

# We Create Community

## October 2014 • Volume 4 Issue 10



### New Fiscal Year Begins With Added Resources

As the new fiscal year begins, Parks, Recreation and Marine is providing quality park, beach, marina and facility maintenance; working to provide safe, clean parks for all residents; providing recreational opportunities to meet community needs, and providing for the humane treatment of animals. The provisions of these services support the City budget goals to maintain strong city services for a diverse and vibrant community, and to continue investment in City infrastructure.

The year starts on a high note with the Department still celebrating their Gold Medal award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management from the National Parks and Recreation Association. Another major accomplishment in 2014 was the installation of the temporary Belmont Plaza Pool to serve residents until a new aquatics complex is in place.



Antiquated Heartwell irrigation system

For more water savings, a total of \$1,269,000 has been added to the budget to install synthetic turf sports fields at Admiral Kidd in addition to funding already provided to convert two soccer fields at Seaside and El Dorado Parks. Additionally, it is hoped that partnerships with industry and community stakeholders, and

local sports leagues will allow a fourth field to be completed. The migration to synthetic turf fields will not only reduce our water consumption, but will also help address the growing demand for use of our fields.

The budget adoption is also a time to incorporate better ways to serve residents. The Long Beach Animal Care Bureau has been re-organized at no extra cost to the General Fund to provide for improved efficiency and oversight. The bureau has grown significantly over the last five years and now provides a better ladder for staff making a career with the City of Long Beach.

Also included in the 2015 budget is \$3.5 million distributed among the nine council districts to make strategic infrastructure investments which may include park facilities and amenities, enhanced recreation programming.

The Department is extremely pleased with the continued investments identified in the new 2014-2015 budget and is thankful for the support of the City Council.



The Chittick Track and Sports Field Facility Opened on April 23, 2014

Thanks to the support from the Long Beach City Council, over \$200,000 will support maintenance needs such as custodial supplies and grounds maintenance at parks that have been added or upgraded in recent years such as Baker, Orizaba, and Craftsman Parks; the new Chittick sports complex, and medians, parkways and parks throughout the city.

A total of \$2 million will replace the antiquated manually operated irrigation system at Heartwell Park, which spans over one mile. The new system will allow for greater efficiency and cost savings. In addition, \$450,000 has been allocated to increase the park system's water budget, which has not kept up with the over 40 percent increase in water rates over the past seven years.



Animal Care Services staff by cat condos

## El Dorado Park Named An “Inspiring Park”

El Dorado Park was named one of the “Top 30 great inspiring inner-city parks in the Country,” by socialworkdegreeguide.com, a leading on-line resource for educational and career options in the field of Social Work.

According to socialworkdegreeguide.com, “In the urban landscape of America, city parks play a critically-important role in the mental and physical health of people across the country. These are some of the best parks in the country to go for inspiration, for wonder, and to escape the stress and strife of a hustle and bustle life.”

At number 24, the article said that “With 763 acres, El Dorado Park is both the largest and the most-visited park in the City of Long Beach. It was noted that El Dorado Park has an impressive number of amenities, including a skate park, and outdoor archery range, soccer and softball fields, volleyball and basketball courts that are lit at night, and 18-hole golf course, a roller hockey court, a tennis center, designated areas for remote control airplanes and sailboats, and a disc golf course.

In addition, there are three fishing lakes and a fishing pond, and the park was the site for the archery competitions of the 1984 Olympics.



## Miracle on Fourth Street Park Renovation Underway



The City’s first mini park, Miracle on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park, at 1518 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street is getting a much needed facelift, thanks to \$63,850 in one time infrastructure funds allocated by Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal.

The project started on September 17, and will update one of the most heavily used parks in the City. The .14-acre park will be renovated with new walkways, landscaping, turf, irrigation, benches, trash cans, and a fresh coat of paint on the playground, new playground safety surfacing and new tetherball equipment.

The park closed on September 17 and is scheduled to re-open on October 23. The recreation programs associated with the Park are continuing during the park closure.

The park was offered to the City for an interim use by the adjoining property owner, and the City leased the property in February 2000 for the cost of development and upkeep.

The Leadership Long Beach class of 2000 (LLB) undertook the park’s development as a class project, and assisted with design and general contracting by City staff. The LLB students held public meetings to gain input, raised funds, arrange for donated labor by the Job Corps, and Conservation Corps of Long Beach, and ran a park-naming contest with Burbank Elementary School.

The park was opened to the public in November 2000 with a playground, bench seating, turf a mural and varied landscaping. The City also leases a garage area in the adjacent commercial building to conduct after school programs.

The owner decided to sell the property in 2004, and the City purchased the site with Park Impact Fee funds.



## Fall Youth Sports Leagues Underway

More than 1,400 youth are registered for the Department's free youth sports leagues this fall. The youth are developing sports skills in fun, safe, environments under the supervision of positive role models, and developing teamwork and sportsmanship. All participants play regardless of ability, and build self-confidence and self-esteem that develops responsibility, and leadership skills.



Girls ages 5-8 are playing Volleyball, a fast-paced game played with a volleyball on a volleyball court with a tennis-height net. A total five teams are competing.

A total of 36 girls volleyball teams are setting and serving throughout the city. A young player gets some tips from a coach Melissa Arias (left) at Pan American Park.



The Department's boy's flag football programs registered 1,040 boys in 108 teams and the competition is friendly and face-paced at parks throughout the City

Sign-ups for boys and girls basketball teams for ages 5-8 and 9-14 will begin December 8. The six-week leagues will begin play on January 31.

Visit the Long Beach sports website [www.teamside-line.com/longbeach](http://www.teamside-line.com/longbeach) or call (562) 570-1707 for more information.

### Community Recreation Services Bureau: By the Numbers - August 2014

Permits to Gather	284
Reserved Picnic Sites	67
Number of Contract Classes	110
Facility Use Permits Issued	65
Field Use Permits issued	136
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes	527
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	16,500
Adult Sports League Participants	9,592
Visits to City and City Operated Pools	32,603
Youth and Teen Participants	66,847
Senior Citizen Participants	44,113
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center	21,707

## LBUSD "Back to School Night Events



Recreation Specialist Mechelle Smith talks to parent at Mark Twain

On September 23, Long Beach Unified School District hosted its annual Back to School Night event for elementary schools. This was an evening for parents and guardians to visit their child's school, meet teachers and learn about the year's academic curriculum. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year

that Community Recreation Services staff has attended this event to distribute information about fall programs for youth and answer questions from parents.

Staff also visited 11 middle schools on September 30 and three high schools on October 1.

## Homeland Shares Artistry at “Color Me Long Beach”



Artists and performers from Homeland Cultural Center participated in “Color Me Long Beach,” on September 27, part of “A LOT,” a community-wide initiative presented by the Arts Council for Long Beach to broaden audience and artist engagement, and link arts and culture with neighborhoods. A LOT presents free arts experiences on vacant lots in underserved areas of the city. “Color

Me Long Beach” was held on the Acres of Books and ArtExchange Lot at 3rd Street and Long Beach Boulevard.

The audience enjoyed Homeland performers including the West Afrikan Drum and Dance Ensemble, Kutturan Chamoru Performers of Guam, Homeland Street Dance Crew, Homeland Funkstylers, Hmong Association of Long Beach dancers, Danza Azteca Xipetotec, and Homeland spoken word artists. The groups presented workshops following their performances about their art forms.

An Urban Recycled Art show sponsored by Long Beach Depot for Creative ReUse, an Urban Art Exhibition from the Be Safe Project sponsored by Centro CHA, and the Long Beach Library’s Studio Project for technology applications were also part of the event.

The next “A LOT,” program “A Lot North 1” will take place at Atlantic and Artesia on October 18 and 19. Visit [www.artslb.org/alot-initiative](http://www.artslb.org/alot-initiative) for more information.



## Know Your Long Beach Park: Lions’ Lighthouse for Sight

The ten-story tall “Lions Light house for Sight” reaches for the sky on the seaward knoll adjacent to Rainbow Harbor. The lighthouse is a functioning navigational aide, and a testament to Lions Clubs International’s dedication to ending blindness in the world.

The Long Beach Lions helped to raise the \$206,000 of the \$350,000 needed to build the lighthouse to augment a low-interest loan from the California Department of Boating and Waterways. Groundbreaking for the Lions Lighthouse for Sight took place on February 27, 2000 and was completed in June, 2000.

Visitors to the lighthouse can enjoy a window display of historical photos of Long Beach’s waterfront. Images include the “Vin Fiz” plane piloted by “Cal” Rodgers, the first person to pilot a plane across the continental United States, the Spruce Goose, Bathing Beauties, the Pike, Cyclone Racer, the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, the Great White Fleet, Rainbow Pier, the Long Beach Municipal Band Shell and the Queen Mary.





# Long Beach Metro Blue Line Landscaping Enhancements



Parks, Recreation and Marine Maintenance staff are taking advantage of a temporary Metro Blue line closing of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Downtown Long Beach and Pacific Avenue Blue Line stations from September 22 through October 19 for renovation, to handle ground maintenance projects in the area.

The station improvements will include new tile, rail replacement, lighting, paint, landscaping and, extended station canopies.



Staff is removing dead plants, trimming palm trees and restoring and adjusting irrigation systems from 1st to 10th Street. Staff worked with the Metro contractor to approve a plant palette for new shrubs in the area to compliment existing drought tolerant landscaping and fill in several unlandscaped sections in the area.



Closing the stations simultaneously will speed up the upgrades to restore service as soon as possible. Free bus service will link the four closed stations with the Anaheim Street Station. Train service will continue northward to Los Angeles from Anaheim Station. Once the work at these stations is complete, Metro will continue northward to Anaheim Station and continue progressively to complete re-furbishing stations along the entire line.

## Maintenance Operations Bureau: By the Numbers - September 2014

<b>Community Service Program Workers:</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Community Service Program Hours:</b>	<b>2,463</b>
Queensway Bay:	250
Beach Maintenance:	827
Marine Maintenance:	416
Los Cerritos Wetlands:	258
All other sites:	712
<b>Work orders completed bureau wide:</b>	<b>510</b>
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis:	172
Facilities & Gymnasiums cleaned daily:	28
<b>Park acres maintained:</b>	
Park turf:	814
Park landscape:	2,310
Street (medians) turf:	53
Street landscape:	143



### Part of the Solution

LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

Help our parks lead the way  
in water conservation.

To report a water issue in  
the park, call (562) 570-4895, or  
get the GoLongBeach app.



Visit [www.LBParks.gov/water](http://www.LBParks.gov/water)  
to see the ways we are becoming  
a part of the solution.

## California Coastal Cleanup Day A Success



Staff from El Dorado Nature Center did another great job this year coordinating the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20. This event is a program of the California Coastal Commission and is the largest volunteer event in the state.

Staff led 1,151 volunteers at Alamitos Beach, Alamitos Bay Marina, Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, Bluff Park and Mother's Beach in collecting 3,311 lbs. (1.65 tons!) of debris. They were part of the 54,000 volunteers across the state that removed 576,571 pounds of trash and



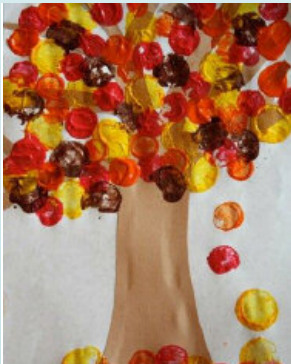
109,494 pounds of recyclable materials for a total of 686,065 pounds or 343 tons.

Be sure to get involved in maintaining the health and beauty of our beaches and inland wa-

terways. Call the Nature Center for information on clean-up events scheduled throughout the year as well as Coastal Cleanup Day 2015.



## El Dorado Nature Center Parent and Me Workshops



El Dorado Nature Center's Parent and Me Workshops are a great way to spend time with your toddler. The workshops are designed to encourage imagination and a sense of adventure as parent and child celebrate the seasons with a special morning of crafts, stories, songs and outdoor exploration. Parent participation is required. Children must be ages 18 months

to five years. \$20 / child and parent pair. Additional participants can be added at \$10 each. Wednesdays 10 – 11:30 a.m. Call visit [www.lbparks.org](http://www.lbparks.org) register.

### October 29

"Spooky Spectacular." Celebrate with bats and spiders and other creepy cute Halloween creatures. Critter friendly costumes are welcome. (#10762)

### November 19

"Turkey Trotting Art." Explore the crinkly crunchy textures and sunset colors of fall as you make decorations and gifts for Thanksgiving. (#10763)

### December 10

"Winter Holiday Crafts." Make heartfelt gifts for loved ones using natural materials and recycled doodads, and your imagination. (#10764)

## California Native Plant Sale

El Dorado Nature Center will be blooming with thousands of California native plants for sale on Saturday, October 25. All purchases will benefit the Center by supporting habitat restoration.

Come early for the best selection. A wide variety of drought-tolerant plants will be available including California buckwheat, Coast Sunflower, ceanothus species, sages and more.

The sale will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. "Friends of El Dorado Nature Center" members may start shopping at 9 a.m. Memberships are available at the gate.

Call (562) 570-1745 for more information.





## Alamitos Bay Marina Rebuild Update



The rebuild of the Alamitos Bay Marina is continuing with the demolition and reconstruction of basin 2, located west of North Marina Drive and South of Pacific Coast Highway. The Long Beach City Council approved the allocation of \$10.9 million for Phase 5 of the project on August 19. The work at basin 2 involves docks 11, 12, 13 and 14 and new docks, piles, gangways and dredging. Demolition of docks 11-14 will begin on October 20 and dredging should begin by mid-November.

Marina tenants assigned to these docks are being re-assigned during the construction.

As presented at the City Council meeting on April 15, 2014, Tidelands received a net of \$10.9 million from the Marina Fund between 1988 and 1996, which has been returned as authorized by the CA State Lands Commission on June 19, 2014. In addition, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is working with the Department of Financial Management, a financial advisor, bond counsel and an underwriter on a market study, financial projections and debt capacity necessary to determine the Marina Fund's credit rating for the issuance and sale of bonds. At present it is believed that the Marina Fund can issue bonds for \$34 to \$40 million.

A copy of the Council presentation is posted on the Marine Bureau website, [www.longbeach.gov/park/marine/abm\\_rebuild\\_updates.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/park/marine/abm_rebuild_updates.asp)

## Animal Care Services Update

### Animal Care Services Mobile App



Local pet owners and animal lovers can now easily search for adoptable cats and dogs, find local dog parks, search impounded animals and locate emergency and after-hours veterinary facilities with the new Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) mobile application.

The free App includes social media feeds, videos and other services and programs from

Animal Care Services. In addition, App users can receive notifications from ACS with news and updates about upcoming low-cost clinics and special events.

The App, called "Long Beach Animal Care Services," is available on iTunes (<http://bit.ly/1hlsZGa>) and Google Play (<http://bit.ly/19SYx0J>).

A fix Long Beach event sponsored by Councilmember Al Austin and Long Beach Animal Care Services

## Low-Cost Cat and Dog Vaccination and Free Spay and Neuter Clinic

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**at Scherer Park**

(corner of Del Amo Blvd and Atlantic Ave.)

### VACCINE CLINIC

**10 a.m. - 1p.m.**

All services are cash only.

SERVICE FEES: Rabies shot: \$7 • AVID Microchips: \$28

### VACCINATIONS FOR DOGS

DAP/DHPP: \$19 • Bordetella: \$14 • Lyme: \$22

### VACCINATIONS FOR CATS

Purevax Rabies: \$20 • FVRCP: \$18 • FELV: \$21

Pet owners must be 18 years or older.  
All pets must be on leashes or in carriers.  
Only healthy and non-pregnant animals will be vaccinated.  
Dogs and cats four months of age and older must be licensed.

If you have a prior Rabies vaccine certificate, license tag or license renewal notice for your pet, please bring it with you to the clinic.

Licensing also available.

For more information, call (562) 570-7387 or visit [www.longbeach.gov/acs](http://www.longbeach.gov/acs)



**FREE**

### SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC

**Appointment Required\***

ANIMALS THAT ARE FIXED:

- Live Longer
- Have lower license fees
- Won't spray or roam as much
- Have reduced cancer risk

Please help end the animal overpopulation crisis.

8th district residents given priority, vouchers will also be available.

If rabies vaccination is current, please bring current rabies certificate to appointment.  
\*Call 323-413-7729 to make an appointment.

[www.fixlongbeach.com](http://www.fixlongbeach.com)



## October

Sun. 12:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 13:	Times Vary	**New Four-week Swim Sessions Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Tue. 14:	Times Vary	**New Four-week Swim Sessions Begin	King Park Pool
Wed. 15:	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 16:	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission	El Dorado Senior Center
Sat. 18:	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Clean	Golden Shore Biological Reserve
	10 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Signal Hill Park, 2175 Cherry Ave.,
	1:30 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Stearns Champion Park
Sun. 19:	1:30 p.m.	**Lecture: "Urban Nature Isn't What You Think"	Rancho Los Alamitos
Sat. 25:	9:30 a.m.	California Native Plant Sale	El Dorado Nature Center
	10 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Coolidge Park
	1:30	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Scherer Park
Sun. 26:	12 p.m.	Children's Fall Harvest Festival	Rancho Los Alamitos
Tue. 28:	6 p.m.	**"HOWL" -oween Festival	El Dorado Nature Center

## November

Sat. 1:	10 a.m.	**First Saturday Stewards Trail Cleanup.	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 3:	Open Hours	Rancho Los Cerritos holiday event ticket sales.	Rancho Los Cerritos
Sat. 8:	10 a.m.	Veterans Day Parade	Atlantic Avenue btw. Harding & 56 <sup>th</sup>
Tue. 11:	7 p.m.	**Naturalist-led Nightlife Walk \$5 per person.	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 13:	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sat. 15:	10 a.m.	**Volunteer Wetlands Cleanup	Golden Shore Biological Reserve
	10 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Arbor Park, 4665 Lampson Ave., Seal Beach
	1:30-3 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic	Orizaba Park 1435 Orizaba Ave
Wed. 19:	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 20:	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Senior Center
Fri. 21:	TBA	8*The annual Basket Brigade Volunteer event	El Dorado Park West.
Sat. 22:	7:30 p.m.	8*Storytelling event Ages 12 & up. \$5 per person.	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 27:		Thanksgiving Holiday	
Fri. 28:		Thanksgiving Holiday	

\*\*Call location for registration and fee information.



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**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**