Get Involved; Comments Are Encouraged

By Ray Regalado, president, NWSPNC

As I go about my everyday work, my 9-5 job, I encourage community members to get involved. When I get a call to work in a neighborhood, it usually means residents are looking for assistance in addressing local challenges.

They may want to find better ways to work with local government; form partnerships to solve elevated crime rates or create avenues to improve their community.

Throughout the process I repeatedly remind them to get and stay involved. I will let them know of the various ways they can participate in their community.

Neighborhood watch groups, PTA or their local neighborhood council. I would feel good about the work I did during the day and go home and fall on the couch and watch television for the rest of the night.

It was not long before I realized I did not practice what I preached. Why was I not getting involved? Soon I found myself looking for my place and found the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

I attended monthly council meetings, volunteered to join one of the council’s committees and kept up with issues that impacted my neighborhood. Today I am president of the council and chair the planning and land use committee. With this in mind, I write to the residents and stakeholders of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council and ask for each one of you to get involved.

Very soon this important issue will be coming before the Los Angeles Planning Commission. The very long-debated Ponte Vista residential development will be reviewed by the commission to determine how the project will proceed.

Many people have weighed in on project specifics and many adjustments have been made by the project development team, IStar. So I ask you if this is the project you want to see in the San Pedro community? Is it the right fit for the harbor? Now is the time to make your voice heard, get involved.

Ponte Vista has recently adjusted the number of resident units to be between 676 and 700. Additionally they have made other concessions based on community input; they include a 2.4-acre park area with full public access and the elimination of the apartment product type.

Now, residents may ask if these changes are enough to warrant their support. Only you, as an individual, can answer that question.

Over the past few months the council’s planning and land use committee has held public meetings and some of the issues community members have raised are:

- A formal parking plan document for the residential and recreation area;
- Grey water, storm run-off and other environmental issues;
- Traffic concerns within and outside project area;
- Construction concerns which include setbacks, street widths, dead-ends, building height transitions and construction phasing;
- SB1818, allowing a project unit number bonus for meeting certain housing concessions such as affordable housing agreements and if project is still planned as gated.

On the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council’s website, www.nwsanpedro.org, you can find all the latest Ponte Vista project documents. Take the time to review them and make up your own mind.

After you examine the plans write your comments and submit them to the Los Angeles Planning Commission at cpc@lacity.org, Councilman Buscaino’s office at councildistrict15@lacity.org and Los Angeles Planning Department at Henry.Buscaino@lacity.org no later than 10 days prior to the November 14, 2013 hearing date. I also ask that you attend the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. at Los Angeles City Hall.

NWSPNC Board Votes to Disapprove Amended Ponte Vista Proposal

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council held a special board meeting on Saturday, October 26 at the Community Room of the LAPD Harbor Area Station to adopt comments on Ponte Vista.

Ponte Vista representatives summarized the new specific plan and design guidelines. Major changes were made as requested by previous comments from our council: (1) the apartments were eliminated; (2) there is a two-acre park near the Western Avenue entrance that will be open to the public; and (3) the number of units was reduced from 861 to 676-700, including single and multiple units.

Although the council and some members in the audience appreciated the compromises achieved by I-Star, the owners of the property, there is still uncertainty about the impact of the project on the community. Citizens expressed concerns about implications of a gated community, the height of the buildings, setbacks, entrances, parking, homeowner association costs and responsibilities, the plan/design document being vague.

RI advocates still want to keep the given designation. The major impact remains the amount of traffic on Western Avenue. Sixteen intersections have been found that will need mitigation. One idea presented is creating an additional lane on both sides of Western Avenue. Indeed, Western Avenue is already crowded at peak hours!

There was a motion to approve the Ponte Vista project as is, but it did not receive a second. There was a second motion to disapprove the project planned as is. This motion won by a 6-4 vote. Now comments were not adopted. All those present were urged to submit personal comments to the Planning Commission of the City of Los Angeles CPC@lacity.org with copies to Henry.Buscaino@lacity.org and to Councilman Buscaino councildistrict15@lacity.org by November 4, 2013. You are are asked to do the same.

Peck Park Skate Park Update

Our New Skatepark!

Construction is underway for the new skate park facility at Peck Park. Recreation and Parks anticipates that the facility will be finished in the spring prior to the temporary closure of the Channel Street Skate Park. Along with the construction of the skate park, Recreation and Parks is upgrading the nearby restrooms to make them handicapped accessible.

Pathways to Employment Youth Workshop

Save the Date

April 5th

Detailed Information Coming Soon...
RePower LA: Greening Homes, Jobs and San Pedro/South Bay Neighborhoods

What has 25-plus arms/legs and growing, connects people to good, living-wage jobs and is helping clean up the environment in San Pedro/South Bay communities?

RePower LA! RePower LA is a broad-based coalition of community organizations, environmentalists, organized labor, businesses and faith-based leaders who are working to ensure that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power invests in energy efficiency and water conservation programs that help struggling customers save money on their bills, decrease the city’s reliance on dirty energy, and provide career-path job opportunities for L.A. residents.

Currently, you will find members of one of the RePower coalition members, Green Education Inc., canvassing our streets, speaking with small business owners about LADWP’s Small Business Direct Install program.

The Small Business Direct Install program provides lighting upgrades and water saving measures, free of charge, to qualifying small businesses. The LADWP is beginning with smaller businesses (classified as having less than 0.3 kilowatts of electricity or less) because they are least likely to afford such upgrades on their own, but can realize considerable savings.

Green Education Inc. Executive Director, Stella Ursua, says that local small businesses are thrilled to be offered these free upgrades for their businesses. “These small businesses have survived a lengthy recession and are once again seeing increases in business, so this program is perfect timing... it is icing on the cake.”

Introducing New Board Member Darlene Zavalney

We moved to San Pedro 21 years ago this Halloween. My husband and I are native Manhattan Beach residents and have lived in many cities across the greater Los Angeles region. Encino, Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, to name just a few.

While other communities have charm and personality, no other city has the passion and soul of Pedro and here we, my husband John and I, found our real home. Within our first few months here we knew we had moved someplace very special.

Beginning in high school I found satisfaction in civic involvement volunteering to go door to door collecting for the St. Jude Foundation. More recently, my husband and I have been a volunteer for The Jane Goodall Foundation since 1996 and continue to support her efforts with her youth organization, Roots & Shoots.

Asked to write about why I decided to volunteer for the board, I’d have to say it’s because of the people who have inspired me and their passion for this amazing town. I want to help Pedro blossom for the board, I’d have to say it’s because of the organization, Roots & Shoots.

As a resident, a community activist and entrepreneur, I hope to contribute to the neighborhood’s economic development and community engagement.

Port History Online

Do you love history? Do you love Port history? The Port of Los Angeles Historical Archives now has a blog that features some untold stories about the LA Harbor area from years past. Be sure to subscribe and check out the first post ‘The Hermit of Terminal Island – Part I: The Tale of Tommy Leggett.”

Go to http://portlaarchives.wordpress.com/

Weymouth Corners Merchants Association Holiday Candy Cane Lane December 6

For the past 28 years the Weymouth Corners Merchants have put on their annual Holiday Candy Cane Lane. This is a night of fun for all that is free to the community.

The street is lit with twinkling lights and we have a spectacular Santa arrival for the kids to enjoy. We have music supplied by Jazzy DJ, cookie decorating, face painting, fire trucks, a jumper, food vendors, free entertainment and much more.

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 ideas or gift certificates.

This has been a very successful event in the past and grows in popularity every year. The date is Friday, December 6, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Have you any questions, please contact Polly Ann Bakery at (310) 519-0966.
Message from Mayor Eric Garcetti

When I was sworn in as mayor, I promised to make Los Angeles a great city. But a great city doesn’t have a concrete river. Now is our chance to take action. Read about and sign the petition to tell the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore our river.

Right now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is weighing competing plans for the river. The plan known as Alternative 20 is the only option that comprehensively restores the river. I launched this petition to tell the Army Corps of Engineers that if they’re going to do a job then they should do it right.

Tell the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement Alternative 20. This is a critical petition. Your signature, along with thousands of others, will be submitted as official public comment.

It only takes a second and your action today will be felt by generations of Angelenos who will enjoy a great river in a great city.

Thank you for all you do.

Eric Garcetti, Mayor

Interview with New Harbor Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi

What is the Pirozzi family connection to the harbor?

My family history goes back to 1920 when my mother’s (Fil) father Domenic Costa came from Ischia Italy at the age of 18 to fish. My father Tony came from Ischia Italy in 1956 at the age of 18 with his parents and sister. He also became a fisherman at that time. Today, I still have cousins who are commercial fishermen and own the Ferrigno Bay. My brother Jerry is a safety superintendent for Matson and I have family and friends who work on the waterfront as longshoremen. My father-in-law, Jay Aranda, is a retired longshoreman and my brother-in-law, Jay, is a longshoreman.

How will your engineering background play into your position as harbor commissioner?

Today my role at Boeing is the Director of Satellite Integration, Test and Launch which requires me to assess processes for efficiency and competitiveness as well as market based affordability and customer satisfaction. I will use this knowledge and experience to help stay competitive in the global market as well as position it for the future.

How will you balance the needs of the port with the residents who live in the adjacent neighborhoods?

Since I live adjacent to the port I understand the concerns of air quality, noise and traffic. I will bring this experience to the decision making process as harbor commissioner.

How will you balance growth of business with the need to protect the environment?

We will grow the port green and responsibly. It is not only key to being a good neighbor, but it is also important to differentiating our port from other ports across the globe.

Do you plan to work with our neighborhood councils?

Yes.

What are three goals you have for your time as harbor commissioner?

1. Stay competitive, (2) redevelop Port’s O’ Call and (3) establish into a place that is grand and attractive to locals and tourists from across the globe.

Northwest San Pedro NC Wins Empowerment Award

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council was recognized at the recent Congress of Neighborhood Councils as one of the outstanding councils in Los Angeles. Pictured are Neighborhood Empowerment General Manager Grayee Liu, NWSPNC board members Diana Nave, Laurie Jacobs, Gary Bass, president Ray Regalado, Commissioner Karen Mack, and her daughter, Flora.

Northwest San Pedro Report

We have had a real upsurge in property crimes in Northwest San Pedro and need your help! Primarily the crimes have been thefts from cars, many of which were unlocked, and home burglaries, most of which occurred in the daytime.

What can you do?

1. Get to know your neighbors. Form a Neighborhood Watch. If you want to form a Neighborhood Watch, contact our Senior Lead Officer, Art Ashcraft, at (310) 869-2067 or by e-mail 34538@lapd.lacity.org.
2. Volunteer to be a cyberblock captain. A cyberblock captain receives important messages from the LAPD and passes them on to their neighbors, primarily through e-mail. If you are interested in learning more about being a cyberblock captain, contact Officer Jackie Lopez at (310) 726-7920 or by e-mail at 38004@lapd.lacity.org.
3. Keep your windows and doors shut and locked. At least 50 percent of the burglaries have been through open or unlocked doors and windows.
4. Lock your car and never leave valuables such as electronics and purses in the car even for a minute.
5. Install dawn to dusk exterior lighting on your home.
6. Consider installing an alarm system and/or exterior cameras.
7. If you see someone committing a crime, call 911 immediately. If you see someone suspicious, call 1-877-ASK-LAPD.
8. Don’t open your door to solicitors, curb painters, or even utility workers unless they show you proper photo identification.

Northwest San Pedro Events

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<tr>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvest Camp</td>
<td>Day camp for kids ages 5-12. November 25, 26 and 27; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; cost: $100; games, arts and crafts, sports, snacks &amp; movies. Sack lunch required daily.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Basketball</td>
<td>Boys and girls ages 5-15; cost: $115 fee includes uniform, trophy, game and staff fees. Practices begin in December. Games begin in January. Sign-up now; leagues will fill up fast.</td>
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Northwest San Pedro SWIMMING POOL

NEXT TO THE TENNIS COURTS

SUMMER LESSONS REGISTRATION

Starts October 12

- Recreational and Lap Swimming
- Group and Private Swim Lessons - Youth and Adult
- Synchronized Swimming and Water Polo (January - May)
- Aqua-Aerobics (Morning and Evening Sessions Available)

Peck Park Swimming Pool

560 N. Western Avenue
San Pedro 90732
310-548-2434

Log onto: LAPARKS.ORG
Are You Prepared? Getting Ready for When Emergencies Happen

How did you fare in the recent earthquake? I am actually referring to the Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill which happened on October 17. Did you have your supplies of water and food available in case the power went out—or stayed out? 

Diana often helped the board avoid the development of acrimony during moments of heated discussion. She always maintained a calm, non-argumentative disposition, smoothly soothing potentially rancorous positions and judiciously guiding us to a resolution which usually satisfied all members.

Diana Nave is a tower of strength in her passionate efforts to serve the best interests of our community. Diana, I salute you, and am very proud to have served with you in the board’s efforts to serve the Northwest San Pedro community.

Boater Registration Now Open for L.A. Harbor Holiday Afloat Parade

Boaters are encouraged to register now for the 51st Annual Los Angeles Harbor Holiday Afloat Parade on Saturday, December 7, 6:00 p.m., in the Los Angeles Main Channel. State Senator Roderick Wright of the 35th District will preside as grand marshal for the sparkling spectacular of boats to celebrate the nation’s largest international trade gateway with the theme of “Holidays Around the World.”

Boater registration for the event is now underway. The vessel entry fee for the parade is $30, which includes one admission to the Parade Awards Brunch on Sunday, December 8, at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Pedro. Advance tickets for the Awards Brunch are $20 or $25 at the door.

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: Theme, Traditional, Humorous, Holiday Spirit, Best Animation, Commercial, Most Original, Children’s Choice, Judge’s Choice, and Grand Marshal’s Award. Yacht Clubs will be vying for the coveted Perpetual Trophy, awarded to the club with the most entries.

The deadline for boater registration is December 3. Register online at www.laharborholidayafloat.org. For more parade information, sponsorship with the most entries. Children’s Choice, Judge’s Choice, and Grand Marshal’s Award. Yacht Brunch on Sunday, December 8, at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Pedro.

Science Center Update

San Pedro’s beloved Science Center is getting a well-deserved sprucing up for fall. With the help of volunteers along with LAUSD staff, the Center has been busy removing overgrown brush and trimming trees.

The Center’s drive-in area has been cleaned up and freshly planted with succulents, and other cosmetic improvements are in the works. LAUSD has committed to keep the Center open for the 2013-2014 school year but are unwilling to commit funding beyond this coming June.

In an effort to reduce overhead expenditures and wage labor hours, all exotic birds, exotic poultry and many reptiles have been removed from the Center and placed in other educational facilities or in sanctuaries. However, visitors to the center are still welcomed by a variety of charming farm animals and friendly reptiles. The first Saturday of each month is Volunteer Day at the Science Center from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. and volunteers are always needed! Volunteers of all ages are invited to lend a hand helping with garden- ing, repairs and other activities in and around the facility.

After the first of the year, plans are being organized for plans for children. LAUSD has committed to keep the Center open for the 2013-2014 school year but are unwilling to commit funding beyond this coming June.

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Tribute to Diana Nave

By George T. Thompson
Chairman, NWSPNC Budget Committee

As past vice president of our neighborhood council, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to recognize one of our board members, Mrs. Diana Nave, who has dedicated many years of service to the San Pedro community.

Diana has been a Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council board member since the inception of neighborhood councils. She is a fount of knowledge of matters concerning city governance and of our council’s past history. Drawing on her broad background of experience, she has continuously provided astute advice to our council.

During her many years of service, she served multiple times as board president and board secretary and utilized her consummate skills to effortlessly guide us through consideration of controversial subject matter. Diana often helped the board avoid the development of acrimony during moments of heated discussion. She always maintained a calm, non-argumentative disposition, smoothly soothing potentially rancorous positions and judiciously guiding us to a resolution which usually satisfied all members.

Diana Nave is a tower of strength in her passionate efforts to serve the best interests of our community. Diana, I salute you, and am very proud to have served with you in the board’s efforts to serve the Northwest San Pedro community.

What’s New on Western Avenue?

By Connie McOsker
NWSPNC Board Member

Park Plaza recently was remodeled and has a modern elegant new feel. The owners and contractors are to be complimented, because it was done relatively quickly and without chaos.

Just a small section at a time was worked on. There were no traffic or parking problems, as stores were clearly marked that they were “open during remodeling.”

One new business in Park Plaza, located on the north side, that needs to be congratulated for its focus on health is Fat Tomato. According to the manager Jason Park, their philosophy is simple, “quality food at a small local store.”

They don’t use anything frozen or canned, everything is from scratch. It is New York style with a new flare. Other pizza has gotten a “junk food” reputation from some makers. Fat Tomato wants to show customers they are making everything fresh by having an open kitchen.

Top quality meats are used, real cheese and the best vegetables. They also have created a special real pizza for children. For an additional charge, they have added educational opportunities as part of the Center’s monthly volunteer days.

For more information, call Jason at (213) 842-0577 or www.goat tomato.com. The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council thanks Fat Tomato to the neighborhood!