

# Neighborhood Resource Center

Training, Technology and Resources for Neighborhood Organizations, Neighborhood Leadership Program, Neighborhood Enhancement Area (NEA) Program, Neighborhood Problem Solving



## NRC Workshop “Let’s Talk Code Enforcement”

**Sixty-five (65)** Long Beach residents attended a “**Let’s Talk Code Enforcement**” workshop on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at the Neighborhood Resource Center.

Among the attendees were members of neighborhood associations, residents of historic districts and **Charles Durnin, City of Long Beach Planning Commissioner**.

**Geoff Weatherilt, Principal Building Inspector** with the City of Long Beach **Code Enforcement Division**, discussed and answered questions about:



- City of Long Beach Municipal Codes
- Common Code Violations – Private Property
- How to File Complaints of Violations
- Code Enforcement Fines
- Code Enforcement Tools to Help Your Neighborhood

**For Code Enforcement Information, visit:**

[http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/neighborhood\\_services/code/default.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/neighborhood_services/code/default.asp)

**To contact Long Beach Code Enforcement Division Inspectors**, please call:

North Division – Brett Bush (562) 570-6842

West Division – Karl Wiegelman (562) 570-6431

South Division – Beverly Glover (562) 570-6797

East Division – Geoff Weatherilt (562) 570-6349

For information on **Neighborhood Resource Center workshops**, contact **Scottie Hinkey** at (562) 570-3814 or e-mail [Sharron.Hinkey@longbeach.gov](mailto:Sharron.Hinkey@longbeach.gov).

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## Home Improvement Rebate Program North Long Beach - Home in the Spotlight

The **Neighborhood Services Bureau's Home Improvement Rebate Program** provides a maximum reimbursement of up to **\$4,000.00** per parcel to eligible property owners of single-family and attached duplexes or up to **\$2000.00** for multi-unit buildings. Income guidelines apply. The eligible improvements include exterior paint, front porch rehabilitation, window replacement, front door replacement and rehabilitation, fascia/trim replacement and rehabilitation. Because of the environmental conditions in Southern California, we have added drought tolerant landscaping and low drip watering systems to the list of eligible improvements. This program is funded through the **Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant and Set-Aside Redevelopment Housing** funds.

By utilizing our program, property owners of a single family dwelling at **174 E. Marker Street** in North Long Beach made some dramatic changes to their property. The property owners replaced the old garage and front doors, painted the house and enhanced the front of the house with tile. When I informed one of the owners learned that their home was selected as an example for outstanding improvements, he was very pleased. The owner shared that the neighbors were also very impressed with the noticeable changes to his property. He stated that he told them about the program and informed them that they could also take advantage of the Home Improvement Rebate Program to rehabilitate their own properties.



Before – 174 E. Marker Street



After – 174 E. Marker Street

For more information about the **Home Improvement Rebate Program**, please contact **Karen Pruett** at **(562) 570-5131** or e-mail **Karen.Pruett@longbeach.gov**.

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## NRC Helps LB Depot for Creative Reuse to Win \$5K

On **Sunday, February 27, 2011**, the **Long Beach Depot for Creative Reuse** hosted a **Creative Reuse Day** with the theme, "Building Unity in Our Community Through Creative Reuse". This was made possible by a grant that they received through the **Pepsi Refresh Project** in the amount of **\$5,000**. The Depot's founder **Lisa Hernandez** was among 20 grant winners nationwide for the amount of \$5,000 given away monthly by Pepsi.



An estimated **700 people** attended the Saturday event, which brought attention to the importance of how we can all reduce waste by celebrating the creative reuse of items destined for trash. Activities included creative Reuse Art by reusing Pepsi throwaway items, and an area to make music from instruments such as drum buckets, washboards, pots and pans. There were contests, live art and exhibits by local businesses. The event tied in surrounding local businesses by directing visitors to follow a path to local places to eat, galleries on display, and local businesses such as **Lyon's Art Supply**. Paths were marked by colored tape and balloons along with a map to direct the way to the surrounding businesses, effectually binding the community in a unified event.

The day also included Proclamations from **Mayor Bob Foster**, **Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal**, **LA County Supervisor Don Knabe**, **Senators Alan Lowenthal** and **Dianne Feinstein**. Participants in the event included **Save Our Beach**, **Bike Long Beach**, **Rain Barrels**, **MHA Village**, **City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability**, **Port of Long Beach**, **Save Our Seas**, **Asian American Drug Abuse Program**, **Safe Routes to School**, **Catalyst Communities**, **Arts & Services for Disabled**, **Environmental Services-Litter Free LB**, **El Dorado Nature Center**, **Ink Peace**, and **The Found Theatre**.

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## **NRC Helps LB Depot for Creative Reuse to Win 5K** (Continued)

The Long Beach Depot for Creative Reuse's mission is to encourage, inspire, and promote creative reuse of reusable items typically destined for the landfills. This is a worthwhile endeavor -- especially since according to the EPA, municipal solid waste generation in 2009 was about 4.34 pounds per person per day and the recycling rate was 1.46 pounds per person per day. Much still needs to be done to reduce the amount of materials that are used and discarded.

The **Neighborhood Resource Center** emailed an announcement to the community about the Pepsi Refresh Grants in June 2010. In addition, at least two other Long Beach Organizations also won Pepsi Refresh Grants. The Neighborhood Resource Center also provided free photocopying for the event flyers for this community event and was instrumental in notifying Lisa Hernandez of Reuse Long Beach about this opportunity. The NRC was also provided the copies for the event flyers.

For more information about the Long Beach Depot for Creative Reuse, please contact **Lisa Hernandez** at **(562) 437-9999**.

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## Nonprofit Assistance Program - Nonprofit in the Spotlight

The **Nonprofit Assistance Program (NAP)** is available to owners of buildings and facilities occupied by nonprofit agencies that provide a public service to Long Beach residents. NAP provides **forgivable loans at 0% interest** to rehabilitate, reconfigure, convert, and/or improve the facilities used by public service agencies to deliver services. The minimum loan amount is **\$5,000** and the maximum loan amount is **\$25,000**. Loan recipients are required to financially participate in the assisted project by providing a cash match equal to 5% of the total amount of project costs.

The **Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF)** of Long Beach is a nonprofit agency that provides supportive services that help homeless women and/or men with children to overcome substance abuse and other life challenges so that they can stabilize in the community and re-build their lives. They received a NAP loan in the amount of **\$23,689** to make improvements with a match of **\$1,247**.



Before - 1085 Obispo Avenue



After – 1085 Obispo Avenue

The improvements for their facility at **1085 Obispo Avenue** under the NAP loan included expanding the existing ramp to 48” to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, expanding the concrete walkway 12” from the sidewalk to the end of the ramp, and constructing a concrete pad at the entrance. The stairway and walkway on the second floor were repaired and painted and new wrought iron handrails were installed. In addition to the improvements completed under the NAP loan, SAF painted the entire building and installed a new front fence and gate with **\$6,000** of their own funds. The next project for this facility is to add drought tolerant landscaping to the front.

For more information about the **Nonprofit Assistance Program**, please contact **Martha Villacres** at **(562) 570-6658** or e-mail **Martha.Villacres@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hamilton School Area Neighborhood Enhancement Area Program Home in the Spotlight

The **Neighborhood Enhancement Area (NEA) program** is available to residential property owners in the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area. The program may provide a maximum reimbursement of up to **\$2,000** per parcel to property owners of single-family and multi-unit buildings located within the North Long Beach Redevelopment Project Area. Income guidelines apply. The eligible improvements include exterior paint, window replacement, front door replacement and rehabilitation, fascia/trim replacement and rehabilitation, and drought tolerant landscaping and low drip watering systems. This program is funded through the **Redevelopment** funds.



Before - 6775 Gaviota Avenue



After – 6775 Gaviota Avenue

The property owners of **6775 Gaviota Avenue**, located in the **Hamilton School NEA** area, took advantage of the program and made some dramatic improvements to their property. The owners had the house painted, including the fascia/wood trim, the front door replaced, installed new windows, and installed a brick planter around the front of the house. The improvements made a dramatic change to the house. The owners invested an additional **\$1,600** to complete the improvements.

For more information about the **Neighborhood Enhancement Program**, please contact **Erika Moreno** at **(562) 570-6065** or e-mail **Erika.Moreno@longbeach.gov**.

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## Neighborhood Leadership Program Hosts Session 1 -- Orientation

The **Neighborhood Services Bureau** held the first session of the Neighborhood Leadership Program Class of 2011 at the Center for Working Families on Thursday, February 17, 2011. Participants at the kick-off session included the new Class of 2011 and **sixteen NLP alumni** volunteers.

**Margaret Madden, Neighborhood Improvement Officer** from the **Neighborhood Services Bureau** welcomed the new class. Funding partners **Jim Worsham, President and CEO** of the **Long Beach Community Foundation**, and **Tessia Hassel, Region Manager and Senior Vice President** for **Union Bank**, each provided a welcome and support to participants. **Darryl Wilson** and **Sarah Parsons** from the **Class of 2010** each shared inspiring messages to encourage the participants to complete the Neighborhood Leadership Program.



The Neighborhood Leadership Program is a nationally recognized multi-lingual, multi-cultural program. The Class of 2011 is funded by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** as well as through partnerships with the **Long Beach Community Foundation** and **Union Bank**. The program has been offered free of charge to participants, by the City of Long Beach, Neighborhood Services Bureau, for the past seventeen years. A list of residents interested in participating in the Class of 2012 is now forming.

For more information about the **Neighborhood Leadership Program**, please contact **Francisco Rodriguez** at **(562) 570-1010** or e-mail **Francisco.Rodriguez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Community Cinema Film, "Me Facing Life," Comes to Long Beach

**Eighty-two (82)** Long Beach **residents** attended a free screening and discussion of a **Community Cinema** film, "**Me Facing Life**" on **Tuesday, February 22, 2011**, at the **Long Beach Main Library**.

"Me Facing Life," by **Daniel H. Birman**, tells the story of **Cyntoia Brown**, who is serving a life sentence for murder at the age of 16. The film challenges our assumptions about violence and explores how factors such as biology and family history can doom some young people from the start.

Panelists for the post screening discussion were **Flozelle Woodman** and **Georgette Breland** from A New Way of Life Reentry Project, **Lydia A. Hollie**, JD/MAED, Co-Chair, City of Long Beach DHHS Weed and Seed Program Steering Committee, and **Lieutenant W. Paul LeBaron**, Long Beach Police Department. **Teresa Gomez**, Human Dignity Coordinator, Human Dignity Program, moderated the discussion.

This public screening is part of Long Beach's participation in "**A Season for Nonviolence**" (January 30 - April 4, 2011), a national 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and our communities.

The **Community Cinema Series** in Long Beach is presented by the **Neighborhood Resource Center**, **Long Beach Public Library** and **Long Beach Central Area Association**. **Community Cinema**, presented by the **Independent Television Service (ITVS)**, is a groundbreaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring free monthly screenings of films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*.

Nine films, followed by panel discussions and Q & A, are being screened at the Long Beach Main Library between October 2010 and June 2011. The Community Cinema Series is an opportunity to bring together Long Beach organizations and community members to learn, discuss and get involved in today's critical social issues.

For information on future workshops presented by the **Neighborhood Resource Center**, contact **Scottie Hinkey** at **(562) 570-3814** or e-mail **Sharron.Hinkey@longbeach.gov**.