Join us for a FREE family event with two programs at Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The park is located at 1805 West Ninth Street in San Pedro. A convenient “park and ride” will be at the Elks Lodge parking lot at 1748 Cumbre Drive.

Wildfest

L.A. County Park’s Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center and the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council invite everyone for a day of outdoor fun at WildFest – a FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL that celebrates the animals that live amongst us in our “urban forest,” and the pets that love us in our homes. It’s a day filled with bug and animal discoveries, a special story time, crafts, chalk drawing. Over 30 exhibitors will provide information, rebates and demonstrations on electric bicycles, recycling, home gardening, native plants and pollinators, pet adoption.

Bring a picnic or hike trails overlooking San Pedro’s beautiful ocean, mountain and harbor views. Discover how a few simple changes in your daily routines can reduce your environmental footprint and create a cleaner, better world for future generations. Don’t forget to visit the Nature Center which features a natural history museum, native animals, and educational adult and children’s nature programming.

Emergency Preparedness Expo

In California we experience earthquakes, fires, and flooding. Is your family well prepared for these unexpected situations?

Talking about being prepared for emergencies is not very fun and in fact can be a bit scary but the truth is that being well prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that can accompany disaster. Emergencies can happen anywhere – at home or at work – and everyone must take action to prepare for the unexpected. When disaster strikes, you may have to be able to survive on your own for 72 hours or more without access to power, food, water, or transportation.

Attend this free event with your family to gain peace of mind. Get your Preparedness Checklist and talk with local experts in this field about what you and your family members may need. Learn about the best resources for emergency kits in your home, workplace and car.

‘Pathways to Employment’ Opportunity

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is proud to announce the ninth annual Pathways to Employment, the Los Angeles City award winning event offering job preparation and career guidance for youth ages 16 to 24. The date is Saturday April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor in San Pedro. Dedicated community members and organizations will provide valuable information regarding education, resources, internships and volunteer opportunities to assist our youth in being best prepared for life after high school.

The day provides workshops on topics such as creating an effective resume, interview skills, professional business etiquette, developing network relationships, and social media best practices. Representatives from about 25 organizations will 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.

The free event includes lunch, backpack and notebook. Online registration is now live at nwsanpedro.org/pathways. Questions can be addressed to us via email at Board@NWSanPedro.org.
The NWSPNC governing board and stakeholder meeting is on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Peck Park Auditorium, 560 North Western Avenue, San Pedro.

NWSPNC BOARD MEMBERS

RAY REGALADO, President
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NWSPNC Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE
Recommends budget, reviews funding requests

BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS
Elections and bylaws matters

COMMUNITY ISSUES
Traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees

PLANNING AND LAND USE
Planning and land use issues

PORT
Port-related issues

PUBLIC SAFETY
Community safety, emergency preparedness, and evacuation planning

SUSTAINABILITY
Environmental issues

YOUTH AND OUTREACH
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.

Receive up-to-date information in Northwest San Pedro through our Email blasts. Sign up at nwsanpedro.org.

And let us know what issues are of interest to you by emailing Board@nwsanpedro.org.

Presidents Corner

Neighborhood Councils

By Ray Regalado, President

Recently I was approached by a community member asking if I could sit with him so he could advise me of some of the initiatives important to the organization he was representing. I was appreciative of his desire to discuss issues important to our community of San Pedro. He finished his overview by expressing his gratitude of me listening and hoped our council would support the items he covered.

We then started a conversation regarding work his group was engaged in around the homeless issue. He stated this group was joined by various city representatives, community groups and individuals who were making decisions that concentrated on how our community is “handling” this issue of homelessness.

I asked why no neighborhood councils were part of this gathering? His response was, “This is an action group, if neighborhood councils wanted to be included in this group we should educate ourselves on the subject to be able to act on the issue.” I was amazed at his response. Additionally, he stated, “Why do you think city leadership does not take the NCs serious?”

To say the least I was bothered by his comments. I reflected on the conversation over the next few days and found a pattern was in place as we conducted our business for stakeholders. City leaders and agencies would come to our meeting and bring news and announcements then leave. Maybe, on occasion, ask for the input on an item.

We, neighborhood councils, would be instructed to follow the rules in place, however, rarely are we included in the development of those rules. We are requested to follow instructions with limited information and when asked to help us understand why we are to obey the request we are given vague or limited information that leaves more questions than answers.

Neighborhood councils are a body of engaged members instilled with the spirit of involvement. Each person approaches their duty differently, but the result is the same. We ask questions, process the information and come up with answers that encompass the collective thoughts of the body.

Isn’t that what the NC concept promotes? Community engagement, so we can advise our community leaders? We may all apply this function differently, maybe not to the satisfaction of our intended audience, but we do the work in the spirit of making a difference. Citizen warriors of the political process. Civic engagement at its best.

For those who minimize the role of Neighborhood Councils, who think we are not worthy of participating in action for their city leaders in determining community direction, perhaps, it is you that needs to be educated in what civic engagement is really all about. The collective determining the best direction for action.

Planning Update

San Pedro continues to be a choice location for developers. Currently there are over 3,400 new housing units in some stage of the development process. Most of these units are in downtown San Pedro.

Work continues at Fonte Vista with the next phase being the construction of the recreation center for future residents. Landscaping the median strip on Western should also begin shortly.

Two new projects are proposed for North Gaffey. A self-storage facility has been proposed at 2115 North Gaffey currently Guadenti Landscaping. Guadenti has outgrown this facility and will be moving. The project is for a three-story, building with approximately 1,000 storage units of various sizes. There will be no outdoor storage of any kind. The front and side of the building will be landscaped and a sidewalk built along the front. The project is currently awaiting hearing by the city. For more information, go to http://nwsanpedro.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/San-Pedro-PLUM-Deck-101619.pdf.

The second project involves the 7-Eleven store at 1515 North Gaffey. They are proposing to tear down the existing building and replace it with a new building that would be located on the corner of Gaffey and Capitol with six gas pumps that would be on the DMV side of the property. This also will require a hearing by the zoning administrator. For more information go to http://nwsanpedro.org/seven-eleven-1515-n-gaffey/.

Bids for use of the Navy’s DFSP on North Gaffey were due last Friday, so we may soon have more information about the future of the site. In the meantime soil remediation work continues on the property.

Elsewhere, the port broke ground on the promenade and town-square at the end of Sixth Street, work that is necessary before the Public Market can be built. They plan to enter into an agreement in March with the Public Market scheduled to break ground in June.

The Port selected Bellweather Marine to develop the boatyard and the marina and will be soliciting bids for a new cruise terminal at the outer harbor. We anticipate that the staff recommendations regarding the Public Access Infrastructure Funds will be released February 28. There will then be a two-month period for review and comment. This will be an agenda item at the next planning committee meeting.

For more information on these and other development projects go to http://nwsanpedro.org/planning-and-land-use-committee or attend our Planning and Land Use Committee meetings at San Pedro City Hall, the third Wednesday of every month.

Pathways to Employment Workshop Request for Professional Clothing

The upcoming April 18 Pathways to Employment Event will include a workshop on how to look professional on a budget. A selection of interview appropriate clothes will be available to try on and keep for the attending youth who will learn that good business etiquette includes dressing appropriately for each job site and interview.

If you have any “generally used” professional clothes, please drop off (Tuesday through Saturday at the Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI), Berth 73, Suite 5, San Pedro (same building as Utro’s Café). April 14 is the last day clothing will be accepted. For more information, please contact Alice Taylor at (310) 853-6035. Thank you!

Increased Penalties for Illegal Dumping

Dumping waste, materials, packaging, and equipment on the street, sidewalk, and alley or in a public bin is a crime. Fines range from $200 to $25,000 and/or jail time. The city is cracking down. Surveillance cameras have been installed throughout the city and undercover officers have been deployed in an effort to catch illegal dumping. If you witness illegal dumping please report it using the MyLA311 app.
Congratulations to Our 2020 NPG Recipients

Each year our neighborhood council has the opportunity to award neighborhood purpose grants to support projects and organizations serving our community. We are honored to announce that seven worthy organizations applied and were awarded such grants this year. Articles highlighting their programs and accomplishments are included in this issue.

Please take the time to read not only about their good works, but also about how our community can join their continued efforts to improve the quality of life for our neighbors through support and volunteerism.

Congratulations to:

- Assistance League of San Pedro – South Bay
- Feed and Be Fed
- International Bird Rescue
- Kiwanis Literacy Club
- Los Angeles Maritime Institute
- Meals on Wheels
- Palos Verdes Land Conservancy

IF YOU NEED TO CALL 911, BUT ARE SCARED TO BECAUSE OF SOMEONE IN THE ROOM, dial and ask for a pepperoni pizza. They will ask if you know you’re calling 911. Say “yes” and continue pretending you’re making an order. They’ll ask if there’s someone in the room. You can ask how long it will take for the pizza to get to you, and they will tell you how far away a patrol unit is. Share this to save a life! Dispatchers are trained to ask specific yes or no questions. Don’t hang up!

City services: call 311 or get MyLA311 app (info at www.mylas11.lacity.org).
Los Angeles Maritime Institute

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth to discover their greater potential through extraordinary at-sea educational experiences aboard traditional sailing vessels built to train and equip young people with 21st century leadership skills, inspire maritime and STEM career paths.

LAMI offers programs for youth in Northwest San Pedro—home to the last wild population of the Palos Verdes blue butterfly—which produces more than 2,000 native plants each year for Conservation habitat restoration efforts and for other sites such as Friendship Park and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

The Conservancy also provides programs for other grade levels and schools including the 102-acre White Point Nature Preserve, restored native coastal sage scrub habitats and connected people to nature through an array of educational and outreach activities.

In Northwest San Pedro, the Conservancy has successfully provided nature-based educational experiences to Third Grade students for the past two decades. Keyed to California state science standards for environmental education the program reaches school children from 24 LA County schools a year including 5 elementary schools in San Pedro. Our program includes a series of four “hands-on” classroom sessions; culminating in a visit to a nearby natural area where students apply the lessons they’ve studied.

The Conservancy also provides programs for other grade levels and schools as well as mentors Gold & Eagle Scout candidates. Students have many opportunities to remain engaged through activities at our Adopt-A-Plot, outdoor volunteer Team Leaders and film presentations. Students can also participate at the Conservancy’s native plant nursery at the Defense Fuel Support Point.

CLASSES BEGIN APRIL 13

• Fit Forever (G PLA), girls ages 8-12, Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., $10
• Fit Forever (GLA), girls ages 13-15, Thursday, 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., $10
• Fit Forever, ten and adult ages 16 and up, Thursday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., $25
• Mixed Martial Arts, ages 8-13, Monday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., $25
• Mixed Martial Arts, ages 14-18, Wednesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., $25
• Chair Aerobics, ages 50-plus, Friday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., $10
• Tennis, ages 6-10, 10-week session, $75

TAKING REGISTRATIONS NOW

• Softball (G PLA), girls ages 8-15, $25
• Baseball, ages 4-15, $120
• Spring Camp, ages 5-12, April 6-10, full week $160, partial week (three days) $110
• Summer Camp: information will be available April 20

Please join us for our annual Spring Community Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 11, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.