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Director's Highlights

Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

November 2021 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. The Friends of El Dorado Nature Center are pleased to offer the popular Native Plant Sale on a pre-order basis at www.longbeach.gov/naturecenter. Plants will be available for pickup from November 9-28 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays from 10am to 1pm or while supplies last. The Nature Center will be closed on Thursday, November 25th as the City celebrates Thanksgiving. As a reminder, all PRM facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.
2. The new sports field in El Dorado Park West has been activated by soccer, field hockey, rugby, football, and long-toss baseball since its grand opening last month. League play, practices, sports, camps, and open pickup play action has the coming months for the field heavily scheduled and busy.
3. All the new cedar trees have been successfully planted on Daisy Lane in advance of the upcoming holiday season. Great work Parks Maintenance Operations Bureau team for your in-house efforts to accomplish this long-awaited project. The surrounding neighborhood will be encouraging a drive-thru experience throughout the month of December to enjoy the trees and decorated homes around Daisy Lane. We appreciate the collaborative support of both Council Districts 6 & 7 in this important community project.
4. Council Districts 6 & 8 will be coming together on Saturday, November 20th from 10am to noon to dedicate and celebrate the Dee Andrews Sports Park at Chittick Field. Park Planning and Partnership Bureau Manager, Nancy Villasenor will be serving as emcee for the special dedication event.
5. Orange Park, a temporary mini park in District 8, has reverted to the developer/owner as the property is transitioning into residential housing. PRM's park maintenance team has de-installed park amenities and signage with communicated scheduling with Council District 8 in advance.
6. The El Dorado Frontier "Pumpkin Market" that proved to be a popular Halloween season offering is transitioning to the "Frontier Family Christmas" holiday theme. Tickets will include rides on the carousel and trains and include a personal "meet and greet" with Santa Claus. Tickets can be purchased on-line and availability is limited. The Frontier Family Christmas Opening Tree Lighting Ceremony is planned for Thursday, December 2, 2021, from 5-9pm.
7. Following the conclusion of the 25th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour, presented by the Historical Society of Long Beach, PRM has received scores of positive comments and

emails acknowledging the significant enhancements of the cemetery grounds. Kudos to Park Maintenance Operations Bureau for leading the important efforts to repair the irrigation, address the gopher challenges, and clean up the site's landscape.

8. The Long Beach Pickleball Community Collaborative has held their second planning meeting and has identified several sub-committees to develop recommendations for both short-term and long-range plans to expand pickleball facilities and programming across Long Beach. The group that is representative of pickleball enthusiasts across the city, is our new brain trust of passionate stakeholders will meet next on December 2, 2021.
9. The PRM Strategic Plan is now scheduled to be presented to City Council at the January 18, 2022, meeting.
10. The 2021 Annual Performance Appraisals were completed for the PRM Executive Team this month by Director Dennis. The bureau managers and executive assistant all did an amazing job as a team in advancing and accomplishing so many important initiatives throughout the past year in service to the community.
11. Director Dennis will be out of the office beginning Friday, November 19th and returning on Monday, November 29th. Deputy Director Stephen Scott will be serving as "Acting Director" during this period.
12. I want to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving holiday. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve with all of you and look forward to all of the fun and festive celebrations throughout the holiday seasons.