

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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California Heights Neighborhood news is a bi-monthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association.

All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all residents nor the editor. Our goal is to provide a voice to our community, keeping residents informed of issues affecting the quality of life in California Heights.

LAMPPOSTS AT LAST!



City Light and Power's Chris Fett installs one of 36 restored lamppost tops in Cal Heights.

Just in time for our annual Home Tour, City Light and Power installed the latest round for our historic lamppost restoration project that began in 1999. The twenty three lampposts on Orange Avenue were restored with more than two years of Home Tour proceeds, while another thirteen throughout the neighborhood were funded by private sponsorships. As a sponsor of one of the posts on our own corner, we felt like little kids getting a new train!

We appreciate the patience of the thirteen residents who waited for so long to reach the 24 minimum order required to schedule an installation. The restoration includes new period correct replicate cages and finials and unbreakable, non yellowing polycarbonate globes. The city has estimated that all of the old posts in the neighborhood will be repainted by Thanksgiving.

Deemed a worthy location for the association funded project, Orange Avenue is the major street that divides Cal Heights into two equal portions. The beautifully re-

stored lamps, along with last February's tree planting and the Cal Heights mural by artist Art Mortimer, enhance the historic character of this important street for our neighborhood.

CHNA is hoping that completion of this portion of our ambitious project will usher in new interest from Cal Height's residents to sponsor more of the non-restored lampposts in the neighborhood. The current restoration cost, excluding painting, is \$600 per lamppost. Sponsorships at that level include a dedication plaque on the access door. Some families have combined efforts, and others have lovingly dedicated the posts in memoriam.

Special thanks to board member, Karen Highberger, for dedicating the considerable time and effort to manage and coordinate this wonderful project!

Please feel free to read more about our lampposts, including the possibilities of extending the project to the streets from Walnut east, at www.calheights.org.

John Royce

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another annual Home Tour has passed, and the CHNA Board would like to thank everyone who participated. Of course, our home owners who so graciously allowed us to present their homes deserve very special thanks, especially considering the dirt laden Santa Ana winds that came along that day. Their efforts to showcase their homes provide CHNA its fundraising opportunity as we begin to refill our coffers after the recent major expenditures for our lampposts on Orange Avenue, freshly restored with original style globes, cages and finials just in time for the Home Tour!

Whether you purchased a ticket, volunteered as a docent or for one of many tasks that pull it all together, participated as a vendor, or a combination, we appreciate each and every one of you. None of it can happen without your efforts and dedication. Speaking of dedication, our tireless and dedicated board members, some who have been doing this for eleven years, should be proud of another successful event!

I would also like to acknowledge the tragedy that unfolded on Home Tour day. While we were celebrating our lovely old houses and neighborhood, people all over southern California were already starting to lose their homes in the tragic firestorms that erupted that Sunday morning. At 3:00 am Monday morning, we received a call from a good friend who had been evacuated and needed a place to stay. She arrived wearing her pajamas, holding only a toothbrush and a jacket. Luckily, her home survived, but so many others returned home to only smoke and ash. Our hearts go out to the victims.

Our sincere thanks must be bestowed upon the firefighters who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. Our own Rob Weaver, responsible each year for much of our Home Tour set up and tear down, was one of the firefighters called away the next morning. He would not return home for two weeks.

If you have the opportunity to offer assistance, please do so. The American Red Cross comes to victims aids at every heartbreaking turn. If the tables are ever turned, they will be there for us as well.

Thank you again for a successful tour! We'll look forward to seeing you again next year!

John Royce
CHNA President

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS HOLIDAY EVENTS



Rancho Los Cerritos Holiday Events

Christmas Candlelight Tours – currently accepting reservations for tours on Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8.

Tours leave every 15 minutes from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$8 members and full time students; \$10 non-members; children 3-and-under are free.

Return to Christmas 1878 as the Bixby family encounters "Unexpected Guests for the Holidays." This living history experience invites guests to experience the season as it would have been celebrated by the Bixby's, their guests and sheep ranch workers.

A docent dressed in period attire will lead guests through the 163 year old adobe. Guests will explore 19th Century holiday festivities and traditions as the house comes alive with period decorations and the sights and sounds of holidays past.

Holiday Open House – Sunday, Dec 16; Free, no reservations required

Explore the Rancho through self-guided tours of the holiday decorated adobe. Live music and crafts opportunities for children, topped off by piñata breaking fun with none other than Santa! Free light refreshments will be provided.

For more info on these events, call **570-1755** or visit **www.rancholoscerritos.org**

Have You Checked Your Smoke Detectors?

The fall back to standard time hours is the perfect annual reminder to change out your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries and test them to make sure they are still working. These little devices, out of sight and mind, often hold the key to our survival in an emergency. Take a moment to check yours if you haven't already.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

Holiday Crime Watch

It's that time of the year again. As we get busy with holiday plans and shopping, common sense often goes out the window! Crimes of opportunity spike as residents leave gifts and other packages in their cars, or go away without locking doors or windows. Sadly, the contents of our homes and cars are very attractive to thieves this time of year. Take a moment to stow gifts and valuables out of site of windows or keep shades and curtains pulled. Leave an energy efficient light fixture on a timer or leave a small radio on to create the illusion that someone is home, and always have your neighbors pick up your porch solicitations, mail and newspapers when you travel. Thieves search out the easiest, quickest targets first. Let's not give them a free pass.

Snow In Bixby Knolls!

Celebrate the season as the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association hosts its annual Snow In Bixby Knolls event on December 2nd, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm between Carson and San Antonio on Atlantic Avenue. Bring the kids to enjoy a rare opportunity to play in the snow, shop the vendors and check out the local merchants that form the backbone of our business district. For more info or to enquire about vendor booths, call the BIA at 595-0081, or visit www.snowinbixbyknolls.com and double click on "events."

Bembridge House Holiday Tour

Sunday, Dec 2nd from noon to 5:00 pm; call 493-7019 to reserve your \$10 tickets.

Join Long Beach Heritage for a holiday celebration at this historic Victorian gem. Rooms decorated by local associations and organizations will transform the house to Christmas 1945 when families were reuniting with loved ones who served in WWII. Several CHNA board members dedicated a Saturday to decorate the parlor as it might have looked during this very special homecoming season. Proceeds from this worthy fundraising effort help continue the restoration of this remarkable old home.

See the recently restored wood windows, carriage house and exterior paint. Music, refreshments, gift boutique and photo opportunity in a vintage car round out the event.

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TREES COME TO BIXBY KNOLLS



The Tree People demonstrate proper tree care when planting new trees in the area

Two significant tree events recently took place in our area.

Longfellow/Hughes moms, dads, teachers and students worked hard to secure a grant that succeeded in placing more than fifty trees on the school properties on October 27th. And on November 10th on the 3300 block of Atlantic Avenue, funded by the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association with help from Cal Heights ReLeaf and Tree People Los Angeles, 34 trees were planted that will beautify this entrance to our area.

Besides beautification, the crape myrtle and pink trumpet trees will grow to be quite drought tolerant, their shade will reduce the water needs of adjacent turf and landscaping, and since trees absorb carbon dioxide and trap pollutants, they will help clean the air and fight global warming. As a fringe benefit of our Atlantic planting, some of the businesses that were severely over-watering have now cut back significantly.

These projects exemplify the cooperative efforts between public and private agencies and volunteer efforts to manage projects that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. Neither would have been possible without the generosity of volunteers who came from all over the southland to participate. A special thanks to **Crew, Inc.** for donating the needed sidewalk cuts. For those of you who took the time to help out, our heartfelt thanks!

WATER WOES

We can't escape the news lately that California faces a serious water shortage. Several years of drought, increased competition from other states and environmental concerns have conspired to stretch our water reserves to the point of crisis.

According to Matt Lyons, Director of Planning and Conservation for Long Beach Water, we are now living off of emergency storage reserves. If we don't get enough rain to replenish this supply, we'll be in serious trouble. That's why we need to be proactive with conservation efforts. What we save today will be available later if this crisis worsens.

Restrictions for the times of day we can apply landscape water have been relaxed. **You may water before 9:00 am or after 4:00 pm on Monday, Thursday and Saturday for up to ten minutes per watering station.** These times limit evaporation and the schedule encourages us to take notice of auto timers, something many of us haven't checked in quite some time. Watering to the point of runoff is prohibited, as is washing down driveways and walks, unless a pressure washer is used. A simple hose nozzle will not suffice. While citations are not being issued at this time, LBW does have the authority to fine; they hope goodwill leads most of us to cooperate.

Watering three times per week is more than enough water for most landscapes and lawns, where most households use the most water. LBW has rebate programs for new advanced timers, including weather sensing devices.

Three of the best things you can do now to reduce your water usage:

- 1) Eliminate landscape over-watering and tune up your irrigation system;
- 2) Reduce time in the shower and install a low flow shower head – LBW provides these free!
- 3) Test your water meter by turning off all taps at your house and see if the meter is still running – if it is, you have a leak!

For complete info on regulations, instructions, rebates and helpful programs, visit www.lbwater.org

John Royce



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**The Home & Garden Tour
showcases the best of
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Photos by Kent Lockart



**Thanks to all the volunteers
that helped make the
community look great!**

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THE HEARTH'S THE THING!
 by Kevin Doherty

Chilly was the eve, dark the night, cold was the ground. I crumpled pages of newspaper placing them in the old brick fireplace and carefully arranged a grid of kindling atop with just a few heavier pieces for extra measure. The struck match gave way to flames igniting the kindling and soon I was placing larger timbers on a fire that was already well underway. Tea cups in hand we sat in Cecilia's bungalow all through the eve, visiting and quietly staring into the flames as hill tops turned to crimson settling to a lunar gray. A well lit fireplace strikes at the heart of things! Experiencing a warm home fire connects us with our natural origins and recalls our most basic needs. The wonderfully hypnotic effect of the flames often gives rise to valuable thought and reflection. It also provides a center piece for a home around which family and friends can gather and share all things worthwhile. Without it, a house often seems to me strangely dull or at least missing something deeply fundamental. Arts and crafts practitioners knew this well and it was no accident that they lauded the fireplace as a bungalow basic. Might you share my feelings? If so, you may be a fine candidate for the addition of a fireplace in your home.

HARNESSING THE ELEMENTS

Fire is primal and our fascination with it spans thousands of years and then some. Since the dawn of religion it has garnered deep spiritual significance and has inspired a myriad of cultural practices the world over. In the earliest days following man's ability to harness fire utilizing flint and tinder, huts were fashioned where fires were centered within the dwelling and smoke escaped as best it could through available gaps in the structure. In time, a single large opening crafted in the ceiling allowed more efficient smoke ventilation. The eventual development of two story structures led to the first actual fireplaces and their placement into a cutout in the wall. Poor ventilation led to the discovery and development of the chimney which drew the smoke up and out while maintaining a reasonable degree of heat. Famous American Ben Franklin can be credited with the advancement of fireplace design with his familiar cast iron stove centrally placed within a room maximizing heat that continued long after the fire had extinguished. In the late 1700's, Count Rumford of England appropriated the advancements of all earlier designs and produced the classic small fireplace layout as we know it today.



RESTORATION & DESIGN

The 1933 earth quake in Long Beach toppled or partially destroyed many original bungalow fireplaces. If yours is still standing but inoperable, consult a fireplace specialist and repair it if at all possible. If its not repairable, consider installing a small heat efficient insert. This way you'll likely be able to keep the current fireplace intact while realizing greater heat efficiency and project completion at a reasonable cost. If you have one of the familiar fireplace mantles without a chimney that were designed for decorative gas heaters, you'll likely have to remove the original mantle and build it anew in order to make room for a pre-made firebox. There are now gas and wood burning models being made specifically for bungalows by Majestic Fireplaces among others and a variety of them may be found on line. If the original mantle is of supreme importance to you consider installing a small cast iron Vermont stove in the area. The most expensive but aesthetically preferable option would be to design and build a vintage bungalow style masonry fireplace. Remember to position the fireplace in the traditional manner along an outside wall preferably in the available wall space commonly found between large living room windows. With any option remember to study a variety of coffee table bungalow books to gather ideas for the design and materials you favor. Once you've addressed the learning curve include a designer in the consultation and conceptual phase in order to insure a pleasing aesthetic outcome once the project is finished.

HEARTH AND HOME

When all the work is complete you'll be struck by the transformation that your interior has undergone. Your home will feel alive in ways that you could scarcely have imagined! You'll have created a focal point for your living room that will forever beckon family and friends to gather on chilly evenings and converse over good food and wine. On quiet occasions you'll have a respite from the urban fast track; a place of reflection to curl up with a good book or perhaps that special someone. As embers turn to a sleepy red glow and your homage to flame draws to a close, give thanks to the moment and praise the primordial mystery found a warm glowing fire.

Kevin Doherty will be a featured columnist in upcoming "The Heights" issues.

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Special thanks to local merchants and businesses that helped make the 2007 Home and Garden Tour a success:

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 - Mr. Jan's Antiques Mall
 - Kevin Poi, ReMax
 - Rich Co. Gates
 - Signal Tribune
 - Starbucks
 - Trader Joe's
 - VanWig & Associates, Century 21
 - Connie Wildasinn, WG & Associates
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- Please patronize our local businesses!**

Another stellar Home Tour under our belts and it would not be possible without the homeowners who selflessly volunteer their fantastic homes and gardens year after year.

Each year the home tour committee begins its quest for homes that typify life in the Heights. We are fortunate to not only have the most fantastic homes but the best homeowners and community in which to celebrate our continued dedication to preserving our past.

A very special thank you to our home owners:

- Lori Eaton & Bruce Crick
- Mary & Gary Flaxman
- Michael McIvor
- David Mitchell
- Sheri Pavelka & Keith Skotnes
- Andy Sydnor & Albert Torres
- Dave & Pat Wheeler

Without these wonderful people Cal Height's annual fundraiser would not be possible and the projects supported by this event would come to an end.

HOME TOUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all of our awesome volunteers the 2007 Home Tour was another great success! It takes more than 70 volunteers each year, most from our very own Cal Heights, who make time in their busy schedules to participate and make our home tours among the best year after year. There are always new and old faces with each new year.

The Cal Heights Neighborhood Association would like to extend their gratitude to each and every volunteer. Your commitment and dedication continue to make this community one of the best in the west!

The 2007 volunteers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Art Abril | Grace Lorentzen |
| Gabby & Juan Carlos Aguirre | Cathy McCarty-Procopio |
| Janet Anderson & Ed Rocha | Charleen O'Connell |
| Jill Aversa | Elaine Okazaki |
| Ross Boelsen | Denise Ortiz |
| Dan Berger | Marcie Ortiz |
| Allen Brackett | Eric Overman & Jillian Lutz |
| Marsha Brown | Loretta Parker |
| Thor Carlson | Alfonso Pascarella |
| Elizabeth Clark | Katie Pickett |
| Bill Cliatt | Ray Pok |
| Susan Connors | Rita Powell |
| Martha & Greg Czopek | Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga |
| Cheri Dekeyser | Robert Rivera |
| Barb Dill | Judy Salter |
| Susan Drew | Lee Schweikert |
| Kimberley Dunnegan | Robert Scherzinger |
| Mary & Lewis Ebersole | Pat DeBacker |
| Meryl Edelstein | Joyce Shirado |
| Doris Felix | Millie Sorensen |
| Stacey & Jimmy Grose | LaRue Soudress |
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| George Jonquard | Mark Tokunaga |
| Stephanie Leon | Connie Wildassinn |
| Sarah Leyba & Jerry Wilson | Trish Gergen & Bob Gill |
| Kent Lockhart | Allen Wyman |

A special thank you to Candice Risley and Bobbie Burkett for your continued effort over the years

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAYS

Farmer's Market, Bixby Knolls, Thursday Nights, 3 to 6:30 p.m.,
Atlantic Avenue at 45th Place, Near CVS and Post Office

DECEMBER

2nd Snow in Bixby Knolls returns!, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,
between Carson and San Antonio. Info 595-0081 or
www.snowinbixbyknolls.com

2nd Historic Bembridge House presents
"Home for the Holidays!", noon to 5:00 pm.
Call 493-7018 for ticket info

7&8 "Unexpected Guests for the Holidays," a living history
Christmas candlelight tour at Rancho Los Cerritos,
6:30-8:30 pm. Call 570-1755 or
www.rancholoscerritos.org

8th Daisy Lane Parade, between Willow and PCH,
Starts at 5:00 p.m., info 570-4461
www.longbeach.gov/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=370

15th Naples Christmas Boat Parade, Naples Canal,
Starts at Dusk, info 570-5333 or www.naplesca.org

16th Holiday Open House at Rancho Los Cerritos
Free, no reservations needed.
Call 570-1755 or www.rancholoscerritos.org

FEBRUARY

7th Bi-Monthly CHNA Community Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Guest speaker to be announced
The Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue

Get involved in the community

If you would like to include information for future newsletters,
please forward articles, photos or suggestions to
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Thank you to all that have responded.

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February 22

Deadline for Articles, etc.

February 8

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Fire Department
570-2500

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
424-6727

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Rancho Los Cerritos
570-1755

Long Beach Building Department
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise
570-2665 / 570-2600

Code Enforcement
570-CODE (2633)

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control
570-4126 (press 4)

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal
570-2755

Street Potholes
570-3259

Tonia Reyes-Uranga
7th District Councilmember
570-6139
district7@longbeach.gov

Rae Gabelich
8th District Councilmember
570-1326
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Jan Ostashay
Neighborhood Preservation Officer
570-6864

City of Long Beach Website
www.longbeach.gov

Long Beach Recycles Website
www.longbeach-recycles.org

Long Beach Unified School District
www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp

Official CHNA Website
www.calheights.org