

GRAND CENTRAL



Newsletter of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Autumn 2010

Barton Hill Elementary School Turns 101



This mural of ocean life by Brian Sisson now graces the entrance to Barton Hill Elementary School, which is celebrating its 101st year educating San Pedrans.

One of the oldest schools in San Pedro, Barton Hill elementary serves over 800 students and is located at 423 North Pacific Avenue, just a few blocks from the harbor's main channel. Since opening in 1909, countless faculty and students have passed through its hallways and classrooms. Principal Lou Mardesich, an 18-year veteran educator, is very proud to be at the helm of this landmark institution, as faculty and students celebrate Barton Hill's 101st anniversary.

One of the first birthday gifts to the grand elementary on the hill was

a recently commissioned mural by artist Brian Sisson for the main entrance. Now, greeting everyone who enters is a vibrant depiction of the ocean surf off the peninsula.

This is not the school's first mural. In fact, the school is known for its several beautiful and inspiring murals inside and out. Some are by local artists, some by alumni, and others by students and staff. All are incredible works of love.

Mr. Mardesich hopes to grace the school with even more murals. And for this anniversary year, the word has also gone out to alumni, faculty,

students, volunteers, donors and the community at large for more plants and trees to adorn the entire campus. A green campus could be very achievable in this 101st year.

Artists, gardeners, and anyone with will and desire to help are encouraged to stop by. If you, or some-

one you know, are interested in being a part of this wonderful school, please stop by the main office.

Together, we can continue the tradition of school spirit and community pride that will fill Barton Hill Elementary for another 101 years. Happy Anniversary, Barton Hill!



Barton Hill Principal Lou Mardesich and students with one of the murals.

On the Waterfront: Updates

At the second community workshop held at the POLA High School on September 16, Port of Los Angeles staff shared the details of their Downtown Harbor Phase I Plan:

- A new harbor watercut to be located between Fire Station No. 112 and the Maritime Museum at the foot of Sixth Street, designed to provide up-close views of the water, tall ships and other visiting ships docked there.
- On the east, landscaped to harmonize with the existing Promenade, they propose a tiered seating gallery that would overlook the harbor.
- On the south, a landscaped pla-



za would be added to the Maritime Museum.

• On the north, new museum-quality housing for the historic Ralph J. Scott fireboat would be placed.

"We have the money to do this now," said Port Executive Director Geraldine Knatz.

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Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
1840 South Gaffey Street, Box 212
San Pedro, CA 90731

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Attn: POSTAL PATRON

President's Message

By Linda Alexander

This overheard in a downtown restaurant: "Until **they** do the right thing, I am parking in a lot and not on the street. I'm not paying **them** more than the too much I already am."

Why can't **they** get it right?

They are failing the town, city, state, nation – ruining our lives! These times are very challenging; the lone citizen, the small and large business owner, and even government itself suffer the consequences of botched decisions. We are stunned, puzzled and fearful when things go wrong in a big way but at least we know who is responsible – **they** are! We are angry and express it freely.

They just can't get it right. Why can't **they** fix it?

But wait, who are **they**? **They**, of course, are all those elected officials.

And who are **we**? **We** are the very ones who either chose not to vote at all or voted for them. **We** are also the ones who without careful discretion, approved ballot measures which often contained restrictions and limitations that ended up tying the hands of the elected ones rather than empowering them.

They have chosen to be public servants. Many began as young idealists yearning to improve government and people's lives. What do **we** do to support or thank them? **We** contact or speak about them only when **we** are angry, and rarely do any of us send a message of encouragement.

What can **we** do? **We** can take the focus off them. **We** can become more involved, more knowledgeable and more active in our own democracy. **We** can show up at a neighborhood council meeting, learn and express our concerns and suggestions, and perhaps on occasion let our public servants know when they have done something helpful and right.

Most importantly, **we** can vote! Let us turn down the screaming, partisan pundits and newscasters and consider for ourselves all sides of the issues and candidates. Let us together listen, learn and vote.

See you at the polls November 2.

See you at the Central Neighborhood Council meeting November 9.



The Council's Summer Activities

Each Neighborhood Council meeting features reports from public officials, city departments, and the Port representatives. This summer three new board members were seated. There were presentations and discussions on projects to improve downtown, including PBID's selecting a company to develop branding for San Pedro, upgraded street furniture, tourism promotion, and the developments at the Port of LA. Community requests included issues with feral cats and tenant/management issues. The council is working with the Port on Front Street improvements. Bring your ideas for future projects important to your quality of life.

Three New Members Join Central San Pedro NC Board

James Preston Allen

As publisher of Random Lengths News, chairman of the ACE district, SP Chamber Board member and a 35-year resident of San Pedro, I bring a lot of perspective to the table of the neighborhood council, not the least is the memory and back story to much of the current politics now confronting our town. I have both the knowledge and experience of getting things done and not just talking about the issues. I see my role as one of keeping the council focused and on course of progressive change.



Kali Meredith

This past summer I attended my first Central San Pedro NC meeting on the recommendation of my neighbor, and former CSPNC president, John Delgado. After witnessing for myself the new and exciting opportunities in store for San Pedro I knew I had to get involved. Since then I have been honored to serve as the council's newest treasurer and I intend to do so with great clarity and diligence. Here's to a new Pedro!



Alan Ramirez

I'm excited and ready to be part of this council. I came to the meetings with the old-fashioned conviction to improve my community. My goals for the board are ambitious yet possible and I know I will make my neighbors proud. I believe that a student's perspective is a little bit what we need right now. We need someone who's young and knows the issues of the 21st century. We can make San Pedro an amazing place. Actually, I can make a huge difference. I have worked in the Sacramento Capitol as part of the Model Legislature. I know how to work with a group. I know how to get things done and I contribute my time in the community. Let everyone take part in their local government: "Do politics before it does you."

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Government Agency Representatives

Ricardo Hong

Harbor Area Representative for Mayor Villaraigosa

Ana Dragin

Office of Councilwoman Janice Hahn

Officer Maligi A. "Junior" Nua, Jr.

Los Angeles Police Department, Harbor Division

Officer Stacey Creech

Port of Los Angeles Police

Augie Bezmalinovich

Port of Los Angeles

Bianca Villanueva

Representative for Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal

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**One Call
to City Hall 311**

You can access any City of Los Angeles government office by calling 311. When the operator answers, just tell them what you need or which department you're trying to reach. They'll connect you. You can call from land lines or cell phones and it's free.



Family Barbecue and Movie Night at Rancho San Pedro

Friday July 30: Fun, games, health, barbecue and movies combined to create a community sponsored summer entertainment evening for the residents of the Rancho San Pedro Development.

The idea originated with LAPD Senior Lead Officer "Junior" Nua, who offered a LAPD sponsored movie night out on the Rancho playing field.

The idea was embraced by the Development Manager Mercedes Broughton and Resident Advisory Committee President Veronica Mendoza.

Officer Nua also reached out to Providence, Little Co of Mary-San Pedro Hospital which supplied two medical vans, staff and volunteers to offer vaccinations for children and basic health check-ups for adults.

"J. R". Perez, representing both the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and the newly formed Los Angeles Harbor Latin Association, coordinated and donated food courtesy of the 7th St Chophouse and the 710 Grille.

"JR" manned the grill while residents prepared vegetables, beans rice and salsa and served it all up on a buffet line! Over 500 residents enjoyed the event which culminated with a recent family movie.

Watching the LAPD officers play field games with the children, and seeing various members of the development and the larger community come together was an inspirational sight.

What Can Be Done About Feral Cats?

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council has received numerous complaints about feral cats throughout our district. Instead of holding a public forum on this issue, we are opting to provide the information here in the hopes it gets to every household.

Grand Central recently sat down with Lt. Chris Carroll, center manager of L.A. Animal Services, Harbor Center. According to Lt. Carroll, L.A. Animal Services is able to trap cats under certain conditions but this is highly discouraged.

Instead try other deterrents like motion-activated lights or sprinkler systems or a repellent that can be purchased at a pet store. Fix fences and cover open dirt areas.

While there are no laws against feeding feral cats, it is illegal to feed wildlife—particularly raccoons. You may see signs limiting the amount of time food may be left out in public places. This is so the food tray is attended by someone to see no wildlife is fed.

If all else fails L.A. Animal Services is authorized by the Department of Fish and Game to trap animals. Fish and Game stipulates trapping ONLY if the animal: (1) has bitten someone; (2) is sick; or (3) is injured. If this is the case, call the Harbor Animal Control Center at 888-452-7381, ext. 143. Be ready to provide a description of the cat, the reason for the call, and where the cat is located.

You may get a permit to trap the cat in cases of property damage or where the cat is causing problems for the owner. Property damage is defined as causing harm to property or harm to other pets.

Problems for the owner would be if the owner has allergies to the cat, the cat has mange, or fleas. To obtain a permit you must buy your own trap and bring it to the Harbor Shelter for inspection. The permit is free and can be issued the same day.

The Department of Public Health has more enforcement power if a public health violation is involved.

Feral Cat Assistance Groups

- FixNation – Free Spay-Neuter Services in Burbank for homeless, stray and feral cats. Telephone 818-524-CATS, website www.fixnation.org
- Best Friends Catnippers – Free clinic and funding for feral cat spay/neuter and TNR training. Telephone 818-377-9700, website www.bestfriends.org/la
- Stray Cay Alliance – Hotline, traps and more. Telephone 310-281-6973, email info@straycatalliance.org, website www.straycatalliance.org
- Feral Cat Caretaker's Coalition – Free feral cat caretaking information packets. Telephone 310-820-4122, email feralcatcenter@yahoo.com, website www.feralcatcaretakers.org
- Heaven on Earth Society for Animals – Free transportation of cats to/from Fixnation (Burbank). Telephone 818-474-2700x6, email spay@heavenlypets.org, website www.heavenlypets.org
- California Wildlife Center Hospital – Help for injured wildlife. Telephone 818-591-WILD (9453), website www.californiawildlifecenter.org

Waterfront Update continued from page 1

Coming up, on November 18, the POLA Board of Harbor Commissioners will tackle a more difficult design issue: the proposed construction of a new direct street connection between Harbor Boulevard and Sampson Way, leading to Ports O' Call and the 22nd Street Marina.

This connection will carry high numbers of future visitors to new POLA development planned for points south: City Dock One (POLA is the frontrunner for an Annenberg Foundation Grant to develop a maritime institute in old Warehouse One) and a redeveloped Kaiser Point that would include a cruise ship terminal.

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council and other community groups have expressed concerns about the early concept drawings for this large intersection which sprawls southerly of Eighth Street, requires extensive regrading of the existing

bluff, and replaces the historic Sixth Street connection to the waterfront. This neighborhood council will hold an independent committee meeting to discuss these issues on the third Wednesday of the month, October 20 (details to be announced).

When can we expect to see construction activity? The Waterfront Phase 1 will take approximately 10 months to complete design. Then a "bid and award" process will start next summer over a period of about six months. Construction will take about two years at a total cost of \$35 million.

Want to hear more? Come to POLA's next board meeting, November 18th. Want to participate more? Attend your neighborhood council meetings, including the October 20th land use planning committee meeting. Sign up for all meeting notices at www.sanpedrocity.org.

Report Illegal Dumping; Collect \$1,000

The LA Bureau of Street Services offers a \$1,000 reward to citizens who report illegal dumping through the Illegal Dumping Crime Tip Program.

Dumping is a horrendous problem, quite often exposing entire neighborhoods in the Central San Pedro district to toxic and hazardous materials.

Unfortunately, without valid reports, dumping is very difficult to prosecute. Your help is needed to keep our neighborhoods free of debris and poisonous waste. Under this program, a tip is eligible for the reward if it leads to the arrest and conviction of the unlawful dumper. Rewards are not available for anonymous tips.

After the tip is received, investigators from the Bureau of Street Services monitor the location for several weeks in an attempt to catch the dumper. The reporting form is available online at <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/boss/StreetUseInspection/form.htm>

IN URGENT MATTERS, CALL (800) 996-CITY OR DIAL 311.

Thank you for helping protect and keep our city clean.

Algae: It's Not Just Pond Scum Anymore!

Who would have thought that algae could be the answer to cleaner air in the Port of Los Angeles? One solution is from Advanced Algae, the winner of the Innovative Technology Award, at the recent PortTechExpo in San Pedro.

A staggering amount of innovation gathered in this small area. The Expo exhibitors ranged from a couple with a diagram developed in their garage and no prototype, to companies aligned with corporate giant General Atomics. All were there with an interest in doing business in the Harbor area.

PortTechLA is public benefit, non-profit technology center and incubator operated by a partnership of the Port and City of Los Angeles, and the San Pedro and Wilmington Chambers of Commerce. The goal is to enable the area's maritime industry to meet environmental, energy, transportation and security goals – resulting in good green jobs for the local communities, reduced traffic, better security and cleaner air for the entire Los Angeles area, in line with the Mayor's Clean Tech LA initiative. They provide office space, training and support for start-up companies.

The First Annual PortTechExpo's mini-venture fair provided 24 entrepreneurs an opportunity to exhibit their products at the Doubletree Hotel. On-site were a remarkable collection of high technology companies, all dedicated to creating products that would implement the industry goals. Attendees included venture capitalists and others who could help finance worthwhile projects.

PortTechLA Chairman, Herb Zimmer, the Expo, said, "Our first Technology Expo was a great success. Our presenters, exhibitors, and investors report their excitement about the opportunities to grow their businesses in the Harbor area."

An immediate success example: Dale Hinkens, CEO, Advanced Algae comments, "The PortTechExpo was an ideal launch platform for Advanced Algae. Our automated photosynthetic algae reactor technology was awarded



the Most Innovative Technology of the EXPO. Since that Technology recognition at the Expo, we have received significant angel funding and multiple project RFP's (Request for Proposals). We are privileged to be a PortTechLA client now and to have the support of the Port of LA in rolling out our CO₂/NO_x scrubbing technology to sequester emissions here in the Southland and the Nation."

PortTechLA is now ready to move into Phase 2, expanding their offices into a 12,000- to 15,000-square-foot space to accommodate up to 10 to 15 entrepreneurial companies. They would share the receptionist, conference room, office equipment, and especially the lunch room. Experience has found that the lunch room is key to success in these organizations – providing the environment for the individuals to help each other by exchanging ideas, challenges and solutions.

As Herb Zimmer says, "PortTechLA's mission is to create new well-paid jobs by attracting and growing companies with technologies that improve our quality of life and secure our port. The bottom line is environmental, economic and social sustainability." They are making progress toward that goal.

If you have a question or a clean/green technology product to commercialize, contact PortTechLA, 390 West Seventh Street, San Pedro 90731; telephone: (310-832-0028).



Kids enjoy fun with balloons at the Boys & Girls Club.

Boys & Girls Club is More Than Just a Safe Haven

Surrounded by gangs, drugs, and violence, the Port of Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club is a safe haven for today's youth—predominantly those who live in and around the 600 public housing units that are adjacent to their facility.

Built in 2001, this Boys and Girls Club is located at Liberty Hill Plaza, 100 West Fifth Street, directly across the street from the Port of Los Angeles administration building. It serves over 200 youth daily, ranging from kindergarten to high school.

Because of its unique location, the POLA Boys and Girls Club offers harbor related activities such as sailing, fishing, and maritime education to its highly at-risk members. Along with these harbor-related activities, it also provides core programs that focus on leadership, education, athletics and the arts.

Through these programs, the POLA Boys and Girls Club does everything in its power to successfully accomplish the organization's mission statement: "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive caring and responsible citizens. We achieve this through a commitment to quality programs and services in an environment that is safe, nurturing and inspiring."

With a combination of professional staff and volunteers including students from Marymount College, the POLA Boys and Girls Club is an enduring treasure for the youth in the Rancho San Pedro area.

General Elections are November 2

The following propositions will be on the ballot for the November 2 General Election. Nearly all will have a direct impact on our community. The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council has not endorsed any of these propositions, they are presented here for your information only.

19–Legalization, Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana. Allows people 21 years old or older to possess, cultivate, or transport marijuana for personal use within California. Allows State and Local governments to regulate and tax production, sale and distribution.

20–Redistricting of Congressional Districts. Expands role of Citizens Redistricting Commission to House of Representatives.

21–Annual Vehicle Surcharge for State Parks. Sets an \$18 annual vehicle license surcharge to help fund state parks and wildlife programs. Allows free state park admission these vehicles.

22–Prohibits the State from Borrowing or Taking Local Government Funds. Keeps State from delaying distribution of tax revenues for transportation or local governments.

23–Suspends Air Pollution Control Law (AB 32). Delays Greenhouse Gas Emissions law implementation until unemployment drops to 5.5 percent for a full year.

24–Repeals Legislation That Allows Businesses to Lower Their Tax Liability. Repeals recent budget negotiation provisions that favor multi-state corporations in their tax liability.

25–Majority Vote Requirement to Pass Budget and Budget-Related Legislation. Changes passage from 2/3 to simple majority. Retains 2/3 vote requirement for taxes. Legislature forfeits salary and expenses until budget bill passes.

26–2/3 Vote Requirement for Certain State and Local Fees. Changes passage from simple majority to 2/3.

27–Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Eliminates Citizens Redistricting Commission established with Prop 11 in November 2008. Restores determination of State political districts with the Legislature.

Please see your Voter Information Guide or visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/> for further discussion and arguments in favor of and opposed to these propositions.

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Watch Organizations

In an effort to identify and serve the variety of stakeholder groups present in our district, this issue of Grand Central is focusing a special spotlight article on our neighborhood watch groups.

We had the opportunity to discuss neighborhood watch efforts with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Junior Nua to identify where these groups are within our district and encourage their support and participation.

Role: Neighborhood watches are a partnership between the community and law enforcement. They inform local law enforcement officers on crime and quality of life issues in the community. Together they strategize on crime resolution, prevention, reporting and observation.

LAPD can provide real-time crime statistics in a certain area and receive community feedback on incident reports, police services, and other activities.

The neighborhood watch and

LAPD can collaborate on investigations. Harbor Division officers can investigate and advise other units within LAPD, e.g., narcotics, which can follow up on the investigation. Officers report back to the neighborhood watch to see that issues are resolved. Quality of life issues arise with homelessness, public drunkenness, trash and discarded bulky items, narcotics, gangs, and graffiti.

Officer Nua says the Neighborhood Watch program is a great success. It empowers homeowners and residents to interact one-on-one with LAPD. It provides a convenience for reporting, where one would not necessarily go to the Harbor Station to file a report.

Neighborhood watches can organize community clean ups and identify abandoned homes which are often used as crash pads for abusers. LAPD can then reach out to the bank or property owner. LAPD currently handles abatement records

and refers them to the city prosecutor.

Accomplishments: The neighborhood watches in Officer Nua's area (east of Pacific Avenue) have resulted in an increased police presence, and a "foot beat" in the Palos Verdes corridor. Arrests have increased and have scared off narcotics users from the vicinity.

There are 12 residence hotels in this district. Their registers are closely monitored, especially when an incident occurs. Alley clean-ups and maintenance follow-up has occurred in the Downtown district thanks to the neighborhood watch groups.

LAPD has also established two "stop-in" centers. These are locations where a space is provided for LAPD officers drop by and complete reports or take a break.

They are developed in conjunction with the city's Department of Recreation and Parks, as they are intended to be located in park areas.

One site is at Anderson Park at Eighth and Mesa, and thanks to the Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Watch, the other has been recently established at City Hall Market at 11th and Palos Verdes. Officers are able to complete paperwork while still in the field and leave their squad cars parked in the community as an added crime deterrent.

How to Start a Neighborhood Watch: Take a look at the map of the current Neighborhood Watch groups in the Central area. Is your street covered?

Forming a Neighborhood Watch in your community takes some commitment. You will need to identify a few people in the area who would be willing to help take charge and share the effort. A block captain would need to be identified and phone trees established. An LAPD officer would be available to report on local crime trends and hear community concerns. Neighborhood Watch signs with "Boris the Burglar" (really—a Russian burglar) are available for only \$6 each.

If your community does not have a public meeting center available, or if you are nervous about meeting in your community, the new Harbor Division Station has a state-of-the-art Community Center available for just this purpose. Of course, you could also speak with Officer Nua at any session of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. This is also a safe location to discuss neighborhood concerns with law enforcement.

If you want to form a Neighborhood Watch, contact the Harbor Division Office of Community Relations. Sgt. Catherine Plows is the officer in charge for Community Relations, she may be reached at 310-726-7920.

Senior Lead Officer Junior Nua may be reached by cell phone at 310-869-2138. His jurisdiction or "car area" covers our district east of Pacific Avenue.

Senior Lead Officer Art Ashcraft covers our car area west of Pacific Avenue. He may be reached by cell phone at 310-869-2067.

Additional information can be found at the LAPD website <http://www.lapdonline.org> and the website of the National Neighborhood Watch Institute out of Santa Fe Springs, California at www.nnei.org

Officer Nua says a neighborhood watch takes a lot of commitment. It is a fluid activity within the community, and one needs to be able to adapt to changing situations. In the end it is up to the community members to keep it going. In his words, neighborhood watch groups cover everything from "beautification to crime solving strategies". Neighborhood beautification is at the heart of it all and is one of the best crime deterrents.



Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council District
Neighborhood Watch Locations / LAPD Senior Lead Officers

Name	Location
Old San Pedro / Vinegar Hill	Ninth Street and Palos Verdes Avenue
Mesa Street	Mesa Street and 18th Street
Rancho San Pedro	1st Street and Centre Street
Mid San Pedro	11th Street and Gaffey Street
1200 block of 13th Street	13th Street and Walker Avenue
1300 block of 14th Street	14th Street and Patton Avenue
800 block of 8th Street	8th Street and Alma Street
Gaffey Place Neighbors	MacArthur Avenue and Gaffey Place

CSPNC Boundary	
LAPD Basic Car Area	
Neighborhood Watch	Red Text
Senior Lead Officer	Black Text

San Pedro Celebrates October 29-31 Weekend Festival of Music, Movies, Food, Fashion, Cultural Traditions, and Lots of Fun!



The L.A. Fantasy Film Festival, Dia de Los Muertos All-day Celebration, Halloween Fashion Show at the Cabrillo Bathhouse, Scaresea at the Aquarium, Twisted at Little Fish, and the Golden State Pops Orchestra Halloween Fright Night Concert make San Pedro the place to be all weekend long.



Aargh! Follow me, matey, to 'Sea Scare' at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

'Sea Scare' at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Saturday, October 30

San Pedro's Best Family Halloween Party is back and only at CMA, Saturday, October 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Now in its fifth year, SEA SCARE is washing ashore with even more thrills and chills than ever before. Those pillaging and plundering pirates of Port Town are back to haunt you with more of their crazy antics.

New for 2010! Step into our all new Haunted Hallway, dance the night away in the Glow Party Zone, or trek through the jungle and come face to face with CMA's resident cannibal, Red Bone and try your luck at his games of chance in the newly expanded Voodoo Village. Plus last year's hit stage show, "Evolution" is back with all new dances and comedy that's sure to leave you in stitches.

With apparitional activities, creepy crafts, dreadful demonstrations and eerie entertainment, SEA SCARE 2010 is sure to be a frightfully good time for the whole family!

Cabrillo Beach Bath House Halloween Fashion Show Features 'Fairy' Theme

Join the staff and volunteers at Cabrillo Beach Bath House on Friday evening, October 29, for the fashion event of the season — the second annual Halloween Fashion Show, featuring a "fairy" theme.

Original entries will depict elements of nature such as: Rain, Ice, and Lightning, a Grape Goddess, Peacock Princess, Golden Girl, Wild Child, Strawberry Fairy and Gracie Gone Ga-Ga. See Joan of Arc, interpreted as you've never imagined, a Raven Maven, and surprises galore.

Last year's Gothic Glamour Show featured 42 original entries created by designers/performers of diverse talent, gender, ethnicity and age (from two to 72). This year we will meet every Friday evening in October to design up a storm. Bring your vision, ideas, supplies and interests to any or all of our Friday night sessions (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.) up to the week before curtain and we'll outfit you for the run way experience of a lifetime. Beautiful original dolls, sets, and decorations developed all year long will add ambiance for the show and reception.



The theme of last year's fashion show was "Gothic".

We promise you an unforgettable event with fun for the whole family. We encourage all types of beauty and talent to share this growing tradition of creativity, community, and self expression. Kick off the Halloween season celebrating your magnificence at the Cabrillo Beach Bath House Fabulous Fairy-themed Fashion Show and work shops. Information: call Roz Brown at 310-548-7554.

L. A. Fantasy Film Festival October 29-31 at Warner Grand



San Pedro's Warner Grand Theatre will host the first ever L. A. Fantasy Film Festival, a celebration of the fantastic in cinema.

At 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 29, L.A. Fantasy Film Festival will screen the 1979 film "Dracula," starring Academy Award-Nominated Frank Langella in the title role and featuring Academy Award-winning Lawrence Olivier in the role of Dracula's nemesis, Professor Abraham Van Helsing.

The L.A. Fantasy Film Festival's initial offering, directed by John Badham from a script by W. D. Richter, also features a stirring musical score by famed film composer John Williams. Preceding the film, there will be a costume contest with prizes going to the top three.

Prior to the first feature, at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Annex (634 West Sixth Street), there will be a pre-film cocktail reception (featuring Bloody Marys and other tasty Halloween treats) and the unveiling of a mask exhibition. The unique mask

creations by area artists will be offered in a silent auction to benefit the Warner Grand Theatre. The Mask Exhibition will remain open through San Pedro's downtown First Thursday ArtWalk on November 5.

On October 31, there will be the first-ever marathon-style presentation of the complete "Twilight Saga." At 1:00 p.m., "Twilight" with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson will begin the saga, in the 2008 film directed by Catherine Hardwicke. At 4:00 p.m., 2009's "New Moon" takes to the big Warner Grand screen. Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner star in the Chris Weitz-directed film. Finally, "Eclipse" will be shown at 8:00 p.m. The 2010 film was directed by David Slade, and Stewart, Pattinson and Lautner are again in the cast.

For more information on the L. A. Fantasy Film Festival, please contact the Grand Annex at (310) 833-4813, or on the web go to www.GrandVision.org.

GSPO Halloween Fright Night 8

The Golden State Pops Orchestra (GSPO) will present their annual popular Halloween Fright Night 8 on Saturday, October 30, 2010.

"We wanted to make this year's Fright Night



fit in with San Pedro's annual celebration of Saturday's Dia de los Muertos and the LA Fantasy Film Festival" Friday and Sunday, said Linda Grimes, GSPO's Executive Director.

GSPO conductor Steven Allen Fox and Music Director Vic Pesavento will take the audience on a musical journey with a nod to various cultural traditions and their celebrations of All Hallow's Eve.

Special guest, internationally-known film and orchestral conductor Jeffrey Schindler, will conduct Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Tomorrow, Op. 33 featuring his wife, mezzo-soprano Bonnie Snell Schindler.

GSPO encourages the audience to come in costume and there will be a DRESS to IMPRESS contest after intermission.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a stage side chat

with Jeffrey Schindler at 7:30 p.m.

Valet parking drop off/pick up at 6:00 p.m., Sixth and Pacific. Tickets and information at www.gspo.com, or call 310-433-8774.



Colorful costumes at the 2009 Dia de los Muertos festivities in Downtown San Pedro.

Dia de los Muertos in Downtown San Pedro Saturday, October 30

A centuries-old tradition in many parts of Mexico, Dia de Los Muertos is the day set aside to celebrate death as part of life and not the end of it. People happily remember deceased family members and friends, and take joy in the continuity of life through their children.

It is customary to create an altar for the deceased, decorating it with candles, marigolds, photos of the departed, their favorite foods and colorful Calaveras de azu'car (sugar skulls). Families often feast graveside in the cemetery, telling stories long into the night.

On October 30, downtown San Pedro hosts its fourth annual Día de Los Muertos, one of the biggest celebrations of its kind in Southern California! Sixth Street closes to traffic and visitors stroll, enjoy traditional foods and browse Dia de Los Muertos-inspired arts and crafts.

Altars, intrinsic to the feast and created by local artists and students, fill storefronts and galleries. And more than 3,000 large skull images painted by area elementary school students adorn windows and doors.

Activities for children start at 3:00 p.m. and include decorating sugar skulls and making traditional paper flowers. Mariachis and Folkloric and Aztec dancers are among the entertainers.

The downtown merchant planners say that it is the strong collaboration among the arts, local culture, education and business that creates the draw that brings so many visitors from the South Bay into San Pedro for this celebration. Come and see for yourself. Bring the whole family.

Día de Los Muertos

Historic Downtown San Pedro

Sixth and Seventh Streets

October 30, 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Information: 310-832-5482 / 310-489-1362

www.diadelosmuertossanpedro.com

LITTLE FISH THEATRE PRESENTS

**Twisted,
Spooky,
Creepy.**

ORIGINAL ONE-ACTS IN
THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN

Oct 23 - 31, 2010

Free First Friday Documentary Film Series at the Warner Grand Theatre Now Through June 2011

For those who appreciate a fine documentary and the opportunity to talk about the core issues it raises, this series is a boon. Nine excellent, award-winning films will be screened usually on the first Friday of the month October through June 2011 at the Warner Grand Theatre.

Grand Vision Foundation is presenting the series in conjunction with the PBS series Independent Lens and in collaboration with Community Cinema, a public education movement active in more than 65 U.S. cities. The films address central, sometimes crucial social issues and have been selected for screening by Independent Television Service (ITVS) and PBS.

Each documentary, richly entertaining and provocative, is about one hour long and will be followed by a panel-led discussion to help the audience engage with the issues explored by the film.

The month after each screening in San Pedro, KCET will air the same film on Independent Lens, hosted this year by America Ferrara, best known for her television performance as Ugly Betty. "These documentaries have the ability to educate and entertain," says Ferrara. "They help give a bigger perspective of our world."

Such is the mission of Community Cinema and Grand Vision Foundation, to bring together citizens, organizations and public television to encourage dialogue and action around important and timely social issues.

Last season, over 40,000 people attended 650 film events nationwide through local collaborations

with Community Cinema.

On November 5, the environmentally focused film *Deep Down* will be shown. This piece considers a long-term coal mining operation in a small Kentucky community.

A panel following the film will guide a discussion to bring these issues home to the Harbor Area. A mini-green-tech expo in the theatre lobby will accompany this screening.

San Pedro native son and Emmy-winning documentary film maker, Jack Baric will serve as master of ceremonies for the series and moderate several of the panel discussions.

San Pedro High School students from the Docs Rock Program, a joint effort with LAUSD, the International Documentary Association and the Department of Cultural Affairs, will attend screenings; their instructor, Tony Saavedra, has made the series part of the curriculum.

"This is a real cultural coup for the harbor area," says Saavedra. "We are thrilled for the students to experience not only top quality documentaries but also the public's response."

The series is sponsored by the City of LA's Department of Cultural Affairs, Jerico Development, Plaza Automotive Service and the Whale and Ale Restaurant. Additional sponsorships are available.

To see the complete schedule of films, special event details and to R.S.V.P., please go to www.grandvision.org or call 310-833-4813.

All films are free and open to the public. Most screenings are at 8:00 p.m.



Images from documentary films Bhutto, For Once in My Life, Pushing the Elephant, and Two Spirits.

Fall 2010 Events

Always check with the venue for the latest information and show times.

Warner Grand Theatre (www.warnergrand.org)

Oct 16	Ballet Folklorico
Oct 20	Lost Angels (Independent Film)
Oct 23	I Need Thee (Live Performance)
Oct 29	Dracula (1979)
Oct 30	GSPo Halloween Fright Night
Oct 31	Twilight Trilogy
Nov 4	The Wheeler Boys (Ind. Film)
Nov 5	Deep Down (Documentary)
Nov 12-14	7 Brides for 7 Brothers (Live)
Nov 19-21	7 Brides for 7 Brothers (Live)
Nov 27	Folklorico Ballet
Dec 1	The Calling (documentary)
Dec 5	Holiday Mariachi Show
Dec 10-12	SP Ballet The Nutcracker
Dec 18	GSPo Holiday Concert
Dec 21-24	Christmas Carol (Live Performance)
Dec 26	Christmas Carol (Live Performance)

Grand Annex (www.grandvision.org)

Oct 16	Conjunto Los Pochos
Nov 13	Salt Petal (Ritmos Latinos)
Dec 11	Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca

Little Fish Theater (www.littlefishtheater.org)

Oct 8-Nov 13	Hedda Gabler
Oct 13-28	Seven at West 70th
Oct 23-31	Twisted, Spooky, Creepy one act plays

Alva's Showroom (<http://www.alvasshowroom.com>)

Check website for schedule.

Special Events

Oct 24	Zedashe and Xhena in Concert 3:00 p.m., Croatian Cultural Center www.zhena.org
Oct 30	Dia de Los Muertos http://www.diadelosmuertossanpedro.com/
Oct 30	Happy Harbor Halloween 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm, Promenade between Third and Fifth Streets
Oct 30	Sea Scare, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Dec 1	SP Chamber's A Taste of the Holidays 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Ports O' Call
Dec 3	Holiday Fountain Show 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Fountain
Dec 4	Harbor Afloat Parade Beginning at 6:00 p.m., Main Channel
Dec 5	Spirit of San Pedro Holiday Parade Downtown San Pedro www.spholidayparade.com

Every Friday: Farmer's Market

First Thursday: Artwalk

Bandini Canyon Arroyo Trail Park Grand Opening

Central San Pedro opened its first new functioning public park in 10 years on August 19 in the former wash occupying the O'Farrell Street right-of-way between Marshall Court and Bandini Street.

Bandini Canyon Arroyo Trail Park is a beautiful five acre-site that now has trails, seats, a tot lot, and native plantings for people of all ages to enjoy.

You might recall this area as a former dumping ground with usual piles of trash, furniture and automobile parts. Not anymore! Now you can hike the trail running the length of the park, admire the beautiful wrought iron gates and faux wood (ceramic) fencing, or just relax in the shade.



The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council approved funding the design of this park to the tune of \$10,000 back in June 2004. Central's representative to the Park Planning Committee was our own Tom Villiger, and then Sue Castillo when Tom moved out of the area.

The park was completed with the help of Councilwoman Janice Hahn and Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiatives (LANI) who, along with the stakeholders on the Park Planning Committee, saw it through from beginning to end.

The obstacles were tremendous, from state budget freezes stopping the Proposition 40 bond monies, to negotiations with neighboring property owners who claimed the parkland as their own. And if that wasn't enough, during the construction phase an El Niño dumped enough rain to wash out all progress.

What's in a name? Bandini Arroyo is the name designated by the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council in 2009. The rationale is in the related article below.

We hope you enjoy this park as much as we do.



Bandini, What?!

By Arthur A. Almeida

Shakespeare's Juliet convinced herself that names don't really matter when she said, a "rose by any other name would smell as sweet." So must have thought those who named a strip of land, south of Bandini Street between Sepulveda and Oliver, Bandini Canyon rather than what it always has been—a gully, ravine, ditch, arroyo. Never a canyon.

The piece of land was donated by George Peck, to the City of Los Angeles, ergo the citizens of San Pedro, to be developed as the City, or better yet, as the people so determined. The residents of this area should be well congratulated for their efforts to purge this undeveloped land of weeds and assorted debris so that a more positive, healthy and safe use could be cultivated.

However! This strip is not now nor has it ever been a canyon! That's right. But, enter the astute brains of government and—voilà! A canyon is born.

And who pray tell is the reliable source that declares it is not a canyon?

Over 70 years ago I, Art Almeida, roamed the whole area from Spondello's service station adjacent to north Pacific all the way to Bandini Elementary School and, if my memory serves me, the south west portion to Bandini Street was around 3-4 feet deep, maybe 10 feet wide and lined with bamboo forrests.

To quote the adage of Jonathan Swift, "You cannot make a silk purse from a sow's ear" or a canyon from a gully, ditch, ravine or arroyo.

Come to think of it, maybe Bandini is a misnomer. You see the Bandini estate, La Rambla, is further south, i.e., between First and Sixth (or was it Seventh?) and roughly Meyler on the east and Weymouth to the west. To find out the rest, catch the next edition of *Grand Central*.

Grand Central's Prior Issues

First Thursday Art Walk:

Its still fun and more popular than ever. Thanks to the efforts of the ACE District, San Pedro is listed in citywide gallery guides and the Los Angeles Times which brings art lovers here from all over L.A. Central's own Pat Carroll leads free gallery tours leaving at 6:30 from the chamber of commerce. Visit the website at <http://www.1stthursday.com> for the latest happenings.

Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Concerns:

In our Spring 2010 premiere issue, we ran a cover article on safety and blight issues confronting our Vinegar Hill stakeholders. The Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Watch continues to meet on a regular basis with the LAPD to address crime issues. A new LAPD "stop-in" center has been established at the City Hall Market at 11th and Palos Verdes streets to enable a permanent police presence in the community. That and improvement projects such as extensive street tree planting have helped reduce crime and blight in the Palos Verdes corridor.

I-110 / SR-47 Interchange:

Our summer 2010 issue carried an article on proposed expansion of the Harbor Freeway/Vincent Thomas bridge interchange. Preliminary noise study results have shown that a sound wall will be needed on all sides of the interchange. The project will also require widening of the SR-47 / Pacific Ave. and I-110 / Channel St. overpasses. Negotiations with Councilwoman Janice Hahn's office have successfully extended the proposed sound wall westward to protect the Harbor Occupational Center. A public notice for an EIR for this project is anticipated to be released by CalTrans by the end of the year.

Port Community Advisory Committee:

Also in our spring issue we wrote about our participation in broader organizations such as the Port Community Advisory Committee. Several PCAC efforts have since materialized throughout the harbor area:

- Groundbreaking to occur September 27, 2010 for a CRA project that will develop a 1.6-mile landscaped buffer along Alameda and Harry Bridges Boulevard in Wilmington. This is funded by \$1.8 million in PCAC's China Shipping mitigation funds.
- In June the Harbor Commission approved \$1.8 million for the Cabrillo Beach Boosters to lead a restoration project of the Angel's Gate Lighthouse. This is also funded by PCAC's China Shipping mitigation funds.
- This summer the Port of Los Angeles received an "Honorable Mention" award for the San Pedro Bay Ports Water Resources Action Plan from the prestigious American Association of Port Authorities. The PCAC's Water Quality Subcommittee worked closely in the development of this plan, and continues to collaborate on its implementation.
- In July Crowley Marine Services received a POLA/LB Clean Air Action Plan award for replacing eight main and eight auxiliary diesel engines on four of its vessels with Caterpillar Tier II emission compliant engines. The cost was approximately \$1 million per tug and was funded with help from the PCAC's Air Quality Mitigation Incentive Program.
- Planning is in progress for the Anchorage and Shore Roads Landscape Buffer. This is a beautification project around the perimeter of the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site in the Wilmington Marina. Stakeholder groups are meeting to come up with a design for a parkway with public amenities. This buffer project is being funded with \$1.5 million in PCAC China Shipping mitigation funds.

These projects represent what the community can do when it comes together and keeps moving forward.

Medical Marijuana Centers:

Six San Pedro medical marijuana centers that opened after the city's 2007 moratorium on new dispensaries were listed in our summer 2010 issue. These were scheduled to be closed by June 7 along with about 400 others citywide. Dispensaries which opened prior to 2007 were allowed to remain open if they filed for a permit under the city's new ordinance.

The goal was to have at least 70 in operation, but after permit review only 41 met the new ordinance's requirements. The number is so low the city suspended the process and asked a judge to rule on the legality. Clinics that have met all other regulations will not be closed until the court decides on the city ordinance. This item was scheduled to be heard September 21, the closing date for this issue.