



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

Volume 1, Issue 1

June, 2009

# Welcome! Who we are and what we to do

Welcome to the first newsletter of the PQ-NE Action Group. You've probably seen our fliers dropped at your door, heard about or attended one of our community picnics at Rolling Hills Park or a craft fair at the school. Some of you may be aware of our website savepq.org that we've set up to disseminate information on our community. Well, after over three years of neighborhood activity, we thought it time to put it all together in a newsletter that we hope will be a regular publication to inform the community of what's going on. So here goes...

Back in the summer of 2005, several of your neighbors were invited to focus groups led by a company hired by prospective developers of the Doubletree Hotel. At about

the same time these neighbors learned that the owner of the Leisure Life Apartments across Peñasquitos Drive were planning to redevelop their property.



PQ-NE Action Group has sponsored several community events including the second annual NE Peñasquitos BBQ-Picnic held last June. We're hoping the third, on June 6 this year will be even better

Close calls and evacuations from wildfires were becoming more common and so was the appearance of graffiti and the occurrence of burglaries.

Some of these neighbors got together to keep track of what was going on and to inform and educate the community and PQ-NE Action Group was formed. Its mission is simple:

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

Non-profit status was granted under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code in June, 2007 and the PQ-NE Action Group set about accomplishing its mission:

- A website was opened: [www.savepq.org](http://www.savepq.org)
  - Representative attendance at all Rancho
- (Continued on page 2)

# Our 3rd annual BBQ-Picnic is Saturday, June 6, 2009

We're gearing up to put on our third (and best) annual BBQ-Picnic at Rolling Hills Park on June 6.

Like previous years, we will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, served with chips and a drink, all supplemented with fruit, veggies and cookies donated by PQ-NE Action

Group. As a special treat this year, we will be selling cotton candy and delicious and nutritious Jamba Juice.

There will be plenty for the kids, young and old to do, with our featured attraction being *Game Truck* that will be at the park between noon and 2:00 pm and offer unlim-

ited video games such as Guitar Hero and E and E10 games for the price of a \$15.00 wristband which will also admit the kids to either of two inflated bouncers during picnic hours. (If the kids only want to play on the bouncers, then a \$5.00 wrist-

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## Greater PQ:

- NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY DATES BACK 7,000 YEARS
- Rancho de los Peñasquitos was San Diego County's first Mexican land grant. (1823)
- COVERS ABOUT 6,500 ACRES
- DESIGNATED 51% RESIDENTIAL, 34% PARKS & OPEN SPACE AND 2% COMMERCIAL
- HIGHEST POINT: BLACK MOUNTAIN AT 1,500 FEET

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# northeast Peñasquitos Perspective

## Who we are and what we to do

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PQ-NE Action Group was represented at the 2007 and 2008 PQ Fiestas

TWO

MEMBERS OF  
PQ-NE ACTION  
GROUP STOOD  
AND WON  
ELECTION TO  
THE RANCHO  
PEÑASQUITOS  
PLANNING

BOARD

Peñasquitos Planning Board (RPPB) meetings was initiated

- Fliers were distributed district-wide in May, 2007 to inform the community of a critical meeting at the Doubletree Hotel where prospective replacement of the golf course with housing was proposed. This meeting was attended by an all-important overflow crowd that gave the developer much feedback
- 2 members of the board of PQ-NE Action Group, Dan Barker and Jeanine Politte stood and won election to the RPPB in March, 2007
- Supported Rod Deshano's successful effort to get PQ Drive resurfaced from

Carmel Mountain Drive to Del Diablo Way and is supporting his effort to get the job completed to Almazon St.

Neighbor BBQ-Picnic is scheduled for June 6, 2009 at Rolling Hills Park

It takes resources to run an active non-profit. Funds are needed for fliers and liability insurance. To date most of these funds have come from donations of board members. However, if expensive items such as traffic and environmental studies are required to verify the conclusions of prospective re-developers, additional and significant resources will be required.

Apart from monetary donations which are gratefully accepted, another way of supporting our mission is by signing up online at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) Every time you use your credit card with an eScrip vendor, we automatically get a percentage of that sale. This is a safe site and they DO NOT SPAM. Use Group ID: 500021441.

## Our 3rd annual BBQ-Picnic

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band will be available).

Add to all this tug-of-war, Nerf target shooting, face painting, water balloon launching, volleyball and the opportunity to enter a raffle for super prizes... and you have a fun-filled day out for the family.

We will be raffling four Disneyland® Resort One Day



Game Truck will be a new attraction at the BBQ/Picnic this year

Hopper tickets, several \$25 gift cards donated by local businesses together with complimentary meals from local restaurants.

While at the park you'll be able to get the latest information on proposed local re-development, (yes, demolition of Leisure Life Apartments has begun!) Material will also be available on Megan's Law, starting a Neighborhood Watch program and crime prevention.

The San Diego Fire Department, Station 40 is hoping to join us and bring a Fire Engine!



16 oz Jamba Juice will be sold for \$3.00 this year

## Re-development Activities

The main reason PQ-NE Action Group was formed was to monitor proposed re-development activities and to disseminate information to the community.

In 2005, the main focus was on the proposed replacement of the golf course at the Doubletree Hotel with residential housing. As we heard from the management at an overflow meeting after several focus groups had been convened, the hotel wasn't making money and imminent redevelopment was seen as a way of driving to profit.

Those of us who have visited the Doubletree recently will have seen a marked improvement of their operation with new hotel management, improved facilities and better food service.

Perhaps with these improvements or with the slump in the housing market, redevelopment is no longer seen as imminent. However, PQ-NE Action Group continues to monitor the situation closely.

Concurrent with the initiation of the Doubletree focus groups, we learned that the owners of the Leisure Life Apartments across PQ Drive had drawn up development plans for Cresta Bella. These plans called for replacement of the current structures with 1004 condominium units, over three times the housing density permitted by the community plan.

Airing of these plans at the Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board (RPPB), distribution of fliers to the community by PQ-NE Action Group, posting de-

tails on its website, [savepq.org](http://savepq.org) and constant monitoring have persuaded the owners of the property to work within the community plan and to capture a 20% density supplement by including an affordable housing component such that the proposed complex will include 368 units (307 per the community plan + 20%).

We see this change as a positive for our community. The downside is that this redevelopment does not need public review, it proceeds only through ministerial review by the city. As of this writing, permits have been received and demolition has commenced. The developer has promised to provide a copy of the plans to RPPB. Join our group or monitor [savepq.org](http://savepq.org) to get further details.



Demolition started this month of Leisure Life Apartments in preparation for a 368 unit Cresta Bella condominium complex. Re-development of the Doubletree is no longer imminent.

COMMUNITY  
PRESSURE HAS  
REDUCED  
PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENT  
FROM 1004 TO  
368 UNITS AT  
CRESTA BELLA

## Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board

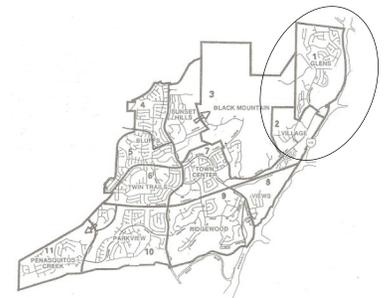
There has been long-standing citizen involvement in the City of San Diego. The City Council adopted policies in the 1960s and 1970s that established and recognized community planning groups as formal mechanisms for community input in the decision-making processes. Community planning groups provide citizens with an opportunity for involvement in advising the City Council, the Planning Commis-

sion, and other decision-makers on development projects, general or community plan amendments, rezonings and public facilities. The recommendations of the planning groups are integral components of the planning process, and are highly regarded by the City Council and by staff.

Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Board represents all eleven election districts of the commu-

nity and meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Doubletree.

Board members Dan Barker and Jeanine Polite also serve on the board of PQ-NE Action Group which concentrates its efforts in the two north-east election districts 1 and 2 (Glens and Villages).



11 districts represented by RPPB. PQ-NE Action Group concentrates its efforts in Districts 1 & 2, (circled)

# northeast Peñasquitos Perspective



We are supporting the San Diego Police Dept. to invigorate the grass-roots program

LOTS OF VALUABLE INFORMATION ON: FRAUD PREVENTION, IDENTITY THEFT, PERSONAL SAFETY IS AVAILABLE FROM SDPD

## Know your neighbor



We have hundreds of great neighbors in PQ but there are a very few who are not so great and have registered as sex offenders and live nearby.

Visit the following websites to get pictures and further information

[www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us) or [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov)

## Neighborhood Watch

*Is it time to revitalize in your area?*

In the early years of our community, Neighborhood Watch was an active program but, like many of the signs at the entrance to our streets, it has lost its luster.

With the opening of the community police storefront office adjacent to Los Peñasquitos Elementary School, there has

been an active program led by Officer Ping to get the community neighborhoods organized.

This effort includes recruitment of a volunteer block captain, the development of calling trees, education on crime prevention and reporting and even the replacement of old

Neighborhood Watch street signs with new ones.

Janet McCarthy, a resident of the Westwind subdivision area, has taken up the call and has organized her area.

PQ-NE Action Group will help facilitate similar organization in other areas of our community.

## Storefront at Los Peñasquitos ES has wealth of information

*A San Diego Police community resource*

Officer Ping at the storefront adjacent to Los Peñasquitos Elementary School operated by the San Diego Police Department, can provide a lot of information on safety and security.

Publications include tips for preventing fraud and identity theft, internet fraud, (suspicious e-mails; phishing; whaling; security alerts), check scams, identity theft, wi-fi hacking and so-called credit repair.

Other subjects include personal safety and security tips, (including advice on answering the door, answering the phone and talking to strangers, returning home and caring for and teaching your children).

SDPD has also developed vehicle and home security tips and detailed instructions and

police support in starting a Neighborhood Watch organization.

PQ-NE Action Group will have a limited number of copies of the material to hand out at the BBQ-Picnic.

If you are unable to get a copy, contact us at [savepq.org](http://savepq.org).



### The Water Crisis and You

Beginning June 1, 2009, the City of San Diego moved to a Level 2 – Drought Alert Condition that

includes mandatory water use restrictions for Water Department customers. See how you're impacted by the [Level 2 requirements](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/).

### northeast Peñasquitos Perspective

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