Calling All Youth Ages 16-24! Register Today for April 6 ‘Pathways to Employment’ Event

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is once again presenting Pathways to Employment, the Los Angeles city award-winning event offering employment preparation and career guidance for youth ages 16-24. The date is set for Saturday, April 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This year we are pleased to announce a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor which has actively participated since the inception of the program eight years ago.

Our continued success in offering this program is due to the dedicated community members and organizations providing valuable information and assistance regarding education, resources, internships and volunteer opportunities to assist our youth in being best prepared for life after high school. The day provides workshops with topics covering creating an effective resume, how to best present oneself in interviews, professional business etiquette skills, developing network and strategic relationships, the advantages and pitfalls of social media, how to dress for success for less and more.

We will have more than 25 organizations in the afternoon, meeting with youth one-on-one to discuss specific career paths as well as employment, internship and volunteer prospects. In addition, youth have an opportunity to participate in practice interviews to develop confidence and hone their skills.

We urge youth to register online as soon as possible to ensure a spot at this event. Questions about this event can be addressed to us via email at Board@NWSanPedro.org.

What’s Your Vision for the Waterfront?

What do you want to see built on the waterfront? What activities do you want on the waterfront? Now is your chance to have a say.

In 2015 the Port adopted a waterfront public access infrastructure plan and allocated $60 million for public access infrastructure in San Pedro for the 2015-2020. The plan included funding for the recent restructuring of the Seventh Street/Harbor Boulevard intersection. It also included development of the Downtown Plaza at the bottom of Sixth Street and the continuation of the Promenade to 22nd Street. Construction on these projects will begin later this year.

The Port is now developing a public infrastructure plan for 2020-2025. There is approximately $64 million available for San Pedro projects and they are asking the neighborhood councils, chambers of commerce, and public for input.

The Port wants to encourage new ideas, new visions, and new projects that are consistent with the Tidelands Trust. These are projects the Port will undertake, not grants.

We are particularly interested in ideas that promote public access and use of the waterfront, increase connections between the waterfront and downtown revitalization, improve connectivity along the waterfront, and improve connectivity between Wilmington and San Pedro communities.

Input can be provided several ways. Watch the NWSPNC email, website, and Facebook for the NWSPNC board, planning and land use committee, and port committee agendas for opportunities to speak. You can also submit ideas to board@nwsanpedro.org. Be sure to include your contact information. Ideas can be just that, ideas, they do not need to be detailed.

After the initial idea-gathering stage, there will be another opportunity to give input into the NWSPNC board and its committees will be reviewing ideas submitted and considering recommendations to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

MyLA 311 Puts the Power of City Hall in the Palm of Your Hand

Is there a pothole on your street you want repaired? Do you have an old coach you want hauled away? How about renewing your dog’s license? The city’s MyLA 311 app links you with services and information you need. The ‘Submit Service Request’ feature allows you to quickly and easily ask for the city’s most popular services, including graffiti removal, pothole repair, and bulky-item pickup.

You can also get help the old-fashioned way by calling 311 from anywhere in the City of Los Angeles. The service is available daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. An operator will connect you with the department best suited to help you.

If you are outside the greater Los Angeles area, call (213) 473-3231 or toll-free (800) 367-2562. For emergency, call 911.)

Other popular service links include animal services, family health and social services, housing services, trash pickup and drop off, and public safety services. (In the case of a serious emergency, call 911.)

Recreation and outdoor activity links include Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Zoo, youth activities, and a cultural events calendar.

You can also make payments from your mobile device for DWP bills, business licenses and fees, dog and horse licenses, park activity registration fees, and parking fines.

You can download the mobile app for android and Apple phones at no cost.
President’s Corner
Our Most Important Community Asset
By Ray Regalado, President

As we scroll through our favorite news feeds one thing jumps out more and more: younger people are engaging in their communities. They are listening, reflecting and vocalizing their views and opinions. Youth are more engaged in social justice issues today than I have ever seen in recent years.

They are involved in community concerns such as school site violence, targeted victimization and the political process and we, society, are better for it given the perspective of our youth. As adults, we have an obligation. We need to listen, reflect and include our youth at the decision making table.

As president of Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, I am proud to say we have had a youth representative for as long as I can remember.

Their contribution has been invaluable throughout the years and we have seen youth members continue their engagement after leaving our council to continue their schooling or move into a career.

Our youth representatives have assisted in recruiting other young people in neighborhood council projects and key up to date on matters important to their age group.

Working with our youth has a responsibility for the adults. We need to model behavior that promotes respectful discourse. Be assured, they are listening to what we say, how we say it and how we interact with each other.

In future columns, we will discuss and interact with each other so our younger people can take away lessons that will serve them as they continue their social and civil engagement. We need to do this now to ensure that our most important asset by providing the best tools our youth can carry into the future.

I look forward to the future has instore for our youth. And I am comforted by the thought that our future professionals, elected official and public servants will continue to contribute in our communities. We, as adults, need to continue investing in our most important community asset, our youth.

Channel Street Skatepark Update

By Andy Harris, San Pedro Skatepark Association

It’s 2002 and in San Pedro, the skaters were getting restless. For years they had petitioned the city and local leaders for a public skatepark, but all roads led to dead ends.

These were not your regular neighborhood skater kids though. These skaters were adults, lifelong followers of a lifestyle who had traveled the world skating many parks and spots. A lot of those spots were what came to be called DIY skateparks.

The Burnside project under a bridge in Portland Oregon, FDR skatepark in Philly, under an overpass as well. Built by skaters in neglected areas in cities all over the world. Empty backyard pools at abandoned houses were other favorite targets.

Frustrated by the lack of support from local government, these Pedro skaters, one a teacher and one a longshoreman, gathered a group of like minded folks and started building their own DIY spot under the 110 freeway at Channel Street.

They started small, just a couple ramps made by piling onsite rubble left by illegal dumpers, covering it with chicken wire and spreading bagged concrete bought at the local Home Depot. It really wasn’t much. Nevertheless, the skaters now had a spot of their own.

No one involved had any illusions about the ramps lasting too long. After all, the police station was right down the street. But we skated it every day and pretty soon the word got out. Lots of kids, some of whom were the teacher’s students, started showing up, and an interesting environment started to develop around the skatepark.

The cops seemed to ignore us and we kept building, and the kids started to get involved. Kids that the teacher knew as troublemakers, all of a sudden were listening and learning how to mix concrete in a wheelbarrow, how to use a shovel and a hammer, how to take responsibility for a piece of property they cared about.

The park, as we all know now, continued to grow, as did the organization fueling its growth. The San Pedro Skatepark Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, helped fund and organize the Channel Street Skatepark into full DIY skatepark status by 2006.

The park flourished until 2014, when it was forced to close due to overhead construction on the 110. Since then the SPSPA has been working with council district 15 to get the park re-opened with full legal status.

We are slowly, but surely, moving through the permitting process which involves the L.A. city Department of Planning and Department of Building and Safety. We are making progress!

A team of composed of the original builders, CD 15 staff, a renowned skatepark firm, a local structural engineer and architect are partnering to get our beloved community-built park re-opened. This effort is a testament to the town we live in, and it must be returned to its former glory. Future generations of kids are depending on it.

Meet Ben Osterman, Our Neighborhood Council Youth Representative

Ben is a third-generation resident of San Pedro and a junior at Loyola High School. At the September 2018 NWSNCP board meeting, he was appointed as the youth representative.

When he applied, he expressed interest in the homelessness crisis, alternative transportation possibilities for our community and indicated a desire to participating in finding solutions to these and other community issues.

He has a desire to learn more about how our city government works. Ben has been a great contributor at our Youth and Outreach Committee with help planning events, newsletters and outreach to our community.

After his first six months as a board member, here is his take on the role:

“Being on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has allowed me to experience the challenges that the city faces, and I work to improve the city. I work to improve the city. I work to improve the city.”

“Engaging not only with the public when they offer their concerns for certain bills, but also engaging with other members on the board has given me new perspective on what it means to be a member of a neighborhood council and a team leader.”

“I did not realize how much thought and details went into implementing every resolution. I have learned so much from these meetings, about neighborhood committees and about the city of San Pedro. These past four months have truly been eye-opening.”
Meet Dante Pagulayan, Northwest San Pedro’s New Senior Lead Officer

Office Pagulayan has been a police officer for approximately nine-and-a-half years and has been assigned to Harbor Division since December of 2017. During his tenure at Harbor, he has worked patrol for approximately four years and was selected to work Harbor Division’s Gang Enforcement Detail for three years. During this assignment, he was specifically assigned to monitor gang crimes and trends within the San Pedro communities. His experience on patrol and in the gang unit has allowed him to learn about the different crime trends within the division. He is in constant contact with our area detectives as well as specialized units to assist in solving part 1 crimes in the San Pedro communities.

Since November of 2017 Office Pagulayan has been assigned to the Community Relations Office where he has been acting senior lead officer for the Central San Pedro area.

The Sanitation District of Los Angeles manages the wastewater (sewage) and solid waste (refuse) needs for Los Angeles. They operate and maintain over 1,400 miles of sewers and 47 pumping plants that convey more than half the wastewater in LA County to 11 wastewater treatment plans. In 2012 the Clearwater Project was approved to protect local waterways by addressing aging infrastructure. Under this project, a new tunnel will be built to convey treated water from the JWPCP in Carson to existing ocean outfalls located at Royal Palms Beach.

This new tunnel is needed to address:

• Insufficient flow capacity during large storms
• Risk of structural failure due to age
• Risk of collapse due to an earthquake
• Risk of collapse due to an earthquake

The new tunnel will mostly be located under public right-of-way and will not pass under any homes. It will be 30 to 45 feet deep and will produce no noticeable vibration or noise on the surface.

The tunnel will start under the west side of the JWPCP, then under Figueroas Street, Harbor Regional Park, North Gaffey Street, Capitol Drive, Western Avenue (through South Dodson Avenue), and end at Royal Palms Beach.

The tunnel must pass under commercial property to make the turns from Gaffey to Capitol and from Capitol to Western. Work will be confined to as small of an area as possible to minimize the effect on beachgoers and parking. The beach will be accessible at all times.

During the construction, the project will require traffic trips for workers, supplies and the soil from tunneling. At the JWPCP shaft site, trucks will be realigned north on Figueroa St, west onto Sepulveda Blvd, and then onto the Harbor Freeway - a route that does not pass any residences.

The department has been conducting presentations to the community on a regular basis.

Detailed information is available at https://clearwater.lacsod.org and you can email them at ClearwaterProject@lacsod.org.

Stay Informed About Happenings in Northwest San Pedro

Subcribe to our weekly E- Blast updates by entering your email on our website at newsanpedro.org.

Like our Facebook page to receive timely event announcements: https://www.facebook.com/northwestsanpedro/

Planning Update

Ponte Vista

Infrastructure development at Ponte Vista is progressing. The owners anticipate that construction on the Western Avenue improvements will begin this summer and that construction of the first houses may begin in mid-2020. The construction on Western will temporarily create traffic challenges. Watch our website and Facebook page for the construction schedule and avoid Western during those times if possible.

Christiansen Science Center

In case you missed it, LAUSD has decided not to build a STEAM magnet school on the Christiansen Science Center property on Barrywood. They will be forming a citizens advisory committee to discuss options and ideas.

Downtown San Pedro

There are a number of developments currently in the planning stage that will alter the San Pedro skyline and increase opportunities for housing, restaurants and other businesses, especially in our downtown area. Among the projects in development are:

• Can; an 80-room boutique hotel on the vacant lot at the corner of Sixth and Pacific. The hotel will have a ground level restaurant and a rooftop lounge. More information about most of these projects can be found at http://newsanpedro.org/planning-and-land-use-committee. If you are interested in planning and development, consider attending the Planning and Land Use Committee meetings the third Wed of each month at 6:00 p.m. at San Pedro City Hall.

Development Projects

Other projects in various stages of planning and development include:

• 550 Palos Verdes – ground floor commercial and 375 rental units under construction;
• Redevelopment of Rancho San Pedro – potentially 1,626 units – anticipate having a conceptual plan by the end of 2019, master plan in 2020, and construction in 2022;
• 456-462 W. Ninth – six-story mixed use, 91 affordable units; approved by city planning;
• 533 Nelson – 32 units over commercial; submitted to Building and Safety;
• 448 W. Fifth – in escrow; plan to build 98 units over commercial;
• 511 Harbor (Grinder Restaurant) in escrow – potentially 120 units;
• Eighth and Mesa – 24 houses under construction;
• Harbor View House – adaptive reuse with 100 apartments, ground floor commercial, top floor restaurant – plans submitted for city review;
• 847 W. 10th Street – 19 unit small lot subdivision – awaiting city hearing;
• Courthouse – a new developer has been selected and is currently in exclusive negotiations with the county;
• 1803 S. Mesa – 23 units under construction.

New Restaurants

In addition, a number of restaurants are in the process of expanding or being developed. These include:

• Sardine in the old Ramona Bakery, 1101 S. Pacific – a coffee shop in front and entertainment area in the rear. Among the projects in development are:

San Pedro Holiday Parade

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is a proud sponsor of the annual San Pedro Holiday Parade put on each year by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, supporting our local businesses.

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Unlocking Lives and Imaginations Through Literacy

By Bob Harris, Kiwanis Literary Club of South Bay

After a lifetime of teaching and educational publishing, I knew that when I retired I was going to focus on a way to open the doors to literacy in my community. Last year, as a part of my relationship with Kiwanis International, I had the opportunity to meet with the founding members of Kiwanis Literary Club of Southern California. I was inspired and excited about this new approach to Kiwanis focus on a simple principle that can open the doors for children through the power of books, especially in our underserved communities.

Now, more than ever, I know it was time to bring this commitment to literacy to the South Bay and open a new Bi-Annual Intergenerational Literacy Club here.

We are now activating our community by identifying others in the South Bay who are excited about literacy and want to help us with our mission to provide free books to kids.

Bogdanovich Recreation Center, 1920 Cumbre Drive, San Pedro
Phone: (310) 549-7580; email: bogdanovich.recreationcenter@lacity.org
Hours of operation: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Youth Basketball registration: January 7, 2019, ages: boys and girls 5-15
Girls’ Spring Volleyball registration: January 7, 2019, ages: girls 6-14
Youth Summer Basketball registration: March 11, 2019, ages: boys and girls 5-15
Preschool Class Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, $210 per month (2018-2019 session)
Pre-K Class Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, $210 per month (2018-2019 session)

Peck Park Recreation Center, 560 North Western Avenue, San Pedro
Phone: (310) 549-7580, email: peckpark.recreationcenter@lacity.org
Go to website for more details: https://www.laparks.org/reccenter/peck-community
After School Club: Monday–Friday after school to 6:00 p.m., elementary school aged, van pickup from Taper, Crestwood, and Park Western schools
Youth Sports Programs: Basketball (Co-Ed, Girls), Baseball, GYLA Softball, Flag Football, GYLA Volleyball, Tennis Lessons
Older Adult Programs: Senior Citizen Club, Women’s Club, Garden Club, Basketball and Tennis Lessons
Other Programs: Pre-School, Teen Programs, After School Programs, Day Camps, Holiday Events
Facility Features: Auditorium, Baseball Diamond (Lighted), Basketball Courts (Lit/Indoor), Basketball Courts (Lighted / Outdoor), Children’s Play Area, Jogging Path, Multi-Purpose Field (Lighted/Unlit), Horseback Rides, Skate Park
Computer Lab: Peck Park is proud to be one of the BTOP Sites to provide local internet and computer access for free to the public.

Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center, 1805 West Ninth St, San Pedro
Phone: (310) 519-6115, go to website to email
Go to website for more details: https://www.laparks.org/reccenter/martin-j-bogdanovich
Hours of operation: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What’s Happening in Northwest San Pedro Parks

Meet Briseli Borquez, Peck Park Senior Recreation Director II

Briseli Borquez is the new Senior Recreation Director II at Peck Park Community Center. She graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a B.A. in behavioral science and a minor in criminal justice.

She joined the Department of Recreation and Parks with the City of Los Angeles in November of 2002 as a CLASS parks recreation coordinator working with at-risk youth.

Most of Briseli’s career was spent in urban impacted areas of the Metro Region. During her time as a recreation coordinator and recreation facility director with the Metro Region, she represented CLASS Parks on the Dodger Field with teens, was committee chair and co-chair for the Winter Holiday Festival, Feria de los Niños and Lotus Festival, conducted several health and safety fairs, and was instrumental in developing and coordinating a bi-annual intergenerational art exhibit.

Previously, she was with the Senior Citizen Section as a senior recreation director I. This position led to a newfound passion for creating programs for older adults.

Briseli is excited to be a part of the Pacific Region and more specifically Peck Park and looks forward to building upon the work of the senior recreation coordinator working with at-risk youth.

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