plan and will be releasing the draft environmental review document soon.

Development Updates

May 2012

THE NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE

3
Target Driveway Gets Fixed AT LAST!

Thank you, NWSPNC Board Member Pete Burmeister for your persistence. Thank you, Councilmember Joe Buscaino for your assistance.

YWCA WorldTots Program

The YWCA Harbor Area & South Bay provides many services to children, women, and families, one of which is high-quality child development programs at two sites in San Pedro: WorldTots LA, 100 West Fifth Street, and WorldTots San Pedro, 1648 West Ninth Street.

According to Center Director Laura Loza, the programs are designed to promote physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of our children with the support of professionally trained and qualified teachers, an enhanced child curriculum, and well-equipped facilities for children ages six weeks through five years, regardless of race, nationality, religion, physical abilities or gender.

The centers are open Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and provide nutritious breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack.

Recognizing that children have individual differences, interests, abilities and skills, the programs allow children the freedom of movement needed to experiment, question, and deal with their own intellectual curiosity in their own way on their own pace.

The program offers carefully planned opportunities for observing, experimenting, listening and questioning and developmentally appropriate learning activities that include reading, science, math, language, and problem solving through hands-on experiences both inside and outdoors.

The YWCA encourages children to identify with their own culture and to learn and respect the cultural diversity around them. They currently have openings. For more information, call (310) 732-7697 or (310) 241-0014.

Check Out the YMCA’s Great New Website!
ymcala.org/san-pedro-peninsula

“Like” the page and enter your email to get updates sent directly to you! You’ll never miss a registration date again! At the Y will find many opportunities for summer fun for all ages.

• Camping Exciting, safe community for children and teens to explore the outdoors, build confidence, develop skills and make lasting friendships and memories, so they can grow as individuals and leaders.

• Water activity One of the best ways to have fun and stay healthy. In the indoor heated pool, you’ll enjoy lap swimming, family swim time, water aerobics, swim classes and more.

• Well Being Living healthy is about spirit, mind and body at every age and stage

• Youth Enrichment Serving families has always been at the heart of the Y. We have a fundamental desire to provide opportunities for every family to build stronger bonds, achieve greater work/life balance and become more engaged with your community.

Governor Pushes to Repeal ‘Hayden’ Law Protecting Shelter Animals

By Katie Marrie

The repeal of the Hayden law will affect every animal in California shelters. Citing budget concerns, Governor Jerry Brown is considering a repeal of a number of provisions of the Hayden Law, originally passed in California in 1998 by State Senator Tom Hayden in order to hold California shelters more accountable and provide owners of lost pets more time to recover their pets. Hayden provides one of the nation’s most comprehensive laws to protect shelter animals and placed California at the forefront of animal shelter regulation.

Some of the provisions subject to repeal:

• permanently reducing the required holding period for animals to 72 hours prior to euthanasia;

• eliminating the requirement to provide veterinary treatment for shelter animals; and

• eliminating the requirement to keep records for animals impounded by shelter personnel (making it more difficult to locate lost animals or those available for adoption).

Former governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also attempted to repeal Hayden, but gave in to public outcry. Tom Hayden recently posted a video asking Governor Brown to reconsider. Animal welfare advocates are also speaking out against the possible repeal, stating the move would lead to even more animals killed in shelters.

You can contact Governor Jerry Brown’s office directly to oppose or support this change in the Hayden law by calling (916) 445-2841 or writing to:

Governor Jerry Brown
Office of the Governor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Free Family Fun in May

Free Public Boat Tours of the Port Saturday, May 19

The Port is offering free harbor tours on Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from Ports O’Call Village in San Pedro and Banning’s Landing 100 East Water Street, Wilmington. Tours are “first-come, first-served” on the hour.

Model Railroad Open House May 19-20

Angels Gate Hi-Railers, with the largest three-rail (Lionel type) model railroad layout in Los Angeles County, will be holding a FREE open house on May 19 and 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

From Gaffey, take Levenworth Drive and follow the signs. More information is available at www.angelsgatehirailers.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE POSTAL SUBSTATION PROVIDES CONVENIENT SERVICE TO AREA

San Pedro is known for its neighborhoods. Important to a neighborhood is a community post office. In the midst of Weymouth Corners is the neighborly contract station operated by the volunteer members of Assistance League of San Pedro—South Bay.

Assistance League supplies the facility and the staffing of the station. The contract between USPS and Assistance League helps support the philanthropic programs of the organization including the Francis J. Johnson Dental Center and Operation School Bell, which provides school clothing to young children of the surrounding communities.

It seems to be a place where neighbors greet each other as well as conduct their postal business. Many small businesses as served as well.

The staff has been recognized for its knowledgeable, helpful, and friendly service. Customers are very grateful for its presence in the area.

In 1964 when the neighbors petitioned the USPS for a local station, the Assistance League agreed to establish Contract Station #2 as an adjunct to the existing gift shop. Since that time it has grown in importance and range of services.

With the completion of the new Chapter House at 1441 West Eighth Street in 1995, there is a dedicated stand-alone office. Perhaps you have noticed the signs on Western Avenue noting the post office just off Weymouth Avenue.

The station offers stamp sales, special services such as certification, registry, and tracking, as well as package services. These are all at the same prices as at regular post offices. International services have been available at this station since the September of 1996.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mail deposited at this station is all en route the same day.

What a unique opportunity to meet neighborhood needs for postal services and which in turn supports other needs of the local community. Station #2 encourages you to support your neighborhood.

USS IOWA Coming to San Pedro

It’s official! They will begin towing USS IOWA south to San Pedro a few days before Memorial Day. They expect to be in transit for four days and will anchor the battleship approximately six miles off the coast of Long Beach to perform final hull cleaning. In mid-June, they will relocate the ship to Berth 87 at the Port of Los Angeles to prepare for the July 4 commissioning ceremony. In the meantime, they will be opening an outreach center at 457 West Sixth Street.

Abandoned vehicles: 800-ABANDON

Parking enforcement: 213-485-6909

NUMBERS

Abandoned vehicles: 800-ABANDON

Abandoned shopping carts: 800-252-4613

HANDY...

Parking enforcement: 213-485-6909

TO KEEP

Abandoned shopping carts: 800-252-4613

Sacramento, CA 95814