Business district may extend its security program

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Ocean Beach Main-Street Association, the beach community’s business improvement district, has until the first of the year to decide whether or not to extend a trial period for use of two security guards in a program dedicated to keeping Ocean Beach family friendly while enhancing public safety.

The OB Security Program, launched during summer of 2014, has been funded primarily by business owners and residents with some additional funds from the Newport Avenue Maintenance Assessment District. The

Newsom opts out of SD mayoral race

Gretchen Newsom, Ocean Beach Town Council president who declared her Democratic candidacy for San Diego mayor seven weeks ago, has dropped out of the race for personal reasons.

Newsom issued the following statement on her decision to withdraw:

“I have decided that I will not run for mayor. My husband and I have recently decided to divorce on an amicable basis, and, therefore, I need to focus on our son. I appreciate everyone’s respect of our privacy.

“I want to thank my friends, neighbors and community for the outpouring of support I have received. I am honored by and grateful for your enthusiasm to stand with me.”
Ocean Beach loses its 'Bossman,' Point Lomans fight FAA flight plans, a perpetual remodel, and a Public Market coming to Liberty Station

From the get-go, 2015 was an eventful – and productive – year for Peninsulans in Ocean Beach and Point Loma. Here are some month-by-month highlights:

**JANUARY**
- In what's become an annual rite of passage, students and parents from Silver Gate, Dana and Correia middle schools surf teams proved they're not hypothermic by taking the "polar bear plunge," without wetsuits, on New Year's weekend.
- January brings rain and cooler temperatures as well as the seasonal gray whale migration along the San Diego coast. Sportfishing specialists H&M Landing in Point Loma was profiled for the three-hour whale watching tours it's been conducting since 1956.
- Restaurateur Jeff Levitt, co-owner of OB bistro Shades, continued quarterly pet adoption events on the restaurant's outdoor patio at 5083 Santa Monica Ave.
- More than 100 surfers held a paddle-out Jan. 17 honoring legendary Point Loma surfer Barry Ault, who died on Christmas day at 71 of a staph infection.
- Residents of Point Loma’s Roseville neighborhood took the first step in a long-term project to convert a vacant lot on Canon Street into a pocket park by cleaning the lot of debris and dead vegetation.
- Capt. Howard Warner, Naval Base Point Loma’s commander, addressed Peninsula Community Planning Group Jan. 15 answering questions about the controversial fuel pipeline project. Some 1.5 miles of the 17.5-mile pipeline will be relocated from the submarine base to Miramar Marine Base. Warner defended the necessity for relocation of a section of the pipeline along busy Rosecrans Street, saying the realignment will make the pipeline more seismically and environmentally safe.

**FEBRUARY**
- The owner of a “perpetual remodel” at 1676 Plum St., which had been under construction for more than seven years, was ordered by a judge to fix, sell or demolish it. A grass-roots group named Preserve Point Loma announced Feb. 2 it was organizing the Point Loma community to persuade City Council to deny a proposed four-lot subdivision on the old Jessop estate at La Crescentia Drive. Opponents argued the Jessop site contains environmentally sensitive steep lands and unstable hillsides and should be protected, not redeveloped.
- Architects contracted by the San Diego Unified School District outlined the first phase of a long-term project to upgrade facilities at Point Loma High School during the first of three planned community meetings on the high school campus.
- Point Loma’s patron saint, the nonprofit Point Loma Association, announced a membership drive. Since 1961, the association, comprising residents and businesses, has been committed to projects like median beautification on Nimitz Boulevard to improve Point Loma’s quality of life.
- Why are sunsets so spectacular in winter? Because of the clouds that time of year, answered Beacon editor Thomas

Wishing everyone on the Peninsula a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

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The owner of a “perpetual remodel” at 1676 Plum St. in Point Loma, which had been under construction for more than seven years, was ordered by a judge to fix, sell or demolish it.

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Huge waves crashed onto Sunset Cliffs Natural Park’s rocks during a king tide, which is what the highest annual tides are called. City Council voted 6-3 Feb. 9 to deny a project proposal to do a lot split at the old Jessop estate that was opposed by some local residents.

OB restaurateur Mike “Bossman” Hardin, owner-operator of iconic Hodad’s Burgers, whose nickname was tattooed on his knuckles, died unexpectedly Feb. 5, sending the Peninsula community into mourning.

Point Loma Betty Peabody, whose volunteerism has played a prominent role in Balboa Park’s success, was named San Diego Woman of the Year by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. Robb Field Skate Park marked 15 years in OB with a visit from legendary skateboarder Tony Hawk. Loma Portal Elementary School celebrated its centennial during a yearlong celebration that kicked off with a fundraising gala March 20.

Point Lomans started a petition drive to close Canon Street between Talbot Street and Catalina Boulevard following a March 2 early-morning accident in which a father and his child were struck by an SUV.

Cancer victim Gary Orwig had held No. 8 at Robb Field dedicated in his name March 15. He was an integral part of Point Loma/Ocean Beach’s baseball/softball community.

The curtain at the historic Luce Auditorium in Liberty Station will rise again, as it was announced that Buckdot Hospitality planned to open a state-of-the-art boutique multi-theater complex, to be called The Lot (like its sister complex in La Jolla) in the former 20,000-square-foot Luce Auditorium, which originally opened in 1941.

Tiffany Two, a cat owned by retired Point Loma attorney Sharron Voorhees, turned 27 on March 13, making it the world’s oldest living feline.

Point Loma Patients Cooperative, at 1452 Hancock St. in the Midway area, became the first medical marijuana dispensary to be approved in Council District 2.

Cabrillo National Monument, its old lighthouse and tide pools were profiled in a front-page feature in the April 30 issue.

The Peninsula Community Planning Board was told in April that new wayfinding signage for Liberty Station is on the way.

National Bike to Work Day was held May 15 in Point Loma with three pit stops. The event encourages people to bicycle to work, encouraging more healthful lifestyles.

Octogenarians Louie and Virgil Paulerio, who’ve owned a barber shop under construction.

The courts ordered the owner of a “perpetual remodel” at 1676 Plum St. in Point Loma to resume work on his half-finished mansion.

The 67th installment of Ocean Beach Kiwanis’ Kite Festival was held May 9 at Dusty Rhodes Park.

At its annual town hall forum, the Point Loma Association heard about the controversial proposed Navy pipeline relocation along Rosecrans, about North Harbor Drive improvements and about the new $316 million airport rental car center under construction.

Lisa Johnson was named the new general manager overseeing the NTC Arts and Culture District at Liberty Station.

At a May 21 Peninsula Community Planning Board meeting, the city announced plans for signaling and restriping the intersection at Catalina National Boulevard/Canon Street, where a child in a stroller was killed and its father critically injured in an early-morning accident involving an SUV.

Surfrider Foundation San Diego County chapter chair Mark West discussed the chapter’s role in maintaining beaches, bay and ocean in a profile.

May this Holiday Season be blessed with Peace On Earth And Goodwill To All

We thank all of you who have given THE GHIO GROUP the opportunity to assist with your real estate needs in 2015. Your business and referrals have helped us achieve another consecutive year as Berkshire Hathaway’s Top Producer for its Point Loma Office and in the top 1% of all Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Sales Associates Nationwide. We couldn’t have done it without you!

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

JUNE

- The San Diego Comic Art Gallery opened, showcasing the artwork of Kevin Eastman, co-creator of the Ninja Turtles comic characters.
- Thousands of visitors turned out for the 36th annual OB Street Fair & Chili Cook-off on June 27.
- The discovery of an erosion-caused cave used by the homeless in Sunset Cliffs fueled community concern about environmental damage and public safety.
- As of June 4, airlines previously operating out of the commuter terminal at San Diego International Airport were relocated to gates in Terminals 1 and 2.
- The city's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee directed staff to return with a new draft ordinance on controversial short-term vacation rentals, better defining and more strictly controlling them. Earlier start times for some Point Loma cluster schools for the 2015-16 year had some parents crying foul.
- OB Elementary fourth-grader Zarai Rosenweig-Ballard and Correia Middle School eighth-grader Ava Marie Burner won, respectively, for their turkey taco and avocado salad dishes in San Diego Unified School District's Kids Create Recipe Contest.
- During a mini-workshop on homelessness at its June meeting, Midway Community Planning Group was told by city officials and public service providers there is no "silver bullet" to address homelessness, which is epidemic in the Midway District. District 2 Councilwoman Lorie Zapf said there's a new generation of "urban campers" now using smartphones. "We're trying to come up with some solutions the community can support and move forward with," Zapf said.

JULY

- The iconic OB seagull logo was sold to John McCoy, the owner of Ocean Gifts & Shells on Newport Avenue. The hand-drawn logo was created in the '60s by Bob Sorben, who still owns/manages Peninsula Graphics in Point Loma.
- The Heritage Group, a real estate management and investment advisory firm involved in multiple projects in the Midway District, including the $6.2 million sale of Midway Village Shopping Center, reported the District is "poised for growth," noting its redevelopment is likely to include mixed-use, transit-oriented and smart-growth projects.
- Cabrillo National Monument Foundation held its first Cabrillo Sunset 5K run-walk July 25 at the national park, at 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive.
- Point Lomans and the PLA representing them were up in arms when the Murdocks had previously agreed to remove the billboard in exchange for the non-profit's support of the Murdocks holding on July 25.
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AUGUST

- OB Elementary fourth-grader Zarai Rosenweig-Ballard and Correia Middle School eighth-grader Ava Marie Burner won, respectively, for their turkey taco and avocado salad dishes in San Diego Unified School District's Kids Create Recipe Contest.
- The FAA announced plans to consider deviating flight paths from the LOWMA Waypoint, which for years has minimized flights over residential areas. Point Lomans have continued to protest the FAA proposal.

The 10th annual ArtWalk NTC at Liberty Station revealed the city of San Diego's commitment to supporting local artists and creatives. The event featured over 50 artists displaying their work in various mediums, from paintings to sculptures, and provided a platform for artists to showcase their talent and connect with the community.

The 105th Portuguese Festa do Divino Espirito Santo (Feast of the Holy Spirit) Queen Ashley Barandaran, (Right) Octogonians Louie and Virgil Paulson, who've owned a barber shop on Rosecrans Street for 55 years, announced their retirement.

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YEAR IN REVIEW
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

food and live entertainment, was held Aug. 15 and 16.

Culminating 14 years of effort, the California Coastal Commission Aug. 13 vote unanimously to approve Ocean Beach’s Community Plan.

Controversy continued over security camera footage taken by a San Diego police officer who shot and killed a mentally ill man in April in the Midway District in an incident some allege was unprovoked.

In August a judge set a January 2016 deadline for the owner of a “perpetual remodel” on Plum Street to either finish up, sell or raze the unfinished mansion.

Point Loma Patients Consumer Co-Op, the first medical marijuana dispensary legally approved for Council District 2, opened at 3452 Hancock St. in the Midway District.

Liberty Station announced plans for three hotels to be built at the former Wally Park San Diego site. Coasterra, an upscale Mexican restaurant, lounge and event space, opened on Harbor Island.

SEPTEMBER

Police and lifeguards were contending with a new growing problem: youthful cliff divers making a 30-foot leap from the Arch at Sunset Cliffs in OB.

Shane Hardin, son of the late Mike “Bossman” Hardin, announced he would be carrying on with the family business, moving Ocean Beach’s iconic Hodad’s burger place forward.

The Beacon profiled Seabreeze Limited, a shop that has been selling charts, guides and books for mariners for 35 years in Point Loma. High-profile Nelson Photo Supplies announced it would be moving from Little Italy to Point Loma Plaza.

A new microbrewery, Modern Times, at 1725 Greenwood St. in the Midway District, was profiled. Also on the beer front, Mike Hess Brewing opened a tasting room in Ocean Beach, at 4893 Voltaire St.

A major tiff evolved in the wake of an announcement by the Federal Aviation Administration that flight changes being proposed at San Diego International Airport that could lead to more planes flying over more parts of the Peninsula.

Kevin McKay, former managing editor of the Peninsula Beacon, died at 51 after a long illness.

The annual Cabrillo Festival historical re-enactment at Ballast Point was held Sept. 27.

The annual Ocean Beach Pier Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to support OB Town Council was held Sept. 19.

Point Loma yoga instructor Amy Pachowicz and her studio were showcased in a Beacon feature.

OCTOBER

Point Lomans showed their displeasure over FAA-announced plans to consider deviating flight paths from the LOWMA Waypoint, which for years has minimized flights over residential areas. An online petition drive garnered more than 2,000 signatures in less than two weeks, and 1,000 residents packed a Liberty Station meeting hall Oct. 6 for a special meeting to protest the FAA proposal.

Outgoing City Council member Marty Emerald made a personal appearance at Peninsula Community Planning Board to lobby in favor of putting a $280 million city firehouse bond on the November 2016 ballot.

In September, Midway Community Planning Group got progress reports on its ongoing Community Plan Update.

A Beacon feature discussed a new cooperative spirit between Peninsula leaders in both OB and Point Loma. The 11th annual OB Oktoberfest was held Oct. 9-10, featuring brew, games, entertainment and the annual Brat Trot run.

The Wine Pub on Shelter Island hosted its third annual Bike for Boobs anti-cancer fundraising bike ride Oct. 18.

Liberty Public Market held a “hardhat” tour Oct. 7, giving the public a sneak peek at its new Liberty Market space under construction, with an early 2016 planned opening. Liberty Station spokesman Nathan Cadieux also unveiled a new logo and promotional materials for the market, a 22,000-square-foot artisan mecca in Building 1, at 2816 Historic Decatur Road.

SeaWorld announced its intent to challenge the Coastal Commission’s conditional approval of plans to double the size of its orca tank. The Commission approved the tank expansion with the provision that orcas kept there could not be captured in the wild or bred from genetic material.

The Point Loma High School Pointers rallied to support Kevin Gorman, the high school’s vice principal, who was suffering from a brain tumor.

November

In an apparent about-face bowing to public opinion, SeaWorld San Diego Nov. 9 announced plans to phase out its orca shows in 2016 and to replace them with a “more natural” whale experience in 2017.

San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis announced a San Diego police officer who shot and killed an unarmed mentally ill man in the Midway District earlier in the year would not be prosecuted, noting the case “didn’t meet the high bar needed to criminally charge officers in the line of duty.”

A Beacon feature discussed the probability of warmer-than-usual El Niño ocean temperatures in the Pacific, bringing stormy weather to San Diego this winter.

Peninsula artists whose work was on display in the Central Library’s Rainmaker exhibit were profiled.

December

On Dec. 5, the City Planning Commission “bureaucracy” a proposed new city ordinance on Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs), sending it back to staff for revision.

On Dec. 2, OB Planning Board urged strict limits for STVRs in residential areas.

Dave Martin and Lynn Silva joined Point Loma Association’s board.

Tami Wong was tapped to lead the new wine program at Liberty Public Market’s in-house restaurant, Meso Hall.

Crowds were heavy on Newport Avenue to watch the annual OB Holiday Parade on Dec. 5. OB Town Council held an auction Dec. 3 to raise funds to support its annual Food and Toy Drive.

On Dec. 8, San Diego International Airport unveiled MetroGnome, a public art project featuring two 54-foot-high kinetic sculptural forms.

A front-page article in the Dec. 17 news featured the annual Garrison Street Christmas light show and profiled a hot chocolate fundraiser to support Point Loma High School junior Divina Loe.
New laws to go into effect for 2016

Br. Dave Schnied | The Beacon

Every year, California legislators propose new laws in a legislative session ending Aug. 31, and some of them are signed by the governor by year’s end. Following is a look at some of the more impactful measures signed by Gov. Jerry Brown this year that will go into effect in 2016.

Employment and labor
■ Senate Bill 588: Wage theft bill targeting employers that shortchange workers. Workers across California experience wage theft, the illegal practice of declining pay for all work. This includes violating minimum wage laws, failing to pay overtime, forcing workers to work off the clock, denying meal and rest breaks, illegal deductions and more.
SB 588 allows California’s labor commissioner to place a lien on the property of an employer cited for wage theft. It also helps protect cited employers from skipping out on penalties and back wages by requiring them to post a bond of at least $5,000 to continue doing business. It prohibits the company from closing and reopenning with a different name.
■ Senate Bill 358: Gender wage gap. California Fair Pay Act. This bill is intended to increase wage transparency and make it more difficult for an employer to defend against an equal pay claim. It takes effect Jan. 1. The bill’s intended purpose is to rectify California’s “gender wage inequality” by discouraging secrecy among employees regarding their pay.
It will allow open discussion and inquiries by employees regarding their own pay, as well as the pay of their co-workers, to enable employees to discover and challenge any wage differential and rectify the gap.
SB 358 also prohibits employers from discriminating or retaliating against employees who asked to enforce their rights under the amended statute. Employees who can prove they were discharged, discriminated against or retaliated against in violation of the amended statutory scheme are entitled to seek reinstatement, recover lost wages and benefits and obtain equitable relief against their employer.

Health Care
■ Senate Bill 4: Extension of California’s health care program for the poor to cover immigrant children from low-income families regardless of their legal status. Gov. Brown and legislative leaders have also approved state funding to cover all children under 19 in Medi-Cal, the state’s health care program for the poor. The initial cost is estimated at $40 million.
The law takes effect in May.
■ Senate Bill 792: Vaccinations of California day care workers. This first-in-the-nation adult vaccine mandate goes into effect Sept. 1. The bill requires proof of vaccination for measles and pertussis and optional annual flu vaccine (for the first year of employment) for daycare providers, early childhood teachers. Head Start parents, parent co-ops wherein money is exchanged, YMCA early childhood and after-school program caregivers, in-home daycare providers and parent volunteers who care for and supervise children. Medical exemptions for all three mandated vaccines include titer testing, pregnancy contraindicated for measles, mumps and Rubella, pre-pregnancy, lactation, infertility and autoimmune diseases. All are considerations for medical exemption for the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine and measles, mumps and Rubella vaccine.

Firesarms
■ Senate Bill 707: Concealed weapons banned from schools, universities. Existing law prohibits a person from possessing a firearm in a place that the person knows, or reasonably should know, is a school zone, unless with the written permission of certain school district officials. Existing law defines a school zone as an area on the grounds of a school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12 or within a distance of 1,000 feet of that school.
SB 707 recasts the provisions relating to a person holding a valid license to carry a concealed firearm to allow that person to carry a firearm in an area within 1,000 feet of, but not on the grounds of, a public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12. The bill also deletes the exemption that allows a person holding a valid license to carry a concealed firearm to bring or possess a firearm on the campus of a university or college.
The bill creates an additional exemption for those prohibitions for certain appointed peace officers authorized to carry a firearm and an exemption for certain retired reserve peace officers who are authorized to carry a concealed or loaded firearm.

Voting
■ Assembly Bill 1461: Motor Voter Program. The bill by San Diego Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez aims to boost California’s voter rolls by registering visitors to the Department of Motor Vehicles. It follows Oregon’s move earlier this year to adopt the nation’s first automatic voter registration law.
Lawmakers approved the so-called motor voter law this summer. Some Republican lawmakers say voters shouldn’t be forced to sign up. They warn that automatic registration could lead to voter fraud if people not eligible are accidentally registered.

Privacy
■ Senate Bill 178: California Electronic Communications Privacy Act. Taking effect Jan. 1, the landmark California Electronic Communications Privacy Act is the most comprehensive digital privacy law in the nation. It makes sure police go to a judge and get a warrant before they can get access to electronic information about who we are, where we go, who we know and what we do. It requires a probable cause warrant for all digital content, location information, metadata and access to devices such as cell phones. The law’s notice and enforcement provisions make sure there is proper oversight and mechanisms to ensure that the law is followed.

Sports
■ Assembly Bill 360: Public schools can’t call their sport teams or mascots Redskins. Existing law provides that state policy affords all persons in public schools equal rights and opportunities in educational institutions. This bill establishes the California Racial Mascots Act, which prohibits public schools from using the term Redskins as a school or athletic team name, mascot or nick-
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Mike Fahey

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Mike Fahey

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Santa visits OB
Photo by Larry Wasserman
Plenty of live music on New Year’s eve

By BART MENDOZA | The Beacon

There are plenty of nights to party and celebrate each year, but undeniably the biggest is New Year’s eve. Perhaps it’s the thought of starting over the next day with a clean slate and a new year, but celebrations on Dec. 31 always tend to be among the rowdiest and the most sentimental of occasions. Before we head into 2016, here are some of the festivities happening in the area, with something on offer for just about every music fan.

Jam band The Brothers Gow have a special show set for Dec. 31 at Winston’s, with the band set to perform their second annual Time Travel show, playing hits from 1966 to today. The band has been building an impressive following across the U.S., with fans packing legendary venues such as Los Angeles Orpheum, drawn by their improv prowess and funky beats.

For this show, however, the band plays exclusively covers, turning in great versions of such unlikely songs as David Bowie’s “Fame,” Abba’s “Take on Me,” and KC & The Sunshine Band’s “Get Down Tonight.”

With a keen sense of humor that shines through in their performances and the musical chops to play some tricky tunes, these guys will have the dance floor filled from start to finish.

winstonsoh.com

Also involving a bit of time travel, music aficionados heading to the Turquoise will find a themed event, Chicago Meets Prohibition.

“With the look and feel of the 1920s through 1940s, the night includes all drinks and tapas, with a big band, Ragtime Meets Swing, set to provide the soundtrack of tunes from the era. Other entertainment is set to include a DJ, with more modern sounds, as well as a video presentation of classic music clips through the decades.”

The night’s highlight, in fitting with the vintage era theme, will likely be the staging of a full burlesque show set to live music. With so much activity and a fun menu, this could be the year’s ultimate date night.

thsaturday.com/nye

Heading over to the waterfront, anyone wanting a fun night of soul and funk dancing will find Humphrey’s Backstage Live to be the perfect option. Great food, a spacious dance floor, fantastic views and plenty of parking highlight an evening that will feature one of San Diego’s top dance bands, Detroit Underground.

Featuring singer Stella Lindgren and a full horn section, the group plays a wide range of material, but where it excels is in mid-’70s through 1980s tunes by the likes of The O’Jays, Earth Wind & Fire or Anita Baker.

The whole band is topflight, but Lindgren’s passion for the music and engaging stage presence put Detroit Underground a notch above the rest.

humphreysbackstagelive.com

Other fun options

As the name indicates, The Reflectors, who will be appearing at Tio Leo’s, are influenced by the hits of the ‘80s, particularly rock-oriented numbers by the likes of U2, The Smiths and Dire Straits.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will host the 6th annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Jan. 18, from noon to 3 p.m. The event is free and open to all pets, no matter what kind they are. There will be a pet costume contest to participate. Last year’s event attracted more than 500 attendees. Admission to this event is free. For more information, call 619-233-8202.

Enjoy the Beauty of Old Town

OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK HOSTS
THE 7TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The event in the central plaza of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will have activities for adults, children and their pets. The pet expo will have pet treats for fostering, adoption opportunities from various rescue groups and educational information on rescuing, rehabilitation and supporting the animals in your area. A pet costume contest will take place at 2:30 p.m. featuring prizes for several categories including best dressed and best pet-owner look alike. Participating exhibitors, lined up by press time, were Chihuahua Rescue of San Diego, Dogs on Deployment, Emergency Animal Rescue, Helen Woodward Animal Care, Petco Education and Adoption Center, Paws Into Grace Animal Hospice, Friddy Girl Petcare, Rancho Coastal Humane Society, San Diego Happy Dogs and Sky Husters. Chopper the Biker Dog will be on hand to entertain the crowd.

Sponsored by Fiesta de Reyes, the Blessing of the Animals event invites people and animals of all faiths and convictions to participate. Last year’s event attracted more than 500 attendees, which was the highest attendance recorded in the modern event’s five-year history. This year, the event will again be held at the San Diego Underground, featuring singer Stella Lindgren and a full horn section, the group plays a wide range of material, but where it excels is in mid-’70s through 1980s tunes by the likes of The O’Jays, Earth Wind & Fire or Anita Baker.

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The new skating rink is not the only new ice at Liberty Station. The NTC Foundation recently unveiled its first art commission, just in time for the holiday season.

Entitled ICE, the light sculpture is on display in the fountain in front of the Dick Laub NTC Command Center. Created by internationally renowned La Jolla artist Smadar Samson, the installation aligns with the opening of the Fantasy on Ice rink.

“Our Art in Public Places initiative has been on the radar for quite a while,” explained NTC Foundation Executive Director Alan Ziter. “We have had many works on public display over the past 10 years, including pieces by Inocente, Robert Michael Jones, Jefery Launsdager and Bernar Venet, but this is the perfect time to officially launch an Art in Public Places program, as we have created a topnotch committee and start-up funding in place.”

Samson was granted $3,800 to fabricate and install the temporary sculpture. “We were impressed with the ingenuity of the piece,” Ziter said, “as well as its relation to issues of global warming and the site chosen. It adds a creative visual arts component to our Fantasy on Ice extravaganza.” The sculpture will remain on display through Jan. 17.

Samson will be on hand for a Meet the Artist talk at the Command Center during the next Friday Night Liberty free art walk, on Jan. 8.

The newly formed Art in Public Places committee will be developing a long-term plan and policy for enlivening the 28-acre Arts District with art and providing an opportunity for more San Diego artists to show and sell their work. “Art in the public places is a natural extension of the work being done by artist in our galleries and museums,” said NTC Foundation Board member and committee chair Vicki Reed. “Great cities have great art in unique public spaces that provides viewing and access that is free and nonexclusive. Our goal will be to add meaning, interest and purpose to our already amazing plazas, arcades and buildings at this historic former Navy base.”

For now, the Art in Public Places committee consists of NTC Foundation board members and community representatives: Reed, Community Volunteer; Victoria Hamilton, Arts and Culture Advocate, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation; Judy McDonald, Community Volunteer; Mary Krough Lyman; Lynda Forsha, Principal, Independent Curator and Principal, Art Advisory Services; and Nathan Cadieux, vice president, McMillin Cos.
The Force was awakened at Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park held a pre-screening party and then an exclusive private screening of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” at the AMC Mission Valley IMAX theater on Thursday, Dec. 17.

Hundreds of fans – dressed as Jedi Knights, Han Solos and Princess Leias (some in gold bikinis and others in more modest flowing white dress with hair buns) – came out to meet R2D2 and Boba Fett, hang with Stormtroopers from the 501st Legion and consume colorful drinks and food from local restaurants, distilleries and breweries.

The Star Wars fans also witnessed a demonstration on how hover transportation could work and try diligently to make their own lightsabers at the Fleet Center. The evening culminated with a private motorcoach ride to the theater to watch “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.”

Food and drink sponsors at the pre-screening party included Aces Brewing Co., Old Harbor Distilling Co., Port Brewing and Lost Abbey, The Prado, Quad Ale House, Saito Sake & Sushi Bar, Bice Ristorante, Slater’s 50/50, High Dive Bar & Grill, Soda & Swine, Malahat Spirits Co.,

A new report has just been released which reveals costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their homes, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional way of selling a home has become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of the matter is that 75% of home sellers don’t get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As the report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In response to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free report entitled “The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.”

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-691-9384 and then enter #98200. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

Christina Giordano, of Clairemont, wears her stormtrooper costume during the pre-screening party at the Fleet Center for ‘The Force Awakens.’

PHOTO BY THOMAS BRUELLER

Jim and Laurie Hurl enjoyed fall in Quebec City, Quebec and keeping up to date with news from home.

Delwyn and Diane Edwards visited Budapest last month, with the world-traveler Beacon newspaper in tow. They're seen here at the Changing of the Guard at the Buda Castle and overlooking the Danube River from the Fishermen’s Bastion.

Claudia Bender and Katelyn Rowell took their copy of The Beacon, highlighting all the Ocean Beach cliff jumpers, to Portovenere, Italy last month. The cliffs of the ancient seaside town compare with Sunset Cliffs, without the crowds and jumpers. The town appears similar to the Ocean Beach of the 1960s.

Dr. Michele Yamada and her team at Ocean Dental Care traveled to Guatemala with their Beacon newspaper to help open and work at a dental clinic for the local indigenous people.
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The association was also awarded grant funding for $8,000 to supplement the costs of the program.

“We’re still in a three-month trial period with two security guards with varying hours four days a week,” said association executive director Denny Knox about the security program, which, among other things, patrols the beach boardwalk. “We’ve been doing this for 1½ years, and we just changed (security) companies in October.”

Knox said the security guards have been “going around and introducing themselves to all the merchants and getting them to support this program by OB MainStreet. “We want people to feel safe here,” said Knox about the security program’s purpose. She said security guards have worked closely — and well — with police.

“They’re here for every farmers market to help us with crowds every Wednesday,” Knox noted, adding that guards have relatively broad security authority. For example, they recently tracked down a problematic patron in the business district, presenting the person with a stay-away order from a merchant.

“We’ve found them (guards) to be very responsive and interested in what they’re doing,” Knox said. “They’ve also been to a number of crime prevention meetings and spoken at those meetings.”

The security program involves guards teaming up on bikes and riding up and down all the alleys and streets in OB as well as walking the community’s sidewalks. They patrol especially along Newport Avenue but also on Voltaire Street and near Dog Beach.

Since March, the security guard team has been scheduled for five shifts a week, with varying times depending on when the neighborhood has the greatest need for support.

According to stats compiled in the beach security program, Code 647, disorderly conduct, including loitering on private property, drunk in public and illegal lodging on private property, is the most common incident reported by the security guard team. Sometimes, they’ve had as many as three to eight Code 647s in one eight-hour day.

Illegal dumping is a close second in Code 647, with multiple reports each day that the security team is on duty. The team noted that a huge amount of furniture and trash is dumped daily in OB’s alleys. Every single day, the team calls for pick-ups to remove the trash, furniture, couches, beds et cetera.

Code 52.20, obstruction of public sidewalks, is another frequent issue dealt with by security guards who persuade obstructionists to move along.

Code 594, graffiti, is yet another common issue. When found, the security team immediately contacts the City of San Diego to help with graffiti clean-up. The City requires graffiti on private property to be cleaned up within 24 hours. Landlords and renters are responsible for cleaning up their properties.

Knox said the association’s 14-member board will decide whether, and how, to extend the beach security patrol program when the issue comes up again during the new year.

**LAWS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- AB 949: Cheerleading becomes a sport. This bill requires the California Interscholastic Federation, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to develop guidelines, procedures and safety standards for the purpose of classifying competition cheer (cheerleading) as an interscholastic sport.

- Medical Marijuana Licensing and Operating Rules

- Nation’s Strictest Livestock Antibiotics Bill

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