

# Neighborhood Improvement

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



## Hellman NIS Area North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA) Graffiti Removal/Neighborhood Clean up

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, the **North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA)** working in collaboration with residents living along the 500 block of Cerritos Avenue and the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)**, hosted a neighborhood graffiti removal/clean up event.

The event took place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at 455 Cerritos Avenue. Thirty local residents and eleven community service workers assigned by the **City Prosecutor's Office** participated in this event. Illegally dumped trash, debris and graffiti were removed from local alleys and streets. Eight property maintenance issues were identified during the event and referred to the **Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area, Community Code Enforcement (CCE) program**.



The event provided an opportunity for the neighbors to work together to improve the physical appearance of their neighborhood. Two years ago, **NABA** was founded by two Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni -- **David Clement** and **Henry Salzer**. The group is becoming a stronger, well-structured community group, working in collaboration with City departments and the Second District office to improve the quality of life of people living in their neighborhood. Refreshments were provided for all volunteers. For information, please contact **Gonzalo Sanchez** at **(562) 570-1114** or [gonzalo.sanchez@longbeach.gov](mailto:gonzalo.sanchez@longbeach.gov).

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## Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Monthly Meeting

On Thursday, October 15, 2009, the **Neighborhood Services Bureau** and the **Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** area hosted a very important meeting. At the meeting was **Susana Gonzalez**, representative from the **Office of City Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District**.

The meeting was to inform the residents about future plans to build a new community garden in the neighborhood on private property at 1974 Santa Fe Ave. This community garden will help to improve the quality of life and have positive effects in the neighborhood and their residents, increase the feelings of safety, provide opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections and create opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education. Community members in attendance provided valuable input regarding the community garden and neighborhood concerns. For more information, contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or **teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.



## Community Awareness Fair and 5K Beach Walk

On Saturday, October 24, 2009, the City of Long Beach, **Neighborhood Services Bureau** participated in a community event. This event involved a **Community Awareness Fair** and a **5K Beach Walk**. The purpose of the fair was to raise awareness to the community about services available throughout the City. The Neighborhood Services Bureau's staff provided information about services and free programs available for the community, including: **Housing Rehabilitation Program, Corridor Beautification, Human Dignity Program, Police Centers, Neighborhood Resource Center, Neighborhood improvement, Code Enforcement and Housing & Urban Development Grants**. The **Willmore Police Center** distributed fifty free helmets to promote bicycle safety. More than 500 people showed up to walk and have fun. The day was filled with tasty treats, door prizes, arts and crafts activities and live performances from local talent. This was an event sponsored by the **Memorial Children's Clinic** and volunteers. It was really a family/community event. For more information, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or **teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.

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## Hellman NIS Area Craftsman Historic Village Graffiti Removal / Neighborhood Clean up

On Saturday, October 17, 2009 the **Craftsman Village Historic District Focus Group** in collaboration with the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)**, and the **Neighborhood Services Bureau** sponsored its monthly graffiti removal and neighborhood clean up in the **Craftsman Village Historic District**.

The event took place from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at 1320 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Forty community volunteers participated in this event. They erased graffiti, collected trash, debris and dumped items from the surrounding streets and alleys. One industrial size dumpster with nine 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. Eleven property maintenance violations and one abandoned / open and accessible home were identified during the event and referred to the **Hellman NIS Area Community Code Enforcement Inspectors**. Refreshments were provided for all volunteers.

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## MacArthur Park/Whittier School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Meeting



The **MacArthur Park/Whittier School Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area** and the **Anaheim Street Community Police Center** held their regular monthly meeting on October 20, 2009 at the **Mark Twain Neighborhood Library**. The meeting focused on safety in general, including personal safety, travel safety and residential/commercial safety and was presented by **retired Long Beach Police Department Detective Fred Bloh**. Twelve residents from the area attended the meeting, which focused on safety during the holiday season.

## Anaheim Police Center Receives a Community Recognition Award

A 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Recognition Award was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009. **The Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc. (AADAP)** presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the **Anaheim St. Community Police Center** for the generous commitment of time, support and resources to further the mission of AADAP. Bryant Ben attended the banquet dinner for more than 100 guests in San Pedro City and accepted the award.

For more information, please contact **Bryant Ben** at **(562) 570-1691** or **bryant.ben@longbeach.gov**.

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## Welcome to Long Beach Mural

The **Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine** and **Partners of Parks** held a mural dedication ceremony on October 24, 2009. The event was held to present the North Long Beach community with the recently completed **Welcome to Long Beach** mural by **artist Abner Rivera Lopez**. The mural is located on the north wall of Long Beach Pets, 6454 Long Beach Boulevard.



**Welcome to Long Beach** was inspired by a **2008 Neighborhood Leadership Program** class project. The event was attended by approximately seventy people and included representatives from organizations that supported the creation of the mural. Among those in attendance were **Vice Mayor Val Lerch**, **Councilmember for the Ninth District, Lei Ronca**, **Code Enforcement Officer, Dave** and **Pat San Jose** from the **Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association**, **Becky Woods** from the **Long Beach Redevelopment Agency**, **Acting Chief of Police, Billy Quach** and **Property Owner, Michael Talebi**. The mural project was led by the **Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Cultural Supervisor, Heather Green** and was funded by the **Neighborhood Services Bureau**.

The addition of the mural was not the only enhancement for the area. In anticipation of the mural, the sidewalk in front of the mural was replaced and trees were added. The **Neighborhood Services Bureau** funded the mural. The **Redevelopment Agency** also played a part in the improvements by painting the building and resurfacing and striping the parking lot adjacent to the pet shop.

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## Hellman NIS Area

### Franklin Middle School English as Second Language (ESL) Program

The **Anaheim Street Community Police Center (APC)**, **Franklin Middle School Parent Center's** staff and the **Long Beach Library Foundation** collaborated to implement their first **English as a Second Language program** at the school's parent center. On Wednesday, October 28, 2009, they hosted their first ESL orientation class for adults and students received a brief orientation about the programs guides and regulations.

ESL is a self-paced, fifteen-week session computer program designed to teach adults the basic concepts of the English language. A compact disk and workbook are provided for students to take home. Computers are available at Franklin Middle School Parent's Center for students to practice their English skills. A Franklin Middle School English teacher, **Mr. Puccio**, will volunteer his time to provide a one-hour pronunciation and conversation class for the students twice a month.



Currently, more than 200 Hellman NIS residents have benefited from this educational opportunity. Students learn about the many literacy resources available in the **Long Beach Public Library** as well as numerous City neighborhood improvement programs and services. All participants are expected to complete the program within a six-month period. Upon completion, they will receive a diploma and a small gift from the Long Beach Library Foundation.

ESL has been an encouragement for non-English speaking residents to continue taking English classes at local schools, colleges as well as an inspiration for residents to get involved and improve their neighborhoods.

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## Halloween Carnival at Orizaba Park

On Saturday, October 31, 2009, the **West East-Side Community Association (WESCA)**, in collaboration with the **Neighborhood Services Bureau, East Anaheim Street Business Alliance (EASBA), Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine,** and **4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Patrick O'Donnell's Office,** hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Halloween Carnival in Orizaba Park. Approximately 700 neighborhood children, adolescents, and adults attended the free event. Forty volunteers from the community (residents and local businesses) – including CDAC members Jan Ward and Anthony Kim -- and City staff assisted with the set-up, clean-up, games, booths, and music. Neighborhood children enjoyed the carnival games, a scary cemetery scene, pumpkin decorating, moon bounce, face painting, costume design, and Halloween music/sound effects provided by a resident D.J. Children were able to fill their bags with candy and prizes and take home their artistic creations. This was a wonderful day in which local residents, businesses, community groups and City offices and staff all worked together in collaboration to provide an afternoon of Halloween enjoyment for families in the Cherry-Temple Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area.

For more information on this and future events in the Cherry-Temple NIS neighborhood, please contact **Margaret Madden** at **(562) 570-6830** or **[margaret.madden@longbeach.gov](mailto:margaret.madden@longbeach.gov)**.