Hugh Story Memorial gets $20,000 boost

The Hugh Story Memorial is full speed ahead with a $20,000 boost from County Supervisor Greg Cox’s office. Marilyn Story, Bill Klees - PLA President, John Calabotta - PLA Foundation representative and Stan Miller and Karen Davis from the Hugh Story Memorial Committee met Supervisor Cox in his office on December 10 to receive the very generous donation.

The planned memorial is projected to be located on the grounds of the WWII Submarine Memorial at NTC Park. The Submarine Memorial, also known as the 52 Boat Memorial, is dedicated to the 52 submarines lost during WWII.

The committee has made headway getting bids for the 40-foot long, 3-foot wide submarine and seating area, and is considering adding a water feature at the base that would give the boat the appearance of moving through water. Flowers and greenery will simulate the submarine’s wake, a nod to Hugh’s tremendous work in making Point Loma greener. The submarine will have a plaque on its side honoring Hugh.

“This wonderful grant from Supervisor Cox was meant to help us jump start our fundraising efforts. I believe it will not only give us a major funding lift, but also facilitate our efforts to gain City approval of the project,” said Karen Davis, chair of the Hugh Story Memorial Committee.

The Point Loma Association is coordinating the memorial effort. Funding will come from donations and grants to the Hugh Story Memorial Fund. This includes funds to design, fabricate and install the submarine and plaque, as well as provide ongoing maintenance. Once complete, the PLA will donate the memorial to the City of San Diego as an unrestricted gift.

The Hugh Story Memorial fund is managed by the Point Loma Foundation. To donate, write your check to San Diego Foundation: Point Loma Foundation Fund, making a notation that the check is for the Hugh Story Memorial. Send it to:
John Calabotta, Chair, Point Loma Foundation
Lumen Companies
501 W. Broadway, Suite A374
San Diego, CA 92101
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Thank you to our many volunteers who help the Point Loma Association complete another outstanding year!

A special thank you to Patti Adams and her committee on last month’s forum at the SES Hall. And thanks to manager Andrea De Luz for providing the venue.

The Annual Dinner was a huge success thanks to Karen Wheeler and her committee of volunteers. Lee Lipsey and Pat Baker did another outstanding Point Loma Concert Series. Under the leadership of Ron Brooks, the Mean Green Team beautified the community, completing many projects large and small.

Our goals for 2008 include continuing to build our membership and completing two projects that are in the final stages of approval:

- The Hugh Story Memorial, under the direction of Karen Davis, continues to raise funds. Thanks to Greg Cox for the $20,000 donation toward a goal of $52,000.
- The Entry Way Project should begin construction in the first quarter of 2008. Thanks to Celeste Trepte and Ron Brooks for maneuvering this project through the City, with the help of Matt Awbry of Councilman Kevin Faulconer’s office.

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Barnacles and Blowholes!

Don’t miss the 21st Annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival on Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20! It’s an exciting opportunity to explore tidepools and observe tidepool inhabitants such as sea anemones, sea hares and hermit crabs, and to witness the return migration of the magnificent Pacific gray whale en route from Alaskan feeding waters to their Baja California, Mexico breeding lagoons.

Get the latest information concerning Pacific gray whales and intertidal life, watch the new film about Cabrillo National Monument, and bring the kids for a puppet show. Park ranger and Volunteers-In-Parks will be on hand to help spot whales and tidepool creatures. Dress warmly and bring a pair of binoculars.

The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Low tides will be -1.4 at 1:31 p.m. on Saturday and -1.7 at 2:14 p.m. on Sunday. Free shuttle service provided through the Visitors Center and tidepools between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. both days.

Cabrillo National Monument 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive

We wish good luck to officer Jim Heppell, our Community Relations Officer for the Peninsula Service Area for many years, who is retiring from the Police Department. He hopes to spend more time with his dad, who lives in Point Loma.

Upcoming traffic studies

Well, if we can’t get traffic improvements, at least we’re getting some studies. At the last PLA meeting, Matt Awbry announced two studies that could directly affect our quality of life:

- SANDAG study: SANDAG is funding a $180,000 study of Interstate 8 from Ocean Beach to College Avenue, with the goal of analyzing missing onramps and offramps.
- Roscenas: The State is funding a $300,000 study to analyze traffic patterns on Roscenas, particularly between Sports Arena and the Naval Base. They will spend 18 months collecting data.

Upcoming OASIS programs at the Community Room, Hervey Point Loma Library:
Free, registration required. Call (619) 531-1539.

January 9, 7:00 p.m. – Dr. Wayne Little, professor at PL.nnazarete University presents “Theosophical Society’s Point Loma Utopia”

February 13, 7:00 p.m. – Karen Scanton and Charlie Best present “The LaPlaya Trail: Remembering our Roots”

March 12, 7:00 p.m. – Katrina Pascador, Head Archivist at the San Diego Air and Space Museum, explores San Diego’s rich and unique aviation history.

Point Loma Harvey Family Library 3701 Voltaire Street See the enclosed Peninsula Arts Calendar for arts events at the library.

Save the Date!

For the Point Loma High School Foundation and Alumni Association Golf Tournament, Saturday, April 5, 1:00 p.m. at the Admiral Baker Golf Course. For more information, contact Sally Sackett at (619) 405-0988 or ssackett@cox.net.
Around town...Happenings in Point Loma

It remains a mystery...who painted over the graffiti on the Point Loma sign on the Famosa onramp over two months ago. Bob Sherman, who originally constructed the sign, said he didn’t paint it, and doesn’t know who did.

“The work is meticulous,” said Ron Brooks. “The urban legend continues.”

Another Starbucks? The rumors are true. The lot next to Wells Fargo at the corner of Rosecrans and Carlton currently under construction is going to be a small strip of three shops – and one of them will be a Starbucks. The other two shops are rumored to be a cell phone store and a juice bar.

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2007 PLA Golf Tournament

By Leslie Harrington

The 2nd annual revival of the PLA golf tournament was held October 1 at Sail Ho Golf Course. We had 36 players, and the day was beautiful. Sail Ho provided a wonderful dinner and we had some great raffle items!! Point Loma Community Bank was the winning team – Scott Andrews, Chris Andrews, Todd Faucher and Doug Grady. Doug Grady and Margaret Mayo each won Closest to the Pin.

Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors. The Title Sponsor was Point Loma Community Bank. A big thanks to Tony Calabrese and his team! Other sponsors included: Award Mortgage; Barry Scott Fan Club; Geralyn Schulkind (Arbonne Skin Products); Martinizing Cleaners; Miguel’s; Overseas Boat Insurance; Red Sails Inn; Seaport Realtors; Sign Diego; The Pearl; The San Diego Foundation, Yacht Finders.

Not only did the golf tournament provide fun and camaraderie for those involved, it earned $3,275.00 for PLA!!

NTC News

New tenants - SushiYa and Spices Bay Thai Kitchen restaurants opened the first week of December.

Hotel Site West - Marriott Courtyard is targeted to open March, 2008; Hilton Homewood Suites opened September 24, 2007.

Hotel Site East - Miller-Global is currently processing plans at the City for a 650-room Nickelodeon Hotel. They plan to break ground in 2008, with an opening in 2010.

Hotel Site East - Patti Adams, Celeste Trepte, Jodie Bruhn, Karen Davis, Ron Brooks, Betty Allman, Katheryn Rhoades and Zeus, Bill Klees, Councilman Faulconer

Newsracks

On November 16, a small crowd gathered in front of the Point Loma Post Office to watch Councilman Kevin Faulconer take a crowbar to the first non-compliant newsrack – only the owners beat him to it. Instead, there stood a rusted stand where three newsracks had been just twelve hours before.

Zeus, Katheryn Rhoades’ beautiful Collie, wonders where the boxes went...

“This is ground zero for newsracks in San Diego,” said Councilman Faulconer. “It all started right here: you are all pioneers. You made my job easier.”

Newrack committee member Ron Brooks noted that he would like to see more benches and planters - not newsracks. He thanked Katheryn Rhoades for taking pictures and Betty Allman for serving on the committee.

At the December PLA meeting, Matt Awbry said that the City is talking with several vendors to supply corrals in front of the Post Office. However, he noted that vendors are not legally required to use the corrals.

You might remember from past newsletters that the Newsrack Ordinance was approved by the City Council in January, 2007, and put into motion recently. The ordinance requires an annual $10 permit fee for each newsrack, sets standards for newsrack sizes, maintenance, and locations, and limits the number of newsracks that can be placed in a row.

But how did these things arrive on our sidewalks to begin with? And who is enforcing the Newsrack Ordinance? Following are some answers from Councilman Faulconer’s office.

How many people are allocated to oversee the program? The program is run by the Neighborhood Code Compliance division of the Development Services Department. If you call Development Services about a newsrack, anyone there can provide information. There is one city employee responsible for compiling the lists of compliant and noncompliant newsracks.

Are the newsracks in front of the Post Office and the old Vons all permitted? The newsracks in front of the Post Office and the old Vons are all permitted for 2007. In January, all newsracks owners will have to apply for new permits.

Aren’t damaged newsracks supposed to be removed? If you see a damaged newsrack, call Development Services at (619) 446-5000. Provide the location and the name of the publication, and the Development Services employee will look it up and send a Code Compliance Officer to investigate.

If I pay my $10 permit fee, what stops me from installing a newsrack wherever I want? That’s where the Newsrack Ordinance comes in. When you get the permit, you have to tell the City where you’re going to install the newsrack, and get the location approved. The newsrack can’t be added to a row of newsracks if adding it would extend the row over ten feet. In addition, newsrack rows must be spaced four feet apart.

How is it that newsracks have been installed willy-nilly on public property to begin with? There’s not a good answer, except to say that this is the reason why the Newsrack Ordinance came into being. Before the ordinance, the City didn’t know who owned the newsracks, much less how to regulate them.

Thanks to Councilman Kevin Faulconer’s office for the clarifications! And remember to report damaged or out-of-compliance newsracks!
Nimitz/Catalina On-Ramp: As you can see from these before/after pictures, the land has been cleared—eight dump truck loads worth. Celeste Trepte has been working tirelessly to determine permit requirements for the site. Mike Martin, the contractor, will be completing the required permit documents. The hold-up has been getting water to the site. Very soon, you will see eleven trees—a mix of Canary Island Pines and Jacarandas.

Beautification update

The Point Loma Beautification Committee is always busy. Here’s some of the things they’ve been doing for your community over the past few months.

To report graffiti, e-mail PLGraffiti@yahoo.com.

Point Loma Association Signs: Jodie Bruhn has been working on redesigning the “Point Loma Project” signs—and this is the result! We look forward to seeing a lot of these new signs around the community!

Code Compliance: Dee Kettenburg called the owners of the old Vons to report that mattresses and furniture were dumped in the parking area.

Matt Awbry wants you to know that anyone can remove the non-compliant “Singles.com” signs that have been sprouting up in the community. If you see one—take it!

Roses and Radishes: A rose goes to Zed Electric’s new office on Catalina Blvd.

The Mean Green Team meets every Friday at 9:00 a.m. The Beautification Committee’s next meeting is at 8:00 a.m. on January 8, 2008. The committee meets at the San Diego Yacht Club Board Room. For the Mean Green Team Schedule or to place items on the Beautification Committee agenda, e-mail Ron Brooks at brooks1@cox.net.

Barnes Tennis Center: The irrigation system has been repaired and now includes a bubbler at each palm tree. Three young palm trees provided by Urban Forester Drew Potocki have been planted.

Thank you to Zed Electric, Superior Irrigation and Jean Leighton for their efforts on the holiday lights on the Voltaire Street bridge. The Point Loma sign on the Famosa onramp was brightly lit as well.

On Tuesday, November 13, friends and neighbors gathered at the Portuguese Hall to learn about what’s going on in their community. Sponsored by the Point Loma Association, the Point Loma Community Update attracted over 150 people. “For the first time ever, we’re not raising money at one of our events,” joked past PLA President Patty Iams, who emceed the event.

Karen Davis provided an update about the proposed Hugh Story Memorial (see story on page 1), and then Alan Ziter presented an update on the NTC Foundation, in which he heralded raising $26 million for the first six buildings at NTC Promenade. Future plans include the “Liberty School” for nonprofits, a history of Point Loma and NTC exhibit, four acres of gardens along “Artists Row,” and plans for Luce Auditorium.

Then Bob Watkins from the Airport Authority took the mic. He discussed plans to move traffic off of Harbor Drive by moving the parking to the other side of the airport. He spoke of infrastructure improvements such as train service, improved freeway offramps, and ten proposed new gates at Terminal 2 west. “We need a transportation system for passengers getting from one side of the airport to the other,” he said. He also mentioned the Airport Authority’s desire to move the rental cars to the southeast side of the airport. The final EIR for the proposed airport improvements will be issued in March/April 2008.

Next, Captain Mark Patton, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Point Loma, discussed an item of utmost importance to Point Lomans: the fuel plume. He noted that the 1.5 million gallon plume had not grown bigger since 2002 because of containment from recovery wells. The Navy has installed eight new ground water monitoring wells, and submitted its Corrective Action Plan to the Regional Water Board for comment and approval. So far, the Navy has removed 147,000 gallons of fuel. Starting in January, 2008, the Navy, using a $3.5 million “French drain” system, will begin to collect more water and fuel. The Navy will replace the 54 storage tanks built between 1930 and 1960 with eight new storage tanks. “There will be no connection between the tanks and the ground,” said Patton.

Patton also discussed the guard shack on Catalina moving 200 feet down the road, the Navy’s compromise to move the commercial vehicle inspection station further down Catalina, and noted that the channel at NTC is “healthy.” “We need to document what’s there,” he said.

Matt Kalla, president of the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, provided an overview of the Chamber’s activities, and Kim Elliott from The McMillin Companies highlighted the opening of Vons and other retail shops at Liberty Station. See page 6 for details.

Tim Berch of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant spoke about a proposal to capture the extra “digerator gas” or methane from the plant and convert it to electricity. This quote from the Metropolitan Wastewater Department web site explains the process:

“This methane gas is collected from the digesters and is piped to the on-site Gas Utilization Facility (GUF). The methane fuels two continuously running generators that can each produce up to 2235 kilowatts of electricity (a total of approximately 4.5 megawatts). Using new technology under a grant from the California Energy Commission, a diesel powered generator is now able to also burn methane and produce an additional 1220 kilowatts (1.2 megawatts) as a peaking generator.

“Using the methane produced on site, PLWTP has not only become energy self sufficient, the facility is also able to sell excess power it generates to the local energy grid. Because the heat produced by the engines is used in turn to heat the plant’s digesters, the GUF is termed a cogeneration system. Utilizing one source of fuel (methane), it produces two forms of energy, electricity and heat.”

For more information, go to http://www.sandiego.gov/mwwd/initiatives/energy.shtml or call Tim Berch at (858) 292-6401.

Finally, Councilman Kevin Faulconer kept his promise to keep his comments brief and made himself available for questions after the presentation.

Overall, the event was a great success! Watch this newsletter for an announcement of next year’s Town Hall meeting!
**Town Hall Forum**

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Cabrillo National Monument

1800 Cabrillo Drive

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**Annual Dinner 2008!**

On Tuesday, May 20, 2008, our membership will convene for the 40th Annual PLA Meeting on the fabulous Hornblower Inspiration. We will cruise beautiful San Diego Bay under a full moon and enjoy the company of neighbors and friends while raising money for our various projects that help keep Point Loma beautiful.

If you would like to become a sponsor for this year’s event or volunteer, please contact Martha Phillips, this year’s Dinner Chair, at (619) 523-3787 or mpi@sandiegozoo.org. To donate auction items, contact Nancy Jeremiasim, our Auction Committee Chair, at njeremiasim@cox.net or (619) 226-7800. Check our web site at www.plawe.org and click on “Annual Dinner” for additional information on how you can participate.

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John Calabotta, Chair, Point Loma Foundation
Lumen Companies
501 W. Broadway, Suite A374
San Diego, CA 92101

Who We Are

Point Loma Association was organized in 1961. Originally called “Point Loma Village Beautiful,” we were primarily concerned with the aesthetics of the Village.

Today, in addition to beautifying the Peninsula, PLA represents the community through direct involvement with agencies of federal, state and local governments, the Port District, the San Diego Unified School District, the Peninsula Community Planning Board, and others who directly affect our quality of life.

PLA Membership consists of residents and local businesses working together. We donate time, effort and money to make the Peninsula a better place in which to live and work. Annual Membership is $30.

We appreciate donations at additional support levels: $1,000 Platinum, $500 Gold, $250 Silver, and $100 Bronze. Our membership year is July 1 through June 30. To request a membership brochure, please call Tracy Morgan Hollingsworth at (619) 225-8156, or go to our web site at www.PLAweb.org and click on “Join the PLA”.

Our Mission:

PLA is an organization of residents and local businesses committed to improving the quality of life in Point Loma through beautification, education, charitable activities and civic collaboration.