COVID-19 Updates

Long Beach Modifies Masking Requirements

Masking is no longer required in most circumstances but is strongly recommended. Masking will continue to be required in healthcare facilities, jails and prisons, emergency shelters, cooling centers, homeless shelters and on public transit. Beginning March 12, masking will no longer be required in schools and childcare facilities but will be strongly recommended while on school property or while performing school activities. Businesses that are not required to implement universal masking may choose to continue masking requirements for customers and employees.

COVID-19 Updates and Information available at this link

Past and Ongoing Events

Council Approves Ordinance to Address Street Takeover Events

At Tuesday’s City Council meeting, the “Street Takeover” ordinance that I proposed last summer was unanimously approved. The City Attorney’s office created an ordinance modeled after...
ordinances in San Jose and Anaheim, and both those municipalities were referenced in my council presentation on July 20th. The City Attorney’s office also received input from both the City Prosecutor’s office and the Long Beach Police Department. That input included vetting, fine tuning and final sign-off. The new ordinance focuses on prohibiting spectators at street races, sideshows and reckless driving exhibitions. The goal is for the ordinance to act as a deterrent. With other ordinances already existing in our region, our City should never be a target due to inadequate or non-existing laws. A final reading and Mayor’s signing are scheduled for next week. The ordinance will take effect 31 days after next week’s final approval.

Long Beach Little League’s 70th Opening Day

It was a beautiful day for baseball last Saturday as Long Beach Little League celebrated its Opening Day and 70th Anniversary. As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, the league actually predates the opening of Stearns Park in 1957. I had the honor of presenting League President, Steve Klaus, a certificate commemorating the event on the field where I once played. You can read articles covering the event by the LBPost here and the Press Telegram here. Photo credit: Howard Freshman

New LBFD Fire Trucks Visit the “Frozen Tundra”

Two weeks ago we featured the Lombardi Trophy, and today we have Green Bay’s Lambeau Field. LBFD’s new Truck 17 and Truck 11 did not end up there on a mutual aid assignment. They were actually built in Appleton, Wisconsin by Pierce Mfg. Pierce is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oshkosh Corp. and is the largest fire apparatus company in the world. LBPD personnel traveled to Wisconsin to oversee the final touches. Truck 17 will soon be delivered to Station 17 in Council District 4 and begin serving residents citywide.
Absolute Best of Long Beach Awards
District voting: March 1-10 | Online

The time has come to celebrate all things Long Beach including businesses, organizations and individuals. You, the people, nominate and vote for The Absolute Best of Long Beach! Nominations are by council district, and five nominees from each district are voted on. The nomination period ran from 2/11/22 to 2/22/22 with 45 categories for each district. The Best of each District Voting is running from 3/1/22 to 3/10/22. Get your voting started today by going to the CD4 page at this link.

Pitch Long Beach!

The City of Long Beach is committed to advancing solutions to civic challenges by engaging the community, staff, and private sector to explore and implement emerging technology and innovative approaches to City service delivery. Our vision for a smarter Long Beach is not one that we can achieve alone, and we encourage collaboration and partnerships to design, test, and implement solutions through the Pitch Long Beach! program. Pitch Long Beach! allows vendors to pitch an idea for a project to the City. The ideas that offer promising solutions to legitimate City needs will be shared with our subject matter experts, evaluated with transparent criteria, and then may be implemented as pilot projects. Learn more about this program at this link.

LGB “Plane to See” Art Contest Takes Flight
Submissions: now through March 31st | Online

The Long Beach Airport (LGB) is calling on local artists to take part in a “Plane to See” aviation-themed design contest, where 10 selected winners’ drawings will earn $500 honorariums and be used to create coloring sheets for travelers of all ages. Selected drawings will be printed and distributed at community events and to LGB travelers with a designated exhibition space and coloring area. The images also will be available to download online. The contest is open to local artists of all ages and skill levels. Read the press release at this link.
FREE Tax Preparation from CSULB
Through April 9th | M-Th: 10am to 8pm; Fri: 9am to 3pm

The CSULB College of Business is offering FREE income tax preparation online now through April 9, 2022. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) IRS program provides virtual appointments to individuals who qualify as low-income ($58,000 annually), students, the elderly, non-residents and limited English proficiency. The VITA IRS-certified tax preparers can assist you in preparing both federal and state tax returns. Schedule a virtual appointment or get more information on the CSU Long Beach VITA site at this link.

Upcoming Events

Youth Climate Ambassador Program
Applications due Sunday, March 6th | 12 pm | Apply Online

Looking for an opportunity to gain rich experience in climate action and environmental justice? Apply for the Youth Climate Ambassador Program taking place over a 10-week period from March to May, 2022. Applications are due by noon this Sunday, March 6th. Additional information is available at this link.

Next on the City Council Agenda
March 8th | 5:00 pm | Virtual

The City Council teleconference of the council meeting will begin at 5:00 pm. The civic chambers will be closed, but the public can use eComment to provide comments on agenda items. Comments can also be submitted by email to: CityClerk@longbeach.gov. Items on Tuesday’s council meeting agenda include:

- R12: Recommendation to conduct a study session to receive and file a presentation and update on Citywide Fiscal Outlook and FY 23 Budget Development.
- R19: Recommendation to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 first departmental and fund budget appropriation adjustments in accordance with existing City Council policy. (Citywide)
- R21: Recommendation to declare ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code by adding Chapter 10.82 relating to prohibiting spectators at street races, sideshows, and reckless driving exhibitions, read and adopted as read. (Citywide)

The entire agenda can be found here. To see the schedule and agenda for all upcoming city meetings, click here.

In-person Council Meetings Begin March 15th
March 15th | 5 pm | 411 W. Ocean Blvd.

The City will resume in-person City Council meetings in the Civic Chambers beginning March 15th. It will be a gradually transition from the virtual format back to in person on this schedule:

- March 8 meeting will remain virtual.
- March 15 meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, allowing Councilmembers and the public to attend either in person or virtually.
- March 22 meeting, and thereafter, will be held in person only.

Council meetings were moved to a virtual format in January due to the COVID-19 Omicron
variant surge. As cases continue to steadily decline, indoor meetings are now allowed. The City’s press release is available at this link.

Los Altos Library Online Student Career Fair
March 12, 19 & 26 | 12 pm - 2 pm | Register Online

The Los Altos Neighborhood Library presents a Student Career Fair for ages 13-18. The program is scheduled on Saturday, March 12, 19, & 26. Presentations will include employers discussing possible career paths for teens who are in attendance. Participants will meet with a presenter of their interest to acquire further information about their career path and the steps it took them to get to where they are. Students will also have a chance to ask questions regarding volunteer, internship, or job opportunities that can help further their experience. A librarian will email participants additional resources connected to each presenter after the event. For more information and registration please visit this link.

Two Rancho Los Alamitos Internship Opportunities
March 18th deadline | 6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd. | Apply Online

Rancho Los Alamitos is seeking two temporary, part-time interns to support the organization’s diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) goals. The successful applicants for this exceptional opportunity will be upper-level undergraduate or graduate students at CSULB and will work from June 2022 into fall 2022. The time commitment is approximately 5-10 hours weekly. Additional information about the internships is available at this link.

PRM Spring Break In-Person Day Camps
Registration begins March 23rd | Register Online

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) will offer in-person day camps during the upcoming LBUSD spring break from April 18th through 22nd. Youth ages 5 to 12 will enjoy crafts, physical fitness, enrichment activities, cultural celebrations and more. Online registration begins at 10 am on Wednesday, March 23rd. You can read additional information in the press release at this link.

And Finally

Centennial Anniversary of Baseball in Council District 4

The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of Little League baseball in Stearns Champions Park. It also marks 100 years since the first baseball park was built in Council District 4. About a half mile west of Stearns Park, on Stearns Street near Redondo, is where the 3,500-seat Shell Park baseball stadium was located. It was built in 1922 to be the home of the Shell Oilers baseball team that was made up of Shell Oil employees who worked the oil fields when they weren't playing baseball. The World Series Champion Pittsburg Pirates played an exhibition game there in 1926. Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig almost made an appearance at Shell Park on October 30, 1927, but the exhibition game was rained out. The aerial photo below, taken 3 days later on November 2, 1927, clearly shows the field and its proximity to Stearns Street. There are also a number of great photos (samples below) in Tom Meigs' book "Baseball in Long Beach".