May 2006 Long Beach's Largest Historic District Vol. 11, Issue 2

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.

Where Do You Get Your Neighborhood Information?

The California Heights neighborhood is lucky to have two kiosks located around the neighborhood. The purpose of the kiosks is to relay neighborhood information and the history of the neighborhood. President of the neighborhood association, Albert Guerra, has designed and helped to place the kiosks in their respective locations. You can find the kiosks at 36th Street adjacent to the Walgreen's. The other kiosk is located inside the property of the EZ Lube at Atlantic and Wardlow.

It is no easy task to keep these kiosks up to date with information; however, Albert and others have updated the info in these kiosks for the past few years.

CAL HEIGHTS RELEAF REMINDERS

When our weather warms up, don't forget to give our young trees a good deep soak. Your sprinkler water reaches only a few inches down, so a slow soak of about fifteen to twenty gallons of water reaches our trees' roots and encourages them to grow deeply, instead of spreading across the tops of your lawns and into your sidewalks. Do this every two to three weeks for trees less than a year old, and every four to six weeks for more mature trees, except Coast Live Oaks, which do not like summer water.

Also, remember to keep a ring of turf free area around the base of all trees planted in lawns. It will provide a natural reservoir for deep watering and will keep pesky week whackers and lawnmowers from girdling and killing our trees. Turf grasses also use up water before trees get a chance to drink in up.

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So much has happened since the last newsletter. I hope that the April showers will soon bring the May Flowers. I think I ready to dry out now. Here are a few tidbits of information that you might find useful:

The Sports Park project was approved by City Council a few weeks ago. The adult sports park with the wetlands park is now moving forward. It only took 22 years to get to this point. But who is counting? Regardless of where you are on the park project, tighter design concepts and funding possibilities will now begin to take shape. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

Speaking of Parks…The Long Beach Municipal Band Series is back. Starting on Wednesday June 28th, the concerts will again return to Los Cerritos Park. The municipal band has been playing for 97 years and has become a true tradition for the citizens of Long Beach and the Bixby Knolls area. As an extension of the program, the Parks & Recreation department, along with Partners of Parks, have also scheduled many other free music concerts to take place during the summer. From Latin Jazz to Big Band Swing. Check out all of the possibilities at www.lbparks.org.

One last note on the Municipal Band Concerts, A Municipal Band Fundraising Gala will be held on Saturday June 17th at the Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ballroom. The Gala is being held to help ensure the future of the Long Beach Municipal Band and celebrate the start of summer with an evening filled with fun, food and entertainment. Join your friends for a reception, silent auction dancing and a concert featuring the Long Beach Municipal Band conducted by Larry Curtis. Reservations before May 10, 2006: $50 per person. Reservations after May 10, 2006: $60 per person. Call (562) 570-1743 for more information or got to the LB parks website.

For those of you who enjoy Garden Tours, don't forget that Rancho Los Cerritos conducts garden tours the 1st Sundays of the month (March – October) at 2:30 pm. Rancho Los Cerritos is the perfect place to celebrate the arrival of the spring season with a guided tour of its lush gardens. Discover the history of the gardens as you stroll past the vibrant flowers in bloom and delight in the refreshing citrus fragrances.

Finally, as I am sure many of you already know, Tonia Reyes Uranga was reelected to represent us as council person. Our neighborhood association looks forward to continuing to work with the 7th district office on many of the ongoing district projects.

Albert Guerra
CHNA President

AIR QUALITY

Dear Neighbors,
Our immediate quality of life in our neighborhood is affected by many things. However, the largest and most invasive is coming from the Ports of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. I recently attended the monthly meetings of the Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee meeting held in San Pedro. The Ports have been transitioning from a important economic asset of the city, state, country to a world class vital operation.
Ships from around the globe dock in our Ports and emit tons and tons of pollutants into our air, not to mention the issue regarding the millions of tons emitted by the trucks moving the cargo to and from the ports. The information I saw and heard at these meetings is a call to action in order to protect and enhance our air quality and make the Ports responsible for this pollution.
Last year there was an article in the L.A. TIMES about our neighborhood, the California Heights, Bixby, and Virginia Country club zip codes. The issue was that this area has an above average rate of adolescent asthma.
Your voice is important! You can make a difference in guiding the Ports to be respectful of its surrounding neighbors. The next meeting is May 16th at 5:30PM at the LA HARBOR HOTEL 601 S. PALOS VERDES ST. SAN PEDRO.

Also, please see the following: California Air Resources Board
www.arb.ca.gov
www.coalitionfase.org
www.coalitionforcleanair.org

Make your self heard and we can all breath easier.

Robert Miller

CAL HEIGHTS RELEAF REMINDERS

Continued on page 2

Releaf has scheduled a Tree Care Day for Walnut Avenue on Saturday, 29 July from 9am to noon. Our tasks include stake removal, light pruning and mulching. Please put a reminder on your calendar to place your trash cans out front so we won't have to leave piles on your lawns, and put your hoses out for water. If you would like to help, we'd love to see you there!

Finally, parkway trees belong to all of us! All trees planted in our parkways become the property of the City of Long Beach and cannot be removed without permits. Please report unauthorized removal to our City of Long Beach Public Works at 570-2700 – choose option 6. Violators could face the possibility of not only replacing the trees they cut down, but paying for one tree to be planted elsewhere in the city for each tree they cut down.

Enjoy your springtime!

John Royce

A Big THANK YOU and Volunteer Opportunities

A big **thank you** to all the people who have volunteered their time over the past years. **Many people** have turned out to help plant trees, plant plants, dig dirt, deliver newsletters, write articles, attend meetings, decorate kiosks, write and type out the welcome kit, write checks, do the accounting, work on the web site, work on the lay-out of the newsletter, call volunteers, paint address numbers, design logos, count lampposts, itemize lampposts, deal with vendors and advertising, pick up newsletters from the printers, set-up a home tour, establish a historic district, establish a 501 3c corporation, … as you can see it really does take a village, or is it a neighborhood? A neighborhood of people who are much needed and valued.

Please help out in any way and keep in touch. We truly need you and your ideas to sustain our neighborhood as a livable and enjoyable place. If you haven't volunteered yet, but have a special talent or idea- show up at one of our neighborhood meetings. We love seeing new faces. E-mail Calheightsnews@aol.com if you want to be added to our volunteer list.

To Expand or Not to Expand What's Your Opinion?

The seventh council elections are over, however, another hot topic, **the airport,** is still on the agenda and EIR's are becoming public. *The Heights* newsletter would like your opinion on the airport issue. What would you like done at the airport? This is your chance to share your vision of the direction the Long Beach Airport should be steered. Also, take into account who you think should pay for any enhancements at the airport. E-mail your ideas to Calheightsnews@aol.com. Please contribute your ideas and make your voice known.

HELP SUPPORT THE LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL BAND

You can help ensure the future of the Long Beach Municipal Band by becoming a sponsor of the **Long Beach Municipal Band Inaugural Gala Celebration** on Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ballroom.

Enjoy a reception, silent and live auctions, dancing to the Ed Martel Trio and MB Jazz Ensemble, and a special concert featuring the Long Beach Municipal Band. Gala proceeds will benefit the Municipal Band through Partners of Parks, a nonprofit, public benefit corporation, supporting public parks, recreation and marine programs, and facilities in the City of Long Beach.

Click here for details on the Inaugural Long Beach Municipal Band Gala, or call (562) 570-1743 or visit www.lbparks.org.

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HELP SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Become a sponsor of your California Heights Neighborhood Association.
Show your support with a donation of $10, $25 or $50. (or more)

Q: What does my money go toward?
A: Contributions go to help fund the newsletter you're reading, the annual Home & Garden Tour and other great California Heights projects.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Years in California Heights _____

Please mail check to: CHNA
3553 Atlantic Avenue, PMB 350, Long Beach, CA 90807

MORE PARKING ETIQUETTE

Dear California Heights Neighbors,

Long Beach, and specifically Cal Heights, has been my home for the majority of my 40-something years. My family moved to this neighborhood in 1967. I grew up on Gardenia Ave., walked to Dana Branch Library and back as a kid, and when it came time for me to leave the nest, I lived in several different places in Long Beach, but still found my way back to this neighborhood time and again. It just feels like home to me.

I am familiar with every street. Many of the homes in California Heights I've been inside of at some point; visiting with friends, rented for a while, or attending an estate sale. I'm in love with the ambiance of the street lamps, the fact that no two houses look exactly alike, and that it's still a safe place to walk at anytime of the day or night. Our residents are friendly and helpful. I like seeing kids on their bikes, scooters and roller skates navigating the uneven sidewalks. I like that our senior neighbors are out every morning or evening getting their exercise.

Being out and walking our neighborhood on a regular basis I see a lot. One thing I would like to bring to everyone's attention is the parking of vehicles on public sidewalks. I understand the desire to have your car parked in your driveway and off the street. It makes life simpler on street sweeping days, and it's more convenient. However, when you block the sidewalk, you make it difficult for people who walk with walkers, canes, or wheel chairs to get by. It is dangerous for young children on their scooters or bikes who have to clear your bumper and may end up taking a spill because their wheel got caught between the grass and sidewalk. It's even against the law.

Long Beach City Vehicle code, 22500.f, prohibits the stopping or parking on any portion of the sidewalk. The fine is $37.00; that's more than a street sweeping ticket. I hope that those affected will stop to think of others before they park across the sidewalk again. It's the neighborly thing to do, and would make life that much more pleasant for everyone. Thank you.

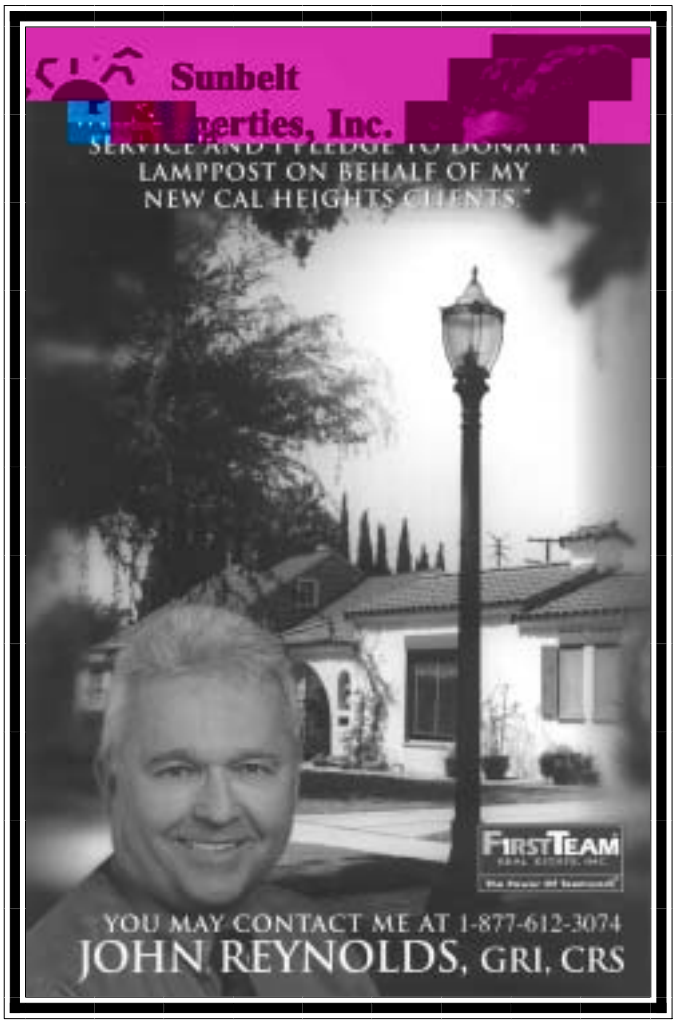
Sincerely,
Maria Weston

'THE BEST OF TEN YEARS' HOME TOUR

'The Best of Ten Years' Home Tour is scheduled for October 1st, 2006. We are looking for homes that have been on the tour over the previous 9 years. Are you one of the homeowners we have been looking for? Don't be shy about showcasing your home. Help share what makes Cal Heights homes so desirable,

Contact Home Tour Coordinator**,** Kerrie Weaver at **424-6727** or **webmaster@calheights.org** if you are interested.

The Next Cal Heights Neighborhood Meeting
May 11th at 7:00 p.m.
Jan's Antiques Mall
1133 E. Wardlow Road
(Corner of Cerritos & Wardlow)



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LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL BAND

97 years and the band plays on from 1909 to 2006 and beyond. The Long Beach Municipal Band, conducted by Larry Curtis will celebrate its 97th year in 2006 with its free outdoor shows that are truly a tradition for the citizens of Long Beach.

Tuesdays

Ocean Blvd. & Shoreline Stage
July 4 (Sea Festival)

Bixby Park
July 18, Aug 1, 8, 15

Whaley Park
June 27, July 25

Thursdays

Marine Stadium
June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17

Wednesdays

Los Cerritos Park
June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16

Fridays

El Dorado Park
June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18

Long Beach ENERGY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (562) 570-1743
or visit www.lbparks.org

Enjoy A Summer Full of FREE Music in Long Beach Parks!

Cesar E. Chavez
401 Golden Ave., 570-8890
July 22: AguaLuna Dance Company • 5:30pm

Cherry Park
1901 E. 45th St., 570-1615
August 18: Community Band • 7pm

Coolidge Park
352 E. Neece St., 570-1618
July 14: Mick Jerome - Reggae/R&B • 6:30pm

Drake Park
951 Maine Ave., 570-1625
July 15: AguaLuna Dance Company • 5:30pm
August 17: Community Band • 7pm

El Dorado East Park Concert
7550 E. Spring Street, 570-1771
(co-sponsored with Partners of Parks; Parks, Recreation & Marine; and the El Dorado Homeowners Assoc.)
August 25: Elm Street Band • 6:30-8:30pm

Houghton Park
6301 Myrtle Ave., 570-1640
July 23: Erik Ekstrand Big Band • 4pm
August 11: The Copycats • 6:30pm

Los Cerritos Park
3750 Del Mar Ave.
(co-sponsored by Los Cerritos Improvement Association and Parks, Recreation & Marine)
August 23: Elm Street Band • 6:30-8:30pm
August 30: Flashback • 6:30-8:30pm

Nature Center Cultural Rhythms Concert Series
7500 E. Spring Street, 570-1745 (Doors open at 6:30pm)
June 21: Juneteenth Concert • 7-8pm
July 19: Music of the Mountains Concert • 7-8pm
August 16: Cambodian Traditions Concert • 7-8pm
September 13: Mexican Independence Day Concert • 7-8pm

Ramona Park
3301 E. 65th St., 570-1665
July 27: Scott Martin Latin Jazz • 6:30pm

Ranchos Los Cerritos
4600 Virginia Road, 570-1755
(Gates open 1/2 hour before each concert)
June 22: Susie Hansen's Latin Jazz Band • 6-7:30pm
July 9: The Fenians • 5:30-7pm
July 27: One Way Ticket - 1960's Hits • 6-7:30pm
August 13: Steel Parade • 5:30-7pm
August 24: Wartime Radio Revue Big Band • 6-7:30pm

Silverado Park
1545 W. 31st St., 570-1675
July 13: Hawaii Nights • 6:30pm
August 4: Lucky Lloyd Blues • 6:30pm

Stearns Champions Park
4520 E. 23rd St., 570-1685
July 16: Elm Street Band • 4pm
August 10: 3D VA - 70's, 80's, & 90's • 6:30pm

Whaley Park
5620 Atherton St., 570-1710
August 3: Elm Street Band • 6pm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

11th- Bi-Monthly Neighborhood Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan's Antique Mall, 1133 E. Wardlow Road,
(Corner of Cerritos & Wardlow)
Info 997-8888 or www.calheights.org

15th- Child Passenger Safety Program Workshop, 6:00 p.m.
Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue,
Reserve your space at (562) 570-1010

16th- Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.
L.A. Harbor Hotel, 601 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro

JUNE

17th- Long Beach Municipal Band Inaugural Gala Celebration
7:00 p.m., Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ballroom

28th- Concert in the Park, 6:30 p.m., through August 16th

JULY

29th- Tree People will be on Walnut Avenue, 9:00 a.m. to Noon,
Info 426-3407

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** by the following dates. Thank you to all that have responded.

Flyer Distribution	Deadline for Articles, etc.
June 17	June 3
August 19	August 5
September 23	September 9
November 18	November 4

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Department (Non-Emergency)
435-6711

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency)
570-5891

Fire Department
570-2500

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
981-2258

California Heights Releaf
426-3407

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
570-2678 / 570-2600

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control
570-4126 (press 4)

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal
570-2755

Shopping Cart Retrieval
570-2876

Street Potholes
570-3259

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

Rae Gabelich
8th District Councilmember
570-1326
district8@longbeach.gov

Jan Ostashay
Neighborhood Preservation Officer
570-6864

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

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