Ponte Vista Proposal Released

SFI Bridgerview has submitted a new proposal for Ponte Vista on Western Avenue. Their proposed project is for 830 units in a gated community, consisting of 208 single-family detached houses, 224 townhomes/flats, 180 row houses, and 218 apartments.

The single-family homes and townhomes would be three 2-3 stories, while the apartment buildings would be 4-5 stories. The proposed units range in size from 600 square feet to 2,800 square feet.

They have submitted a proposed landscaping plan, tentative tract map, specific plan, and development agreement. NWSPNC will be reviewing all of these documents carefully over the next few months along with the draft EIR when it is released. We have invited the developer to present their plan at our next board and community meeting, November 12.

Due to the city holiday, the November 12 meeting will be held at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 1648 West Ninth Street.

The board wants to hear what you think about the plans. Attend our meeting or email your comments to board@nwsanpedro.org.

Candy Cane Lane December 7

The NWSPNC is once again pleased to be a sponsor of the Weymouth Corners Association’s Holiday Candy Cane Lane. For the past 25 years the Weymouth Corners Merchants have put on this free family event. This is a night of fun for all. There will be music supplied by DJ Jazzy, face painting, fire trucks, a jumper, food vendors, carnival games, and entertainment. Santa photos will be available.

The merchants stay open late (until 9:00 p.m.) so everyone can get an early start on their Christmas shopping. The merchants will be available for great gift ideas or for gift certificates. Join us on Friday, December 7, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Weymouth Corners Shopping Center, eighth Street between Weymouth and Averill. The street will be closed for this event. This very successful event grows in popularity every year. Arrival early or you may miss Santa’s spectacular 6:00 p.m. arrival.

For more information, please contact Polly Ann Bakery at (310) 519-0966.

NWSPNC Service Award Goes to Mary Star’s Lauren Golem

The service award recipient this year went to Lauren Golem, a well deserving student from Mary Star of the Sea High School. She graduated with a 3.88 GPA/4.16 weighted. Lauren had 127 hours of community service to her school and to organizations outside of school. Her service supervisors had nothing but high praises for her dependability, quality of work and hours she devoted to each area she worked.

She showed a great love for learning in her personal statement and used each of the volunteer activities as a vehicle to enhance her learning outside of the classroom. She also felt that by being so motivated to volunteer that her enthusiasm touched others in her academic arena.

She chose to attend Long Beach State University for the fall 2012 semester. Her major will be criminal justice. She will be greatly missed at her high school.

In conclusion, I want to quote her personal definition of community service. This also defines Lauren as an outstanding citizen, hard worker and a great asset to any community she chooses to reside. It is as follows: “My personal definition of ‘community service’ remains a selfless contribution of time, talents, and effort in order to enrich the community, assist those who are less fortunate, and to live our Jesus’ message of neighborly love and compassionate sacrifices.”

San Pedro Emergency Preparedness Fair Saturday, October 20 at Peck Park

Come to the FREE San Pedro Emergency Preparedness Fair. Meet the people who can save you in an emergency; learn the simple skills that can help you save yourself and your family; and build peace of mind by preparing now before there is an emergency.

Saturday, October 20
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Peck Park Community Center
550 North Western Avenue

No one likes to think about emergencies and disasters, but after a disaster, it’s too late to prepare. To show you all the great gear and supplies to meet your needs, local businesses and organizations are offering exhibits, workshops and seminars—all free.

Sleep Better at Night; Prepare Now!
• Learn about the USGS/CalTech earthquake early warning system.
• Get a free blood pressure screening from the Red Cross.
• Gain valuable tips from the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department and FEMA.
• Learn how to prepare dehydrated meals over a camp stove.
• Learn how medical centers operate in disaster mode.
• Learn how to prepare your boat for an emergency.
• Learn about emergency preparedness for your pets.
• Visit the fire and police and Red Cross emergency rescue vehicles. Children welcome.
• Learn about FRS, GMRS and “ham” radios and how they can help you stay in touch.
• Meet local police, fire, medical and city emergency preparedness personnel.
• Enter the free drawings for backpacks with emergency supplies.

Get That Edge
Bring your family, group of friends and your neighbors; most people who survive disasters are saved by other survivors, so learn together. Remember, in a major disaster the police and fire will be overwhelmed; prepare now to survive the critical hours until they can reach you.

Learn how to move yourself and family to safer zones or how to shelter in place in each possible scenario. The more you know, the less you need to worry about.

Grab Your Gear
Get hands-on experience with the key elements of preparedness: water, shelter, safety, first aid, food, and communications. Learn what you need at home, in your car (so you can get home or get away) and always at hand.

The San Pedro Emergency Preparedness Fair is a project of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council with the support of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Councils. Visit http://preparesanpedro.org for the schedule of workshops, list of exhibitors, up to the minute details and contact information.

Exhibitors will include: Arc Hardware, CERT, Coover Pharmacy, COPH, City of Los Angeles Department on Disability, HAM Radio Club, LAPD, LA Port Police, Maxpedition Bags, Providence/Little Company of Mary, REI, Scott Robinson Jeep, Seaside Pharmacy, Sparklettes, The Surplus Guy, the San Pedro Neighborhood Councils, and more!

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is looking for a new Youth Representative!

What: The person chosen to be the new youth representative will be a full voting member on the neighborhood council.

When: All applications must be turned in by October 26, 2012.

For more information and to download the application, please visit our website at:

www.nwsanpedro.org

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

Attn: POSTAL PATRON

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San Pedro, CA

ECR-WSS
President’s Corner
By Diana Nave, President
Wow. This has been an interesting two months for Northwest San Pedro. First, we had the incident at the Phillips refinery due to an LA DWP power failure. This caused the refinery to completely shut down thus releasing an enormous flame and plume of smoke. Then, when they restarted the refinery, a noxious odor was released. AQMD and Phillips will be at our meeting to explain what happened. DWPl submitted a letter about the power failure; it is posted on our website.
Next we had the threatened imminent closure of the Science Center. See article on page 1.

The city released the draft community plan and accompanying draft EIR, which will provide the framework for development in San Pedro over the next 10-20 years. The NWSPNC board reviewed both documents and submitted significant comments to the planning department. These are available on our website.

The developer for Ponte Vista released their draft plan for 830 units, significantly fewer that the 2,300 originally proposed by Bob Biano. See the accompanying article and our website for more details.

October is Emergency Preparedness Month. NWSPNC, under the leadership of Carolyn and Ashley Grayson, is holding a Prepare San Pedro event. This promises to be a great event with something for everyone. See the article below.

Annie Goldfarb, our youth representative for the past two years, graduated from POLA High School and is now at UC Santa Cruz. She contributed a lot to the board and will be missed. We are looking for a new youth representative, someone 16-21, who lives, works, goes to school, or attends church or synagogue in Northwest San Pedro. Applications are available on our website.

The city council adopted stricter cell tower regulations, the result of a motion introduced by former councilwoman Hahn in response to our request. Our concerns about skateboard safety were addressed by the council with a plan and resulted in a new city ordinance. The bus bench we requested at Westmont and Gaffey was installed and the curb cut we requested in front of Highlands Park was made to provide wheelchair access. The plans for a new skate park facility at Peck Park continue to move forward, albeit slower than we anticipated.

This is your council. We are only as effective as enable us to be. Please join us. Let us know what concerns you and what you are willing to assist with to improve our community. Join us at our upcoming board meeting. Join a committee. Stop by our booth at our Emergency Preparedness Fair on October 20 at Peck Park. Look for us at Candy Cane Lane, December 7 at Weymouth Corners. Like us on Facebook!

NWSPNC: A Board Member’s Perspective
By Barbara Schach, Education and Community Outreach Committee Co-chair
When I was asked to write this article, I began to think about the many aspects encompassed in the privilege of being a board member. I had not thought about many of them until now.

When I am in the community and I tell people that I am on the board of the Northwest Council, they often ask me for information on the geographical area the board serves. With my time, I have been able to better the quality of life for some of the children within the town that I call home.

I feel that community service is a give and take proposition. I feel that I have given many hours of my time. In return, I have been able to better the quality of life for some of the children within the boundaries. Also, I have met many new people and through them have learned an extensive amount about the city, how it is run, and to make meaningful changes. I am very proud of all the members who would have never been possible if I had not given the opportunity to better serve the community where I spend most of my waking hours.

New Board Member Gary Buss Thanks Community for Opportunity to Serve
Gary Buss was elected to the NWSPNC board in June as a business representative. Here is what he says about his experience:

“I feel more in touch with what is going on in our city. Being hands on gives me a good feeling to know that we can make a difference in a good way in our community. By listening to the stakeholders, I feel that there are many obstacles that make a big impact on our daily lives. Hearing the various perspectives on problems and having the representatives of the police, city council, and other departments present to address these concerns, and to work on resolving them and getting the correct information to our stakeholders, makes me feel better about living in our community. Thank you for the chance to give back to the town that I call home.”

Northwest San Pedro Trivia: What’s In A Name?
Peck Park – George Peck was a conductor on the Southern Pacific Railroad. He settled in San Pedro in 1866 and became a successful real estate developer, contractor and banker. His home still stands at 380 West 15th Street. He donated park land to the city and also set up a trust fund to pay for improvements in those parks (now exhausted). Not only is Peck Park named after him, but several other parks and streets were named after his children. He donated and named Rena Park and Alma Park after two of his daughters and Leland Park after his son. Watch upcoming Advocates for the History of Local Names articles.
San Pedro's science center, formally known as The Pic and Bonnie Christensen Math, Science and Technology Center, at 2201 Barrywood Drive was nearly closed! This would have been a tremendous loss to our community. Thankfully, after all of the community uproar, funds were found to keep it open at least through June 30.

The Center is an oasis of nature in the middle of our community. Founded over 40 years ago, it slowly transitioned into what it is today—a place where city dwelling students marveling at being able to pull a plant from the ground and eat it and are mesmerized by the almost 500-pound pig, Ophelia.

Children fall in love with the sweet 34-year-old Shetland pony Peaches who spent most of her life walking in circles on a pony ride. There is nothing quite like the eyes of a youngster the first time he holds a snake or iguana. It is place where ducks and chickens roam free. It is a place where learning is exciting and fun!

John Zavalney, the Center director for the past eight years, believes that by students learning to take care of other living creatures they learn to care for each other. Under his guidance, the fields are alive with beautiful flowers and vegetables, the native plant garden has been cleaned, and many new fruit trees planted. The Center is the home of the native land of the Tongva Indians, who have created a prayer circle on the property and there has been discussion of creating a Tongva village.

One of the goals is to make the center into a Learning Center for Sustainability; a place where students will learn how to live in harmony with the environment, a place where green job opportunities are presented and a place where students can get the knowledge and tools they will need to create a more sustainable tomorrow.

Wintertime is Whale Time and Tidepool Walks!

Starting in December, gray whales show up in coastal Southern California waters as they make their annual migration from their summertime feeding grounds in the Bering Sea to the warm lagoons of Baja Mexico. In the early 1970s, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Museum Director John Zavalney started the annual Whale Watch. Each year, local fishing boat captains take people out to see the whales as they swim by our shores. John always begins the annual Beach naturalist program to supply trained volunteers to accompany the whalewatch boats. The training was and still is done by staff at the Aquarium and whale experts with the American Cetacean Society.

January 27, 2013 CMA is the annual Whale Fiesta, a free community event that always delivers big fun and lots of whale tales. Many groups that focus on marine mammals (whales and their relatives) have booths to share what they do. Crafts, talks, videos, and so much more! The day also includes everyone helping build a sand sculpture of a full-sized whale on Cabrillo Beach. Winter daytime low tides make it a perfect time for exploring the Tidepools. Starting December 9, CMA will continue Weekend Tidepool Walks in English and Spanish.

CMA education staff are assisted by Sea Rangers, volunteers trained to interpret the many habitats of Cabrillo Coastal Park. Bring your curiosity, sense of adventure, sunscreen and hat and join us in learning about all the animals and plants that call tidepools their home.

For more information about the Cabrillo Aquarium, go to (www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org), or just drop by and ask any of their friendly staff or volunteers.

Winter Events at CMA:

• First “Meet the Grunion” Program, March 13

Join the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); Training Begins October 14

The last CERT training in our area this year begins Monday, October 14, at the Normandale Recreation Center, 22400 Halftime Avenue, Torrance. Classes run Monday for seven weeks from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Why take the CERT training? Well, its like paying for insurance. You might never need it. But if disaster arises, you will be ready to help yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in an emergency.

This training covers basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. You will also learn how to prepare now, how much food and water to store and how to best protect your family in an emergency.

For more information, call (818) 756-9674.

Don’t Be Victimized; Theft from Vehicles on the Rise

In the last seven months in the Northwest San Pedro area there were 86 burglaries from homes, 220 burglaries and thefts from cars, and 82 grand theft auto. What can you do?

• ALWAYS lock your car;
• Completely close your windows all of the time;
• Do not leave any valuable visible including phones, wallets, purses, computers, GPS,suitcases, loose change;
• Park in well-traveled or well-lit areas;
• Know where all of your car keys are at all times;
• Consider a burglary/ theft prevention device such as an audible theft alarm or vehicle warning device that alerts your smart phone.

Peaches the pony is one of the many attractions for students at the Science Center located in the NWSNPC area. LAUSD has agreed to keep the Center open at least through the end of the school year.

In recent years, lack of funding for school buses has meant that far fewer students have been able to take advantage of this great resource. The site is available for field trips or to provide for animal presentations in the classroom.

Although funds have been found to keep the center open through June, funding is needed for the buses, and the future of the Center past June 2013 is uncertain. As of this printing, LAUSD is planning to develop a Request for Proposals for a nonprofit to take over the center.

For more information about the Center, to make a donation or schedule a visit, call (310) 822-7573.

Welcome Kimberly Welden, Acting Recreation Director at Peck Park

Kim has a degree in business administration for construction management. She began her career in recreation in 1984 in Parsons, Kansas, where she worked for 20 years. In Parsons, she oversaw the operations of two community centers, seasonal swimming pool, six ball fields and all recreation program operations.

In 2004 she moved to Los Angeles and went to work at Department of Recreation and Parks as a recreation assistant teaching camp counseling for the CLASS Parks Youth Employment Internship Program.

She quickly moved to a full-time position as a recreation coordinator at Hubert Humphrey Recreation Center in Picocona. Through various promotions and transfers she worked at the Panorama Recreation Center, Woodland Hills Recreation Center and Bogdanovich Recreation Center in San Pedro.

In May 2012, she came to Peck Park as acting senior recreation director.

Kim says “I am excited to be a Peck Park where the potential for recreation programming is unlimited. This potential along with an excited, eager staff feeds right into my enthusiasm to expand upon the many great things happening at Peck Park. Watch for new programs and special events popping up soon!”

Join us in welcoming Kim to Northwest San Pedro. Stop by and introduce yourself to her next time you are at the park.
The Angeles Gate Hi-Railers Model Railroad Club and Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club will both be open and FREE to the public on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Hi-Railers Club was established in 1995 in collaboration with the Los Angeles City Recreation Department and has been growing ever since. Today, it is the largest O-gauge (Lifesize-size) layout in Los Angeles County. Kids of all ages can operate a variety of push-button accessories on the edge of the layout and tour the layout with a “Can You Find?” sheet listing various scenes.

The layout is a large “out-and-back” convoluted oval consisting of a primary and secondary main line plus an upper loop line, supported by multi-track staging and a small throughyard midway through the layout. The harbor area, featuring a replica container ship, is intended to represent a port, much like that of Los Angeles—Long Beach. Currently there is about 2,000 feet of track and up to 12 trains can run simultaneously.

You may see Thomas the Tank train, Hogwarts and a variety of current and 1950s-era steam and diesel locomotives.

The Angels Gate Hi-Railers look forward to seeing you at their open house October 27-28.

The club is open to the public every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. The Belmont Shore Club is one of the country’s premier N-gauge layouts, located in the historic 1950s-era steam and electric train story former Army barracks building in Angeles Gate Park. The layout occupies the second story resulting in a railroad that measures 25 by 90 feet. The track plan is a double, oval consisting of a primary and secondary main line plus an upper loop line, supported by multi-track staging and a small throughyard midway through the layout.

The Angels Gate Hi-Railers building is on your left. Turn left at the fork in the road, then an immediate left on the dirt road leading to the parking lot. The Belmont Shore Model Railroad Club is on the right, and the Cultural Arts Center buildings can be reached by continuing on the road after the fork at the top of the hill and turning past the Marine Vessel Exchange roads on your right.

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