APRIL 2016 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

We Create Community

PRM Hosts 2016 "Beach Streets Downtown"

Frankie Alviso and Stacy Wells greeted Bixby Park visitors with smiles and information about PRM programs.

On March 19, Parks, Recreation and Marine helped to make the City's Beach Streets Downtown event a success. Residents walked, biked, skated, dined, shopped and socialized along streets temporarily closed to traffic including the four-mile Broadway corridor from Pine Avenue to Euclid Avenue, and sections of Pine Avenue, Linden Avenue, Cherry Avenue and Fourth Street. The goal of repurposing streets for cyclists and pedestrians was to showcase how streets can be used to promote environmental, social, economic, and public health goals.

An all-day fair at Bixby Park was at the heart of the action. Staff coordinated healthy, active-living activities, booths, giveaways and information about PRM programs, as well as services from the Department of Health and Human Services, Fire, Police, and Library. Giant moon bounces and the newly opened Camp Bixby playground and Bixby Fitness Loop were very popular.

The Homeland Cultural Center conducted a break dancing workshop on Fourth Street's Retro Row with a DJ and enthusiastic participants.

Along the route the public enjoyed block parties, concerts, yoga classes, a community festival, kid's zones, food tastings, a canine agility course, bike tuning stations, a photo booth, the Aquarium on Wheels and more.

Mike "Iceman" Rivera, Homeland Cultural Center Street Dance Coordinator leads the action with DJ Abel and MC Alan Brown. Homeland participants River Flow, and Hector and Alfredo Garcia watch neighborhood dancer.

New MacArthur Park Playground & Renovated Homeland Center Celebrated

The public joined Councilmember Dee Andrews and the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works at a Grand Opening Celebration for the MacArthur Park Playground and renovated Homeland Cultural Center located at 1321 Anaheim Street, on March 26.

The playground includes bright new play structures for both two-to-five-year-old and five-to-twelve-year-old youth, including swings, a climber, and slides that provide opportunities to slide, swing, climb, and twirl. The playground's modern, multicolored theme symbolizes the vibrant multicultural neighborhood surrounding the park.

The renovation to the Homeland Cultural Center includes restroom upgrades and renovations to the former library room, kitchen, music area and social hall which received new ceilings, floors, equipment, lighting, and paint. The work has created a more functional and contemporary space for the facility's users to call home. In his remarks at the opening, Councilmember Andrews said, "The award-winning Homeland Cultural Center is a place where people of all backgrounds experience art and share ethnic traditions."

The playground and facility improvements were made possible by a $553,050 Housing Related Parks Grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development as well as $13,300 in one-time funds from Councilmember Dee Andrews.

For more information about MacArthur Park programs, call 562.570.1655. For more information about Homeland Cultural Center programs, visit http://bit.ly/1VXnAwH.

The former Mark Twain Library was adjacent to Homeland Cultural Center. The empty space was renovated to provide a spaceous performance area for Homeland Cultural Center programs.

Councilmember Dee Andrews is flanked by City Manager Pat West (left) and Adminstrative Deputy for Mayor Garcia Tim Patton and Maintenance Operations Manager Hurley Owens (right) as he slides to cut the ribbon and open the new MacArthur Park Playground. Park Development Officer Meredith Reynolds (top) smiles with approval.

Locust Tot Lot Groundbreaking Held

Breaking ground for the Locust Avenue Tot Lot, L-R: Interim Parks, Recreation & Marine Director Stephen Scott, Locust Avenue resident, Gabriel; Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilmember Dee Andrews, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Margo Morales, and Parks and Recreation Commission President Ron Antonette.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Locust Avenue Tot Lot at 2331 Locust Avenue on March 19. The public joined Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilmember Dee Andrews and staff from the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works for the event.

The Locust Tot Lot will feature the installation of a play area and seating area on the 4,050 square foot property at 2331 Locust Avenue. The play area will include a colorful play structure for two-to-five year old youth, with climbing and exploratory features and a slide. The playground will also feature a set of swings, safety surfacing, and a series of interactive play panels. The seating area will include two benches and two picnic tables connected by an ADA accessible walkway, as well as a bike rack, trees and mulch.

“I am excited to see the development of more recreational open space in the central area of Long Beach,” said Mayor Garcia. “The residents in the neighborhood will have a new much-needed place to play with their children and enjoy the outdoors with their neighbors.”

The installation of the Tot Lot is expected to begin in late spring of 2016 and be completed in the fall. The playground design was unveiled at this event and guests saw a preview of where the equipment will be placed.

Chavez Fitness Loop & Zone Opens

The seventh Fitness Zone in the City of Long Beach opened to the public on April 2 at Cesar Chavez Park. An official ribbon cutting for the Chavez Park Fitness Zone and Loop was held at the park with Councilwoman Lena Gonzales, members of the community including the Willmore City Heritage Association, and staff from the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Public Works.

The Fitness Zone is approximately 960 square feet and located near the Tot Lot, north of Fifth Street. It features six pieces of self-use exercise equipment, including three pieces that are ADA accessible; all are designed so users can engage in healthy physical activity free of charge. The Fitness Loop includes a circuit utilizing the equipment and a walking route through the park.

Cutting the ribbon: Mrs. Long Beach Allison Kripp, Chavez Park Supervisor Heidi Mazas, Jessica Alvaraz, Martha Cota, Parks and Recreation Commission President Ron Antonette, Willmore City Heritage Association President Kathleen Irvine (with scissors), Parks and Recreation Commissioner Stella Ursua, City Councilwoman Lena Gonzales, Chavez Park community member, Parks, Recreation and Marine Director Marie Knight and Maintenance Operations Manager Hurley Owens.

Funding for the improvements included $55,000 from one-time infrastructure funds from the Office of Councilwoman Gonzalez, and $7,020 from a Greenfields Playground Equipment Grant.

Residents can also exercise on free outdoor exercise equipment at Admiral Kidd, Coolidge, Orizaba, 14th Street, Bixby and Houghton Parks.

Foot Golf "Kicks Off" at Little Rec

Recreation Park 9-Hole Golf Course (Little Rec.) at 5000 E. Seventh Street has expanded its programming to include FootGolf, a hybrid of golf and soccer that has increased in popularity in the U.S. in recent years. Like golf, the FootGolf player furthest from the 21-inch wide cup is the first to kick the ball. Players try to get the ball in the cup with as few kicks as possible.

The public came out on March 12 to try it at the opening day of a six-month trial period. City Councilmember Suzie Price, Parks, Recreation and Marine, and American Golf staff welcomed eager players to experience the fun of this exciting new sport.

FootGolf tee times are interspersed with those playing traditional golf. One group of golfers will tee off and then the next group could be FootGolfers. FootGolfers will tee off in the same area as golfers, but kick soccer balls to a different green at least 30 to 40 yards from the golf green.

The FootGolf rates are the same as traditional golf at the course. For Long Beach residents, nine-hole rates are:

Adult M-F	Adult Weekend	Junior M-F	Junior Weekend
$12	$14	$6	$9

If FootGolf proves to be successful through the trial run, the sport will have a permanent home at Recreation Park 9-hole Golf Course. FootGolf has been successfully implemented in other Southern California golf courses including in Lake Forest, Tecolote Canyon, Oxnard, and San Diego. There are about 240 FootGolf courses nationwide according to the American FootGolf League, the game's U.S. governing body.

Call the Recreation Park 9-Hole Golf Course at (562) 438-4012, Ext. 2 to make a reservation.

American FootGolf League Founder, Roberto Balestrini; Councilwoman Suzie Price, and Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine Stephen Scott cut the ribbon to the new FootGolf Course at Recreation Park South Golf Course

American Golf Improves Mobility Access for Golfers

American Golf hosted a golf tournament on April 1 to benefit the Stand Up and Play Foundation, an organization that helps wheelchair users and persons with impaired mobility participate in golf and other sporting events.

American Golf has swivel seat golf carts and course access policies that support the Americans with Disabilities Act and make play possible for many disabled persons. To reserve one of these special carts and have it delivered to the course for your tee time, call your preferred Long Beach golf course.

Pictured L-R with the CPRS Conference Ronald McDonald "House" are Community Recreation Services Superintendents Michelle Wilson, Ashleigh Griset, and Joy Warren, and CRS Bureau Manager Gladys Kaiser

One of the highlights of the recent California Parks and Recreation Society Conference and Expo (CPRS), hosted by the City of Long Beach, was the charity program component organized by Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) staff.

It is a tradition at all CPRS conferences to support a charity in the host city. PRM selected the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House (RMH) and set a goal to collect RMH "wish list" items. The RMH web site lists non-perishable food, gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and stores, and cleaning supplies as a great support for families staying at RMH and the staff and volunteers who work to make their visit comfortable with these items.

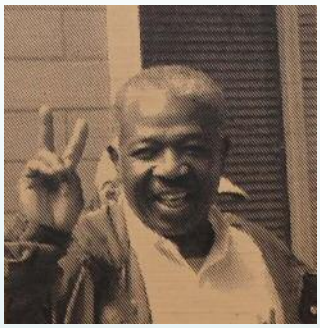
PRM staff built a display house to collect the items, and wound up donating $150 in cash and gift cards and over 100 items from the house's wish list.

To learn more about the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House Wish List, and how you can donate, visit http://rmhcsc.org/longbeach/wishlist.

By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services February 2016

Permits to Gather	103
Reserved Picnic Sites	2
Number of Contract Classes	135
Facility Use Permits Issued	66
Field Use Permits Issued	65
Adult Sports League Participants	7,128
Visits to City / City Operated LBUSD Pools	11,632
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	6,861
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes	689
Youth and Teen Participants	38,881
Senior Citizen Participants	11,832
Visits to the El Dorado Nature Center	22,082

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Dennis Williams Greenway



The Dennis Williams Greenway runs alongside Second Street between E. Marina Drive and Alamitos Bay. The .71-acre scenic site was named for the former long-time Marine Maintenance Storekeeper who passed away in 2009. Williams worked for the City of Long Beach for over 31 years.

Boaters on their way to the Davies Launch Ramp pass the landscaped area with trees and a bench where one can rest and take in the surroundings. The Marine Maintenance headquarters is down the road that runs by the greenway, so many employees are reminded of their friend as they come and go to work.

The park bench was donated by coworkers and friends in his honor. The bench has a plaque that states, Mr. Williams was a "man of character, sincerity and wisdom; a true friend and in our hearts forever."

Animal Care Services Update

This is the time of year when unaltered cats are giving birth to kittens that will have little chance of survival. Animal Care Services (ACS) is grateful for the support of Deborah Felin of the Helen Sanders CatPAWS organization, who donated DIY Kitten Care Kits to ACS. ACS is using the kits to enable residents who find orphaned kittens to bottle feed them and give them a chance at life and adoption. Another wonderful supporter (and kitten foster mom) Patty Williams of the Animal Resource Team, helped to assemble the feeding kits.

A few patrons have already offered to keep found kittens and raise them to an adoptable age. Mike McAchran from the Long Beach Public Service Bureau (pictured right) found a little kitten on a job site. After several attempts to reunite the kitten with its mother, he decided to give her a chance on his own. ACS is trying to get the mother spayed so she doesn't have any more kittens. It's wonderful to see people working to save the lives of helpless kittens, with help from Helen Sanders CatPAWS and the donated Kitten Care Kits.

Congratulations to Animal Care Services on Great 2016 First Quarter Statistics!

Impounds	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs
Jan	368	373	369	238
Feb	341	285	258	266
Mar	327	335	251	247
Totals	1036	993	878	751

Euth/Died	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs
Jan	82	78	78	14
Feb	96	45	34	28
Mar	73	78	32	18
Totals	251	201	144	60

Live Release Rate	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs	Dogs
Jan	78%	79%	79%	94%
Feb	72%	84%	87%	89%
Mar	78%	77%	87%	93%
Totals	76%	80%	84%	92%

Impounds	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Cats	Cats	Cats	Cats
Jan	160	174	177	117
Feb	179	139	138	118
Mar	249	211	204	128
Totals	588	524	519	363

Euth/Died	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Cats	Cats	Cats	Cats
Jan	85	90	52	20
Feb	100	98	36	20
Mar	183	94	75	26
Totals	368	282	163	66

Live Release Rate	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Cats	Cats	Cats	Cats
Jan	47%	48%	71%	83%
Feb	44%	29%	74%	83%
Mar	27%	55%	63%	80%
Totals	37%	46%	69%	82%

Marine Bureau Update

Jordan High School "Panthers At Sea" Learning Life and Sailing Skills

The Panthers at Sea program was begun in 1998 by science teacher David Braunstein with 45 students from Jordan High School. He wanted to share his passion for sailing with his students, and the program has since expanded to nearly 100 students.

Along with a representative from the Long Beach Unified School District, small groups of students are assigned to a private sailing yacht after safety training and requirements are met. Volunteer skippers share their home waters with the students along with their experience and sailing wisdom. Students learn about teamwork and goal setting, as well as sailing skills.

Co-chair of the Panthers at Sea, James Townes, said that being in the water broadens the student's understanding of the sea and gets them interested in science, technologies, engineering and math. Townes intends to expand the Panther at Sea program to the Students at Sea, encompassing all interested Long Beach Unified High School students who wish to participate.

This year's program will culminate with a day-long sailing excursion out of Long Beach Harbor on May 7 for youth, led by expert crews. The public can support the Panther's "adopt-a-student" program with a donation of $20 to cover the cost of lunch and a T-shirt for one student on the day of the event.

To adopt a student, volunteer, or for more information on the Panthers at Sea program and the Jordan High School Summer Sailing Camp email or call James Townes at j.townes@veizon.net or (562) 951-5810.

By the Numbers Maintenance Operations Bureau - March 2016

Community Service Worker Program:

Total Enrollment	124
Total Queensway Bay hours (Water cleanup, debris and litter pickup)	90
Total Number of Hours Worked at Beach Maintenance	182
Total Marine Maintenance hours (Litter pickup):	689
Total El Dorado Park hours (Litter pickup, and custodial).	195
Total Tree Farm hours (Litter pick up custodial and facility).	282
Total Los Cerritos Wetlands hours (Litter pickup and vegetation removal)	329
Special Cleanups: City clean-ups, graffiti paint-out	444
Total hours for the month of March	2,211
Work orders completed	275
Restrooms cleaned daily	172
Facilities cleaned and stocked daily	28

Park acres maintained:

Park turf	814
Park landscape	3,120
Street (medians) turf	53
Street landscape	212

April - May 2016 Calendar

April

Fri 15:	8 a.m.	*Summer Day Camp Registration Begins	Varies
Th. 21:	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Scherer Park
	7:30 p.m.	El Dorado Audubon Society Meeting	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 23:	10 a.m.	Earth Day Beach Cleanup	Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
Mon. 25:		Summer "Recreation Connection" is published	www.lbparks.org
Tue. 26:	11 a.m.	*Victorian Tea (Call 562.206.2040 for tickets)	Rancho Los Cerritos
Fri. 29:	11 a.m.	Kitty Hall Cat Adoption Event	Long Beach City Hall

May

Mon. 2:		Summer Class Registration Begins	
Th. 5:	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Scherer Park
Fri. 6:	10 a.m.	El Dorado West Wellness Fair	El Dorado West
Sat. 7:	10 a.m.	Turtle Show	El Dorado Nature Center
	10 a.m.	First Saturday Stewards Clean-up	El Dorado Nature Center
	2 p.m.	Native Plant Class	El Dorado Nature Center
Sun. 8:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 9:	Hours Vary	*New four-week swim lesson sessions begin	Belmont Plaza and Silverado Pools
Tue. 10:	Hours Vary	*New four-week swim lesson sessions begin	Belmont Plaza and King Pools
	7 p.m.	Family Nightlife Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 14:	9:30 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Drake Park
	11:30 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Cesar Chavez Park
Th. 19:	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Scherer Park
	7:30 p.m.	El Dorado Audubon Society Meeting	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 21:	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Wed. 25:	10 a.m.	*Parent & Me (18 mo.-5yrs.) Workshop Dino Dig Day	El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. 27:	6:30 p.m.	100 Days of Summer Kick-Off Concert	Marina Vista Park
Sat. 28:	11 a.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic	Signal Hill Park
Mon. 30:		Memorial Day Holiday'	

*Call for registration and fee information.

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