Pacific Beach Town Council holds energy distribution debate

By DAVE SCHWAB

Those for and against public ownership of gas and electricity services in the City debated during a public forum on energy distribution hosted by Pacific Beach Town Council on April 21. Elise Dearborn and Craig Rose of Public Power San Diego spoke for municipalizing City power now provided by San Diego Gas & Electric. PPSD is a coalition advocating the creation of an independently run, democratically elected, and publicly-owned and affordable gas and electric utility for San Diego.

Speaking against power municipalization, and in favor of a new franchise power agreement between SDG&E and the City were: Bernadette Butkiewicz, SDG&E public affairs manager; and Nate Fairman, business manager for IBEW Local 465, which represents SDG&E, transit, and trolley workers.

It was a timely discussion as the current long-term lease SDG&E has with the city to provide power is about to expire. Bids have been submitted and opened for a new exclusive right to provide future gas and electricity services to residents and businesses throughout the City.

SDG&E has held exclusive franchises with the City to provide gas and electric service since 1920. The current 30-year franchise agreements, established in 1970, were set to expire on Jan. 17. That period however was extended at Mayor Todd Faulconer’s behest.

‘The question now is... should that contract be with SDG&E versus a potential city-owned utility?’

– MARCELLA BOTHWELL, PACIFIC BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

See ENERGY, Page 9
EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS
April is Earthquake Preparedness Month in California, and the County of San Diego’s Office of Emergency Services is reminding residents to “not get caught off guard” and have a plan for how to protect themselves in the event of an earthquake. San Diego County is home to three major active faults: the Rose Canyon Fault (which runs along the coast, through downtown, Old Town, and La Jolla), and the San Jacinto and Elsinore faults, which run through the northern and eastern areas of the county. Coastal areas are also at risk for tsunamis. The County’s Office of Emergency Services will launch earthquake early warning technology, ShakeReadySD, powered by ShakeAlert, in the SD Emergency app this July. When enabled, ShakeReadySD is designed to alert iPhone and Android users seconds before a magnitude 4.5 or higher earthquake with moderate to strong shaking is expected in your area. In the meantime, residents can download the state’s no-cost MyShake App to their iPhone and Android.

TEMPORARY OUTDOOR BUSINESS GRANT
La Jolla Village Merchants Association notes assistance is available for small businesses with adapting operations amid COVID-19. The City of San Diego is offering grants up to $3,000 to businesses constructing outdoor decks and platforms compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. As much as an additional $2,000, up to a maximum grant of $5,000, will be available for businesses in low- and moderate-income areas, or those owned by a low-income majority owner.

BUSINESS GRANT TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DECK
The La Jolla Historical Society’s accepting walk-ups at VACCINE SITES.

LA JOLLA HISTORICAL DIRECTOR RETIRING
Heath Fox, executive director of the La Jolla Historical Society, has announced he will retire this fall capping a decade-long career as a museum director and an arts and culture professional. Under Fox’s stewardship the historical society’s annual budget doubled from $600,000 in 2012 to $1.25 million eight years later in 2020. Growth was spurred by donations, grants, membership dues and two annual signature springtime community events—La Jolla Concours D’Elegance classic car show and the Secret Garden Tour.

TROLLEY MILESTONE
Elected officials and the Chancellor of UC San Diego joined the San Diego Association of Governments, the region’s transportation planning agency, as well as Caltrans leadership recently to celebrate significant milestones for the Mid-Coast Trolley project at the future UC San Diego Health La Jolla Trolley Station, including the realignment of Campus Point Drive. The Mid-Coast Trolley project will extend UC San Diego Blue Line Trolley service by 11 miles and includes two new stations on the UC San Diego campus. The UC San Diego Health La Jolla Trolley Station will provide direct transit access to nearby medical facilities, schools, and employment centers.

VACCINE SITES ACCEPTING WALK-UPS
All County-hosted COVID-19 vaccine sites are open for walk-up, no-appointment-required vaccinations.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

SOLD! REPRESENTED BUYERS!
1676 El Camino Del Teatro
4BR • 2.5BA • 3,300 SF
Location, privacy, provenance and view abound in this family home that sits on 1/2 acre in the prestigious tree lined Olde Muirlands neighborhood of La Jolla designed by Pasadena architect David Kikuchi and San Diego Landscape architect Joseph Yamada the home is a mid century wonder of wood and glass, a showcase of living in harmony with nature.

SOLD FOR $3,220,000

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Newly built luxury townhomes nestled between the Beach and the Bay!

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Call us today if you’re thinking about buying or selling
Historic house on Grand Ave. rehabilitated for vacation rental use

Two high-profile historic structures – Pacific Beach Woman’s Club on Hornblend Street and an America Colonial-designed residence on Grand Avenue – are being rehabilitated for reuse by a local real estate investor.

Escrow recently closed on the century-old PB Woman’s Club located on three parcels at 1721 Hornblend St. The buyer was Ramin Karimi, who also owns the historic 1,750-square foot, barn-style roofed home on the corner of Grand Avenue and Jewell Street.

Karimi said he purchased the three Hornblend parcels for $1.4 million. “They (Woman’s Club) gave it to us for the lower price when we agreed to let them use the property for the next two years for twice-a-month care for the homeless there via RV showers, and for having their events there a couple of times a year.”

Karimi has multiple options for adapting the Woman’s Club site. He is nearly done reconstructing the dwelling on Grand and Jewell.

“The plan is to keep the building, and we have two plans, three really, and we don’t know which route we’re going yet,” Karimi said of his Hornblend property rehabilitation. He added, “We asked the City, and it’s OK with them if we use it as medical offices, splitting the building’s interior with temporary movable walls.”

Added Karimi: “It’s in a multi-family zone. The City said we could use it as a single-family home or split it up. We can have up to six units on the site. We’re going to split it into three units, each 1,200- to 1,500-square-feet. We might keep the first level as parking and build something on top of that. We’re going to restore it (club building) and keep it the way it is.”

Karimi’s unsure of the timetable for redeveloping the Woman’s Club, adding it will take months just to get all the permitting to do construction. “I have no idea how long it will take before we can start work,” he pointed out, adding he would consider renting the former building out for weddings and other events. The building has two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a stage.

“The 6,200-square foot lot at 1704 Grand Ave. is a pre-World War I historic home and is 95 percent rehabbed.” Karimi added homes in his Grand Avenue investment, Karimi noted: “That was in really bad shape. We’ve worked on it for almost a year, and we’re about 95% done. The architecture of the house, the framing, was amazingly solid, with no termites or bad wood. We didn’t change any of the structure inside.”

The cottage structure in the back of the Grand Avenue property will be razed. “One plan is to build three units on the backside where the little cottage is now,” Karimi said. “The front of the house has already been fenced and we’re going to keep it the way it is. We plan to advertise it as a historic vacation rental so people all over the country can book it and come and enjoy a 1920s-era home in PB.”

Karimi’s been active in the PB real estate market for about a decade. He said he purchases historic homes because he finds them “interesting to work on. I like to restore them like old vehicles.” Karimi added homes in his native Persia aren’t considered to be historical until they’re more than 1,500 years old.

Are you looking to buy or invest in North Pacific Beach?

Enjoy living in the highly desirable North Pacific Beach Flats while you live in one unit and have the option to rent the other. This is also a great investment opportunity to have two units on one property in a prime location of 92109. Fully updated and furnished this turn-key property is ready for Summer. The 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom front home is comfortably laid out and opens to both outdoor living spaces. There is a storage shed which could also make a great home office.

The charming 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom back cottage features vaulted ceilings in one bedroom, a kitchen, living room, stacked laundry unit, and a spacious bathroom. It offers its own keyless access from the alley, a private yard, and air-conditioning. This is great for extended family to visit or earn additional income by renting out.

Enjoy living in this lively location while taking a walk only 7 blocks to the ocean, a few blocks to coffee, dining, and shops, or a quick bike ride to Mission Bay.

To learn more about this incredible opportunity reach out today to schedule a showing.
Big Table helps restaurant and hospitality workers in crisis

By DAVID SCHNARR

Big Table, which aids restaurant and hospitality workers in crisis, was busy in 2020 helping several more distressed workers than it did in 2019. “We helped 67 individuals in 2019 and 707 in 2020,” said Jesse Vigil, city director for Big Table, a nonprofit founded in 2009 in Washington state, which expanded to Pacific Beach in early 2020. “Last year was just brutal for the hospitality and restaurant industries for those who were unemployed, and now Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans are about done or going away very soon.”

As federal, state, and local COVID-19 containment measures prioritized closing restaurants, bars, and other hospitality businesses, Big Table found itself on the front line of the health and economic crisis.

“The magnitude of the task the nonprofit faces this year in continuing to help the COVID-ravaged hospitality workplace is reflected in the sheer numbers of those employed in that economic sector. San Diego is home to more than 7,000 restaurants and 500 hotels with roughly 186,000 employed in the industry. The average cost of living for a single San Diego parent with one child is $55,000. The average industry pay for a full-time employee is $28,849. Big Table intervenes on behalf of hardworking individuals in hospitality whenever they experience a temporary setback to offer support, encouragement, and hope. “Our services are provided through timely interventions, intentional relationships, and transformational care,” noted Vigil. “And in 2020, everyone was in crisis who was out of work, had delays in getting their unemployment benefits, or who had no safety net because they didn’t have a whole lot of savings. We really went into triage-care mode. “At such times, Big Table helps those in crisis by doing things like helping them pay their rent and their utilities, or by giving them gift cards to local grocery stores,” continued Vigil. “Last year our focus was on helping them with housing sustainability and food security in the midst of the pandemic.”

Big Table works off a referral rather than a hotline model, noted Vigil. “We help people through emotional or financial rough times with whatever they need.

“We're by and large staying with employed, but we're seeing a lot of people who are about to lose their jobs,” Vigil said. “We're providing support for those who might need to put food on the table and are incurring other expenses.”

Better late than never.

“We don’t want to see those who are unemployed for the first time and not used to it, be in a position where they don’t know how to ask for help,” Vigil said. “We provide people with what ever they need, including emergency needs and everyday budgeting needs.”

“We help people through situations in the present,” she said. “There is always a future. It is about creating a comfortable situation for people to get their feet back on the ground. People are still in need, but they’re not at the start of an economic crisis. People are doing the best they can to be able to support themselves.”

The 44-year-old Mandarin House was originally planned to reopen following repairs and a remodel by the December 2019 year-end holidays, which was extended to early 2020. The opening was delayed yet again following the pandemic, which struck in mid-March 2020. Previously, Steve Strauss, a partner with Cooley LLP law firm and a general partner of property owners Mandarin Partners, noted: “Our family has owned the property forever. It was my grandfather’s grocery store in the ’30s. My grandfather owned it, my dad owned it and now me.” Strauss noted Nelson Law is the restaurant’s owner and opera tor. “His father was the original tenant, John Law,” he said.

Mandarin House has also been well known over the years for owner Nelson Law’s family celebrating the Chinese New Year there every year with a massive festive and the traditional Lion Dance. “It was super lively back then,” Law recalled. “Lots of people. My dad started one of the early Chinese restaurants, so a lot of people who came to San Diego worked at the Mandarin House.”

Law’s late father, Tat “John” Law, and his partner, Wai “Bill” Man, worked their way up from dishwasher and delivery boys to head chefs in Hong Kong before relocating to the United States. The Mandarin House in La Jolla opened April 21, 1977 by Law and Man. Both men have since died of cancer.

That’s why Mandarin House donates all proceeds from their annual Chinese New Year parties to The Cancer Research Institute.
‘Life is a blessing’ with cats and Champagne in Pacific Beach

By DAVID SCHWAB

CAT PALACE BY CHAMPAGNE QUEEN
Where: 4125 Mission Blvd.
Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.
Contact: catpalaceds.org

I f you visit the nonprofit Cat Palace by Champagne Queen in Pacific Beach, you will be treated like royalty. You will be greeted with a red carpet and introduced to the “kings” and “queens,” being sure to make you feel like a member of the family. The Cat Palace by Champagne Queen is a unique establishment that welcomes visitors from all over the world. The Cat Palace offers a one-of-a-kind experience for guests.

There are two main areas in the Cat Palace: the kitten nursery and the adult cat lounge. The kitten nursery is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is staffed around the clock. The adult cat lounge is open during regular business hours and features a variety of adult cats for visitors to interact with.

The Cat Palace by Champagne Queen is owned and operated by Tara Boornazian, who has a passion for both cats and Champagne. She named the establishment after her travels abroad and her love for champagne.

Tara Boornazian has combined her passion for both kittens and Champagne. COURTESY PHOTO

Kitten season pounces upon San Diego this spring

BY DAVID SCHWAB

S pringtime brings with it a busy kitten season for the San Diego Humane Society. “As the days get longer and it gets lighter, that triggers animals to start thinking about mating and having kittens,” said Humane Society nursery and veterinary staff. Even the cats and kittens themselves are treated like monarchs. Each and every one has “prince” and “princess” attached to their names.

The palace, at 4125 Mission Blvd., which has been open for a month, is the brainchild of 23-year-old Tara Boornazian, who has a soft spot for kittens and champagne. She has found a novel way of combining her passion for both into creating a memorable, one-of-a-kind experience for guests.

“Their name is any place like this,” said an effervescent Tara. “Though we are a rescue shelter, we take it to the next level, make sure every cat that comes in here is super loved and cared for.”

She explained the origin of her nickname.

“I pop champagne every day just to celebrate life,” Tara said.

“Life is a blessing. Every day is beautiful. People take life for granted. So I wanted to celebrate and spread good vibes daily.”

The boutique owner noted it’s equally important to celebrate the lives of cats and other animals we share our lives with.

Boornazian said she was influenced to start her champagne business after traveling in the world and being exposed to cats (usually coffee) cafes. She said she’s even run across owl and dog cafes in Peru, purrfect painting lessons, and yoga with kittens. All cats will be up for adoption and those considering adopting them will be offered one-on-one playtime.

Boornazian is pleased with how things have gone at Cat Palace by Champagne Queen boutique so far. “It’s just the new trendy thing to do,” she said. “It’s just been real fun. A community hub, and an opportunity for people to come in and really feel like they’re part of something. Or, even just to come in if they’re having a bad day, and hang out with the cats. It’s a real chill environment, and a positive thing for the community.”

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KITTEN CARE

- Place the kitten on a heating pad or wrap them snugly in a warm towel until their temperature stabilizes. Always make sure there is a blanket or towel between the kitten and the heat source to prevent them from being burned.
- For kittens, less than 4-5 weeks, set up a cage or crate with a heating pad or disc on the bottom ensuring half the area has heat and the other half does not. Place a towel or blanket over the heat source. A soft fleece baby blanket works best.
- Cover the crate in front of the crate with a towel to keep the area draft free.
- Any formula designed for kittens will be suitable for orphaned kittens but not for cow’s milk. Once prepared the kitten formula must be refrigerated if not used right away. It may be discarded after 24 hours or else it will spoil and cause kittens to get diarrhea.
- Formula is made with 1 part formula to 2 parts warm water.
- Kittens less than 2 weeks of age should eat every 3-4 hours.
- Kittens 2-4 weeks should eat every 4-5 hours. They should not be woken up overnight to feed if they are sleeping.
- Kittens should eat approximately 30 ml of formula for every 100g they weigh. This should be spread over a 24-hour period.
- Kittens that are weak and not eating enough may need to be fed more frequently. These kittens may also need supportive fluids and dextrose.
- Test the formula temperature before feeding; it should be warm, not hot, and around 100 degrees. You should warm the bottle by placing it in hot water or a microwave can be used. Mix the formula well and test the temperature before feeding.
- Positioning is very important. Laying kittens on their backs while feeding may cause aspiration which is when kittens inhale formula into their respiratory tract rather than swallowing. Aspiration can lead to pneumonia which is often fatal in young kittens. To prevent aspiration, feed the kittens flat on their belly.
- When placing the bottle into the kitten’s mouth, open the mouth gently from the roughness feels like a mama cat’s cheeks or cupping their faces. This often encourages them to latch. If you or we take phone orders

By DAVID SCHWAB

S pringtime brings with it a busy kitten season for the San Diego Humane Society. “As the days get longer and it gets lighter, that triggers animals to start thinking about mating and having kittens,” said Humane Society nursery and veterinary staff. Even the cats and kittens themselves are treated like monarchs. Each and every one has “prince” and “princess” attached to their names.

The Humane Society’s Kitten Nursery was the first of its kind in the country, providing 24-hour around-the-clock care. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock. Before the 24-hour Kitten Nursery was established in 2009, many orphaned kittens were in danger around the clock.
Chateau La Jolla

Chateau La Jolla sits on a two-acre estate, 1/2 block from the ocean. Every aspect has been specially designed for comfort and convenience. Our unique layout ensures that everything is always within easy reach.

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Harmony Home Medical

Harmony Home Medical is San Diego’s #1 rated medical supply store, as well as the closest store to La Jolla. Conveniently located in Kearny Mesa, Harmony Home Medical’s showroom carries everything from gowns to grab bars, walkers to custom power wheelchairs. We are a full-service Aging-In-Place Superstore. We believe in educating our clients on their options and showing them what is possible. That is why we have two fully functioning stairlifts you can ride, right in the showroom! We stock all sorts of mobility devices to try like lift chairs and scooters, and we even have a roll-in shower installed to showcase how beautiful accessible bathrooms can be! We sell and install all medical devices, as well as have a home modifications contractor that can help you remodel your spaces for life! Call today to have a trusted and reliable partner in your independence. We offer free In-Home Evaluations and Quotes, and provide all follow-up service and repairs with our factory-trained technicians. Harmony Home Medical has been the local resource for all things aging since 2008 and we plan to be so for decades to come. Let us help you age-in-place!
Casa de Mañana

Overlooking the sparkling Pacific Ocean and steps away from La Jolla Cove, Casa de Mañana is truly a one-of-a-kind retirement experience. Enjoy resort-style amenities like oceanfront dining, scheduled transportation, fitness center, art studio, 24-hour wellness center, assisted living services and more. Casa offers a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities, educational classes and special events. Relax in the warm saltwater pool and spa or shop or dine in the nearby La Jolla Village shops and restaurants. At Casa de Mañana we take care of the housekeeping, maintenance and dining services. Casa’s friendly and attentive staff takes care of daily tasks so you can concentrate on living well and pursuing your passions. All this for one inclusive monthly fee. No entrance fees required! Learn why Casa de Mañana has been voted La Jolla’s best retirement community multiple times. Contact us at 800.959.7010 or casademana.org.

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Established in early 2008, Jean Brooks (UCSD Graduate) and Todd Brooks (Air Force Veteran, US Air Force Academy Graduate) wanted to develop better Assisted Living Care Homes and Services for seniors at fair & competitive rates. Right Choice Senior Living has Residential Care Homes located in highly desirable neighborhoods close to UCSD, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Clairemont (Mount Street Area), La Mesa, Del Cerro. See us today before making your final choice. Make the Right Choice Today.

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For more info call (619) 246-2003 or go to the www.rightchoiceseniorliving.org. NOW HIRING CAREGIVERS! CALL NOW!
City Council approves deal to market Get It Done to other cities

San Diego City Council approved an agreement, which would allow the sale of the City’s Get It Done software to other cities and government agencies who wish to use the software to help streamline requests for services from their residents.

The three-year marketing agreement between Deloitte and the City allows the sale of the City’s Get It Done software, built on the Salesforce platform, to other cities and organizations. Depending on the number of sales, this could provide more than $1 million in additional revenue to the City.

Last month, the City announced an update to the Get It Done app that includes Spanish language support, enhanced mapping and a sleek new interface. Since 2016, more than 1 million reports have been submitted to Get It Done.

“Since the launch of Get It Done, we’ve received interest from other cities to deploy similar programs,” said Alex Hempton, technology and innovation deputy director with the City’s Performance and Analytics Department. “With this marketing agreement in place with Deloitte, we’ll be able to help provide a path forward for other cities and generate revenue for the City.”

The Get It Done website and mobile app were launched in May 2016 with the goal of making it easier for residents to request City services or report issues in their neighborhoods. Originally, the app focused on services provided by the Transportation and Storm Water Department with the capability for users to submit reports for 20 different non-emergency issues. Today, the program includes 24 different internal functional areas and dozens of services including case management, container sales and inventory, code enforcement, inspections and work order management, among others.

“Cities need ways to innovate and provide quality customer service to their residents and businesses,” said Christina Bibler, director of the Economic Development Department. “This is where San Diego is leading and wants to share its expertise nationwide to drive solutions to communities and direct responses to customers. Smart cities are providing smarter solutions.”

The agreement gives other cities and agencies access to software that has already been shown to be successful in improving services for residents in San Diego and eliminates unnecessary development costs while expediting launching the service to the public.

“The City of San Diego’s Get It Done program has been widely recognized for providing San Diego residents with easy access to City services,” said Michael Henry, managing director, Deloitte Consulting LLP. “Deloitte is proud to help take this award-winning solution to other cities through this innovative alliance.”

Ocean Park Inn in Pacific Beach unveils phase two of renovation

Ocean Park Inn, a family-owned and operated hotel celebrating 30 years in Pacific Beach, is now open after a year-long property-wide renovation. The beachfront hotel, situated on the boardwalk just steps from the sand, has unveiled a refreshed exterior, pool deck and lounge area as part of the second phase of a property-wide renovation.

Set to flow with the property’s mid-century-meets-the-beach vibe, the building exterior has a new look echoing the interior enhancements brought to life by Los Angeles-based interior architectural design firm Clear on Black.

The newly transformed pool deck encompasses an abstract mid-century pattern made of recycled rubber and features crisp white sun loungers with teak accents to complete the clean, modern aesthetic. The hotel has also introduced a new brand aesthetic and website to reflect the community and underlying mid-century Tiki theme.

The Lai family has operated the hotel since 1967, introducing the Ocean Park Inn brand and its current location in 1991. “Our reopening has been greatly anticipated, but we are ready and extremely excited to welcome back our loyal guests and to share our stunning new home away from home,” said CEO and president Elvin Lai. “We have been known for our impeccable service over the last 30 years and now in addition, we also serve local and with a youthful vibrancy inspired by the history and ambience of the surrounding Pacific Beach community.”

The phase three lobby enhancements are slated to be unveiled in May 2021 and will showcase contributions from local artists including an art installment by Randall Engstrom of Randall's Sandals, ocean-inspired tabletops by Brett Olson of Wave Surface, and a walking tour of Pacific Beach by photographer John Cocozza.

The fourth and final phase of the renovation is set for 2022 and will include a guest-only surf and Tiki-inspired cocktail pool bar.

For more information, visit oceanparkinn.com.
Marcella Bothwell of PBTC in introducing energy speakers. “You may choose on your bill whether you want to have more fossil fuels or not. That’s already a done deal. “The difference is now we’re talking about not only what kind of energy we get, but how it’s delivered,” continued Bothwell.

“The City is evaluating the two bids they got back, both from SDG&E. The question now is, are those contracts good for the City? How long should that contract be for? And should that contract be with SDG&E versus a potential city-owned utility?”

Dearborn of Public Power San Diego argued municipalizing the City’s power would “ensure greater transparency and control over the size of our power bills. It would provide lower rates to every taxpayer. We’re asking every San Diegan to vote no on this newest, bad franchise agreement.”

“This is an enormous amount of money and a utility agreement worth everybody’s attention,” contended Rose of Public Power San Diego. “Under our current franchise agreement, SDG&E is earning $1 million a day, and we are paying the highest utility rates in California.”

Noting there is a shift away from fossil fuels and toward electricity and alternative energy. Rose contended “the power industry is poised for explosive growth. The City should commission a feasibility study for public power, a professional evaluation of a franchise award. We can’t sell something we don’t know the rough value of.”

“Any franchise agreement should be less than five years, and expressly provide a transition to nonprofit, independent public power,” continued Rose. “A public utility will take time to organize. It’s worth it. We know public power has proven to be effective in dozens of communities.”

Butkiewicz of SDG&E defended the utility. “We want to continue our partnership with the City,” she said. “We’ve been shifting to renewable energy, clean energy, supporting the City’s goal of getting to 100% renewable energy. About 40% of our energy is clean energy. The national average is about 10%.”

Union leader Fairman of IBEW 465 urged against switching to public power, asserting it’s an uncertain gamble.

“The City tends to go with the lowest bidder and we should be focusing on getting the best value,” he said. “We support public power. But we also support investor-owned utilities like SDG&E. The impact to City workers of a government takeover of an investor-owned utility is unknown.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnnews.com
SENIORS NURTURE NATURE

For more than a year, Carol Studebaker, Ken King, and about a dozen residents at White Sands La Jolla have embraced environmental stewardship at their waterfront senior living community through the resident-led Green Committee. Inspired by former Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s pledge in early 2020 to support the devastated monarch butterfly population, the committee purchased milkweed plants for residents to nurture on their patios. They’ve since released three hatches, or about 16 of the iconic black-and-orange butterflies.

“During COVID-19, it was a real spirit lifter,” said King, who has served as a docent at nearby Torrey Pines State Reserve for almost 20 years. “It’s a piece of nature to watch; we get a beautiful butterfly as a result and help address the bigger picture of continuation of a species.”

It isn’t just the monarchs committee members are dedicated to. They recently introduced an eyeglass/hearing aid recycling program sponsored by the Lions Club; replaced takeout containers in dining services with a biodegradable, corn-based option; provide tips to residents on proper recycling; and are researching how residents can properly and safely dispose of prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs that are no longer needed.

SCRIPPS PIER OSPREY CAM

A new Osprey Cam is now live-streaming from the pier at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Bird lovers or anyone looking for a dose of nature can get an up-close view of resident ospreys and their current nesting activities through the link scripps.ucsd.edu/piercam. Ospreys are large birds of prey that can be found patrolling shorelines and bodies of water, including the waters off San Diego. The custom nesting platform was installed on the Ellen Browning Scripps Memorial Pier in late 2018 thanks to support from environmentalists Bev Grant and Art Cooley, who wanted to give the birds a safe place to breed. Currently, the birds appear to be nesting and eggs have been spotted.

CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM

The City of San Diego Annual Beach Area Construction Restriction limits non-emergency construction work during the summer period, minimizing impacts on beach area businesses and residents. The summer period is considered to extend from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The restriction affects travel lanes, parking lanes, and pedestrian walkways on streets adjacent to beach areas where merchants could be adversely affected by construction activities and significant roadways entering/exiting the beach areas. The periods of most critical concern are Memorial Day (May 31), Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (Sept. 6). Thus, the City is requesting that no construction activities be scheduled on the days preceding and immediately following these holiday periods. Visit sandiego.gov/dsd-email to sign up to get the latest news and updates straight from DSD.

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- 34 back to back showings in four days!
- Nine competitive offers at or over asking price!

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The Greg Cummings Group
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MISSION BAY PITCHER THROWS NO-HITTER

The Mission Bay High pitcher Christopher Weidman threw a no-hitter in a 1-0 win over West Hills High at the GMC Baseball Tournament in April. In a close game, where the tying run was thrown out at home plate, Weidman used 65 pitches in 7 innings to dominate the West Hills’ batters. Weidman now joins Padres pitcher Joe Musgrove in San Diego’s no-hitter club this season.

PHOTO BY PHIL JORDAN

CURRENT COASTAL LISTINGS

BY HELEN SPEAR

IN ESCROW

4917 BAYARD | North PB
Record-Breaking Price: $1,140,000

725 DOVER CT | Mission Beach
725DoverCourt.com | $3,195,000

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1225 Pacific Beach Dr. 4E
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Remodeled condo in Sail Bay. This top floor condo boasts granite countertops, tile flooring, remodeled bathrooms, a large balcony, and peak view of the bay!

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PB Fun Fact:
When Pacific Beach was first mapped out in 1887, ‘avenues’ ran in an east-west direction between the beach and Rose Creek and ‘streets’ ran north and south between False (now Mission) Bay and Mt. Soledad.