



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ONLINE

•Danny Estrella emails: "Hi John, I read your column this morning and have a suggestion for you regarding a neighborhood watch website. We in the Pedro Point district have been using Nextdoor for the past year and a half. It's like an electronic bulletin board for a specific geographic location. It's been great for sharing watch alerts, requesting recommendations for tradespersons, selling stuff, posting announcements and events, etc. Check it out at Nextdoor.com. There are two other Nextdoor sites in San Pedro Valley as well. Just enter your address and the system will tell you that either there is a neighborhood group formed or you can start your own. Keep Wanderin'."

•A local lookout emails that his Rio Vista Street neighborhood "has a tight email and phone tree in place for a few years now, and vigilant folks living on the block. I chased down a burglar a few years ago, in Crocs no less."

CLUELESS IN PACIFICA

Pacifica Rat emails: "Noticed people in my neighborhood putting plastic bags full of garbage in the blue Recology recycling containers. The trash haulers say they can't do anything about it. It contaminates the recycling process and ruins the truck haul. Half of the people on my block don't even know which week to put out the blue recycling container." This is really pathetic. Recology regularly mails pickup schedules to every household in Pacifica and publishes the schedules in the Pacifica Tribune, and the blue containers are clearly labeled for recycling, but apparently adult illiteracy is a real problem in this town.

PARK PACIFICA STABLES CHANGE HANDS

The corral and stables at the end of Cape Breton Street in Park Pacifica have been sold for \$1.95 million. "Rumor has it they want to turn it into an upscale English riding facility," says my business source.

BID FOR BRAND-NEW BIKE RACK

Looking for a nice new rooftop bike rack for your car? I just changed transportation modes and wound up with a brand-new, still-in-the-box Thule 594 XT Sidearm rack that I would like to sell to raise operating funds for my Pacifica Riptide blog (which I pay for out of my own pocket). You can look around online and in stores, and I think you will find out that this beauty is worth just under \$200. I have owned two of these racks over many years, and have found them easy to use and totally reliable and secure. Sidearm attaches easily to your rooftop crossbars. Remember, this is a fundraising sale to benefit Pacifica Riptide, so please make me an offer I can't refuse! Email me at mayburrito@goofbuster.com

ALANDROME: SAND-KICKING BULLIES

Here's the latest from Alan Wald: Last week's Tribune reported that the upcoming Pacifica Fog Fest features the popular sandcastle building contest. Unfortunately, some palindrome-loving bullies plan to knock down those sandcastles: "Mark 'Castle Pacifica' -- pelt, sack, ram!"

FALL BALL: STRESS-FREE FUN

Pacifica National Little League (PNLL) hosts its second year of sandlot-style Fall Ball through October 20. All players are welcome regardless of Little League boundaries. In other words, it is open to Little Leaguers in other cities and other leagues, including Pacifica American Little League. The focus and success of Fall Ball are rooted in FUN. It is a low-stress program, where competitiveness takes a backseat to instruction. The goal is to replicate the informal feeling of the sandlot games of yesteryear. PNLL sees the Fall Ball program as a unique opportunity for kids to get their first taste of baseball at the AA and Minors

level, while also providing an opportunity to tune up their skills. Learning, making friends, and fostering self-esteem take precedence over the final score. Games are umpired by coaches. All games are played at Fairway Park. The program offers three divisions: AA Division, Coach Pitch (ages 6 to 8) from 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Minors I Division, Combination Coach/Player Pitch (ages 8 to 9) from 12:30 to 4 p.m.; Minors II Division, Player Pitch (ages 9 to 12) from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Download the registration form and get more information at pnllbaseball.com.

COPY EDITOR GANG WAR

Law enforcement officials confirmed Friday that four more copy editors were killed this week amid ongoing violence between two rival gangs divided by their loyalties to the The Associated Press Stylebook and The Chicago Manual Of Style. "At this time we have reason to believe the killings were gang-related and carried out by adherents of both the AP and Chicago styles, part of a vicious, bloody feud to establish control over the grammar and usage guidelines governing American English," said FBI spokesman Paul Holstein, showing reporters graffiti tags in which the word "anti-social" had been corrected to read "antisocial." "The deadly territory dispute between these two organizations, as well as the notorious MLA Handbook gang, has claimed the lives of more than 63 publishing professionals this year alone." Officials also stated that an innocent 35-year-old passerby who found himself caught up in a long-winded dispute over use of the serial, or Oxford, comma had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. (The Onion)

NIGHT LIGHT BLIGHT

Sylvia Payne emails: "New lights were installed in the upper parking lot at Oceana High School more than a month ago. I noticed them right away. They are too bright and absolutely way out of proportion for the neighborhood. The lights come on at 8:30 p.m. and go off at midnight, then come back on at 5 a.m. and go off an hour later. Jefferson Union High School District shows total disrespect for our neighborhood; the lights are invasive to the whole canyon area, ruining any enjoyment of the night sky in Pacifica, and actually serve no purpose, as the parking lot is seldom used after 9 p.m. Keeping the lights on actually will only attract people who have no business there. This is just real overkill on the school district's part. It needs to dim the lights and shield them to better direct the light to the parking lot instead of the entire canyon and homes in the vicinity; and especially, to turn them off at 9 p.m. I placed numerous calls to the school district and stated my complaint, but there has yet to be a response. The school district is on my list of most shameful!" (Join Sylvia's campaign against Night Light Blight. Email her at smppa@comcast.net)

LET FREEDOM RING

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Monday, August 26 at King Plaza (named after MLK and Coretta Scott King) in front of City Hall at 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto. From 5 to 7 p.m. there is a showing of "Soundtrack for a Revolution." The official program is from 7 to 9 p.m.

INNER EDIROT

•"Deep in the mountains of northern Idaho, miles from the nearest town, lays evidence of a little-known portion of a shameful chapter in American history." (Associated Press story using incorrect verb for "lies")
•"Victim of stabbing was wife of her killer" (awkward S.F. Chronicle headline; would have been simpler to say "Man fatally stabs his wife")

SITeseer

Easy way to look for jobs: gozaik.com

SWAMI SEZ

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." (Benjamin Franklin)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

•Editor: goofbuster.com
•Blogger: pacificariptide.com
•Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com