PLA Town Hall Forum: Point Loma Partners
Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Want to know what’s happening in your neighborhood? FIND OUT!
Get an update from the Navy about the current progress on the fuel line relocation; hear about the new airport car rental facility from the Airport Authority; get the straight facts about the Harbor Drive re-alignment.
The UPSES Cafe is offering a delicious lasagna dinner starting at 5:00 p.m.; a no-host bar also available.
The theme is “Point Loma Partners,” and highlights local businesses who support Point Loma Association. Local nonprofits are welcome. Contact Sally Bixler at sallybixler56@gmail.com if you’re interested in having a table at the event.

Where does your money go?
By Cecilia Carrick
Dear Point Loma Association supporters:
Where does your dollar go? We are proud to inform you that we stretch that dollar pretty far. For starters: no employees, no office, no phone. Just people like you, volunteering and contracting to get things done.

BEAUTIFICATION AND THE MEAN GREEN TEAM
SPECIAL PROJECTS: MEDIANS
Our mission is to improve our neighborhood and we are working very hard to get City/County and private donations to accomplish the unthinkable by a volunteer organization: replacing asphalt with plantings in new medians!
- Our newest Nimitz Blvd. median between Bernice and Centraloma estimate: $35,000 (prevailing wage contract)
Chairman’s Message

It seems like summertime has started as I write this column. Just under 90 degrees and clear as a bell. Walking down on Shelter Island, out to the Lighthouse or the Cliffs, I am reminded that it doesn’t get any better than this. PLA is out every week to make sure our Peninsula remains TOP RATE.

Make sure you take a look at our new median project on Nimitz (Bernice and Centroloma). By the time you get this newsletter, it should be complete. Many thanks to our donors for making this project possible. I’m excited to see the final outcome.

Thank you for participating in our PLA Survey. We received over 200 back, and Kelly Mitchell is chairing a sub-committee of the PLA board to compile the results in a report to be presented at the next Town Hall Meeting on May 6th at Portuguese Hall.

A special thank you for all who took the time to express their views...and for your commitment in our community to beautify the Peninsula. We are fortunate to have so many citizens who care.

Mark your calendar: PLA Mixer at Stone Brewery (Liberty Station) April 14 starting at 4:30. Come enjoy a beer and getting to know your fellow PLA members. Please bring a friend.

We have our Town Hall Forum May 6, 2015 starting at 5:00 at the Portuguese Hall. We will have our Corporate members there showing off their businesses along with the Navy, Port and Airport updating us on the fuel line replacement, Harbor Drive road work, and the new rental car facility. Come for the lasagna dinner!

Visit PLA on Facebook, Nextdoor and Instagram - where you can Like us, Support us, and Follow us! If you haven’t yet signed up for email notices, sign up on our web site. And—invite a friend or family member to join PLA. It’s well worth it.

See you around PL.

—Robert Jackson

• The Nimitz Blvd. median near West Point Loma Blvd.: $124,397 (prevailing wage contract)
• The Catalina/ Cañon Median: $20,269
• The Nimitz Blvd./ Sunset Cliffs Median #4 Project (2 stages): $34,000

Neighborhood beautification is our largest recurring expense. Our budget for this year (2014-2015) is $38,400. Every Friday, about 25 folks get together to take care of over 18 different public areas (rotated) in the Peninsula. We design new spaces, trim, plant, weed, mulch and pick up litter. Our PLA truck helps us transfer equipment and clear plant debris. Our four master gardeners oversee our contracted landscaping crew, new plantings and irrigation. Watering plants and medians is an ongoing and growing expense.

UTILITY BOX ART

Utility box art deters graffiti and beautifies stark urban fixtures. We locate artists, clean and prep utility boxes, and then seal the art after the artist finishes. This is laborious but ultimately satisfying work! We pay the artist a $250 stipend and pay for all supplies. This is a labor of love for less than minimum wage (budget: $2000).

BANNERS

Welcome to Point Loma, Happy Holidays, Cabrillo Festival, Festa ... we love to celebrate events and seasons. The PLA pays for many banner installations and removals throughout the season. It costs the PLA $40 per pole to change a banner (difficult work) and we have 67 poles.
Yoga Arts
Amy Pachowicz has room to move. And stretch. And pose. And paint. She just moved her yoga studio, Yoga Arts, to the corner of Cañon and Rosecrans, where the former scooter shop was located.

Amy teaches what she calls “alignment-based” yoga and studies under Iyengar instructors. Alignment-based yoga is centered upon learning proper body alignment to reduce injury.

The classes serve all levels “according to what their body can do,” said Amy. She uses props like blocks and blankets for students who aren’t ready to try full yoga postures. On Saturday mornings, she offers a more advanced class, and she hopes to start a beginners class soon.

Amy is also an artist who works with acrylics and ink drawings. She has dedicated the back half of the studio to selling her artwork and work from local artists. “I have many friends who are well-established artists,” she said. She has also carved out space for her own painting studio. “They like to see how the projects evolve.”

Amy plans to hold art openings at the studio. If you want to get on the list, you can sign up on her website. You are also free to stop by between classes and check out the art - and classes, of course. www.yogaarts.co 619.865.0852 3017 Cañon St.
**Around Town...continued**

**What’s going on at the old Blockbuster property?**

The Bellamar project at the former Blockbuster site is slated to be a three-story mixed use development with approximately 4,724 square feet of ground floor retail space and a collection of 16 residential units. Demolition was expected to start in early October, 2014: according to Matt Peckham of Flocke & Avoyer, demo and construction is now scheduled to begin in early April, with delivery roughly one year from then.

**Beautification update**

The Beautification Committee is working on finishing up the “pork chops” at West Point Loma and Nimitz. Irrigation at the site is being resolved.

The BIG PROJECT is the latest Nimitz median project at Bernice and Centraloma. See below for the article.

The committee supported planting two new rose bushes in the Rose Garden at Liberty Station. Thanks go to Ginny Buerger, Dan and Becky Weider, Karen Davis, Marilee Bankert and Ann Walker for their help with this project. A big “thank you” also goes to Jess and Ann Walker for purchasing and placing lady bugs on the rose bushes to combat the growing number of aphids that have appeared on all the rose bushes at Liberty Station!

Karen Davis spoke with John Tully with San Diego Parks Department regarding the Mean Green Team weeding the plants along the center of the Submarine Memorial pathway. It was suggested that doing this project could be done on a Saturday, and become a community service project for local youth groups that need community service hours. Thanks go out to new Green Team members Lin and Ed Danly and Terry for noticing this area in need of some TLC by the Green Team!

**The Mean Green Team**

The best way to appreciate the work of the Mean Green Team is through the photos taken by Cecilia Carrick and Jerry Symanski. And here’s some great news: the Mean Green Team has swelled its ranks in the past few months with thanks in part to Alicia Shapiro, who is getting the word out via Facebook and Instagram!

All of this work begs the question: *Isn’t 30 bucks a year a pretty good deal for everything the PLA does for our community?*

**The latest median**

Work on the newest portion of the Nimitz median project (between Bernice and Centraloma) broke ground on March 16. Thanks to Cecilia Carrick for submitting a grant for $8500 to the San Diego County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program for this project, which was approved!! Cecilia will work with Total Green Landscape on the plantings once the asphalt has been removed.
Welcome home, Submariners!

The USS San Francisco arrived on Monday, February 9 and was welcomed by 16 banners in Point Loma. You may or may not be aware that the PLA is behind the Welcome Home Submarine Squadron 11 banner project. We work with 16 businesses to hang welcoming banners upon the arrival of a submarine. Thanks to the following businesses and organizations for their generosity:

- Good Point Gasoline
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Willis Allen Real Estate
- Starbucks
- America West Bank
- Ryan Family
- Ralph’s (hung by the PLA)
- Point Loma Optimists
- Roy’s Cleaners
- Liberty Station Owners Association
- Mail Boxes Express
- Sun Harbor Marina
- Point Loma Credit Union
- Cabrillo Inn and Suites
- Pacific Western Bank
- Ramada Inn

Help for an Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Bryce Shinohara, age 15, from Boy Scout Troop 500. Bryce came to PLA’s Beautification Committee to ask for financial assistance for his Eagle Scout project, a log-lined and gravel paved pathway and stone bench located at Westminster Park. He completed his project during a busy weekend on March 6-7 with the help of other Boy Scouts, leaders, and family. Through generous donations from the PLA ($300), Point Loma Rotary ($500), and a bake sale, Bryce was able to raise all the money needed for his materials.

For Bryce, Westminster Park is literally an extension of his back yard; from his home's back yard, there is a stairway leading down to the park. Bryce is an active member of Westminster Presbyterian, so the location of his project was obvious. He spoke with church leaders, who suggested the path and bench project.

For Bryce, the project is a departing gift to the church, as he will be moving with his family to northern California after finishing the school year.

In addition to scouting, Bryce's interests include piano and playing trumpet at Point Loma High School. Bryce invites you to enjoy the park setting while seated on his bench!

From the SDPD Beat:

Graffiti Strike Force—San Diego Police Department officer Sergio Zamora is now the Graffiti Strike Force officer for the Western Division. The graffiti reporting process, however, remains unchanged. For graffiti removal, contact Urban Corp (800.829.6884). You can also contact the Graffiti Strike Force at 619.531.2890 if you have any information leading to the arrest of graffiti vandals or if you have additional evidence to provide.

Please do not hesitate to contact Officer Zamora at 619.515.2754 or szamora@pd.sandiego.gov if you have any additional questions.

Abandoned shopping cart?—To report abandoned shopping carts, call California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corp. at 1.800-252.4613 or go to their website and complete an online request form to have the carts removed. www.cartretrieval.net/support/request_cart_pick_up.asp

Help for the elderly and disabled: You can request SDPD volunteers to check up on elderly or disabled residents living alone. To request this service, contact Western Division at 619.692.4800.

Dumpster Divers a Problem? If so, Environmental Services (ESD) suggests the following:

Mondays thru Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Call the ESD Call Center at: 858.694.7000. After hours, weekends and when scavengers are there “now,” call SDPD at 619.531.2000.

If reporting a scavenger seen earlier, call 858.694.7000 or submit a complaint via e-mail to trash@sandiego.gov. The following information is very helpful:

1. Address
2. Description of scavenger (clothing, height, weight, etc.)
3. Vehicle/license plate, bicycle, wagon, cart or other mode of transportation being used
4. Direction of travel

The Call Center at ESD will create a service request and forward this info to the assigned code officer. If available, the code officer will patrol the area. If the person is observed scavenging by the code officer, a warning or misdemeanor citation will be issued. In areas where there is an excess of complaints, ESD may choose to set up a scavenging patrol involving more than one code officer to monitor the area.
County news

Our San Diego International Airport has gone through major improvements recently to make traveling easier, like a new terminal and a new consolidated car rental facility that is still under construction. But San Diegans who love clean air and blue skies are going to really love the latest improvement underway at the airport – a campaign to get rid of older, polluting taxi cabs that line up at Lindbergh Field.

Through partnerships with the Center for Sustainable Energy and others, most taxi cab owners at the airport had already converted their vehicles to newer, modern cabs. But the effort was lagging and this year, I began working with the County Air Pollution Control District and the Airport Authority to speed up the pace of conversion.

In January, the Board of Supervisors approved my proposal for a pilot program to allow the Air Pollution Control District to give cab owners $4,000 rebates to help them purchase new hybrid cabs. The program rolled out in February as taxi cab owners lined up their vehicles at a lot near the airport to see if their vehicles qualified for the trade-in program.

The rebate is a down payment on clean air! By accelerating the conversion program, our airport could be one of the first in the nation to have an all-green fleet of taxi cabs. The result will be cleaner air for all, benefitting passengers at our airport and surrounding neighborhoods. In fact, we could see a reduction of 3 to 5 tons of harmful air pollutants each year.

And if this pilot program is successful at the airport, I can imagine an effort to green the entire fleet of taxis serving San Diego County. As the County representative on the San Diego Regional Airport Authority, I’m excited to see how various agencies can work together for the betterment of our community.

Over the years, the efforts of our Air Pollution Control District and others have led to San Diego having the cleanest air on record. We’ll continue those efforts to preserve our blue skies.

In Memoriam: Jim Starrett

Jim Starrett, a cousin of Ann Tripp Jackson and PLA supporter, passed away last month. His family donated some yards tools to PLA including rakes, chain saws, paint brushes, and leaf blower. We thank Jim and his family for their generosity.

Here’s an old family photo. Jim is in the center next to Robert and his daughter, Taylor.

An All-Star Salute

Thanks to Betty Allman for coordinating the latest utility box project. This is one of two similar boxes recently finished by artist Jade Faberes. This one’s at the corner of Lowell/Evergreen; the other one is at Nimitz/Rosecrans.

From Betty: “The boxes remind us of Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and his contribution to U.S. Naval history. Fleet Admiral Nimitz was the Commander of the Pacific Fleet during World War II.”

The design was created by Jade Fabares from symbols on aircraft wings on current carriers.

At the box on Lowell St. neighbor Karen Hughes decided to perk up the corner with new plantings. The whole corner looks great!

Visions of Point Loma

Save the date! The 2015 PLA Annual Dinner — which this year will be an elegant cocktail party on San Diego Bay, is October 1, 2015! The event will be held at the new Cohn Event Center at the foot of Harbor Island next to Island Prime. Plan on it. You will never forget it.
This year’s walking tour will feature homes and gardens in the traditional, established neighborhood of Loma Portal and showcase each homeowner’s unique style and interest.

The highly acclaimed Garden Boutique presents items by local artisans, garden vendors and members of the unit.

The exclusive Dana Diamond Tour will shuttle 20 guests door to door and features a luncheon and additional tour in an historic California Mediterranean home with bay and city views. Ticket price for the Dana Diamond Tour is $150.

General tickets $25. For more information, go to www.pointlomagardenwalk.com.

Let’s Go Fly A Kite!

The 2015 Ocean Beach Kite Festival is bigger and better than ever! The event has been permanently moved from its traditional March date to Saturday, May 9. The event will feature demonstrations by professional kite fliers, as well as games for children.

As always, children will learn how to make and fly a simple kite; all materials are supplied and there are prizes for the best decorated kites. Kite making is available any time between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; there are three separate prize judgings at 11:45 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:15 p.m. Professional kite demonstrations will go on all day from 11:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., depending on the wind. There will be food, games, music, and a craft fair. It’s all free, presented as a community service by the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach. For information call Melanie at 619.225.8705.

News from the OBMA

• The 37th Annual OB Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival is June 27, 2015! Chili competitors can sign up through the OBMA office or website at the end of March. OBMA members get a 20% discount for festival booth fees.

• The Ocean Beach themed community mural from the 2014 OB Street Fair was finally installed. You’ll be able to see it on the back of the Arizona Café building located at 1925 Bacon St.

• The OB Security Program continues. You can make a personal, tax-deductible donation at: www.fundly.com/ocean-beach-security-program.
Plan a gift to benefit Point Loma
Consider including a charitable bequest in your will or living trust. Simply identify The San Diego Foundation/Point Loma Foundation Fund as the beneficiary of a given amount, a percentage or the residue of your estate. Other giving options that help the Point Loma Foundation while giving you income tax benefits include:

- Your IRA – If you are over age 70½, you may gift assets up to $100,000 from your qualified retirement plan – income tax free.
- Charitable Gift Annuity – provides a guaranteed income stream of lifetime income to you and your spouse, along with an income tax deduction that saves taxes.
- Gift of Real Estate – allows you to unlock the full appraised value of your property while receiving significant tax advantages. As with appreciated stocks and bonds, this gift works well to eliminate capital gain taxes at sale.

For more information please contact Leslie Klein, Director of Charitable Giving (619) 814-1353 or lesliek@sdfoundation.org.  www.sdfoundation.org
Join Us!
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U.P.S.E.S. Portuguese Hall
Dinner 5:00 p.m. from local food truck; no host bar

Program begins at 5:30

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