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# GRUNION G

LONG BEACH'S FAVORITE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## Money Found To Start Work On Bike Path

By Kurt Helin  
Urban Editor

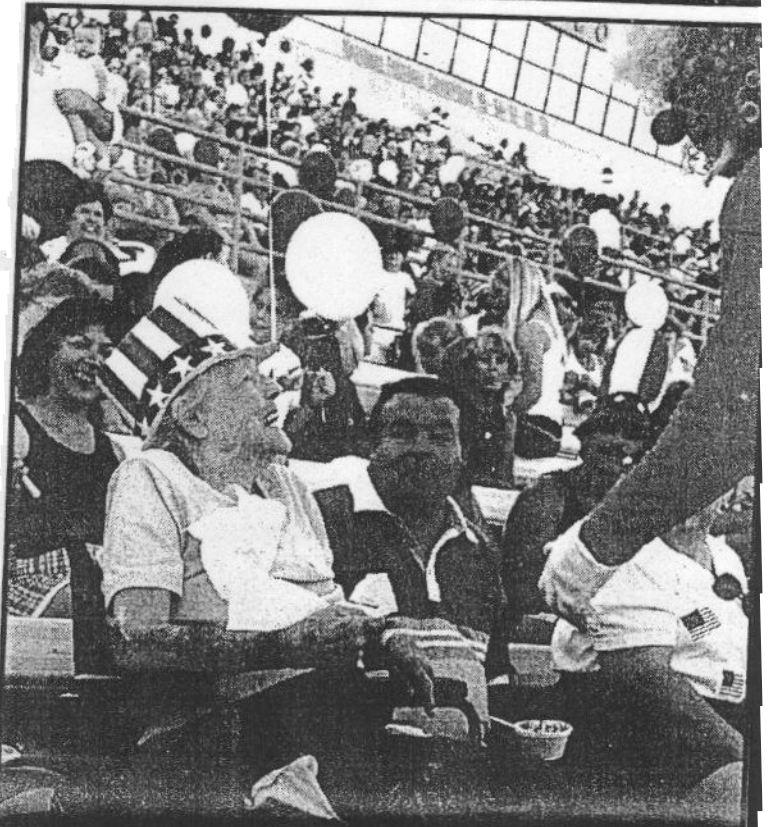
Money to redirect the bike path under the Belmont Pier has been approved and design work is expected to begin in October.

Last week, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) approved \$200,000 for relocation of the bike path. City officials are still looking for another \$150,000 in grant money to complete the plan.

What Parks and Recreation officials hope to have is a split in the path near the pier, said Dennis Eschen, superintendent of parks planning and development. A new path will veer off from the current one just west of the Belmont Pier, go under the pier itself, stay on the ocean side of the Belmont Plaza Pool, then reconnect with the existing path.

Because the new under-the-pier path will flood during some high tides, a modified version of the existing path will remain. It

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**FOURTH FUN.** A clown entertains Hazel Calnek while her son, Ken, looks on at the Veterans Stadium Fourth of July show. Calnek said his mother, who is 91, seldom leaves the nursing home, but always attends the Long Beach Firefighters' Independence Day show. —Gazette photo by Harry Saltzgaver

# LTH • FITNESS • BEAUTY

## Bike Path

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will not go down the slope in front of the Belmont Shore condos, but rather will turn on the pier, then turn again and go down a slope through the parking lot and back out to the beach path.

"You can't go under the pier when it floods two or three days a month," Eschen said. "But we're having so many problems trying to avoid accidents now, we decided it was worth the additional costs to do both."

One of those additional costs will be increased maintenance of the path because it will be flooded several days a month. Sand and trash will have to be cleaned off the path after high tide.

In public meeting earlier this year about Belmont Pier improvements area residents

were supportive of the plan. One concern of meeting attendees was that bringing the bike path along the pier would force pedestrians to cross the path and create a potential accident.

However, that problem is already occurring in the area. The downslope in front of the Belmont Shore Condominium complex ends where the parking lot entrance and exit for the pier and Belmont Plaza pool is located. To reduce the speed of skaters and bicyclists crossing

traffic lanes, a small three-foot-tall "maze" barrier was constructed at the bottom of the hill.

Some area residents are concerned the barrier increases the likelihood of an accident because inexperienced skaters pick up speed down the hill and cannot stop fast enough.

Third District Councilman Doug Drummond said the bike path's course needed to be changed for safety reasons.

"I'm looking forward to the

work being completed," Drummond said. "I think it's going to improve the safety situation down by the pier greatly."

Design work on the re-routed path will begin after the new city budget takes effect Oct. 1, Eschen said.

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