Preparing for El Niño Storms

On November 12, approximately 35 Los Angeles county and city officials and professionals conducted a meeting at Peck Park in San Pedro to inform area residents that El Niño is expected in the Los Angeles area this winter. With El Niño may come heavy rains that may cause flooding, mudslides, and falling tree branches which may cause downed electric and telephone lines. These conditions may cause traffic congestions, electric outages and property damage. At this time no one knows how much rain there will be, but prudence tells us we need to be ready. Here are some suggestions:

- Have extra water in your house. County and city authorities say people need a minimum of one gallon of water per person a day. And don’t forget your pets need water as well. They also recommend to put some water and non-perishable food in your car. People who work may also want to have some bottles of water and protein bars at their place of employment.

- Evans residents are lists containing items you may need for your go bag and home preparation. On these sites are Cross websites. The LA City website is www.ReadyLA.org. On these sites one knows how much rain there will be, but prudence tells us we need to be ready. Here are some suggestions:

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President’s Corner
Partnership is the Answer
By Ray Regalado, President

In a previous newsletter message I wrote how neighborhood councils seem to be undervalued by some city departments and community entities. I also stated how neighborhood councils can be a valuable tool and ally for city departments, and other stakeholders if healthy relationships are established and nurtured. The benefit of strong relationships between neighborhood councils and city stakeholders is the ability for our community voice to be heard.

Being heard is important since, historically, neighborhood councils have been advocates for the overall good of the community. Many times issues arise that are not exclusively associated with a particular community or neighborhood. City council directives, department policies, and community concerns may encompass large geographic regions so coordinated responses may be appropriate from multiple communities to address the will of the residents. The best mechanism for an action such as this can be through regional neighborhood councils coming together and working in concert toward a common resolution. Essentially, being able to speak with a louder voice, thereby, making ourselves heard.

Neighborhood councils, when working together, can express the will to the people more efficiently and with more emphasis when the need arises. When neighborhood councils band together, neighborhoods band together and produces a voice that can’t be ignored. Our communities can be the change agents that can influence the common good and promote community unity. The harbor area is struggling with issues that are splitting it apart. We need to find the common thread that can bind us together and heal our community. As neighborhood councils we have the responsibility to restore the voice of reason and provide the leadership the City of Los Angeles can look up to.

December Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candy Cane Lane, Weymouth Corners (stop by our booth)</td>
<td>4th of December 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holidays by the Sea, Downtown Harbor, 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>5th of December 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wonderland, Wilmington Waterfront Park, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>6th of December 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Parade, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>7th of December 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Pedro Parade (Look for NWSNPC) 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>8th of December 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crime Update

We are experiencing a significant increase in petty crime, particularly theft from motor vehicles and bicycle theft. Please keep your car locked at all times and keep everything out of sight in your car. Keep your insurance and car registrations on your other phone rather than in the car. If you have a bicycle, take a picture of it and then turn it over and take another picture of the serial number. Keep these handy on your phone in case you need to report a stolen bicycle.

Mail and Package Thefts

Mail and package thefts are something that we must be particularly aware of as the holidays approach. Here are some options to protect your packages:

1. Have your packages sent to the UPS or FedEx Office, not your home.
2. Have packages sent to work. Send your package to a home where you know someone will be there to receive it. Do you have a family member who is retired and home often? Is there someone on your block who stays home during the day? (4) Place a basket, bucket, pot, or other decorative object on your porch that the mail carrier can place the package into. This option may require a little coordination but to consume bottled water, pledge to be particularly aware of as the holidays approach. Here are some options to protect your packages:

* Soul Cali Key, Vice President
* CYNTHIA GONYEA, Secretary
* SARAH VALDEZ, Treasurer
* SCOTT ALLMAN
* ROBERT J. BRYANT
* PETER BURMEISTER
* ROGER CUEVAS
* DAN DIXON
* ALBERTO ENCINAS
* CRAIG GOLDFARB
* DIANA NAVE
* BARBARA SCHACH
* GEORGE THOMPSON
* CHRIS VALLE
* LEE WILLIAMS
* DARLENE ZAVALENY

NWSNPC Committees

- Budget and Finance
  - Chair: George Thompson
  - Recommends budget, reviews funding requests.

- Bylaws and Elections
  - Chair: Scott Allman
  - Elections and bylaws matters.

- Community Issues
  - Chair: Dan Dixon
  - Traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees.

- Planning and Land Use Committee
  - Chair: Diana Nave
  - Planning and land use issues.

- Port Committee
  - Chair: Phil Nicolay
  - Port-related issues.

- Public Safety
  - Chair: Roger Cuevas
  - Community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning.

- Sustainability
  - Chair: Sarah Valdez
  - Environmental issues.

- Youth and Outreach
  - Chair: Darlene Zavalney
  - Youth, education, and community engagement.

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

Ray Regalado Named Chair of Homelessness Task Force

NWSNPC congratulates Ray Regalado for his appointment as chair of Councilman Joe Buscaino’s Task Force on Homelessness. Joe has articulated three goals for the task force: (1) consolidate food banks, (2) reclaim our streets, and (3) identify housing opportunities to take advantage of the vouchers available to those who are homeless. We agree with the councilman that Ray is the best person to deal with the challenge of working with a very diverse and passionate group of stakeholders during this critical time. We look forward to working with each of Ray’s committee members, each with their own perspective on the problem, to find solutions that make sense for our community.

NWSNPC Represented at Spaghetti Dinner

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council hosted a booth at Joe Buscaino’s CD 15 annual spaghetti dinner on October 11. This is an opportunity for our board members to talk with locals about what is important to them in our community.

While it was scorching hot that day, many spirited harbor area stakeholders and officials bravely stood in the sun to share good times and fellowship. Stakeholders who visited our booth took advantage of the vouchers available to those who are homeless. We agree with the councilman that Ray is the best person to deal with the challenge of working with a very diverse and passionate group of stakeholders during this critical time. We look forward to working with each of Ray’s committee members, each with their own perspective on the problem, to find solutions that make sense for our community.

To always use a reusable water bottle and on the very rare occasion when there is no other option but to consume bottled water, pledge to be someone who is heard. As neighborhood councils we have the responsibility to restore the voice of reason and provide the leadership the City of Los Angeles can look up to.

Ray Regalado at the spaghetti dinner hosted by Councilman Joe Buscaino at Weymouth Corners.

NWSNPC Board Member Darlene Zavalney, Vice President Laurie Jacobs, and President Ray Regalado.
Planning Update

Ponte Vista

It looks like nothing is happening because the developer is still working to obtain the necessary grading permit from the City of Los Angeles.

Western Avenue Corridor Design

The Draft Western Avenue Corridor Design Strategy, a joint project of LA and RPV, is scheduled for the RPV City Council on Tuesday December 15. The current plan includes bicycle lanes on Western with NO REMOVAL or narrowing of traffic lanes. The inclusion of bicycle lanes makes the plan more competitive for the funding needed to implement the beautification plans. The updated strategy is available at https://www.lacity.ca.gov/5421/400160-CenterView/7440. The staff report will be available on the RPV website under City Council Agenda just prior to their meeting.

Urban Greening Plan

The Urban Greening plan for San Pedro is nearing completion. This plan, being developed under a contract with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, looks at improved landscaping and pedestrian connections, particularly in the downtown area and connections to our parks and open space. They anticipate sharing the final plan with the community after the first of the year. Watch our website for more information. In the meantime the draft plan has already resulted in two beautification grants being awarded.

Gaffey Beautification

Gaffey is getting a lot of attention these days. There are currently three beautification plans in development. The Conceptual Plan for beautifying Gaffey from Summerland to 17th Street has been completed and will be released to the public soon. Watch our website for details. The City did not receive either of the grants that were applied for and continues to submit additional proposals. In the meantime approximately $15,000 has been identified for Phase I implementation. The Council Office is working with LANI (Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative) on a Phase I implementation plan focused on the exit from the Harbor Freeway. The Port anticipates going out to bid on North Gaffey with the intention of taking down the billboard. Unfortunately they will most likely not be able to do so until the lease expires in 2021. They also encountered challenges in removing the structures, but continue to work on the plan.

Beautification for Phase II that will connect the current multiuse path along the railroad tracks from Gaton to the corner of Pacific and John S. Gibson Boulevard. The conceptual plan is completed and is posted on our website. Specific design work is underway and we expect to see a nearly final plan completed soon. A sidewalk will be added. The entire street will be landscaped on both sides of the path and a Gateway Plaza will be included.

Flare at LPG Facility

He assured us that the dark flames and the water dousing the tanks was a sign that the safety measures work. For some this was little reassurance of safety just a confirmation of the potential danger.

NWSNPC recently participated in the ribbon cutting for the reopening of Jacaranda Gourmet under the new ownership of Josephine Trusela. Jacaranda is a quick service cafe, gourmet deli, and specialty bakery. Under Josephine, both the menu and the eating area have been expanded.

Jacaranda, open 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., is located at 1030 North Western Avenue, adjacent to Ralphs Grocery Store. Support our local businesses. Stop by for breakfast, lunch, or coffee. Currently they are accepting Thanksgiving orders.

What’s Coming Up at Peck Park

Coed Youth Baseball and T-Ball, Ages 4-15, Cost: $125, Online registration begins 1/16, walk-in registration begins January 16, 2016, Practices begin in March. Opening day is Saturday, April 2.


Spring Egg Hunt Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., FREE

Tennis Lessons, Ages 6-99, Cost: $75

Art class, Ages 7-12, Cost: $60

What’s Coming Up at Peck Park

LAUSD’s Local District South Super Identifies Areas of Focus

LAUSD new Local District South, which includes South Los Angeles, Watts, Carson, Wilmington, Gardena, Harbor City and San Pedro, consists of 148 schools including early education centers, elementary schools, middle schools, SPAN schools, high schools and continuation schools. NWSNPC was pleased to welcome the new district superintendent, Christopher Downing, at a recent meeting. He told us that based on data from the 2014-15 school year; they identified four focus areas to increase student achievement. These areas are:

• Early Literacy—Research indicates that student success is increased when students are readers by age nine. All Local District South schools will provide school-based strategic interventions and extended learning opportunities. To accomplish this goal, they are providing students with daily access to early literacy training and strategies aligned to proficiency in literacy.

• Interventions and Extended Opportunities for Graduation and A-G Success—Our District priority is to graduate students that are college and career ready. Local District South Senior and Continuation high schools will increase opportunities for all students to complete graduation and A-G requirements by providing school-based strategic interventions and extended learning opportuni-

• Improved Parent Engagement—Parents are partners in education. Local Dis-

• Engaging Differentiated Instruction—Each student has different learning needs. Local District South will provide differentiated instruction with student-level class available. Winter session: January 19-February 23.

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Flare at LPG Facility

At the NWSNPC November board meeting Plans LPG Ser-

ce West District Manager Ron Cowan, Jr. informed the board that the reason for the flaring of the facility on No-

ember 7 was a power surge of unknown origin.

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POLAHS Bottle Club Makes Good Use of NWSPNC Youth Grant

The POLAHS Bottle Club was one of the recipients of NWSPNC's 2015 Youth Grants. The club works to make Port of Los Angeles High School (POLAHS) a more environmentally friendly campus. The founders of the club were inspired by Al Gore, when he skyped with the students and urged them to become more environmentally friendly and conscious.

The initial goal of the club was to eliminate the plastic water bottles sold in the vending machines and ban the sale of them at school events. This goal was achieved in August 2014 when the POLAHS board of directors unanimously voted for such a policy.

The board also approved the installation of three hydration stations on campus to replace the use of plastic water bottles. Funds from NWSPNC were used to help install one of these stations.

The club now educates other groups about the importance of eliminating plastic bottles and is promoting alternative forms of entirety.

Frances J. Johnson Dental Center Provides Low-Cost Services to Children

The Frances J. Johnson Dental Center, a philanthropic program of the Assistance League of San Pedro-South Bay, has been providing low-cost dental services to children from pre-school through high school since 1941. Located at 1441 West Eighth Street, the Center is open three days per week and staffed by two dentists, a hygienist, two dental assistants, and an office manager. Assistance League volunteers contribute many hours by assisting in the office, making appointments, filing charts, calling to remind patients of their appointments, and reviewing good dental health procedures with patients. They are always looking for additional funding to continue to provide the services.

So far this year, they have provided over 1,700 appointments for restorative, preventive, and dental hygiene care. They charge $10 per visit regardless of the procedure and accept Denati-Cal patients. Patients in need of orthodontic services are referred to an orthodontist with whom they have a shared cost contract. This program currently has a waiting list until more funds are identified.

Medicare ‘Open Enrollment’ Scams

Medicare open enrollment is the time when Medicare recipients can make changes to their plans. It’s also a time when scam artists take advantage of older consumers with ruses like these:

• Someone calls and says you must join their prescription plan or you’ll lose your Medicare coverage. Not true. The Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary and does not affect your Medicare coverage.

• Someone claims they need your Medicare number to update your account, get you a new card, or send you Medicare benefit information. It’s a scam. If you need help with Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE or go to medicare.gov.

• Someone claiming to be a Medicare plan representative says they need “to confirm” your billing information. Stop. Plan representatives are not allowed to ask you for payment over the phone or online.

• Dishonest companies may offer you free medical exams or supplies. Be wary. It may be a trick to get and misuse your personal information.

If you believe you or someone you know is a victim of Medicare fraud call 1-800-447-8477 or visit stopmedicarefraud.gov.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bulk item pickup</th>
<th>Sanitation</th>
<th>Graffiti removal</th>
<th>School police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800-773-2489</td>
<td>800-773-2489</td>
<td>213-978-0228</td>
<td>213-625-6631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping cart pickup</td>
<td>800-996-2489</td>
<td>800-292-4673</td>
<td>310-722-4515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAPD Harbor Division</td>
<td>310-726-7700</td>
<td>City council office</td>
<td>310-974-4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Enforcement</td>
<td>213-485-4184</td>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hey, Neighbors! For Every Inch of Rainfall, We Send 4.1 Billion Gallons Down the Street. Let’s Use El Nino to Save the Drop.

Get a Free Rail Barrel! NWSPNC is planning a free rain barrel event. Watch our website or Facebook Page for an announcement.

Need a Little Help with That Project?

NWSPNC is looking to give a hand up to youth based projects benefiting health, environment, humanity or the arts in San Pedro. There is approximately $2,000 available for this initiative with a $1,000 maximum per grant. Applicants must be, or partner with a 501(c)3 nonprofit or a public school. Priority will be given to youth initiated/young lead projects within Northwest San Pedro.

Applications must be received no later than January 31, 2016. The final decision will be announced March 2016. For more information, go to www.nwsanpedro.org

Good News for San Pedro Commuters

Commuting to downtown LA by bus is about to get a lot easier. Beginning December 13, the Metro Silver Line Xpress (Line 950) will run to downtown Los Angeles every 20 minutes during the AM and PM rush hours. Rider will no longer need to transfer at Artesia. The regular Silver Line, Line 910, will replace Line 450 and add service to and from San Pedro to downtown LA with no need to transfer. Buses will run every 30 minutes on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and late night and every 40 minutes on weekends. Line 246 on Pacific Avenue will increase its frequency from once every hour to every 30 minutes.

Assistance League’s Operation School Bell Provides Needed Items

The Assistance League of San Pedro-South Bay has been in existence since 1936. It is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, devoted to philanthropic programs that serve the needs of children, families, and seniors in need.

Fifty-two years later, in 1988 Operation School Bell became its main philanthropic priority providing over 1,000 children with school clothing in 1989 and increasing each year after that. The aim was to promote a positive self-image in children.

Operation School Bell San Pedro-South Bay services schools in San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, Gardena and Carson. We also serve homeless children in Torrance.

A student is identified as being in need of uniforms and shoes by their individual school. We service the school once a year.

Each child receives a complete uniform which is comprised of: sweatshirt, two polo shirts, choice of two pants, shorts, skirt, or jumper, shoes, six pairs of socks, six pairs of underwear, and a grade level reading book.

The Assistees, our high school student volunteers, provide a bag of hygiene supplies, and also a bag of school supplies.

Days of operation are Monday through Thursday the first three weeks of each month. This program, run completely by volunteers, continues to be our main commitment to the community.

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