

# Neighborhood Improvement

Neighborhood Grants, Home Improvement Rebates, Neighborhood Cleanups and Graffiti Removal, Community Police Centers, Safety Programs, Shopping Cart Enforcement



## North Long Beach Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Neighborhood Clean-Up

On Saturday, June 12, 2010, staff from the **Neighborhood Services Bureau (NSB)** organized a neighborhood clean up within the **North Long Beach Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** Area. The event took place at 195 E. 69<sup>th</sup> Street from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



**Forty-Four volunteers (44)** came out to support this effort. The volunteers, with the support of NSB staff, collected **nine (9)** tons of trash, debris, and large items.



For more information about the North Long Beach NIS Area, please contact **Chantara Nop** at [chantara.nop@longbeach.gov](mailto:chantara.nop@longbeach.gov) or **(562) 570-8280**.

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## Home Improvement Rebate Program

The **Home Improvement Rebate Program** provides a maximum reimbursement of up to **\$2000.00** per parcel to property owners of single-family and multi-unit buildings in ten **Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** areas and three **Housing Assistance Program** areas to improve the exterior of their properties. The eligible improvements include exterior paint, window replacement, front door replacement and rehabilitation, fascia/trim replacement and rehabilitation. This program is funded through the **Department of Housing & Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant** and **Set-Aside Redevelopment Housing** funding.



901 Cedar Avenue ("Before" Picture)



901 Cedar Avenue ("After" Picture)

Very often property owners invest additional money to improve their property. **Mary and Rick Matuska**, the property owners of **901 Cedar Avenue** in the Willmore NIS Area, did an excellent job recently to improve the curb appeal of their rental property. They used the program to paint their entire apartment building, including the wood trim to complete these exterior improvements, the property owners invested an additional \$1,800.00 beyond the \$2000.00 rebate.

For more information about the Home Improvement Rebate Program, please contact **Karen Pruett** at **(562) 570-1010** or email **karen.pruett@longbeach.gov**.

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## Willmore Community Police Center Learning English for Beginners

In June 2010, the **Willmore Police Center** kicked off a new series of **English as Second Language** classes in partnership of **Friend's House Literacy Center** and **volunteers**. This is a new class for beginners is offered free of charge to **29** participants.



The lessons focus on learning basic English for everyday life, including ABC's and 123's, personal description, food, family relationships, weather, colors and more.

At each class, the students receive an important vocabulary list of words with definition and pronunciation. It is very remarkable how elder adults and new immigrants have the enthusiasm to learn a new language. This is a 52 - week long class conducted every Monday and Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the **Willmore Community Center**, 910 Daisy Avenue. These classes have been provided since 1994.

If you need more information about English classes at the Willmore Community Police Center, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or e-mail **Teresa.Gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.

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## North Long Beach Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area North Long Beach Starr King Elementary School Career Day

On Tuesday, June 1, 2010, staff from the **Neighborhood Services Bureau (NSB)** joined on two (2) sessions at Starr King Elementary School Career Day.

The events took place from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. inside the classrooms for the second and third grade students. Packages of information about programs and services of the **Neighborhood Services Bureau (NSB)** were distributed to **forty (40) students** and **two (2) teachers** during the presentation.

Students and teachers learned all about the wide variety of our City programs for their area.

For more information regarding **North Long Beach Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area**, please contact **Chantara Nop** at **(562) 570-8280** or e-mail **Chantara.Nop@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA) Neighborhood Clean up

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, **NABA**, the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center**, sponsored a neighborhood clean up in the Hellman NIS Area. The event took place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 640 Walnut Avenue.

**Twenty-six (26) volunteers** took part in this community improvement effort. Additionally, **twelve (12) Community Service Workers** assigned by the **City of Long Beach Prosecutor's Office Community Service Program** provided valuable support for the event. Volunteers collected trash, debris and dumped items from the surrounding streets and alleys. **One** industrial size dumpster with **nine (9) tons of trash and debris** was completely filled.



This event provided an opportunity for the area's residents to work together to improve the visual aesthetics of their neighborhood. **Three (3) property maintenance violations** were identified during the event and referred to the **Hellman NIS Area's Community Code Enforcement (CCE) Program**.

Special thanks to **NABA board member Allene Symons** for hosting the event and to **Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni, Tom Kroloski and Henry Salzer** for providing valuable support and their trucks to remove big items such as couches, mattresses and furniture from the nearby alleys. The **LBPD's South Division** provided a **District Car Check (DCC)** during the event.

For information about the Hellman NIS area, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or **Gonzalo.Sanchez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Craftsman Village Historic District (CVHD) Neighborhood Meeting

On Monday, June 7, 2010, **Craftsman Village Historic District (CVHD)** held its monthly community improvement neighborhood meeting. **Lena Gonzalez, First District Council Member Field Representative**, attended to the event and provided a very informative report about events and activities taking place in the first district. Additionally, she provided the group with some great resources and contacts. **Mary Antunez, LBPD South Division, Community Oriented Policing Coordinator**, provided community safety update on crime trends. She reported that for the month of May, there were no reports of car break-ins in the area and emphasized about the importance of reminding neighbors to always report a crime or suspicious activity to the **LBPD non-emergency line (562) 435-6711**.

Additionally, some of the issues discussed at this meeting included a Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) proposal for historic, bronze plaques, historic district expansion project, speakers for future meetings, new t-shirts, business cards, updated web page, community code enforcement program, 851 Orange Avenue mini park project/grant, and quarterly newsletter publication.

For more information about the Hellman NIS Area, and CVHD please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or e-mail **Gonzalo.Sanchez@longbeach.gov**. Or visit the improved CVHD web page at **<http://www.craftsmanvillage.org>**.

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## Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC) MacArthur Park/Whittier School NIS Area Monthly Neighborhood Meeting “Dispatching 911 Calls”

On Tuesday, June 15, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library Community Room, the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center** and the **MacArthur Park/Whittier School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area** hosted a monthly neighborhood meeting on “**Dispatching 911 Calls**”.



**Rich Funke** from the **Long Beach Police Department Emergency Communications & Operations Center** presented an overview on the Communication System procedures, how the Long Beach Police Department prioritizes and dispatches 911 calls, and information on how to communicate with dispatchers in order to have effective police responses. There were lengthy questions and answers from the audience. **Thirty-eight (38)** people in the surrounding area attended the meeting with translation provided in Khmer and Spanish. Light refreshments were also provided for all at the meeting.

For more information about the MacArthur Park/Whittier School NIS Area, please contact **Bryant Ben** at **(562) 570-1691** or e-mail **Bryant.Ben@longbeach.gov**.

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## Willmore Community Police Center Historical Preservation Presentation

On June 16, 2010, the **Willmore City Heritage Association** held their monthly meeting at the **Willmore Community Police Center**. **The Spectra Company** presented some valuable information based historic preservation. The Spectra Company is the largest historic restoration company in California and specializes in a variety of restoration, preservation and conservation. This includes: decorative painting, concrete restoration, selective demolition, protective coating, sculptures, wood/steel doors and windows, chandeliers/lighting fixtures decorative tile and more.



This presentation was very helpful for the Willmore residents to enhance historic neighborhoods to help to preserve their architectural heritage.

For more information about this presentation, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or e-mail **Teresa.Gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Community Health Education

On Thursday, June 17, 2010, the Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area hosted a very informative workshop. **Silvia Owen, Program Director** and **Breast Cancer Specialist of American Cancer Society** presented **Breast Cancer Prevention Workshop**. Breast cancer prevention starts with good health habits. For example: stay physically active, maintain a healthy weight, eat right and conduct periodic self-breast examinations.



Residents learned about risks and factors of breast cancer and how to take control. **Nineteen (19)** residents, including teenage girls, had the opportunity to learn about this topic and they can pass on this valuable information about resources available for breast cancer prevention.

If you need more information, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or **[Teresa.Gonzalez@longbeach.gov](mailto:Teresa.Gonzalez@longbeach.gov)**.

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## Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC) MacArthur Park/Whittier School NIS Area Neighborhood Clean-up



A successful clean-up was held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 by the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)**, **Neighborhood Services Bureau**, Mrs. **Socorro Valderrama** and residents living along the 1500 block of Gaviota Avenue in the MacArthur Park/Whittier School's Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area.

The event took place from 8:00 a.m. to noon at 1501 Gaviota Avenue. **Nine (9) tons of trash**, debris and household furniture were removed from the area. **Thirty-one (31) residents** and business owners participated in this event. They came out to work together to improve the physical appearance of their neighborhood.



For more information about the MacArthur Park/Whittier School NIS Area, please contact **Bryant S. Ben** at **(562) 570-1691** or e-mail **Bryant.Ben@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Craftsman Village Historic District (CVHD) Graffiti Removal / Neighborhood Clean up

On Saturday, June 19, 2010, the **Craftsman Village Historic District (CVHD)**, and the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)** sponsored its monthly graffiti removal/neighborhood clean up in the Historic District. The event took place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 1203 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Twenty (20)** community members took part in this community improvement effort. Additionally, **five (5)** Community Service Workers assigned by the **City of Long Beach Prosecutor's Office Community Service Program** provided valuable support for the event. Volunteers erased graffiti, collected trash, debris and dumped items from the surrounding streets and alleys. One industrial size dumpster was completely filled with **nine tons of trash and debris**. Numerous items such as bricks, garden supplies construction materials, toys, doors and windows were recycled during the CVHD's clean up events. Special thanks to neighborhood volunteers, **David Hernandez** and **George Hume** for providing their pick up truck every month to collect dumped items and **Raymond Vara** for hosting the event.

This event provided an opportunity for the area's residents to work together to improve the visual aesthetics of their neighborhood. **Seven (7)** property maintenance violations were identified during the event and referred to the **Hellman NIS Area Community Code Enforcement Program (CCE)**.

For information about the Hellman NIS area, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or **Gonzalo.Sanchez@longbeach.gov** .

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Franklin Classical Middle School English as Second Language (ESL) Program Graduation Celebration

On Tuesday, June 22, 2010, **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)** working in collaboration with **Franklin Classical Middle School, Long Beach Public Library and Long Beach Public Library Foundation** hosted the ESL program graduation celebration. The event took place at Franklin Classical Middle School's Library.



**Nine (9) students** successfully completed the ESL program within a nine-month period. Graduates received a diploma and a small gift from the Long Beach Library Foundation and the **Museum of Latin American Art** provided free museum admission tickets for the graduates and their families. The **ESL Graduates of 2010** are **Esperanza Hernández, Juana Alba, Roselia Ramirez, Eduardo Villegas, Alicia Garcia, Isabel Ramirez, Sandra E. Gonzalez, Martha Parada and Nancy V. Quiroz.**

## English as Second Language (ESL) Program Graduation Celebration (Continued)

The ESL Laboratory is a self-paced English learning program in which students are provided with computer access and programs, books, compact disks and hands-on bilingual personal help to study and learn English throughout a six-month session. The personal learning tools offer a basic one-to-one multi-sensory learning experience. As partners in providing the ESL program, **Franklin Classical Middle School, City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau, Long Beach Public Library Foundation and Long Beach Public Library** join in congratulating each student in making this significant commitment to learning and practicing English, both in the classroom and at home.

Over the past **four (4) years**, more than **three hundred (300) residents** have participated in this unique literacy experience. The students are encouraged to continue library visits to access the free resources, to continue their English learning experience through additional classes in the community and to use their newly acquired skills to make a difference in their communities.



Special thanks to:

**David W. Taylor, Franklin Classical Middle School, Principal**  
**Hugo Figueroa, Franklin Classical Middle School, Parent Facilitator**  
**Sebastian Puccio, Franklin Classical Middle School, English Teacher**  
**Sara Pillet, Long Beach Library Foundation, Director**  
**Ann Witenstein, Long Beach Library Foundation**  
**Margaret Madden, Neighborhood Improvement Officer**  
**Alicia Carrera, ESL Alumni**  
**Michele York and Ed Canseco, Neighborhood Services Bureau Staff**

For more information about the **ESL program**, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or e-mail **Gonzalo.Sanchez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Cherry-Temple Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area West East-Side Community Association (WESCA) Neighborhood Clean-Up

On Saturday, June 26, 2010, the **West East-Side Community Association (WESCA)** partnership with the **Neighborhood Services Bureau, Litter-Free Long Beach** and the **United Cambodian Community (UCC)** hosted its monthly neighborhood clean-up.



The clean-up location took place on the corner of Anaheim Street and Dawson Avenue. **Seventy-eight (78) volunteers** – including **Raymond Chavarria, Project Director** for the **United Cambodian Community, WESCA members, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Los Angeles, and AmeriCorps**, were out early on the neighborhood streets, park, sidewalks and alleys in a united effort to clean up the **Cherry-Temple Neighborhood** from illegally dumped items, hazardous material, trash and debris. One resident brought an abandoned shopping cart filled with trash and debris to the dumpster. Over **15 tons** of trash and debris were collected on this sunny day.

**The shopping cart** was called in to the **Abandoned Shopping Cart** at the toll-free phone number **(800) 252-4613**.

Following the clean up, a free barbecue was provided to all volunteers. This was a wonderful opportunity for neighborhood residents to meet each other and discuss concerns and solutions to issues affecting the **Cherry-Temple Neighborhood**. The barbecue has been instrumental in generating community grassroots involvement in making this Long Beach neighborhood a better place to live.

For more information, about the Cherry-Temple NIS area, please contact **Griselda Perez**, the **Cherry-Temple NIS Coordinator** at **(562)570-6049** or e-mail **Griselda.Perez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Cherry-Temple Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area West East-Side Community Association (WESCA) Block Party and Skate Jam in Orizaba Park

On Saturday, June 26, 2010, the **West East-Side Community Association (WESCA)** in collaboration with the **Neighborhood Services Bureau**, **4<sup>th</sup> District Councilmember Patrick O' Donnell**, the **Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine**, **East Anaheim Street Business Alliance (EASBA)** and the **Long Beach Police Officers Association (POA)** hosted their annual Block Party and Skate Jam in Orizaba Park.



Community volunteers and staff from the Neighborhood Services Bureau, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Long Beach Police Department volunteered to ensure this to be a safe and successful event. Over **500** neighborhood children, adolescents and adults attended. Neighborhood children who brought their skateboards participated in the skate jam ramps.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine entertained the children with games and a bouncer. This year's event was successful with the support of these generous additional sponsors; **Long Beach Police Officers Association (POA)**, **East Anaheim Street Business Alliance (EASBA)**, **Joe Jost's**, **Anaheim Ace Hardware**, **Praise Chapel**, **DiPiazza Restaurant and Lounge**, **St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**, **Helen & William Cox**, **Rose Richard** and **Mar Mel Inn**. Event booth sponsors provided give-a-ways throughout the day: **United Skateboard Shop**, **Toy Machine**, **Vita Water**, **West Wing**, **X Games**, **War Heads** and **Quentin Holmes**, author of "Real Street Kidz." A volunteer resident DJ entertained the crowd with music. Many children took advantage of the arts and crafts section where they were able to create and color their own skateboard designs and were exhibited throughout the day.

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(Continued)

Every half hour, **Constance D. Oden** known as “**Connie, Community Services Supervisor**” from the **Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine**, conducted an opportunity drawing to motivate the residents throughout the whole event. Children were able to win wonderful prizes such as bicycles, boogie boards, balls, squirt guns, and more.



**Libni Valle**, a 7 year old resident who came to enjoy this event with her mother, had no clue to where to register, with assistances from WESCA member **Jan Ward**, Libni was one of the grand prize bicycle winners for the finale opportunity drawings on this sunny day.

A free barbecue lunch was provided for all who attended and to all volunteers who came out early to set up and assist with this successful event. A special thanks to the **Long Beach Police Officers Association (POA)**, who cooked **1,000 hot-dogs** and provided **drinks** and **condiments**. The **Neighborhood Services Bureau**, who also provided **chips, cookies** and **water free of charge to all participants**.



The atmosphere felt like one large community family picnic. This was a wonderful day in which local residents, businesses, community groups, and City staff worked in conjunction to provide an afternoon of enjoyment and safety awareness for families in the Cherry-Temple NIS area.

For more information, about the Cherry-Temple NIS area, please contact **Griselda Barba-Perez**, the **Cherry-Temple NIS Coordinator** at (562) 570-6049 or e-mail [Griselda.Perez@longbeach.gov](mailto:Griselda.Perez@longbeach.gov).

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA) Community Improvement Forum

On Wednesday, June 30, 2010, **NABA**, and the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)**, held a monthly community improvement forum at the Long Beach Senior Center.

Guest speakers included: **Long Beach Cycling Mobility Coordinator, Charlie Gandy**, who provided a valuable presentation about the city's plans to make Long Beach the "most bicycle friendly city in the nation" using bike racks, bike corrals, bike lanes, and bike boulevards. Charlie effectively used a projector to showcase his efforts and the progress made. He said bike lanes are planned for 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Junipero Avenue and Vista Avenue. Giving people options to shop without their cars brings more money to businesses, helps the environment and reduces parking issues. Examples of other cities that have created effective bike corridors for residents and visitors were also cited.



**Mary Antunez, LBPD, South Division, Community Oriented Policing Coordinator**, provided a City of Long Beach, South Division community safety update and crime trends. **David Woods, South Division, Code Enforcement Inspector** who provided a Hellman NIS Area Community Code Enforcement (CCE) Program monthly property maintenance update. Additionally, some of the other important issues discussed included Miracle on 4<sup>th</sup> Street's upcoming Family Fun Day event, bank account, 410 Cerritos Avenue neighborhood clean up and upcoming Neighborhood Partners Program Grant tree planting.

This community improvement forum is part of APC's efforts to make the Hellman NIS Area safer and improve its livability.

For more information about the Hellman NIS Area, NABA and CCE, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or e-mail at **Gonzalo.Sanchez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area Community Code Enforcement Program Block Captain Meeting

On Wednesday, June 30, 2010, the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)** working in collaboration with the **South Division Code Enforcement Staff** held its monthly **Community Code Enforcement (CCE)** Block Captains Meeting.

**Fifteen (15)** Hellman NIS Area **residents** are working in collaboration with Code Enforcement Inspectors to address property maintenance violations in the Hellman NIS Area. **Forty-three (43) property maintenance violations** were filed on this day and a property maintenance update of past referrals was provided for all block captains. **Code Enforcement Inspector David Woods**, addressed numerous questions regarding property maintenance and code violations.

For more information about the Hellman NIS Area CCE program, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or e-mail at **Gonzalo.Sanchez@Longbeach.gov**.