

We Create Community

CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION
& MARINE

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ISSUE 3

"BLACK MOSAIC" MUSIC AND DANCE SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: DRAMANA KONE WELCOMES THE AUDIENCE; JAZZ PERFORMANCES BY MADISON MEDLAND; HELENA DONATO-SAPP, LONG BEACH YOUTH POET LAUREATE RECITES A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS; KIRSTEN D. JOHNSON, SOJOURNER TRUTH - VOTING RIGHTS WARRIOR"; CLAUDETTE CLAYTON PERFORMS "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"



The "Black Mosaic," music and dance showcase capped off a month of activities at the Long Beach Senior Center to

engage the community in celebrating Black History Month and honoring the rich history and contributions of the Black community. The free event was co-sponsored by the Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble on February 28.

The program featured creative performances, including Long Beach Youth Poet Laureate Helena Donato-Sapp and the DramanaKone drum and dance group, as well

as spoken word, music and dance performances by local performers that showcased the richness of Black history and culture. The event was narrated by Dr. Melanie Curtis Andrews, Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble Artistic Director.

The Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble is a community organization that brings at-risk students into the world of theater using Shakespeare's ageless language and wisdom. More information about the Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble can be found on their website.

Director's Corner

BRENT DENNIS, DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



For our Department, March comes in like a “lion” and out like a “kitten”. At Long Beach Animal Care Services, we realize March usually ushers in the annual ‘kitten season’

when we seem to find our professional staff and invaluable volunteers needing to embrace the role of bottle feeders to scores of kittens that come into our care. To broaden the awareness of fostering and adoptions of the hundreds of furry friends that come into our care, our mobile, citywide presence of the Adoption Waggin’, brings resources and in-person opportunities to provide a forever home to a dog or cat.

Our Long Beach Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services team finds the 31 days of March as a bevy of opportunities to welcome the community into great programs, special events, and unique experiences across our 166 parks and over six miles of beautiful beaches. March into healthy lifestyles, creative arts, and social interaction with neighbors and friends. The month of March also has our Business Operations Bureau, busy with recruiting, hiring, and on boarding hundreds of part-time and seasonal team members in preparation for a summer of fun.



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

Our hard-working park and beach maintenance team members, joined by our amazing park ambassadors, have kept our goal of making our public areas clean, safe, welcoming, and beautiful as their top priority. Park improvement projects will continue to sprout up from our landscapes with creative, signature playgrounds at the forefront. As the impressive Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project advances towards a long-awaited completion, we are pleased to announce the return of the popular Municipal Band back to Marine Stadium and the Larry Curtis Concert Park for the summer of 2025.

Here's to a Marvelous March made for you! Parks Make Life Better and Parks Make Long Beach!

PRM OFFERS FREE SPRING BREAK YOUTH AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Parks, Recreation and Marine will offer its free youth recreation program, Spring Fun Days, at various parks throughout Long Beach during the upcoming school spring break.

Spring Fun Days engage children ages 5 to 12 in fun activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, and special events. This is a free drop-in program where registered participants may come and go as they please. The program will run Monday through Friday,

April 14-18, from noon to 5 p.m. each day at parks throughout Long Beach. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms may be picked up at participating parks beginning Monday, March 31. Call or visit parks for registration times.

More information, including the complete list of participating locations, is available on the Spring Break Fun Days program web page, <https://www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/youth-programs/spring-fun-days/>.

FREE SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES NOW OFFERED FOR CATS IN LONG BEACH

The community is invited to a grand opening event on Saturday, March 29 at the Little Lion Foundation headquarters.



Long Beach Animal Care Services, in partnership with the Little Lion Foundation, is launching the Long Beach Community Cat Project to help reduce the overpopulation of free-roaming community cats in Long Beach and its service cities of Cerritos, Los Alamitos and Signal

Hill by providing free sterilization surgeries and animal care resources to community cats.

A grand opening event and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 1-3 p.m. at The Little Lion Foundation headquarters (1179 E. Wardlow Rd.). The event will include remarks from local leaders and City partners, clinic and facility tours, and an opportunity to learn more about the program's mission and future goals. Free food and beverages will be available.

The Little Lion Foundation headquarters will serve as the operating hub for this project and LBACS will serve in a supportive role by providing payment vouchers and will work with community partners to address high breeding areas of community cats. Participants will receive a \$100 spay/neuter voucher from LBACS for surgery costs, with the remaining costs funded by

donations through supporters of The Little Lion Foundation. Community cats will receive a spay or neuter surgery, vaccines, flea medication, and an ear tip, which is a visual marker of a community cat, all free of charge. These procedures will be conducted at a new sterilization clinic located at The Little Lion Foundation headquarters.

Community members and animal serving organizations with community cats are encouraged to participate in this program to help support the City's goal of drastically reducing community cat overpopulation. Those interested may submit an application at The Little Lion Foundation, www.littlelionfoundation.org or call LBACS at 562.570.7387 for more information. This project was made possible through funding by Partners of Parks, Found Animals and Friends of Long Beach Animals.



PAVING, WAYFINDING AND PARKING EL DORADO PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The El Dorado Park Paving, Wayfinding and Parking Improvements project will create a safer, more accessible and enjoyable experience for visitors to El Dorado East Regional Park.

The phased project is resurfacing roadways and parking lots that have deteriorated over time due to damage from tree roots and other environmental factors, followed by wayfinding and parking management improvements.

Visit www.longbeach.gov/pw/projects/el-dorado-park-paving-wayfinding-and-parking-improvements/ for updates.



PUBLIC MURAL PROGRAM UNVEILS 10 PLANNED MURALS IN THE COMMUNITY



MURALS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: "WORLD WITHIN A WORLD", "THERE IS HEALING FOR US", "OUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS", "UNLEASH NATURE", "KALEIDOSCOPE OF THE BEACH"

In partnership with the Arts Council for Long Beach (ArtsLB), the City of Long Beach completed the unveiling of 10 murals that were part of the Public Mural Program, an entity of the City's Creative Economy Grants Program funded by the Long Beach Recovery Act. The new murals were installed in communities most heavily impacted by COVID-19 and with the goal of uplifting the spirit of the neighborhood and improving the experience of public spaces.

The 10 artists, their completed murals and mural locations are listed below:

"Kaleidoscope of the Beach" by Alycia Shiann (125 Elm Ave., future location for the new Long Beach Senior Center)

"Nature after hours in Long Beach be like..." by Charlótte Medina (Bixby Park Community Center)

"All for Fun, and Fun for All" by Cory Bilicko (Recreation Park Community Center)

"Nature's Dance" by Ms. Yellow (El Dorado Park West, Thomas J. Clark Community Center)

"Unleash Nature" by Peak Murals (Heartwell Park Community Center)

"History isn't made, it's built" by Omar R God (McBride Park Gymnasium, Interior)

"There is Healing for Us" by Trinh Mai (Multi-Service Center)

"LBC'in You" by Michael Che Romero (Davenport Park)

"World Within a World" by Brenda Cibrian (Ramona Park Community Center)

"Our Journey to Success" by Tracy Negrete (LBWIN Youth Career Services Center)

Throughout the Public Mural Program, the City and ArtsLB worked closely with the community.

More information about the program and the final murals is available on the ArtsLB website.

PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE OFFERS IN-PERSON DAY CAMPS JUNE 16-AUGUST 22



POPULAR PRM SUMMER DAY CAMPS RETURN OFFERING A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH.

Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) will offer Summer Day Camps June 16-August 22. Youth ages 5-12 will enjoy games, crafts, physical fitness, enrichment activities and more. Registration begins Saturday, April 12 at 9 a.m.

Summer camps will operate Monday - Friday from June 16 - August 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for those enrolled in extended care. The weekly cost for Park Day Camp is \$115 from the hours of 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and \$150 with extended care from 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. The weekly cost for the Aquatic's Camps at Bayshore Park and Belmont Plaza Pool is \$165 for regular day; extended care fees are \$28 for a.m. (7-9 a.m.) or p.m. (4-6 p.m.), or \$56 for both a.m. and p.m. extended care.

Visit LBParks.org for more information and to register on line beginning Saturday, April 12 at 9 a.m.

Summer Day Camps will take place at the following sites:

- Bayshore Park, 5415 E. Ocean Blvd.
- Belmont Plaza Pool, 4320 E. Olympic Plaza
- Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave.
- El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Rd.

- Pan American Park, 5157 Centralia St.
- Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.
- Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E 23rd St.
- Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St.
- Wardlow Park, 3457 Stanbridge Ave.
- Whaley Park, 5620 E. Atherton St.

Those seeking assistance with registration account questions may visit a self-service enrollment location beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 12. Staff will be available to answer registration account questions, but customers will be responsible for enrolling their child(ren). Registration sites will have internet capable devices for customers to use for enrollment. Registration for all customers begins on line at 9 a.m.

The self-serve enrollment locations are Bixby Park, Pan American Park, Silverado Park, Veterans Park and Whaley Park.

For information about financial assistance available on a first-come, first served basis, and programs and other activities for youth, visit longbeach.gov/parks or call 562.570.3150.

TWO NEW SIGNATURE PLAYGROUNDS SET TO OPEN THIS YEAR



RENDERING OF SILVERADO PARK (ABOVE) AND RAMONA PARK (RIGHT) WILL FEATURE NEW SIGNATURE PLAYGROUNDS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN THE FALL OF 2025.



Two new signature playgrounds are set to open in Long Beach parks by the end of 2025.

A groundbreaking event was held for the Silverado Park Signature Playground on March 1.

The playground will feature play equipment that promotes sensory, physical and imaginative play, as well as safety features and other community-focused amenities, such as additional benches and tables. Inspired by the park's mural, *We Are The Seeds* by Mer Young, the playground's design will reflect the mural's vibrant colors and theme. The project will create an inviting environment for the community, extend the useful life of the facility, improve accessibility and enhance visitor experience. The playground is scheduled for completion in the fall.

The project is funded by \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Fund, \$200,000 of Measure A funds, and \$750,000 from the Elevate '28 Infrastructure Investment Plan. Elevate '28 is a five-year infrastructure program made of projects dedicated to serving Long Beach parks,

community and public facilities, access to mobility, and street improvements.

Construction has also begun on a new signature playground at Ramona Park. The playground will have an "Under the Sea" theme and will include ADA-compliant amenities, shade structures and fog misters, enhanced landscaping and additional shade trees, play equipment for sensory, physical, and imaginative play; safety surfacing with shock-absorbing material and upgraded seating areas. Construction for the Ramona Park signature playground is scheduled for completion in September 2025.

Also, an Elevate '28 project, the Ramona Park project is funded by a \$1,500,000 California State Parks grant, a \$550,000 Community Development Block Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and \$500,000 in Measure A funding.

For more information on the Silverado and Ramona Parks, visit <https://longbeach.gov/pw/projects/parks-and-recreation/>.

CONGRATULATIONS JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH JOCELIN FLORES

Congratulations to Recreation Assistant Jocelin Flores on being selected the PRM January Employee of the Month.



Jocelin consistently demonstrates diligence and an outstanding work ethic as she oversees multiple after school program sites within the WRAP program. Her responsibilities at program sites include designing activities, scheduling staff and purchasing materials for multiple sites, each site averaging 70-plus students daily.

Jocelin ensures that program sites incorporate academic enrichment,

physical fitness and traditional recreation activities while ensuring that the staff to student ratio is not compromised. This often means traveling to multiple sites and providing support in addition to the administrative work that comes with operating a grant-funded program. She recently, stepped into the role of the Site Director and manages daily operations at one site while still ensuring other sites are operating smoothly.

Jocelin maintains a positive attitude while working long hours into the evening and on weekends when necessary. She also exhibits grace and empathy when dealing with conflict and customer service challenges that arise externally with participants and parents, and internally with staff or district personnel. She takes the time to listen and empathize with all individuals and creates a positive environment for both her team and the children and families we serve.

MARINE BUREAU STAFF ADDS ANOTHER SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE AREA



MAINTENANCE BUREAU TRANSFORMED ALAMITOS BAY BASIN 3 WITH NATIVE LANDSCAPES PARTNERING ALONGSIDE THE SURF RIDER FOUNDATION AND LONG BEACH UTILITES.



The Marine Bureau Grounds team just completed another “Lawn-to-Garden” (L2G) event at Alamitos Bay’s Basin 3

on February 15. The project transformed non-recreational turf areas into beautiful native landscapes and was made possible through their partnerships with Long Beach Utilities and the Surf Rider Foundation. The project helps to restore healthy watersheds using contoured landscapes that direct water back into the ground instead of

into storm drains. The root system of the selected native shrubs and ground cover naturally filters pollutants and soaks up extra water.

The team’s dedication to removing turf and preparing the site ahead of the planting date played a crucial role in its success.

Another L2G event is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 near Dock 18 in Basin 3.

MARCH CALENDAR

14	Fri.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
15	Sat.	10 a.m. – noon	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Jack Dunster Marine Reserve
15	Sat.	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Pet Adoption Event	2806 N.Bellflower Blvd.
16	Sun.	8 a.m.	Free El Dorado Nature Center Docent Led Bird Walk	Register at 562.570.1745
17	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
18	Tue.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
19	Wed.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities,	Visit LBParks.org for sites
20	Th.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
21	Fri.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites.
22	Sat.	9-10 a.m.	4 th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	El Dorado Area III
24	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
25	Tue.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
26	Wed.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites.
27	Th.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
28	Fri.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites.
29	Sat.	Noon	Grand Opening LB Community Cat Spay & Neuter Project	1179 E. Wardlow Rd.
30	Sun.	Open Hours	Spring Fun Days Registration Begins	Visit LBParks.org for sites
31	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs

APRIL CALENDAR

1	Tue.	10 a.m.	1 st Saturday Stewards Nature Center Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
2	Wed.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
3	Th.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites
4	Fri.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
5	Sat.	8 a.m.	Register for Sat. swim classes held 4/26-6/14	Silverado Park Pool
6	Sun.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites
7	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
8	Tue.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
9	Wed.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites
10	Th.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
11	Fri.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
12	Sat.	9 a.m.	Summer Day Camp Registration Begins	Visit LBParks.org
14	Mon.	8 a.m.	Register for Mon./Wed. Swim classes held 5/5-5/28	Silverado Park Pool
		10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
15	Tue.	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Recreation program (ages 5-14)	Visit LBParks.org for sites
16	Wed.	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Recreation program (ages 5-14)	Visit LBParks.org for sites
17	Th.	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Recreation program (ages 5-14)	Visit LBParks.org for sites
18	Fri.	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Recreation program (ages 5-14)	Visit LBParks.org for sites
19	Sat.	10 a.m.	Earth Day Coastal Cleanup	Meet at Belmont Pier
		11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Pet Adoption Event	2806 N.Bellflower Blvd.
20	Sun.		Easter Sunday	
21	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
22	Tue.	8 a.m,	Register for Tue/Th Swim classes held 4/16-6/14	Belmont Plaza Pool
23	Wed.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites
24	Th.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites
25	Fri.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
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28	Mon.	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
29	Tue.	3-7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers Recreation activities	Visit LBParks.org for sites
30	Wed.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free Recreation / Wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for sites

FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR AGES 5-12

Parents must register children on site. Visit LBParks.org for locations.

Mon-Fri, 2:30-5:30 p.m. College Estates, MacArthur, Pan American (1:30-5:30 p.m. on Thursdays), Veterans and Whaley Parks.

Mon-Fri, 3-6 p.m. Bixby, Cesar E. Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, El Dorado West, Houghton M.L. King Jr., McBride, Orizaba, Ramona, Scherer, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans and Wardlow Parks.

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