Save the Red Car!

By Robert J. Bryant

As I am writing this article, the Red Car is scheduled to shut down after Labor Day. The Port of Los Angeles says it is only for 18 months, but the truth is it is gone forever if we do not let the Port know our concerns.

Park Western Plaza Elementary School Buddy Bench — Elementary students were concerned about the bullying at their school and wanted to find a way to make positive changes. Fourth and fifth grade students researched possible solutions on YouTube and found the “Buddy Bench” concept, a bench where students being bullied can sit and where students can comfort, counsel, and guide the other through difficult times. Along with the bench, the students will develop a presentation to give in classrooms that will ask the students to take a pledge to “be a buddy, not a bully.” Students taking the pledge will receive a rubber wristband with that slogan.

The Challenge Bear Project funds the making and distribution of the Challenge Bears by previously homeless veterans who sew the bears from scraps of uniform material and give them to elementary school children with a challenge to do something for their community. They have already had tremendous success with this project at Taper Elementary School. This project not only gives the veterans a sense of pride and purpose, it is also a connection between veterans and youth that ignites the passion of volunteerism and connects military heroes with tomorrow’s leaders, the youth.

The Environmental Engineering Studies Community Green Festival May 21 at POLA High School is completely student led with students doing all the planning and outreach. Whether you are curious about GMO’s, fracking, organic gardening, solar energy, this information is available at the Green Festival. Students research and invite appropriate groups (last year there were 30 groups) and put together interesting, exciting booths, be sure and check out their solar powered sound system. This is a great community event. Hope to see you there!

YMCA Youth and Government Program engages high school students in a model legislature and court that is a replica of the California State Government. The students “take over” the State Capitol for four days, working in the chambers of our real government officials. They write proposals, debate bills, lobby, pass initiatives try court cases, make friends and build relationships with other teens from all over the state of California. Many of the bills written by the youth influence the California Legislature and have been signed into actual law. The funding will help pay for the Sacramento trip.

Why ‘Pathways to Employment IV’ is So Important to Me

By Laurie Jacobs, Vice President, NWSPNC

My interest in serving on the northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council four years ago was to set an example to my Girl Scouts that everyone can have a voice to make our community a better place. That interest has evolved into a passion in guiding our youth beyond civic engagement. My role on the board has afforded me the opportunity to participate in “Pathways to Employment”, an event that gives incredible resources for our youth with job preparation, skills training, career path workshops and on how to approach their future employment opportunities.

The planning of this event takes about five months and throughout the process, we maintain the mission of inclusion in regards to whom we approached to run workshops, and to ensure the types of workshops address a wide variety of our community’s needs.

The planning team and participants grows each year because so many community members want to be a part of this successful endeavor. Last year attendance was 120 and participation in this yearly event even greater respect for our community as I have witnessed the building of business relationships and selfless support from so many individuals and companies who share our mission to assist your youth in any way possible.

People of all ages, businesses of diverse categories and educators of various topics are working together to provide opportunities and resources to our youth. In a time of economic uncertainty, we work collectively to provide hope and skills to the citizens of our future.

Candidates Sought for NWSPNC Business Seat

NWSPNC is seeking candidates to fill a vacant seat on the board for a term ending June 30, 2016. Anybody who is at least 18 years of age and owns or works within the NWSPNC boundaries is eligible to submit an application. The applicant is not required to live in North West San Pedro. Applications are available in the Peck Park lobby or at www.nwsanpedro.org. The deadline for filing is Thursday, April 9, 2015.
President’s Corner

How Important is Your Community?

By Ray Regalado, President

Every day I read in the newspaper how Congress is not accomplishing anything in Washington D.C. I then listen to local news reporters talking about how our communities are being victimized by crime and how some police departments are responding to criminal activity in ways that we may not agree with. I drive streets where I may need to dodge pot holes or walk neighborhoods where sidewalks are broken and pulled apart by roots of untrimmed trees. I hear people complain that things are getting worse rather than better. Maybe they are, however, is there a way that we can help change things so we see improvements rather than decay? I say there is a way, I would like you to consider the art of conversation.

Often times, we see our world around us and we think how terrible things are. If the conversation you have is strictly internal, then the opportunity for change is lost. If the conversation is between you and another person, than there is a chance that as you discuss the bad, you may start to consider ways to change the situation. If that conversation is occurring with a group of people, then it might spark an action where the group then acts to correct the problem.

When a group of concerned community members get together with the desire to create change then change will occur. It usually follows a process, people discuss and identify a problem or area of concern; solution options start to formulate and strategies are developed; strategies may identify how to address the concern and a realization of other entities may have to be invited to the conversation. Those entities may include businesses, faith leaders, city or county departments or public safety representatives such as police or fire officials. Now you have a working group and a plan is formulated and you have partners to work with.

Here is where it can be dicey, it is very easy to complain to the others in the working group about the problem, and the hard part is discussing solutions respectfully and taking responsibility for action.

Solutions are easily accomplished when the group moves in one direction together until the situation is solved. In the end you have accomplished change and solutions are in place. What is a bonus at the end of the process is now you have a relationship with those individuals in the working group that will be willing to come together again in the future to solve another concern.

If I can make one more suggestion, there is a place where community members come together every month with the desire to create change, it’s your neighborhood council meeting. Be an integral part of change, attend a meeting. Sit in on a committee meeting and be a change agent.

We ALL complain about the traffic issues on this main road artery... and with good reason. The cities of Rancho Palos Verdes and Los Angeles presented their proposed Western Avenue Corridor Design Implementation Guidelines at Peck Park on March 14 to solicit input from the community. Western Avenue is the primary north-south corridor of the South Bay, Peninsula and San Pedro communities and this plan is intended to shape Western Avenue for the next generation. The design guidelines were the second step in a process that started with the Western Avenue Vision Plan adopted in 2013. The presentation included many aspects such as strategic planning of green space, revision of parking lots to bring businesses closer to Western Avenue and concepts to hopefully improve our ongoing struggle with traffic flow. Community members in attendance spoke with the design team and provided valuable input on streetscapes options regarding bike lanes and hybrid approaches among other topics.

We ALL complain about the traffic issues on this main road artery... and with good reason. Now you have a chance to provide feedback to the design team on their proposed vision plan and to perhaps offer other practical solutions that have not yet been considered. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

If you were unable to attend this community presentation, you can contact: • Joel Rojas, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Community Development Director at joelr@rpvca.gov • Rebecca Lin, City of Los Angeles, Council District 15 at Rebecca.linc@la.gov

The draft plan will be posted at www.nwsanpedro.org as soon as it is available.

Elks Lodge Groundbreaking April 11

By John Stammreich, Esteemed Leading Knight

Hello San Pedro neighbors and friends! On behalf of the San Pedro Elks Lodge #8906, I want to personally thank you for your outpouring of support. We are moving forward on Saturday, April 11, with our officer installation and groundbreaking, and I hope all of our supporters can join us.

We will begin the day with a special breakfast fundraiser at 9:00 a.m. and begin our officer installation at 12:00 noon. Our groundbreaking ceremony for our rebuild activity will begin at 1:30 p.m. We expect most local dignitaries to be present, as most are also members of our lodge. If you are a current member who needs to pay for this year or if you are interested in learning more about membership, we will have a membership table at our April 11 groundbreaking day.

Our lodge plans to stay busy during our rebuild, including regular meetings, helping at Elks veterans barbecues, and attending events at our neighboring Elks Lodges to continue to show everyone that San Pedro Elks are fired up and ready to get our lodge rebuilt! We also plan to maintain our support for our local community through our scholarship programs for local students, our major project fundraising for disabled children, and reaching out to our local disabled veterans and other community organizations that we have enjoyed supporting throughout our 110-year history.

Thank you all for your continued support for your Elks Lodge! Stay strong, San Pedro!
Welcome, Capt. Kathryn Meek

Please welcome LAPD Captain Kathryn Meek to the Harbor Division. A Los Angeles native, she joined the LAPD in 1986 and has worked in many stations throughout the city. She worked patrol, vice and as a field training officer before promoting to the rank of sergeant where her assignments included patrol, gangs, complaints investigations, and the coveted positions of assistant watch commander and area training coordinator.

Promoting to the rank of lieutenant in 2006, she held positions of watch commander, district lieutenant, detective GIS lieutenant and administrative lieutenant. As a lieutenant, her assignments additionally included specialized positions as the Operations-South Bureau vice commander, officer-in-charge of the Bomb Detection K9 Section at LAX, and detective commanding officer.

In 2012, she was promoted to the rank of captain and was the commanding officer at Southwest Patrol Division and South Traffic Division before assuming the command of the Harbor Division.

She is a graduate of the USC with a B.A. in political science. She is also a graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, FBI National Academy, and Senior Management Institute for Police.

Jersey Mike's Subs Opens at Park Plaza

On March 18, Jersey Mike's Subs opened at 912 North Western, in the Park Plaza Shopping Center, part of a chain of 1,300 fast casual restaurant locations nationwide. It comes as no surprise to learn that Jersey Mike's got its start on the Jersey Shore. Typically, Jersey Mike's commitment to giving back to the local community, they opened with a fundraiser giving $3 to local schools for each coupon redeemed during this promotion and they are interested in partnering with other local youth groups, nonprofits, sports teams, etc. on similar promotions in the future.

The local manager, Lupe, exemplifies their philosophy of promoting from within. She started out as a part-time worker while she was still in school and has worked her way through the ranks now becoming the store manager. Please join us in welcoming Jersey Mike's to our neighborhood.

San Pedro Preparedness Presentation May 20 at Peck Park

No one likes to think about emergencies and disasters, but wind storms can knock out power, an earthquake can damage streets and water systems. What if you couldn’t just turn on the water faucet for fresh water, or the grocery store couldn’t be resupplied? “We don’t know when it will happen so why bother,” is not a strategy. After something happens is not the time to think about it.

Come to the FREE San Pedro Preparedness Awareness Presentation and learn what you need to know to be prepared. It’s not difficult to prepare. Learn simple skills that can help you save yourself and your family; build peace of mind by preparing now.

Bring your family, group of friends and your neighbors; you can help each other, so learn together. We prepare for many things in life, and emergen- cies should be one of them.

Emergency Preparedness Awareness Presentation

Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.
Peck Park Community Center
560 North Western Avenue, San Pedro, CA 90732

The Los Angeles Fire Department will give a presentation that will help you prepare for different kinds of disasters. Disaster preparedness not only consists of having a survival kit in your home, place of business, and your car, but it is also knowledge that can travel with you wherever you go.

Representatives from COPE Prepared (Community Outreach Promoting Emergency Preparedness) will also give a short presentation on how to build a kit of tools and supplies for what you need at home.

For more information, check these web sites: 
http://readyla.org
http://emergency.lacity.org
http://sbe-preparedness.org

The Emergency Preparedness Awareness Presentation is a project of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council with the support of LAPD and LAFD.

What’s Coming Up at Peck Park

BASKETBALL—Coed league for ages 5-15. Practices begin in June, league games July-September. Cost is $125 and includes jersey, 10-game season, practices, trophy and staff fees. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED.
SUMMER CAMP—June 8-August 7 from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. ages 5-12 years. Games, arts and crafts, sports, snacks and movies. Weekly cost: $45 days (includes field trip) $150; 3 days (no trip) $120, two-day (no trip), $85. Advanced registration required; no day-of-registration accepted. One-time registration fee is $20 (includes one shirt). Lunch is provided, daily snack is required.

TEEN TRAVEL CAMP—July 6-31 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ages 11-14. Weekly cost: four or five days, $165. Daily fee: $45 per day. Advanced registration is required; no day-of-registration accepted. One-time registration fee is $20 (includes one shirt). Lunch is not included on most trips, spending money is optional.

For more information on any of these activities, contact Peck Park at (310) 548-7580.

Assemblymember Details Available Services

By Patrick O’Donnell, Assemblymember, 76th District

Did you know that my office is a one-stop-shop for state information and services?

As San Pedro’s representative in the State Assembly, my goal is to provide the highest quality of public service. Here are a few services I provide:

Constituent Services
My staff can assist you with state-related matters such as:
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Foreclosure Prevention Programs
- Consumer Complaints
- Veterans’ Benefits
- Unemployment and Disability Insurance
- State Taxes
- Professional Conduct or Licensing Complaints
- Medi-Cal and Covered California
- State Information

My office can provide you with information on:
- Consumer Protection
- California DMV
- State Agency Phone Numbers
- Reports Issued by the Legislature and State Agencies
- State Capitol Tours
- Government Forms and Publications
- Legislative Services

Contact my office if you want to:
Express an Opinion
Propose a New Law
Ask for Copies, Summaries and Information on Bills
Get Involved in the Legislative Process
Find Information on How a Bill becomes Law
Be Notified of Legislative Hearings
Report Agency Misconduct

I look forward to updating you in the future about my legislative pri-
tories. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at (510) 484-6429 or on my website, www.asm.ca.gov/70 if I can be of any assistance to you.

Council Office Update

By Councilmember Joe Buscaino

There is not much disagreement about what our most visible problems are here in San Pedro. The biggest issues facing most residents are burglaries, homelessness, graffiti and trash, illegal medical marijuana dispensaries and the quality of our streets and sidewalks.

To fix our issues, we need more policing, more economic development, more parks, more partnerships, new infrastructure, and more private investment in our communities.

We need more policing because the combination of homelessness combined with addiction, medical marijuana dispensaries and crime creates a combi-
nation that is wreaking havoc on the quality of our lives.

To address our homeless issues, I have recently designed a pilot program coupling the new Emergency Response Team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services with a dedicated LAPD quality of life patrol. This new partnership will work with our local service providers to engage our homeless population in hope. The City Attorney has closed over 400 illegal dispensaries including 18 in the Harbor Area and is working to close more.

We can get more policing by opening the jail at the Harbor Division station.

I have met with Capt. Kathryn Meek and Mayor Eric Garcetti about the importance and value of opening up the Harbor Jail. As a former LAPD officer, I know that our officers are taken off the street every time they have to drive to 77th Division station to book a suspect. Opening the Harbor jail will allow the Harbor officers to spend more time in their patrol area.

However, no matter how many officers we have, we cannot have one on every street corner in the city. This is why it is important as neighbors to look after each other. We have proven that we are able to use technology and the neighborhood watch groups to warn each other of potential dangers in our neighborhoods.

I urge everyone to join the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Watch Group on Facebook. This model of vigilant cooperation with efficient policing can create a safer and more pleasant environment for our neighborhoods.

April 2015 THE NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE 3
Planning Update

Urban Greening Plan

The urban greening plan for San Pedro is nearing completion. This plan looks at improved landscaping and pedestrian connections, particularly in the downtown area and connections to our parks and open space. It includes landscaping of Western Avenue from Ninth to Morse and on North Gaffey up to Westmont, as well as improving trail connections between Peck Park, Leland Park, Bena Park, and Bandini Trails.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps has submitted a proposal for $1.5 million that, if funded, would provide 3,000 new large trees and other landscape for Leland Park (along North Gaffey), downtown San Pedro, Knoll Hill, and the CalTrans triangle at the end of the Harbor Freeway. They anticipate sharing the final plan with the community during First Thurs, May 7. Watch our website www.nwsanpedro.com for more information.

New Veterinary Clinic

City council has reviewed the plans and concurred with the request by Banfield Inc. to operate a veterinary clinic at 28114 South Western Avenue, the old Blockbuster Store in the Garden Village Shopping Center. The facility will include full service veterinarian care, diagnostic capabilities, a surgery suite, pharmacy and retail gift shop. There will not be any overnight stays and no outdoor uses. The request for a conditional use permit has not yet been scheduled for hearing.

Gaffey Great Streets Plan

The conceptual plans for Gaffey were revised to eliminate the proposed lane reductions and are now being included in the meantime as we are awaiting word from Metro on their response to the request for $1.7 million for initial implementation.

Western Avenue Corridor Guidelines

The draft Western Avenue Corridor Design Implementation Guidelines were presented at community meeting—see accompanying article. The NWSPINC is in the process of submitting comments. Once submitted, our comments will be posted on our website.

Defense Fuel Supply Point (DFSP)

The U.S. Navy, in conjunction with the Defense Logistics Agency, is preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed full or partial closure of the fuel facility at DFSP on North Gaffey. The Navy hosted a public meeting on March 18 to take public comment. Information from that meeting is posted at www.nwsanpedro.org.

The military is studying four alternatives:

• Partial closure—keeping the possibility of using the steel tanks and the above ground tanks in the future; older cement tanks would be filled with an inert solid material and abandoned in place;
• Complete closure with partial demolition—aboveground tanks would be cleaned but not demolished; underground tanks filled and abandoned in place;
• Complete closure with minimal demolition—aboveground tanks would be cleaned and abandoned; underground tanks filled and abandoned in place;
• Complete closure with complete demolition—aboveground and underground tanks and on-site pipelines would be demolished. This would require the site to be regraded as the pipes and tanks are buried quite deep.

Comments are due April 3 to nwafbpa@navy.mil. The draft environmental assessment will be available for public review and comment later this year.

They plan to start work on the selected alternative in 2016.

North Gaffey Beautification

Design work is now starting on the second phase of the North Gaffey beautification project that will connect the multiuse pathway along the railroad tracks from Gatun to the corner of Pacific and John S. Gibson Boulevard. A preliminary discussion is complete and we anticipate that the Port will return with specific drawings to review in 6-8 months.

Animal Shelter Improvements Underway

The city is investing $410,000 in improving the Harbor Animal Shelter. The HVAC installation is almost complete. Other improvements include an increase of the height of the fence at the south retaining wall, covering the outdoor kennels, and adding surgical lights. Improvements are expected to be done by November 2015.

ANNUAL ‘DISCOVER RECYCLING’ SANITATION OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Harbor District Yard, 1400 North Gaffey Street
The family event will feature trash truck and equipment demonstrations, facility tours, information booths, recycling games, and tire thrones.

Rancho LPG Documentary on Youtube

Concerned community activists have been working for a couple of decades to put a spotlight on an extremely dangerous facility located within our community, Rancho LPG’s butane and propane tanks.

The following link is to a documentary about the Rancho LPG tanks on North Gaffey that is still in production: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBGt_XKNplk

We hope you will take the time watch it, become informed and stay informed. For updates go to ‘Saving San Pedro’ Facebook page and click “like”! Find the link for the petitions and add your name. Together we can “do something”!

Navy Village, Also Known as Blue Butterfly Village

A number of years ago the Volunteers of America (VOA) acquired 76 units of the former military housing that is located off Palos Verdes Drive North, between the Rolling Hills Prep School and Ponte Vista.

They have rehabilitated the units and created the Blue Butterfly Village for homeless female veterans and their families. Located in an idyllic setting, 73 of the units will house families, one will house a resident manager and two will be dedicated for on-site services.

Each unit has been lovingly furnished by a volunteer group and a wonderful play area has been constructed for the children. VOA is currently accepting applications and anticipates residents beginning to move around early next year.

Female veterans and their families, with their unique needs, are often underserved by other veterans programs. They experience higher rates of divorce, homelessness and isolation than their male counterparts.

The Village is designed not only as a place of respite and tranquility, but also as a vibrant therapeutic community for these families to heal and thrive.

Job training and placement combined with community services will provide a solid foundation for these families to access the type of help that they need.

The Village offers a wonderful and meaningful way to honor the service and sacrifice of veteran families. We hope that you will join us in welcoming them to our community.

Construction Alerts

The onram to the 110 (Harbor Freeway) North from John S. Gibson will be closed for 90 days starting May 4 to complete the widening. Plans are posted on our website.

LADWP will be replacing the water main on the south side of Anaheim Street in front of Conoco Phillips.

For an update on the construction on the Gerald Desmond Bridge, go to http://www.newgdbridge.com/contact/default.asp.

Meet the Neighbor

Meet the Neighbor is a new section of the Northwest Advocate. In this section we feature one stakeholder in the Northwest San Pedro community. If you know someone who you think should be featured, please email your suggestion to board@nwsanpedro.org.

Mike Pulisich has deep roots in San Pedro. Born in San Pedro in 1941, Mike grew up on 14th Street and Alma Avenue. Throughout his lifetime, Mike has had the opportunity to work in some of the most prominent San Pedro industries; his story offers a small glimpse of San Pedro’s rich waterfront history.

The son of a fisherman, Mike spent many years with his father around the San Pedro wharves and fish markets. San Pedro had one of the world’s largest commercial fishing fleets back then; fishermen took orders from the many wholesale markets and canneries based in San Pedro. As an adult, Mike went on to work at one of those canneries—StarKist. From the late 1800s and through the mid 1980s, the canning industry thrived in our small port town. Having originated in San Pedro, StarKist was one of the two largest tuna canneries in the United States.

Mike later found employment with Bethlehem Steel’s San Pedro shipyard. One of several yards provided with Maritime Administration funds to build ships for World War II, Bethlehem Steel was a ship repair facility for most of its existence before and after the war.

Mike joined the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in 1979. He stayed with the ILWU for thirty years, during which time he served two terms as the elected Secretary Treasurer.

In 1975, Mike purchased a house in one of the earliest San Pedro neighborhoods, the Rolling Hills Triangle area, where he has lived ever since. Mike diligently attends the monthly board meetings held by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council.

He has utilized the resources available at monthly council meetings and, as a result, has offered positive changes on his block. Such changes include increased street lighting, the removal of a dead tree, and the formation of a new Neighborhood Watch group.

A few years after his purchase, his family expanded, and his community, Mike Pulisich says that—with a proactive attitude, and consistency in the right direction—civic engagement can be simple.

If you would like more information on how to get involved with your local Neighborhood Watch group, please contact Senior Lead Officer Bravo at (310) 869-2067.

Maritime Veterans of America (VOA) acquired 76 units of the former military housing that is located off Palos Verdes Drive North, between the Rolling Hills Prep School and Ponte Vista.

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