December 2019 Volume 9 Issue 12

We Create Community

LONG BEACH
PARKS • RECREATION • MARINE

Lighted Floating Trees Celebrate the Holiday Season

During December, residents and visitors can enjoy colorful lighted trees at waterfront locations including Alamitos Bay, Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, Rainbow Lagoon, Rainbow Harbor, Spinnaker Bay, Colorado Lagoon, and the lakes at El Dorado West and Heartwell Parks.

Lighting Ceremony at Colorado Lagoon on November 29

The tree program is managed by Parks, Recreation and Marine's Maintenance and Development Bureau staff who prepare the trees 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.

2019 marks the 70th year that Long Beach residents and visitors have enjoyed the colorful, festive tree structures floating in the City's waterways.

Swimmer passes a tree in Lower Alamitos Bay

Rainbow Harbor aglow for the holidays

Trees in Peninsula Beach area

El Dorado Park West Hosts Basket Brigade Event

El Dorado Park West hosted more than 300 volunteers of the non-profit Long Beach Basket Brigade on November 23 to assemble more than 1,500 Thanksgiving baskets for local residents in need.

The Long Beach Basket Brigade raises money and solicits donations throughout the year to provide baskets were filled with a turkey and all the trimmings to enable families to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Visit http://longbeachbasketbrigade.org to learn how to volunteer or donate to make 2020 a more hopeful year with a wonderful Thanksgiving for less fortunate.

Diamonds and Turkey Giveaway Event Helps Families in Need

MacArthur Park hosted the fourth annual Diamonds and Turkeys giveaway on November 23 organized by Tito Rodriguez, a local philanthropist known as Hood Santa, through his nonprofit Local Hearts Foundation, and in partnership with skateboard hardware company Diamond Supply.

The goal of the event was to help help families in need during the holiday season. An estimated 1,000 Central Long Beach families received free turkeys. The event also featured a skating competition, free Diamond merchandise, including sweaters, hats, wallets and shoes; and free tacos from the Bombazz Tacos. For more information about the Local Hearts Foundation, visit localheartsfoundation.org.

Kids and Families Angle for Fun at City Fishing Derby

Hundreds of youth and their families came out to the annual "Meet Me at the Lake" fishing derby at El Dorado East Regional Park on November 23.

The event was cosponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Kids were able to fish for free, get fishing tips and have opportunites to win prizes. Fishing poles and tackle werre provided for those 15-years-and-younger.

Fishing success at the derby.

Dan Hernandez is the host of the televison show "Sport Fishing with Dan Hernandez" and founder of the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation, a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization that funds fishing programs for youth.

For more information, please visit: www.danskids.org.

Crowds gather at the lake shore during the annual fishing derby.

Young fishing enthusiast with Dan Hernandez

McBride Park Supports Serving with a Thankful Heart Thanksgiving Meal Program

Vice Mayor Dee Andrews held his annual "Serving with a Thankful Heart" banquet at McBride Park on November 25 to allow residents to enjoy a free Thanksgiving meal. The Downtown Long Beach Alliance, Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Westin, Marriott, Hilton and Hyatt Hotels, partnered in hosting the holiday event. City staff and elected officials volunteered to serve food and handle hosting duties. Parks, Recreation and Marine Facility Maintenance and McBride Park staff assisted with setting up tables and chairs, serving stations, and handling cleanup.

WRAP Celebrates "Lights On After School" Event

Lights on Afterschool is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

This year's event was held on October 24 and Parks, Recreation and Marine's WRAP (Winners Reaching Amazing Potential) programs participated. Garfield School WRAP came up with an Instagram-worthy design of colorful light bulbs as wings to let students "take flight" afterschool. At Hudson School WRAP, each child got to design their own headshot pose with fun lights!

Know Your Parks: Treasure Island Park

At .09 acres, Treasure Island Park at Treasure Island Lane and Treasure Island Drive in the Naples areas of Long Beach is one of the City's smallest parks, it is a big part of what makes the neighborhood special.

This long, narrow triangular park area has trees and a lawn area that provides a ribbon of green for residents to enjoy.

In 1967, the park was created with funds from an adjacent property assessment.

El Dorado East Regional Park Cleanup Event

Join fellow park-lovers to clean up fishing line and other debris from the beautiful open space and lakes at El Dorado East Regional Park. An hour of your time can really make a difference! Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, and wear a hat and sunscreen. All ages are welcome. Children under age 18 must be with an adult.

Meet at the parking lot next to the pedal boat dock in area III. Call 562.570.1745 to pre-register. Upcoming events are scheduled on Saturdays, December 7, January 4 and February 1 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Give the Gift of a Youth Scholarship This Holiday Season

The non-profit Partners of Parks supports Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) programs with efforts such as their youth scholarship program. The program sends disadvantaged Long Beach students ages 5-18 to a PRM class or camp costing up to $150 for free once per year.

Give the gift of a youth scholarship this holiday season! Your gift will help a Long Beach Youth. Donate online by visiting: weblink.donorperfect.com/ POP, or make your check payable to Partners of Parks, with Youth Scholarship on the memo line and mail back in the envelope provided.

Marine Bureau Update

Marine Bureau Boat Auction

The Marine Bureau held a boat auction at the Alamitos Bay Marina on November 23 to sell impounded and abandoned vessels including kayaks, paddle boards, inflatables and boat equipment and accessories. More than 200 bargain hunters arrived at 8 a.m. to inspect the vessels before the auction began at 9 a.m. as all items were offered "as is - where is." The auction netted over $23,000 and a total of 75 vessels in the water and boat-related items on land were sold.

For more information about the Boat Auction, call 562.570.3215. To receive notification for the next auction, sign up for Link LB at www.longbeach.gov/lblink.

Maintenance Operations November 2019

Community Services Enrollees	61
Community Services Total Hours	3,378
Community Services Beach Maintenance Hours	209
Community Services Marine Maintenance Hours	652
Community Services El Dorado Park Hours	253
Community Services Tree Farm Hours	87
Community Services Los Cerritos Wetlands Hours	523
Community Services Special Cleanup Hours	1,645
Work Orders Completed	385
Restrooms Cleaned Daily	172
Facilities & Gyms Cleaned & Stocked Daily	28
Park Turf Acres Maintained	814
Park Landscape Acres Maintained	2,310

Animal Care Services Update

Coyote Prevention Tips

Residents are reminded to follow important safeguards to protect pets and property against coyotes. Coyotes are found in every state of the nation, except for Hawaii, and it's not uncommon to see one walking down a busy street. Coyotes do not require open space to survive, and have adapted to living in close proximity to humans. Coyotes can be seen at any time of day, though they are most active at dusk, dawn, and at night.The following techniques are recommended to compassionately co-exist with coyotes, and to protect yourself and your pets:

Never run from a coyote. Running from a coyote can instigate the coyote's prey instinct to chase.

Never feed coyotes or any other wildlife.

Keep pets and pet food inside. If feeding outside, feed pets during the day (no more than one hour), supervise feeding, and remove the food bowls when finished.

Stay close to pets when taking them outdoors, and always keep them on a leash, especially from dusk through early morning hours.

Remove fallen fruit from the ground

Food waste should be bagged and trash containers should be closed securely to prevent opening if knocked over by an animal.

Use "hazing" techniques such as standing tall, yelling and waving arms while approaching the coyote; using a whistle, banging pans together or stomping feet; flashing bright lights, using a water hose; or throwing tennis balls toward the coyote.

An Animal Control Officer will respond to coyote calls if the coyote is sick or injured, out in the daytime in areas around people, or anytime there is an attack or threatening behavior toward a person or pet.

The City of Long Beach instituted a Coyote Management Plan to respond to concerns about coyotes, including gathering data about coyote activity. It is important to make reports about coyotes activity and encounters to Long Beach Animal Care Services. For more information about the Coyote Management Plan, or to report coyote encounters, visit www.longbeach.gov/acs/wildlife. If a coyote is posing a threat to life, call 911.

PRM October Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Melissa Snyder, Recreation Specialist on being named Employee of the Month for October. Melissa works in the Department's Contract Class section coordinating programs and instructors.

Where is the coolest place you've taken a photo? Top of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park.

What do you make from scratch? Chocolate chip cookies.

What's one small thing that makes your work day better? Iced coffee!

What's good advice you've received that you'd also give your coworkers?
Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone.

What's your favorite place to unwind in Long Beach? I like to go walk around parks or by the beach.

Would you rather read people's minds or talk to animals? Talk to animals.

How do you go the extra mile at work?
I try to go the extra mile by always staying open to new responsibilities or projects.

What two things do you think of the most each day? My dog first, I am obsessed with him. Second would be Disneyland.

If you had a warning label, what would it say?
Not responsible for things said when hungry.

How long have you worked for the City? I've been with the City for Six years.

City Employee of the Month for November

Congratulations to Raul Martinez, Park Maintenance Supervisor, for the City Employee of the Month Award for November. The Grounds Maintenance Division has benefited tremendously from his knowledge and dedication.

Raul's approach to his job is equal parts experience, curiosity and a great desire not to let a challenge go unresolved. Of the many contributions he has made to the Ground's Maintenance group, one of the most important is the completion of the Central controller inventory and bringing the 2 million dollar project to fruition. This will allow both our gardeners and our contractors to be more effective in the field and more responsive to water conservation issues and goals.

It is his dedication and spirit of innovation that makes him invaluable to our City and the PRM family.

By The Numbers
Community Recreation Services
September 2019

Permits to Gather	208
Reserved Picnic Sites	54
Facility Use Permits	59
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	91,280
El Dorado Regional Park Passes	788
Visits to City/City Operated LBUSD Pools	48,006
Youth and Teen Participants	8,748
Senior Citizens Participants	15,737
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center	33,008

December 2019 - January 2020 Calendar

December

Th. 19	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Park Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 21	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Reserve
Mon. 23	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
	10 a.m.	Parent & Me Workshop: Cozy Winter Home (18 mo. - 5 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
Tue. 24	9 a.m.	Winter Break Workshop: Creativity Abounds (5-8 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
Wed. 25		Christmas	
Th. 26	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
Fri. 27	9 a.m.	Winter Break Workshop: Rain & Roots (5-8 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
Sat. 28	9 a.m.	El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	El Dorado Regional Park
Mon. 30	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
	10 a.m.	Parent & Me Workshop: Winter Showers/Spring Flowers (18 mo.-5 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Ctr.
Tue. 31	9 a.m.	Winter Break Workshop: We've Got You Covered (5-8 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
	9:30 a.m.	Children's Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details

January

Wed 1:		New Year's Day City Holiday	
Th. 2:	9 a.m.	Winter Break Workshop: Slip Slidin' Away (5-8 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Fri. 3:	9 a.m.	Winter Break Workshop: Whooo's That? (5-8 yrs.)*	El Dorado Nature Center
	11 a.m.	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Supervision at local parks	Visit LBParks.org for details
Sat. 4:	10 a.m.	First Saturday Stewarts Trail Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
	1 p.m.	Creation Station Youth Art Program – Free	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 8:	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
	10 a.m.	Pre-School Parent & Me Workshop – Pine Cone Quest*	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 9:	8 a.m.	Bird Walk	Rancho Los Cerritos
	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sun. 12:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Tue. 14:	9:30 a.m.	Children's Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Th. 16:	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Park Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 18:	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Reserve
Mon. 20		Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday	
Tue. 21:	9:30 a.m.	Children's Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 22:	10 a.m.	Tails & Trails Nature Program (18 mo. - 5 yrs.) "Wild for Ducks"	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 25:	9 a.m.	El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	El Dorado Regional Park
Tue. 28:	9:30 a.m.	Children's Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos

*Call 562.570.3100 or visit www.LBParks.org for fee and registration information.

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