

Rancho Peñasquitos
VOTED 5th BEST Neighborhood
in San Diego County
by
Our City
Magazine

northeast Peñasquitos Perspective



Newsletter of the PQ-NE Action Group · a 501(c)(3) non profit organization

Volume 3 Issue 1

May 2013

Seven Your Lucky Number?

7th Annual BBQ-Picnic on Sunday June 9th at Rolling Hills Park will have giant raffle with over \$2,700 of prizes as well as delicious food, Russ the DJ, dunk tank, slide-bouncers, water balloon launching, lots of games and community fun

Preparations by the PQ-NE Action Group are in the final stages to make the neighborhood bbq-picnic the fun event that the PQ community has looked forward to each year!

Bring the whole family and invite your neighbors to Rolling Hills Park between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm for hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill cooked by our skilled volunteers. Add some chips and a

Councilmember Mark Kersey to make welcoming remarks

cookie and wash them all down with a beverage - all for a small donation that keeps our volunteer group active throughout the year.

Yes, the two giant bouncers will be up, the dunk tank will be filled, thanks to Fire-Rescue Station 40 who will be there with a shiny red appliance that

the kids like to climb over. Russ McKamey, a local resident will volunteer his time again to MC and provide the music for the youngsters and the young at heart and there will be the usual family games including tug o' war, volleyball and ever-popular water balloon launching.

This year we are particularly fortunate to have councilmember Mark Kersey who represents our new re-districted 5, attend to make welcoming remarks. Also, the board of PQ-NE Action Group is supporting the Palkovic



PQ neighbor Russ the DJ (www.djparty.org) is volunteering his time again to MC and provide the scintillating music

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Northeast PQ Open Space Threatened

Déjà vu all over again! Doubletree Golf Course may be "repurposed" with trails, park space and potentially 400 HOUSING UNITS

In early April, representatives of Laurus Corporation, a Los Angeles-based Real Estate Investment & Development firm, that acquired the Doubletree

Golf Resort about two years ago, made an informal presentation to the Land Use Committee of the Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board on possible plans to, in their words, "repurpose" the golf course. The meeting was attended by about 50 members of the community including board members of PQ-NE

Action Group. Here is a synopsis of the presentation by PQ-NE Action Group board member Pam Logemann:

The CEO of the Laurus Corporation came to intro-



The foreground will be less green if "repurposing" includes 400 housing units

duce himself and his manager and to talk about "repurposing the resort" especially the golf course which is losing \$500,000 a year. He reported that they are finalizing financing of the resort \$10M renovations for the lobby, rooms, landscape and sports facility. It was asked if they would update the tennis courts and he said no. They will not invest in the golf course either as that is losing money. They didn't present a plan on what they are planning and said they just wanted to introduce the fact that they are looking at

several options for the property. This was met with caution notices from Board Members Joost Bende and Jeanine Politte as they advised them to review all the

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Our Mission:

The mission of PQ-NE Action Group is to educate and inform the Community on the latest developments that will affect its Quality of Life.

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15255 Amalia Street
San Diego, CA 92129
President: Cindy Krask

Board meetings are held every other month and are open to the community. The Group is looking to recruit additional board members. Those interested in attending meetings or running for the board should submit contact information at www.savepq.org.

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BBQ-Picnic

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family's efforts to revitalize the Rolling Hills Park playground in honor of their daughter Sienna. See article below.

The event highlight is always the giant raffle draw and this year will be no exception with over \$2700, (and counting) prizes from national and local merchants. It's our 7th year doing this. Will seven be your lucky number?

As of this writing, raffle prizes include:

- ♣ **FOUR Disneyland Resort One (1) Day Park Hopper Tickets valued at \$500**
- ♣ **3 Month Membership to Frog's Fitness (\$285.95 value)**
- ♣ **FOUR Padres Tickets for 6/22 game versus Dodgers & Parking Pass**
- ♣ **TWO nights stay for 2 at Doubletree**
- ♣ **TEN one-hour passes to Skyzone SD Indoor Trampoline Park**
- ♣ **\$140 Barbecue Grill from SaleByDale**
- ♣ **FOUR tickets to SDSU Aztecs Football**
- ♣ **Photo Session for ≤5 people w/11x14 print from Right Angle Portraits**
- ♣ **TWO Zoo-Safari Park One (1) Day Passes AND MANY, MANY MORE!**

Rolling Hills Park Playground Project!

The Palkovic Family will have a booth at the annual bbq-picnic on Sunday, June 9th to share information, plans, and dreams for revitalizing Rolling Hills Playground in memory of their toddler, Sienna, who enjoyed many happy times playing there.

The Palkovics are spearheading a collaborative project with the city of San Diego to transform our neighborhood playground into an updated, nature-inspired "PlayGarden" for all of our children to enjoy. Please stop by their booth to view the amazing plans and hear more about "Sienna's PlayGarden!" There will be many opportunities for community members to be part of this worthy project. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jen Palkovic at jenpalkovic@yahoo.com

Doubletree

(Continued from page 1)

information they could get from the 2007 plans that the previous owner tried to do with the golf course (build 200 homes) and the community's response. The Planning Board members all asked them very good questions and then the floor was open for the community. Approximately 5 people asked questions of the CEO at that time.

The Community Plan calls for the golf course to be community open space so if they wanted to do something else with the property they would have to ask our Planning Board to approve an amendment to develop that property. Then they would go downtown to the Planning Commission to start the process. It is a long process but we must stay vigilant and make sure we are attending all Planning Board meetings where they will present information. It is up to us to voice our opinions, concern, etc. to their plans before they go down to the city.



Local resident and PQ-NE Action Group board member Pam Logemann told Channel 7's Artie Ojeda, "We do not want houses put on the beautiful green space that makes this such a nice community."

Editor's Note: More details of the process are taken from the 5/14/13 entry in savepq.org and shown on Page 3.

By early May, word had reached Channel 7 News when Artie Ojeda interviewed Pam and a Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board member on the subject. Watch the interview [here](#).

Based on efforts in 2007 by the previous owner of the property to develop approximately 200 houses on the golf course that was soundly rejected

by the community and despite a statement by Laurus that "Nothing will happen unless the community fully embraces the project and what the project has to offer," many neighbors

"Nothing will happen unless the community fully embraces the project and what the project has to offer."

-Phil Cyburt
CEO, Laurus Corp

Reassuring statement from Laurus's CEO received at an informal presentation in April to the Land Use Committee of RPPB and in the Channel 7 interview in May.

are concerned about retention of the green space. Considering that many of the planned improvements, (see January 2010 issue of *northeast Peñasquitos Perspective*) have yet to be implemented and that the street trees were left unpruned for an extended period, only to be radically lopped early this month, many residents have concerns about the ultimate plans for the site as a whole.

For the latest Doubletree news, click on savepq.org, like us on Facebook and share your concerns and voice questions at the community bbq-picnic on Sunday June 9th.

PQ-NE ACTION GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF THE DOUBLETREE. VISIT SAVEPQ.ORG AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES

Affluence then Effluence

The Great Recession that started in 2008 has hit most families in the pocketbook and many a lot harder but, after nearly a year of disruption, the northwestern part of our community that includes Alamazon St, Paymogo St. Peñasquitos Dr. adjacent to Rolling Hills Elementary down to Del Diablo Way can proudly say that they have a brand new sewer and the pump station on Paymogo St. has been dismantled! (Pump Station No.84 in RB has been upgraded to handle it all).



“Nothing much to show for it,” you say as it’s underground and upgraded sewer pump stations aren’t on most people’s itinerary when touring the neighborhood, but the residents that have been affected during the installation can point to the patches in the roads that are memorials to the detours, the noise of trenching equipment and the dust thrown up. The wider population experienced extended brown-outs caused by lines that were severed and, yes, some had a rude awakening at 3:00 am when the street light near the park was re-connected.

While the project didn’t get underway until Rolling Hills Elementary got out for the summer last year, the kids were nevertheless affected in the fall because of delays. But, hey, look on the bright side. The economy is picking up and we can proudly boast that we have a better connection to the *Effluent Society*.

Had their Fill

Thanks to a request by the Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board to the developers of Cresta Bella, old, non-functioning curb cuts and ADA ramps have been installed around the perimeter of the property. Restoration of the affected sidewalks was not part of the approved construction permit and the developers are to be commended for taking this action to complete an attractive addition to northeast PQ.



The community also deserves a compliment with its involvement in the early stages of development to ensure that the density complied with the community plan and an attractive project resulted.

Here’s Looking at you (again)

Another thanks goes to the Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board and specifically to board member Jeanine Politte who called the city to report that the two VCALM speed monitoring devices erected on Peñasquitos Dr. were not functioning after only about six months of operation. Within two days, the city had sent a technician to fix the problem.



Traffic studies and anecdotal evidence from residents have shown that these solar powered devices have a marked effect on speed limit compliance and accident reduction.

HIDDEN OR
VISIBLE, SEWER
SYSTEM UPGRADE,
& ATTRACTIVELY
MATURING
CRESTA BELLA
COMPLEX ARE
COMMUNITY
ASSETS

(Continued from page 2)

More Details on Redevelopment Process

The owner/developer would need to initiate a Community Plan amendment to change the use or designation of their property. They would need to apply for a Site Development permit and present plans to be reviewed by City Staff who will determine what environmental reports/studies will be required. This process can have multiple cycles of review. During this time, RPPB will have opportunities to review the plans, Development Services Department cycle reports, and the applicant will make presentations to the local community via RPPB meetings. This is a long process and it will provide many opportunities for community input at the local planning board level. RPPB will provide a recommendation on the project as an advisory body to City Council. The project and plan amendment would also need approval by the Planning Commission and City Council, giving us additional opportunity to have our voices heard if it moves forward.

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Fire Prevention

Brush Management Inspections for homes north of SR-56 in Rancho Peñasquitos began in April 2013. The following is taken from San Diego Fire Rescue's Proactive Brush Management Program:

The Fire-Rescue Department responds to hundreds of vegetation fires annually involving excessive vegetation not maintained by property owners. In February 2008, the Fire-Rescue Department expanded its Proactive Brush Management Program City wide. Door to door brush inspections are being conducted of properties located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas for compliance

Starting around May 2013, the Fire-Rescue Department's Fire Prevention Bureau staff will begin conducting door to door brush inspections of canyon rim homes or homes that abut native vegetation in the Rancho Peñasquitos, Carmel Mountain, Black Mountain Ranch and Torrey Highlands communities. The purpose of the inspections is to assure properties are in compliance with the City's Brush Management Regulation. Property owners are required by the California Fire Code and the City of San Diego Municipal Code to keep their property free of any potential fire hazards at all times.

For information on how to provide a proper defensible space and to assure your property is in compliance, can be found on the Fire-Rescues Department's website at: www.sandiego.gov/fireandems/inspections/brush.shtml

Check your local directory assistance or websites for potential landscapers or tree contractors. The Fire Rescue Department cannot provide or recommend landscape or tree contractors. It is the responsibility of the property owner to assure all brush management work is conducted within the requirements of the City's Brush Management Regulation / City Landscape Regulation 142.042: <http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art02Division04.pdf>

What a property owner can expect:

- A uniformed Code Compliance Officer with the Fire-Rescue Department's Brush Management will be inspecting the property.
- Because of an extremely high volume of inspections all initial inspections are unannounced.



Before Brush Management

If you have any questions contact the Fire-Rescue Dept's Brush Management Hotline at (619) 533-4444

- If no one is home at the time of the initial inspection or the property cannot be viewed from an adjacent property, the Code Compliance Officer will leave a door hanger requesting the property owner to contact the Fire-Rescue Department within 5 business days so arrangements can be made to inspect the property.
- It is the goal of the Fire-Rescue Department to minimize any inconvenience to the property owner. We will attempt to reasonably accommodate the property owner's schedule.
- All properties must be inspected; failure to contact the Fire-Rescue Department within 5 business days may result in legal action to gain access to the property.
- The inspections consist of evaluating all vegetation conditions within the property boundaries for compliance of the California Fire Code and the City's Brush Management / Landscape Regulation.
- If the property is found to be in violation and the property owner is home, compliance requirements will be discussed at that time. All Notices of Violation will be mailed to the legal property owner within 3 business days of the inspection.
- If the property is found to be in violation, the re-inspection date will be indicated on the Notice of Violation. Usually 30 days from the date of the initial inspection will be given to bring the property into compliance.
- If compliance is not achieved after the initial 30 days, the property owner will be given an additional 2 weeks to comply.
- A \$300 non-compliance fee will be incurred by the property owner for the 3rd and subsequent visits.
- If compliance is not achieved after the 3rd visit, the inspection will be forwarded to the City's Attorney's Office for abatement action to bring the property into compliance.

It is the goal of the Fire-Rescue Department to reduce the wildfire risk to the community by providing a proper defensible space. A proper defensible space allows the fire department time to arrive and space to fight the fire.



After Thinning and Pruning

BRUSH
MANAGEMENT
INSPECTIONS
IN PQ BEGAN
APRIL 2013

SEE PAGE 5
FOR
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
CLASSES



Peñasquitos Emergency Response Council (PERC)

Presents 2013 Class Schedule

All classes are complimentary, open to the public and held at the
Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library.
Classes run from 6:30 – 7:50 p.m.

June 11

Neighborhood Watch

This is not the neighborhood watch you think you know. The program has moved into the modern age and provides many services directly from the police department to you. Learn how you can help your friends and neighbors in stressful times. Presented by Officer Susan Steffan, Public Affairs Officer for the San Diego Police Department.

July 24

Insurance Assurance

Presented by Kaye Coates of United Policy Holders, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeowners pre-assess their insurance needs and recover after a catastrophic event. You may think you are covered but might be surprised.

August 20

Medical Reserve Corps

As a professional in any medical discipline, have you always figured that you could show up and volunteer your services in the case of a catastrophic event? Unless you are pre-registered, vetted or at your own facility, that may not be the case. Come and hear how easy it is to be a medical volunteer. Presented by Melissa Dredge, Volunteer Coordinator with the County Health and Human Services Agency.

September 10

Creating Your Own Family Evacuation Plan

Organize a family evacuation plan; Prioritize items that need to be protected; Other important things to remember to take; Where to go and how to get the family back together; Let others know you're safe. Presented by the PERC Board.

October 8

Pet Safety and Evacuation during Emergencies

It's important to prepare for all the members of your family. This includes your pet(s). They will need special attention during stressful times. The seminar will provide great tips and explain their plans and helpful actions. Presented by Lt. Kalani Hudson of the County Department of Animal Services.

November 12

Cyber Security

At this Securing Our eCity Social Networking Workshop, you will learn how you can take immediate steps to help improve you and your family's online safety while leveraging benefits the Internet offers. Presented by Liz Frauman, Executive Director of Securing Our eCity Foundation.

CLASSES RUN
JUNE-NOVEMBER
AT THE
13330 SALMON
RIVER RD
LIBRARY

Summer Fun at the Doubletree

Beginning May 17, the local Doubletree, (officially known as DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego) will be celebrating Family Summer Fun weekends throughout the summer months for the 2nd consecutive year.

Every Friday and Saturday through Labor Day Weekend, the resort opens its pool to the public with free admission

Times: Fridays, 5 ~ 9:00 pm · Saturdays, 2 ~ 9:00 pm
Bring your own towel. No outside food please.

and offers a number of fun and entertaining activities for both families and adults. Enjoy live music as well as food & drink specials at Pappi's Poolside Grill while you soak up

the sun or cool off in the pool. Kids Camp activities, including arts & crafts, will be available and supervised by resort staff. Ping pong and badminton will be available for those looking to exercise their competitive spirit. Plus, be sure to plan on staying for family-friendly, outdoor movies under the stars.



For more details and information, contact the DoubleTree by Hilton Golf Resort San Diego at 858-485-4141.



Get FasTrak® and Kiss Traffic Goodbye

Tired of congestion in the I-15 corridor? There's another choice: Kiss Traffic Goodbye! The I-15 Express Lanes offer 20 miles of stress-free travel from State Route 163 in San Diego to SR 78 in Escondido. Whether you're a regular commuter or want an insurance policy to keep you out of traffic, here's how you can [use the I-15 Express Lanes](#):

- ◇ [Open a FasTrak account](#). Tolls on the Express Lanes are determined based on traffic, where you enter, and the distance traveled in the lanes. Overhead signs display the minimum and maximum toll you can expect to pay, which starts at 50 cents.
- ◇ Carpools and vanpools may use the I-15 Express Lanes for free. Place your transponder in a Mylar bag so you don't get charged when you carpool.
- ◇ Ride an [MTS Premium Express Bus](#) for a quick and relaxing commute.
- ◇ Watch for the overhead message "All Open, Open to All." This message indicates the Express Lanes are open to everyone. No tolls will be assessed during these times and all drivers may use the lanes.

More Ways to Save with FasTrak When you [open a FasTrak account](#), you'll be eligible for these great [promotions](#):

Win \$100 in Free Toll Credits Sign up for a FasTrak account or add a transponder between now and June 15 for a [chance to win](#) \$100 in toll credits.

Refer-A-Friend: \$10 for You, \$10 for Them Earn \$10 in toll credits when you [Refer-A-Friend](#). *Email, call, or Facebook your friends and invite them to open a FasTrak account with your referral code and they'll get \$10 in toll credits too. You can refer as many friends as you like and get \$10 in toll credits for every account opened with your referral code! *Terms and conditions apply

FasTrak in the Community Stop by our FasTrak booth and say hello when you see us at community events this spring. Get \$5 in free toll credits when you open a FasTrak account or add a transponder to your existing account. You could [win \\$100 in free tolls](#) too! Visit our [events page](#) to find out where we'll be next.

Stay Informed Subscribe to the quarterly I-15 Express Lanes FasTrak newsletter to stay up-to-date on the latest FasTrak news, information about projects along the I-15 corridor, and more. View the Spring 2013 newsletter or visit our [News Room](#) for press releases and recent news coverage. For more information on the I-15 Express Lanes, visit 511sd.com/FasTrak.

DOUBLETREE OFFERS COMMUNITY A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THEIR FACILITIES ON THE WEEKENDS THIS SUMMER.

STRETCH YOUR WEEKENDS - USE FASTRAK®

Mira Mesa Farmers Market
Tuesday, June 4, 2013
2:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Mira Mesa High School
10510 Reagan Road
San Diego, CA 92126