

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.

New Look for calheights.org Website

[Home](#) | [About CHNA](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Gallery](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)



"The Best of the West" *Sunset* January 2004

Welcome to the neighborhood
 Sunset Magazine selected as
 "The Best of the West".

We have recently updated
 our website to provide the
 most complete information
 about our neighborhood,
 Cal Heights.



Visit our all new Cal Heights Website at www.calheights.org. Our newsletter editor and resident, Allen Brackett, volunteered to come up with a new, more user friendly design for our website. The new site is fresh, comprehensive and is much easier to navigate. Most importantly, unlike the old site, it's a snap to update, allowing us to make frequent changes to keep residents and visitors informed about our neighborhood and community.

The change also allows us to post a "Lost Pets" page for residents who have lost their furry loved ones, or have found and rescued escapees looking for their families. We should be able to accept entries within the next few weeks. Residents can submit their lost or found pet information, contact info and photo to lostpets@calheights.org. We only ask that you please let us know when your pet has been found so the page can be kept tidy and easy for all of us to use. Besides, what wonderful news to share that you've been reunited!

Many of you have requested such a feature, so we are very pleased to announce this valuable resource. Not only will it be of

great service in times of regrettable circumstance, we hope it will lead to fewer forgotten signs littering our historic lampposts. Please spread the word. For all of us who love our pets, the magic of the web offers hope when our loved ones are lost.

CHNA thanks resident, Janice Watson, who volunteered her time over the last couple of years to work with the annoyances of the antiquated site to keep it updated and running. It wasn't easy, and we appreciate all of her efforts. We now welcome a new resident volunteer, Stacey Morrison, who will take over for Jan. While Jan will remain active in the neighborhood, Stacey will manage and maintain our wonderful new site, including the lost pets and all the info I will throw at her! We look forward to having her aboard. As always, volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, so we thank Stacey for her willingness to contribute.

The site will continue to be developed over the next few months as we tweak and perfect its pages and contents. Check it out at www.calheights.org; same old address, fresh new look!

John Royce

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you make a New Year's resolution this January? I did, too. As I enter my second year as president, mine centers less on myself than on my surroundings; my desires to strengthen, and in many cases create connections to the *ties that bind*. These ties make a community whole, bring us to work together, support each other and improve the quality of life for all of us, even for those who choose not to get involved. These ties, once made and nourished, bind us together to form the kind of community that many of us claim to crave but fail to realize.

Last year I agreed to assist a local organization that has worked for years to bring life to our local office and shopping areas. The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association (BKBIA or BIA) has been underappreciated and underutilized for years by local business owners, property owners and residents alike. While not a business owner myself, I realized our focus must sometimes go beyond our immediate realm. So, even though I had accepted my new position as CHNA president, I thought I would attempt to see if my time could be well spent coloring outside of our Cal Heights lines.

Reaching out to other entities that have similar goals is both a satisfying and effective means of working towards a more dynamic and cohesive living environment. Cal Heights ReLeaf has already infused the BIA with the ability to continue tree plantings that will eventually create more attractive, pedestrian friendly streetscapes for residents, and the BIA has stepped up efforts to create a cleaner landscape in response to local residents' requests.

If we crave activities close to home, like dining, shopping and useful services, then it makes sense to get involved with those who are attempting to attract them. We can make known what types of businesses and activities we want, work together to get them, and then, most importantly, support them once they're here. Support is the key, for without it, we will neither attract nor retain those who give us a chance.

It's tough out there right now for our local businesses. Alas, we are losing many as I write this message. Remember, buying local is one of the best ways to strengthen the ties that bind, contribute to the health of your area, create local income and generate sales taxes that are an important means of bolstering municipal coffers, coffers that unless full fail to provide services that we all consider vital.

In this issue, please notice opportunities to create more ties. From First Fridays to Strollers, from welcoming a new restaurant to celebrating with old ones, supporting the Rancho, seeing a play or attending a community meeting, or just coming out to plant a tree or enjoy a concert in the park, please consider your parts in securing the health and vitality of our area.

I hope your New Year is off to a good start.

John Royce
CHNA President

TREE REMOVALS

As some of you know, quite a few trees have been removed in the neighborhood. Sadly, many of our carob trees are nearing the end of their lives. As often happens with old carobs, they rot from the inside and eventually fail, unable to support their own weight. The City is tagging and removing those trees that show signs of rot. As a result, carob trees are no longer approved for planting in city parkways.

The removal process will continue until all dangerous trees are removed. If you have concerns about a rotting street tree, please contact Public Works at 570-2700*4. It is illegal to cut down or prune a parkway tree without prior approval.

Cal Heights ReLeaf is keeping tabs on the progress and may, if residents are willing, place the most affected streets on the list for future ReLeaf events.

FAREWELL TO MR. JAN'S ANTIQUES

CHNA would like to bid farewell to Mr. Jan's Antique Mall, and thank owner, Steve Greenup, for his consistent support over the years. He gladly hosted our meetings when needed and always welcomed our invasion at each fall's California Heights Home Tour. He and his business were wonderful neighborhood partners, and we wish him all the best during this transition.

ELECTRONIC BILLBOARDS ARE BACK

A proposal from an Orange County firm to construct large, intensely lit electronic billboards along our local freeways is back!

While proposing revenue sharing with the city, ad rates would be cost prohibitive for all but the largest businesses, doing nothing to bring revenues to struggling local shopping districts. Many local entities, including a majority of CHNA board members consider the signs visual eyesores in a city already battling significant urban blight.

Educate yourself on this issue and send our council members and mayor your opinions at www.ci.long-beach.ca.us

LITTLE OWL PRESCHOOL

The Little Owl Preschool, planned for 3426 Linden Avenue, received unanimous approval from the Planning Commission in November.

With childcare and preschool at a premium, many of you have expressed interest in this facility. A well qualified staff, impressive LEED Silver certification and state of the art design, a natural playground planned by a renowned designer, and an art bungalow with summer arts programs are just a few of the impressive features of the new preschool. Construction should be underway shortly. Opening is planned for the fall.

Keep an eye out for more detailed information in upcoming issues of The Heights. For more information, contact Janet at www.littleowlpreschool.com

**Plan to Attend Our Next
Community Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 17th
The Petroleum Club
3636 Linden Avenue**

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Thank you to everyone who attended our February 7th community meeting at the Petroleum Club.

We had the special honor of starting our meeting with the help of Cal Heights/Bixby Weblo Scout Pack 32 from St. Barnabas. The scouts proudly performed a complete color guard ceremony as part of CHNA's presentation of a colorful new Old Glory to retire the faded and worn flag at the club's entrance. The new flag was presented to Ed Voysest, the Petroleum Club's Chief Operating Officer, as a token of our appreciation for graciously hosting our meetings and being a part of our community. We thank troop leader, Blake Whitney, and his scouts for taking the time to present our gift.

After brief community announcements and discussions the meeting was underway with guest speakers, Richard Connelly and Gretchen Swanson, of respected local company, Rich Co Outdoor Construction. This husband and wife team has brought traditional craftsmanship back to our hurry up world of mass production, individually tailoring their creations to the architecture and scale of their clients' homes.

As residents of the Rose Park Historic District, they understand the importance of designing gates, fencing, pergolas, decks and other outdoor structures that enhance and compliment the designs of our historic homes, working with the city's Planning and Historic Preservation officers to ensure beautiful results. As Richard puts it, "We live in an urban environment that is often hard on the eyes . . . We believe wood offers the eye a respite from the harshness of sharp surfaces. . . While a block wall says keep out, an inviting wood gate says 'Welcome, this is where you may come in.' . . . a suggestion of an invitation while still forming a barrier."

BIXBY KNOLLS STROLLERS

Please join Blair Cohn, the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association's new executive director, as he invites local residents and business owners to join Bixby Knolls Strollers each Saturday morning at 7:30, starting with free coffee at Starbucks at Atlantic and San Antonio. Already several weeks old, thirty to forty people have been consistently gathering for an hour's stroll, and each week more people join in to take an intimate walk through the places we typically whiz by in our cars.

Strollers is part of Blair's efforts to reach out to area residents and businesses to facilitate an energizing exchange of information and ideas while exploring our Bixby area neighborhoods and business corridors, all the while enjoying brisk exercise and new friends.

For more on what's happening with the BKBIA, sign up for Bixby Banter at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com or contact Blair Cohn at blair@bixbyknollsinfo.com

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

Rancho Adventure Tours Thursdays 4pm-5:30pm through June; Free for groups of 6-24 elementary-aged kids. Bring history to life! Learn about daily life on a 19th century California rancho. Tour the 1844 adobe, play historic games and learn to complete daily ranch work.

Garden Tours return. First Sunday of each month through October at 2:30 PM. Free. Please call for reservations at 570-1755.

Living History Tour, Sunday, March 30, 1:00-4:00 PM. Join Rancho docents dressed in period attire as enact life on the Rancho in bygone days. Free.

Continuing Lecture Series focuses on the immigrant experience in California. "Internment: The WWII Experience of Japanese Californians." Saturday, April 19, 10:00 AM. \$5 general admission, \$3 students and members. Call for reservations at 570-1755 or visit www.rancholoscerritos.org



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LOCAL RESTAURANTS CELEBRATE MILESTONES

Three local eateries, owned and operated by local residents, invite you to celebrate their success!

NINO'S Ristorante Italiano

This year Nino's founders Vincenzo and Inge Cristiano and family are celebrating their fiftieth year in Bixby Knolls! Opened in July of 1958, the restaurant was named after their first born son. The neighborhood setting that Vincenzo sought for the eatery still exists today. Near the front door, patrons can still browse the original menu and see that a large pizza could be had for less than \$2.00!

The traditional Italian menu continues today, as does the original décor, complete with traditional red and white checkered tablecloths. Reserve the fireplace room on a cold winter evening for a special dinner with friends or family, or just pop in for a panini lunch!

Daughter, Carina, tireless in her efforts to revive our sleepy Atlantic corridor, has involved the restaurant in First Fridays, hosting live music and local artists, and continues to organize to expand and promote the business environment in Bixby Knolls.

**Lunch offered Mon-Fri, dinner daily from 4pm.
3853 Atlantic Avenue; 427.1003;
www.ninoslongbeach.com**

Four Olives Café

Join California Heights Residents Doug Orr, David Rodriguez and staff as they celebrate their fifth year. A miraculous transformation turned this forgettable space from crusty to warm and inviting; remarkable, since Doug did most of the work himself using scraps and elbow grease to pull it all together so beautifully!

It seems there is always something happening at this neighborhood eatery, whether live jazz or blues on Wednesdays and Thursdays or First Friday art showcases. But Four Olive's support for the arts community doesn't stop with First Fridays. For three years the cafe has provided a venue for local artists to exhibit and sell their art – even poets and actors have found an outlet at Four Olives. In 2007 alone, Doug proudly reports payments of \$26,500 to local artists for the sale of artwork and performances!

Food is an eclectic fusion from Angus burgers to almond encrusted salmon, vegetarian dishes and my favorite, baked chicken with curry mango sauce. Soups, salads, and a reasonable wine selection round out the offerings. Check the website for monthly wine dinner evenings and special events.

Lunch and dinner served Tues-Sun, weekend breakfast and brunch.

**4276 Atlantic Avenue; 595-1131;
www.fourolivescafe.com**

Delius Restaurant

While no longer around the corner, local residents Dave and Louise Solzman have made a new name for themselves at their new location on Cherry Avenue in Signal Hill. They traded their difficult, often overlooked location on Long Beach Blvd. for crisp, modern new digs. The new site allows for a lucrative walk-in dining and bar business, but Delius still specializes in the fabulous prix fix single seating dining experience (reservation only) that made them famous. Louise's delicious creations are met with expertly chosen wine parings thanks to Dave's passion for wine. Check the website for the constantly changing prix fix menu, and note that Louise will arrange for vegetarian diners as well.

While some may lament the loss of the cozy neighborhood space, the new location showcases an all new style and represents a new start and promising future for Delius. The restaurant is as vibrant as the old one was sleepy, with a classic, active bar and restaurant area. The separate prix fix dining room removes its diners from the bustle of the bar, and a very quiet, intimate, old world wine room is available, complete with a private window into the kitchen!

Lunch and dinner are served Tue-Fri, dinner on Sat, brunch and dinner on Sunday.

**2951 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill; 426-0694;
www.deliusrestaurant.com**

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TRATTORIA LIMONE



My family and I walked over to **Trattoria Limone** located at **3405 Orange Avenue** one Saturday evening for dinner. The inside is nicely decorated and comfortable with bar seating overlooking the chef's station. There is a dining room attached with a coffee bar.

On this visit we started with insalata caprese and a cup of homemade soup. Both were delicious. The bruschetta and garlic bread were quite delicious and I wanted to finish the whole plate, but I held off for the main entrée. I chose cannelloni rolled with beef and veal for \$13. My husband tried the penne alla salsiccia for \$14. I enjoyed both dishes, but this one had definite kick of spicy sausage. My daughter had the basic spaghetti \$10 which she thoroughly enjoyed.

The wait staff was busy that night readying tables for incoming guests and delivering mouth-watering plates of food to the lucky patrons who arrived early enough to get a table. The wait didn't seem to be more than 30 minutes. The weekends are quite busy. The owner says the weekdays are not as crowded and easier to find a seat when you arrive.

There are over 13 wines by the glass, 15 beers and ales, and a variety of non-alcoholic beverages from which to choose. It is nice to have a neighborhood restaurant reminiscent of a cozy "hole in the wall" venue, however, this little gem is anything but a "hole in the wall." The owner was going for a quaint neighborhood restaurant like those in San Francisco. He and his family now live in the Cal Heights area, and for years they would drive to restaurants in other parts of Long Beach, always with the feeling that this neighborhood needed a restaurant within walking distance.

Many neighbors and friends have commented on the quality of the food and the fact that they can walk to a good restaurant located in our neck of the woods.

Ilana Brackett

LOCALLY WORLD FAMOUS

If you are in need of tires or wheels give **Performance Plus** a try. I have been a loyal customer of theirs for the past 10 years. Just the other Saturday they installed 4 new tires on my car in less than one hour. I just read a book in their waiting room.

In addition to having tires and wheels for most cars, **Performance Plus** has helped my school in various ways. Over the years they have donated books, made hundreds of food baskets for the needy, and have sent my first graders to the Los Angeles Zoo. I am indebted to Hank for his graciousness to Tucker Elementary over the past 10 years. Having taught at Tucker for the past ten years, I was just informed of its closing. I know this will be a shock to **Performance Plus** since they have been Tucker's number one business partner.

If you are in need of wheels or tires, stop by the locally world famous **Performance Plus** at **3910 Cherry Avenue**. You can reach them at **(562) 988-0211** or visit performanceplustire.com

Ilana Brackett

HISTORY IN OUR MIDST

If you haven't already noticed, the Historical Society of Long Beach has settled in to its new digs at 4260 Atlantic Avenue. Take a peak inside for a glance into our local past.

From March 8 – May 17, the society will host a traveling exhibition, featuring 86 photographs from the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institution. Entitled "The Way We Worked," the exhibit explores the history of work in the United States, documenting clothing, working conditions and the struggles of the American worker.

The gallery is open Tue/Wed/Fri from 1-5pm, Thu 1-7pm, and Sat 11am-5pm. The gallery will also be open each First Friday from 6-9pm. For more info call 424-2220.



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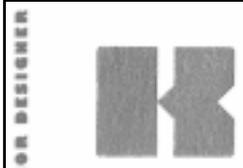


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAYS

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

MARCH

29th Long Beach Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Collection Event,
Bring batteries, light bulbs, paint, pesticides, electronics,
cell phones, TV's, etc., to Veteran's Stadium, Clark Avenue
and Conant Street, 9 am to 3 pm (Rain or Shine), info
www.ladpw.org

APRIL

4th First Fridays on Atlantic Avenue, 6-9pm, visit
firstfridayslongbeach.com

17th Bi-Monthly CHNA Community Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Guest speaker to be announced
The Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue, visit
www.calheights.org for latest information

Get involved in the community

If you would like to include information for future newsletters,
please forward articles, photos or suggestions to
calheightsnews@aol.com

Thank you to all that have responded.

Flyer Distribution

April 21

June 16

August 18

September 22

November 17

Deadline for Articles, etc.

April 7

June 2

August 4

September 8

November 3

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Police North Substation (Non-Emergency)
570-9800

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
district8@longbeach.gov

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