

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Neighborhood Clean-Up Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) Area

On Saturday, **December 5, 2009**, staff from **Neighborhood Services Bureau, Madres Unidas** group and **32 volunteers residents** from the **Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** area organized a neighborhood clean up. The location was 1627 W. 19th Street. Event boundaries were from 19th Street to Pacific Coast Highway and from Santa Fe Avenue to Fashion Avenue. **Public Works' Environmental Services Bureau** provided with a powered rear loader refuse truck to collect and compress illegal dumped items at the alleys between these boundaries collected more than **eight (8) tons of trash!**



The event provided an opportunity for the neighbors to network with each other and take pride and ownership in their neighborhood to live in a cleaner environment. The residents will continue participating in cleaning their neighborhood to make changes and improve the physical appearance in the Lower West NIS area.

If you need more information about the Lower West NIS area, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or **teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



English as Second Language Class (ESL) Potluck

On December 14, 2009, adult students of the **Willmore Community Police Center's English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes organized a celebration potluck. The **Willmore Community Police Center** has provided free English as Second Language (ESL) classes for Willmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) residents since 1995 with the direction of **Jana Shields** of **Drake Park Friends' House Literacy Center** and two volunteers. The program includes year-round classes conducted every Monday and Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. that prepare students to develop their basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening in order to reach their academic goals and opportunity to obtain better jobs. In 2009, **545** students participated with a total of **74** days of classes.



If you need more information for the ESL classes, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Madres Unidas Holiday Celebration

On Thursday, December 17, 2009, the **Neighborhood Services Bureau**, the **Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** area and **Madres Unidas** held a holiday celebration at **Admiral Kidd Park** located at 2125 Santa Fe Avenue. Madres Unidas is a local neighborhood group that strives to make a difference in the Lower West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area by hosting cultural events, educational workshops and neighborhood clean-ups. Neighborhood Services Bureau presented certificates of appreciation for their efforts to create and maintain a safer and cleaner neighborhood during 2009. **More than 83 people** had the opportunity to enjoy the holiday celebration and children under 12 years old received a free toy donated by the Madres' Unidas group **President Maria Cortez**.



At the end of the event, everyone enjoyed delicious food and refreshments prepared by the Madres Unidas group. This event and other workshops were made possible thanks to the support of Admiral Kidd Park by facilitating the hall during 2009. The residents will continue participating to make changes and improve the physical appearance in their neighborhood.

For more information about the Lower West NIS area, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at (562) 570-1146 or teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Christmas at Burnett



On Thursday, December 17, 2009, the **Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC)** hosted "Christmas at Burnett" at the **Burnett Library Auditorium** with support from the **Central Project Area Committee (CPAC)**, the **Neighborhood Services Bureau (NSB)**, teen volunteer "elves" from **Long Beach Weed and Seed**, and support from **Councilman Dee Andrews**, **Congresswoman Laura Richardson**, and **Long Beach Transit**. About **385 school children and their parents** of the Central Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area attended the fun-filled event.

Dozens of community volunteers assisted with community outreach, set-up, clean-up, and distribution of toys. Children received bags with books, stuffed animals and new toys. **Jose M. Flores**, Co-Chair of the Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC), played the lead elf. The children were able to enjoy a visit from Santa Claus, opportunity drawings, snacks and refreshments.



Music was provided by **Poly High School Jazz Band "The Walking Tones"** and sound effects by CNAC member **Charles Wade**. **Long Beach Police Department** assisted with crowd control at this popular event. This was a wonderful day in which local residents, community groups, City offices and staff all worked together in collaboration to provide an evening of Christmas celebration for families in the Central NIS area.



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

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Willmore City Heritage Association Annual Holiday Potluck

On December 18, 2009, the **Willmore City Heritage Association**, friends and neighbors celebrated their traditional holiday potluck at the beautiful historic home of one the board members. **More than 30** neighbors, friends and members from other neighborhood associations got together to enjoy delicious food, have good time and celebrate their accomplishments to improve their **Willmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS)** area neighborhood. It was also a time to share great stories about family and the holidays with one another. The house was beautifully decorated and there was plenty of food on the table. The holiday season is the perfect time to share with family and friends. Behind all the fun and decorations there was a spirit of friendship and good wishes for health and happiness for the new year.

If you need more information about the Willmore Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area, please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** (562) 570-1146 or teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Raising a Reader Graduation

On December 18, 2009, the **Neighborhood Services Bureau, Long Beach Public Library Foundation** and the **Willmore Community Police Center** hosted their tenth **Raising a Reader Program** graduation ceremony.



The Neighborhood Services Bureau, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the **Long Beach Public Library** are partners in providing this unique literacy experience for pre-school children and their families to encourage sharing of books every day. The 12-week program enhances family bonding, provides opportunities to improve pre-literacy skills necessary for kindergarten readiness and success and helps make the valuable connection to the library. The Raising a Reader program has been offered at the Willmore Police Center since 2004 with over 132 parents and 221 children graduating. The Long Beach Public Library Foundation has offered the Raising A Reader throughout Long Beach touching over 10,500 children and their parents since 2004.

Long Beach Police Department and **Willmore City Heritage Association** members also attended the event to share their support and appreciation with the participating families. A special recognition was given to **Peggy Sanders**, who along with **Ann Witenstein**, started this program at this site.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Forty-five participants received certificates of completion. The children received congratulatory books from the Long Beach Public Library Foundation. In addition, parents and kids received a special certificate of recognition from **Councilman Robert Garcia** and free Museum of Latin American Art passes from resident **Michael Traub**.



Raising a Reader Program, Class of December 2009

Alicia Cortes
Amelia Salazar & Salvador Ortega
Ana Maria Ruiz & Jose Luis Zaragoza
Ana Maria Zaragoza & Francisco Javier Ramirez
Aradeli Melena
Claudia Montejano & Jaime Castro
Isabel Martinez & Guadalupe Vera
Lidia Melena & Leopoldo Melena
Lidia Melena Chavez
Maria Cecilia Orozco
Maria Inzunza
Martha Coronado & Damaso Godoy

Julio & Christopher Solis
Jessica, Michelle, Salvador & Diego Ortega
Evelin & Jesus Antonio Zaragoza
Jose Javier, Stephanie & Dennis Ramirez
Pablo, Samuel & Isael Melena
Cindy & Jaime Castro
Eloisa Vera
Jorge & Jaqueline Melena
Jasmin Melena
Cataline & Camila Orozco
Elene & Carlos Leal
Angel & Ulisses Godoy

Sharing in this special day with these families were **Glenda Williams, Director of Department of Library Services, Long Beach Public Library Foundation Board Members Ann Witenstein, Mary Barton, Margaret Durnin, Mary Hinds**, grant writer **Barbara Egyud**, Executive Director **Sara Pillet** the immediate past Long Beach Library Director **Eleanore Schmidt**, and **Felie Beaty** representing the **Employees Community Foundation of Boeing California**.

At the end of the ceremony, everyone enjoyed delicious food prepared by the parents and volunteers.

For more information about the Raising a Reader program please contact **Teresa Gonzalez** at **(562) 570-1146** or **teresa.gonzalez@longbeach.gov**.

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Free Khmer Literacy Class

The **Neighborhood Services Bureau's Anaheim Street Community Police Center** in collaboration with the **Mark Twain Neighborhood Library** and **Long Beach Cambodian Cultural/Arts and History** provides a free education program called **Cambodian Literacy** to teach residents how to read, write and speak in the Cambodian language Khmer. The program is open to the public and the class includes a Long Beach firefighter, a 5th grade schoolteacher, two Long Beach Poly High School students, and twelve elementary school students. Classes are held on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Twain Library located at 1401 E. Anaheim Street. **Eleven classes** were held in the first quarter of FY 09-10 for **208 participants!**

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

Neighborhood Improvement

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



Hellman NIS Area

Franklin Middle School English as Second Language (ESL) Program

Since its establishment in October 2009, **Franklin Middle School Parent Center's, English as a Second Language (ESL) program** has hosted 21 educational sessions. Fifteen local students are taking advantage of this educational opportunity and they are expected to complete it within an eight-month period. Upon completion, they will receive a diploma and a small gift from the **Long Beach Public Library Foundation**. **Sebastian Puccio, Franklin Middle School, English teacher** volunteers to provide a one-hour pronunciation and conversation class for the students twice each month.



Additionally, ESL students learn about all literacy resources available in the Long Beach Public Library as well as numerous City neighborhood improvement programs and services. Some of the ESL program graduates are now enrolled at **Long Beach City College** and some of them have graduated from the **Neighborhood Services Bureau's Neighborhood Leadership Program**.

In the first quarter of FY09, attendance at all the sessions was 106 Hellman and Saint Mary Neighborhood Improvement Strategy (NIS) area residents.

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