Who Can Be a Candidate?
In order to provide for the broadest possible representation, the NWSPNC has the following designated seats:

• Live or own property in one of the four census tracts in NWSPNC
• Own or operate a business located within the NWSPNC boundaries
• Represent a nongovernmental organization such as a religious institution, nonprofit, labor, or homeowners organization located within the NWSPNC boundaries
• Represent a school serving the NWSPNC area, includes students, parents of students, faculty
• At-large stakeholder

Candidates must be at least 16 years of age, live, work, own property, or who has a substantial and ongoing participation within the neighborhood council’s boundaries such as, but not limited to participation in an educational, nonprofit and/or religious organization and meet the requirements for the seat they are seeking.

A list of available positions is online at http://empowerla.org/nwspnc/northwest-san-pedro-nc-2014-elections or on the NWSPNC board at Peck Park.

Candidates do not need to be registered voters. A map of the Neighborhood Council boundaries is available at http://nwsanpedro.org/boundaries/

All candidates have to provide documentation when filing. The documentation must establish their identity AND stakeholder status according to the position they are seeking.

Candidates should be committed to preparing for and attending the Board Meetings on the second Monday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., participating in at least one committee, and volunteering for at least one other responsibility within the council.

More information will be available at the candidate information sessions at Peck Park, Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 22, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Applications can be submitted at the information meetings and online. They will also be accepted on March 24 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Council Office, San Pedro City Hall, 638 South Beacon Street.

The filing period closes on Monday, March 24. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6.

Run for the NWSPNC Board and...
• Represent your neighborhood at City Hall.
• Monitor the delivery of city services.
• Improve the quality of life in our community.
• Partner with LAPD and LAFD on public safety issue and emergency preparedness.
• Partner with the mayor and council member to address community issues.
• Partner with the city departments such as transportation, planning, and street services to prioritize local projects and improvements.

‘Pathways to Employment’ April 5 at Olguin Campus

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is busy planning the third annual “Pathways to Employment” for Harbor area youth ages 16-24. This event will be held on Saturday, April 5, at San Pedro High School’s John and Muriel Olguin Campus, 3210 Alma Street from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

This event features morning workshops to assist Harbor area youth with the skills they need to be successful in getting and keeping a job.

Each youth will have the opportunity to attend three workshops such as “What Employers Look for in an Interview”, “Personal Branding”, “Apprenticeship Programs”, “Jobs in the Entertainment Industry”, “Resume Preparation”, and “Developing Your Job Search Network”.

After a free lunch of pizza and salad, youth will have the opportunity to participate in a practice interview. At the same time, they will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with a variety of businesses—some of which may be accepting applications—about what their company looks for in a candidate for employment.

Free bus transportation will be available from select Wilmington and San Pedro locations.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council was recently honored at the L.A. City Council for producing this event, which is made possible by the participation of our co-sponsors, the Harbor Community Benefits Corporation and San Pedro Rotary Club.

To register or get more information about the event, go to www.nwsanpedro.org/pathways.

For more information, go to http://empowerla.org/nwspnc/northwest-san-pedro-nc-2014-elections or www.nwsanpedro.org or contact Independent Elections Administrator, Rashad Rucker, Rashad@empowerla.org, (213) 955-0436.

Ponte Vista Update

The revised project for Ponte Vista has been approved by the Planning and Land Use Committee of the L.A. City Council and we anticipate that it will be considered by the full city council very soon. The plan now allows 677 residential units and contains a small public park.

The council office is working with the applicant to ensure that all of the public commitments are written into the final document and with the city attorney to develop language that would exempt the property from the density bonus. While not everything the NWSPNC advocated for is included, it is a real improvement over previous plans.

We continue to monitor this project and will post the information about the city council meeting on our website nwsanpedro.org and distribute it to our e-mail list as soon as we are notified about it. In the meantime, continue to email comments to councilmanbuscaino@lacity.org.
President’s Corner
Community Engagement
By Ray Regalado, President

Now that the New Year celebrations are behind us and those resolutions you made are firmly in place and under way, I want to ask you a question. Do you have room for one more New Year’s resolution or just a resolution in general? I’m sure you said yes.

So with this in mind, I am going to ask that you add one more to your list. I’m going to ask that you get involved. Not consider to get involved, but really get yourself involved, engaged within your community and make a difference.

As you consider how to get involved, let me help you with your thinking by giving you a few suggestions. You might want to consider joining your Neighborhood Watch group. If you don’t know if your local block has a group established talk to your Senior Liaison Officer.

Just to let you know, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has a new SLO. Her name is Officer Bravo. Call her at Harbor Area Station 5’s community relations office at (310) 726-7924, and she will let you know how to start one or direct you to the Watch group in your area.

Here is another suggestion—you may want to consider organizing or joining a community cleanup effort. This will beautify your neighborhood and simply enhance the quality of life in the community you call home.

Also, you may want consider joining a local service organization, coach a soccer, baseball, football or basketball team at your local park or recreation center. Maybe you want to consider mentoring a student or volunteer your time at an afterschool program at one of the local schools. To say the least, there are many opportunities available where you can make an impact.

Let me to make one more suggestion for your consideration; as you think about how you can get involved and engage yourself in your community, join us at the next Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council meeting at Peck Recreation Center.

We meet on the second Monday of every month in the gym. Come sit in the audience and listen to all the different issues, items of interest and events going on in our section of the harbor. You may have some great ideas, suggestions or comments to add to the discussions on the agenda.

You could meet your elected representatives and/or their staff, get to know your public safety representatives from the fire department to police, and introduce yourself to Officer Bravo and you could get to know your school board representatives as they talk about items that are important regarding our local schools.

There is no better way than to be a part of your neighborhood council meeting and here is the big payoff of getting involved in the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. It’s for you!

You talk would like to run for one of the council seats.

We are coming up to elections in a few months. Check out the announcement in the newsletter. And check out our website at nwsanpedro.org.

Barbara Serrano
Monti Senior Lead Officer Bravo

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has a new senior lead officer. Officer Adriana Bravo has been with LAPD since 2002. Her first ride-along while in the academy was at the Harbor. Although she was first assigned to Rampart Division, she wanted to return to Harbor Division and did so in 2004 when she was assigned to patrol in San Pedro. In 2005 she was assigned to work the Gang Enforcement Detail moving to the Narcotics Enforcement Detail in 2008. In 2009 she was promoted to field training officer and was assigned to Harbor Vice where she worked under Operand for over four years. Officer Bravo describes herself as “a proactive police officer who enjoys working the field and enthused to be at work everyday.”

Please join us in welcoming her to our area. You can usually see her at the beginning of any of our monthly board meetings.

Don’t Be a Victim! How Burglars Select a Home to Target

Burglars choose:

• A home whose occupants appear to be away much of the day. Breaking into an occupied home is just too risky.
  - A home with no apparent security protection. Homes that appear to have no alarm service, camera surveillance or signs showing burglary protection are enticing.
  - If you don’t have a surveillance system, consider posting a dummy sign that indicates you do have protection.
  - A good variety of these signs are available online at a very low cost
• A home that is situated where there are multiple rapid escape routes.
  - Professional burglars want to minimize their risk of apprehension. So, they scope out their escape routes in advance.
• A home that can be entered and exited without detection. If a home’s entry points are not visible or passersby, burglars are more inclined to target that home.

How to reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

• Make sure your home is locked whenever you leave. Even if you’re just going out for a quick errand to the store. Close and lock all windows when you’re not there. Use a wood dowel in the track to prevent your sliding patio door from being entered. Most burglars enter from the rear of the home.

• When you leave your home, take note of persons just sitting in their car or truck. It’s become common in our area for burglars to watch homes from their rear of the home. Windows when you’re not there. Use a wood dowel in the track to prevent your sliding patio door from being entered. Most burglars enter from the rear of the home.

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• If you don’t know the person knocking on your door, don’t open it. Through the eyes, ears and opportunities to observe our community than the LAPD. We know burglars are watching us… let’s be on the lookout for them and take no observations for granted.

• Get to know your neighbors. Vigilance is our best line of defense. As a group, we have many more eyes, ears and opportunities to observe our community than the LAPD. We know burglars are watching us; let’s be on the lookout for them and take no observations for granted.

• Exchange mobile phone numbers in case of an emergency. Offer to pick up newspapers and flyers from neighbors driveways when they’re away. Keep an eye on each other’s homes when there is no one there. Report unusual activity on each other’s homes when there is no one there. Report unusual activity on each other’s homes when there is no one there. Report unusual activity on each other’s homes when there is no one there. Send an RSVP to planning@centralsanpedro.org to save your seat. For further information, please call (310) 489-3026.

A Plastic Bag Ban: Make Your Own Reusable Bags

As we all know, single-use plastic bags are banned at grocery and other stores. This is a move aimed at improving the environment, reducing trash and associated costs of trash cleanup. Smaller plastic bags for produce and meats are still allowed.

If you need a bag (or another bag) to take with you, the Northwest Neighborhood Council reusable bag is a great option. If you haven’t gotten one yet, catch up with us at one of our events and we’ll give you one.

If you need more bags and you don’t wish to buy reusable bags from retailers, you can always make your own. This website provides links to more than 35 free patterns and instructions for Reusable Grocery Bags You Can Make (http://gogreen.org/Library/reusable_grocery_bags_toes-free_patterns.html). Even if you are not the handy, crafty type, the bag ideas and patterns offered at this site are pretty easy. If you have ever sewed, you probably have a few leftover fabric pieces that you can repurpose into your new charming bag. Don’t have a sewing machine? Many local fabric stores offer classes and can help you get started. If you need help starting a neighborhood watch, or would like help starting a neighborhood watch group, you can contact LAPD Senior Lead Officer Adriana Bravo at (310) 726-7700.

Neighborhood Watch Group Forms

After having experienced several break-ins in their neighborhood, the residents of Tarragona Homes (aka the “Via” streets) decided to do something about it.

They worked with the LAPD and created a Neighborhood Watch Group. With a small contribution from each household, they purchased materials for the neighborhood watch sign and posted them every entrance into this tract, along with window “clings”.

As a result of the meetings, some of the neighborhood residents got together for a cleanup effort. NWSPNC congratulates the residents of Tarragona for taking this initiative. If you would like help starting a neighborhood watch group in your neighborhood, contact board@usanspedro.org.

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San Pedro Library Now Open on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Peck Park Recreation Center Events

- Baseball registration now! Ages 5-14, $115
- Girls softball registration now! Ages 12-17, $85
- Spring Event April 12, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Afterschool Program: $60 week or $200 month
- Call for information, (310) 549-7580
Two Major Roadway Projects to Improve Safety and Traffic Flow

Key Segments of Harbor I-110 Freeway To Undergo More Than $100 Million in Improvements, Generating 700-plus Direct and Indirect Jobs

In the coming weeks, the Port of Los Angeles will start construction on two major roadway projects that will improve the Harbor I-110 Freeway and nearby surface streets in San Pedro and Wilmington. The work, due to begin in February and extend through fall 2016, will make the Harbor Area safer and easier to navigate for all motorists.

The Port is investing approximately $54 million to widen the westbound transition from the SR-47 to the northbound I-110 and reconfigure the I-110/C Street interchange. The two projects will improve key segments of the freeway system that link the nation's No. 1 container port to downtown Los Angeles and are part of Southern California's larger Regional Transportation Improvement Plan for a six-county area.

The Port is conducting extensive public outreach throughout the construction period and will use electronic signs, notices posted on its website, online messaging and other methods to disseminate updates on temporary road and ramp closures and work that impacts neighborhoods. Residents and property owners will be contacted directly about when to expect sound wall construction in their neighborhoods.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is closely monitoring and will distribute info via our website and email list in advance of the lane on-ramp closures.

The Channel Street Skate Park will be closed from fall 2014 to fall 2015 to protect the public from heavy construction overhead. Prior to the closure, a new community skate park at San Pedro's Peck Park is due to open.

Construction will limit street traffic along a half-mile stretch of John S. Gibson Boulevard to one lane in each direction for about six months beginning in fall 2015. Also that year, the John S. Gibson freeway on-ramp will close for about three months.

The SR-47/110 project will widen the westbound connector to the northbound I-110 by adding a second lane that starts after the Vincent Thomas Bridge and extends beyond the John S. Gibson Boulevard off-ramp. The existing lane will remain open during construction.

The I-110/C Street interchange will eliminate two major intersections within about 500 feet of each other and the C Street/I-110 entrance and exit. A new configuration of ramps and a single, more efficient signalized intersection will replace the existing layout.

Board Members: ‘What It Means to Me’

Local engagement is important because no one understands a neighborhood better than the people who live, work and play there. Neighborhood councils are answering that need and strengthening democracy in Los Angeles by embracing and supporting the diversity of neighborhoods.

Board members of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council comment on what it means to them to be a board member:

DIANA NAVE: Allows me to feel that I am helping to improve the quality of life in our community.
LAURA TAYLOR: I enjoy setting a good example for the next generation that being involved means you can “Make a Difference”.
CONNIE MCOSKER: Our board has meant two important things to me: awareness and appreciation. I have learned so many things about what is happening in our community and I am grateful for all those who work so hard to get things done!
GEORGE THOMPSON: It has allowed me to become more informed and involved by the government and I will use that information to inform others on neighborhood matters.
BARBARA SCHACH: Being on the board has meant learning more about city and local government, about San Pedro and making many interesting friends.
CASSIDY FELTONBERGER: Being on the NWSNPC has been an opportunity to reach out to people of all ages and engage in my community on a whole new level.
DARLENE ZAVALNEY: It’s great to be part of a passionate, motivated group of people who genuinely are concerned about protecting our unique community while also having fun and making the community a better place.
DAN DIXON: It’s wonderful to participate in the life of the community, an honor to work on ideas and projects that make a difference in our neighborhood, and a pleasure to work with people who share a commitment to the future of San Pedro.
CAROLYN GRAYSON: To participate in making a difference in the community through outreach and through active committee involvement.
BOB BRYANT: Being part of San Pedro and trying to make San Pedro a better place to live.
GARY HUSE: It has given me a great amount of pride to work with stakeholders on the board to accomplish community based needs and observe the inner works of the city and community.
SCOTT ALLMAN: Being on the board means to me that I can serve with my fellow neighborhoods. It also allows me to give back to the community.
CYNTHIA GONYEA: Serving on both the Port and Safety committees, as well as serving as secretary twice, I have enjoyed helping to make San Pedro a safer and better place. We are a great and diverse community and should be proud of San Pedro.

Skateboarding on public property. Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property shall conform with the following restrictions and requirements:

- Skateboarding in the right or left lane of any roadway shall do so only in the upright, standing position. Using, pushing, propelling or riding on a skateboard in a sitting, prone, kneeling or lying position is prohibited.

Traffic signs. Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall obey all traffic signs and markings, including stop signs and posted speed limits.

Yielding to traffic in same direction. Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall ride close to the far-right edge of the roadway, and shall yield to vehicles approaching from the rear by moving to the right curb or shoulder of the roadway.

Uncontrolled intersections. When approaching an uncontrolled intersection, persons riding on skateboards on public roadways or public sidewalks shall yield to vehicles that are so near as to present a hazard and shall cross the intersection at a speed in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.

Manner of operation. No person shall operate a skateboard recklessly or in such a manner as to cause or threaten to cause injury to himself or herself or to others, to create an obstruction or to present a hazard to the free use of public property by pedestrians or motorists.

Attaching to or towing by vehicle. A person operating a skateboard shall not attach the same or himself or herself to any motor vehicle on the roadway. In addition, a person shall not knowingly drive a motor vehicle that is towing a person riding on a skateboard.

Please continue to encourage and support the sport of skateboarding for your children—and review all the laws and common sense they should always observe. The more skateboarders respect safety measures, the more the public will respect skateboarders.

Welcome, Team Nerds!

Larry Smith, owner of Team Nerds, has been in business since 1986, solving computer problems for clients in the San Pedro area and beyond. Recently he relocated his offices to Northwest San Pedro. When asked why the name Team Nerds, Larry responded, “We affectionately call our team members ‘nerds’ because of their passion for technology.”

Larry invites you to stop by the new office to say hi and bring your technology questions for one of the “nerds.” Team Nerds can help you with virus removal (PC or Mac); repairs, network set up and design, phone and fax troubleshooting, software installation, printer setup, website design and maintenance, training and more. They are located in the World Port Business Center, 1881 North Gaffey Street, Suite A; telephone (310) 833-6008.

www.TeamNerds.net

Larry’s wife, Kristina, is the administrative assistant for NWSNPC and Larry actively participates in our Pathways to Employment for Youth. Join us in welcoming Team Nerds to the neighborhood.