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## Plans for new Fire Station Number 3 underway, as demolition continues



By Toni Miles



Toni Miles

Demolition work has begun at Fire Station Number 3 on Johnson Road. Plans for a new building are underway.

Demolition of Fire Station Number 3, located on Johnson Road in Long Beach, is now underway, as plans for a new and improved building are in the works.

Local leaders, including Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie, have been meeting with several engineering firms in regards to the new fire station, which will replace the old, mold-ridden one being demolished on Johnson Road.

While there's no official rendering yet showing what the new building will look like, Chief Skellie says work is well underway on the planning and design of the new facility.

The project is a coordinated effort between Harrison County and the Long Beach Fire Department, and, once complete, Chief Skellie says the new facility will be better manned and enable the area to keep its current fire rating - and could possibly help improve its current fire rating - which could drive down the overall cost of fire insurance coverage.

"Once complete, the City of Long Beach would have three full-time firefighters providing protection in the west side of the Industrial Park," Chief Skellie says.

There's no official word yet on when the new Fire Station Number 3 is scheduled to be complete or an exact project price, since the planning stage is still in the works.

## LBSD opens registration, plans camps, offers lunches

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Online registration is now open for families enrolling children in Long Beach's public schools. Registration is available for both returning and new students. Registration links are available on the school district's web page at [www.LBSDk12.com](http://www.LBSDk12.com).

All students enrolling in kindergarten must have reached his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2022.

New students registering in Long Beach Schools must provide the MS 121 Immunization form, original birth certificate, the student's Social Security Card and two proofs of residence.

Returning students must also provide proof of residence. Once registration has been completed and submitted electronically, the parent or legal guardian must take in two proofs of residency for verification of their address.

Proofs of residence for all schools will be accepted at Harper McCaughan Elementary at 19200 Pineville Road on July 13, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. and on July 14 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

For all students, the two proofs of residency must match the student's primary residence. A post office box will not be accepted. The documents accepted as proof must be preprinted with the name and address of the student's parent/legal guardian, and all applicants must submit at least one document from each of the two groups.

Group 1 documents (present one) include a filed Homestead Exemption Application

form or Homestead Exemption Renewal Card; mortgage documents or property deed; or an apartment or home lease that list all tenants.

Group 2 documents (present one) include current automobile registration; or a utility bill (gas, water or electric) showing the service address and dated within the last 60 days.

For more information about residency, call 228-864-1146.

Also this summer, the district has several camps available. Upcoming fourth graders are invited to learn all about fourth grade at Harper McCaughan Elementary School from July 18-22, 8:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. daily. The same week, July 18-22, incoming Bearcat kindergartners can attend Kindergarten Camp, from 8 until 11 a.m. each day.

The camp for upcoming fourth graders is designed to assist students with transitioning to the upper elementary school. Attendees will learn the physical layout of the building, meet fourth grade teachers, utilize learning centers, find out about library, music and art in the classroom, and meet future classmates. For more information, call 225-863-0478.

For more information about the kindergarten camp, call W. J. Quarles Elementary School at 228-864-3946. Registration and parent agreement forms are available from the school's front office.

Continuing through July 29, free lunches are available at W. J. Quarles Elementary School for children ages eighteen and younger from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. each week-day, excluding July 4. Adults may purchase lunch for \$3.75. For more information, call 225-864-1337.

The first day of school for students will be August 4.

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# COAST TO LIGHT UP WITH JULY 4TH HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AND FIREWORKS SHOWS

By Toni Miles

**Summer has officially arrived, and the temperature isn't the only thing that's on the rise. While COVID-19 wiped out some events in recent years, there are now plenty of new and returning events and activities for the whole family to enjoy in the area.**

## ANNUAL DEEP SEA FISHING RODEO

At seventy years and going strong, the Annual Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is back in full swing this year. Billed as the largest family-friendly fishing rodeo in the world, this year's event will feature fireworks, fishing and vendors. Contestants can cast their reels and drop their lines, fishing in Gulf waters, throughout the tournament, which runs from July 1-4. About 50,000 people attend yearly. It all centers around Jones Park and the Barksdale Pavilion in downtown Gulfport, located at Highway 90 and Highway 49 in Gulfport. The price is \$5 a person until 2 p.m. each day, then the price is \$10. Children 5 and under get in free. There is an extra cost for carnival rides.

For more information, visit [www.MississippiDeepSeaFishingRodeo.com](http://www.MississippiDeepSeaFishingRodeo.com).



## BILOXI 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The skies will light up in downtown Biloxi as the city's annual 4th of July fireworks display takes off at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, located south of Highway 90 in East Biloxi. Fireworks will be fired from a barge near Deer Island after nightfall around 7:30 p.m., but seats for the show are available anywhere between the Biloxi Lighthouse eastward to the Biloxi Bay Bridge. The event is hosted by the City of Biloxi and the Boom Boom Committee. The show is free.

The Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum is offering tickets for the show aboard a Biloxi Schooner on July 4th. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children. The schooner will depart the Schooner Pier Complex off Highway 90 at 7 p.m., will sail out for the fireworks display and will return to the dock at about 9:30 p.m.



## OUR LADY OF THE GULF CRAB FESTIVAL

Our Lady of the Gulf Church is hosting its 38th Annual Crab Fest this July 4th weekend in Bay St. Louis, June 30 – July 2. The festival includes all kinds of seafood, live music, more than a dozen rides and over 150 arts and crafts vendor booths. It is open to the public daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 228 South Beach Boulevard in Bay St. Louis, and it includes a 5K and fun run on July 1 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit OLG Church on Facebook, or call 228-467-6509.



## GULFPORT JULY 4TH FIREWORKS

The city of Gulfport will host its annual July 4th fireworks show on July 4th, with fireworks shot from Gulfport Municipal Marina's Moses Jetty starting at 8:45 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to arrive early and find a viewing area anywhere from Jones Park to the Gulfport Marina to the beach south of Highway 90. Moses Jetty closes at 6 a.m. to set up the show. The show is open to the public and free.

## PASCAGOULA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The fireworks show for the city of Pascagoula will start at 8 p.m. on July 4th and will be visible all along Beach Boulevard in Pascagoula. The show is free.





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# LBHS graduates Class of 2022

The Long Beach High School Class of 2022 had their commencement on May 17. Hailey Rose Smith earned the title of Valedictorian, and Luke Casten Salisbury was named Salutatorian. Emma Grace Marreel was named Class Orator.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

2022 LBHS Valedictorian Hailey Smith



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

2022 LBHS Salutatorian Luke Salisbury



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

2022 LBHS Class Orator Emma Grace Marreel. Each year, the Class Orator is selected from the senior class. Interested students submit a transcript of their speech, along with a video presentation of it, and a panel of judges scores the entries on delivery, content and overall presentation.



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## Long Beach School District honors staff with Golden Crayon Award



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Kim Bertucci, Leigh Seal and Brianna Barrows received LBSD Golden Crayon Awards.

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach School District (LBSD) recently awarded its Golden Crayon Award to five employees.

Kim Bertucci, Leigh Seal and Brianna Barrows were honored for going above and beyond for a particular student. The student is blind and receives instruction in braille. In the announcement of their award, LBSD officials said that the ladies ensure that every aspect of the student's day (all papers, etc.) are transcribed into braille, so that the student can fully participate in the curriculum of the general education classroom. The three have had to teach braille to themselves in order to teach the student.

Also honored were Brian Rolison, principal of Harper McCaughan Elementary School, and Wayne Ulrich, assistant principal at the school.

"Our principals at Harper have been outstanding this year," said District officials. "When the teachers need anything, they are willing to be there and go the extra mile.

Mr. Rolison and Mr. Ulrich are very fair and awesome team leaders."

Rolison is described as a strong leader and is characterized as someone who can encourage, motivate, inspire, and challenge a team to produce their best work.

"He has created a school culture that is respectful, supportive and motivates [us] to do our best. He focuses on our positives as a means of motivation. He inspires us to move above expectations and achieve our highest potentials."

"I was recently inspired by him when I saw him stepping back into the classroom to fill in as a teacher while state testing required his teachers to be in testing positions," said one employee. "I realized that he was willing to do

what he asked of us. It was truly a sweet moment between a teacher and students."

The Golden Crayon Award is given periodically to an individual or group of people in the LBSD who have gone "above and beyond" for the district – someone or a group who has stood out among the other "crayons" and made the collective picture a little bit brighter.



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Harper McCaughan Principal Brian Rolison and Assistant Principal Wayne Ulrich were honored with a Golden Crayon Award, but they were in a dunking booth when the award was presented, so two students held their certificates.



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# Timeline for sewage infrastructure project extended

**Q:** Has the project timeline been changed? What is the expected completion date as of now?

**A:** Yes, the project timeline has been increased. The projected end date for Phase 1 is January of 2023. Phase 1 includes South Forest to Menge. The projected end date for Phase 2 is the end of August of 2022. Phase 2 is the eastern portion of the project, from Forest Avenue to Nicholson. The two phases are being completed simultaneously.

**Q:** A "Sewer Debt Residential" surcharge appears monthly on our utility bill. Will the HCUA project to upgrade the City's sewer lines affect, change or eliminate the surcharge?

**A:** The sewer debt surcharge has been in effect for over fifteen years, and the new projects will not affect the surcharge in any way, as this surcharge is the result of maintaining the Harrison County Wastewater treatment plant that processes our wastewater. There is currently no timeline on how long the surcharge will be in effect and no new increases or decreases to that charge in the near future that we are aware of.

**Q:** Will the new subdivisions being built necessitate the sewer project's expansion in any way? How much did the project plan take into account additional rooftops being built in Long Beach?

**A:** The contractor on our current project doesn't have any way of knowing what the County and design engineers accounted for during the design of the project in regards to future expansion. We [the City of Long Beach] will need to talk to Pickering [engineering firm for the project].



## City Q&A with the Breeze

Each month, the print edition of *Long Beach Breeze* will include questions about the city's ongoing, multimillion dollar sewer improvement and infrastructure project.

Continuing the ongoing series and partnership between the *Long Beach Breeze* and the City of Long Beach, *Long Beach Breeze* reporter Toni Miles recently presented Long Beach Community Affairs Director Jenny Levens with some new questions from residents.

This month's highlights include an explanation of additional expenses for the project and reasons why the expected timeline for the project has had to be increased.

Readers' questions are always welcome! To submit a question about the project, visit:

[www.LongBeachBreeze.com](http://www.LongBeachBreeze.com) and fill out the question submission form.



**Scan the QR code to submit your questions.**

**Q:** The Harrison County Utility Authority recently asked the aldermen for additional money due to unexpected expenses and an increase in material costs. Can you detail what the additional expenses are?

**A:** The majority of the additional expenses are due to mandatory design changes during construction. This is due to unforeseen utility conflicts.

*Photos by Toni Miles.*



Jenny Levens,  
Long Beach Community  
Affairs Director

### Looking ahead from Levens:

"The projected end date for Phase 1 [South Forest to Menge] is January of 2023. The projected end date for Phase 2 [Forest Avenue to Nicholson] is the end of August of 2022."

**Visit [www.longbeachbreeze.com/sewage-infrastructure](http://www.longbeachbreeze.com/sewage-infrastructure) to submit your questions.**





## Cobb promoted to Knight Commander

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

David Cobb of Long Beach was promoted to Knight Commander in The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on May 29 at the Southeastern Lieutenancy's meeting in New Orleans.

The Equestrian Order is the only lay institution of The Vatican State charged with providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Christians in the Holy Land. The Order is international in its scope and has around 30,000 members.


The Order places an emphasis on education, having funded the building of forty Patriarchate schools in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. The goal is to educate students from different races and religions together in peace and mutual respect with the hope of making a lifelong impact.

Membership is gained through current members and approved by their Pastor and Bishop. Biloxi's members include Bishop Kihneman, Section President Ted Longo of Diamondhead, Fr. Dennis Carver, Msgr. Dominick Fullam, David Cobb of Long Beach, Sid Degan of Pass Christian, Col. Chuck Ingraham of Diamondhead, Jerry Ingraham of Diamondhead, Gretchen Mayeaux of Pass Christian, Dr. Carl Mayeaux of Pass Christian, Steve Montagnet of Pass Christian, Monica Montagnet of Pass Christian, Matt Powers of Gulfport, Brady Powers of Gulfport, Nancy Wiebmer of Bay St. Louis, Jacque Rosenhauer of Diamondhead, Chip Marz of Texas, Chris Marz of Texas, Dave Wyrwich of Gulfport and Priscilla Wyrwich of Gulfport.





*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

*Pictured are Dr. Carl Mayeaux, Gretchen Mayeaux, John Wiebmer, Ning Wiebmer, Section President Ted Longo, Sid Degan, Bishop Kihneman, Nancy Degan, Steve Montagnet, David Wyrwich, Monica Montagnet and Priscilla Wyrwich.*



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# Incumbent, long-time South Mississippi lawman in June 28th runoff

By Toni Miles

Incumbent Republican Steven Palazzo and long-time lawman and Jackson County Sheriff Mike Ezell are heading to a runoff on June 28 to determine which of the two candidates will go on to receive the Republican nomination for Mississippi's 4th Congressional District seat in the U.S. Congress.

Palazzo secured 32% of the primary vote on June 7. Ezell received 25% of the vote, forcing a runoff between the two Republican candidates. The winner of the June 28 runoff will be the Republican candidate in the November 8 general election.

"I'm excited about moving into the runoff election, because we know there's a lot of momentum with a big majority of voters who want a change," said Ezell. "The issues are serious, the stakes are high, and we now have a clear choice about who can best represent South Mississippi in Congress."

The Long Beach Breeze reached out to both candidates for comment before heading into the June 28 runoff. Palazzo did not respond to the request prior to the publishing deadline.

Palazzo and Ezell edged out fellow primary Republican candidates Carl Boyanton, Raymond Brooks, Kidron Peterson, Clay Wagner and Brice Wiggins in the June 7 primary race.

Former Hattiesburg mayor Johnny DuPree will be the Democratic candidate on the November 8 ballot. DuPree defeated opponent David Sellers in the primary race for the Democratic ticket nomination.



Toni Miles

Names of candidates for the June 7 primary race line a precinct in Long Beach. building are underway.

Libertarian candidate Alden Patrick Johnson will also be on the November 8 ballot.

Long Beach voters will be among many Mississippians to cast their ballots in the November 8 election for the Congressional seat, which includes Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone, George, Marion, Lamar, Forrest, Perry, Greene, Jones and Wayne counties, along with part of Clarke County. Polls will be open that day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

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11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary  
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## Higher interest rates shouldn't deter buyers from the housing market

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner, Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

Increased interest rates have many reconsidering purchasing a home right now. It is a normal reaction to a rate increase. As of June 9, the average thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates were 5.23%, according to Freddie Mac. While still much higher than the interest rate the same time last year, which was averaged around 3%, rates are still considered to be “normal” by many that remember the last thirty years, when it was common to see interest rates above 5%. The 2000s saw a decline in interest rates; however, it started out with a high of 8% in the year 2000. The average of thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates from 2000-2021 is 5.14%. Yes, it's still lower than the current rate, but, keep in mind, rates for the last two years were at a historical low.



So, what do rising rates mean for borrowers? Higher interest rates inevitably mean higher interest payments. There are a few options for borrowers to help offset that additional cost. Borrowers may look at a lower budget than previously anticipated. A less expensive purchase could help offset the higher interest charges. Saving up to pay a higher down payment is another option that decreases your financed amount, lowering interest and monthly payments. Lastly, borrowers may also consider different financing strategies. A thirty-year fixed mortgage is a very common loan type, but there are plenty of other options—some of which may pay towards your interest first, lowering your monthly payment.

I spoke with Don Blaize of CMG Financial regarding a proprietary loan their company offers called the “All in One Loan.” The All in One Loan is a thirty-year HELOC (home equity line of credit) that combines your home financing with your personal banking needs with an integrated banking system that pays towards your interest first. This is a great program for anyone with disposable income.

Borrowers deposit money into the bank account that is set up specifically for the All in One Loan. Deposits are swept nightly into the HELOC-side of the account and applied to the loan principal, which most effectively uses idle money to save monthly interest expenses. That money is still available to the borrower, should they need it—just like a normal bank account. With traditional mortgage loans, you can pay extra each month towards your interest only; however, it does not lower your monthly payment.

This loan is unique in that it lowers your loan's daily balance with the monthly interest updating nightly based on your loan's unpaid principal balance. Borrowers can save thousands of dollars in mortgage interest and own their home in less time than a traditional mortgage. So, while interest rates have increased this year, don't let that scare you away from buying a home, as it's still a great investment.

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## HARRY POTTER WEEKEND PLANNED AT LIBRARY



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

Summer Reading is off to GREAT start this year! It has been absolutely wonderful seeing everyone back in the library again at programs. We've included pictures from some of the events, so you could see the smiles on all the faces. We still have events to come, so you may see pictures with next month's article, as well.

Coming up at the end of July will be the Harry Potter's Wizarding Weekend event. This will take place on July 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and July 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event is free to the public, open to any age group...and I cannot reveal anything else, or I might get detention and be sent to the Forbidden Forest.

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet on July 12 at 3:30 p.m. in the main wing. This meeting is open to the public to attend.

The library will be closed from Saturday, July 2, through Monday, July 4, for Independence Day. It will reopen on Tuesday, July 5 at 9 a.m.

For more information about the programs at the library, stop by, or call us at 228-863-0711.

Thank you for your patronage, and continue to stay safe!

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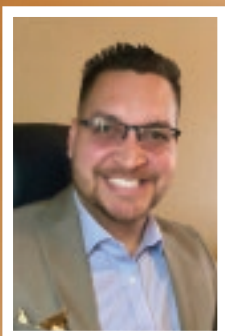
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## ATTENTION - Birthing Mothers

I would like to offer Doula support to 2 local clients who are in their 3rd trimester of pregnancy. This service is being offered free of charge, an \$800 value. I support all types of deliveries. Non medicated. Medicated Epidural Inductions and C/ sections.

As a Doula, your happiness with your birth experience is my motivation. I am local and live in Long Beach, MS.

I am a retired RN (graduated in 1986) with extensive experience as a labor and delivery/nursery/postpartum nurse, and I am two documented labor/deliveries away from fulfilling the requirements of my certified Doula training. I have been a Certified Childbirth Educator and Lamaze Instructor since 1991. I have trained to provide proven relaxation and breathing techniques during labor: massage and deep counterpressure to help with back pain.

Attention-focusing techniques to distract from contractions are essential by providing a focal point or eye contact. Movement and many labor position changes help with dilation and effacement. I will also have hot and cold packs available, if desired. I provide help for the birthing mom and her partner through suggestions, reminders, encouragement, and patience— offering an immediate response to needs and undivided attention.

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If you are interested, please contact me at BirthDoulaLB@gmail.com  
Please visit my website for more information <https://byursidedoula.com>





# American Legion honors students, educators

All photos by Dom Fimiano

By Dom Fimiano

Each year, the Long Beach American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary Post 1995 honor students, educators and academic counselors at the Long Beach High School awards ceremony. Student awards are presented to the valedictorian and salutatorian for their academic achievements, the American Legion Girls and Boys State delegates receive recognition for their selection to attend summer leadership programs, and educators and counselors receive medals and certificates for their commitment and success working with students.

The Long Beach High School Educator of the Year, Robert Acosta, was selected by peers and administrators for his exemplary dedication to instruction, development and mentorship of students. Acosta is a biology and zoology teacher who instills a desire for learning in students.

The Counselors of the Year, Connie Tucker and Rachel Lacy, were selected for their dedication to students. Their guidance enables students to set realistic obtainable goals that nurture academic success and rewarding careers.

Valedictorian Hailey Smith plans to attend the University of Mississippi and study biology, biochemistry and political science. Smith is a distinguished Eminent Scholar. Her academic achievements include a 5.53 weighted GPA and a composite score of 34 on the ACT. She plans to become an environmental scientist working in research. Smith says her long-term goals are to improve environmental regulations and laws collaborating with legislators. In addition to all of Smith's academic success, she has time to be a successful entrepreneur while participating in leadership roles in many academic and community organizations. Smith thanked the Long Beach School District's teachers and staff for providing an excellent educational environment for student success.

Salutatorian Luke Salisbury plans to attend Mississippi State University and study mechanical engineering. Salisbury states his plan is to own an engineering firm after gaining valuable experience working for several years with other engineers.

His 35 composite score on the ACT earned him the honor of being named Long Beach High School's STAR Student, and his academic success earned him the distinguished honor of being a National Merit Scholar.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State delegates are Jane Claire King, Kennedy Kuntz, Anna Mayeaux, Rowan Sanzin and Christina Strahan. American Legion Boys State delegates are David Blake Anderson, Hayes Johnson, Stokley Sawyer and Caleb Solangi. School counselors select the Boys and Girls State delegates for their leadership potential. All delegates are juniors transitioning into their senior year who express an interest in attending the weeklong summer camp held at a Mississippi university. The American Legion delegates take part in civic workshops, which allow delegates to participate as city leaders and experience the roles of elected officials. The purpose for the experience is to instill constructive attitudes toward leadership positions and public service.



Pictured (l to r) are Boys State delegates Caleb Solangi and Stokley Sawyer, Ray Chavaree from Post 1995, and delegates Hayes Johnson and David Anderson.



Pictured (l to r) are Girls State delegates Christina Strahan, Rowan Sanzin and Anna Mayeaux, American Legion Auxiliary Post 1995 President Margaret Levens, and delegates Kennedy Kunitz and Jean Claire King.



Pictured is Educator of the Year Robert Acosta (left) and Ray Chavaree from Post 1995 (right).



Pictured is 2nd Vice Commander of Post 1995 Tina O'Shields with Long Beach High School salutatorian Luke Salisbury.



Pictured is 2nd Vice Commander of Post 1995 Tina O'Shields with Long Beach High School valedictorian Hailey Smith.



Pictured (l to r) are American Legion Auxiliary Post 1995 President Margaret Levens, Counselor of the Year Connie Tucker, Post 1995 Adjutant Kevin McKenzie, and Counselor of the Year Rachel Lacey.

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## Long Beach Live's free concert series continues July 8

By Toni Miles

Little Jimmy took center stage at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on June 3, entertaining the crowd as part of the Friendly City's ongoing Long Beach Live: Finally First Friday concert series, which continues in July, with a minor change.

Due to the July 4th holiday weekend, Long Beach Live will host Finally First Friday on Friday, July 8. Kelsey Moran will be performing live starting at 7 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green. It's a free concert, which will take place after the 6 p.m. Cruis'n event, where antique and vintage vehicle owners will be showcasing and even rolling their classic beauties down Jeff Davis Avenue for all to see.

Additional concerts in the series will include Da Real Band on August 5, Barstool Cowboy on September 9, and Starz on October 7.



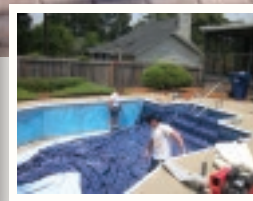
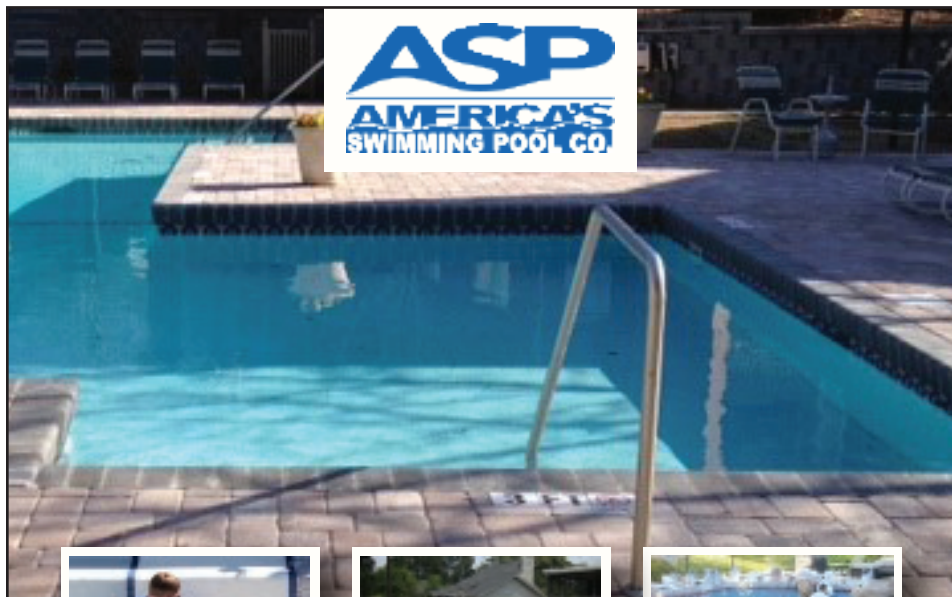
## Ask the Aldermen event set for June 30

By Toni Miles

Residents can get updates on the events and projects in their ward at an upcoming event. The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 2022 Ask the Aldermen event on Thursday, June 30. Doors open at 8 a.m., and the program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

It will be held at the University of South Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus, located at 730 East Beach Boulevard in Long Beach, in USM's Hardy Hall Ballroom.

Admission is \$15 for members and \$20 for all others. Breakfast is included. For more information, or to register for the event, visit MSChamber.com.



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Photos by Ann Madden

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# Long Beach Schools hoping to offer lifeline to Ukrainian students

By Toni Miles

Ukraine is 5,864 miles from the city of Long Beach, Mississippi, but for some of the war-torn country's possible exchange students, it would be a trip - and opportunity - worth taking. That is, if everything Long Beach School Board member Tom Carpenter and his colleagues are trying to do falls in place.

Carpenter took to the podium at the June 7 Board of Aldermen meeting to give City leaders a heads up on an initiative, the first of its kind, to bring in exchange students from the embattled nation of Ukraine for the upcoming school year.

Carpenter says a number of things have to happen both here at home - and abroad - for Long Beach and other nearby school districts to become hosts to Ukrainian exchange students through the program.

The program couldn't come at a better time. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of this year, more than 7.4 million refugees have left Ukraine, and an estimated eight million people have been displaced within the country as of May, millions of them school-aged children.

According to UNICEF, more than 4.3 million children - more than half of the country's 7.5 million child population - had been displaced during the first month alone after Russia's invasion.

"We did want to get at least the knowledge of the City leaders out there and initial consent by our school board," Carpenter said. "Obviously, we want to talk to our people first, to let you know what we're looking towards; and, once we get some tentative okays to talk, then we'll get the details ironed out if we can. That's our current position right now."

Carpenter says under the current policy, the school district is allowed to have one foreign exchange student for the upcoming year. That student, from the Netherlands, has already been selected.

As a member of the Long Beach School Board,

though, Carpenter is seeking an amendment that would allow for two additional foreign exchange students from Ukraine to attend school in Long Beach for the upcoming school year, in addition to the student from the Netherlands.

If approved, Carpenter told the Board that Ukraine would have to get the students in a position where they could be brought over to the United States in time for the start of the 2022 school year in August.

For now, Carpenter is laying the groundwork.

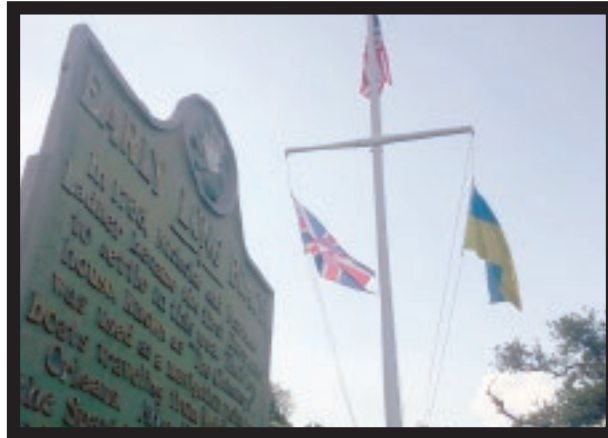
"At this point, we are engaged in a talk-and-see situation," Carpenter said. "We'd have to get some of the terms and conditions set down - for example, logistics. For example, how do those students get here? And, once they get here, are there linguistic issues [with their host families]? Are they going to be able to speak English? Many can. When they come over here, will we need an interpreter?"

"Those issues are being resolved by our very capable superintendents. In our case, [Long Beach School District Superintendent] Dr. Talia Lock and others are coming up with talking points with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, so, if we do get those students, it's a seamless issue so they can come right in."

Carpenter says a number of local, state and national leaders are already rallying behind the initiative and are eager to help. He says South Mississippi school districts are leading the charge in this new Ukrainian Foreign Exchange Program initiative, citing the City of Biloxi's recent public support of the program. Carpenter believes other school districts in the area will soon follow suit.

"Other cities are considering talks with the Ukraine Foreign Ministry in Washington, D.C., to see if we can perhaps get one or two exchange students per district... for a [school] year starting in August and going through May," Carpenter said.

"So, it seems optimistic right now, but we'll see when we talk to the embassy in Washington, D.C.," Carpenter said.



Toni Miles

A local resident shows support by flying the Ukrainian flag, showing present day sentiment. An early settlement city plaque for the City of Long Beach is visible in the foreground.

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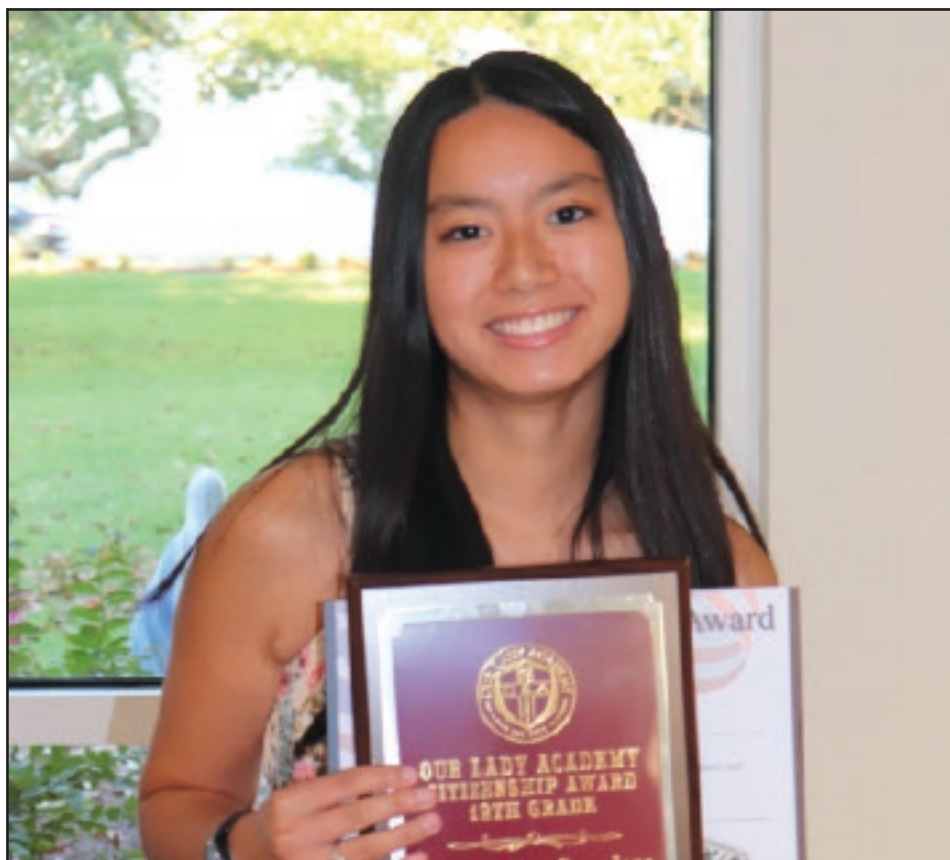
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# Saunders honored at OLA



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Our Lady Academy (OLA) recently hosted its Annual Senior Awards Ceremony and recognized Class of 2022 students for their outstanding character, academic, extracurricular and service achievements. Eugenie Saunders of Long Beach was honored with the American Citizenship Award, which is presented to the student that shows a positive attitude, strength of character, understands civic responsibility and promotes citizenship among her peers.



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# RECORD CROWDS CRANKED OUT FOR THIS YEAR'S JEEPIN THE COAST

By Toni Miles

Jeeps first made their appearance on the battlefields of World War II, and they are credited with their role in helping defeat the Axis powers during the war.

During the first week of June this year, however, it wasn't a battlefield, but more like a showcase of these legendary vehicles known for their off-road capabilities parading throughout the City of Long Beach for this year's Jeepin the Coast event. After taking a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19 in 2020 and coming back with precautions last year, the 2022 event shattered past records with registration and attendance nearly double that of years past.

"The crowd - people from every walk of life, across the board - enjoyed the entire weekend," event founder Jennifer Moran said. "It was nice to see not only Jeepers but locals also enjoying such a great weekend. Although it was steaming hot, they still kept rolling in."

Among this year's attendees was first-timer Danielle Lashbrook.

"This was my first time going to Jeepin," said Lashbrook, who drove from Pascagoula to attend the event. "I have never seen so many cool-looking Jeeps with different colors, lights - and so many ducks being handed out."

Rubber ducks abounded on the dashboards and hoods of Jeeps everywhere at this year's event. It's part of a recent national phenomenon known as "ducking" or "ducking a Jeep." To play, you simply leave a tagged rubber duck somewhere on a Jeep you see in public to let the owner know you like their Jeep.

A parade rolled down Jeff Davis Avenue the night of Saturday, June 4. After that, Category 6 rocked the streets of Long Beach during a free concert.

There was plenty of merchandise for Jeep lovers, too, at Vendor Village, which also saw a record-breaking seventy vendors, some from as far away as Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

"Jeeps on the beach was the highlight," Moran said. "Several hundred Jeeps parked on the beach shores and hung out."

The exponential hike in gas prices did not seem to hinder attendance this year.

"People traveled from all over the United States for this year's event," Moran said. "Gas stations, restaurants, hotels and local shops were packed throughout the event."

About 2,000 Jeeps were registered for this year's Jeepin the Coast, but organizers estimate more than 3,000 Jeeps showed up for the event this year, and more than 10,000 people crowded the streets and beaches for the event, which has become a driving force for the local economy.

"We are proud to partner with Jeepin the Coast for the fourth year," said Jenny Levens, Community Affairs Director for the City of Long Beach. "Jeepin the Coast brings thousands of people into our city for a weekend of fun and entertainment. Our local businesses see a huge increase in sales with the Jeepers in town."

Jeepin the Coast got its start in the Friendly City, which has been the major host for the annual event.

"I can't say enough about how the City of Long Beach has gone above and beyond welcoming Jeepin the Coast and their helpfulness in making it happen," Moran said. "It's amazing to watch it come to life and to continue to watch it grow."

Long Beach Mayor George Bass also praised the City's police, Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments, as well as others who showed up to help clean up after the large-scale event.

"We had some different citizens that showed up to help, and I want to thank them. I don't know who you were, but we appreciate y'all getting out there to help get our city put back. It was a very productive weekend, and we'll probably see a little jump in our sales tax because of that, and we appreciate y'all," Bass said.

As for next year, organizers and local leaders have already met to discuss preparations for the 2023 Jeepin the Coast event.

Shifting gears, locals can be on the lookout for a separate, but similar, event, Jeepin for a Cause, scheduled for October 3, starting at Anita's on Highway 90 in Bay St. Louis. A caravan of Jeeps will make their way across the Coast along Highway 90 for a fun day to kick off Cruisin' the Coast.

"Every penny make from Jeepin for a Cause goes to Costumes for a Cause, a non-profit that helps local families battling cancer," Moran said. "This particular ride in October is geared towards those battling breast cancer."

As for Jeepin the Coast, "It's only going to get bigger and better," said Moran, who lives by the event's long-time tagline: "Ready. Set. Let's roll!"



Danielle Lashbrook/Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jeeps throughout the event were "ducked," in shows of admiration of the vehicles on display at this year's event.



Toni Miles

There was plenty of patriotism to go around, along with the thousands of Jeeps that rolled into the Friendly City.



Toni Miles

Merchandise from more than 70 vendors was available at this year's Jeepin the Coast's Vendor Village.



Toni Miles

One Jeep on display guaranteed a "wild ride."



Toni Miles

Local businesses were brimming with Jeepers during the event.





# Youth can still beat summer boredom with open gym program

By Toni Miles

Summer boredom and summertime blues don't have to be the case for local youth. The Long Beach Open Gym program is still available and going strong.

Youth activities include basketball, volleyball, hockey, wall ball, soccer, baseball, softball, dodgeball and more. Parents can sign up their children on a daily or weekly basis. The cost is \$15 a day or \$40 a week, if the parent pays on Monday for the weekly rate. Snacks are available for sale each morning. Lunch and an afternoon snack are provided.

The program will be open until July 15 at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 20253 Daugherty Road, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., with aftercare hours scheduled for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, the program is hosted by the Long Beach Recreation Center.

No advance registration is necessary; parents can take their child(ren) to the Daugherty Road location any morning to sign them up. Program leaders say turnout has been strong so far this year, but there's still plenty of room and time for residents to take advantage of the summertime program.

For more information, call 228-868-7517.

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# THE PASS POST

THE PASS POST

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Publisher  
Clay Mansell

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## Community recycling program started



Special to The Pass Post

The City of Pass Christian has partnered with Chemours to begin an environmentally sound community recycling program to provide opportunities for waste reduction around the city. Spearheaded and led by Chemours' Cyndi Kouba, site services unit manager, Suzanne Gibson, environment, health and safety consultant/engineer, and Robert Mills, environment, health and safety consultant, the goal of the program is to be as ecologically friendly as possible while funding projects that promote and protect natural resources and wildlife. Pass Christian Beautification Director Brad Manus and Susan Putnam of Community Affairs will be working to maintain the program. Residents are encouraged to look for and use the clear canisters in various locations around town. Pictured (l to r) are Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, Putnam, Manus, Kouba, Gibson, Mills, and Pass Christian Animal Control Officer Jimmy Jones and Jango.



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stunning feature of this home is the vaulted great room beamed ceiling with dramatic stone fireplace. The picture windows allow the light to come in, and see views of outside landscaping that shield the home. The updated kitchen w/ stainless appliances opens to a den area that steps down to a charming sunroom. A dining area, 3 bedrooms plus a rec room with closet that could be a 4 th bedroom. Nice size closets and two and a half Vintage bathrooms complete this home. You will have peace of mind knowing the HVAC and appliances are 3 years old or less. The fenced backyard has fabulous shade with a magnolia and picturesque live oak tree. 205 Oak Park is Located just off desirable 2nd Street and minutes to downtown shopping and restaurants. Take a walk down Donlin Street to Scenic and the beach. Wonderful schools all around, and this would make a super family or weekend home.



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# OLA honors Pass seniors with awards



Special to The Pass Post

Sarah 'Abby' Whaley received the Elena Marie Lucore Ambassador Award and the Lindy Callahan Award.



Special to The Pass Post

Ella Taylor received the Chamber of Commerce Award.



Special to The Pass Post

Rylie Moore received the Harry Hull Award.

## The Pass Post

Our Lady Academy (OLA) hosted its Annual Senior Awards Ceremony and recognized Class of 2022 students for their outstanding character, academic, extracurricular and service achievements.

Three Pass Christian students were recognized with awards.

Abby Whaley received the Elena Marie Lorenza Lucore Ambassador Award, an award presented to a member of the Ambassador Club who has shown compassion and kindness, who has inconspicuously performed authentic acts of Christianity, and who has shared her inner joy and laughter with others. Whaley was also recognized with the Lindy Callahan Award, an award given to recognize scholar-athletes by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA). It is awarded to one male and one female athlete in each of the eight MHSAA divisions.

Ella Taylor was recognized with the Chamber of Commerce Award, presented each year for exceptional character and respect of peers and faculty.

Rylie Moore received the Hull Award, a special OLA tradition honoring an outstanding senior as the best all-around athlete at OLA. The award was named after Coach Harry Hull,

who taught for thirty years at OLA and founded, promoted and coached many of the school's athletic teams, and who, together with Waddy LeBourgeois, created the first women's high school soccer team in Mississippi in 1988.

Other award recipients included Jame' Crowder, Mystic Krewe of the Seahorse Hospitality Scholarship; Nina Palazzo, Madison Katherine Conaway Legacy of Kindness Scholarship; Katie Pennell, P.E.O. Chapter U STAR Scholarship and Coast Cares Foundation Scholarship; Suzie Brown, Frigo Orthodontics Scholarship and Dana Hebert Award; Sydney Burrell, OLA Achievement Award; Eugenie Sanders, American Citizenship Award; and Colleen Nolan, American Legion Award.

"The Class of 2022 sits here having established some milestones as a class of forty-one students," said OLA Principal Marilyn Pigott. "These ladies did not quit working during their senior year, but instead, worked hard throughout their senior year. All forty-one members maintained or raised their overall GPA, and the class can boast an overall class GPA of 3.79. I also congratulate you for a scholarship accomplishment of more than \$5.1 million dollars to date. That number translates to an average of over \$125,000 per student. Along with academics, this class has been outstanding in the area of serving others. Overall, the Class of 2022 has completed 5,220 service hours."

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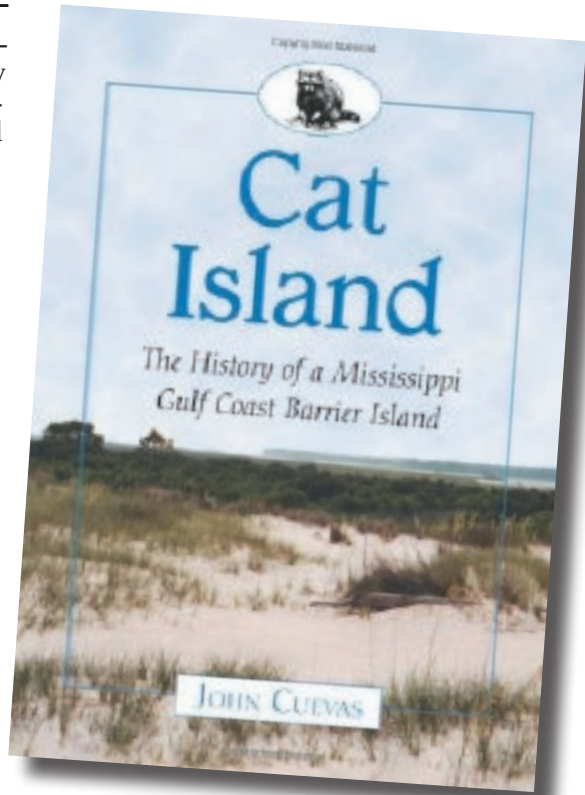


# Historical Society monthly luncheon set for July 25

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Historical Society will hold its July monthly luncheon on Monday, July 25, at noon. Local author John Cuevas will speak about Cat Island and its history. Cuevas, who has a family connection to Cat Island, has spent years researching those family connections to the island and to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He is the author of *Cat Island: The History of a Mississippi Gulf Coast Barrier Island*; *Discovering Cat Island: Photographs and History*; *Secrets of the Old Biloxi Cemetery* and *Growing Up in Gulfport*.

The Historical Society is located at 201 East Scenic Drive. Copies of Cuevas' books will be available for purchase through Pass Christian Books. An optional lunch is offered and starts at noon. Reservations are required for lunch, which is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. To make a reservation for lunch, call 228-452-7254. For more information, call Wendy Allard of the Programs Committee at 228-342-5438.



# City Hall welcomes summer intern



Special to The Pass Post

Jacoby Johnson (right), a sophomore at Pass Christian High School, is working a summer internship at Pass Christian City Hall throughout the month of June. Mayor Jimmy Rafferty has encouraged Johnson to attend weekly meetings of City departments, with the internship having a goal of allowing Johnson to learn the daily workings of City government, engage with the public, and use critical thought processes in tackling challenges. In addition to his summer internship, Johnson recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout for Pass Christian Troop 316. He says he aspires to someday work in the political sector, helping to make communities stronger while providing excellent leadership. Pictured is Johnson working on his Eagle Scout project, which was a water safety class held at the Marsha Barbour Community Center.

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# Pedal in the Pass set for July 14

Special to The Pass Post

The next Pedal in the Pass, a community bicycle dinner ride, will be held on Thursday, July 14. The activity is described as "an easy, no drop bicycle ride" through downtown Pass Christian.

Riders are welcome to follow up the ride with an optional Dutch treat group dinner at one of the downtown restaurants.

All participants must have a bike and a helmet, and all ages are welcome.

Those wishing to participate should meet at the corner of Scenic Drive and Fleitas Avenue, in War Memorial Park in Pass Christian. Weather permitting, the ride begins at 6 p.m.

Pedal in the Pass, a free event, takes place on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, call Richard Allard at 228-452-2453.



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# Banners honor local veterans

By Toni Miles

While hundreds of locals and visitors alike made the most of the long Memorial Day holiday weekend, catching the sun and waves by land or shore, the purpose of the holiday was not forgotten.

Banners hanging throughout downtown Long Beach displaying these heroes, including some who gave their lives in the line of duty, serve as a somber reminder that freedom is not free. The banners are part of the Long Beach Military Heroes Banner Program.

“The City of Long Beach and the Carnival Association of Long Beach are honored to recognize our hometown heroes” said Jenny Levens, Community Affairs Director for the City of Long Beach. “This is a tribute created for our community to honor Long Beach residents and family members who are serving, are veterans who have served, or who gave their life for our country in the United States Armed Forces. We enjoy seeing families taking strolls down our main street to see all our hometown hero banners.”

The Carnival Association of Long Beach will display banners during military holidays to both celebrate and remind the community of the heroes’ dedication to their country. The banners have been, and will be, placed on street lamps along Jeff Davis Avenue.

Each banner includes the veteran’s name, branch of service and years of service. If provided, the banner also includes a photo.

In between display dates, banners can be stored as a courtesy of the Carnival Association of Long Beach and Storage Choice-Long Beach, or the family can choose to keep the banner. The banners will be displayed on a rotational basis.

The initial cost of a banner is \$150, which includes production, installation and removal of the banner.

For more information or to purchase a banner, call 228-860-4000.



Toni Miles

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