

# El Dorado Realty, SoCal

## NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

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“Celebrating over 35 years of service”

September 2013



### FROM THE DESK OF RON BEELER

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Most often, it takes a special event in the neighborhood, to get me started on the monthly newsletter, Carl hadn't even finished delivering the August one when this month's motivator came up. It was the Ground Breaking Ceremony for our El Dorado Park Dog Park. This project has been long in the heart of Mary Matthiensen and "The Friends of El Dorado Dog Park." There was a good size group in attendance, almost doubled when you consider the dogs that accompanied their "Friends". Vice Mayor Robert Garcia and our City Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske kicked off the event by introducing special guests in the audience and then went on to talk about the plans for this, the sixth

Dog Park in Long Beach. The Park itself will be located just to the east of the El Dorado Park Ranger Entrance building, north off Spring, across from the Nature Center and Animal Shelter. The Park will encompass 1.5-acres of park land, divided between large and small dogs. Water stations, as well as Waste stations will be provided.



Many in attendance, with dogs.



Garcia & Schipske working with others as a team.

Funding is still needed to see this project through to completion in 2014, watch for special events in the near future. The first one on the horizon will be the Holiday Bone-Anza planned for November 17, 2013 at the Good

Neighbor Park, 2800 Studebaker Rd from 10am to 4pm. There will be snow, Christmas Music, live DJ, Silent Auction and Raffle prizes, plus gourmet food trucks. If you can't make it and want to support this popular fund raising event, send contributions to FEDDP at PO Box 8620, Long Beach, CA 90808.

While on the subject of events, here's one I hope our neighbors will not miss. Sandi and I are hosting a Meet & Greet for Gerrie Schipske, September 15, Sunday from 1:00pm till... This is your chance for a one on one with our Councilwoman running for the Mayor's Office. I am supporting Gerrie because of the many accomplishments she has been responsible for while in office. These have not been easy years, with Budget constraints truly limiting proactive maintenance in our neighborhood, but Gerrie has fought hard to get our fair share of the budget.

Please consider this newsletter your invitation to drop by and share your thoughts and concerns about where our city is headed.

I met recently with Doug Haubert, our current City Prosecutor, he shared with me this high priority program, which he has successfully initiated in Long Beach. The "Gang Prevention Strategy", is a

program set up and supported, by the City Prosecutors office.



In the past, most Prosecutors worked mainly to prosecute criminals, but Doug has had the vision to step out and proactively try to stem Gang Violence with a three prong program. Working with police and school officials to identify “at-risk” students, especially those already involved with gangs and take all measures possible, to provide alternate paths for their lives. The “Injunction” has been an important tool in breaking the backs of gang membership. When an Injunction is placed on an individual, if that person is caught breaking the rules of the injunction he, or she, is immediately eligible for arrest and prosecution. One interesting aspect of this action is the relief some youths in this position feel, when an injunction is in place, it is an understood/valid excuse to ignore gang members and relieves some of the peer pressure exerted by the gangs.

How important is this to Long Beach? Records show LA County has more gang members than any County in the USA. Further the FBI estimates that 48% of all violent crime in the nation is gang related. The Mexican Mafia has become an increasingly powerful force in our City. This most likely explains why we are hearing so

much about car break-ins and theft in our once quiet neighborhoods.

Before Doug Haubert came to his office, a program of injunctions was in place, created by a dedicated police officer and gang expert, Chris Zamora. The strategy that Zamora built into the injunction, now referred to as “Long Beach Model” or “Anti-Organized Gang (AOG) Method” is becoming recognized as one of the most innovative techniques to combat insurgent gang activity in the State. Working together, the City Prosecutor’s Office and the Long Beach Police Department, originated and crafted injunctions using the AOG method, which required hours of work to draft declarations and court pleadings, for the program to be a success.

This new strategy targeted only the most active gang members. Careful screening ensures that police are targeting only the most dangerous gang members and protects against others being swept into the injunction erroneously.

This was the **first prong**, called “**Protection**” is working as evidenced by the following results; In 2009 gang member arrests, through the AOG, totaled 35, this last year there were 269 arrests. Gang related shootings and murders have dropped yearly, despite the early release of inmates from our State prisons.

The **second prong** of this strategy, “**Intervention**” is the focus the City Prosecutors office is taking toward at-risk youth, as mentioned earlier. It focuses on observing our streets during school hours. Gangs recruit

children from the age of 12 to join the gang. According to the California Department of Education, “Truancy is the most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquent behavior.”

The City Prosecutor’s Office met with officials at Long Beach Unified School District, juvenile law enforcement officers, juvenile court judges and others to discuss how to combat truancy. What resulted was the launch of “Parent Accountability and Chronic Truancy” (PACT) Program.

The PACT program uses as a tool a State law providing that parents can be prosecuted if their children in grades K-8\* become chronic truants by missing more than 10-% of school days without an excuse. The School District refers parents to the Prosecutor’s office after they have exhausted efforts of intervention and counseling. The Prosecutor’s office holds private conferences with the parents and their truant children, where LBPD and school officials are present. In only a few instances have truancy problems escalated to the point of having to file a criminal case with the courts.

Examples of the success of this prong are the attendance records of PACT students for the following years;

2010-11	Before PACT	20.3-%
	After PACT	6.0-%
2011-12	Before PACT	16.0-%
	After PACT	9.3-%

The “**Transition**” is the **third prong** of the strategy, works with gang members ready to leave gang life. Gang Injunctions can be permanent, but this prong

allows individuals willing to accomplish four things, the opportunity to have the injunction removed. The first requirement is to attend school or work full-time, 2) Secure two Community Sponsors, 3) Perform community service, and 4) Show they are disaffiliated from the gang.

Gang members have begun to approach the city Prosecutor (typically through an intermediary, such as a clergy or community sponsor) to apply for the Opt Out Program. For the first time, some of them see hope for getting on with their lives. Prosecutors and gang officers are even assisting with mentoring, tattoo removal, and educational opportunities.

I felt it particularly important to include the foregoing information in our newsletter, because of the personal lack of understanding about the Prosecutor's Office in past elections. Often I have voted without a clear and convincing reason for picking one candidate over another. I know I will feel much more confident this next election in choosing Doug Haubert as our continuing City Prosecutor.

**City Prosecutor**  
**City of Long Beach**  
**(562) 570-5600**  
**FAX (562) 570-7140**

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**Ron Beeler**  
El Dorado Realty So Cal  
(562) 243-0645 or 429-0686

**MEET & GREET  
GERRIE SCHIPSKE**

September 15, 2013  
1:00 pm Sunday

On our Front Patio at the  
Home of Ron & Sandi  
Beeler

3422 Studebaker Rd  
(562) 429-0686  
Ron@RonBeeler.com

**5<sup>th</sup> District**

**GOOD NEIGHBOR  
FESTIVAL & FAMILY  
PICNIC**

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>,  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Good Neighbor Park  
2800 Studebaker Rd

**Gerrie Schipske for Mayor**



Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske is a native of Long Beach and has taken care of the 5<sup>th</sup> Council District since 2006. She also served as an elected member of the Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees. She is a registered nurse practitioner, attorney and faculty member at CSULB.

Gerrie is widely known for her efforts to make Long Beach City government more open, transparent and accountable. Her work received praise in the State of Transparency 2013 report published by California Forward. Gerrie was voted as the Best Elected Local Official by readers of The Beachcomber.

Her "45 Reform Measures to Make Long Beach a Better City" for All of Us, are the most comprehensive package of ideas to "open up Long Beach" ever offered by an elected official.

El Dorado Realty SoCal

Proudly Presents:



**3215 Studebaker Rd.**

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El Dorado Realty SoCal  
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Long Beach, CA 90807  
(562) 243-0645

**COYOTE ALERT**

Watch out for your pets,  
Evidence of cat attacks on  
Roxanne, a couple more  
missing, and neighbors  
have spotted Coyotes in  
the area! "8/23/2013"