

# We Create Community

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## Miracle on 4th Street Park Grand Re-Opening Event Held



Mayor Robert Garcia and Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal join young park patrons in cutting the ribbon to re-open Miracle Park.

Mayor Robert Garcia, Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal and the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Public Works joined the public for the “Grand Re-Opening” of Miracle on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park on December 6.

Fourteen years after it’s ‘Grand Opening,’ the park was ready for a renovation. Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal allocated \$63,850 in one-time infrastructure funds to install new walkways, landscaping, turf, irrigation, site furnishings, a fresh coat of paint on the playground, new playground safety surfacing and new tetherball equipment.

The small .14-acre park makes a big impact in its population-dense neighborhood. Miracle Park opened in November 2000 thanks to the vision of local realtors Kim and Daryl Rouse, owners of the adjacent Sudsy Laundromat. According to Daryl, there were always children playing in the driveway and in alley behind the store, and that the nearest park was more than a mile away. The Rouses worked with Parks, Recreation and Marine on a renewable ten-year lease, at no cost to the City except for development and upkeep.

The City of Long Beach handled design and general contracting and the Leadership Long Beach Class of 2000 (LLB) took on the park’s development as a class



LLB Project Leader Angie Avery shared her group’s enthusiasm and efforts to help make the park a reality.

project. The LLB students held public meetings to gain public input, raised funds, arranged for donated labor by the Job Corps, and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach, and ran a park-naming contest with nearby Burbank Elementary School.

In 2004, the City of Long Beach purchased the property with park impact funds.



Acting Parks, Recreation and Marine Maintenance Operations Manager Hurley Owens and Vice Mayor Lowenthal assist children in planting milkweed plants to attract Monarch butterflies.



The improved tetherball court is a popular amenity at the park.

## Colorful “Trees in the Bay” A Holiday Tradition



This month, residents and visitors can enjoy colorful lighted trees throughout December at waterfront locations including Colorado Lagoon, Rainbow Harbor, Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Rainbow Lagoon, Alamitos Bay, and Spinnaker Bay. Trees are also lighted at Scherer Park, Good Neighbor Park, El Dorado Park and Heartwell Lake.

The tree program is managed by Parks, Recreation and Marine’s Maintenance and Development Bureau staff who begin preparing the trees in October for lighting ceremonies on Thanksgiving weekend. Staff repairs and paints the wooden structures, strings trees with colored lights, and tows to their positions where they are anchored and strung with electrical wire.

Several sponsors support the 65-year old program including the Alamitos Bay Beach Preservation Group, Alamitos Heights Improvement Association, Spinnaker Cove Slip Owners Association, and Trees in the Bay Association.

Top: Colorado Lagoon. Right top to bottom: Rainbow Harbor, Peninsula Beach and Upper Alamitos Bay.



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

<b>Community Service Program Workers:</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>Work orders completed bureau wide:</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Community Service Program Hours:</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>Park acres maintained:</b>	
Queensway Bay:	600	Park turf:	814
Beach Maintenance:	188	Park landscape:	2,310
Marine Maintenance:	52	Street (medians) turf:	53
Los Cerritos Wetlands:	145	Street landscape:	143
All other sites:	505		
<b>Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis:</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>Water use:</b>	
<b>Facilities &amp; Gymnasiums cleaned daily:</b>	<b>28</b>	MOB GP105 Water cost & consumption for September.	
		Parks & Street Island Potable	42,347ccf \$135,711
		Parks and Street island Reclaimed	60,766ccf \$96,015

## Fishing Derby Nets Lots of Fun for Local Kids



On November 22, Parks, Recreation and Marine teamed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation to host the annual Youth Fishing Derby at El Dorado Park. Kids 15 and under were invited to try their luck at catching trout and catfish.

Dan Hernandez, host of the T. V. series "Sport Fishing with Dan Hernandez," gave tips and instruction to the youth, many of whom were enjoying their first fishing experience. Staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and El Dorado Nature Center staff provided educational exhibits and encouraged participants to learn about fishing regulations, ethical fishing and restoration programs. The youth were entered into a drawing for prizes that included new fishing poles, an El Dorado Regional Park seasonal pass and a new bicycle.

For more information on the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation, visit [www.danskids.org](http://www.danskids.org).

The El Dorado Regional Park is open seven days a week from 7:00 am to dusk. For more information on park amenities and special events, please call (562) 570-1771 or visit [www.lbparks.org](http://www.lbparks.org).



Dan Hernandez shares tips with young anglers at Regional Park Fishing Derby



## El Dorado West Serves as "Basket Brigade" Central



A spirit of generosity and good will filled the air at El Dorado Park West on November 22, as over 200 volunteers gathered to assemble more than 1,000 Thanksgiving baskets for local residents in need. The motto of the non-profit Long Beach Basket Brigade is "delivering hope to families in need." The organization raises money and solicits donations throughout the year

to provide baskets filled with a turkey and all the trimmings to enable families to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Visit <http://longbeachbasketbrigade.org> for information on how to volunteer or make a donation to make 2015 a more hopeful year for less fortunate families.

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

Permits to Gather	140
Reserved Picnic Sites	22
Number of Contract Classes	200
Facility Use Permits Issued	90
Field Use Permits issued	75
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes	474
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	13,668
Adult Sports League Participants	10,664
Visits to City and City Operated Pools	15,796
Youth and Teen Participants	54,682
Senior Citizen Participants	45,752
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center	18,936

## Planning Underway for a New Houghton Park Community Center



The 80-year-old Houghton Park Community Center serves a population of 90,000 and has vibrant senior and teen programs. Plans are underway to replace the Center with \$3 million in one-time funding allocated from Fiscal Year 2014 to start the project, including \$1.3 million for the design. The completed project is expected to cost approximately \$10 million.

At a community meeting on November 19 at Houghton Park, Studio Pali Fekete Architects along with Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Marine staff solicited public input to design the new center.

In the morning, more than 40 senior citizens came to offer their ideas, which ranged from a fitness room with windows, a new computer lab and storage for furniture and equipment for their programs.

In the afternoon dozens of teens talked about their needs including places for after school homework help and more equipment in the computer lab. They worked with a model of the park and arranged blocks that represented rooms and buildings into configurations that they thought would make the new project function best.

Many residents want to preserve historical aspects of the building, particularly the clubhouse area with its 1920s-era architecture and stage trusses.

The team will also have an outreach and information table at Houghton's Breakfast with Santa event on December 20 and work with the Uptown Business Association to get feedback from local businesses.



## Belmont Plaza Pool Demolition Underway



The demolition of the old Belmont Pool is underway with the locker room doors coming down on December 2. Get ready for a brand new pool by 2017.



Locker rooms gone and east end down - December 9, 2014.

## Know Your Long Beach Park: Fitness Zones

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Fitness Zones are free, easy-to-use outdoor gyms, as well as walking paths and exercise instruction stations that are helping to improve the health of residents. The Zones offer an alternative to expensive health club dues, and have activated parks by bringing people together to get a great workout in a secure atmosphere of camaraderie and fun.



California State University Long Beach's Kinesiology Department, is offering free fitness classes at Houghton Park on Wednesdays and Fridays. Long Beach Health and Human Services is working with LBPRM to install a Fitness Zone at Houghton Park similar to the Fitness Zone at Coolidge Park.

The **Coolidge Park Fitness Zone** opened in February 2014, and was funded by a Kaiser Permanente HEAL Zone grant administered by Long Beach Health and Human Services and the Coalition for a Healthy North Long Beach.

The **Orizaba Park Fitness Zone** opened in August 2014 as part of a park expansion. One of the park's most popular features is the exercise equipment positioned along a walking path.

The **Admiral Kidd "Life Trail,"** opened in March 2011 with the park's 3.6-acre expansion. With the idea that "play has no age," a circuit around the park has several stops where exercisers can do posted fitness activities or use stationary exercise equipment.



The **14th Street Park Fitness Zone** opened in October 2014. First District Councilmember Lena Gonzales provided \$117,500 in funds to pay for fitness equipment and a paved path for circuit training.

The Heal Zone grant also paid for the half-mile **Houghton Park Fitness Loop** in December 2013. The Loop has signs with exercise instructions in English and Spanish and a QR code that links to an exercise video provided by the California Department of Public Health.

## El Dorado Tennis Center to Host USTA Pro Circuit Event



Some of America's rising tennis stars and top college players will start the new year off by playing in two USTA Pro Circuit Futures \$15,000-level tournaments. The tournaments will take place on January 3-11 at the Marks Tennis Stadium

at USC and on January 10-18 at El Dorado Tennis Center in Long Beach. Both tournaments will hold a 64-player qualifying draw; 32 main singles and 16 doubles.

Singles qualifying for the USC tournament begins January 3, with main-draw action beginning January 6, at 10 a.m. The doubles final at El Dorado Tennis Center will be contested January 9 and the singles final will be on January 11.

El Dorado Park Tournament Director Cathy Jacobson-Guzy was approached by USC men's tennis coach Peter Smith to run the event after the USC coach was contacted by the USTA in hopes of placing a tournament in Los Angeles to start the year.

Smith and his former Long Beach State teammate Mitch Bridge currently run their Southern California Tennis Academy with the help of Jacobson-Guzy out of El Dorado Park.

"We expect a lot of good local pros to come out, as well as some of the area's top collegiate and junior players," Jacobson-Guzy said.

The public may attend both tournaments free of charge.

## Animal Care Services Shares Message at Belmont Shore Christmas Parade



Friends of Long Beach Animals (FOLBA) members Nona Daly and Shirley Vaughan greet the crowd from the colorful Animal Care Services float.

Long Beach Animal Care Services staff and volunteers joined the Friends of Long Beach Animals at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Belmont Shore Christmas Parade on December 6.

The group spread holiday wishes and brought along some adoptable animals to show off to the crowd.

### UPCOMING LOW COST PET CLINICS

January 3, 2015  
10 -11:30 a.m. Rose Park, Orizaba & 8th St.  
1:30 - 3 p.m. Stearns Champion Park, 4520 E 23rd St.

January 31, 2015  
10 - 11: 30 a.m. Arbor Dog Park, 4665 Lampson Ave.  
Seal Beach

February 7, 2015  
10 - 11: 30 a.m. Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave.  
1:30 - 3 p.m. Silverado Park, 1545 W 31st St.

February 21, 2015  
1:30 - 3 p.m. Good Neighbor Park, 2800 N. Studebaker Rd.

## 12 Days of Christmas Pet Adopt-a-Thon Event

The Animal Care Services Bureau and West Coast Animal Rescue (WeCARE) are teaming up on the "12 Days of Christmas" event through December 17 at the Seaport Marina Hotel, 6400 Pacific Coast Highway.

The goal is to get as many animals home for the holidays as possible. Come by and see if you can give one of these great animals a "forever" home. The hours are 12-8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Call (562) 570-7387 for more information.



## Partners of Parks Begins 2015 Long Beach Municipal Band Campaign



The non-profit organization Partners of Parks (POP) has supported public parks, recreation and marine programs and facilities in the City of Long Beach for over 29 years.

One of the groups benefiting from POP's efforts is the 105-year the Long Beach Municipal Band. Residents can visit the Partners of Parks web site at [www.partnersofparks.org](http://www.partnersofparks.org) and the "Support Your Parks" section to find out how they

can support the band's 2015 summer concert season with a year-end tax deductible donation. A total of 90 percent of donations goes directly to support Long Beach Municipal Band concerts and programs. Ten percent of all donations help to sustain the non-profit Partners of Parks.

Please call (562) 570-3209 to discuss large gifts to the Band. For more information about Partners of Parks, visit [www.partnersofpark.org](http://www.partnersofpark.org).



## Holiday Shopping at Parks, Recreation and Marine



Bauer Pottery at Rancho Los Alamitos Gift Shop

When you plan your holiday shopping this year, remember that Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Gift Shops offer a wide variety of unique items that make great gifts.

The Rancho Los Alamitos Gift Shop features the work of local artists including decorative tiles, Bauer pottery, jewelry and apparel, and

items created in the Rancho's blacksmith shop. The shop carries books on local history, gardening, and cooking. Rancho Los Alamitos is located at 6400 Bixby Hills Road and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

At Rancho Los Cerritos, 4600 North Virginia Road. is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Shop for books about California history, Christmas ornaments, seed packets, note cards, gourmet jams made with the Rancho's organically grown fruit, handcrafted toys, scented soaps, candles and more.



Shop for books, toys, craft kits and more at the Nature Center Bookstore

The El Dorado Nature Center Bookstore, at 7550 E. Spring Street is open Tuesday through Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offers gift possibilities including geodes, hiking sticks, knitted hats, T-shirts with nature images for both children and adults, handmade jewelry, soaps, toys, wind chimes, nature themed books, and field guides.

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine gift certificates are redeemable for classes, and facility reservations in any amount. The certificates are sold at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Registration / Reservations Office in El Dorado Park at 2760 Studebaker Road, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Avoid the crowds at the mall and enjoy a visit to the park where you can relax and find great gifts for the holidays while supporting educational programs and public events at the City's historic Ranchos and El Dorado Nature Center.

## December

Sat. 13:	5 p.m. 5 P.M. 6 p.m.	Daisy Lane Christmas Tree Lane Parade Annual Parade of 1,000 Lights Naples Boat Parade	Daisy between PCH and Willow Downtown Shoreline Marina Naples Canal
Mon. 16:	Open Hours	Registration ongoing for free youth basketball leagues	City Park Community Centers
Sat. 20:	10 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic Low Cost Pet Clinic	Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Avenue Marine Stadium, 5255 Paoli Way
Mon. 22:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center
Tue. 23:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 24:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. 26:	Hours Vary	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12)	City Park Community Centers
Mon. 29:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center
Tue. 20:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 31:	Hours Vary 9 a.m.	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12) *Winter Break Nature Workshop (ages 5-8)	City Park Community Centers El Dorado Nature Center

## January

Fri. 2	Hours Vary	Free Winter Fun Days Recreation Programs (Ages 5-12)	City Park Community Centers
Sat. 3:	10 -11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. 1:30 - 3 p.m. 2 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Clinic "Creation Station" Winter Crafts (Ages 6-10) Low Cost Pet Clinic "Out of the Wild" Native Plant Lecture Series	Rose Park, Orizaba & 8th St. Rancho Los Cerritos Stearns Champion Park, 4520 E 23rd St. El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 5:	Hours Vary	New Mon./Wed. 5-Wk. Swim Lesson Sessions begin	Silverado Park Pool
Tue. 6:	Hours Vary	New Tue/Th. 5-Wk. Swim Lesson Sessions begin	King Park Pool
Sun. 11:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 14:	10 a.m.	*Parent and Me Nature Workshop "Hiberation Station"	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 17:	10 a.m.	Wetlands Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Sat. 31:	Hours Vary 10 a.m.	New 8-Wk. Swim Lesson Sessions begin Low Cost Pet Clinic	Belmont Plaza Outdoor Pool Arbor Dog Park, 4665 Lampson Ave., Seal Beach

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



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