



Coastal San Pedro: Have We Got Issues!

By June Burlingame Smith

One of the most disturbing changes in San Pedro was addressed by the Coastal Neighborhood Council in March: parking meters.

Adding insult to the usurious increase in price was the extension of hours, too. Now, downtown parking is readily available for those who can afford or want to fork over \$1 an hour. The Council voiced its opinion strongly that this will hurt the decades-long attempt to revive downtown at a critical time.

When I met with Janice Hahn about this issue, I told her that our council suggested that the lot to the west of the Croatian Cultural Center be immediately opened as a free lot. She seemed to respond positively to that idea, and now we need to encourage her to follow through. It isn't a repeal of the exorbitant grab by City Hall, but it would help.

Other issues that are hot on Coastal's calendar are: finishing the Pacific Overlook Park; further loss of police officers assigned to the Harbor station; the increase in property crimes and other drug-related activities; the complete closing of Pacific

and Paseo del Mar for sports events; and neighborhood parking problems for large events.

We have suggested to the council office that large events in our neighborhoods should require shuttle service from 22nd Street Port parking, and our streets should only be restricted for short periods of time or only half the street should be blocked.

At the time of this writing, the memorandum of understanding between Recreation and Parks over access to Angels Gate for the new high school has not been finalized. Neighbors on Alma and along Gaffey have grave safety concerns about the traffic that have not been satisfactorily resolved.

All of the area is also still anticipating the final EIR from the Port on the San Pedro Waterfront; word is that it will be coming out at the end of May or in June.

And finally, Council members' questions over whether or not they have to fill out financial disclosure forms in order to participate in some discussions and votes on the Council remain open.

Our meetings are never dull. Please come out on the third Mondays and participate. We are only as strong as your voices allow us to be.

What's Online?

By John Stinson, Communications Chair

It's a wide wonderful world of information out there, especially on the internet. The biggest problem used to be just tracking down the data. Now it's narrowing down the search to find those nuggets you are really looking for.

This is where search engines come to the rescue (or at least point you in the right direction.) There are a number of them to choose from like Ask Jeeves, Lycos, and Alta Vista. Many are bundled right into the web browser that you use to surf the net like Internet Explorer, Firefox and Opera or are part of a portal or home page like Yahoo or Google.

It is the last one, Google, that has seriously changed the search on the web that its name has replaced the term search. Nowadays we just Google something (even if we are not using Google) when we want to look up information whether it's maps and directions, satellite photos or what's playing at the movies.

And once you have found a site or sites that have what you're looking for, you need to bookmark it or add it to your favorites. Like a physical bookmark, you just click on the bookmark you saved and it will take you the page you want to look at. It beats doing the search thing every time. You can even sort the bookmarks into folders that you create and name so you don't have to search through a long list.

The following is a short list of sites to get you started that may prove useful along with descriptions and addresses. Check them out.

- **Healthy City** (www.healthcity.org) Healthy City, the largest online source of community resource information and demographic, economic and health data in LA County. Use this website to search for community services and resources or map community level data. This is useful for consumers, businesses and governments alike.
- **Los Angeles City** (www.lacity.org) This is the city's central website where you can find information on virtually all city services, policies and resources. You could call 311 and maybe get connected to the right department or you can do it yourself.
- **Film LA Inc** (www.filmlainc.com) This site provides information on filming in Los Angeles. You can join the contact list, select an area and you will be notified by email when a film shoot is scheduled for the area. You won't have to guess if World War III has started or if they're shooting another action film in your neighborhood.
- **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment** (www.lacityneighborhoods.com) The official website for all things Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. You can locate them, find out which one you live in, check out what they are spending their budgets on, election information and more.
- **Clearwater Program** (www.clearwaterprogram.org) The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Clearwater Program will produce a new Facilities Plan for the Joint Outfall System (a regional, interconnected sewage system) in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations. Your participation is invited and encouraged especially since San Pedro could be severely impacted. Go online to see how you put your two cents in.
- **Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power** (www.ladwp.com) See what our city owned utility company is up to from conservation to rebate programs, water rationing to rate increases. Very useful and informative.
- **Flex Your Power** (www.fypower.com) California's statewide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign. Initiated in 2001, Flex Your Power is a partnership of California's utilities, residents, businesses, institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working to save energy.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a site that is not only informative, but fun; Snopes (www.snopes.com.) If you are bombarded with emails of urban legends, myths, common fallacies, misinformation, old wives' tales, strange news stories and rumors that seem to crop up from time to time like drying your dog in the microwave or virus time bombs, then you need to go to this site to get some good intel and a sane perspective. It will help to calm you down and, hopefully, provide a good laugh.

Lastly, there is a website (go to <http://toread.cc>) that provides a handy tool for remembering if you want to revisit a site. Of course you can bookmark the site, but it might get lost or forgotten in your bookmark list. This tool provides a bookmarklet that you can add to any browser and sends bookmarks to your email like a welcome reminder notice. It's not only easy and helpful, it's free.

Groups Sought to Test 'Walkable' Community Guide

Funding is now available to communities interested in making their environment more "walkable" for residents.

The Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) is seeking proposals from up to 10 communities or neighborhoods to pilot test the use of a newly-developed guidebook on how to improve pedestrian safety in neighborhoods.

Each selected site will be provided \$2,000 as well as technical assistance from pedestrian safety experts. To download the RFP, please visit http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/index.cfm.

Only government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations and neighborhood groups (such as PTAs, homeowner's associations, advocacy groups, etc.) are eligible to apply. Project funds are not payable to individuals.

HSRC will conduct a pre-award conference call on Friday, May 1, at 1:00 p.m. (eastern time) to offer applicants an overview of the RFP as well as answer questions from applicants. To register for the call, please visit http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/call.cfm.

Completed proposals are due Friday May 29, by 5:00 PM EDT. Applicants should use the Web-based submission process available at http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/RFP.cfm. HSRC anticipates selecting the awarded communities in mid- July 2009.

Funding for this project is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). HSRC received funding from NHTSA to pilot test *A Resident's Guide for Creating Safe and Walkable Communities*.

The guide, developed with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, is designed to be used by anyone who is looking for ways to improve the pedestrian safety and walkability of their neighborhood, whether they are just beginning to learn about pedestrian safety or are already part of an established community safety group.

CSPNC Ethics Report

Neighborhood council board members are required to take ethics training every two years. They learn about state and city laws involving conflict of interest and their obligation to act on behalf of the public. Board members Doug Epperhart, Soledad Garcia, and Bruce Horton are current on ethics training.

60-Day Relief for Night Parking Downtown

The downtown San Pedro parking meters will not be enforced after 5:00 p.m. in April and May, Councilwoman Janice Hahn wrote in a letter to business owners. The councilwoman is also pushing for a parking permit system and a regular end time of 6:00 p.m., according to her March 27 letter.

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL Committees

BUDGET and FINANCE

Responsible for the council's financial matters, including budget and expenditures.

Chair: Lydia Gutierrez

COMMUNICATIONS

Responsible for informing the community about issues and activities related to the neighborhood council.

Chair: John Stinson

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Considers matters involving public works.

Chair: Soledad Garcia

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Considers matters related to culture and the arts.

Chair: Bob Gelfand

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION

Considers planning and traffic and transportation-related issues.

Chair: Linda Marinkovich

PORT and ENVIRONMENT

Considers matters relating to the Port of Los Angeles and environmental issues such as air and water pollution.

Chair: Peter M. Warren

PUBLIC SAFETY

Considers all public safety matters, including police, fire, and emergency preparedness.

Chair: Chuck Hawley

RECREATION and PARKS

Considers all matters related to recreation and parks facilities and policies.

Chair: Bruce Horton

RULES and BYLAWS

Considers all matters related to the bylaws and procedural rules of the neighborhood council.

Chair: Doug Epperhart

If you are interested in serving on a committee (you don't have to be a board member), please email info@coastalsanpedro.org or call (310) 290-0049 and leave a message.