CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.



New Year's fog gleams in the glow of a lamppost as it ushers in 2009 a few minutes past midnight! If you haven't noticed, the lampposts on Orange Avenue have been repainted. It's the perfect compliment to the recently restored tops, paid for entirely by CHNA funds. Special thanks to Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga and Public Works Director Mike Conway for helping to coordinate and complete this effort. (Read more page 5).

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS!

This edition of our newsletter doubles as a welcome kit for our new residents and a helpful reminder for our established residents!

Welcome to the neighborhood! We are happy that you have chosen California Heights, Long Beach's largest historic district, as your new home. Long Beach is a city known for its diversity, and Cal Heights welcomes you as part of the diverse fabric that defines our local community. Whether you have come to retire, work at a new job, raise a family or perhaps start a business, we hope you enjoy your new life in our neighborhood.

You probably know by now that California Heights is an officially designated historic district. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the ordinance meant to protect the fragile character of our neighborhood as we continue to march into the future. Certificates of Appropriateness are required from the City of Long Beach Historic Preservation Office before embarking on changes or additions to your home's exterior. Of course, we hope you appreciate your home's historic character by respecting its interior as well! (cont'd pg 5)

president's message A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

As we watched the glory of American history unfold during the inauguration, I was, as I am each time it occurs, reminded of what a remarkable culture of government we have in our United States. Despite sharp contrasts in philosophies and opinions, our government changes hands without incidence.

Certainly other nations now have peaceful transitions, but America set it in motion and offers the ultimate example. While we all watched the veritable traffic jam, former presidents and their families mingled with the outgoing and soon to be, all chatting and greeting one another like old friends. No chopping of heads or firing squads, no banishment to foreign soils or federal prisons! Instead, these folks are still alive and actually make an effort to travel to Washington to say good-bye to the old and welcome to the new, despite it being an obvious hardship for some of them.

This amazing feat of humanity should make every American proud, no matter from what side of the isle one hales. It is an example of the America we can be, and demonstrates the extraordinary stability of the system our forefathers set in place so long ago. It is this system, so enduring yet malleable enough to correct its own wrongs, that ultimately secures America's place as a beacon of hope.

That hope offers each of us the opportunity and the responsibility, a word so often forgotten of late, to fulfill the promise of a brighter future for ourselves, our community and our posterity through personal sacrifice and contribution. We all have the capacity to give of ourselves and the possibilities are all around us. Volunteer at a shelter, at a tree planting, or help a neighbor in need. Contribute to local organizations and schools severely hit by budget cuts and a stumbling economy. Join a community food drive, help with a neighborhood project or simply pick up that piece of trash you just stepped over. It's the right thing to do, and come on - it just feels good!

All the best for a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year! 🏇

John Royce,

President, California Heights Neighborhood Association

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.





California Heights History

As early as 5000 B.C. people inhabited this area, but little is known of their existence except for a few artifacts. The Tongva (People of the Earth) arrived from the Great Basin and absorbed these early tribes around 500 A.D. Substantial settlements existed in Long Beach where the knolls provided protection from seasonal flooding and gave them a vantage point over the Pacific, the basin and the rich wetlands formed by the LA and San Gabriel rivers.

With the arrival of the Spaniards, the mission system, land grants and European diseases led to the demise of the native culture. By 1784 the area had become part of a 300,000 acre land grant to Manuel Nieto. After his death the land was divided amongst Nieto's children with Cal Heights included in the 27,000 acre Rancho Los Cerritos, "ranch of the little hills," in 1834. (see www.rancholoscerritos.org/history.html)

When John Temple purchased the rancho in 1843, it became the headquarters and grazing land for his lucrative cattle operations. In 1866 Temple sold to the Flint and Bixby Co. Soon becoming part of the Jotham Bixby Co. holdings where Jotham operated a sheep ranch until civilization encroached at the close of the century and the sheep industry declined. As he sold off and leased the land to developers and farmers, Cal Heights became a bean field until the discovery of oil on Signal Hill in 1921 spiked interest in the knolls.

The Bixby Co. placed 830 lots in the new California Heights tract on sale October 10, 1922, marketing the properties to include oil rights. An ad in the Daily Telegram on October 14, 1922 stated, "You could stand on one corner of California Heights and with a 30-30 rifle shoot the lights off the top of dozens of [oil] rigs where gushers are spouting thousands of barrels of liquid gold daily." When little oil was found under the tract residential development began.

By 1927 hundreds of revival style homes had been built and California Heights and Chateau Thierry organized the California Heights-Chateau Thierry Improvement Association to petition the City of Long Beach for paved streets, sidewalks, curbs and ornamental lighting.

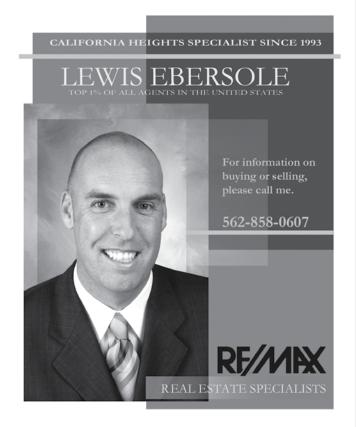
Historic designation came in February 1990, responding to residents' concerns that active remodeling threatened the integrity of the neighborhood's historic fabric and charm. Today, building or remodeling plans are reviewed to preserve original architectural styles, helping California Heights to retain much of the charm and atmosphere of its past.

For a more complete history, visit www.calheights.org. *

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When?

Trash and Recycle Pickup

Trash and recycling are collected each Thursday, including Thanksgiving. If coection Thursday falls on Christmas or New Year, it will be a day late. Place your trash and recycling receptacles either curbside or in the alley if you have one.

Did you know that Long Beach's waste diversion rate is nearly 70%, one of the highest in the nation? Please recycle your recyclables, including plastics 1-7, dry cleaner's plastic film, aluminum, steel and tin cans, newspaper, junk mail and magazines, cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard and glass bottles. Place smaller, lighter material in bags or boxes so they don't become litter on pickup day.

Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Collection

It is illegal in CA to place environmentally sensitive waste in your trash and recycle bins. Motor oil, oil filters, automobile fluids, paint, paint thinner, turpentine, cleaners with acid or lye, pesticides and herbicides, household and rechargeable batteries, pool chemicals, cell phones, CRTs, TVs, computers and other electronics, mercury thermometers and thermostats, and unused pharmaceuticals can be deposited for free in March and October at Veterans Stadium. Check www.longbeach-recycles.org details www.1800cleanla.com for other collection events and permanent collection facilities. Also keep an eve on our newsletter, calheights.org and local papers for locally sponsored E-Waste events.

Single use and rechargeable batteries are accepted at Ink Peace, 3636 Atlantic Avenue, Battery Systems, 3190 Long Beach Blvd., and Radio Shack at 4512 Atlantic Avenue. Cell phones are accepted at OSH, Target, Home Depot, Lowe's and Radio Shack.

Street Sweeping

Our streets are swept each Tuesday and Wednesday. Check the signs on your street! All vehicles left during the posted hours will be ticketed.

RV Parking

72 hours in one location.

(from page 1)

Long Beach prides itself as a city of neighborhoods, each enclave woven into the city's fabric by local "main street" corridors that serve them. While the charm of our historic infrastructure is largely intact, incorporating modern retailers in this age of volume sales and mass marketing can be a challenge. We encourage you to get to know and support your local businesses, many owned or operated by your new neighbors. The more support we offer the better the chances that more and diverse businesses will come our way to enhance our local playground. Many of them are but a short walk away. We welcome our newest, Baba Ghanouj, a bit further up the avenue. It's an authentic Lebanese treat!

The CHNA continues to host projects that enhance and preserve the historic charm and character of our neighborhood. Our Home and Garden Tours, tree planting events with Cal Heights ReLeaf, our ongoing lamppost restoration project, The Heights semi-monthly newsletter, community meetings and other periodic projects like the Dana Library native garden, the California Heights mural by local artist Art Mortimer, and designated historic district street signs all come together through the dedicated efforts of neighborhood volunteers. Of course, none of it would be possible without funds raised by our October Home and Garden Tour. Most of us have limited time and energy to devote to such endeavors, so we appreciate every moment that comes our way. We invite you to be involved — every bit helps!

We hope this welcome kit helps you become familiar with your new surroundings. From local helpful phone numbers and service locations to trash and street sweeping schedules, we've tried to include a few things to take the guesswork out of settling in.

Again welcome to the neighborhood, this kit is available for download at our "New Residents" page at calheights.org.

Who? A few area cultural resources

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site

Trace local history, enjoy children's programs and special events.

rancholoscerritos.org | ph 562.570.1755

Historical Society of Long Beach

histoicalsocietylb.org | ph 562.424.2220

Dana Branch Library

lbpl.org | ph 562.570.1042

(see a full list of resources on page 6 and 7)

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



2951 Cherry
Avenue in
Signal Hill
(Just opposite the
BMW dealership)

OUR NEW LOCATION IS



(562) 426-0694

"We have a brand new building with plenty of parking and our concept has expanded to include a full liquor license, lunch and dinner. We have a walk-in dining room, a seven course prix fixe room and a wine cellar that features a ten course meal for parties of 4 to 6.

Come visit us soon!"

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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

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**

Noise Control 570-4126 (press 4)

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**

About Us

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) is a volunteer organization. Our goal is to promote public knowledge and preservation of significant historic and architectural resources in the California Heights Historic District. Our mission:

- Educate residents to understand and appreciate the architectural qualities of their homes, respect their special character, and consider themselves "stewards of history" in the context of their historic neighborhood.
- Inform residents through a website, newsletters, welcome kit, community meetings, lectures and educational programs.
- Foster a sense of community by encouraging communication between residents, local businesses and city officials to promote public safety and awareness.

All CHNA activities are supported by volunteer efforts and the donations of resident sponsors.

Historic Guidelines

In 1990 the California Heights neighborhood was recognized as having special architectural and historical value and was officially designated a historic district by The Long Beach City Council.

A historic district is an area containing groups of older houses that are intact and unaltered. While each building may not be individually worthy of landmark status, collectively they preserve the visual qualities and ambiance of the past.

Historical designation requires that residents follow established design guidelines. All exterior alterations, additions, and demolitions of designated landmarks and buildings in historic districts must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness before a permit is issued.

The design guidelines usually apply only to the exterior of historic buildings and include but are not limited to window replacement, visible roofing and exterior siding or stucco, extensive landscaping, (i.e. walkways, driveways, planters, walls, courtyards), remodels and new additions. This process is designed to protect the character of each individual home as well as maintain the historic integrity of the neighborhood as a whole.

For more information on the design guidelines contact Jan Ostashay, the City of Long Beach Historic Preservation Officer at 562.570.6890 or visit Long Beach Planning at Ibds.info/planning/historic_preservation/historic_district_guidelines.asp.

CHNA Home and Garden Tour

In 1997, the California Heights Historic District, Long Beach's largest, was not particularly well known. To bring the area some much-needed publicity the California Heights Neighborhood Association developed the idea of a hosting a Home and Garden Tour to showcase the architectural beauty of the historic homes and the yesteryear charm of the neighborhood. On October 19, 1997 over 350 home tour guests descended upon California Heights and visited our neighborhood, homes and gardens. One veteran home tour enthusiast said, "This is one of the best home tours I've been on in a long time!" So, by popular demand the California Heights Home and Garden Tour came back for an encore in 1998 and is now a regular event held every October schedule permitting. Attracting as many as 800 or more guest per year, the tour has become CHNA's primary fundraising tool.

The California Heights Home and Garden Tour is self-guided with docents stationed in each home to provide participants with the home's history and architectural details.

Architectural styles represented on the tour have included Spanish Colonial Revival, English Tudor, Neo-classical and the beloved California Bungalow. The interiors of these homes have ranged from those in charmingly original states, those restored to original condition, and those whose owners tastefully updated the interiors to meet today's standards for comfort and style while honoring a respectful nod to the past.

Past Home and Garden Tours have included complimentary refreshments, antique recordings played on an old Victrola, slide shows, lectures, the Little Red Trolley Shuttle, and some years we've included an option for a garden lunch with live music.

For more information or to view programs from past tours, visit calheights.org. If you have a home or know of a home we should consider in October, or if you'd like to volunteer as a docent, email us at calheights@earthlink.net. It doesn't happen without our generous homeowners and volunteers!

Proceeds benefit our neighborhood projects, website, newsletter, and community meetings.

What's Up E-Mail List

Want to know what's going on in the area? Sign up by emailing calheights@earthlink.net.

BOOKMARKS

888 Clean LA ladpw.org/epd

Bixby Knolls Business Improvement bixbyknollsinfo.com

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc. calheights.org

Carpenter Center carpenterarts.org

City of Long Beach longbeach.gov

Dana Branch Library
Ibpl.org/location/dana/default.asp

Historical Society of Long Beach historical society lb.org

International City Theatre ictlongbeach.org

Litter Free Long Beach litterfreelb.org

Long Beach Museum of Art **Ibma.org**

Long Beach Heritage **Ibheritage.org**

Long Beach Playhouse LBPH.com

Long Beach Recycles longbeach-recycles.org

Long Beach Unified School District **Ibusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp**

Museum of Latin American Art **molaa.org**

Music Theatre West musical.org

Rancho Los Cerritos rancholoscerritos.org

Richard Goad Theatre & The LB Shakespeare Co. **Ibshakespeare.com**

Tree People treepeople.org

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Our Historic Lampposts

In 1999 the California Heights Neighborhood Association embarked on a program to restore thes neglected 1920s lampposts that grace our parkways from Lime to Falcon Avenues. To demonstrate the possibilities we unveiled a completely restored post during the 1999 Home and Garden Tour, a gift of City Light and Power and South Coast Lighting, the original manufacturer. After an initial grant from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Foundation and generous donations through the CHNA Adopt A Lamppost campaign, twenty five additional posts were restored in the neighborhood.

Since that time Adopt a Lamppost restored eleven more lampposts, one other with collective donations, and all twenty three lampposts on Orange Avenue were restored in October 2007 using dedicated funds from the California Heights Annual Home and Garden Tour ticket and ad sales. CHNA hopes the latest round of our ambitious project will usher in new interest from Cal Height's residents to sponsor more of our charming lampposts. CHNA thanks all who have so generously contributed.

Special thanks to board member Karen Highberger, who has organized and overseen this successful and rewarding project. We also thank our 7th District Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga, her staff, and Public Works Director Mike Conway for helping us to coordinate the effort to repaint the Orange Avenue posts in November 2008.

Just a reminder - it is illegal to post signs or messages of any kind on our lampposts and trees. So please, don't post on the posts!

For more information about our Adopt a Lamppost campaign, visit www.calheights.org or see donation form on page 10.

The House Plaque Program

In 1999 the California Heights Neighborhood Association was recognized by the Cultural Heritage Commission for it's innovative leadership in promoting the historic district through its newsletter, house plaques and home tour.

The house plaque program was started in 1997 as a way for homeowners to show their pride in owning a historic home. The plaques are currently displayed on more than 200 California Heights homes.

Feeling proud? Order your historic plaque from B&B Hardware. Call 562.490.2669 for pricing and availability.

The Cal Heights Mural

Dedicated in March 2004, the California Heights mural welcomes residents and passersby at the corner of Orange Avenue and Wardlow Road. Led by then board member Janet Anderson, CHNA hired local mural artist, Art Mortimer, to develop and paint this striking homage to our neighborhood. Preparations were completed by community volunteers, who stripped, cleaned and re-grouted the bricks before Mr. Mortimer set out to complete his masterpiece.



Cal Heights ReLeaf

Cal Heights ReLeaf was formed by local residents interested in restoring the historic tree canopy to California Heights. Over the past several years, nearly 250 trees have been planted, and Cal Heights ReLeaf has

partnered with other local organizations, like Longfellow Elementary and Hughes Middle Schools, and the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association to plant 160 more at our schools and along our commercial corridors.

Besides the charm and beauty they provide, mature trees significantly increase property values, provide oxygen and combat global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide. They clean pollutants from the air and provide shade for those wonderful summer walks through the neighborhood. Properly placed trees can even save on energy and water costs by shading landscapes and homes in summer and blocking heat robbing winds in winter.

Visit the ReLeaf page at www.calheights.org to learn more about ReLeaf activities and proper care for our street trees. Plantings are announced in the newsletter, website and email alerts. Together, let's continue to ReLeaf California Heights!

Where?

- Post Office 4580 Atlantic Avenue
- North Police Substation 4891 Atlantic Avenue
- Dana Branch Library 3680 Atlantic Avenue Short list, closest to Cal Heights:
- Grocery Stores: Trader Joe's, Von's, Ralph's
- Drug Stores/Pharmacies: Walgreen's, CVS
- Restaurants: Trattoria Limone, Jongward's Bake 'n' Broil, Polly's, Baja Sonora, Kinokawa Patricia's, Il Poggio, Nino's
- Neighborhood Hardware: B&B Hardware

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ado	specific lamppost is requested, please give the dress nearest the lamppost and note the serial aber located near the top of the lamppost.	
Add	dress of first choice	
Ser	ial Number	
Ado	dress of second choice	
Ser	ial Number	
\mathbf{O}	el of Sponsorship Patron \$600 Good Neighbor \$125	
	Benefactor \$	
	ron level only, print the name of organization as y	

350, Long Beach, CA 90807. Pay with Paypal or download donation forms online at calheights.org/lamppost.htm.

Please mail this form to CHNA 3553 Atlantic Avenue, PMB

Save Water Now!

It's up to each of us to help save our water resources by following the city of Long Beach landscape water law. For complete details visit www.lbwater.org.

- Irrigate only on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, before 10am and after 4pm.
- It is illegal to wash driveways, sidewalks and other paved areas unless using a pressure washer- hose nozzles are not appropriate.
- It is illegal to over-water landscapes to the point of runoff.

Hint: In winter, landscapes need much less water, even when it's warm and dry. Save hundreds of thousands of gallons per year by cutting your water cycle to once per week from Nov - Feb, and completely off during heavy rain and for at least a week following heavy rain. What we don't use in the winter will remain in reservoirs for the dry summer.



New Program! Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling

You can now recycle expired, unbroken fluorescent light bulbs at any Home Depot store. Broken fluorescent light

bulbs are hazardous waste, and should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection event, or to a HHW disposal location.

First Fridays!

First Fridays was first organized on Atlantic Avenue by then merchant Krista Leaders, with artists Keith Lewis and Peter Dupoulos, to bring local residents out to explore and discover the Atlantic Avenue corridor and provide an outlet for local artists. The monthly event has now become part of the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association's regular events.

While the dream of a more vibrant and active Atlantic corridor is fought for by many interested business owners and volunteers, as a new resident, you can help by supporting local shops and restaurants. Only then will we prove our area viable for more interesting and diverse shops and eateries, and fulfill our residents' desire for a local, walkable playground. A healthy Atlantic Avenue retail culture saves time and gasoline and enhances our neighborhood by bolstering our community, our local retail tax revenues and our local economy. Please, help First Fridays grow!

For more information visit firstfridayslongbeach.com.

Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association

The BKBIA is an active association, headed by executive director, Blair Cohn. The association partners with other local organizations, like CHNA and Cal Heights ReLeaf to promote and improve the business environment along the major commercial corridors in the area. Visit www.bixbyknollsinfo.com to learn more about the activities that enhance our community and give residents an opportunity to contribute to the health and vitality of our local businesses.

- Strollers Meets each Saturday morning at It's a Grind Coffee at 4245 Atlantic Ave at 7:30 for morning 3.5 mile strolls through the area. Meet news friends and neighbors!
- Bixby Knolls Literary Society Discuss a new book each month. Meets monthly at the Richard Goad Theatre, 4250 Atlantic Ave, 562.997.1494, www.lbshakespeare.org.

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Help Support Your Community

Become a sponsor of your California Heights Neighborhood Association. Show your support with a donation. Your contribution goes to help fund our bi-monthly newsletter, the Annual Home and Garden Tour, tree plantings and other neighborhood projects.

Enclosed	is my dor	ation in the	amount of:	
□ \$10	□ \$20	□ \$50	☐ Other	
Name				
Address				
Phone:			Years in Cal Heights	

You can also give on-line at calheights.org/about_chna.htm. Please mail check to: CHNA \mid 3553 Atlantic Avenue, PMB 350, Long Beach, CA 90807

Get a Permit Not a Ticket!

The City of Long Beach requires a \$16 garage sale permit.

You may place one sign on your property only; it is illegal to post signs of any kind on street trees, lamppost or any public property. First offense is \$200.

For complete information, visit longbeach.gov/commercial/garage_sales.asp before you sell.



The California Heights historic district is bordered by Bixby Road to the North, Wardlow Road to the South, Cherry Avenue to the East and busy Atlantic Avenue o the West.

There are approximately 1600 homes in California Heights.

We are happy to welcome you to the neighborhood!



Calheights.org has all your community information.

Events, meetings, annoucements, lost and found pet information, historic guidelines, community photo gallery and more.

calheights.org