

# We Create Community



## Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau Formed



*New Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau Team: Alan Kosoff, Administrative Analyst; Sharon Gates, Administrative Analyst; Leslie Hunsaker, Administrative Analyst; Meredith Reynolds, Bureau Manager; and Elizabeth Norman, Administrative Aide*

The Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau was developed to create a stronger focus on community engagement and partnerships that supplement and support park planning, park projects, park programming

and grants. The new Bureau combined the Planning and Development Division and the Contracts Division, both formerly in the Business Operations Bureau.

This year, the Bureau will lead the Department Strategic Plan update for the production of a new Department Strategic Plan in July 2020; an annual community engagement program with ways for the community to provide us with feedback on our programs and services; plan celebrations such as Parks Make Life Better Month to tell our story as a Department; facilitate an annual staff retreat, community conversations and forums to build relationships with our community and staff; manage park master planning efforts and prepare park conceptual plans; manage park contracts, recognizing contract revenue and coordinating with Community Recreation Services Bureau liaisons; and work with other bureaus to facilitate partnerships, process contracts, and coordinate plans and input on park projects.

## Summer Class Registration Starts May 6



Registration for summer classes will begin on May 6. The "Recreation Connection" publication will be mailed on April 29 and will be available in park community centers and city libraries and at LB Parks.org.

The summer issue features information about specialty camps for youth,

aquatic programs at parks and local high school pools including free recreational swim sessions sponsored by Long Beach Unified School District, and activities to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of El Dorado Nature Center. We're also celebrating 1000 Days of Summer, our 10th year of the 100 Days of Summer program co-sponsored by the Long Beach Convention and Visitor's Bureau, so look for information about great free and low cost programs throughout the "Recreation Connection."

Register on line at [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org), or mail in the completed registration form on page 47 of the "Recreation Connection" with payment to the Registration Reservations office at 2760 Studebaker Road in El Dorado Park West. You can also register in person at the office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Camp Fire After School Program Going Strong at DeForest Park

The Long Beach branch of the Camp Fire Los Angeles Council (CFLAC) has begun providing recreation programming at DeForest Park and DeForest Wetlands called UTAP (UpTown Afterschool Program). A free afterschool program is held Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m. and includes games, enrichment activities, homework assistance, outdoor education and recreation.

The afterschool programs and fee-based youth day camps focus on literacy, math, science, and youth development through outdoor education and the stewardship of natural resources. CFLAC is providing all staffing, supplies, equipment, technology for their programs.

The CFLAC programs began in January. About 15-20 children are attending each day and staff is conducting outreach to build the numbers. From meeting families in the park, to attending events at Michelle Obama Library and neighborhood schools and attending neighborhood association meetings, they are making connections and bringing in new participants.

A typical after school program begins with homework help and then moves onto themed weekly activities such as FIY Week where kids make papier mache' and tie dye projects and I Spy Week where kids use strategy to navigate through a yarn "laser" field.

To maximize existing resources and provide an array of educational programming and services to the northwest area of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation and Marine services have been centralized at Houghton Park, leaving DeForest Park as an ideal site for CFLAC.

Since 1924, Camp Fire has provided high quality programs and services to youth and families in the Long Beach area. In 1969 Camp Fire entered into a long-term lease with the City of Long Beach for seven acres of land at Carson Street and Studebaker Road to serve as its headquarters after their north Long Beach location was displaced due to the construction of the 91 Freeway. CFLAC is pleased to expand its outreach from east Long Beach and once again be able to serve north Long Beach.

Plans are underway for summer day camp and family classes at the community center. For more information, visit [www.campfirelb.org](http://www.campfirelb.org).





## Parks, Recreation and Marine Celebrates Wins in Best of Long Beach Poll

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine was a big winner in the Long Beach Post's 2019 "Best of Long Beach" poll, that engaged readers in nominating and voting for their favorite places, people and services.



*El Dorado Regional Park*

Close to 168,000 votes were tallied, and LB Post readers named **El Dorado Regional Park** "Best City Park." Voters said there is something there for everyone," and you can

"hike the trails, see turtles, play on playground equipment, fly model airplanes, picnic, fish, and visit the El Dorado Nature Center.

### El Dorado Park Golf Course

was awarded the title of Best Golf Course. Voters said that El Dorado "does an exceptional job of handling a heavy, daily load of golfers in an efficient manner while maintaining its grounds and greens in exceptional condition."



*El Dorado Golf Course*



*Bixby Skate Park*

Voters selected **Bixby Skate Park** as the best. LBPost wrote that Bixby was originally a DIY park created by local skaters within Bixby Park. The skate park was officially recognized

by the City in 2015 when it was revamped by California Skateparks. It's remained a beloved free skate park with a robust community of skaters since.



*Rosie's Dog Beach*

**Rosie's Dog Beach** along Ocean Boulevard between Roycroft and Argonne Avenues won Best Dog Park where residents can take their four-legged friend for a beachside frolic.

Doggie waste bags, nearby restrooms and convenient parking add to the appeal.

### Rancho Los Cerritos

was a three-time honoree, being recognized for their summer camps where kids can pan for gold, make adobe bricks and have fun in the historic grounds. The Rancho's gardens and backyard were noted as a perfect spot for a wedding and their architecture was mentioned as key to learning about the history of Long Beach.



*Rancho Los Cerritos*

### By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services February 2019

Permits to Gather.....	36
Reserved Picnic Sites.....	5
Facility Use Permits.....	57
Field Use Permits Issued.....	67
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries.....	3,767
El Dorado Regional Park Passes.....	649
Visits to City / City Operated LBUSD Pools....	17,742
Youth and Teen Participants.....	10,656
Senior Citizen Participants.....	20,493
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center.....	15,109

## Animal Care Services Update



Southern California Honda Dealers hosted their annual "Helpful Honda Pet Adoption Event" on March 23 at Rosie's Dog Beach.

Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) had their Adoption Waggin' onsite with a truckload of adoptable dogs and cats. Also in attendance were various animal rescue groups from the area along with several mobile spa trucks offering our furry friends free baths.

ACS had two adoptions, dogs Charlie and Alvin, and Honda generously donated \$700 to go towards medical expenses for a sick cat named Coconut who has since been adopted. It was a sun-filled day with happy-dogs and enthusiastic owners and bystanders alike.



## Parks Make Long Beach: PRM Strategic Plan Update

The development of the 2020 Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Strategic Plan has begun with preparing the website and the first initial components, include a website, staff survey, community survey and summer engagement events.

Parks Make Long Beach, the branding campaign for the PRM Strategic Plan, features pictures showing the diversity of people and the many ways they use parks and beaches. A color pallet of green for parks, yellow for beaches and blue for water will be used consistently throughout. The branding for displays, signs, social media, reports and other communication tools will start to be rolled out over the summer.

During the summer community outreach events to get the public's perspective will take place at events like PRM's Movies and Concerts in the Park and Be SAFE programs, the survey results will be analyzed and plan goals will begin to be prioritized. A draft will be finalized in early 2020 and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council in summer 2020 for approval.

For PRM Strategic Plan updates, follow #ParksMakeLB or visit [www.longbeach.gov/park/business-operations/about/prm-strategic-plan/](http://www.longbeach.gov/park/business-operations/about/prm-strategic-plan/).





## Long Beach Lawn Bowling Club Open House Have a Day on the Green for Free

- ◆ Introduction to Lawn Bowling
- ◆ Free lessons and equipment loans
- ◆ Free pizza and refreshments
- ◆ Must be at least age 18 to participate
- ◆ Wear flat soled shoes

Saturday May 11, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

1109 Federation Drive, Long Beach, CA 90804

Call 562-433-9063 for more information.



# Earth Day Coastal Cleanup

Join El Dorado Nature Center, Algalita, and  
Clean LB at one of our cleanup locations.

Peninsula • Belmont Pier • Cherry Beach

April 20, 2019 10am - 12pm

For more information call 570-1745

## By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau February 2019 Statistics

During December Community Service Workers (CSW) helped the Department to meet its objectives.

Total CSW enrollment for February.....89

Total CSW hours for the month of February.....1,551

CSW hours worked at Queensway Bay.....236

CSW hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....240

*(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)*

CSW hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....360

*(Litter pickup around various sites including Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and assist with custodial work)*

CSW hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....244

*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)*

CSW hours worked at Tree Farm.....5

*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)*

CSW hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....363

*(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other Various Wetlands)*

CSW hours worked at special clean-ups.....104

*(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)*

Work orders completed by Maintenance Bureau.....359

Restrooms cleaned daily.....172

Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily...28

Park turf acres maintained.....814

Park landscape acres maintained.....2310



## Marine Bureau Maintenance Update

### Leeway Sailing Center Gets Landscape Refresh

PRM staff continues to look for opportunities to use drought tolerant plants to beautify public areas. Marine Maintenance Gardener II Alex Perez recently used Palms, Lavender, Sticks-on-Fire, and Variegated Garlic plants to give the planters in front of Leeway Sailing Center fresh look. New water valves and timers were installed and the sand material that was removed from the planter was reused at Mossy Kent Park.



### Grand Prix Track Landscaping

The Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach is the biggest event in the City, drawing over 172,000 attendees over a three-day period each year. The race is also televised to a large national and international viewing audience. Each year Marine Maintenance Bureau takes pride in ensuring that the event areas are clean and ready for their close up. Parking lots are cleaned, trash is removed from shrubbery, and marinas and restrooms are sparkling. Special attention is paid to high profile areas like the Rainbow Harbor dolphin fountain at the race's hairpin turn, and also the winner's circle. These areas were planted with colorful flowers in racing flag checkerboard patterns.





## Tennis Update

Despite heavy rains this winter, the Billie Jean King and El Dorado Park Tennis Centers worked hard to keep their courts clean and players on their regular tennis routines.

El Dorado Park hosted a USTA National Level 2 Junior tournament in February and the Long Beach Tennis Patrons Association's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Long Beach Junior Level 3 tournament. While both tournaments were affected by the rainstorms, staff used some creativity to reschedule matches so that the tournaments were completed in the time provided.



First Serve Tennis Inc. was proud to be the recipient of the Southern California Tennis Association's 2018 "Organization of the Year" Award during the SCTA's end of the year Service Awards Banquet held at the Los Angeles Tennis Center In January. SCTA presented the award to Cathy Jacobson and First Serve on behalf of her accomplishments in 2018 and her dedication to the sport of tennis in Southern California.

While spring tennis classes began in March, instructors are still making up the classes missed during the rainstorms and are completing the Winter session in the Spring.

First Serve's USTA National Level 3 Junior tennis tournament will be held at El Dorado Park on April 20-22. A total of 64 boys and girls 16 years of age and younger will compete for national ranking points in singles and doubles during the three-day tournament.



For more information about City of Long Beach tennis programs and classes visit [www.longbeachtennis.com](http://www.longbeachtennis.com) or [www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org).

## Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Recreation Leader Specialist Emilee Hoppe, Employee of the Month for March! Emilee has worked for Parks, Recreation and Marine since 2014 and is currently a Youth Sports Coordinator. We asked Emilee to tell us a little about herself.

**What do you like to do in**

**your free time?**

I enjoy going on hikes. Palos Verdes is currently my go-to hiking place.

**What is your favorite restaurant?**

My favorite spot in Long Beach to eat is El Sauz.

**What work skills do you bring to your job?**

Being a good listener is probably the strongest asset of my personality for working in Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) where our job is to serve our community so we have to be able to listen to both their praises and concerns to better fulfill our duties.

**Did you play sports as a child?**

Growing up I played soccer and softball at local leagues in the city, as well as some of the Youth Sports offered by PRM at El Dorado Park.

**What has been your biggest achievement on the job?**

With the help of our Youth Sports staff, my biggest work achievement so far in 2019 was coordinating a successful city-wide Youth Sports Basketball season and Invitational while currently being the only Youth Sports Coordinator.

**What are your future plans?**

I want to learn about Real Estate because I want to get into Real Estate Investing in the future.

**What advice do you have for coworkers?**

A personal rule I never break is "Never fail to plan ahead." When coordinating such large program, it is easy to forget the little things, so I make sure to take time to plan and prioritize what needs to be done.

**What park play equipment is the best?**

I would definitely choose park swings because you are able to enjoy them longer compared to a slide that only lasts a few seconds.

## April - May 2019 Calendar

### April

Sat. 13	8 a.m.	Day Camp Registration Begins on line	LBParks.org
	10 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccine Clinic	Silverado Park
Wed. 17	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 18	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 20:	10 a.m.	Earth Day Beach Cleanup	Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
Sun. 21		Easter	
Mon. 22	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit lbparks.org for locations.
Tue. 23	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit lbparks.org for locations.
Wed. 24	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit lbparks.org for locations.
Th. 25	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit lbparks.org for locations.
	5:30 p.m.	Paint Night*	Rancho Los Cerritos
Fri. 26	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit lbparks.org for locations.
Sat. 27		New 8-Week Sat. Swim Lessons Begin	Belmont Plaza, King & Silverado Park Pools
Mon. 29		Summer Recreation Connection Published	
		New four-week M/W swim lessons begin	Silverado Park Pool
Tue. 30		New four-week Tu/Th swim lessons begin	King Park Pool

### May

Th. 2	4 p.m.	Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 4	10 a.m.	First Saturday Stewarts Volunteer Program	El Dorado Nature Center
	10 a.m.	Turtle Show	El Dorado Nature Center
	1 p.m.	Creation Station Free Art Program	Rancho Los Cerritos
Mon. 6		Summer Class Registration Begins	LBParks.org
	Varies	New Four-Week M/W Swim Lessons Begin	Belmont Plaza
Wed. 8	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 9	8 a.m.	Bird Walk	Rancho Los Cerritos
	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sat. 11	9:30 a.m.	Mother's Day Spring Garden Workshop*	Rancho Los Alamitos
	10 a.m.	Long Beach Lawn Bowling Open House	1109 Federation Drive
Sun. 12	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Tue. 14	7 p.m.	Family Nightlife Walk*	El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 15	1, 3, 5 p.m.	Dacamera Society Chamber Music Concert*	Rancho Los Alamitos
Th. 16	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 18	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Fri. 24	6 p.m.	1000 Days of Summer "Under Cover" Concert	Marine Stadium
Mon. 27		Memorial Day Holiday	

\* Call for registration and fee information

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