



## WE WANT YOU: TO SAVE THE DATE!

The Point Loma Association Annual Dinner will be held at the NTC/Liberty Station Historical Library on **May 23, 2006**. The WWII theme party will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a Cocktail Reception and a Silent Auction. The

Dinner and Awards Ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. Auction items and donations are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Dinner Chairman, Windie Knoth at (619) 222-8751 or Co-Chairman, Vicky Lareau at (858) 488-4890.

## Silvergate landscaping is in!

In the last issue, we announced that the Silvergate landscaping project was a go! The project is complete, with the exception of a little more groundcover. The community is invited to a dedication ceremony on **Thursday, January 19 at 8:15 a.m.** For information, call Dianne Sullivan at (619) 990-2297.



New landscaping along Catalina Boulevard

## Where is *THIS* utility box?

Glenn Abrams of Armada Terrace won a \$10 Starbucks card for correctly identifying the utility box pictured in the last issue, which is located at the corner of Cañon and Scott streets. Where's this one?

Send your guess to Patti Adams at [chair@plaweb.org](mailto:chair@plaweb.org). If you would like to donate to the project, or would like to fund the painting of a utility box near your business, call Patti at (619) 887-9313.



Pictured here is artist Malgorzata Anthony, who painted the box. When asked where she got the inspiration for the scene, Anthony replied, "I love to take pictures wherever I go. I took a picture of the Star of India with the

ocean in the background; the pelican comes from Shelter Island. When the PLA asked me to take part in the project, I put the pictures I took from different areas together, and that's how I got the idea."

It wasn't easy working on a metal box canvas. "I wasn't familiar with the type of paint – but I just experimented at the very beginning," she said. "It was very hot. I had to be careful because the paints were drying out quickly. I bought the base colors and had to mix them and find the proper color very quickly."

As she was working, she got a lot of good feedback. "It was a very positive experience for me. People were saying thank you," she said.

Anthony worked as a cartoonist in Poland for ten years, then switched to painting book illustrations, murals and portraits when she arrived in the United States three years ago. She was recently married, and just got her first "legal" job at Sea World as a seasonal employee. She hopes to move from being a host at the park's shows to becoming a scenic arts and crafts specialist there. In the meantime, she's doing commissioned work.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patti Adams, 2005-2006  
President



*"Later on, we'll conspire,  
As we dream by the fire,  
To face unafraid, the plans  
that we've made,  
Walking in a winter  
wonderland."*

While you are out walking in our winter wonderland, I hope you will take some time to dream of the future of Point Loma. Your Board will soon be conspiring, and we can use all the fabulous creativity and ideas big and small that you can muster.

Our biennial planning retreat will be held near the end of January. We'll be discussing and prioritizing our projects for the coming years. Your thoughts for beautification and improvements are so very welcome. Please share them via e-mail or by telephone. Every time you look around and think, "why don't they: a) put some trees in here, b) get a big sign over the street like in Little Italy, c) make a crosswalk in front of the Post Office, or d) (insert your wildest dream here)," share it with us! It's easy to e-mail us. Just go to [www.plaweb.org](http://www.plaweb.org), click on "Board of Directors," and then "click to email." You're also welcome to call me at (619) 887-9313.

We want to thank the many people who checked the "volunteer" box on the membership renewal. The paperwork is still being processed and we want to get back in touch with you. But don't wait! Please call if you would like to help with any of our ongoing projects or participate in the Board. We are going to be establishing our nominating committee for the 2006 Board of Directors appointments soon. Give a call if you are interested.

That 2006 Board will be installed at the annual dinner on May 23, 2006. The new location on Liberty Station and all the hard work of our annual dinner chair, Windie Knoth, will add up to a fun evening. Thanks and congratulations go to Windie for her new position as a Board member. Windie is replacing Noreen Mulliken, who is going abroad for the near future. Noreen did a great job of getting the Utility Box Art Project off the ground. We appreciate all her efforts and wish her success in her move.

We don't have the sleigh bells and snowmen of the great seasonal song, but I think we can consider Point Loma a pretty magical winter wonderland. From yacht races out on the bay to whales migrating off the Point, it's a special time of year.

Happy New Year to you and yours!

## Winter Garden Awards

By Ron Brooks

A wonderfully landscaped garden is a gift to the whole community.



A striking example was found by the Point Loma Beautification Committee at **1079 Devonshire**, at the newly remodeled home of **Ruthie and Andy Churchill**.

The front hillside steps climb through plantings that match the Mediterranean style home perfectly.

At the **corner of Chatsworth and Poe** we have all watched the amazing makeover of this Spanish influenced home and garden. Each time we drove by, new mature tropical plants and shrubs instantly appeared, transforming this front yard into an award winning selection.



## Want to open your home for a SOHO tour?

At the December meeting, Kathryn Rhodes of La Playa Heritage presented a letter from Alana Coons, Events & Education Director for the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO). SOHO is in urgent need of La Playa residents who are willing to open their homes to a historical tour. Following is a condensed version of the letter, with contact information.

*On March 11 and 12 and 13th Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) presents the 2006 Craftsman - Spanish Revival Weekend. This weekend celebrates historic architecture and educates the public about the need to save such architecture. I am writing to invite you to be a part of this exciting event by sharing your home for our historic home tour.*

*La Playa is a very special neighborhood; our concern for maintaining its integrity and character cannot be overstated. As San Diego's historic preservation advocacy group, SOHO has found that one of our most effective tools is in the education of the public.*

*Our weekend events are comprised of lectures from experts in various fields, from architecture to decorative elements. On Friday and Saturday, we will have walking and bus tours, lectures and workshops. Weekend events culminate on Sunday with the historic home tour.*

*Showing your home is a tangible way to make a substantial contribution to historic preservation in San Diego. I look forward to speaking with you at your earliest convenience. (You can contact Alana Coons at (619) 889-8081.)*

# Turning a community eyesore into an asset: Project SCAPE for Point Loma High School

By Gretchen Pelletier, PLHSFAA



A Safe, Clean, Attractive  
Place for Education

“It’s an embarrassment,” is how one Class of ’62 alumnus put it, a comment echoed by businesses, neighbors and even teenagers. It’s a shame to describe our high school this way, but things are looking up. Project SCAPE is a volunteer-driven initiative to provide Point Loma High School “Pointers” and the community with a Safe, Clean, Attractive Place for Education.

This project, an initiative of the Point Loma High School Foundation and Alumni Association (PLHSFAA), is a complete redevelopment of the derelict frontage of the high school, combining safety, beautification and thoughtful design.

“If La Jolla High School did it, so can we,” said Cammie Ingram, a project leader. “The money raised to date has gone toward professional plans and fees, and now we need to raise money for construction. It could cost close to \$500,000.” (La Jolla High School raised over \$5 million.)



PLHS is 80 years old and needs community help. Thanks to Prop MM funding and private contributions toward various projects, the campus looks better than it has for years, but unfortunately, many of these improvements are hidden behind a “front yard” of dead grass, weeds, scraggly bushes and iceplant. A large front plaza, which should be a gathering place at lunchtime, is a wasted pass-through with worn-away dead spots and minimal seating. Three magnificent Torrey pines provide shade that isn’t used.

In Phase One, targeted for summer of 2006, the front sidewalk will be widened for easier, safer bus drop-off, replacing broken concrete, adding a skateboard-proof concrete seat wall rimmed with donor commemorative bricks, and creating a wheelchair-accessible entrance to reduce students’ dependence on a steep blind-curved driveway, which was never intended for pedestrians.

Later phases will involve intelligent irrigation, colorful low-water-use plants and trees and lowered maintenance costs.

This project has attracted major donations from several sources, including a \$25,000 gift from the Hamilton-White Foundation (Ann Russell White ’79), a \$5,000 grant from the American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter, a \$25,000 County grant from Supervisor Greg Cox, and the purchase of \$100 commemorative bricks from Pointer families, an ongoing fund-raiser ([www.plhs.info](http://www.plhs.info)). A \$40,000 matching grant from the City is dependent on the raising of more funds, a critical factor in our ability to begin work in ’06.

Contributions of funds, networking with construction resources and volunteer maintenance work are needed! Contact Gretchen Pelletier, PLHSFAA, 1220 Rosecrans St., San Diego, CA 92106; 223-5227.



## Signs of the times

Ten years ago, the Point Loma Association, led by Hugh Story, began installing new signs in Point Loma Village like the one shown here, which is located at the corner of Anchorage Lane and Shelter Island Drive.

28 signs were installed. Unfortunately, three of them have fallen down, according to Katheryn Rhodes of the Beautification Committee. Rhodes is leading the effort to put the three signs back up, and to repair the existing signs. “We want to make sure that nobody gets hurt,” said Rhodes.



Rhodes and Hugh Story are currently getting bids on the project, and will present their findings at the January PLA meeting.

## The new Shelter Island gazebo is shaping up

And it's a very interesting shape. It has been described as a floating cloud or a sail in the wind, its curled edges reaching up to the sky.



Kevin Dunwell and John Smith work on one of the four trellis columns

The project is designed by James Hubbell, artist and sculptor. Phase I, which is nearly completed, includes the gazebo with mosaic tile in the ceiling, a trellis, landscaping, and mosaic tile paving. The Port is currently looking for \$17,000 in donations to finish the trellis. Donors will be recognized with a bronze plaque.

In the meantime, Kevin Dunwell with Gar-Kev Builders is donating his time to finishing the trellis. “It’s not an every day project,” he said. “I look forward to bringing my kids here in years to come.”

“It will become a landmark,” said Allan Taite, Project Manager in the Port’s Public Art Department. “It will be a great place for special events. The lighting elements are built in, so it will be quite visible. It could become a beacon to passing ships.” Taite anticipated that the final artwork for the trellis will be done by late January, and that the project will be dedicated in March.

Phase II of the project, which includes a bronze sculpture, lighting, and additional landscaping is currently on hold, awaiting additional donations. “Jim has designed the elements that can be put into Phase II if such donations are forthcoming,” said Taite.



The mosaic tile work in the gazebo ceiling.  
Photo by Brennan Hubbell.

## Gage Drive’s street trees saved from the chipper

By Kerri De Rosier

You may have noticed that this and the last edition of this newsletter have dedicated quite a bit of space to trees.

For good reason. The recent losses of trees in our community has raised concern among our residents, including our own PLA president, Patti Adams.

I have some good news to share on this front. The tree in this picture is adjacent to my home on Gage Drive (it’s not on our property, but we feel like it’s “our” tree). The City marked it for removal earlier this year after our neighbor, frustrated by the damage the tree was doing to the sidewalk, petitioned to have it removed.

My ten-year-old daughter Sarah protested the removal with a sign wrapped around the tree that reminded the would-be tree killers that the tree is home to birds and animals.



This tree is like all the other liquid amber trees on Gage Drive, which have wreaked significant havoc on the sidewalks, creating huge cracks and peaks — and a huge potential for injury. The city has tried to keep up with sidewalk repairs, but it's been a losing battle, resulting in asphalt-filled peaks and valleys.

My neighbors and I love the trees — especially their beautiful displays of fall color — but the sidewalks have been a dangerous eyesore for many years. I would prefer to lose the sidewalks and keep the trees.

The City, thankfully, had another idea. When the workers arrived two weeks ago with their trucks and backhoe, I thought I'd be saying goodbye to our tree. When I asked the very cordial City Transportation employee what they were doing, he said, "we don't remove trees anymore." Instead, they removed the sidewalk, installed root barriers, and poured a new sidewalk and driveway apron — and will be continuing the work along the entire street.

It turns out that the City has a Tree Preservation Program tasked with helping homeowners with their "sidewalk safety responsibilities by repairing tree-damaged sidewalks," according to the recording on the City's Tree Preservation Program answering machine.



This won't solve the problem forever: one of the employees said, "we'll be back in twenty years." But saving the tree AND having a brand new sidewalk? Now that's a good deal. Now... if we could only work on getting our electrical lines underground so the trees across the street wouldn't be unceremoniously hacked off at the wire line...

If you have a tree-damaged sidewalk and the tree is healthy, call (619) 527-8033.



Point Loma Association was organized in 1961. Originally called "Point Loma Village Beautiful," we were primarily concerned with the aesthetics of the Village.

Today, in addition to beautifying the Peninsula, PLA represents the community through direct involvement with agencies of federal, state and local governments, the Port District, the San Diego Unified School District, the Peninsula Community Planning Board, and others who directly affect our quality of life.

PLA Membership consists of residents and local businesses working together. We donate time, effort and money to make the Peninsula a better place in which to live and work. Annual Membership is \$30. We appreciate donations at additional support levels: \$1,000 Platinum, \$500 Gold, \$250 Silver, and \$100 Bronze. Our membership year is July 1 through June 30, although we accept new members at any time!

To request a membership brochure, please call John Calabotta at (619) 255-2209.

## Green Trees for the Golden State

Green Trees for the Golden State is a program run by the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. The program provides funding for urban and community forestry tree planting projects and up to three years of initial maintenance.

As a 501(c)(3), the PLA Foundation qualifies to apply for grant money. PLA Board member Paul McNeil is currently filling out the paperwork to apply for an approximately \$50,000 grant. If the application is accepted, the City of San Diego will provide up to 50% in matching funds. “We’re doing our best to get this,” said McNeil. “At our next meeting, we will attempt to cost [the trees] out and apply the numbers.” McNeil plans to submit the application in February. In the meantime, “we continue to look for other sources to support our beautification activities,” said McNeil.

## And palm trees in the medians

As you’re turning onto Nimitz Boulevard or Sunset Cliffs Boulevard from 8 west, you no doubt have noticed all the median improvements. What you may not know is how the improvements are being financed, and who is organizing the project.



Curt Lutz, a local resident, is the sole staff member and Executive Director of the Ocean Beach CDC, a 501(c)(3) charitable benefit corporation charged with community revitalization, economic development, and affordable housing projects. Lutz coordinates projects and administers grants.

Phase I of the project, the long median between Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes Park, was completed with City funding

allocated by Council District Two and community donations from individuals and the OB MainStreet Association. Lutz is currently overseeing Phase II of the project, which is completing hardscapes and getting water from the median out to the other two unimproved medians.

Phase II was financed with grant money from the County of San Diego and City of San Diego, and by the OB

MainStreet Association, the OB Town Council, and individual donations. “It will help us water the palm trees,” said Lutz, who noted that the eight mature Queen Palms were donated by La Jolla residents, the Jacobs and the Sundts. They not only donated the trees — they paid for the delivery of the trees to the site. “We feel really fortunate that we got the palm trees. They’re worth about \$40,000,” said Lutz.



Since the trees were installed, a local landscape contractor has donated the labor for watering them with a water truck. Lutz hopes to get additional funds or volunteer effort to install bubblers to the queen palms. “Seizing this opportunity for free palm trees is still costing nearly \$8,000 for planting, equipment, materials, and irrigation,” said Lutz. He is looking to recoup the costs with donations from the community.

Lutz wants to do additional fundraising for two additional medians near the bridge. “We want to install five more queen palms, and do final irrigation and ground cover planting as planned,” said Lutz.

If you want additional information about the project, Lutz encourages you to call him at (619) 224-1648, or to e-mail [curt@obcdc.org](mailto:curt@obcdc.org). Donations can be sent to:

Ocean Beach CDC  
4870 Santa Monica Ave. #2C  
San Diego, CA 92107

## Liberty Station Update

Provided by Greg Block, Corky McMillin Companies

Corky McMillin has started renovations to Sail Ho Golf Club, including realigning some holes for safer play and replacing the aging irrigation system. They expect the golf course to reopen to the public in summer, 2006.

The NTC Foundation is well underway on its first phase of the NTC Promenade. Two buildings should be open to the public by March 2006, with four more by summer.

The education district is almost complete. Three new schools have moved into the recently completed Building 83 (Explorer Elementary, High Tech High Media Arts and High Tech Middle Media Arts). The Rock Church and Academy has started demolition of their building (94). The Rock expects to open its school and sanctuary by spring 2007.

Other milestones to expect in 2006 include groundbreaking for the 350 room West Hotel project, opening of the first phase of NTC Park (December) and the opening of the Marketplace and Trader Joe's (December).

For more information about Liberty Station, visit [www.libertystation.com](http://www.libertystation.com), or contact Greg Block at (619) 794-1428.

## 2006 Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival

Barnacles and Blowholes!!! Join the National Park Service on January 28 and 29 for the annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival at Cabrillo National Monument.

Explore the tidepools and observe tidepool inhabitants such as sea anemones, sea hares and hermit crabs, and witness the return migration of the magnificent Pacific gray whale en route from Alaska to Baja California, Mexico.

The event will include authors, researchers and educators discussing the latest information concerning Pacific gray whales and intertidal life, a film about whales, and a puppet show. Volunteers-In-Parks will be on hand to help spot whales and tidepool creatures. Low tides (-2.0 both days) are at 2:52 p.m. on Saturday and 3:31 p.m. on Sunday.

The Park Service will also debut *On the Edge of Land and Sea: the Tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument*, a 22-minute, National Park Service film.

Dress warmly and bring a pair of binoculars!

For additional information, call (619) 557-5450 or TTY 619-222-8211, or visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/cabr>.

## Community Calendar

The Point Loma Garden Club has meetings and workshops at the Masonic Center on the second Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by workshops at 12:00. For meeting topics, go to [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org), or call (619) 276-0209.

Workshops: January 11 - Herbal cleaning products; February 3 - Creating a Floral Design; March 8 - Mosaic Flower Pots.

Plan ahead and put "Gardens on the Point," the Point Loma Garden tour, on your calendar for April 8. For advance tickets, go to [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**January 28 - 29**  
**Annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival**  
Cabrillo National Monument (see article)

**March 1-12**  
**San Diego Chess Fest at NTC Promenade**

12 days of unique experiences for the community and chess fanatics alike including the U.S. Chess Championship, Chesstival and San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce *Circles of Influence Reception*. The Chesstival on March 4 features celebrity chess matches, dancers performing live chess games, and puppet making. Great entertainment for the whole family. For information, go to [www.uschesschampionship.com/2006/news/chessfest.htm](http://www.uschesschampionship.com/2006/news/chessfest.htm)

**March 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**58th annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival, Parade, and Craft Fair**  
Kite making, prizes, entertainment, lunch, and a parade to the beach, where children can fly their new kites. Kite making: 9:00 to noon; parade: 2:00 p.m.; craft fair: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach and Ocean Beach Recreation Center. For information, call Marion Miller, (858) 274-2016, or Melanie Nickel, (619) 225-8705.

**Point Loma Association**  
Meets second Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.  
Bali Ha'i Restaurant  
2230 Shelter Island Dr.  
Patti Adams, 887-9313

**Peninsula Community Planning Board**  
Meets third Thursday, 6:30 - 9:30 pm.  
Point Loma Library  
3701 Voltaire Street  
Cynthia Conger,  
665-3210

**North Bay Redevelopment PAC**  
Meets quarterly on first Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.  
Peninsula Community Service Center  
3740 Sports Arena Blvd.  
Lydia Goularte-Ruiz  
533-5170

**Midway Planning Advisory Committee**  
Meets second Wednesday, 2 p.m.  
Peninsula Community Service Center  
3740 Sports Arena Blvd.  
Tom Traver, 295-5551

**Ocean Beach Town Council**  
Fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Ocean Beach Recreation Center  
4726 Santa Monica Ave.  
Dave Martin, 515-4400

**Ocean Beach Planning Board**  
Third Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Ocean Beach Recreation Center  
4726 Santa Monica Ave.  
Marc Snelling, 819-0287;  
chair@obpb.org



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**Holiday cheer in Point Loma!**  
Thanks to David Zedaker of Zed Electric for providing power, Jean Leighton, whose company installed the lights, and Dee Kettenberg, who led the charge to light up Point Loma for the holidays.



P.O. Box 60212, San Diego, CA 92166-0212

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**Our Mission:**

PLA is an organization of residents and local businesses committed to improving the quality of life of Point Loma through beautification, education, charitable activities and civic collaboration.

[www.PLAweb.org](http://www.PLAweb.org)