

# We Create Community



## 5th Measure A Playground Opens At Drake Park



*Cutting the ribbon for the new Drake Park Playground are L-R: Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair David Zanatta, Chief of Staff for Mayor Robert Garcia Mark Taylor, Parks and Recreation Commissioners Margo Morales and Mariela Salgado, and City Manager Pat West.*

A grand opening celebration for the new playground at Drake Park, located at 951 Maine Avenue was held on January 12. This was the fifth playground completed of six Measure A-funded playground upgrades. An adventure course guided passport was provided to all youth in attendance to use to explore the new playground with some exciting superhero characters.

“Long Beach voters made this playground possible with their support of Measure A in 2016,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “Measure A is funding repairs and upgrades to Long Beach parks and improvements in public safety that are improving the quality of life for all residents.”

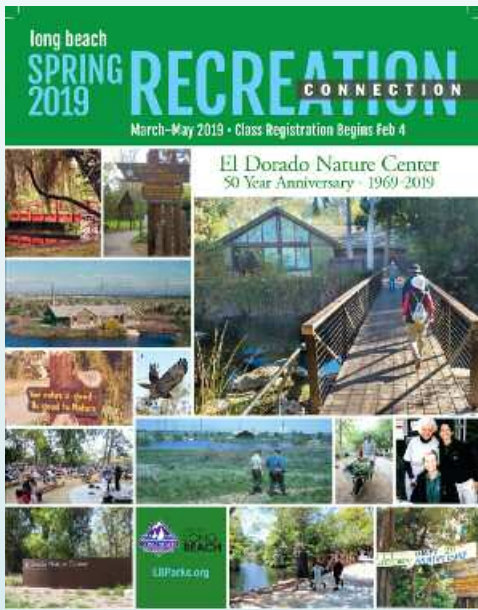
The project included the installation of two new playground structures, one for ages two to five years and another for ages five to 12 years, site furnishings, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. The playground was designed with a butterfly garden theme, intended to coordinate with native gardens and front yards contributing to the character of the surrounding Wilmore Historic District.

“This new playground is an exciting enhancement to a historic neighborhood park,” said Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez. “I’m looking forward to seeing kids play and explore on this creative, fun, new play equipment.”

The project cost \$942,900, which was made possible using \$939,000 in Measure A funds and \$3,900 in other sources. Measure A (2016) is a Long Beach ballot initiative approved by voters as a 10-year sales tax to fund public infrastructure and public safety services.



# Spring Class Registration



Registration for new recreation classes offered by Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is going on now. More than 400 classes in art, music, nature, fitness, special interest subjects, and aquatics programs will be offered starting in March. These programs provide opportunities for social interaction and learning, exercise and recreation, and growth and relaxation for preschool-aged children to adults.

The PRM spring Recreation Connection publication is full of information about fee-based classes and sports leagues, and free activities for youth, teens and senior citizens offered throughout the city. The issue also features information about indoor soccer leagues for youth, registration information for summer day camps, and information about the El Dorado Nature Center that will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

Residents can look for the publication in their mailbox, pick one up at a City park community center library or find the digital version online. New classes will be offered for various ages, such as:

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**Preschool:** Dance: Petit Ballet, Tiaras and Tutus (dance introduction), Enrichment: Amigos and Bamboleo Bebe (Spanish language immersion), Sports: B-Ballers Hoop School and Little Ballers Next Level (basketball) Intro to

Sports and Tiny Tykes (soccer).



**Youth:** Camps: Super Hero Engineering using LEGO materials (April 22-26) Dance: Ballet/Tap Combo, Prima Ballet, Starz of Jazz (dance), Writing - Local Animals and Human Interaction, and Dragons, Magic & Response to Literature Essays, Sports: Tee Ball Skillz.



**Adults:** Adaptive Recreation: "Top Flight on ICE" (learn to ice skate), Art: Artist Walk In, Beyond Beginning Photography, Portrait Workshop, Transforming Photos into Paintings, Watercolor! Pure and Simple, Dance: 2 Step and Swing, Adult Tap, Enrichment: Career Exploration Fashion Makeup - Classic to Glamour, Guided Autobiography, Fitness: Aerobics Lite, Affirmations and Hatha Yoga, CSI - Cardio Sculpt Low-Impact Aerobics, Yoga for Health and Wellness, Zumba® en Español Music: Guava Groove Ukulele, Sports: Horse Fun.

There are three easy ways to register:

1. Visit <https://apm.activecommunities.com/lbparks/Home>
2. Call 562.570.3111.
3. Visit the Registration Reservations Office at 2760 Studebaker Rd., Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services - December 2018

Permits to Gather.....	53
Reserved Picnic Sites.....	3
Facility Use Permits.....	63
Field Use Permits Issued.....	53
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries.....	6,486
El Dorado Regional Park Passes.....	719
Visits to City / City Operated LBUSD Pools.....	14,370
Youth and Teen Participants.....	11,080
Senior Citizen Participants.....	20,483
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center.....	27,898

### Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

# SUMMER DAY CAMPS



online registration starting Saturday, April 13 at 8 a.m.

Ages 5-12 • M-F 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • June 17-August 23

Extended hours are available for an additional fee. Field trips are an additional cost.

#### Aquatics Day Camps

**Belmont Junior Beach Camp**

Ages 5-7 • \$158

**Bayshore Beach Camp** Ages 8-12 • \$158

**Bay Club Teen Camp** Ages 13-15 • \$123

**Counselor In Training Camp** Ages 14-17 • \$310

562.570.1888

#### High Five Sports Camp

Fees: visit [www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

Pan America 562.570.1660

#### Pee Wee Camp

Fees: visit [www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

Ages 5-8

Wardlow 562.570.1705

#### Park Day Camp

Fees: visit [www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

El Dorado West 562.570.3225

Silverado 562.570.1675

Stearns Champions

Creative Arts Camp

562-570.1685

Veterans

562.570.1695

#### Music and Arts Camp

Fees: visit [www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

Whaley Park 562.570.1710

online registration strongly

recommended

Visit: [www.lbparks.org](http://www.lbparks.org)

# Animal Care Services Update



## Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) Euthanasia and Impounds Continue Downward Trend

Long Beach ACS achieved a downward trend in euthanasia and impounds in 2018. ACS is positioned to achieve even more positive results in 2019 through programs to support shelter animals and continued improvements in performance measures over the last ten years. Rescue groups including spcaLA, Friends of Long Beach Animals, Stray Cat Alliance, Little Lion Foundation, Helen Sanders Cat PAWS, Fix Long Beach, Pet Food Express, Adopt and Shop and more supported ACS and contributed to these statistics.

ACS continues its 10-year trend of increasingly positive results for shelter animals. From 2017 to 2018, ACS decreased the number of animal impounds by 13.2%. Total euthanasia was reduced by 6.7% in 2018 from the year before. Adoption numbers were strong. In addition to the over 2,200 animals taken by the spcaLA and local rescue groups, an additional 686 were adopted directly from the ACS operated shelter.

## New ACS Manager Announced

Staycee R. Dains is the new ACS Bureau Manager. Ms. Dains comes to Long Beach from the City of San



Jose where she was the Shelter Operations Supervisor for the past ten years and oversaw a staff of 100. She is credited for abolishing breed discriminatory practices, handling 2,500 shelter neuter returns annually, establishing a kinder dog evaluation process which eliminated euthana-

sia for 400 fearful dogs, providing free spay and neuter for Chihuahuas from high intake areas resulting in a five percent decline in Chihuahua intakes in 2018, and establishing a foster care program for kittens resulting in an increase in lives saved. Ms. Dains will be responsible for all operational aspects of the ACS as well as working with the Mayor's Animal Care Visioning Task Force and the new Long Beach Animal Care Services Strategic Plan to move the Bureau forward in implementing the recommendations of a recent City Auditor Services Review.

## New Full-Time Vet and Full-Time Adoption/Volunteer Coordinator

Medical services for shelter animals will be improved through the addition of a full-time veterinarian position. The addition of another full-time Adoption/Volunteer Coordinator will help to increase the animal adoption and volunteer programs as a further investment to improve the live release rate for 2019.

## Launch of ACS Strategic Plan

JVR Shelter Strategies, LLD (JVR) will guide the creation of the ACS Strategic Plan to provide a road map for the organization and to develop procedures to guide the shelter operations and management. JVR has expertise in developing operating processes for animal welfare organizations. Dr. Jyothi V. Robertson, DVM, a Principal Consultant for JVR will lead the effort in partnership with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Manager of ACS, and ACS staff. The group will move forward with input from the Mayor's Animal Care Visioning Task Force.

## Animal Care Visioning Task Force Co-Chairs

The Mayor's Animal Care Visioning Task Force began meeting in September 2018 to provide input on Animal Care Services operations and goals. Two co-chairs will lead the work of the 20-member task force. Herlinda Chico has 20 years of legislative and public affairs experience working in local government. She is a Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and serves the cities of Avalon, Catalina Island, Long Beach and Signal Hill. Carina Cristiano is an Account Executive with American Home Shield home warranty company. She has been an animal advocate for over 30 years, and has organized fundraisers for the ACS shelter and Friends of Long Beach Animals, and used her extensive marketing skills to raise funds for pet adoption programs.

# PRM Staff Weather Winter Storms

PRM staff from the Maintenance Operations and Marine Bureaus have worked hard in anticipation of rain and during rain events, to conduct inspections and perform maintenance to keep our facilities, parks, beaches and marinas safe during a rainy winter.

As of February 4, Long Beach has received 11.65 inches of rain inches since the beginning of the rain season on October 1. That amounts to 180 percent of normal for this time of year. In 2018, Long Beach only had 1.55 inches, or 24 percent of normal, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

## Facility Maintenance

The Facility Maintenance staff have been assessing and repairing roof leaks, positioning sand bags around doors, and pumping out skate parks.

## Park Grounds Maintenance

During heavy rains, athletic fields are closed for the safety of patrons and to avoid damage to the turf. El Dorado Regional Park closes when lakes overflow. The dirt trails at El Dorado Nature Center become too slippery to walk on and there is potential for damage to plant life along the trails. Dozens of trees have fallen or been damaged throughout the City including at Marina Vista, El Dorado Nature Center, El Dorado West, Recreation, Ramona, Heartwell, Scherer, Stearns Champions and the Municipal Cemetery. Staff work with tree contractors to clear fallen trees and limbs.

## Queensway Bay Maintenance

Monitoring the debris flow along the Los Angeles River as it ends in Rainbow Harbor is an important job for the health and cleanliness of our local waterways. Crews operate a large debris boom that spans the entrance to Rainbow Harbor to capture trash and debris before it makes its way into the harbor. A large trash skimmer picks up items. Crews coordinate with Lifeguards for overnight coverage of RH boom

## Beach Maintenance

Beach staff focuses on moving sand to shore up erosion areas. They also clear storm drains and clean waterline debris on the east and west beaches. Staff also removes heavy sand from Bike/Pedestrian paths and adds sand to eroded areas along the paths.



*Flooding at Wardlow Park Community Center entrance and beach parking lot*



*Fallen trees at Shoreline Aquatic Park and Catalina Landing*



*Debris Boom & Trash Skimmer Work To Minimize Debris Impacts*



*Beach Crews Fortify Sand Berms to Prevent Residential Flooding*

*Crews Clear Sand from Beach Bike and Pedestrian Paths*



# The City of Long Beach Employee of the Month is Yeseline Martinez



Congratulations to Yeselin Martinez, City Employee of the Month for February 2019.

Yeselin Martinez has worked in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine for over five years. Currently she is a Recreation Leader Specialist VII and is the assistant in the Field and Beach Permits Office. Along with her responsibilities as in the Permit Office she assisted with the coordination of the Summer Concert Series. In addition to these two time consuming responsibilities during the summer she has assisted with our Contract Class program as well as a lead in our All City Beach Day serving over 2,000 participants.

Currently, Yeselin is attending Cal State University Dominguez Hills and will graduate in May of 2019 with her Bachelors of Science in Human Resources Management and is a valuable asset to the City of Long Beach.



## Long Beach Animal Care Services Adoption Vouchers Available Now

Give the gift of a pet from the Long Beach Animal Care Shelter. Adoption gift vouchers are available for a dog, cat or rabbit.

The holder of the voucher must complete an adoption in order for the adoption to be valid. Vouchers have no monetary value, cannot be sold and can be revoked if a viable adoption cannot be found.

Vouchers are redeemable only at Long Beach Animal Care Services, and are sold at the shelter admissions counter.

Hundreds of classes available online

**ed2go Online Classes**

at [www.lbarks.org](http://www.lbarks.org)

**Classes Start Monthly**

- March
  - 31330
- April
  - 31331
- May
  - 31332



**ed2go topics include:**

- Computer skills for the workplace
- Creating Webpages
- Guiding Kids on the Internet
- Microsoft Word, Excel, QuickBooks
- Teaching with a Smart board
- Speed Spanish Online

**\$95 per class**

Enroll online at [lbarks.org](http://lbarks.org) • 562-570-3148

# Know Your Long Beach Park: NAACP Park



NAACP Park has been serving residents since its opening on September 29, 2015.

The 2.8-acre park is part of the Pacific Electric Right of Way and was acquired for a park in 2008. The area provides much needed open space in Central Long Beach and is part of the route for the bike path. Residents can relax at benches and picnic tables.

The park was named “NAACP Freedom Park” in honor of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP).

“Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. In Long Beach, the organization has helped to make positive change in education and economic development, and has stood for freedom and justice for all,” said then Councilman Dee Andrews at the opening.



A plaque was unveiled at the ceremony to honor a Golden Heritage Member of the NAACP, Ebenezer Bush, Jr., the first African American to open a dental practice in Long Beach. He was a deacon at Christ Second Baptist Church and beloved member of the community.

## By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau - January 2019

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

Total CSW enrollment for December.....65  
Total CSW hours for the month of December.....2,050

CSW hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....189  
*(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)*

CSW hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....739  
*(Litter pickup around various sites including Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and assist with custodial work)*

CSW hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....233  
*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)*

CSW hours worked at Tree Farm.....66  
*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)*

CSW hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....467  
*(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other Various Wetlands)*

CSW hours worked at special clean-ups.....356  
*(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)*

Work orders completed by Maintenance Bureau...285  
Restrooms cleaned daily.....172  
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily...28

Park turf acres maintained.....814  
Park landscape acres maintained.....2310  
Street (medians) turf acres maintained.....53  
Street landscape acres maintained.....143

# February - March 2019 Calendar

## February

Th. 21	9 a.m. 4 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	El Dorado Park Senior Center Scherer Park
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## March

Sat. 2	Varies 10 a.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m.	8-Week Saturday Swim Lessons Begin First Saturday Stewards Volunteer Cleanup Free Creation Station Youth Art Program Out of the Wilds Native Plant Lecture	Belmont, King, Silverado Pools El Dorado Nature Center Rancho Los Cerritos El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 4	Varies	8-Week Monday/Wednesday Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Tue. 5	Varies	8-Week Tuesday/Thursday Swim Lessons Begin	King Park Pool
Th. 7	4 p.m.	Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sun. 10	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 12	7 p.m.	Family Nightlife Walk*	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 14	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sat. 16	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Wed. 20	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 21	9 a.m. 4 p.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	El Dorado Park Senior Center Scherer Park

## April

Mon. 1	On-Line	Free Youth Soccer League Registration	<a href="http://www.teamsideline.com/longbeach">www.teamsideline.com/longbeach</a>
Th. 4	4 p.m.	Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 6	10 a.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m.	First Saturday Stewards Volunteer Cleanup Free Creation Station Youth Art Program Out of the Wilds Native Plant Lecture	El Dorado Nature Center Rancho Los Cerritos El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 11	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sat. 13	8 a.m.	Day Camp Registration	
Wed. 17	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 18	9 a.m. 4 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Pet Vaccination & Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sun. 21		Easter	
Mon. 22	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit <a href="http://www.lbparks.org">www.lbparks.org</a> for locations.
Tue. 23	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit <a href="http://www.lbparks.org">www.lbparks.org</a> for locations.
Wed. 24	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit <a href="http://www.lbparks.org">www.lbparks.org</a> for locations.
Th. 25	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit <a href="http://www.lbparks.org">www.lbparks.org</a> for locations.
Fri. 26	11 a.m.	Free Fun Day Recreation Programs for Youth	Visit <a href="http://www.lbparks.org">www.lbparks.org</a> for locations.
Mon. 29		Summer Recreation Connection Published	

## NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER!



**Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine**  
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