



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

March 3rd- Monthly Cal Heights Committee Meeting. Open to all residents of California Heights. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and take place at Jan's Antique Mall, info 989-0970.

A Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on March 11th at 7:00 PM at Jan's Antique Mall.

The Long Beach Business Association (LBBA) is having a forum for all council candidates (Districts 2,4,6 & 8) and school district candidates at The Grand on Willow Avenue on March 30, 2004. Check local papers for confirmation of time.

Mural Dedication March 20th at 11:00 AM—corner of Wardlow Road & Orange Avenue.

APRIL

April 7th-Monthly Cal Heights Committee Meeting

Open to all residents of California Heights. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and take place at Jan's Antique Mall, info 989-0970.

PRESIDENT

Albert Guerra
981-2258
albert@fusiondisplay.com
HOME TOUR COORDINATOR
Kerrie Weaver
424-6727
calheights@earthlink.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR/DESIGNER
Brenda Schultz
Brenda@ImageDesignWerks.com

Join, Richard Madera, a resident and an artist residing in Cal Heights, for an evening of Russian Art and Music. The details are being formalized, but log on to our website for more information as it becomes available. The exhibition will be presented in April at 3838 Atlantic Avenue (formerly Victors Gifts).

April 17-Out and About-Temecula Winery Tour

For more information contact Lee Schweickert at (562) 426-7898.

MAY

May 5th- Monthly Cal Heights Committee Meeting. Open to all residents of California Heights. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM at Jan's Antique Mall, info 989-0970.

OCTOBER

October 3rd-California Heights Home & Garden Tour is now scheduled for October 3rd, 2004. Mark it on your calendars for another fantastic day in California Heights.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Department
(non-emergency)
435-6711

Police North Substation
570-2500

Cal Heights Neighborhood Assn.
981-2258

Cal Heights Relief
426-3407

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Rancho Los Cerritos
570-1755

Long Beach Building Dept.
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Long Beach Heritage
493-7019

Airport Noise
570-2678/570-2600

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control
570-4126

Tonia Reyes-Uranga
7th District Councilmember
570-4461
district7@ci.long-beach.ca.us

Rob Webb
8th District Councilmember
570-6864

Harold Simkins
Acting Preservation Officer
570-6607

Shopping Cart Retrieval
570-2755

City of Long Beach Website
www.ci.long-beach.ca.us

Official CHA Website
www.calheights.org

February/March

LONG BEACH'S LARGEST HISTORIC DISTRICT

Volume 9, Issue 1

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SUNSET MAGAZINE SELECTS CAL HEIGHTS AS ONE OF THE WEST'S BEST PLACES TO LIVE



Good things come to those who wait. Honest!

California Heights was featured in the January issue of *Sunset Magazine* as one of the West's best places to live. That's no surprise to those of us who live in Cal Heights.

This wonderful acknowledgement is the result of the many hours of volunteer work the residents and neighborhood association committee members have spent improving the neighborhood.

Neighborhood projects that impressed the editors of *Sunset Magazine* included the newly completed welcome mural, tree planting, home and garden tour, community information truck, lamppost restoration, website and new resident welcome kits.

These projects would never have come to fruition without the neighborhood association and its dedicated volunteers.

Since the beginning Mike and Chris Donelon, Ray Grabinski, Mr. O'Donnell, Bob Kalowes, Lori Stevens and John Reynolds, Carol and Leonard Thompson, Karen Highberger and Lou Gaudio, Steve and Denise Ortiz and many, many others have worked hard to lay a foundation for us to build on.

And what a foundation! The stones of that foundation have become the path by which we are building and preserving our neighborhood now, one house at a time!

Thank you California Heights residents! But let us not become complacent. Let us try for a second year in a row. How about it?

Above Photo: Front row left to right are Eric Kirven, Allen Brackett, Lou Gaudio and Karen Highberger (sitting), Albert Guerra, Kerrie and Nicole Weaver, Ilana Brackett. Back row left to right are Steve and Denise Ortiz, Tim and Maria Price. In the truck, Janet Anderson.



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CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS ESSENTIALS
FOUNDED: 1926
ELEVATION: 32 feet
AVERAGE COST OF 3-BEDROOM, 2-BATH HOME: \$500,000-\$600,000
AVERAGE JANUARY TEMPERATURES: High 68°, low 46°
LOCAL PLEASURE: Viewing Art Mortimer's California Heights Welcome Mural on the northeast corner of Orange Ave. and Wardlow Rd.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may have noticed a new look for our newsletter and you may be asking yourself, "what's up?" Well, Allen Bracket, our fantastic newsletter editor for the last six years, is retiring to take on other challenges.

Allen has edited a total of twenty-four issues of "The Heights" and designed five home and garden tour program books. In addition, Allen created much of the artwork in the newsletters and program books.

"The Heights" newsletter has always been the key to our neighborhoods success. The newsletter, in my opinion, is the best in Long Beach. And like California Heights itself, nothing else comes close.

I personally want to thank Allen for all of his hard work. He has been creative, dedicated and most of all flexible. His graphic design influence has captured the spirit of California Heights at its best.

On behalf of the residents of California Heights I want to thank Allen for sharing his skills and talents with us. He truly represents "the Best in the West"

Albert Guerra,
CHNA President

PS: We will miss Allen's artistic influence on the newsletter, however we will not lose him entirely. Allen has agreed to continue to design and edit the Home and Garden Tour program book. We can't wait to see what he dreams up!



MURAL DEDICATION

The California Heights Welcome Mural, located on the corner of Orange Avenue and Wardlow Road, will be officially dedicated and unveiled at 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2004.

The mural, under the direction of Janet Anderson and Heather Green, was prepared and painted during a three-month period. Resident volunteers helped to sand, scrape and paint the wall to prepare it for the artist, Art Mortimer. Art Mortimer designed and painted the mural in the style of a vintage crate label. It features barley and lima bean fields, oil wells, California Heights homes, the Long Beach shoreline and our own local children.

The 7th District Council Office, under Ray Grabinski, initially provided the seed money to hire an artist and develop the mural design in 2001. Soon after prints of the mural were made available for purchase to help the raise funds needed to complete the mural project. In addition, California Heights received a generous grant from the Public Corporation for the Arts.

We would like to thank Janet Anderson, Albert Guerra, Heather Green, Kerrie Weaver and the many volunteers who donated their time to work on the mural. We would especially like to thank Art Mortimer for his wonderful mural highlighting the best of California Heights.



Art Mortimer designed and painted the mural located on the corner of Orange Avenue and Wardlow Road.

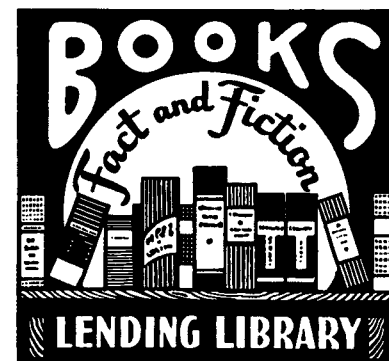
Wanted: Historic Cal Heights Photos

We are currently looking for anyone in Long Beach that may have photographs of the California Heights neighborhood area.

The purpose of collecting the old photos is to preserve them in one central location for future reference; to use them in the home and garden tour book; and to publish them in the newsletter. We would also use the photos on the Cal Heights Web page that is being developed.

If you have any photos that you would like the community to see of Cal Heights we encourage you to contact us at 981-2258.

We would be happy to come and pick them up and return them to you, unharmed within 48 hours. Our own Newsletter staff would do all the scanning.



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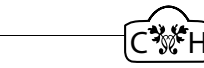
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Cal Heights Seems to be an Easy Prey For Criminals. Isn't It Time For You To Get Involved?

—Julie Fogg

From May to December of 2003, an alarming amount of criminal activity has occurred in or near California Heights. There were 22 car thefts, 13 residential burglaries and 29 cars burglarized in that eight-month period.

I found out about eight of the car burglaries and two of the home invasions while chatting with my neighbors. Alarmed, I spoke to Marlene Arrona, with the LBPd, at a recent CHNA community meeting. She referred me to Lisa Massacani, also with the LBPd, who provided me with the crime statistics in California Heights that were mentioned above.

I have asked Lisa Massacani to speak to our community, at a special neighborhood meeting, about the Neighborhood Watch Program. Participation requires minimal involvement and two to six meetings per year. The overview meeting, regarding Neighborhood Watch, will be on March 11th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Jan's Antiques, located at 1133 E. Wardlow Road. I will have copies of the crime statistics of each neighborhood available for attendees that include information on murder, rape, arson, robbery etc.



Neighborhood Restaurant Gives Back to Cal Heights

I would like to share a wonderful letter that we received from two residents from California Heights:

Dear Albert,

As you know, David and I not only live in California Heights, but love the area deeply and wish only the best for our neighborhood and the association that looks after it. We know that the success of our restaurant, Four Olives Cafe', is an indirect benefit of living in such a great and thriving area. And because of this fact we would like to do whatever we can to help the California Heights Neighborhood Association carry out its work. We know this takes money, and although we don't have a lot to spare, we would like to contribute what we can.

Our restaurant is doing fantastic for its first year, and we hope that we will grow by leaps and bounds as we become better known and are embraced by the Bixby Knolls/California Heights community. We would like the California Heights Neighborhood Association to grow with us. To do this we are donating from our gross income each month for as long as we can afford to do so. This month we are enclosing a check for \$105. We would like to send a check once a month.

We thank the California Heights Association for all the hard work they have put into our community. The entire city is blessed to have you.

David Rodriguez & Douglas Orr
Owners
Four Olives Cafe'

Doug and David have been active California Heights residents for several years. Their first home on Gundry Avenue was featured on the 1998 California Heights Annual Home and Garden Tour. Shortly after the tour, they sold their Gundry Avenue home and moved into a larger home on Olive Avenue. This home and garden was later featured on the 2000 Annual Home and Garden Tour. As if these challenges were not enough they entered into the restaurant business with their neighbors Kirk and Diane Anglin, opening the Four Olives Restaurant on Atlantic Avenue.

We would like to thank Doug and David for their dedication, support and genuine enthusiasm in helping make California Heights a special place. We wish them success and appreciate their generosity. Thank You.




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Useful Tips On Researching The History of Your Historic Home

— By Layne Johnson, Cultural Heritage Commissioner

Start at Long Beach City Hall...

Pull all of the building permits to help to establish the building date. You may need to be flexible on the address because addresses can change over the years. There is a nominal charge to print out the permits.

Use the city directory and look up the address to find the owner's name.

Look up the owner to find out their profession and where they worked. You can look forward in time in the city directories to determine who else lived in the house. You can also have a search done of the historical local newspapers by the library staff.

Try searching on the house address and/or owner names. A good source of information on previous owners is obituaries. Once you have a date of death you can search for obituary articles on microfilm.

Check Southwest Builder and Contractor to determine who designed and built the home.

The Southwest Builder and Contractor magazine included descriptions of the building permits as they were recorded. These descriptions often included a description of the house, the builder and architect.

- Get the magazine records for the year the house was built. Scan forward in the records until you find the Long Beach News Notes section. In the Long Beach News Notes section there is a Long Beach Permits section, here you can find the description of the house's building permit.
- You can also locate microfilm records of the Southwest Builder and Contractor magazine at the Los Angeles Downtown Library on the bottom floor, and at USC where they have the physical magazines located on the top shelf on the back wall.

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REMINISCING

By James Sparks

My parents, Joseph J. and Cecelia E. Sparks, purchased 1016 East 36th Street on July 21, 1926. I was raised there from my birth on August 30, 1927.

When we moved 14 years later, just before WWII, it was to our "new" home at 3801 Rose at the corner of Bixby Road, just outside the California Heights boundary. I left Southern California in 1955, after graduating UCLA Law School, and moved to the San Francisco Bay area.

I have vivid memories of the 1933 earthquake and my mother being unable to gain access to my younger brother and me because the bedroom door jammed. Mom (5 ft tall and 101 pounds) broke the bedroom window screen with her elbow and hauled us out. She laid us on blankets in the vacant lot to the west of our house, now occupied by a house on the southwest corner

of California and 36th.

I remember seeing the fires and old wooden oil wells teetering on Signal Hill and small cracks opening in the ground. We slept that night in our car and spent the next several days in Azusa until the power and water came back on. My mother used to tell me that she could stand on the back porch and watch my father head south on Orange heading for their cleaning and dying business on 7th and Obispo. There were no houses in the way to block her view.

In the picture, which faces west, I'm the little guy. Look at the oil wells! I remember we used to stick matches or toothpicks in the wooden sash windows to keep them from rattling at night. The rattling was caused by the vibration from drilling in the oil fields. The smells and sounds were part of my childhood and still bring back happy memories.



Looking west from 1016 E. 36th Street ca. March, 1928

CHNA ANNOUNCES NEW EDITOR

During the January California Heights Neighborhood Association's meeting we announced that our newsletter editor, Allen Brackett, was retiring and a new editor would be taking the reigns.

However, we did not expect to have the information published in the Press Telegram before announcing it to our residents in our own newsletter. But as they say... any publicity is good publicity and we appreciate the time that Greg Mellen spent with us covering and reporting on our meeting.

Our new editor, Brenda Schultz, is a local Long Beach resident and graphic artist. Brenda currently manages several business newsletters and is well versed in the art of layout and graphic design. Brenda also recently opened a cigar bar, Taylor's, located in the Pavilions Shopping Center located at Spring and Woodruff.

We would like to welcome Brenda to "The Heights" and by the look of this issue of the newsletter we are sure she will have no trouble fitting in.

Brenda can be contacted by e-mail at brenda@imagedesignwerks.com.

WALGREENS REACHES OUT

Once again, the California Heights Neighborhood Association is breaking new ground! The CHNA recently received the keys to a neighborhood association information kiosk. The new kiosk faces 36th Street on the edge of the Walgreens parking lot. Walgreens donated the kiosk for the association to promote neighborhood activities and community events. In addition the project developer, Village Properties, donated \$1,000.00 to the neighborhood association for other on-going community projects.

The Walgreens kiosk is the first of several planned for the neighborhood. The CHNA and the 7th Council District Office are working together with the planning department and public works department to establish guidelines for the new kiosks.

We would like to thank Walgreens and Village Properties for going the extra mile in developing a retail store and a kiosk that fits beautifully within the guidelines of the Bixby Knolls Business District.

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