OCTOBER 2018 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 10

We Create Community

PRM Wins American Planning Association Awards

Willow Springs Park

Uptown Open Space Vision Plan Color Block Walk

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) won two prestigious awards from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) on October 8, and was recognized for outstanding achievements in the planning field. PRM received the 2018 Public Outreach Award of Merit for the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan and the 2018 Large Jurisdiction Award of Excellence for the Willow Springs Wetlands Restoration Project.

"These awards highlight the vision of our staff and commitment of our community in working together to create open space in our city that provides accessible areas for recreation and places for residents to enjoy nature and experience local history," said Mayor Robert Garcia.

The Uptown Open Space Vision Plan (Plan) was led by the Office of Councilmember Rex Richardson, PRM, the Department of Health and Human Services, and City Fabrick (a nonprofit design studio). The Plan, approved in July 2018, drew upon community input to creatively identify and enhance public open spaces to provide accessibility within a 10-minute walk for residents of North Long Beach. The Plan was formed by a three-phase, community-driven engagement process, which culminated in a "Color Block Walk" event where residents used washable color powders to express possibilities for additional open space.

The Willow Springs Wetlands Restoration Project (Project) was led by PRM and the Office of Sustainability. The Project, opened in October 2017 and was honored for the visionary planning process that lead to the restoration of 11 acres of wetlands that highlight the pivotal role they played in the City of Long Beach's establishment in the late 1800's. Visitors now discover a walking loop through a series of bio-swales that flow to one acre of restored wetlands and 10 acres of native habitat; a constructed spring that mimics the original artesian spring that provided water to early Long Beach; a water basin that cleans and diverts water to be reused on site; and an outdoor environmental education classroom.

"I am very proud of the efforts of staff from PRM and the Office of Sustainability who created a process that involved our community in laying the groundwork for these two important projects and for working hard to move them forward," said PRM Director Gerardo Mouet.

APA California provides vision and leadership that fosters better planning for California, builds public and political support for sound planning and provides its members with the tools, services and support that advance the art and science of planning. For more information on this organization, visit: www.apacalifornia.org.

Volunteers Make California Coastal Cleanup Day a Success

Volunteers cleaning jetty rocks

On Saturday, September 15, El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center staff organized 602 volunteers who removed over 2,415 pounds of trash from beaches at five sites, during the 34th annual statewide Coastal Cleanup Day event.

Volunteers cleaned Alamitos Bay Marina, Belmont Pier, Cherry Beach, the Peninsula, and the Sea Scout Base near Mother's Beach. The volunteers were led by site captains, which included staff from the Aquarium of the Pacific, Clean LB, Seal Beach Yacht Club, Long Beach Marine Institute, and El Dorado Nature Center. Educational groups from Algalita Marine Research and Education, Seal Beach Wildlife Refuge, Surfrider Foundation, and El Dorado Nature Center provided information to the volunteers.

This annual statewide event draws over 65,000 volunteers in a joint effort to clean up our waterways and coastline.

Volunteers working along Peninsula area

Ruth Ricker Social Hall Dedicated

On October 3, the social hall at the Chavez Park Jenny Oropeza Community Center was renamed the "Ruth Ricker Social Hall" in honor of former community leader and Senior Advisory Commissioner Ruth Ricker.

A native of New York, Ruth Ricker was a lover of the arts, especially literature and writing. After moving to Long Beach she supported the East Village Art Walk, the Long Beach Symphony, and the City's art scene. Her involvement in the City led to her appointment to the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission, where she focused on senior programming and distribution of hot meals for older adults. She also served on the City's General Plan Commission and was a member of former Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald's Senior Congressional Commission. Ms. Ricker passed away on July 23, 2015.

Ruth's children Jason and Juanita and her friend Max Viltz were among those who attended the naming event and who also planted a Jacaranda tree, with blooming purple flowers (her favorite color) in her honor.

Left: Social Hall plaque unveiling

Below: Jacaranda tree planting

Halloween Happenings Coming Up

Parks, Recreation and Marine is the place to turn for safe, fun Halloween activities. Drop by after school programs sites Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m., during the last two weeks of the month for crafts, pumpkin carving and other seasonal fun. The locations are Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, Houghton, M.L. King Jr., McBride, Orizaba, Pan American, Ramona, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow and Whaley. For more information, call 562.570.3150.

The **El Dorado Nature Center Howl-oween Festival** will take place on Saturday, October 27 from 2-6 p.m., with the last trail entry at 5 p.m. Trick or treat along the trails and visit the animal education village and Ooh-possum Patch, have fun with storytelling, face painting, and crafts. Food trucks will be available. Parking is $7 and there is a suggested donation of $5 to support Partners of Parks / Friends of El Dorado Nature Center at the gate. Dress as your favorite creature and mingle with Nature Center wildlife.

Veterans Park will host a family-friendly Halloween Bash on October 30 from 6-8:30 p.m.

On October 31, activities include Monster Mash Dance Contests and Costume Contests at **Bixby Park** and the **Freeman Teen Center**. Call for time. The **Long Beach Senior Center** will host Trick o' Treating, a Costume Contest and Karaoke singing the BOOs! Call for times. Halloween celebrations will also take place at **Seaside Park** from 5-8 p.m. and **Silverado Park** from 3-6 p.m.

El Dorado Nature Center Tellabration Event

Celebrate the power and wisdom of storytelling from Long Beach Storytellers at the El Dorado Nature Center Tellabration event on Saturday, November 17 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Ages 12 and up. Preregistration required.

Call 562.570.1745. $5 per person.

Free Youth Fishing Derby

Mark your calendars for the annual free youth fishing derby on Saturday, November 17 at El Dorado Regional Park, 7550 E. Spring Street. Fishing poles and tackle to catch fish will be provided to youth 15 years old and under. Participants age 16 and older are required to have a Califronia State Fishing license.

Registration: 8-9 a.m.
Fishing Derby: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Raffle: 1 p.m.

The event is co-sponsored by the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Game. For more details, call 562.570.1745.

Free Youth Ball Hockey Leagues Forming

This winter PRM will offer coed ball hockey leagues sponsored by the LA Kings. The leagues are for ages 9-14. Registration begins October 1, and the leagues run from November through January. Kids will be introduced to the fundamentals of ball hockey including passing and shooting.

Locations: Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Cherry, College Estates, Coolidge, Davenport, Drake, El Dorado West, Houghton, M.L. King Jr., McBride, Miracle on 4th, Orizaba, Pan American, Ramona, Scherer, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow and Whaley Parks.

For more information, call 562.570.3150 or visit www.teamsideline.com.

Free Fall and Winter Fun Days

Youth ages 5-12 can come to their local park for extended supervision (non-custodial care) recreation activities during Thanksgiving Week (November 20, 21 and 22) and Winter Break (December 24-29 and January 2-5). Closed December 25 and January 1.

The fun will include games, crafts, sports tournaments, field trips, and holiday celebrations.

Locations: Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, Houghton, M.L. King Jr., McBride, Orizaba, Pan American, Ramona, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow and Whaley. For more information, call 562.570.1707.

By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services: August 2018

Permits to Gather	218
Reserved Picnic Sites	50
Number of Contract Classes (Winter)	496
Facility Use Permits Issued	46
Field Use Permits Issued	84
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes	776
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	13,466
Adult Sports League Participants (Winter)	36,689
Visits to City Pools	51,039
Youth and Teen Participants	22,045
Senior Citizen Participants	19,062
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center	27,420

Dolphin Fountain Renovation

The Queensway Bay Maintenance team has renovated the dolphin fountain by the Aquarium of the Pacific "Pacific Visions" wing. The bronze statues and water reservoir were cleaned and new paint was applied.

PRM Ready For Its Close Up

Parks, Recreation & Marine parks and beaches are versatile locations for many film projects. Recently Junipero Beach starred as Malibu Beach for "Malibu Rescue," and the concession stand at Bayshore Beach stood in as Daytona Beach for "Ford vs. Ferrari," starring Matt Damon and Christian Bale.

By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau - September 2018

Community Service Workers (CSW) program

Total Number of persons enrolled during September.....71

Total number of CSW Hours for September.....2,086

Total number of hours worked at Queensway Bay.....31
(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)

Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....172
(Litter pickup on beaches, parking lots, Belmont Pool, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula)

Total number of hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....892
(Litter pickup at Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and custodial work)

Total number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....360
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)

Total number of hours worked at Tree Farm.....73
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)

Total number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....278
(Litter and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon)

Total number of hours worked at special clean-ups.....280
(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)

Work orders completed.....382
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis 172
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily.....28

Park acres maintained
Park turf.....814
Park landscape.....2,310
Street (medians) turf.....53
Street landscape.....143

Water Use
Water cost & Consumption for September 2018
Parks and Street Island Potable.....37,777.....$136,714
Parks and Street Island Reclaimed.....52,604.....$93,544

Animal Shelter Euthanasia Continues To Drop

Over the past several years the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine, Animal Care Services Bureau (ACS) has worked diligently to reduce shelter population and euthanasia rates, while also working to improve outcomes for the animals who visit the City's shelter.

In findings presented in Phase One and Two of a recent City Auditor's review, industry-identified best practice recommendations were identified to assist ACS in achieving improved operational efficiency, effectiveness, and overall service to the community. The City Auditor's report is available at *www.cityauditorlauradoud.com*.

While ACS continues to address the City Auditor's recommendations for improvements, the City notes that in 2017 the combined live release rates for dogs and cats was 81%, significantly higher than Los Angeles County and Orange County rates and was a marked improvement over the same statistics for 2016. Further, the City continues to show consistent improvements in total live impounds, total euthanasia, and live release rates year-over-year, over the last several years. In addition, ACS' current year-to-date statistics for the first eight months of 2018 show the department is on track for another year-over-year decrease in impounds and euthanasia annually for cats and dogs combined.

The City Auditor's review called for the creation a long-term strategic plan to identify priorities and align resources needed to meet the goals of the community and the City. A new mayoral-appointed Animal Care Visioning Task Force will provide input into the plan.

"Find Some Bunny To Love"

The spcaLA is promoting a bunny adoption special. Adopters will pay a low $30 rabbit adoption fee for all rabbits at spcaLA Pet Adoption Centers and Long Beach Animal Care Services through October 31.

The program is available only to qualified adopters that meet spcaLA adoption requirements.

Learn more and heck out EARresistable bunnies at *www.spcala.com*.

Low Cost Pet Clinic

Long Beach Animal Care Services provides convenient Low Cost Pet Clinics for pet vaccinations and microchipping services.

Visit www.LongBeachAnimalCare.com for dates, times, locations, and fees. Clinics are held in Long Beach parks on Saturdays and from 4-6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at Scherer Park. Licensing is available at the Saturday clinics. Times, dates and locations are subject to change. Please visit *www.SNPLA.org* for spay/neuter information.

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Long Beach Municipal Cemetery

The 4.35-acre Long Beach Municipal Cemetery at Willow Street and Orange Avenue was established in 1901 when William Willmore, the developer of what became Long Beach was interred there. The land was part of Rancho Los Cerritos, and had been subsequently purchased by Willmore. Originally known as Signal Hill Cemetery, it was a burial ground for Bixby Ranch employees. Although a Bixby mausoleum is located on the property, no member of the Bixby family is interred there.

The PRM Maintenance Operations Bureau is responsible for the operation and upkeep of the cemetery. Staff manually water the grounds, and handle tree maintenance, weeding, edging, turf mowing, and "righting" of headstones that sink due to subsidence. Staff often deals with incidents of vandalism.

Staff works with the Department of Public Works to open and close graves, a job performed with care and in compliance with state laws and standards of practice for cemeteries. The main obstacle with handling the burial sites is the accuracy of the records that have been kept. Sometimes there is conflict about who actually lies in the ground. Staff rely on templates and maps with coordinates, so they do not disturb the surrounding soil and grave sites.

Learn about the cemetery's history at the Historical Society of Long Beach's 23rd Annual Tour of Long Beach Municipal Cemetery and the adjacent Sunnyside Cemetery on Saturday, October 27 from 9 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Visit www.hslb.org or call 562.424.2220, for more information.

July Employee of the Month: Yeselin Martinez

Congratulations to Yeselin Martinez on being selected as the July Employee of the Month. Here's a little about Yeseline:

What high school did you attend? Cabrillo High School.

How many siblings do you have? Three sisters and one brother.

Are you attending College? I'm attending California State University Dominguez Hills, majoring in Human Resources Management and will graduate in Spring 2019.

What is your favorite food? Pepperoni pizza.

What are your career goals? To be an interior designer.

Biggest pet peeve? My biggest pet peeve is tardiness.

Favorite color? Yellow.

Food you hate? I love everything!

How long have you worked for PRM? 5 years.

What was your first job? Working for PRM WRAP.

What do you like to do when you aren't at work? Run, workout and spend time with my family.

August Employee of the Month: Lindsay Wells

Lindsay Wells was selected as the August Employee of the Month. Get to know Lindsay:

What high school did attend? Wilson Classical High School.

How many siblings do you have? Two sisters, one of them being my twin!

Are you attending College? I'm a senior at CSULB obtaining a BA in Liberal Studies and Multiple Subject Credential.

What is your favorite food? Mexican food with a large drink of Horchata!

What are your career goals? Elementary school teacher.

Biggest pet peeve? Hearing people chew their food.

Favorite color? Turquoise.

Food you hate? I am not a big fan of seafood.

How long have you worked for PRM? I got hired in 2014!

What was your first job? Somerset Park Recreation Leader.

What do you like to do when you aren't at work? I love to be near the ocean to free dive and sail.

October - November 2018 Calendar of Events

October

Oct. 13:	9 a.m.	California Native Plant Sale	El Dorado Nature Center
Oct. 14:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Oct. 17:	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Oct. 18:	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Park Senior Center
Oct. 18:	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park
Oct. 20:	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Oct. 20:	10 a.m.	Stories from the Garden: The Plants of Columbia*	Rancho Los Cerritos
Oct. 21:	5 p.m.	Stardusk Dinner Dance Event*	Rancho Los Cerritos
Oct. 27:	2 p.m.	Howl-Oween Festival*	El Dorado Nature Center
Oct. 27:	11 a.m.	Ghostly Tea with crafts, games and fun*	Rancho Los Cerritos
Oct. 27:	Varies	Eight-week Saturday Swim Lessons Begin	Belmont Plaza Pool
Oct. 27:	Varies	Eight-week Saturday Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Oct. 29:	Varies	Four Week Monday-Wednesday Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Oct. 29-31:	Varies	Free After School Halloween Activities	Visit www.lbparks.org for sites
Oct. 30:	Varies	Four-week Tuesday-Thursday Swim Lessons Begin	King Park Pool

November

Nov. 1:	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park
Nov. 3:	10 a.m.	1st Saturday Stewards Cleanup*	El Dorado Nature Center
Nov. 3:	10 a.m.	Measure A Playground Opening	Veterans Park
Nov. 3:	1 p.m.	"Brilliant Brown" Free Youth Art Program	Rancho Los Cerritos
Nov. 10:	1 p.m.	Museum Shop Holiday Open House and Artist Event	Rancho Los Alamitos
Nov. 11:	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Nov. 13:	7 p.m.	Family Nightlife Walk*	El Dorado Nature Center
Nov. 14:	10 a.m.	Parent & Me (18 mo. – 5 yrs) Workshop Amazing Autumn*	El Dorado Nature Center
Nov. 15:	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Park Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park
Nov. 17:	7:30 p.m.	Tellebration Storytelling event*	El Dorado Nature Center
Nov. 17:	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Nov. 17:	10 a.m.	Stories From the Garden – History and Folklore of Christmas Greens*	Rancho Los Cerritos
Nov. 17:	9:30 a.m.	Holiday Décor workshop*	Rancho Los Alamitos
Nov. 21:	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Nov. 22:		Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov. 23:		City Holiday	
Nov. 26:	Varies	Four-week Swim Monday-Wednesday Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Nov. 27:	Varies	Four-Week Tuesday-Thursday Swim Lessons Begin	King Park Pool

NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER!

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LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE SELECTED BEST IN THE NATION

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