

## Railroad Crossing Grade Improvements Project is getting on track

By Toni Miles

The City of Long Beach's ongoing efforts to improve the safety of its railroad crossings is now on track under its Railroad Crossing Grade Improvements Project, and additional help is on the way, thanks to Long Beach's recent designation as a pilot city for the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) project to reduce the number of vehicles getting stuck on railroad tracks, an endeavor that's been four years in the making.

"This railroad project has been an ongoing project and process since four years ago, when we started out on this and made the connection with MDOT, got Neel-Schaffer Engineering; and this just shows you how slow government moves," said Long Beach Mayor George Bass. "Bidding just opened. We awarded bids to Moran Hauling to do the new crossovers."

"What this will involve is the approaches from both sides will be elevated, which means that [on] Railroad Street, you'll be driving along, and you'll have an elevation to come up to...allow you to drive over, even if you're pulling your boat behind you on a trailer," said Bass.

Railroad crossings throughout South Mississippi have been plagued with safe passage issues for cars, trucks and even buses crossing over them, as evidenced by a deadly incident back in March of 2017 when a tour bus carrying dozens of seniors on board got stuck on a Biloxi railroad crossing, resulting in the death of four senior citizens who were unable to exit before an oncoming train collided with the tour bus.

"There's always a hazard there where you have a train coming and a truck or some other big vehicle stuck," Bass said. "They're unable to stop in time. We can't give them enough warning. There could even be some materials [hazardous] involved that could potentially affect our community, affect the land itself."

According to City leaders, all but one of the current railroad crossings in Long Beach still pose safety issues for semi-trucks and other large vehicles, as evidenced by some vehicles getting stuck on the tracks and several accidents on these crossings over the years.

Bass says this project can't get underway and wrapped soon enough and will ultimately lead to safer conditions for those driving over railroad crossings in the area, although he says some vehicles are better off just avoiding the crossings.

"We're going to discourage 18-wheelers, but we're hoping, once this project is done, they will be able to make it across where they won't get hung up, and that's a big thing to us," Bass said.



Toni Miles

According to City officials, the railroad crossing located on Jeff Davis Avenue is the safest crossing in Long Beach. The aim of the City's Railroad Crossing Grade Improvements Project is to enhance and upgrade the safety of all railroad crossings throughout the city.

Work under the Long Beach Railroad Crossing Grade Improvements Project includes earth work, the laying of concrete sidewalks and asphalt pavement, drainage improvements, striping and utility adjustments.

This is the first project of its kind to be initiated by MDOT, and similar plans are underway for Pass Christian and could possibly include other cities. The project is funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Rail Crossing Safety Program and will be administered by MDOT. Project leaders are still working to get, and award, bids to contractors for the railroad crossing improvements.

The City of Long Beach is providing matching funds, and, on August 6, aldermen awarded the Railroad Crossing Improvements Construction contract to Moran Hauling, Inc., with a total bid of \$3,025,047.50.

Now that Moran Hauling has been awarded the bid to work on the project, Bass says if the Railroad Crossing Grade Improvements Project gets under way in the next few weeks, the entire railroad improvement project could be complete within eight to nine months, sometime in late spring or early summer of next year.



Toni Miles

MDOT has chosen Long Beach as a pilot city for a project to reduce the number of vehicles getting stuck on railroad tracks. The City will provide matching funds for the project.

## "Urban Forest" ensures preservation of 32 acres, trails open to public

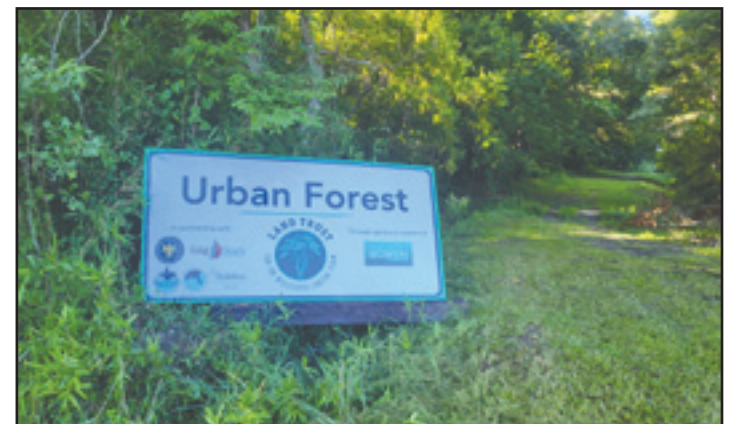
By Toni Miles

Dozens of homeowners in west Long Beach, and even some nature lovers, say they are now breathing a sigh of relief after the recent \$1.9 million purchase of thirty-two acres of undeveloped property located between Markham and Marcie drives, which ensures that the land will remain undeveloped, yet explorable, to the public, due to its new designation as an Urban Forest.

The fate of this tract of land, which stretches from just north of Highway 90 and the beach to the railroad tracks northwards in Long Beach, was up in the air for more than a decade. At one time, it was eyed as the potential site of an RV park, a proposed project that concerned nearby homeowners, who worried over possible increased flooding and decreased home and property values that the proposed RV park could usher into the area. This prompted several homeowners in the area to go door-to-door, discussing their concerns and opposition to the potential development with fellow residents and also City leaders.

Their hard work paid off.

On Monday, July 29, the City of Long Beach held a press conference, alongside leaders with the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain (LTMCP) non-profit group, to share good news with concerned residents, announcing the nearly \$2 million land purchase made possible through the combined efforts of the City of Long Beach, LTMCP, the Angela J Bowen Foundation and seller Chris Gouras with Gouras & Associates, designating the thirty-two acres of undeveloped land to remain undeveloped and to serve



Keith Clark

Nature trails are now open and free to the public to explore thanks to the 32-acre tract of land's recent designation as an Urban Forest.

as an Urban Forest.

"This is a great opportunity for us to bring in ecotourism, so I'm happy for this," said Long Beach Mayor George Bass.

The estimated forty homeowners who live alongside the tract of land,

cont. on page 5



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# History comes to life at 119th birthday celebration

By Toni Miles

From a pirate who is said to have buried his treasure in the area to being dubbed as “The Radish Capital of the World,” the city of Long Beach has a rich history, one that was celebrated by more than one hundred people at the city’s 119th Birthday Celebration at historic Greenvale, formerly known as The Quarles House, originally owned by W.J. Quarles and his family. Long Beach was incorporated officially as a city on August 10, 1905.

Tours of Greenvale and face painting were just some of the activities that were all part of the Friendly City’s 119th birthday celebration, which took place on Saturday, August 10.

“It’s been a privilege and a pleasure for us, first of all, to get the house [Greenvale], and bring it back to what it is,” said Long Beach Mayor George Bass, who was among those in attendance at the celebration. “This is actually the first celebration we’ve had around here since we opened it [Greenvale] up, and people are touring this historic home today.”

History also came to life on stage during a presentation put on by the students of Long Beach teacher Carol Paola, with the young actors dressed up and portraying the founders and other notable characters that contributed to Long Beach’s rich history.

“We’ve been able to bring the Discovery students, under the direction of teacher Carol Paola,” Bass said. “She’s [Paola] has always done a great job sharing with others the history of Long Beach. Today’s presentation has been mainly focused on W.J. Quarles and his family. This is a big part of our history with this house, with our city and our community, and all those who worked to incorporate Long Beach into a city. This event celebrates our city’s rich history.”



Toni Miles

Historic Greenvale’s grounds was the setting for the 119th birthday bash.



Toni Miles

Discovery students, directed by Long Beach teacher Carol Paola, took center stage portraying city founders and other real-life characters who played a role in Long Beach’s history and incorporation as a city on August 10, 1905.

Residents, students, business owners and City officials were on hand to celebrate the milestone event. Bass says while the day was dedicated to celebrating the city’s rich history, there’s much more to look forward to in the future, especially when it comes to the historic home and grounds of Greenvale.



Toni Miles

Close to a hundred people came out to celebrate the city’s birthday.

“It allows us to show the citizens that this [Greenvale] is available here, that we’re able to do things - we’re looking forward to an Easter egg hunt here and having a fall festival here, maybe having different choirs come out here around Christmas and having different lights and decorations,” Bass said.

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# How Long Beach became known as the “Radish Capital of the World”

By Katelyn Petty

Did you know that Long Beach, Mississippi was once known as the Radish Capital of the World? Today, Long Beach is known as the Friendly City, because tourism is the main economic driver.

Originally, Long Beach was named Rosalie, which was the name of a house that coast pioneer John J. McCaughan built on an area of land called Bear Point. Bear Point was shared with Nicholas and Marianne Ladner and is now where Gulf Park Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi sits.

McCaughan's house, Rosalie, was a central location for locals nearby to use as a place to drop off mail and gather supplies. By 1865, Bear Point was renamed Rosalie Village.

By the early 1900s, many people came to Long Beach, a popular place for truck - crop farming and where people had the convenience of using the L&N Railroad for shipping vegetables. In the early 20th century, after the logging industry cleared out most pine tree forests in the area, the agricultural industry started to change. Farmers grew many different types of vegetables; however, growing radishes became increasingly popular.

A type of radish called Long Reds, or the Long Red Radish, which was eventually called the Long Beach Red or the Long Beach Red Radish, was planted and then shipped by train to taverns in the country's north and mid-west areas, where radishes were in great demand.

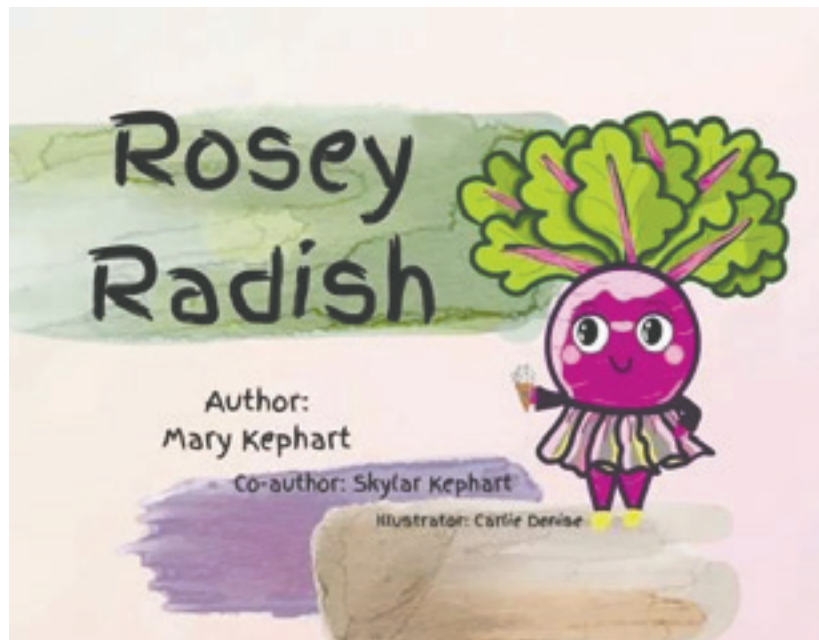
The radishes were commonly served in taverns sliced, dipped in butter, and salted as a popular snack. Impressive numbers of Long Beach Radishes were shipped across the country in as many as three hundred railroad boxcars a year. It

was then that Long Beach became known as the “Radish Capital of the World.” The Long Beach Radishes were so long, they were described as looking like carrots, three to four inches long, and tasting very tart.

By the 1920s, when prohibition was passed, popularity of the Long Beach Radish faded, because transportation costs went down, allowing other production areas to become more feasible. The development of the smaller, round, and sweeter radish called the Button Radish took over in popularity, because they grew faster than the Long Beach Red.

Today, the Button Radish is typically preferred and is often used in stews, soups and many other dishes. Although the popularity of the Long Beach Radish faded by the 1920s, people in the 21st century continued celebrating the history of the Long Beach Radish by hosting a festival on the Long Beach Town Green sponsored by Real Foods Gulf Coast, the Long Beach Farmers Market and the City of Long Beach. Not only did the festival celebrate the history of local radishes, the festival also celebrated the town's history as a truck-farming town.

In 2022, Long Beach welcomed a new restaurant called “Radish” to the heart of downtown. The restaurant celebrates the history and agricultural spirit of the Gulf Coast connecting with the vegetable that put Long Beach, Mississippi, on the map.



The chefs at Radish embrace time-honored techniques, along with traditions, in order to create a menu using ingredients showcasing Southern food.

This year, Mary Kephart and her daughter Skylar, both Long Beach residents, wanted to write a children's book to teach about the history of Long Beach. Mary says she specifically wanted to teach local children that even small towns like Long Beach can have a large impact on a national level.

The idea for a book sparked when Skylar wrote a paper for an English class at the Univer-

sity of Southern Mississippi on the history of Long Beach's library. Mary and Skylar both agreed it would be great to bring Long Beach's history to the younger generation in a children's book. Before writing the first book, Skylar decided to make it into a four-part series, with the first book being called *Rosey Radish*.

*Rosey Radish* explains the history of how Long Beach became known as the Radish Capital of the World. The series will follow Rosey as she travels and meets other famous fruits and vegetables, learning their history along the way.

“We are hoping with each release that the series will bring historical information to our young readers,” said Mary. “While writing the *Rosey Radish* series, we learned a lot of history in other places and

what those places are commonly known for.”

For example, St. Bernard Parish, just south of New Orleans, Louisiana, is known for the Creole tomato; Georgia honors the history of their state fruit, the peach; and Idaho has a state vegetable, the potato.

The next book coming out in the series is *Theo the Creole Tomato*, expected by the end of the summer.

Mary said the character Rosey inspired her to continue writing books for the series saying, “I will probably always have a fondness for Rosey and the first book, *Rosey Radish*.”

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# LB Excellence in Education awards scholarships

Photos special to Long Beach Breeze



Shaniece Chapple



Brianna Dunning



Jessica James



Jayla LaGarde



Keaira Smith

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Excellence in Education Foundation has funded five \$1,000 scholarships to 2024 Long Beach High School (LBHS) graduating seniors. To be eligible for consideration, applicants had to possess strong leadership skills, academic achievement, strong work ethic and community involvement.

The 2024 LBSD Scholarship – Honoring Fred Walker award recipients were Shaniece Chapple, Brianna Dunning, Jessica James, Jayla LaGarde and Keaira Smith.



Chapple plans to attend the University of South Alabama and pursue a degree in exercise science. She has been very active in both dance and softball during her high school career.

Dunning plans to attend Louisiana State University and pursue her degree in performing arts. During high school, her interests included both dance and art.

James plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue a degree in performing arts: theatre and dance. During high school, she was active in dance and the theatre arts program.

LaGarde plans to attend the University of Mississippi and study broadcast journalism. At LBHS, she was a cheerleader and very active in the broadcast journalism program, serving the program in many capacities.

Smith plans to attend Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and pursue a career in dental hygiene. During high school, Smith's interests included business and marketing.

The foundation was formed to support the Long Beach School District by supplementing programs for staff and students. During the 2023-24 school year, the foundation has also funded teacher grants and sponsored several staff recognition programs.

The group's efforts are made possible through donations and fundraising. For more information regarding the foundation, contact them at [LBExcellenceInEducation@gmail.com](mailto:LBExcellenceInEducation@gmail.com), or tax-deductible donations may be made at <https://bit.ly/LB-EEF>.

## Hill awarded accounting scholarship

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Ebony Hill of Long Beach is one of only two University of Southern Mississippi (USM) accounting students to be awarded a prestigious Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) scholarship, equating to \$30,000 of external scholarship funding.

Hill, a Long Beach native, is entering her senior year this fall. Following graduation, she plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree in accounting.

"This scholarship means a lot to me," said Hill. "It will significantly impact my college experience, and it inspires me to share my story about the positives of going to college and pursuing an accounting degree. I want to help overcome the stigma that accounting is boring by sharing my experiences."

Since 2011, the PCAOB has administered a scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate accounting students enrolled in accredited U.S. colleges and universities. The PCAOB Scholars Program is mandated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and is funded through monetary penalties collected as part of PCAOB enforcement actions.

The PCAOB Scholars Program seeks to benefit students who are likely to become auditors and to make a difference to students who might otherwise choose a different career path.

The second recipient of a PCAOB scholarship at USM is Olivia Boleware, from Bassfield, Mississippi.

"We are extremely grateful for the PCAOB scholarships awarded to our deserving students," said Dr. Blaise Sonnier, director of the School of Accountancy at USM. "These scholarships will have a meaningful impact on Olivia and Ebony's ability to pursue their dream of earning the academic credentials necessary to pursue their CPA license."



Special to Long Beach Breeze  
Ebony Hill

tions.

## New car show debuts Sept. 21

By Toni Miles

New this year, and just a few weeks before the start of Cruisin' the Coast, the Friendly City will be warming up for the big event in mid-September with an open car, truck and Jeep show in the downtown area.

Sponsored by the Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB) Team Sirrat-Brown 2024-25 non-profit group, this inaugural car show is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 21, at the southwest corner of Jeff Davis Avenue and 5th Street from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vehicle registration costs \$25 and takes place from 8 a.m. to noon. Dash plaques will be given to the first one hundred registered vehicles.

An awards presentation is set to take place at 2 p.m. at the event. Five specialty awards, two King/Queen picks and awards for Top 25 Cars, Top 10 Trucks and Top 10 Jeeps will be recognized.

There will also be raffles and live music. The public is invited to attend and can bring their own canopies or umbrellas to set up a spot at the show.

All proceeds from the show will benefit CALB, which provides donations to Catholic education and several other charities.



cont. from front page

## "Urban Forest" ensures preservation of 32 acres, trails open to public

many of whom were forced to rebuild their homes after Hurricane Katrina, say they are pleased with the news.

"We are grateful for this wonderful outcome to an eight-plus-year journey to ensure this property remains a natural habitat," said Brian Grewe, spokesperson for the nearby homeowners.

The homeowners aren't the only ones who will benefit from the recent purchase and newly-designated Urban Forest area. Leaders with the Biloxi-based LTMCP non-profit say now the property will remain a natural habitat for many species of migratory birds, wetlands and native trees, and will also help preserve the air and water quality in the area.

"An urban forest is just a special little piece of land right in the middle of a city," said Sara Guice, executive director of LTMCP. "This particular forest land just happened to have a trail meandering through it that is open to the public. It's a beautiful piece of property."

According to LTMCP, the land is the only remaining undeveloped tract of mixed pine hardwood forest that extends from the beach to the railroad tracks between the Bay of St. Louis and Biloxi Bay.

Signage pointing to the new Urban Forest, located north of the beach and just east of the Long Beach-Pass Christian city line, have already been set up along Highway 90, guiding the way to nature trails now open to the public to explore from sunrise to sunset.

Those with LTMCP also plan to conduct restoration work sometime next year, getting rid of invasives, such as non-native plants and other living organisms that thrive in areas where they don't naturally live and can potentially cause economic or environmental harm to human, animal or plant health. There are also plans to put in bathrooms and parking spaces in the area.

While locals, including those with the LTMCP, the City of Long Beach, Harrison County and others in Mississippi, will be responsible for overseeing the Urban Forest, it was a private foundation that made the \$1.9 million property purchase possible. LTMCP expressed interest in the property, and the property owner was open to selling the property to the Mississippi non-profit. The deal was finally sealed when a conservation-minded donor, the Angela J Bowen Conservancy Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, located in Olympia, Washington, provided financial support for the purchase of the property by LTMCP.

Listed as a private foundation that acquires and maintains real estate for nature conservancy purposes, this newly-designated Urban Forest in Long Beach isn't the first time the Angela J Bowen Conservancy Foundation has provided support to fund Mississippi projects. In 2023, the Foundation allocated a combined total of \$50,000 to help control feral and domestic populations for wildlife habitat enhancements through the Friends of Animal Shelters in both Hancock and Jackson counties.



# Long Beach High School band holds fundraiser

By Toni Miles

The first quarter of the Long Beach School District's school year isn't even over yet, but members of the Long Beach High School (LBHS) band are starting the new year on the right note.

Members of the band traded their trombones, flutes and other instruments for buckets of soap and scrub brushes, at least for a day, to participate in a fundraising car wash. Proceeds from the event will help fund LBHS band activities.



Dom Fimiano

Pictured are Audrey Keeton, Callie Salazar and Samantha Forcier.



Dom Fimiano

Pictured (l to r) are, seated: Ethan Bulot, Charles Rodriguez, Adrian Reed and Audrey Keeton; and standing: Sara Olson, Jakayla Trotter, Brayden Dominick, Issac Ladner, Jackson Trout, Jayden Hunt, Alyssa Johnson, Kali Hartnack, Lily Russell and Callie Salazar.

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# American Legion Post 1995 installs new officers, names award recipients

Photos special to Long Beach Breeze

By Toni Miles



New officers for the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 are (l to r) Executive Committee Member Jerry Larson, Finance Officer Wendy Griffioen, Adjutant Kevin McKenzie, 2nd Vice Commander James Hoying, 1st Vice Commander Tina O'Shields, American Legion Post Officers Installer for American Legion Department Southern Area Vice Commander Mark Herrington, Commander Ray Chavaree and Executive Committee Member Michael Griffioen.



Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal (left) accepts the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award on behalf of recipient Jeremy Castillon. The award was presented by American Legion Post 1995's new Commander Ray Chavaree.



Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie (left) accepts the Firefighter of the Year Award on behalf of firefighter Cody Carroll. The award was presented by American Legion Post 1995's new Commander Ray Chavaree.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995's 2024-25 officers are (l to r): American Legion Auxiliary Officers Installer and American Legion Auxiliary District President Charlotte Tartavouille, Trustee Stacey Pelkey, Chaplain Brenda Bellamy, Treasurer Valerie Brockway, Secretary Jenna Brockway, 1st Vice President Wendy Griffioen and President Margaret Levens.

The Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 held its annual Installment of Officers ceremony in Long Beach on Friday, August 9. The Post commended the service of outgoing officers and outgoing Commander William "Bill" Moran, who served in the role as American Legion Commander from August of 2022 to July of this year. It also formally installed the Long Beach post's new 2024-25 officers and announced Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year awardees.

Ray Chavaree is now serving as Commander of the post. Other leadership includes Finance Officer Wendy Griffioen, Adjutant Kevin McKenzie, 1st Vice Commander Tina O'Shields, 2nd Vice Commander James Hoying, American Legion Post Officers Installer for the American Legion Department Southern Area Vice Commander Mark Herrington and Executive Committee members Michael Griffioen and Jerry Lawson.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995's 2024-25 officers were also installed at the event. They include American Legion Auxiliary Officers Installer and American Legion Auxiliary District President Charlotte Tartavouille, Trustee Stacey Pelkey, Chaplain Brenda Bellamy, Treasurer Valerie Brockway, Secretary Jenna Brockway, 1st Vice President Wendy Griffioen and President Margaret Levens.

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1995 2024-25 officers were also installed, including Historian Ron Merrill, Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Larson, Sons of the American Legion Officers Installer and Department SAL Detachment Commander Terry Earl Tartavouille, Adjutant and Financial Officer Charles Martinek and Commander-Elect Kevin McKenzie.

Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal accepted the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award on behalf of recipient Jeremy Castillon.

Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie accepted the Firefighter of the Year Award on behalf of firefighter Cody Carroll.

Long Beach Mayor George Bass, as well as Boys State and Girls State delegates, were on hand at the event. The Post also celebrated twenty-nine years of service to veterans, military and the local community.



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1995 2024-25 officers installed were (l to r): Historian Ron Merrill, Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Larson, Sons of the American Legion Officers Installer and Department SAL Detachment Commander Terry Earl Tartavouille, Adjutant and Financial Officer Charles Martinek, and Commander-Elect Kevin McKenzie.

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## Tickets on sale for 2024 Toast to the Coast

Long Beach Breeze

Toast to the Coast, an annual gala organized solely by volunteers from Coast Episcopal School, will bring signature dining, art and entertainment to the area on October 18.

The autumn event's theme for its 41st year, "Toast Du Soleil," will lead to a festive, jubilant atmosphere for attendees, who will celebrate an evening of entertainment on Scenic Drive in Pass Christian. The celebration will begin with a 6 p.m. Patron Party, with the main event beginning at 7 p.m.

More than six hundred guests are expected to attend Toast Du Soleil, which will serve as the major fundraising event for Coast Episcopal School (CES) of Long Beach. This year's coordinators and committee chairmen are CES parents Patrick Sanders, Liz Seal and Amanda Wood.

The very first Toast to the Coast was produced in 1983. Ten restaurants participated in the first year, which, in comparison to the current day gala, resembled a backyard party compared to the glittering event of today,

which features huge and lavish tents, an entertainment stage and themed decor throughout the gala grounds.

All profits from the event support the educational experience of the students of Coast Episcopal School, which serves children ages eighteen months through sixth grade from its campus at 5065 Espy Avenue in Long Beach. The twenty-five-acre campus also includes the Gail Keenan Art Center, which houses the school's art and music programs and utilizes its signature gallery for professional shows and workshops, as well as the Seemann Makerspace, which provides modern technology tools to integrate STEAM-based classroom curriculum into practical, hands-on experiences.

Tickets can be purchased at ToastTickets.org. Couples may purchase two Patron and Main Event tickets for \$500; individual Main Event Tickets are available for \$150 each. Attendees must be 21 years of age to attend. Sponsorship opportunities are also available by contacting Amy Egolf at 228-452-9442, ext 102.



## Tickets available for Fall into Christmas luncheon and silent auction

Long Beach Breeze

On Saturday, September 14, P.E.O. Chapter B of Long Beach will host its third annual "Fall into Christmas Ladies' Luncheon and Silent Auction."



Special to Long Beach Breeze  
Pictured at the 2023 Fall into Christmas event are (l to r) Mary Westmoreland, LeeAnne Bryant, Susan Levens, Linda Carden and Belinda Tipton.

The luncheon will be held at the CLC at the First Methodist Church Long Beach. Doors will open at 11 a.m. for the silent auction, and a hot meal will be served at noon.

The social event serves as Chapter B's major fundraiser to support not only the funding of scholarships and grants for women, but also the group's community projects.

Since its inception in 1869, P.E.O. has served as an international philanthropic educational organization working to advance the educational opportunities of women through scholarships, grants and loans. Chapter B-Long Beach was chartered in March 1930.

Tickets for the event, which are \$20, will be available for purchase through September 6. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Grace at 228-341-5026 or Kathy at 228-861-0131.

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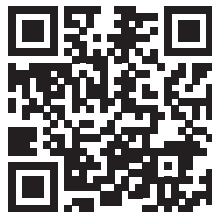
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## Taste of Long Beach set for September 26



Special to Long Beach Breeze



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Beverages of all sorts, including fine wines, are all part of the offerings with a ticket to this year's Taste of Long Beach fundraising event set for Thursday, September 26th at the Long Beach Senior Center.

The 15th Annual Taste of Long Beach fundraising event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 26 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Long Beach Senior Center.

By Toni Miles

It's the perfect recipe – the finest food, fine wines, liquor and beverages the area has to offer to raise money to fund teacher and small business grants as well as scholarships for high school seniors in the area.

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is setting the table for the 15th Annual Taste of Long Beach event, but time is running out to purchase tickets online for one of the Friendly City's most anticipated annual events.

Organizers say something suitable to just about anyone's palette will be on the menu at this year's fundraising event, featuring fine wines, liquor, beverages and brews, as well as tantalizing samples of food, dishes and desserts from the most popular restaurants and eateries in the area.

Tickets are now on sale online for this year's Taste of Long Beach event, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 26, at the Long Beach Senior Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 each online at [www.MS CoastChamber.com](http://www.MS CoastChamber.com) before the event. Tickets will cost \$40 at the door on the date of the actual event. Only those ages 21 and older are allowed to attend.

## Library cards do more than check out books

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Did you know that a library card can be used for more than just checking out books or other materials from your library? It also gives you access to:

- **Computers** in all areas of the library with printer capabilities,
- **eBook programs**, like Boundless and TumbleBooks,
- **Searchable educational databases** for various age groups offered through the Mississippi Library Commission, and
- **The ability to log into your personal library account** to control things like reserves, renewals, updates to your information, and so much more.

If you need to replace a lost card, there is a fee of \$2 to do so. Library cards issued to patrons for the first time are free of charge. For more information on how to get a new card, update your existing card, or any of the above mentioned items, please call the library at 228-863-0711.

Preschool story time will continue to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

The library will be closed for Labor Day from Saturday, August 31, through Monday, September 2, and will reopen on Tuesday, September 3, at 9 a.m.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will have their first meeting of the 2024-25 year on Monday, September 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the main wing of the library. Membership forms for joining the Friends group can be found on the library's website or at the circulation desk.

There are no meetings planned in September for the Long Beach Board of Trustees.

As a reminder to everyone, Long Beach Public Library's hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. On Saturdays, we hold our book sale in the main meeting room. Prices are ten cents each for magazines, twenty-five cents each for paperbacks, and fifty cents each for hardbacks, audiobooks and movies.

For more information about any of our events or offerings, please give us a call at 228-863-0711. The library is located at 209 Jeff Davis Avenue.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. As always, thank you for your patronage, and stay safe!



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## Pass Christian Fire Dept. graduates Class 210



*Special to The Pass Post*

Firefighters Caleb Counselman and Samuel Phillips of the Pass Christian Fire Department have graduated Class 210 from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson, Mississippi.

This intense seven-week course

includes online, classroom, and hands-on instruction in the areas of fire behavior, fire suppression, rescue, incident command, hazardous materials, and other fire related topics.

The Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney and Academy Executive Director Kelly Elliott conclude that firefighters, through their newly acquired skills and knowledge, will be an asset to the fire departments they represent.

"We are confident the immediate impact and positive difference these firefighters will make, not only within their departments but also in their communities, will truly be substantial," said Director Elliott.

Visit us at  
[LongBeachBreeze.com](http://LongBeachBreeze.com)  
for more Pass Area  
news and events!

## Family STEM program explores the moon

*Special to The Pass Post*

Four upcoming sessions in the coastal area will offer area families the opportunity to explore the moon and how it will guide the way to future space exploration.

The INFINITY Science Center's "Moon Lights the Way" STEM Family Program, a hands-on program for families with children ages seven to eleven, will be presented in partnership with the Harrison County Library System and NASA.

There will be four opportunities to participate in the program, with an offering planned for October 8, from 10 a.m. until noon, at the Pass Christian Public Library.

Other programs include September 14 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Orange Grove Public Library, October 5 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Margaret Sherry Memorial Library, and January 13, 2025, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Saucier Children's Library.

Admission to the program is free, but registration is required. To reserve a spot, complete the form found at [bit.ly/3MhofXV](http://bit.ly/3MhofXV).

For more information, call 228-539-0110.

## One Book, One Pass events continue in September

*The Pass Post*

With the 2024 One Book, One Pass project bringing the city together to read *The Vaster Wilds* over the past several months, book discussions and special programs are continuing through the culmination of this year's program on October 22, with an author presentation by Lauren Groff.

On Thursday, September 5, the Pass Christian Public Library, the Pass Christian Garden Club and the One Book One Pass Community Read Project are partnering to host a free garden program on "Foraging from Nature" with Dr. Mark Lasalle. Dr. Lasalle will speak about eating from nature using the wild foods all around at 1 p.m. that Thursday at the library.

On Thursday, September 17, a "men only" book discussion is planned at Pass Cigars. The Men Only Cigar Chat will start at 7 p.m. and is free. Light refreshments will be served, and beer and cigars will be available for purchase. Pass Cigars is located at 124 Davis Avenue.

On Thursday, September 26, Dr. Deanne Stephens with the School of Coastal Resiliency at USM Gulf Coast will present a special program, "Jamestown and Colonial Virginia." The presentation will be held at 301 East Scenic Drive in Pass Christian beginning at 6:30 p.m.

No registration is required for any of the events, and all are free.

Those who have not had the chance to read *The Vaster Wilds* can find copies available for check out at the Pass Christian Library or for purchase at Pass Christian Books. For more information, contact the library at 228-452-4596.



## Save the date for fall butterfly events

*The Pass Post*

The end of September and start of October will not only begin the process of ushering in the fall season, but will also offer the opportunity for local residents to enjoy two consecutive weekends of butterfly-related events in Pass Christian.

From 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on September 28, area residents of all ages are invited to join in the third annual **Butterfly Count** for southwest Harrison County. The following Saturday, October 5, brings the **Butterflies in the Pass Monarch Festival** to War Memorial Park from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Those interested in participating in the butterfly count are asked to pre-register and bring a \$3 registration fee with them to meet in front of the Pass Christian Library at 111 Hiern Avenue at 9:30 a.m. on September 28.

On Saturday, October 5, Butterflies in the Pass and the Pass Market will fill War Memorial Park with all things fluttery. Featuring speakers, educational exhibits, butterfly-themed items for sale, hands-on activities and a walking parade for both humans and furry friends in butterfly attire, the free family festival will kick off at 10 a.m., with exhibits closing at 1 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, Butterflies in the Pass will be moved to the Pass Christian library.

For more information about the butterfly count, call Jennifer Buchanan at 228-860-5763. Email [JenBuck3@gmail.com](mailto:JenBuck3@gmail.com) to register to participate.

For more information about Butterflies in the Pass, call the library at 228-452-4596, or follow Butterflies in the Pass on Facebook or Instagram.

## Historical Society plans two September programs

*The Pass Post*

The Pass Christian Historical Society will offer two programs during the month of September.

On Monday, September 9, the group will have an evening meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., and will welcome as speaker Dr. Ned Randolph, who will talk about the history of the Mississippi River delta. Dr. Randolph is the author of the book, *Muddy Thinking in the Mississippi River Delta: A Call for Reclamation*. The program is free and open to the public, and no registration is needed.

On Monday, September 23, at noon, the Society will hold a luncheon featuring speakers Dr. Jennifer Mack, bioarchaeologist, and Lida Gibson, both from the Asylum Hill Project. Their presentation will cover the latest discoveries at Asylum Hill, as well as information from similar bioarchaeological projects.

Lunch will be offered and starts at noon. The cost for lunch is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Lunch reservations should be made by no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 20 by calling 228-452-7254 or emailing [info@PassHistory.org](mailto:info@PassHistory.org).

The Historical Society is located at 201 East Scenic Drive in Pass Christian and welcomes new members.

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## Art gallery opens in Long Beach



*Keith Clark*

The Fifth World Gallery, located at 528 Klondyke Road, Suite E, recently celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Nora Childers recently celebrated a ribbon cutting for The Fifth World Gallery, located at 528 Klondyke Road, Suite E. The Fifth World Gallery is a woman-owned and operated art gallery created by Childers. Located in the heart of the community, the gallery showcases a diverse collection of traditional and contemporary art from emerging and established artists.

Childers says the mission of her gallery is to provide a platform for artists to showcase their work and connect with a wider audience. She believes art should be accessible to everyone and strives to make art buying as enjoyable as possible. She says there are amazing art galleries in nearby cities, but hers is the only one in the Long Beach city limits.

Childers will exhibit artists along the Gulf coast, among others. She says one artist from Medina, Tennessee, "makes the trek down periodically with his new work and prints." She says interest from Gulf coast artists "has been phenomenal," so she plans to provide quarterly rotations to allow more artists to display their work.

"During my teenage years, I left the Gulf Coast and grew up in the art and film scene in Memphis," said Childers. "Along with five other artists, we opened Indie Artists' Market, which began within Indie Acting Studio in Bartlett, Tennessee, then later on Madison Avenue in Memphis."

"Missing family, the Gulf Coast and my art, I knew opening a simple art gallery is what I wanted," said Childers. "So, hello Fifth World Gallery, in Long Beach, Mississippi!"

Artists commissioning their art at the gallery will have exhibitions and events to grow their following, allowing them to invite their family and friends and to network with art enthusiasts. The gallery includes crafters' items, such as sculpture and jewelry, as well as paintings and other mediums of art.

For more information, visit [www.FifthWorldGallery.com](http://www.FifthWorldGallery.com), follow the gallery on Facebook, or call 228-215-1158.



*Keith Clark*

Pictured (l to r) at the ribbon cutting are artists Jason Lykins and Alex Keaton, Long Beach Mayor George Bass, owner and gallerist Nora Childers, and artists Josh Arnold, Darnell Nicovich and Michelle Duplichien.



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## Girls 12U All-Stars recognized as champs



Toni Miles

Long Beach Mayor George Bass presented the Long Beach Girls 12U All-Stars Recreation Team with a City proclamation recognizing the team's championship title. Players include Kendal Cooper, Reesa Gross, Mia Highton, Presley Huff, Ava League, Aubrey Leger, Daelynn Loflin, Arianna Naquin, Auna Powell, Sophie Skinner and Caroline Worthington. Coaches for the team are Jessica Gross, Jarred Skinner and Jordan Tillman.

By Toni Miles

Members of the Long Beach Girls 12U All-Stars Softball Recreational Team are no strangers to big crowds, and the August 6 Board of Aldermen's meeting at City Hall was no exception, when Long Beach Mayor George Bass and City aldermen recognized the girls' softball team for winning the title of Long Beach Invitational Champions.

The team defended home turf, playing six games in the blistering heat to bring home the gold at the Long Beach Invitational Softball tournament June 21-22, held at the Long Beach girls softball fields on Klondyke Road. More than twenty-nine teams from ten cities participated in the tournament.

Coaches, parents and, of course, team players, were on hand for the presentation. The winners also took the opportunity to show off their championship rings and trophies.

## 10U All Stars named champs



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach 10U All Stars competed in the Cal Ripken Southeast Regional in Starkville the week of July 18 through July 21, where the team placed fourth overall and first in the iron bracket. They finished the tournament with a six in one record. They played in the championship game on July 21, where they went into the bottom of the sixth inning trailing by one run. They managed to tie the game with a sacrifice bunt, so, with runners on first and third and two outs, their lead off hitter, Jake Bertucci, came up to the plate. With a two-ball, two-strike count, he hit a flyball over the left fielder's head to score the winning run. Members of the team include Banks Barrett, Jake Bertucci, Gio DeSalvo, Colby Cinhaus, Alexander Espinal, Cohen Fowler, Briggs May, Blake McGrew, Levi Mitchell, Kaisen Oneil, Gabe Peters and bat boy Damien Espinal. Not pictured are Nikolai Seals and Colton Morris. Coaches are Nick Fowler, Bryon Babin and Mike Taylor.

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