

**WEST
END
NEIGHBORS**

WEST END NEWS

www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org

June 2009

Calendar of Events

- June 23rd —**
Public Meeting –
Parking Solutions,
 City Hall – 6th Floor
 7:00pm
- June 24th —**
West End Neighbors
Meeting,
 West End Community
 Center (Maryland Ave)
 7:00pm
- June 30th —**
West End Beautification
Committee Meeting,
 City-Hall – 5th Floor
 7:00pm
- July 7th — City Council**
Meeting - 7:00pm
- July 21st — City Council**
Meeting - 7:00pm
- July 23rd — Zoning Board**
Meeting. - 7:00pm

FARMERS MARKET REOPENED

The Kennedy Plaza Farmers Market reopened last month with additional vendors and products.

The market is open every **Wednesday from 11am to 7pm** from now through October.

For more information, visit us online at:

www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org/

Letter from the President...

Hello Neighbors,

It's said you realize what you don't have once it's gone...or just missing for a couple of months. We've heard from many of you asking "where is our newsletter"? I apologize for the lack of the printed word, but assure you, we have been quite active pushing our West End agenda. I would only hope that more of you would have come out to the last two meetings. City Manager Theofan was our guest speaker last month. The Bar/Restaurant owners were all present at the previous meeting. The Long Beach Police Department was present at both meetings giving information, as well as, listening to complaints and suggestions. I thought it would be a great opportunity to hear from them directly, and voice our concerns in turn in an open and honest face-to-face forum. I must say I was quite disappointed in the turn-out. If you haven't responded to our survey, I would like to know if our mid-week 7:00pm meeting times are conducive for your attendance. And if not, what would be a more convenient time so that we can improve on our attendance? Please send your meeting time proposals to info@westendneighbors-longbeach.org.

All of you know by now how I feel about learning the facts. And the best way to do so is by attending our monthly West End Neighbor Civic Association meetings.



Newly renovated beach entrance at Pennsylvania Avenue

Each newsletter, we report what WEN has been working on to improve all of our lives here in the West End. After almost two years, this administration has had some major accomplishments, including the new West End Library Branch, newly renovated beach entrances at Pennsylvania, Georgia, Connecticut and Nevada/Ohio Avenues, and the Georgia Avenue Spray Park. Plus, we have worked with the City to ensure street repairs are completed as promised, such as the California Street renovation. We listen to your concerns and issues day in and day out and try our best to make a difference. To continue to make progress, frankly, we need YOUR help. You'll see later in this issue we received over 40 responses to an email poll. If 40 of us showed up anywhere, people would listen!! So, we've brainstormed a list of how you can help us help you. Be a part of the SOLUTION and protect our little piece of nirvana! In conjunction with my Secretary Karen McInnis, we have put together the following top-ten list:

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TOP 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE WEST END

1. Park in your garages/driveways. There are over 2,200 residences in the West End. Parking studies over the years have indicated there are not even enough spots for 1 car per household!!!
2. Attend the "Public Meeting on Parking Solution" - focus will be on the central business district along Park Avenue between Long Beach Rd. and Magnolia Blvd. June 23rd, from 7pm to 9pm, 6th floor, City Hall.
3. Report illegal beach pass beaters onto the beach. Please report all incidents to Beach Specials (men/women in blue) or the Long Beach Police.
4. Report illegal rentals to the Long Beach Building Department.
5. Your block wants a Speed Bump? Work with us to get signatures from EVERYONE on your block and lets attend a City Council meeting together.
6. Do not use the gas station area on Connecticut Avenue as a dog park. Report abuses to the City Manager's office - 516-431-1000.
7. Do not allow animal waste to remain in your front, side or back yards - it is against the law.
8. Patronize our local business.
9. Attend City Council (First and third Tuesday of each month @7pm. 6th floor, City Hall) and West End Neighbors Civic Association meetings.
10. Try being courteous to your neighbors.

Folks, we need your support, attendance and active participation if we are to effectively attain our goals of making the West End of Long Beach the jewel of the South Shore, as we all know it could and should be.

We would like to thank Patricia Ridley for her donation of planters in front of the new West End Library branch. And our continued thanks to Anne Farley for her fine work on our Website.

Take care,

Your West End Neighbors staff

Rick, Maria, Karen and Rosemary

BLOCK CAPTAINS NEEDED

The following blocks are in need of block captains to help distribute the newsletters on their block and to keep an eye and ear open for anything that should be brought to the attention of West End Neighbors.

BEACH SIDE:

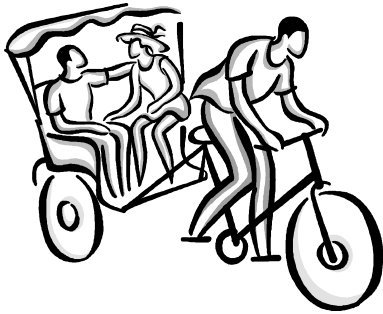
Oregon, Arizona, Nebraska, New York

BAY SIDE:

Illinois; Connecticut; Louisiana; Michigan;
New Hampshire; New York

If you are interested in being a BLOCK CAPTAIN please e-mail us at www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org or you may contact Maria Fitzgerald at 917-913-8703. Any questions please call. Your neighbors thank you & WEST END NEIGHBORS CIVIC ASSOC thanks you.

PEDICABS IN LONG BEACH??—WEST END NEIGHBORS POLL



You have probably noticed Pedicabs out and about in Long Beach this summer. The City has granted a one year license to local businessmen to test out the idea in our community. Our

City Manager, Mr. Charles Theofan, reserved the right to revoke the contract at any time during the term of the agreement.

I wanted to find out more about this arrangement so I attended the June 2nd City Council meeting and asked a few questions during the monthly Good and Welfare segment. The Good and Welfare segment offers members of the Long Beach community the chance to address the City Council members regarding pertinent local issues.

THE FACTS:

- The Pedicabs have to abide by local traffic laws.
- The Pedicabs are not permitted to travel on Park Avenue except for specific drop-offs i.e. the LIRR Train Station.
- The local business owners have their own certificate of insurance for their operation. The City holds a copy of the certificate. Long Beach Corporation Counsel checked with the City's insurance company for a recommendation on coverage, which the business adhered to.
- Standard pricing will not be established this summer.
- There are no standard hours of operation.
- The City is working with the business owners to make sure all drivers have the appropriate licensing.
- The monetary arrangement with the City

consists of a operating fee per vehicle and a monthly fee to store the Pedicabs at the JWV building on West Park Avenue.

- Each Monday, Mr. Theofan receives an update from the business owners on the activities of the past weekend. At this time, feedback is given and measures taken to address any issues.

WEN conducted an email poll of its members on June 9th and received 42 responses. WEN members are overwhelmingly in favor of Pedicabs by a 2+ to 1 margin (27 votes for, 12 votes against, 3 need more information). Here's what you had to say:

- *"I like the Pedicabs. Think it adds a nice touch and offers employment. Less noise and pollution than the cabs and buses."*
- *"There is already a lot of activity on Oceanview and I think they will cause traffic jams on W. Beech St."*
- *"We advocate for a more bicycle friendly town, how can we not want more pedal power and less cars."*
- *"...the police need to enforce occupancy limits. The other night I saw a cab with six people in it and it only has room for three."*
- *"I like the idea of the Pedicabs, but only for use on the boardwalk."*
- *"How can the Pedicabs be adequately regulated if owned by a police officer? What cop would ticket their own?"*

What is your opinion? Send us an email—info@westendneighbors-longbeach.org.

Karen McInnis, Secretary

LONG BEACH “WATERFRONT WARRIORS”



The Long Beach “Waterfront Warriors” Group, in conjunction with the City of Long Beach, is planning a weekend for 12-15 wounded soldiers and their families Aug 30-Sept 2nd. The Wounded Warriors Project (WWP) is a nonprofit organization that provides awareness to the public and offers support programs to the most severely injured service men and women returning from the current military conflicts abroad. City Council Member John McLaughlin is spearheading the event in cooperation with the WWP.

The “Waterfront Warriors” will provide veterans with housing, meals and entertainment and hopes to share with them all the pleasures and hospitality Long Beach has to offer.

The first fundraiser to help defray the costs for the three-day visit was held on June 1st at Lola’s, who donated the meals, drinks, and wait staff to the cause. “Hundreds of people came out tonight to show their support and generosity for those who are in service to our country,” said McLaughlin. “The proceeds from this and future events will be utilized towards transportation, entertainment and accommodations for the fifteen families visiting us this summer.” Funds will also be donated to WWP on behalf of the City of Long Beach so that the organization can continue to raise awareness

and provide support programs to wounded vets.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- WWP T-shirts and hats will be on sale and the next West End Neighbors meeting on Wednesday, June 24th.
- The next fundraiser will be in the WEST END at The Beach House on Sunday, July 19th from 4pm-7pm.
- WWP information and merchandise will be available at a booth during the Arts & Crafts Festival, Riverside Boardwalk, on July 18th and 19th.
- If you would like to contribute or volunteer please call 516-431-1000 x7204 or x7217 or email: waterfrontwarriors@longbeachny.org
- Donations can be mailed to LB Wounded Warriors, 1 W. Chester Street, Long Beach, NY 11561. Checks should be made payable to Long Beach Waterfront Warriors, Inc.
- For more information log onto www.longbeachny.org and click on the WWP logo.
- To learn more about WWP, log onto woundedwarriorproject.org.
- AND, DISPLAY YOUR AMERICAN FLAG.

Karen McInnis, Secretary

2009 Membership Form

Mail to West End Neighbors Civic Association

248 West Park Avenue Suite 350, Long Beach, NY 11561

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Seniors \$10.00 per year. Family \$20.00 per year

* Required for mailings

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