

There are reasons for not accepting a 'gift'

I am writing in response to Rachel Viramontes' letter to the editor ("Eastview shouldn't forget Bisno's offer," More San Pedro, April 14), wherein she claimed Mr. Bob Bisno offered ball fields at his Ponte Vista site to Eastview Little League as a "gift." Viramontes' statement, as with much other misinformation that has been passed the past two to three years, is inaccurate and misleading.

Bisno did not "offer" 6 acres of land to Eastview for free, and Bisno did not attempt to make a "gift" of approximately \$12 million to Eastview Little League which was rejected. Instead, Bisno offered to build temporary fields and the hope of a possible permanent home, only if his project was approved and if Eastview met certain conditions with respect to promoting his project.

A "gift" is defined by Webster's Dictionary as "something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation." Rather than making an immediate "gift" of the land, which would have been gladly accepted by Eastview Little League, Bisno's generous proposal was contingent on two things:

1. Eastview was required to back the Ponte Vista project, and;
2. Bisno was to receive the necessary approvals to build his project.

Bisno made it crystal clear from Day 1 that he would not deed land to Eastview unless and until his project was approved. That was nearly three years ago, and Bisno's project is still not approved or built, despite Eastview's full cooperation.

In addition, Bisno told Eastview that if he did not receive the permits, he would sell the property in 2008, and Eastview would not receive the required land for fields. As part of the first contingency, Bisno also wanted Eastview to sign a contract that stated Eastview could no longer look for alternative permanent sites during the time his project was in the permit process. If Eastview had accepted Bisno's proposal at that time, it would have been in the exact same position it is now, without a permanent home and without the ability to continue its search.

More than 40 years ago, the DiCarlo family made a generous gift to San Pedro by permitting Eastview Little League to operate at its current location for free. Over time, the ball fields we now call Eastview Little League have provided San Pedro and its families with a place to gather and meet through the game of baseball. Children who grew up playing at the DiCarlo site are now adults who have children who play there. Like many things in San Pedro, Eastview has created a cycle of memories for many of its residents while at the same time establishing deep roots of a community.

It is truly a shame that Eastview likely faces the prospect of closure at its current site, and more of a shame that it has no place to go despite nearly three years of aggressive searching.

Eastview has not rejected the idea of creating permanent fields at the Ponte Vista site if it is unable to remain at its current location. In fact, if Bisno truly is a generous man as Rachel Viramontes claims, he would make an immediate gift of land to Eastview Little League for free, by conveying the property now with no strings attached. Until then, please understand that as generous as Bisno's offer may seem to some, it is not a solution Eastview Little League can afford to accept.

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Eastview Little League president, San Pedro