NTC Foundation names new GM for Arts & Culture District

The NTC Foundation recently introduced Lisa Johnson as the new general manager overseeing the NTC Arts and Culture District – San Diego’s fast-growing arts and culture district in Liberty Station in Point Loma.

A San Diego native, Johnson brings a blend of nonprofit management experience and real estate experience, facility management knowledge, project management and business experience. In addition, she has a strong background in philanthropy from professional and volunteer perspectives, having served as a fundraiser for many community-based organizations.

Her initial goals will be to help ensure financial sustainability of the foundation and position it for a positive growth trajectory. She will also work to successfully shepherd new projects to completion and complete Phase III renovations and leasing at the 28-acre campus.

Most recently, Johnson was executive manager of the South Bay Family YMCA. “We are pleased to welcome Lisa to our team,” said Alan Ziter, NTC executive director. “Her vast experience combined with her passion for the project will serve us as well as we move to the next phase of development.”

This is a kind of homecoming for Johnson, who worked with The Corky McMillan Cos. for five years when they moved their offices to Liberty Station from their headquarters in National City. “I had the opportunity,” Johnson said, “to experience and consolidate the NTC Arts and Culture District at Liberty Station.”

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

SPORTS
Pointers boys swimming team wins league title

Page 13

ARTS
Summer is going to be ARTrageous at Liberty Station

Page 8

SUMMER FUN
Ocean Beach Dog Beach and then Dog Wash

Page 14
2926 Kellogg #87 • 3BR/2.5BA • $699,000
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www.1542GuizotSt.com
Beth Zedaker, (619) 602-9610

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Vicki Droz, (619) 729-8682

Beacon abroad
(Above) Ralph Caputo, who lives in Ocean Beach, just returned from an amazing trip to Egypt. Here he is standing in front of the temples of Abu Simbel, carved out of rock by Ramses I and later rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser.
(Below) Ed Schroeder was just in Brugge, Belgium, last November. ‘While I was not on a dementia friendly vacation (yet), I did notice (when going up the street toward the university library) that Brugge clearly is a Beacon-friendly and Chargers-friendly city,’ he said.

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Visual aesthetics earn Point Loma residence an architectural award

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE RECON

You’ve heard of the better mousetrap. Well, now there’s a better plastics application.

And it’s been used so successfully in residential development in Point Loma, that it has garnered an industry Just Imagine design award.

The eye-catching “Louvers by Design” project, made with LuciteLux Frost in Glacier Green cast acrylic, is a residential property collaboration project by Elliott Rabin of ePlastics of Kearny Mesa and Jeff Kull Construction. The joint project was completed in early 2014.

Michael Sebastian, ePlastics online marketing director, discussed the dilemma resolved by the new plastics application.

“We used this Lucite plastic application for some (window) louvers because the residents wanted to be able to block the sun but also wanted to get an ocean view out of the windows,” Sebastian said. “So it (windows) were constructed to block the sun on the lower level, but not on the upper level.”

Sebastian said the resulting customized plastics application has “added to the visual aesthetics of the home.”

Architectural plans in the Point Loma home called for window louvers that would diffuse natural light coming into the two-story living room while allowing people on the second floor to have a clear view of the Pacific Ocean.

Kull turned to ePlastics to identify a material that would not only accomplish that objective but also be strong, durable and able to withstand varying temperatures and all kinds of weather, particularly in its relatively exposed position at the top of the house. ePlastics introduced Kull to LuciteLux Frost in Glacier Green, and the rest is design history.

“-Louvers by Design is a breathtaking example of taking a traditionally functional feature – in this case the louver – and making it a major part of the home’s overall aesthetic,” said Chris Robinson, business manager for Lucite International.

“We’re delighted that the duo behind the project selected one of our most versatile product offerings, LuciteLux Frost, to realize their creative vision. Its cool, frosted surface resists scratches and retains its texture when designers form it into all kinds of shapes and sizes.”

“We selected LuciteLux Frost because of its opacity level and color, which blended with the ocean beautifully,” said Rabin. “The home’s decorators had a very intentional theme and color scheme. The LuciteLux cast acrylic was a perfect match.”

Rabin added that the product was also selected for the housing project because of its thermoformability, which allowed it to be heated and wrapped around an aluminum frame in a controlled and uniform manner, avoiding the risk of kinking or cracking.

The Louvers by Design project was honored recently with a win at The Just Imagine Awards recognizing designers who embrace the originality of working with and creating designs using LuciteLux.

The Just Imagine award recognizes a designer’s achievement in the field, and celebrates their distinctive contribution to the world of design using LuciteLux’s cast acrylic material.
Delicious Italian dishes and service keeps customers coming back to Old Venice

BY DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

As a cornerstone restaurant on the Peninsula, Old Venice is old school. “We were one of the original restaurants in the Point Loma area,” said Win- ton MacGinnis, head of catering/marketing at the family-owned and operated establishment at 2910 Canon St. “We just celebrated our 35th anniversary.”

Current owner Alexander Walter purchased the Italian restaurant more than thirty years ago. His potential longtime general manager is Brett Wilmot. Customers are special at Old Venice and are treated accordingly. “Someone came in the other day and said, ‘We had our one-year anniversary here 25 years ago and we wanted to re-” said MacGinnis. “They called in just the other day and want to propose to his girlfriend,” said MacGinnis adding, “When you come in here it’s a real sense of family.”

Old Venice head chef George Calvario talked about the restaurant’s unique synthesis of northern Italian and American cuisine, revealing the secret of the menu’s ongoing success. “The food is common, always the same, the same recipes, specials of the house, fish of the day,” Calvario said noting that ‘familiarity’ keeps regulars coming back for seconds. And the restaurant is in a prime location. “It’s in a real secure area, very quiet,” said Calvario. “It’s right next to all the yacht clubs.”

Two-thirds of Americans Still Do Not Know What a 529 Plan is, according to Edward Jones

SDMC Study 83% of Americans Say They Cannot Afford the Cost of College

Two-thirds (66 percent) of Americans still don’t know what a 529 plan is, according to the annual 529 Plan Awareness Survey from financial services firm Edward Jones. In its fourth year monitoring college savings awareness, the survey found that only 34 percent of Americans could correctly identify a 529 plan as a college savings option, up slightly from 30 percent in 2014 but down compared to the inaugural survey 2012 (37 percent). These college-savings plans were first offered to Americans in 1996. “Despite headlines focused on the increasing high costs of college, surprisingly few people have any idea what number of Americans aren’t aware of one of the most important long-term savings ve- hicles that can help minimize the impact that the cost of education has on families,” said John McKean, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor in Point Loma. “Demographically people are living longer and having children later in life, narrowing the time between a child’s college bills and his or her parents’ retirement/insurance age. Unfortunately, however, it is a fact that the cost of college is increasing at a much higher rate than inflation, means that many are grouping together to stay on track to meet savings goals.”

Aid awareness varied across several factors including household income, size and number of chil- dren. Respondents with a household income of $100,000 or more were significantly more likely to correctly identify 529 plans (38 percent) than those with less than $50,000 (only 25 per- cent). Similarly, awareness also increased depending on household size and number of children. Americans with a household of five or more people reflected much awareness (40 percent) than those with a household of two people (30 percent). Surprisingly, respondents with children ages 13-17 years were actually less likely to correctly identify the college sav- ings plan than those with children under the age of 13 (35 percent versus 41 percent, respec- tively).

The High Cost of College

The survey also asked respondents to indicate whether or not they believe they can afford the full cost of a college for themselves or a family member while male respondents were twice as likely to indicate “yes” than their female counterparts (21 percent compared to 11 per- cent of women), overwhelmingly. Americans say they simply can’t afford the cost (81 per- cent). Interestingly, even higher income levels didn’t help with just 37 percent of the highest earning respondents (those making $100,000 or more at home in household income) saying they could afford the cost.

While the cost continues to be a major con- cern, Americans still recognize the value of a college education, so finding ways to manage those costs becomes paramount in the process,” said McKean. “We need to remind them of the wide array of strategies that exist and help them put their goals into action through designing a plan that utilizes the appropriate tools in support of their savings goals.

Inside secrets to get top dollar for your home

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that deci- sion, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without worrying about your sa- nity. Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist homeowners, a new industr- y report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know To Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.” It tackles the impor- tant issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace. In this report you’ll discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach you will learn straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home. You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0765 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report now.
Climate change, the status of medical marijuana dispensaries, an opening on the board of homeless services were vetted at the May meeting of the Midway Community Planning Group.

Elliott, the environmental advocate Brian Elliott, an organizer for the nonprofit Climate Action Campaign, filled planners in on goals the city has for becoming more sustainable by discouraging solo-vehicle travel and encouraging mass transit, cycling and other travel alternatives.

Elliott gave a slideshow presentation detailing a draft climate action plan being considered by the city. The ultimate goal of that plan is to convert to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035.

The campaigner said the city has a long way to go to meet that target.

“The majority, 87 percent, of current energy consumption comes from coal and natural gas that are causing greenhouse emissions,” Elliott said, adding the city is gradually switching over to clean-energy alternatives.

“In San Diego, solar is obviously a big one,” Elliott said, adding transporation, at 54 percent of total energy use, is the activity that requires the most nonrenewable fossil fuels.

Elliott said the city is converting from nonrenewable to renewable energy sources to get more than half of the population out of their cars and into a “multi-modal” model, such as combining cycling and mass transit.

“Where does the money come from to make the transition and meet the goals so this plan has some real life to it?” asked board member Kathy Kenton. “The goals increase over time as people adapt,” answered Elliott, adding the cost of making the energy conversion likely will be accomplished via numerous funding options.

Elliott added one benefit of passing a Climate Action Plan is that it will serve as a “policy document giving planning groups such as yours the opportunity to have input through the process.”

Group chair Melanie Nickel pointed out mass transit is inconvenient in San Diego and that that will likely be an impediment in implementing any Climate Action Plan.

San Diego Police Department liaison David Sarwilo said the department is continuing to have a dialogue with community members on resolving homelessness issues. He said homelessness is a complex and vexing problem, partly because police and social service workers can offer help and alternatives to street people but that their participation is entirely voluntary.

Nickel gave an update on the status of 17 applications evaluated by the group from medical marijuana dispensaries seeking to open legally in the Midway area. She said only two proposed dispensaries, at 3452 Hancock St. and 3225 Bean St., have thus far been approved by the city. Both those proposals have been appealed to the city planning commission by opponents.

CROSSWALK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A pedestrian, push-button-activated traffic signal at the crosswalk will also be relocated to the other side of the street, said Tawfiq.

In addition, northbound Catalina will be reduced to one lane. The right lane on northbound Catalina Boulevard will become a right-turn-only lane to Canon Street instead of accommodating through and turning traffic, as it does today. Additional signage will be installed along Catalina Boulevard to alert drivers that the right lane will eventually become a right-turn-only lane.

To ensure that the necessary permitting approvals are obtained, the city engineers said it would take approximately 45 days to get a permit from the intersection, which will also include putting in new signage.

Board planner Nicole Burga, noted allowances need to be made by the city for marking bike lanes crossing intersection. Planner Jay Shumacher added the city needs to consider delivery trucks going to a Fresh & Easy near the intersection when determining how the problem intersection safer.

Anyone interested in doing a real community service in helping to shepherd through a new Midway BID should contact Melanie Nickel at melanien@stanfordalumni.org.
San Diego Surfrider Chapter launches Ocean Friendly Restaurants campaign

Three Ocean Beach eateries make the friendly list

The Surfrider Foundation’s San Diego County Chapter has launched the Ocean Friendly Restaurants campaign, which aims to reduce beach pollution by working with the San Diego County restaurant community to voluntarily reduce the use of plastic food service items, including Styrofoam containers, plastic bags and disposable cups and utensils.

“Disposable plastic food-service items made up nearly half of all garbage picked up by Surfrider and Coastkeeper in 2014 during organized beach cleanup efforts,” said Jason Rubin, co-chair of Surfrider’s Rise Above Plastics Committee. “This means that restaurants can have a tremendous impact on our ocean and beaches by adopting ocean-friendly practices.”

The inaugural restaurants in the campaign are:
- Lazy Humphreys Bird Cafe, Raglan Public House and Wonderland Ocean Pub in Ocean Beach;
- Bareback Grill and Bayside Landing in Pacific Beach;
- the Burger Lounge chain;
- Queenstown Public House in Little Italy;
- Snooze A.M. Eatery in Del Mar and Hillcrest.

“This is an important project that will have wide-ranging benefits for our beaches and bays,” said San Diego City Council President Sherry Lightner.

Hoffman Leung, co-owner of Wonderland Ocean Pub, said, “Polystyrene foam has been the go-to material for take-out containers for decades, mainly for its low cost and effective heat insulation. But it’s also created a problem for our environment, not to mention our city as a whole.”

The campaign rewards restaurants that agree to voluntary practices that decrease beach and ocean pollution.

Restaurants that adopt ocean-friendly requirements are eligible for significant marketing and promotional support from Surfrider.

San Diego Surfrider chair discusses chapter’s role in maintaining beaches, bays and ocean

By THOMAS MEVILLE | THE BEACON

Earlier this month on the deck at Paradise Point Resort, just as the sun started to set over Mission Bay, Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter chair Mark West looked over his right shoulder to see the golden hour glow growing.

“That’s why we’re here,” he said, as he waved his arms toward the bay. “That’s why we’re here.”

“Here” was at the Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter’s 15th annual Art Gala, which raised $34,000 to help protect the region’s coastline and directly benefit the organization’s education, outreach and advocacy directed at protecting local beaches.

The event, which was held Friday, May 8, celebrated ocean advocacy while showcasing local artists and raising funds.

“It was a thrill to see so many enthusiastic activists and supporters gathered for the event,” said new San Diego Chapter manager Mandy Sackett.

While the activists and supporters bid on artwork, nibbled on orange chicken and drank Stone IPA, West was working room the making and re-establishing connections for the nonprofit.

Right before sunset, The Peninsula Beacon caught up with him to discuss Surfrider and the role it plays in maintaining the area’s coastal areas.

PB: How would you describe the Surfrider Foundation?
Mark West: I would say that the Surfrider Foundation is all about making sure that each person can go to the beach, enjoy their day at the beach, spend their time in the ocean, spend their time in the waves, and have a great experience.

This is a California treasure that so many people take for granted, but we don’t. We work to protect our ocean, waves, and beaches so everyone can use them.

PB: Why is the Surfrider Foundation important?
MW: Our mission is to protect the ocean, waves, and beaches through a powerful activist network. What we do is we actually take all people who are passionate about our ocean, our beaches, our bays, and get together and really work toward cleaning them up, preventing pollution from getting into them.

We even do stuff like ocean-friendly gardens where we’re thinking about the drought and how we can plant ocean-friendly gardens out there that are really California specific; they require no water, and they actually have less runoff as well.

PB: What does Surfrider do for the bays?
MW: This bay (Mission Bay) has beaches all around it. We actually hold clean-up right here in Mission Bay that are cleaning the beaches of litter before it gets into the bay.

This is a large ecosystem that flows into our ocean, and if we can clean it here, then it cleans it out in our ocean, and we’ve worked really hard to make sure that we are removing pollution from this area.

PB: Do some people think Surfrider is just about surfers?
MW: It’s funny. I don’t think people know that this is more than just surfers. I was a 24-year-old U.S. naval officer before I became the chair of Surfrider.

We have all different kinds of people who are working for this because we are all very passionate about our ocean, waves, and beaches.

It’s a group effort. I’ve got moms. I’ve got hipsters. I’ve got people who are really into this group, and it’s all about people.

PB: How many members in the San Diego chapter?
MW: We have about 5,000 active members, but in our email distribution list we have about 10,000 activists who are applying or involved in some form or another.

Not everyone is cleaning the beaches. We have some doing web development. We have some people designing T-shirts. Everybody who has something that they’re passionate about, oceans, waves, and beaches, can come out and play a particular role in it. You don’t have to clean the beaches. Do other things. It’s all for the same good.

PB: What is the annual art gala?
MW: The 15th annual art gala at Paradise Point in Mission Bay was a fantastic event.

This event is our largest fundraiser that we have each year, so it’s really our biggest event that we hold, and we get all the people from all over San Diego to come out and talk about Surfrider.

PB: How do you raise the money?
MW: Right back into the protection of oceans, waves, and beaches. Every penny that we have goes right back into it. We do have a staff of two people, which for this group is nothing, but we have to make sure that we pay for the T-shirts, that we get the beach clean-up supplies.

We have all these different things. This event really drives our entire year budget. So that’s why it’s so important for people to come and help us out.

PB: Surfrider holds clean-ups and also has a specific program about getting the ‘Butts’ out?
MW: We do beach clean-ups. San Diego is one of the largest chapters in Surfrider. We have 70 miles of beaches, which stretch from the border all the way up to San Clemente. Believe it or not, that’s part of our group.

We take care of those 70 miles with programs such as “rise above plastics,” which is trying to reduce plastic that gets washed onto your beaches and carried to our beaches; and we have our “hold onto our butts” program.

Cigarette butt pollution is the largest polluter of our beaches in our entire world. We get rid of those, we recycle them and turn them into money.

PB: How do you turn it (cigarette butts) into money?
MW: There’s actually a company, out of Maryland, that is recycling the butts, and they either take them and turn them into furniture or certain things, and then they actually pay per pound. It’s not a ton of money, but they’re actually turning it into profits we can market our city as a whole.

This is an inclusive campaign with broad-based support that spans the business community and the greater restaurant industry,” said Mark West, Surfrider’s San Diego County chair.

For more information on the campaign, go to surfriderSD.org.

San Diego Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter chair Mark West points to the bay and says, ‘That’s why we’re here.’

PHOTO BY THOMAS MEVILLE

ENVIRONMENT

THURSDAY · MAY 28, 2015
THE PENINSULA BEACON

7
Summer will be ARTrageous at Liberty Station; Comic Art Gallery opens in June

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

NTC Arts & Culture District’s evolution continues and is being showcased in the district’s ARTrageous summer program.

The fast-growing arts and culture district in Liberty Station is adding to its dozens of ongoing exhibits, classes, workshops and free activities by opening up a new museum, IDW Publishing’s Comic Art Gallery; on June 5. The new museum’s first exhibit will be the work of Kevin Eastman, co-creator of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles franchise.

It’s just one of many new developments — with more to come soon — in the NTC Arts & Culture District, which still has room to grow.

Eastman will be having a studio right next to the (art) gallery,” said NTC Foundation executive director Alan Ziter, who invited other artists to “come at a more appropriate time, happening just before the cultural district’s summer kick-off of ARTrageous.

“It was good that they held the media event here (Liberty Station) because it really helped shine the spotlight on how the arts can help with job creation, neighborhood redevelopment, community engagement, civic pride and education.

Ziter noted the timing of that report, and how it was handled, couldn’t have come at a more appropriate time, happening just before the cultural district’s summer kick-off of ARTrageous.

“We have added many more family-friendly activities to the event this year,” Ziter said, adding that the addition of IDW Publishing and its comic gallery is likely to serve as a catalyst sparking growth and building the cultural district’s reputation while attracting even more artists.

“IDW Publishing wanted to be around other creative people, and this (NTC) was the place they chose,” point ed out Ziter, who invited other artists to join.

“The good news is we have nine more buildings to renovate, further implementing the community’s vision here,” Ziter said, adding that the NTC’s Art & Culture District has become one of the most active of the city of San Diego’s many districts — with more to come soon.

NTC Art & Culture District’s summer of fun will include, but is not limited to, the following exhibits and activities:


• June 26, Women’s Museum of California’s Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Festival, NTC North Promenade.

• July 1, Farm Creative Market & Arts School opening in Building 176.

• July 18-19, Natsum Matsuri Cultural Festival – Japanese Cultural Festival in Ingram Plaza.

• Aug. 7, the 50th anniversary of the San Diego Watercolor Society; and

• Aug. 15-16, ArtWalk San Diego, where attendees can purchase work from more than 175 fine artists along with live music, interactive art for adults and kids plus delicious street food.

On May 20, City Councilmember Lorie Zapf joined the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission), the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition and the San Diego Tourism Authority in releasing the results of the 2014 Economic and Community Impact report concluded that “world-class arts and cultural programs are a vital component of a great city; not only because they enrich the lives of residents, but because they also support thousands of good-paying jobs and attract millions of dollars for the local economy.”

Ziter noted the timing of that report, and how it was handled, couldn’t have come at a more appropriate time, happening just before the cultural district’s summer kick-off of ARTrageous.

“The day will celebrate their natural horsemanship techniques and other aspects of California culture. The day will celebrate their natural horsemanship techniques and other aspects of California culture. High-quality horsemen and women played an important part in the daily activities will be demonstrated on this Saturday. One of the highlights of the day will be a quilt walk that features quilts celebrating the 150th anniversary of California State Parks.

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Enjoy a Historic San Diego Golf Course

Dating back to the early 1900s, The Loma Club was originally part of the historic San Diego Country Club, which merged with A.G. Spalding’s Point Loma Golf Club in 1914 to create a San Diego landmark that has been in existence for over a century.

Located in the Naval Training Center (now Liberty Station), the course was utilized by the Navy during the 1920s for physical fitness and recruit training. While serving in the Navy, the legendary Sam Snead acted as the head Golf Professional.

Formerly known as Sal Ho Golf Course, the club attracted talent such as Craig Stadler and Phil Mickelson in Junior Golf Tournaments throughout the years.

The Loma Club presently features state of the art fairways, greens and practice facilities designed by renowned San Diego architect, Cary Bidder. In 2014, Good Time Design remodeled the bar and grill located in the clubhouse, and added a 3000 square foot deck and an outdoor bar. The Loma Club combines a gorgeous and fun course with an amazing indoor/outdoor space, perfect for events and tournaments.

The Loma Club
2960 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 222-4653 (GOLF)
info@thelomacub.com

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Ceramic items are ready the next day if turned in by 5pm...candles ready the same day... clay. Pottery is revamped menu and gorgeous fairways, The Loma Club is a great place for lunch, happy hour and a quick game of golf!

NTC at Liberty Station

Liberty Station in San Diego’s new Arts & Cultural District located at the former Naval Training Center in the new Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 28 acres and 15 of its 27 buildings complete, NTC is home to nearly 50 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, educational groups, multidisciplinary arts, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego’s creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public. The campus also features venues for indoor or outdoor events, festivals, seminars, retreats and meetings. For information and a schedule of classes and events, go to www.NTCPotomacClub.com or call 619 573-9260.

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Family Orthodontics at Liberty Station Orthodontics, we believe in providing excellent orthodontic treatment in a professional and caring atmosphere. Our board-certified orthodontists, Dr. Richard P. McLaughlin and Dr. Paul K. Upatham are dedicated to providing the best orthodontic care for children, adolescents, and adults. Our office has been serving San Diego County since 1981. We provide the highest quality orthodontic treatment in an environment that is warm, caring, and state of the art. We will work with you and your dentist to obtain the most beautiful and healthy smile possible. Our orthodontists use advanced digital technology and techniques to provide the most effective means of correcting each individual orthodontic problem, including metal and clear braces, oral surgery, and Invisalign® clear aligners. We value your trust and confidence, and will work hard to exceed your expectations. We welcome you and your family to our practice and invite you to get to know all of us. Contact our San Diego office today to schedule a complimentary initial consultation! We look forward to making you smile!

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4906 Voltaire St. (corner of Voltaire & Cable) Ocean Beach
Amid the drought, artificial turf concept holds water

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

(This is the first in a series of articles on energy sustainability and what homeowners can do in response to the continuing drought.)

With rainfall levels diminishing and water rates increasing, San Diegans are searching for ways to save water, energy and money during the ongoing drought, which is leading more than a few residents to consider turning in their water-guzzling, high-maintenance grass lawns for synthetic turf.

There are pros and cons to either keeping natural lawns or using a synthetic surface. The artificial turf may have major upfront capital costs but in the long run can end up saving money in time and maintenance.

The fact is, natural grass is one of the most water-intensive plants a landscape can have. High-water demand and frequent maintenance make it a time-consuming and expensive yard option. At a minimum, grass lawns need to be cut during the summer months. However, a lush lawn typically requires periodic fertilization as well as irrigation during dry weather. Insecticide may also be required if grubs, fleas or other insect pests are present.

Artificial lawns are much easier to care for than real grass, requiring no cutting, fertilizing or irrigation. They also do not attract insects. Synthetic grass that gets dirty can simply be hosed off. Artificial grass may also make the inside of your home a bit easier to care for, with no dirt or mud tracked in.

Pacific Beach resident Victor Grigorian made the switch from natural grass to artificial turf and is glad he did.

“I did my front yard in 2009, and then a year later I put it in my backyard,” he said, adding there were three main reasons for making the change. “I had retired, and I wanted to make my life easier and not have to deal with the responsibility of maintaining a yard.” Grigorian said, “I was also conscious about water concerns, and they (turf installers) were offering a rebate.” Grigorian’s “very satisfied” with the end result, adding, “What I lose in it not looking like real grass, I made up for in not having to mow it once a week and fertilize it a couple times a year.”

Concerning the pluses and minuses of synthetic turf versus natural grass, Grigorian noted, “The only down side is that the (artificial) grass can get hot (in bright sun) at certain times of the day. It can make it difficult if you’re gardening. You also wouldn’t want small children out there playing on it during those times when they might get burned.”

Although artificial turf may be easier to care for than the real thing, artificial turf does not feel exactly the same as real grass. Many homeowners also struggle with the sound of artificial turf, which makes a soft rustling when walked on. Also, while the feel of artificial grass may not be quite the same as the real thing, the look of a high-end synthetic can easily fool your friends and neighbors.

Grigorian said he can live with his synthetic grass not always looking like the real item.

“I will challenge you to tell me it (synthetic turf) doesn’t look like real grass at certain times of the day,” he said, “especially if you’re driving by (from a distance).”

However on the negative side, artificial turf installation costs significantly more than traditional sod.

Installing synthetic turf requires that the old yard be dug up, a layer of sand be placed and leveled, a layer of rubber pellets be installed and the artificial turf laid on top of it all.

When comparing the prices, though, it is important to remember that real grass also requires ongoing maintenance expenses for mowing, insect control and irrigation, while artificial turf does not incur these ongoing maintenance costs and lasts 15 to 20 years.

Statistics show that synthetic grass for landscaping and recreation is growing 10 to 15 percent a year nationwide, which means more and more homeowners are using fakes for lawns, dog runs, play areas, pool surrounds, rooftops, putting greens and decorative borders between patio pavers.

It’s several times more expensive to install synthetic grass than to put in natural grass sod. Studies show it takes 10 to 15 years to recoup its initial cost.

The pluses of artificial grass are that it saves water, is easy to maintain and can be environmentally friendly. On the down side, artificial grass is not completely maintenance-free. It can’t absorb and break down pet urine, it heats up in direct sun, it can’t be recycled and it has been banned by some homeowners associations and municipalities.

As part of its drought-response efforts, the San Diego County Water Authority has launched a pilot program designed to help bring down the cost of replacing water-intensive grass with artificial turf.
In 2015, San Diego was recognized by the National Geographic Channel documentary, "World’s Smartest Cities: San Diego," for its strong technology sector, local innovators, and smart planning, and San Diego’s lifestyle rich in art, cultural diversity and natural beauty.

"San Diego’s creative nonprofits — ranging from museums to symphonies to theaters and more — are tremendously important as an economic driver for the region, but it’s not just the revenue that these organizations generate that makes them so essential to the community," added Rebecca Smith, Commissioner. "These organizations also stimulate the minds of our youth, teaching them critical skills necessary to become future leaders and innovators."

For more information, and to view the full report, visit www.vibrantcityvibrantculture.com or call (619) 236-6800 for copies.

Bruges-Dementia Friendly?

I’ve just returned from Bruges, Belgium which has the distinction of being the most ‘Dementia Friendly’ city in Europe.

So what exactly is Dementia Friendly and should San Diego do more?

On the surface, I must say Bruges did not seem any different insofar as accessibility or friendly for someone with Dementia and I think anyone with Dementia would be challenged to negotiate the market square!

However, a number of community organizations, shopkeepers and local government have made a difference to those with Dementia trying to lead normal lives. Some of these initiatives are:

- The police know who have Dementia through a registry which helps them find wandering individuals.
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Point Loma Loma High School sophomore Keegan Smith fought through a rain-delayed three-hour match last Friday, May 22, at the local Barnes Tennis Center to defeat top-seeded Billy Rowe of Coronado and win the CIF singles tennis championship.

For his feat, Smith was also named CIF Player of the Year.

After earlier winning the Eastern League singles title, Smith was seeded below the top eight players in a cluster of the next eight, labeled “9-16.” But he proved tournament organizers wrong. Winning his first two matches, Smith found himself in the semifinals against No. 2 seed Rae Lan of Westminster. Smith dispatched him in straight sets, 6-2 and 6-4.

Facing Rowe, a junior, in the finals was ironic for both players, who practice together several times a week and have become best friends.

The rain delay came in the final set after Smith had won the opening set 7-6 before dropping a 3-6 second set.

With the third set score tied 3-1, light drizzle forced a 12-minute delay, and Smith seemed energized upon returning, taking the title by a 6-4 score.

“Did their friendship survive?”

For a boys swimming team that does not have any divers, Point Loma High School made its biggest splash in the Central League championship with a 6-4 record (11-8 overall).

Boys swimming
For a boys swimming team that does not have any divers, Point Loma High School made its biggest splash in the Central League championship with a 6-4 record (11-8 overall).

The Pointers boys lacrosse team took the Central League championship with a 6-4 record (11-8 overall).

Point Loma Loma High School sophomore Keegan Smith, foreground, helped lead his Point Loma High School team to an undefeated season and league championship.

Point Loma Loma High School sophomore Keegan Smith, background, helped lead his Point Loma High School team to a historic running event since 1983.

The Pointers boys lacrosse team took the Central League championship with a 6-4 record (11-8 overall).

Point Loma Loma High School sophomore Keegan Smith, foreground, helped lead his Point Loma High School team to an undefeated season and league championship.
The other day, I was playing with my boxer Shila, and I thought it would be a great idea to take her to Ocean Beach’s Dog Beach.

I packed up the car and headed out to let her run around and play. Dog Beach is an off-leash beach located at the north end of Ocean Beach, and it is the only 24-hour dog beach in the San Diego area. Before we even got out of the car, Shila was already excited and wagging her little tail.

Once her paws hit the sand, Shila was off running around, meeting the other dogs. She became instant friends with some golden retrievers and was having the time of her life running and chasing a ball into the water. After meeting all the friendly dogs, Shila was worn out and ready to take a nap.

Before Shila could go home, I took her to Dog Beach Dog Wash to give her a bath. The dog wash is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the last dog wash 30 minutes prior to closing.

The dog wash includes warm water, shampoo, a grooming mitt, washcloths, an apron, towels and a brush, all for just $14. For an additional $2.50, you can use a specialty shampoo, such as hypoallergenic, flea and tick (pyrethrin or neem), coat brightening (black, bronze or whitener), moisturizing shampoo and a few more choices depending on your dog’s needs.

If you want your dog’s coat conditioned, you can use conditioners such as aloe vera, chamomile and oatmeal for an additional $2.50 and aloe moisturizer for $3.50.

After considering the shampoo choices and conditioners, I opted for the regular dog wash and began bathing Shila with the shampoo provided with the wash. Though she is a little baby when it comes to bath time, she was feeling much softer and looking very clean afterward. Dog Beach Dog Wash also offers other services for after the bath, such as a $1.50 blow dry or fluff-box dry, grooming table/Clipper-Vac ($5 per every 15 minutes) and nail trimming for $13. There are also toys and treats available for purchase in the store ranging from $1 up. Remember to always pick up after your pet and to keep Dog Beach clean.

**SUMMER FUN**

**14**

**THURSDAY · MAY 28, 2015**

**THE PENINSULA BEACON**

Summer fun with Bianca – OB’s Dog Beach and then a nice bath

By BIANCA WEINSTEIN | THE BEACON

Bianca Weinstein washes her dog Shila at Dog Beach Dog Wash after fun day playing on Dog Beach. (Upper right) Bianca throws a ball for Shila to chase at Dog Beach. (Right) Shila meets and greets a new friend in Ocean Beach.

Photos by Derek Arthur

Bianca Weinstein washes her dog Shila at Dog Beach Dog Wash after fun day playing on Dog Beach. (Upper right) Bianca throws a ball for Shila to chase at Dog Beach. (Right) Shila meets and greets a new friend in Ocean Beach.

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After considering the shampoo choices and conditioners, I opted for the regular dog wash and began bathing Shila with the shampoo provided with the wash. Though she is a little baby when it comes to bath time, she was feeling much softer and looking very clean afterward. Dog Beach Dog Wash also offers other services for after the bath, such as a $1.50 blow dry or fluff-box dry, grooming table/Clipper-Vac ($5 per every 15 minutes) and nail trimming for $13. There are also toys and treats available for purchase in the store ranging from $1 up. Remember to always pick up after your pet and to keep Dog Beach clean.
Veronica Quin ’on the cusp’ of something bigger

‘My goal isn’t to be a huge star, and I think that takes a lot of the pressure and stress out of doing this. It’s something I love to do and we’ll see where it goes.’

VERONICA QUIN
OCEAN BEACH RESIDENT

For Quin, the best thing that’s happened is meeting new people at those open mics and her family’s reaction to her craft.

“You’ve been great meeting so many talented people that have become such good friends of mine,” she said. “Meanwhile, my family is so supportive: they are my biggest fans. I can’t wait to put out my first EP because their love has really inspired a lot of it.”

Quin is comfortable in her role as band member or backing musician in her other projects, but her preference is in her solo performances.

“I think I prefer playing on my own because of the challenge it presents,” she said. “There is no one to lean on but yourself. That said, playing with a band is always a lot of fun.”

Quin has made an impression on promoter Shawn Balch, best known for his Sunday afternoon acoustic music series at the Kona Kai Resort.

“I feel like she’s on the cusp of something bigger,” he said. “She has an easy, honest voice and is really proactive. Sometime, she gets flyers out about shows before I do.”

Balch has recently began booking music alongside musician Trent Hancock at the OB Warehouse and plans to bring Quin into the venue’s line-up. “She’s got real strong cross-market,” Balch continued. “Her originals are really solid, but what makes her such a great choice for these sorts of performances, which can run for several hours, is her range of covers. Mixing up a few classics with more current tunes really reaches your audience to a wide audience, always important at a gig that’s located in a restaurant.”

Visitors to Quin’s website will find a 20-minute set recorded by Balch at the Kona Kai earlier this year, capturing her in good form. “It really seems like she’s ready to take off,” Balch said. “The recording just confirms what a great entertainer she is.”

With a debut album in the works and more live work ahead, Quin is happy with her choice of a life making music.

“My goal isn’t to be a huge star, and I think that takes a lot of the pressure and stress out of doing this,” she said. “It’s something I love to do, and we’ll see where it goes.”

Beacon’s annual photo contest returns

The Peninsula Beacon’s annual Amateur Photo Contest is back. Enter your best photo portraying the Peninsula area taken since June 2014 and let our readers decide its fate.

Photos will be displayed at the Peninsula Beacon booth during the Ocean Beach Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival on Saturday, June 27. The public will vote for its favorite pictures. Prizes will be awarded for the top three photos, which will be published in the Beacon.

Deadline to receive entries is Tuesday, June 23.

Contest rules:
• Photos must be taken by an amateur photographer and not have been shot in the 92106 or 92107 ZIP codes between June of 2013 and June of 2014. Possible locations include Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Shelter Island, Loma Portal or the Sports Arena/Midway District.
• The subjects of eligible photos may include anything in the area suitable for public viewing.
• Do not email photos. Instead, drop photos off at the Peninsula Beacon office beginning Wednesday, July 1.
• Photos may be picked up at the Beacon office on or before July 20, where it will go on display.

As long as you’re visiting the Ocean Beach Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival, be sure to come by and check out the Peninsula Beacon’s booth and say hello.

Our special street fair edition will be delivered to homes and news racks Thursday, June 25, and more will be available at our booth on June 27 to help you navigate the event.

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.
Bike to Work Day this Friday in San Diego

Thousands of bike riders throughout the San Diego region will Go by Bike on the morning of Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 29, as they attempt to log 25,000 miles—the equivalent of one trip around the world and one million calories burned. Bike riders will be greeted by volunteers at a record 104 pit stops, where they will receive free water, refreshments, snacks, and encouragement.

All pit stops will be staffed between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Some open as early as 5:30 a.m., and others will re-open in the afternoon to serve riders returning home from work. Some stops will offer extra incentives such as free bike repairs, bike tune-ups, and breakfast. View a Google map of pit stop locations and hours of operation at http://bit.ly/1bQzG82.

Pit stops of interest:
- As part of its pit stop, the Coast Guard Sector at 2710 North Harbor Drive will have a helicopter and boat on display.
- Clairemont Times will partner with Zico Coconut Water and Energy 103.7 FM to have a helicopter and boat on display.
- UC San Diego is expected to host the largest pit stop at the intersection of Gilman Dr. and Villa La Jolla Dr. in parking lot (P406), just east of the Gilman Parkng Structure, with free bike parking and vendor tents.
- The San Diego Zoo will host its always animal interactions, costumed characters, and complimentary chair massages.
- A morning pit stop planned by the San Ysidro Smart Border Coalition will be available for bike riders at the San Ysidro Internmodal Transit Center (Trolley Station) near the bike lockers.

Thousands of bike riders will ride their bikes across the San Ysidro Port of Entry (12:30 to 1 p.m.) to a pit stop at the Border Crossing Event. The pit stop will feature Bike to Work Day participants from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the San Diego region’s primary public planning, transportation, and research agency.
Thursday, May 28
- OBMA members event: Sundowner at Rock and Roll San Diego, 3160 Sports Arena Blvd. 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Shelter Island walk and talk at the Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island. 10 a.m.
- Bayou Brothers at Humphreys, 2241 Shelter Island drive. 7 p.m.

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30
- Live Well San Diego 5k, NTC Park. 8 a.m. Special guest Nick Hardwick (former San Diego Charger). All proceeds go to Polinsky Children’s Center.
- Glass Exhibit reception at the Point Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire St. 2 p.m. 5 p.m. Swing dance lesson, and musical performance.
- SD Youth Tennis, Barnes Bash, 4490 W. Point Loma Blvd. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tennis lessons and games. Honoring San Diego Military Families.
- Comedy Night at the Point Loma Playhouse, 3035 Talbot St. 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 31
- Point Loma Farmers Market and Artisan Fair, 2980 Cañon St. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 2
- Film Forum at the Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. “My Week with Marilyn”, free popcorn included.
- Cabrillo National Monument moon walk. 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Watch sunset and star gaze.

Wednesday, June 3
- OB Farmers Market, 4900 block of Newport Ave. 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Acoustic Wednesday at Gallagher’s Pub and Grill, 5046 Newport Ave. 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 4
- San Diego Catalina Association Meeting, Silver Gate Yacht Club. 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Robber given seven years for multiple hold-ups in Mission Beach, Ocean Beach

An armed robber charged with holding up 11 people on the same night in La Jolla, Ocean Beach, Mission Beach and elsewhere was sentenced Monday to seven years in state prison.

Restitution to the victims of Joseph Andres Garcia, of San Diego, will be determined in a later hearing. San Diego Superior Court Judge Timothy Walsh gave Garcia credit for a year in jail and fined him $4,513.

Before his arrest, Garcia, 20, posted this question on his Facebook page: “Who knows how to unlock an iPhone 4?”

The iPhone 4 is the type stolen from a UCSD student on Feb. 2, 2014. That tip led to Garcia’s arrest three days later.

Garcia pleaded guilty to two robbery charges, and the other hold-up and attempted robbery charges were dismissed after Garcia agreed on April 20 to accept the seven-year sentence.

The getaway driver, Benjamin Hernandez, 24, of National City, will be sentenced May 27 after he pleaded guilty to committing two robberies. Hernan- dez faces a maximum six-year sentence.

One of the victims remembered his car license tag; the information led to his arrest on Feb. 3, 2014.

The robberies started in Ocean Beach at 6:50 p.m. on Feb. 2, 2014, when three men on Cape May near Cable Street were approached by the robbers and a juvenile.

One bandit held a tire iron. The men had their cell phones, cigarettes and a lighter stolen.

Later, a man lost his cell phone and another man lost his wallet containing $2, credit cards and ID cards on First Avenue in Hillcrest, according to the probation report.

Another man was then robbed of $270 in his wallet. Another man who was standing outside his apartment that evening had a gun held to his head; his phone was stolen, and one man hit him in the back with a tire iron.

The last group robbed comprised UCSD students sitting on a bench outside a school gym. One man held a tire iron, and the students were robbed of their cell phones, student IDs, wallets and credit cards.