



City of Long Beach Community Update

August 2012

"The City by the Sea"

www.longbeachny.org

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A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT TORRES



City Council President Len Torres

To Our Neighbors,

It's been a wonderful summer so far, but there's still plenty left for Long Beach residents to enjoy. In addition to another full month of free concerts on the beach, the City has numerous fun events and activities for all.

The City's has multiple summer sports leagues in full swing, including baseball, softball, volleyball, lacrosse, and soccer, and the 8-week playground program keeps youngsters entertained with various trips, arts & crafts projects, and so much more. There are also many terrific events taking place in the coming weeks. Inside this newsletter is information concerning some of the goings-on in the City, but please remember to visit us at longbeachny.org for the latest up-to-date news.



Len Torres
City Council President

ILLEGAL HOUSING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE



Scott J. Mandel
City Council Vice President

Earlier this year, the City of Long Beach announced the formation of a Housing Task Force that is being completely supported by a \$30,000 community development grant. "Illegal Housing is a pervasive violation in our community," states City Council Vice President Scott J. Mandel. "It overburdens our infrastructure, creates parking problems, and increases taxes in our school district. So our police department and building department are now working together to crack down on

illegal housing. The best part about this program is that it is fully funded by the federal government and of absolutely no cost to taxpayers."

Once a week, for the past several months, the Housing Task Force has been dispatched to all areas of the community, enforcing the City's code. The team of two police officers and one building inspector has investigated many complaints. Several reports were unfounded, and the investigators were unable to gain entrance to some addresses. However, thus far, approximately 40 homes have been found to be in violation, and

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CITY REJUVENATES PARKS AND RECREATION FOR SUMMER

The City's bustling with residents and visitors, alike, and with so much to do, it's easy to miss some of what's going

on in the Long Beach this summer. Baseball, softball, volleyball, lacrosse, and soccer leagues hosted by the Recreation Department are getting started

or are underway: join up or find out where and when the games are being played online at longbeachny.org/rec. In other Rec-related news, the kids of the Long Beach Summer Camps will be enjoying all their day trips throughout August—with destinations like Splish Splash, Adventureland, and the Children's Museum, who wouldn't?

As you may know, the City maintains five very popular playgrounds besides the one at the Recreation

Center: Clark, Georgia, Leroy Conyers, Magnolia, and Pacific. To better respond to our residents who use the playgrounds, the City has placed attendants in these parks to help children have the best possible experience. When present, the attendants are in the parks between 10am and 4pm and sup-

plied with cold water, sunscreen, bug spray, chalk, bubbles, jump ropes, and other items to help make the experience the best that it can be. This program came about because the City wants its park users to have a positive experience, and now City maintenance staff can be made aware of and remedy issues right away.

Also coming up is the reconstructing of Sherman Brown Park. The decaying park has been long overdue for a renovation. Old courts will be replaced, colored, and surfaced with acrylic; an exercise circuit will also be added. Shaded benches will be installed, and landscaping is included in the plan as well. Work should be completed by late September, which will make the park once again a staple of local community life.

Additionally, don't forget that the free beach summer concert series is in full swing. August's schedule is on the back of this issue. 🎵



City Council President Len Torres and Council Member Fran Adelson participated in fun activities at the Recreation Center's Sports Camp in July



Thousands of residents and visitors lined the boardwalk and beach to watch the spectacular fireworks display on Friday, July 13. The City would like to sincerely thank its sponsors who supported the event so that it was of absolutely no cost to taxpayers.

THE ULTIMATE WORKOUT **Men'sHealth Women'sHealth**

★ BEACH BOOT CAMP ★

AUGUST 18+19, 2012 | LONG BEACH, NY

Please visit menshealth.com/bootcamp for additional information!



City Council Vice President Scott J. Mandel presented the members of the Long Beach Auxiliary Police Force with certificates of recognition on behalf of the City on July 5. "The Auxiliary Police Force continues to play a vital role in the safety and security of our city," said Mandel. "Their willingness to volunteer and their dedication on duty is a glowing example of what public service truly means."



Cliff Skudin joins City Council member Fran Adelson and City Council President Len Torres during Surf Week in July at the Surf For All event, where visually impaired children learned how to surf.



Youth and Family Services Director Johanna Mathieson brought her experience from working with Big Brothers, Big Sisters to the aid of children in Long Beach by presenting them with a safety education program at Magnolia, West, & the MLK Center.

If you see a popped, broken, or missing board on the boardwalk, please email boardwalk@longbeachny.org. All emails are relayed directly to the Commissioner of Public Works so problem areas can be examined and addressed as quickly as possible.

A CELEBRATION OF FILM IN THE CITY BY THE SEA

A film festival – in Long Beach? That’s the truth! The Long Beach International Film Festival, or LBIFF, will be kicking off what looks to be an annual event in the City by the Sea with the inaugural festival coming summer 2013. On August 30 of this year, the LBIFF will be hosting a Preview Festival to help kick off the cycle, with a sponsorship cocktail hour at the Allegria Hotel followed by a shorts film series afterwards on the beach.

The LBIFF’s proprietors are dedicated to sourcing the best of local talent in combination with the work of internationally acclaimed filmmakers for the best blend of silver for the silver screen. According to Long Beach Film Company, LLC,



the nonprofit running the cinematic saturnalia: “The Long Beach International Film Festival will celebrate the art of storytelling through cinema. Presenting features, shorts, fiction, and documentary formats, the festival is committed to exhibiting films that

convey a fresh voice and differing perspectives. Our goal is that these programs will captivate, engage and enlighten our audiences, provide invaluable exposure for filmmakers and present inspired entertainment for all ages.”

The festival promises to be a future staple of summer in Long Beach. Don’t forget to check it out! Visit longbeachfilm.com for further information. 

ILLEGAL HOUSING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

(Continued)

those property owners have been summoned to Long Beach City Court to see the judge. Offenses have ranged from illegal two and three families to rooming houses and garage conversions into rooms. “If you are currently renting illegally, now is the time to correct the violation,” comments Police Commissioner Michael Tangney. “If you are aware of anyone else renting illegally, now is the time to let us know. Additionally, if you were contemplating doing this yourself, now is certainly not the time to do so.”

The City urges residents who are aware of illegal apartments in Long Beach to contact the City’s Housing Task Force at 516-431-1000 ext. 239 or via email at illegalrentals@longbeachny.org. All complaints are kept strictly confidential and never disclosed to the owner of the premises. 

City Council
 Len Torres, *President*
 Scott J. Mandel, *Vice President*
 Fran Adelson
 Michael Fagen
 John McLaughlin
City Manager
 Jack Schnirman



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FREE LONG BEACH CONCERT SERIES SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Wednesday, August 1	New York Ave.	Risky Business
Thursday, August 2	Neptune Blvd.	Mary Lamont
Monday, August 6	National Blvd.	Rockinghams 60s Band
Wednesday, August 8	New York Ave.	New Yorkers
Thursday, August 9	Neptune Blvd.	Joe Kane's Big Band
Monday, August 13	National Blvd.	Chiclettes
Wednesday, August 15	New York Ave.	Andy Cooney
Thursday, August 16	Neptune Blvd.	Turnpike Joe & The Traffic Jam
Monday, August 20	National Blvd.	6 Gun Country
Wednesday, August 22	New York Ave.	Con Astone
Thursday, August 23	Neptune Blvd.	Shlomie Dachs
Monday, August 27	National Blvd.	Linda Ipanema & The Dixie Chicks
Wednesday, August 29	New York Ave.	TBA
Thursday, August 30	Neptune Blvd.	TBA

**All beach concerts run from 8PM-10PM*

ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING SUPPORTED BY STATE GRANT

The City's Public Works Department recently completed a massive project that included the replacement of 860 lights throughout the community and on the boardwalk, using more energy-efficient bulbs and fixtures. All boulevards and main thoroughfares have been switched from the more wasteful high-pressure sodium to induction-powered lights.

A \$500,000 grant the City obtained from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority covered 93.5% of the costs. The City's actual cost was just \$2,800. However, the new lights, which are approximately 30% more efficient, cut the City's kilowatt hour use by 1,309 kilowatt hours per year, equating to \$2,700 in savings in just the

first year. Additionally, the bulbs last five times longer than those that they're replacing and have 100,000 burning hours. "This is a remarkable return on investment," said City Council President Len Torres. "We'll just about make our money back in the first year. Going green pays dividends." 