CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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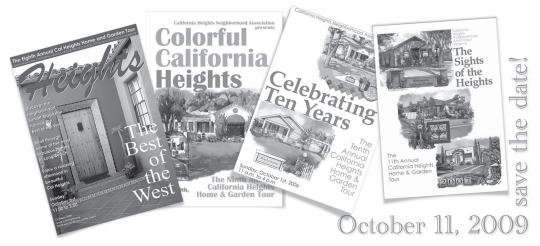
Newsletter Idea Submission

newsletter@calheights.org

Official CHNA Website

www.calheights.org

The Heights is a bimonthly 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 and keep residents informed of issues affecting California Heights.



California Heights Home Tour 2009

by Karen Highberger

Spring is in the air and the planning of our 2009 Home Tour has begun. We were unable to have our tour last year, but this year it's on! The date is October 11, 2009.

The selection committee has already seen some beautiful homes and gardens and we are looking for more candidates. We are looking for homes of all types; fully restored intact original homes, re-modeled homes exhibiting a preservation sensibility and "works in progress". Attendees love to experience our home owners' ideas and creativity.

This past year has been challenging for many and I believe it has made us all appreciate the simple things in life more. We live in a great neighborhood with a real sense of community. This is evidenced by the ongoing projects we support, such as Cal Heights ReLeaf and, once again, the Annual Home Tour. In addition to being a fun day for all who participate, the Home Tour is our major source of revenue for our projects, including the newsletter and our website. Monies raised from previous Home Tours were used this past year to refurbish all of the lamp posts on Orange Avenue between Wardlow Road and Bixby Road. This is something that benefits us all.

We have some different ideas for this year's tour, including co-opting with local restaurants to promote both their businesses and the Home Tour and we have the possibility of a wonderful guest speaker that could be a big draw. We'll keep you posted.

If you are interested in having your home or garden on the tour, being a docent or volunteering in any way, please contact Karen Highberger at 714-436-0826 or email Kerrie Weaver at calheights@earthlink.net.

Whether you volunteer or prefer to simply relax and enjoy the tour in support of Cal Heights, please mark your calendar for October 11, 2009!

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president's message A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

People touch our lives all the time. Most pass us by - we can't know everyone, after all! Some become friends, but only a select few become significant, giving us that intangible sense that they will remain near and dear as long as we share this planet. Through good, bad and ugly, they will be there for you, and you, of course, for them.

I've always felt blessed to make friends easily. As I've moved through major chapters in life - childhood, decades of school, my time in England, fourteen years at the same company, places I've lived, etc. - I realize that I've taken but one or two with me to the next. But Cal Heights has changed that - I'm confident that if something happens to move me along in life, away from the holdfasts that have secured me to this place, the special bonds and relationships that would remain would still be select, but more numerous than from any other period of my life.

Why is that? It has to do with special people, of course, but a place with a strong sense of community facilitates the formation of bonds that tie us together, and presents opportunities to connect with those special people who might otherwise slip through the cracks of our busy lives.

I recently purchased a little book, "True Green," while my partner and I were traveling. It's one of those "100 Ways to Save the Earth" listings that have become so ubiquitous. The fact that "easy" wasn't in the title made me pick it up – there's nothing easy about the challenges we face. Anyway, whether ubiquity is a good thing in this sense is debatable, but number 100 according to its authors has heart, and it qualifies as this issue's "Eco Corner" feature on page 5. Please take a moment to read it and contemplate its meaning and its special connection to the community that has become near and dear to my heart, and hopefully to yours, too.

If perhaps you aren't feeling that community connection that many of us share, the opportunities abound. We just had a wonderful day of tree planting, and there are many more upcoming opportunities to explore and participate in your community on the pages that follow. Whether you shake a hand or lend a hand, it's magic just waiting to happen! Give it a shot. *

Petroleum Club 90-Day Membership!

The Long Beach Petroleum Club invites Cal Heights residents to their new After Five Club. Enjoy access to the club Wed, Thu and Fri nights after 5:00 pm, including their Retro Bar and Lounge, or dine in the Red Room Restaurant (reservations required) with a specially priced menu. It's only \$20 for a 90-day membership!

The Petroleum Club has proven itself a neighborhood partner, hosting countless community functions, including generously allowing CHNA to host meetings at no cost for the past two years. Call 562-427-7966 for details.

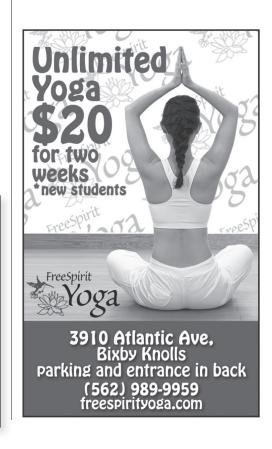
Join the Cal Heights E-Mailing List!

Enjoy periodic updates on local happenings, meetings and resident alerts.

Request adding your email address at calheights@earthlink.net.

Report lost pets at lostpets@calheights.org.





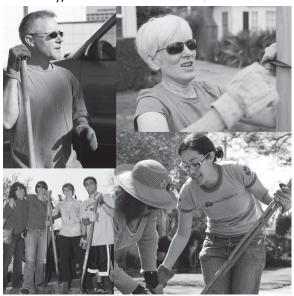
Cal Heights ReLeaf At Work!

This will sound like an acceptance for an Oscar, but so be it!

Thanks to all the volunteers who planted 24 trees at our community tree planting near Atlantic and East 36th on April 4th. We couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks to the Ivey family for donating funds to plant the trees on the long empty Arby's parkway, and John Monter for helping to convince Arby's owner to let us plant them! Patricia's Mexican Restaurant brought out iced tea and refreshments for our volunteers, and they not only paid for their two trees, but made a \$500 donation to CHNA! We welcome our new neighborhood partners. Please stop by to say thanks to Patricia and Mike. Many thanks, as always, to the City of Long Beach Public Works for their willing partnership in making these plantings so easy, and especially for facilitating the timely sidewalk cuts that allowed us to plant trees in front of Patricia's, which paved the way for their generous donation! Donations like that are few and far between and demonstrate the win-win that comes from cooperative efforts. We also thank our local OSH for consistently giving us generous price breaks on our mulch for planting and care events. It takes a village, and ours is a bit greener thanks to all who pitched in.

Who can say enough about the dedication and resources that Tree People lavishes on Cal Heights ReLeaf at every planting and many tree care days? If you are looking for a wonderful organization to volunteer with or contribute to, Tree People is worthy indeed.

To top off an already beautiful day, when many of us decided to go to Patricia's for lunch, Mark Hawkins, owner of InkPeace on Atlantic, surprised us all by treating for lunch! Now that's a perfect ending to a day of community, camaraderie and fun!

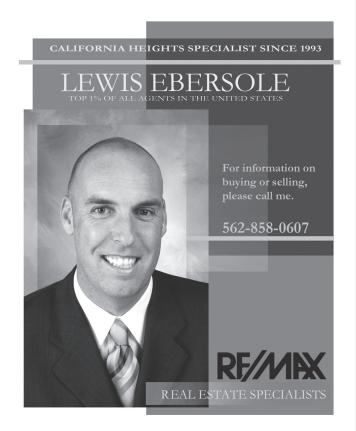


Volunteers pitch in at the tree plan See more images on page 9.

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Planting Trees in a Thirsty City

Believe it or not, trees, smartly chosen, save more water in our urban environment than they use, and they protect water quality to boot. Yep! After a year in the ground, most healthy trees need a deep soak every four to six weeks during our dry summer and fall. After four years, most need water every six to eight weeks, and with age can survive on rainfall alone, especially native species. The occasional soak, rather than brief lawn sprinkling, encourages deep rooting, enhances drought resistance and limits damaging surface roots. Trees shade thirsty lawns and gardens that would otherwise bake in the hot sun, and if saved, the leaves replace commercial mulches to shade the soil, conserve moisture and replenish soil nutrients without chemical fertilizers. And it's free! The leafy canopy and healthy mulch also break the fall of rain and roots soak up excess water, reducing runoff that washes pollutants into our streams and oceans.

Our urban setting presents challenges. Many of us insist on turf grass on our parkways, which is not healthy for most native trees that resent consistent lawn watering. So, we try to choose trees that will coexist yet still use as little water as possible. We are lucky to live in a climate that welcomes drought tolerant trees from the world over. Still, when the opportunity presents itself, natives are happily selected.

Cal Heights Volunteers Recognized

Over the past six months, our residents have received recognition for the contributions they make to our community. Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga presented Community Honoree Awards to residents MaryAnn Janquart, Zachary Golden, and to CHNA board members Karen Highberger, Stacey Morrison, and John Royce for their contributions to their community. Stacey has also earned a Community Action Award from the City Prosecutor's Office for her relentless goal to keep our neighborhood and business corridors free from litter and trash. Finally, at this year's Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association Annual Meeting and Open House, John Royce was presented with the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association's President's Award for community partnership and became an official member of the BKBIA as a community liaison.

Of course, many of us do things we never get officially recognized for, so thank you, everyone, for all that you do!

Thank You For Your Donations

Please accept our thanks, neighbors Carmelita Blas, Erin Fekjar, the Reed Family and Cindy Whitlock for your generous donations to CHNA.

Bixby Knolls Clean Up - April 25th

April is Keep California Beautiful Month! Join friends and neighbors as the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association sponsors its second clean up event. Last September 100 volunteers showed up to pull weeds, pick up trash, sweep, return abandoned shopping carts and water trees along the Atlantic, Long Beach, and Wardlow corridors. Volunteers will meet at 9 AM upon the return of Bixby Strollers to It's a Grind Coffee House at 4245 Atlantic. Together, we can all enjoy a cleaner community we can be proud of. Don't forget the sunscreen!

Hyett Palma Results are In!

It was wonderful to see so many Cal Heights Residents among the several hundred participants at the recent Visioning Meeting at the Petroleum Club, presented by consultants Hyett Palma and sponsored by the City of Long Beach RDA, the Eighth District Council Office, and the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association. So, how about those results? Please join us on Thursday, April 30th, 6:30 PM at the Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue, to hear Hyett Palma's suggested agenda to shape the future of our community!

Stay in the Know'lls!

Did you miss the fabulous night of Jazz that drew more than 500 to the Expo Building last month? Well, don't miss another event! Sign up for Bixby Banter and Buzz at bixbyknollsinfo.com.



Though many aspects of our culture encourage us to believe that the important things in life are wealth and fame, extensive academic research across different countries and cultures has shown that happiness has little to do

with spending money. The most contented people are those who spend their time helping others and contributing to their community. From peeling potatoes in a soup kitchen to working pro bono, volunteering gives you an opportunity not only to increase the social capital of the nation – the cornerstone of its economic prosperity – but also to find personal fulfillment in an activity that doesn't revolve around consuming resources.

(Excerpt from "True Green – 100 everyday ways you can contribute to a healthier planet," Kim McKay, Jenny Bonnin)

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Some Stranger's Dog

Dear Neighbors,

I am writing to you today to thank you for being my neighbors. I moved into this neighborhood in 2004 and quickly became known to some of you as the "dachshund lady", because I can be seen frequently being led around the streets of Cal Heights by my very energetic and sometimes obnoxious dachshunds. I only know a few of you by name, but I have met many of you and nodded or laughed as we, sometimes noisily, passed by.

One night in January, I experienced one of those random tragic events that happen to us all. One of my dachshunds, Daisy, was killed in the street. It was just one of those unavoidable sequence of events that led to her pulling her lead out of my hand suddenly and darting into the street in an attempt to meet a dog who was passing on the opposite side of the street. Unfortunately, she ran right into the path of an SUV. Her death came quickly, before I could even get to her, she was gone.

And then the miracles of support and friendship started happening. The owner of the dog she was trying to meet consented to stay with her while I took the other dogs home and came back with my car to get her. When I returned, another neighbor picked her up from the street and put her in my car for me so that I could bring her home. To this day I do not know the names of the men who helped me, but I will forever be grateful to them.

The next day I stayed home, too broken up even to go to work. The following evening, I decided to take the other dogs out for their first walk since we lost Daisy. As we approached the corner where she died, I could see something glowing in the distance. As we came to the place where her body had been, there in the dark was a candle burning and a beautiful vase of fresh flowers. As I stood sobbing in the street, I was overwhelmed that anyone would be so compassionate for some stranger's dog. For my Daisy.

I hear my friends and family complain about how uncaring and hard the world is today and I tell them about my neighbors and what they did for me and my Daisy.

I am so proud to call Cal Heights my home and to call all of you my neighbors. You are the best.

I know that times are tough these days, but I know that when we support each other, we can and we will get through anything together.

Sincerely yours,
Lori De Bold AKA The Dachshund Lady *

Graffiti Hotline Works!

Help combat graffiti and tagging by programming 570-2773 into your cell phone and report graffiti. Leave the address and the approximate location on the property. In most cases, within 2-4 business days, the City will make sure it is taken care of. We've tried it! It really works!

While your programming, it's a good idea to have the Police North Substation (Non-Emergency) number in your cell: 570-9800.

You Can Help Local Schools!

InkPeace Classroom Relief Project

Local business owner, Mark Hawkins, loves his community and offers a unique way to help you contribute. Mark allows customers to select a school to benefit from profits shared through the sale of printer, fax, and copier ink and toner. Not only do his products save you money, they are more environmentally sound. And now it helps your children's schools to recoup losses due to ongoing budget cuts. Visit Ink-Peace at 3636 Atlantic, 562-912-4657 or inkpeace.com.

Cinco de Mayo Golf Tournament to Benefit Longfellow Foundation

Longfellow Legacy Foundation is hosting its first annual Cinco de Mayo Golf Tournament on Tuesday, May 5th, at Skylinks Golf Park in Long Beach. All proceeds from the Tournament will be used by Longfellow Legacy Foundation to support vital programs at Longfellow Elementary School lost to program and budget cuts. To find out how you can participate, visit LongfellowLegacy.org, or contact Mark Evans and John Claridy at 562-314-4797.

Don't Miss the Cinco de Mayo Latin Jazz Party!

Sunday, May 3rd at Expo, 4321 Atlantic. Hosted by K-Jazz radio deejay Jose Rizo and featuring the Susie Hansen Latin Jazz Band! Enjoy music, art exhibits, food and fun!

Doors open at 5:15, music starts at 6:00! Tickets, \$20 presale, \$25 at the door, are available on-line at bixbyknollsinfo.com/expo.html or at Alsace Lorraine Bakery, 4334 Atlantic Avenue, Tues.-Sat.

Proceeds benefit the Long Beach Shakespeare Company and the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association. ...SHOP LOCALLY





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Buzzin' Around the Neighborhood

by Candice Risely

Our neighborhood is beautiful anytime, but particularly now, as the season changes to longer, warmer days. Flitting butterflies and hummingbirds and the gentle buzzing of bees among our garden blossoms are sure signs that spring is in the air. Wait! Gentle buzzing of bees? Many consider them pesky little stingers and prefer that they, "Buzz off!" and visit their neighbor's flowers. After all, no one likes to be stung!

Sadly, the honeybee has a bad rap thanks to its nasty yellowjacket and wasp cousins. Honeybees are docile, gentle creatures. They sting defensively—only when threatened, like when they perceive an enormous, flailing human hand to be closing in on them! They fly into the threat, kamikaze-style - bee language for, "Step back or I'll sting you." Yellowjackets and wasps, on the other hand, are aggressive, offensive stingers and have a taste for your lemonade and burgers at back yard cookouts. They oblige no warning, happy to make their one and only sting a painful experience!

Our lives are entwined with bees. When humans started smelling the roses 30 thousand years ago, bees had been going about their pollination and honey-making business for over 100 million years. They pollinate 5 million blossoms to produce a single pint of honey. Scientists estimate every third bite of food we eat is made possible by honeybees! Yet, these creatures are in trouble. In 2006, commercial beekeepers across America noticed that a third of their bee colonies had vanished or died out and they continue to decline at alarming rates. While scientists and apiarists work to solve this crisis there is much we can do to foster the lives of our remaining honeybees.

Feral bee colonies experience a population explosion in spring. When a colony becomes too large, half the hive "swarms", packs up the queen and vamooses, looking for an inviting new home. This swarm, 10-60 thousand strong, lands in a temporary resting place—often a tree branch, a child's swing-set, or patio furniture—while scout bees search for a permanent home—in your eaves (Yikes!) or the hollow of a tree.

What if a thrilling, yet terrifying swarm lands in your backyard? First, remain calm. Remember, honeybees are at their gentlest when swarming. Calling an exterminator or vector control will ensure doom for one more bee colony. Instead of "Buzz off!" consider calling a bee rescuer to allow them to "Buzz on!" Rescuers first identify that the bees are not Africanized, then make every attempt to capture swarms and "re-hive" them in appropriate areas. While

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President Obama has recently welcomed two beehives to the White House grounds, backyard beekeeping is against LB municipal code. Rest assured, your rescued friends will happily go about their business keeping your flowers blooming and tomatoes and lemons producing. It's a win-win for all!

For more information contact the following bee rescuers:

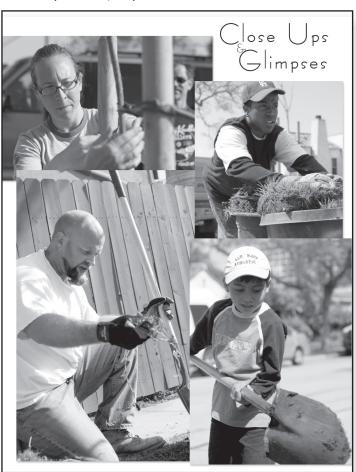
Mark Allen - mark@allenbeecompany.com 562-505-2768

Martha Haber - mbretthaber@yahoo.com 562-547-9172

Bee Clubs - Beekeepers Association of Southern California
www.bascbees.org

Proactive Approach to Coyotes

Please heed coyote warnings! Keep food scraps in closed containers, keep your smaller pets indoors at night, and please don't leave pet food outside. Coyotes are generally shy of humans, but if we make it easy for them to eat, they will take the easy route we offer and begin to associate us with food. It's not good for us, our pets, or the coyotes. On a recent evening walk, I witnessed an entire family of raccoons happily devouring two large bowls full of cat kibble on someone's front walk while the cats wisely watched from afar. Be proactive, stay safe.



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Thursdays: Farmer's Market - 3 to 6:30 pm (Atlantic at 45th)

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind

See all calendar events at calheights.org, click on Calendar!

- 04/24 9:30 AM Toddler Storytime Dana Branch Library Toddler Time uses stories, songs, puppets, toys, and puzzles to introduce toddlers and their caregivers to the library. Atlantic and Bixby 570-1042.
- 04/25 8:30 AM Coffee with the Neighbors at the Rancho
 This is a great way to make new friends, see how a
 museum operates "behind-the-scenes," learn about local
 history and antiques, and give back to your community
 in a meaningful way. 570-1755 rancholoscerritos.org.

NOTE: Make your reservations now for the Rancho summer adventure tours.

- **94/25 9AM Bixby Knolls Clean-Up!** Meet at *It's* a *Grind* at Atlantic. Bags and gloves will be provided.
- 04/30 7PM Planning Meeting Results Petroleum Club Come hear the results from the Hyett Palma Economic Study for Bixby Knolls/Cal heights.
- 05/01 First Fridays! Check firstfridayslongbeach.com for details.
- **05/03 5:15PM- Cinco de Mayo Dance Party!** Expo on Atlantic. Buy tickets at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com/expo.html.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - Tonia Reyes-Uranga 570-6139 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8th District Council - Rae Gabelich 570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal **495-2915**

Airport Noise **570-2665** / **570-2600**

California Heights Neighborhood Association **424-6727**

California Heights ReLeaf **997-9094**

Dana Branch Library **570-1042**

Fire Department **570-2500**

Graffiti Paint-Out **570-2773**

Garage Sale Hotline **570-YARD** (**9273**)

Long Beach Building Department **570-6651**

Long Beach Animal Control **570-PETS (7387)**

Neighborhood Preservation Officer-Jan Ostashay **570-6864**

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal **570-2755**

Police Department (Emergency-on Cell Phone) 435-6711

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency) **570-9800**

Rancho Los Cerritos **570-1755**

Senior Check-In 570-7212

Street Potholes 570-3259

Tree Trimming **570-2700**