

We Create Community



Virtual Grand Opening Held for Houghton Park Community Center



Residents were able to view the new 6,450 square foot Houghton Park Community Center, (6301 Myrtle Avenue) while safely at home via a livestream tour (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWrlYheyHXk>) on June 30.

The expanded center connects to the existing community center through a breezeway and surrounds the historic 1930's portion of the building. It features two large multipurpose rooms, a teen center, computer lab and weight room.

The Center's design earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. Drought-tolerant landscaping cuts down on water use, polycarbonate panels reduce energy costs by bringing in natural daylight, Electric Vehicle (EV) parking was added, and the parking lot was reconfigured to accommodate various transportation methods.

The project was funded by \$5,741,896 from Measure A and \$4,482,612 from other sources, including FY14 one-time funds.

Welcome to Brent Dennis, New Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine



Brent celebrated his first day by planting a tree at El Dorado Nature Center.

Brent Dennis is the new Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Mr. Dennis brings over 40 years of experience in various city and county park departments as well as non-profit agencies in the Midwest and California. Most recently, Mr. Dennis served as the Director for the City of Tucson's Parks and Recreation

Department where he led the department through the voter-approved Proposition 407 ballot initiative that

provides \$225 million of funding and reinvestment in 100 city parks. During his time with the City of Tucson, Brent oversaw the successful launch of many key initiatives such as a new Park Ranger Program and a transformative, non-toxic integrated Weed Management Program.

Prior, Mr. Dennis served as Director of Community Services for the City of Anaheim, Assistant Director of Operations for the Golden Gate Park, Director of San Francisco Botanical Garden and Director of Conservatory of Flowers at San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. He will take over for Stephen Scott, Interim Director, who returns to his previous position as Deputy Director.

Dodger Day Event Brightens Lives Of Young Players After Lost Season



On June 20, the Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Youth Sports program teamed up with the Dodgers RBI Foundation to put on a great community event at Houghton Park. To make up for a lost summer of T-Ball/Baseball/Softball, staff hosted a Dodger Day Drive Through event. All participants were invited

for staff to say “thank you and we are thinking of you during this challenging time.” Dodger RBI donated boxes of food, toys, sporting goods, t-shirts and other items. A team of Dodger RBI staff, volunteers, a DJ and our PRM Recreation Staff brought the energy as over 700 participants in a caravan of 300 plus cars drove through Houghton Park to pick up the items.

Thank you to the Dodgers RBI Foundation team of Tiffany Rubin, Sean Mulligan, John Muto and the Director of the Dodger RBI Foundation Nichol Whiteman for bringing this event to Long Beach.

Tasha Day, and Jay Lopez from the Office of Special Events and Filming along with Officer Allen Duncan and Detective Jason Kennedy from the Long Beach Police Department also supported the event.

Houghton Park staff Supervisor Heidi Mazas and Recreation Leader Angelo Barrera with the entire Houghton Park staff worked on event coordination, and Youth Sports Coordinators Mike Quijada and Sean Ritchie and the PRM Youth Sports staff connected with our participants and greatly contributed to the event’s success.

Department Pools Open for Limited Programming



After months of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks, Recreation and Marine’s pools were allowed to open for limited programming starting June 29. Lap swim and water exercise classes and swim lessons are offered at Belmont Plaza Pool (4320 E Olympic Plaza) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Pool (1950 Lemon Ave.) and Silverado Park Pool (1540 W. 32nd St.)

Lap swim and water exercise programs are offered on a reservation-only basis, with increased cleaning and other modifications to better protect the safety of staff and participants.

Lanes are set up in a short course 25-meter length to increase capacity and ensure physical distancing. Shower and restroom facilities will be available, and locker rooms will be accessible, on a limited basis, where available.

Lap swim is limited to 45-minute sessions and is open to one person per lane. Water exercise classes are limited based on available space within the pool to allow for physical distancing. Swim lessons have reduced class sizes and instruction from the pool deck. PK 1-3 and levels 1-3 require an adult household member to be in the water with the participant to assist with instruction.

People can register for lap swim, water exercise or swim lessons at lb parks.org or in person at the pool during operating hours.

Recreation Reimagined Summer Programs Begin



Outdoor Fun at Colorado Lagoon



Getting Creative and Staying Safe at Houghton Park



Wardlow Park Activities Reimagined on Colorful Patio, and With Distanced Craft Activities and Contactless Games

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) staff have worked hard to design opportunities for families and kids to have a healthy, active lifestyle this summer.

Summer Day Camp for Ages 5-12

Summer day camps began on July 6 that feature greatly reduced fees, lower staff-to-camper ratios and enhanced safety measures.

A hybrid of the traditional free drop-in “Fun Day” activities and fee-based custodial care day camps is being offered Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through August 28 at 22 sites. Youth can participate in a variety of recreational, educational enrichment and fitness activities. An optional free lunch provided by the Long Beach Unified School District, is available to campers.

The camps are offered at a cost of \$30 per week (down from \$115 per week). Extended care is available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for an additional \$20 per week. Youth scholarships are available to Long

Beach families who may need assistance affording the weekly camp fee. For scholarship information, call 562.570.3150. Long Beach residents may register for online at lbparcs.org or on-site by appointment only by calling 562.570.3150.

Teen Programs for Ages 13-18

A free program for teens will be offered weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 6 through August 28. Activities will include recreation, educational enrichment and fitness. Lunch will be provided. No field trips will take place. Participants must register in advance at LBParks.org. There is a 20-participant maximum at each site.

Teen programs will take place at Freeman Community Center (1205 Freeman Avenue) and Houghton, McBride and Silverado Parks.

All camps and teen programs are following COVID-19 safety protocols including physical distancing, face coverings and frequent cleaning and sanitizing.

USDA Summer Food Service Program Offered for Children and Youth



For the 41st year in a row, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is offering the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to provide free, nutritious meals to Long Beach children and youth throughout the summer months.

The program began on June 15 and will run through August 21. Free meals are being provided at 33 locations Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to attending children and youth between one and 18 years old. Infant meals will not be provided.

The meals are served in a "Grab n Go" format, similar to what is provided by the Long Beach Unified School

District during the school year, where participants receive a frozen meal that can be heated up at home via a microwave or oven. Meals will also include cold components such as milk, juice, fruits and vegetables.

The Summer Food Service Program began in Long Beach in 1979 and has since provided meals to over two million youth.

To view the complete list of locations where meals will be provided and for more information, visit www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/programs-and-classes/youth-and-teen-programs/usda-summer-food-program/ or call the Summer Food Office at 562.570.3226.

Animal Care Services Update: Kitten Season

It is the time of year when cats give birth starting in spring, peaking in summer and ending in fall. Because many cats are not spayed or neutered, kittens flood the Long Beach shelter. It isn't unusual to find nests of young, seemingly abandoned kittens during this time. It is a natural reaction to want to help them, but before someone gets involved, they should consider the Kitten Season tips from Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) about kittens and their mothers, and support available LBACS. If you are interested in obtaining a Kitten Care Kit, please email animalcare@longbeach.gov.

Due to COVID-19, LBACS has modified operations and is open by appointment only. To make an appointment to adopt or foster a pet, email PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or call 562.570.4925. For all other services, email AnimalCare@longbeach.gov or call 562.570.7387.

Appointments may be made during these hours:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday



Facility Re-Opening - Sweeping Off the Welcome Mat

As facilities begin the process of re-opening, Maintenance staff has been hard at work deep cleaning and detailing our community centers in preparation for summer programs.



MAI Walter Castilla, and Custodians Jose Razo and Mathew George cleaned the Recreation Park Community Center from top to bottom, inside and out. Ceiling light fixtures were

cleared of cobwebs, all walls and surfaces were wiped down, and every cabinet washed. The restrooms, office, kitchen, floors, windows and patio were thoroughly scrubbed. PRM Maintenance Operations took advantage of the opportunity to thoroughly clean the center during the closure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

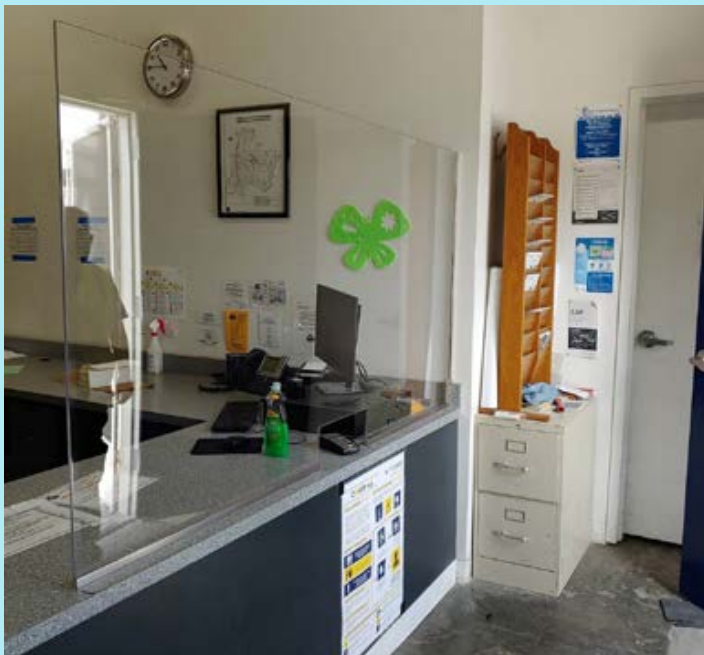


Marine Maintenance Assistants Elisa Viveros, Sammy Zapata, Anthony McGinest and Felipe Meza quickly responded to the Health Order to open Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier. Within 20 minutes, they were hard at work, making the area clean, safe and ready for our residents and visitors.



After months of being shut down, the elements (salt air, wildlife, etc.) left the pier in need of some tender loving care. Great job!

Silverado Shelter Closes



Carlos Crawford from Marine Maintenance installed new safety glass at the Belmont Pool Registration to create a barrier between staff and patrons.



Many PRM staff worked around the clock for the past three months at the Silverado Shelter. It is now officially closed and the residents left very grateful for the amazing hospitality that was shown to them during their stay. The PRM way is here to stay! L-R Community Services Supervisors Daveth Yoak, McBride Park; Sonny Seng, Silverado Park and Junie Salcido, Adult and Youth Sports.

Reflections on Serving as a City Disaster Worker



Meredith Reynolds is the Manager of the Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau for Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine. Like all City employees, she is also a registered disaster worker and was temporarily assigned to the City's Health and Human Services Department to assist in the COVID-19 pandemic response. She is sharing an account of her experience.

As a City of Long Beach employee, I am a disaster worker who can be redeployed during an emergency. In the midst of the City's COVID-19 emergency response, I was assigned on March 31 to work for the Health and Human Service Department (HSD) Director to stand up COVID-19 testing sites. HSD needed a dedicated staff person to procure COVID-19 test kits and secure laboratory services that expanded testing capacity in areas in Long Beach where COVID-19 was disproportionately affecting communities of color.



COVID-19 Testing Site Operations

I started by learning from my HSD colleagues about the County-supported testing site already deployed at Long Beach City College's Pacific Coast Campus. Understanding the types of tests, how tests are administered, testing site logistics and test result reporting was critical to identifying the optimal test kits and lab services for Long Beach. For example, if we could find an FDA-approved COVID-19 oral test that individuals could self administer at each testing site, it meant less medical professionals were needed to administer tests and less medical protective equipment would be needed, both of which were in short supply and could be better spread across the City's medical system.

Next, I called companies with FDA approved COVID-19 tests to learn about each type of test, how they are administered, how testing appointments are scheduled, how long it takes for results to be reported to the County and patients, and what test kits and lab services cost. This information was shared with HSD staff and together we prepared recommendations that were presented to the City's Health Director, City Manager and Emergency Command staff. A regional company was chosen, funding was identified, purchasing documents were prepared to maximize FEMA reimbursements, and Council letters were fast-tracked for City Council approval so three testing sites could be stood up in a matter of weeks. Where HSD needed equipment for the testing sites, other City Departments stepped up to help. Bar code scanners used to scan patient COVID tests were borrowed from PRM's Animal Care Services and the Water Department, and laptops used to check in patients at each testing site came from PRM's emergency computer inventory.

Since standing up three additional City COVID-19 testing sites at Cabrillo High School, Jordan High School and Long Beach City College Veterans Stadium, as of July 1, 2020 the City has offered over 14,000 tests, with a far greater number across all County and private testing sites in Long Beach.

My work supporting the City's COVID-19 response is just one element of PRM's role in the City's emergency response. PRM staff also have played critical roles in the City's COVID-19 shelters at Silverado, MLK Jr. and El Dorado parks, COVID-19 volunteer fingerprinting and assignments, sewing masks and distributing food to those in need, disinfecting park and beach sites, preparing for physically-distanced summer programming, and placing signage and ensuring compliance. Stepping up and making things happen is what we in PRM do on a daily basis and it is no different during an emergency, showing that our skills and our work is essential.

Stay informed about Coronavirus

Visit www.longbeach.gov/health/diseases-and-condition/information-on/coronavirus/ to learn about the latest policies and regulations to keep our community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rancho Los Cerritos Virtual Summer Camp Experience



This summer Rancho Los Cerritos will reimagine its traditional interactive and historically inspired day camps for the safety of campers, volunteers, and staff. A virtual camp format will engage campers and give them much needed education, entertainment, and interaction with peers while keeping them safe. Camp activities will take place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

There will be a mix of guided group activities through Zoom and independent crafts and games that campers will receive in camp kits. There will also be special guests each day to share knowledge from a variety of backgrounds.

Nature Camp: July 27-31, ages 5-10

Campers explore their environment from their neighborhoods to the Rancho gardens, make art from nature, identify plants and insects, and build with natural materials.

Time Travelers Camp: August 3-7, ages 5-10.

Each time period from the 1700s to the 2000s will be explored through games, technology, and art.

Re-plugged: August 10-14, ages 11-13

Participants learn about science, technology, engineering, art, and math of the 19th-century with 21st-century technology. Each day has a STEM activity, an arts/culture activity, a food/cooking activity, and some quick challenges.

Included in Registration:

- Camp materials kit (to be picked up at RLC in advance)
Materials needed for self-sufficient crafts, games, and activities for each day
- Pre-camp preparation packet
- Schedules and directions for crafts, games, and activities
- Exclusive access to tutorial videos
- Exclusive access to engaging, educational video content
- Live interactive Zoom activities each day
- Guest speakers sharing knowledge from diverse fields

To register visit RanchoLosCerritos.org/Camp. The cost is \$75; members pay \$60. Scholarships for camp are available, to apply email Camp Director, Alana at Alanar@rancholoscerritos.org.

When you register you will have the option ship your camp kit to your home or pick it up at the Rancho. Shipping is \$15 to anywhere in the U.S.

Visitors are welcome to the Rancho Los Cerritos gardens. Select the number of visitors for the date and time you wish to visit to reserve your spot at www.rancholoscerritos.org/reserve. Reservations close one hour before opening each day. Walk-ins are welcomed on a space-available basis.

Larry Curtis 1937 - 2020

Municipal Band Conductor Larry Curtis Passes



The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is saddened by the passing of long-time Long Beach Municipal Band Conductor Larry Curtis. Larry became the tenth conductor of the band in 1993.

He embraced the rich tradition of the band, which has been a Long Beach institution since its founding 111 years ago in 1909. He recruited the best of the Southern California's symphony,

studio recording and jazz performers for the band.

Each year thousands of people attend the bands' free concert season in Long Beach parks and enjoy performances of big band, jazz, movie, musical and light classical music. Larry established weekly musical themes and offered thoughtful narration about each piece.

Larry always said, "The old-fashioned concert in the park is one of the finest family entertainment experiences available."

Larry will be missed by staff and the public alike, and the Department's condolences go out to his wife Linda, son Kurt and daughters Heather Anderson (Lance) and Lindsey.

2020 CENSUS BE COUNTED, LONG BEACH

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**All of us
together
can make a
difference.
We are Long
Beach
strong!**



Food Pantries &
School Meals



Affordable Healthcare



Affordable Housing



Schools



Public Transportation



Safe Roads



Medical Assistance/
Covered CA



Opportunities for
Small Businesses



3 WAYS TO RESPOND



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