The NWSPNC election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at Peck Park. Polls will be open from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. You do not need to be a registered voter. If you are at least 16 years of age and live, work, own property, participate in a religious organization or a non-governmental agency, or if you or your children attend school in Northwest San Pedro, you are eligible to vote.

Learn more about the candidates in the accompanying article and by attending one of the two candidate forums, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, and on election day, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. Both forums will be at Peck Park.

Who’s Running: NWSPNC Candidate Statements

**PETER K. BURMEISTER** (Census Tract 2951) What it means to me to be a board member of the neighborhood council: improving the quality of life in our community, being involved and making a difference, awareness and appreciation of our board members and community. I am very grateful for all board members who work so hard to get things done in San Pedro and in our community. Thank you very much.

**MANNY ALVAREZ** (Census Tract 2963) I lived in the Northwest San Pedro neighborhood area for over 20 years, and in San Pedro for over 40 years. I consider getting elected to the board a privilege and also a way for me to give back to this wonderful community. I believe in the board’s record of quality representation and service. If elected, I would be committed to doing the best I can to work in a positive way for effective neighborhood representation to ensure the best possible living conditions and safe environment for the community. I would be honored to have your vote.

**DANIEL DIXON** (Census Tract 2963) I am honored to have served on the Northwest council since 2005. I continue to believe that the neighborhood council system is a powerful tool by which residents can understand and shape city issues, can work to improve their community, and ultimately help city government fulfill its obligations to all residents.

**ABE BAGHERI** (Census Tract 2963) I have lived in the Northwest San Pedro neighborhood for three years and in the South Bay for over 20 years. I value keeping our community safe, ensuring it remains an attractive destination for new residents and their families, and improving the quality of life in our community. As your representative, I will use my training as an attorney to approach each issue with an open, neutral mindset and consider all viewpoints. However, I will also value decisions that have worked well for the community in the past. I would greatly appreciate your vote and look forward to implementing measures that serve our community’s best interests. (No photo provided.)

**ERIC LIN** (Census Tract 2961) As a candidate, I believe the following: Safe Community; Open and Honest Communication; Education and Information; Traffic Safety; Quality Economic and Business Development; Physical and Technological Infrastructure; Community and Environmental Sustainability.

**ROGER CUEVAS** (Census Tract 2964) I LOVE SAN PEDRO!!! What more can I say? I let me introduced myself to you, my name is Roger I have been living in Pedro for 16 years. I work at LAX with airport police as a civilian employee in Security and Traffic Operations for the past 13 years. I’m also a Los Angeles Police reserve officer. So as you can see I live work and play in our LA city. I’m running because I love our town and I want to give back and help keep Pedro a safe and beautiful place that I have known since I moved here in 1998. Please help me keep Pedro safe by electing me as a board member to represent you on the neighborhood council.

**SARAH VALDEZ** (Census Tract 2964) I’ve been a resident of San Pedro throughout the entirety of my life. In fact, I proudly claim the title of a born and raised “Pedro girl.” I love our beautifully diverse port town; we’ve got a lot going on, and we’re always looking to make things better. As a board member of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, I will eagerly devote myself to the ongoing enhancement of our community. As your prospective representative I ask, what small changes can we make in our neighborhoods—changes to improve the health, safety, and happiness of our families today, as well as of tomorrow’s generations? Together, through open communication, relentless enthusiasm and hard work, we can achieve such changes. Please let me serve you and your family, as your representative on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. It is an honor and a privilege to ask for your vote. (No photo provided.)

**DARLENE ZAVALNEY** (Census Tract 2970) It is both an honor and a great responsibility to represent San Pedro. As a member of the board, I will do my best to represent the interest of the community stakeholders. I have been a member of the board since last July and have been volunteering with the Youth and Outreach Committee for several years. I am currently on Youth and Outreach Committee; the AdHoc Committee for Pathways to Employment; Community Issues Committee and recently appointed as Chair to the AdHoc Committee on Hydraulic Fracturing. Volunteering is something I have been doing for most of my adult life, whether it was going door to door and collecting for the St. Jude Foundation, sorting colored glass at a recycling location or producing events for Jane Goodall’s Roots & Shoots. I enjoy giving back. I hope you will vote for me so that I may continue the important work I’ve only just begun. (No photo provided.)

**CRAIG GOLDFARB** (Business) (No statement or photo provided.)

**CYNTHIA GONYEA** (At-large) I am a present board member and secretary. I serve on the (LA) Port and the Safety and Security Committees. I love San Pedro and want to continue to help it grow as a diverse and safe community! (No photo provided.)

**Ponte Vista Development Update**

The Ponte Vista development was approved by the city council for 675-700 units, a significant reduction from the original 2,300 units. There will be a combination of single-family houses and multifamily condominiums (no apartments). You may have noticed work on the site. Before demolition permits can be issued for the existing structures. The developer must meet certain conditions. These conditions, which are part of the project, include opening up the existing structures to ensure that there are no bats inside. This is why some of the structures now have tarps covering the buildings. The developer condition is to take down palm fronds to ensure that the trees are not a nesting habitat. In short, they are doing as much prep work as allowed by the agreement before the demolition permits are issued. They expect demolition permits to be issued within the next 10-14 days. Formal groundbreaking is scheduled for May 8. More details will be posted on our website as we receive them.
Homelessness is Not a Crime

By Connie McOsler

The January 2013 Homeless Count revealed that there were 287 homeless in town. On April 2, 24 concerned members of the community gathered at the Grand Annex to listen to experts in the field help us think about what we can do to end homelessness in San Pedro.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Michael Brophy, president of Marymount California University. The panelists were Tahia Hysel, executive director of Harbor Interfaith Services, Jeremy Sidley of PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) and Kerry Morrison, executive director of the Hollywood Property Owner Alliance.

A formerly homeless San Pedro resident, David Sidney, told his life story. He was given back his life by the services he received from Beacon House. He is now employed and a contributing member to our community.

Students from Marymount California University prepared and surveyed the audience before and after the discussion.

Here are the top five facts we learned:

1. There are many reasons for homelessness (mental illness, addiction, job loss, domestic abuse, PTSD) and the problem is complex. Homeless can be youth, singles, families, veterans, disabled, seniors, some have pets and some are shelter resistant.

2. Services in Crisis doesn’t work long term because these are bandaid solutions: police, fire, emergency room, providing meals, temporary shelters. These are expensive in comparison to preparedness, and evacuation planning.

Deals with community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning.

Safety and Security Committee.

Deals with traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees.

Planning and Land Use Committee

Deals with planning and land use issues.

Port Committee

Deals with port-related issues and advises our representatives on Port Community Advisory Committee.

Safety and Security

Deals with community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning.

If you are interested in being a member of any of these committees, please e-mail your contact information to board@nwsanpedro.org.

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

NWSPC Board Member Gary Buss Steps Down

Retiring board member Gary Buss wrote the following to the NWSPC board:

Dear Board of NWSPC,

I have to say that the two years that I have had the privilege to be on the board, I have learned that we have the honor to serve and see the excitement from the stakeholders when we can achieve their requests.

In working on the Safety and Security Committee/Emergency Preparedness Fair we had a lot of representation from the local businesses and city and everyone that attended learned a lot.

Our Pathways to Employment has grown to a great event that helped many students understand what the tools they need to get a job and where they need to go to get a better chance for their future, not just a job, but their future goals.

I am sorry that I have to leave the board, but I am a business representative and I have sold my business so I do not qualify to stay on the board.

Gary Buss

The NWSPC board responded as follows:

Dear Gary,

We, the members of the board of NWSPC, are saddened that you must resign and hope that you will continue to be active with us albeit as a non-board member. You have brought a great sense of camaraderie, passion, and involvement to the board, and will be missed by all of us. Your leadership and dedication were instrumental to the success of the recent Pathways to Employment event. Your passion for young people shows in everything you say and do.

NWSPC Board

Applications are being taken for candidates to fill the business seat being vacated by Gary Buss for a two-year term ending June 30, 2016. To be eligible to run for the business seat, you must be at least 16 years of age and own or work at a licensed business with a business address within the boundaries of Northwest San Pedro. You do not need to be a registered voter and do not need to live in Northwest San Pedro. Applications will be available soon at nwsanpedro.org or by e-mail from board@nwsanpedro.org. This is not part of the May election, but rather will be filled through a board appointment process.
Bright and early one recent Saturday morning over 175 youth from throughout San Pedro, Wilmington and others began to gather at Pathways to Employment for a day of career exploration and training. The event was sponsored by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council in conjunction with the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation and the San Pedro Rotary Club.

The event offered 22 workshop choices, practice interviews, and the opportunity to speak with 28 employers and employment-related organizations. Harbor Commissioner Anthony Pirozzi started the day by relating his own life story and inspiring youth to make the most of their opportunities.

Youth and adults gave the event very high marks with many adults commenting on what a great opportunity it was for the young people to learn new skills and experience the community benefit.

Among the most popular workshops were: a panel where employers spoke about what they look for when they conduct an interview, a panel on how to get experience while still in high school, and a panel of representatives from various aspects of the entertainment industry. Youth were very enthusiastic about the event finding it very inspiring with excellent information and advice.

Adding to the day were door prizes donated by Prizes were from: Badfish Clothing, San Pedro Brewing Co, Chipotle Grill, Starlight Cinema, and Urban Feet. Urban Feet donated a long skateboard, the winner of which was beyond thrilled and said he never would have been able to buy one himself.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council thanks the following companies, organizations, and individuals for their commitment to the youth of our community in helping make Pathways to Employment such a successful event:

- Harbor Community
- Benefits Foundation
- Rotary Club of San Pedro

Representatives of Chase Bank discuss the application process with Pathways to Employment student participants.

More than 180 youth from area high schools attended the Pathways to Employment event at the John and Mariel Olguin campus.

James Brown, owner of San Pedro Brewing Company, talks about careers in the restaurant industry.

Beware of Phone Scams

Phone calls from individuals who are representing themselves as Sheriff Department employees. The caller usually tells the citizen that there has been a warrant issued for their arrest for failure to appear for jury duty.

The caller will tell the victim that they have to come up a sum of money or deputies will come and arrest them and instructs the victim to either get a money order, conduct a wire transfer, or buy a gift card (usually Green Dot) and send it to “pay the fine.”

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department nor any other government agency will NEVER call and solicit money for fines. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department does not solicit warrant information by phone. Phone scammers have also been deceiving LADWP customers into paying non-existent water and power bills with threats of immediate service shut off.

When you receive a call from LADWP, please remember LADWP employees will NEVER ask for personal payment information over the telephone. Beware of Phone Scams
Tall Ships Festival Set for August 20-24

The Tall Ships Festival returns to the Port of Los Angeles August 20-24 when more than a dozen international and domestic grand Tall Ships will sail into San Pedro from all over the Pacific Ocean.

The Port of Los Angeles is one of three west coast ports bestowed with the honor of welcoming these beautiful vessels to their shores, affording visitors the rare chance to catch a glimpse, step aboard, and even set sail on some of the grandest ships of yore.

In addition, the historic Battleship Iowa and the Victory Ship, S.S. Lane Victory will also be open for tours. Festival tickets are now on sale at TallShipsFestivalLA.com, TicketFly.com or at 977-4FLY-TIX and include a variety of purchase options.

Dockside passes include access to educational workshops, entertainment, and the festival grounds. In addition to getting up close and personal with Tall Ships, this unique event offers loads of entertainment featuring an eclectic selection of music that includes rock, jazz, sea chanty, Latin, Mexican, big band, country and dance.

A few Tall Ship’s sails will be creatively used as gigantic movie screens showing entertaining flicks throughout the festival. Education and children’s activities including cannon demonstrations, authentic Mexican, big band, country and dance.

‘Get in the Swim’ at Peck Park Pool

Peck Park Swimming Pool is one of 16 year-round pools that serve the community. Peck Pool serves the communities of San Pedro, Rancho Palos Verdes, Harbor City, Wilmington and Lomita. We offer recreational and lap swimming, well as synchronized swimming and junior lifeguarding. Peck also offers an aqua aerobic program for adults and seniors all year long as well as a learn-to-swim program for people of all ages. The pool is outdoor and heated to a comfortable 82 degrees. Please visit LAParks.org for updated pool programs and information on fees, features and programs.

City Council Enacts Fracking Moratorium

In February the Los Angeles City Council by a vote of 10 to 0, voted to enact a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, acidizing and other “unconventional” drilling and well stimulation methods used by oil companies in the Los Angeles area.

In March of 2014 the USGS issued a press release indicating that the 5.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Prague, Oklahoma was unintentionally induced by fracking procedures.

Swarms of over 100 earthquakes have been reported in Oklahoma, an area that had not had seismic activity prior to fracking.

Earthquakes are only one of the several environmental and health issues surrounding the process of fracking. Each well uses approximately three million of gallons of fresh water. The water is laced with undisclosed toxic chemicals. Some of the toxic water is removed from the wells while the remainder seeps into the ground and ground water. The chemicals cannot be remediated or disposed of properly.

Following a major disaster, police, fire, and medical personnel may not be able to fully meet the demand. People will have to rely on each other to meet immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs. CERT training will increase your chance of recovering from a major disaster.

The classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on three consecutive Saturdays: May 10, May 17, and May 24. For questions and/or registration, please contact Cheryl Dawson: cheryldawson@cox.net; telephone: (310) 377-8716

Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

Elks Lodge Blaze

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is saddened by the loss of the Elks Club building. Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Jose Chavez, thanks the community for its support and says, “We will rebuild and continue the great work we are known for.”

NWSPCN thanks the first responders for saving the lodge room and all the valuable artifacts, including the Bible used when the lodge was established. What a great job. We offer our support and encourage the community to assist however they can in rebuilding this iconic San Pedro structure.

Save the Date! JOB FAIR 2014

Thursday, May 8, 2014 9 am to 12 noon
Harbor Occupational Center
740 North Pacific Avenue, San Pedro
(310) 547-5551
Hearing impaired, call (310) 547-5346 TDD

Community Events

Community Fair and Chili Cook-off
Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Harbor Regional Park
Free Public Educational Boat Tours
Saturday, May 17
Boats leave from the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, dock, Sixth Street and Harbor Boulevard, every hour on the hour, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Last tour leaves at 2:00 p.m. Tour availability is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

D-Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration
Friday, June 6 at the Lane Victory
Opening Ceremonies for Downtown Plaza
June 20, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Cars & Stripes Forever
Friday, June 27, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Harbor Boulevard and the Vincent Thomas Bridge
Cabrillo Beach Fireworks Spectacular
Friday, July 4
Fireworks Show at 9:00 p.m.
Free Movie Night in the Park – “Big”
Friday, August 1, 7:00 p.m.
South of Blach Field
Navy Days - San Pedro
Tuesday, August 5 to Monday, August 11
Tall Ships Festival LA 2014
Wednesday, August 20 to Sunday, August 24

See article on this page.

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
1648 West Ninth Street

COMING EVENTS
May 3, 5 PM - Cinco de Mayo celebration with taco bar, homemade enchiladas, Margaritas, Flamenco, raffle. Adults $15/$5
and YWCA World Tots Free Activities (guests welcome)
May 9, 10 to 10:45 AM - Mother’s Day tea party with the children
June 11, 3 to 4 PM - Father’s Game Challenge day with the children
June 20, 3 to 4 PM - PreK Graduation

Briefs

Crime is down and arrests are up, but we still need to be cautious. As summer approaches remember to close and lock your windows when you are away from home and never leave your garage door opener in the car if it is parked in front of your house. The RideAlot parking lot at Fifth and Gaffey has been the site of several recent crimes. Be particularly vigilant in that area both day and night.

The city’s Department of Transportation is working with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to finalize the design form modifications designed to improve the intersection of Western and Westmont. The improvements include: (a) reconfiguring the eastbound approach to provide more space for cars waiting to turn left, (b) reconfiguring the eastbound approach to provide an exclusive left-turn lane and optional through and right turn lane, (c) modifying the signal phasing to provide “opposing phasing” for Western/Delansode approach, (d) optimizing signal timing and providing an overlap phasing for westbound right turns, and (e) upgrading the ADA ramps.

Skate Park at Peck Park is about 50-percent complete; completion is anticipated in July. We have been assured that the Channel Street Skate Park will not close until after the Peck Park Skate Park is completed.

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USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Bulky item pickup
800-773-2489
City council office
310-732-4515
Graffiti removal
213-978-0228
Illegal dumping trash
800-974-5794
LAPD Harbor Division
310-726-7700
Parking Enforcement
213-485-4184
Sanitation
800-773-2489
School police
310-625-6631
Shopping cart pickup
800-252-4613
Street Services
800-996-2489