

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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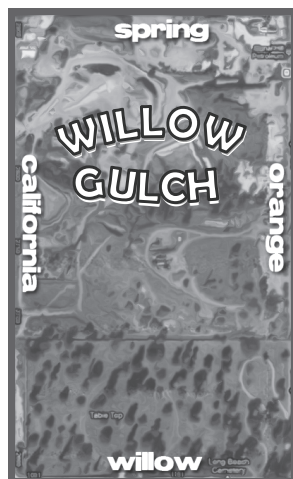
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newsletter@calheights.org

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.



A Future for Willow Gulch?

Most of you have driven past Willow Gulch without giving it a glance. Why would you? From the street, there's not much to see. Bounded by California, Orange, Spring and the cemetery along Willow, the 55 acre site is used primarily by Signal Hill Petroleum for access to oil wells and as a catch basin for 405 Freeway runoff. In 1933 it accommodated the rubble from hundreds of buildings that failed in the Long Beach earthquake, and more recently it was considered for the now defunct sports park, doomed by a lack of funding. The rusting Amerigas plant at Orange and Spring finally came down last fall, and Sasha Kanno, of Wrigley Garden fame, is in the midst of cultivating a small urban farm on the site near 28th and California.

On December 11th, Councilmember Johnson invited active community members to tour the site, led by Larry Rich, City of Long Beach Sustainability Coordinator, who has been introducing locals to the history and future possibilities of Willow Gulch for the past several years. Once enveloped by the rolling nature of the property, we quickly lost sight of the city surrounding us and began to understand how the land could become a gem of an urban oasis where residents and visitors might escape the hustle and bustle of urban life.

We learned that Willow Gulch got its name from a natural spring that ran to the LA River, lined the entire way with native willow trees. In fact, the area near the Willow Blue Line stop was home to a small farming community called Willowville, dubbed "Hicksville" by higher society Long Beach folks. To remove the stigma, the residents cut down the trees and eventually covered over the creek altogether. Today it lives on only in the names of Willow Avenue and Spring Street, where drivers speed by, oblivious to the history in their midst.

The rolling topography and a steep hillside along the eastern edge that contains the second highest point in Long Beach were an expensive obstacle for the sports park. Uplifted by the Newport Inglewood fault, Willow Gulch rests along a chain of hills that stretch from Cal State Long Beach through Alamitos Heights and the inclines near PCH and Redondo, to Signal Hill, through Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls and off to Dominguez Hills. "Why flatten one of the most topographically interesting sites in our city?" asked Mr. Johnson. Limiting grading significantly reduces expenses while preserving the hills that lend shelter and unique character to our mostly flat cityscape.

We'll keep you posted on progress for possible plans at Willow Gulch, where reduced activity has given rise to a young crop of willow trees already reestablishing themselves! If you are interested in learning more, contact the 7th District Council Office at 570-7777. Plan to join Cal Heights Clean Streets on February 19th as we dedicate our next quarterly Saturday Clean Sweep to removing litter and debris here. See article on page 7. *

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Long Beach Airport – Right-sized and Ready for Takeoff!

Well, maybe not ready for takeoff just yet, but recent media coverage reported that major terminal improvements at Long Beach Airport (LGB) began with a groundbreaking ceremony in December. There's no hiding the fact that our neighborhood is impacted by airport operations. Had everyone known back in the 1920s what the future of aviation held, the airport would surely have located near the port. Crystal balls would be so helpful, wouldn't they? The fact remains that today we are left with the task of making the best of a less than ideal situation.

Arguments were numerous and cases were made for many options, from grandiose to nothing at all, to removing the whole thing altogether. Ultimately, it landed somewhere in between. We take our hats off to all who worked and debated until a sane compromise sealed the deal. It wasn't going to go away and over-the-top visions made too many people nervous about the costs, not to mention concerns about inviting growth, despite limitations from a fairly powerful noise ordinance that currently caps commercial flights at 41 per day and commuter flights at 20.

Planned renovations are extensive, providing more room for passenger screening and holding areas with modern services and comfort while preserving the unique sense of historic character and convenience that makes our airport so attractive in the first place. While many travelers who use LGB have no plans to visit or spend money in Long Beach and see it simply as an alternative to more expensive John Wayne and crowded LAX, we will provide a much more welcoming environment for those who do, one residents and local businesses can be proud of.

While Federal law prohibits airport profits from leaving the airport, jobs and services do affect local employment and business operations, and convenient access to air travel can be an important tool to attract certain business sectors to our city. More than 1800 jobs will be supported or created as construction continues through the next several years. Fringe benefits from some of the design and operations renovations will also be seen in air quality improvements and offsets in energy use due to the extensive installation of solar panels.

Now, if only we can convince Allegiant air to abandon the noisy MD-80 jets that we were all so happy to say good-bye to when American Airlines left Long Beach . . .

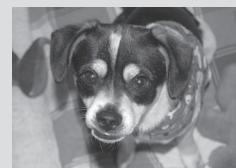
To read more about the costs, timelines and designs of LGB Airport improvements, go to www.lgb.org or call the airport's Public Affairs Office at 570-2636.



John Royce
CHNA President

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on local happenings,
resident alerts, and lost/
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Home Tour Returns for 2011!

Once again the California Heights Neighborhood Association will showcase the architectural beauty of the historic homes and the yesteryear charm of the neighborhood on our home and garden tour scheduled for **Sunday, October 2nd**.

For those unfamiliar with our tour it is a self-guided tour through homes and gardens throughout the California Heights Historic District. Docents are stationed in each home to provide tour participants with the home's history and architectural details.

Architectural styles of the homes on tour have included Spanish Colonial Revival, English Tudor, classic California Bungalows and postwar Neo-traditional style homes. The interiors ranged from those in charmingly original states, those restored to their original states and those whose owners tastefully updated the interiors to meet today's standards for comfort and style.

Home and Garden Tours typically feature guest speakers, live music and complimentary refreshments, specialized home improvement/restoration representatives, special offers and a little red trolley to shuttle tour participants through the neighborhood.

We are currently looking for homes and gardens to include on this year's tour. If you are interested in showcasing your home or know of a wonderful home or garden in the neighborhood please contact Karen Highberger at (714) 436-0826 as soon as possible.

For more information or to view programs from previous years visit us at www.calheights.org. ❁



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Seismic Testing to Resume

Several years ago many of our residents raised concerns when “earthquake trucks” rumbled through our neighborhood. Hired by Signal Hill Petroleum to search for oil beneath the city’s surface, public outreach proved lacking and the forces generated by the operation caught many by surprise and even led some residents to complain about cracked plaster, stucco and broken objects. Diane Ripley, Signal Hill Petroleum’s public relations representative, explained that this time around, Signal Hill Petroleum has essentially formed its own company to carry out the task, with hopes of doing a better job informing and preparing the community, while employing the latest technology that limits ground forces and significantly reduces the vibrations experienced by residents and their homes.

While an exact start date has not been announced, rest assured that in the near future, seismic testing will come to our neighborhood. You may have already noticed the little green sensors that were placed along public rights of way and parkways. Routes in and around Cal Heights will include Bixby and Wardlow roads, E 36th Street, and Atlantic, Orange and Cherry avenues.

CHNA will do our best to notify our residents via our “What’s Up” and “Resident Alert” emails (sign up at calheights.org/contact.htm) as well as our California Heights Neighborhood Association Facebook page. CHNA has been assured that a Signal Hill Petroleum public relations representative will be on site at all times, will be knocking on doors as they advance and will cease operations immediately if problems occur.

For more information or if you have concerns you would like to share, please contact our 7th District Council Office at 570-7777. ✱

SAVE THE DATE!

The CalHeights Home and Garden tour is scheduled for October 2nd!

If you are interested in showcasing your home, becoming a docent or volunteering please contact Karen Highberger at (714) 436-0826 as soon as possible.

Farm Box Pickups at Bella Cosa!

Do you miss the Sunday Farmers' Market? Now there's another way to get fresh, locally grown seasonal produce. Many of you are already familiar with Bella Cosa at Bixby and Atlantic. Showcasing beautifully repurposed items, unique gifts, clothing, classes, cookie and soup swap events and more. It's also become a popular venue for First Fridays. Now this locally owned and operated shop has teamed up with another local entity to provide fresh and convenient deliveries of local produce. Sasha Kanno of Wrigley's Farm Lot 59 will deliver your Beach Greens box to Bella Cosa each Wednesday for you to pick up.

Farm boxes are a slightly different size than Beach Green's regular home delivery boxes and cannot be modified. You will receive 7 different types of vegetables, 2 herbs, and 2-3 different types of fruit. Only the freshest local, in-season produce will be harvested and packed for you. Farm boxes are \$30 per week and can be ordered weekly or biweekly with a monthly commitment.

To sign up, contact Sasha at sashakanno@mac.com or at 562.230.7207 or visit longbeachlocal.org. ❀

Medical Marijuana on Wardlow Road

The medical marijuana dispensaries on Wardlow Road continue to be a concern for some of our residents. At the January 18th City Council session, Council voted to adopt the ordinance, amended to include public parks in the restrictions already adopted and reported in our last issue. A delay in implementation was caused when the amendments were requested by the 3rd, 4th and 5th District Councilmembers.

Remaining dispensaries that made it through the lottery process will now be required to go through the permit process to address potential health, building and other code requirements and violations, including signage and entrance locations.

There is one dispensary that opened in one of the vacated shops in clear violation of the ordinance and one that failed to close as required. Each of these illegal businesses has been issued citations. In addition, the property owners of the buildings that house these illegal dispensaries have been notified of noncompliance. Further action by the City Prosecutor, City Attorney, LBPd, and Financial Management will be taken as deemed appropriate.

Councilmember Johnson has pledged his determination to close illegally operating dispensaries post haste. ❀

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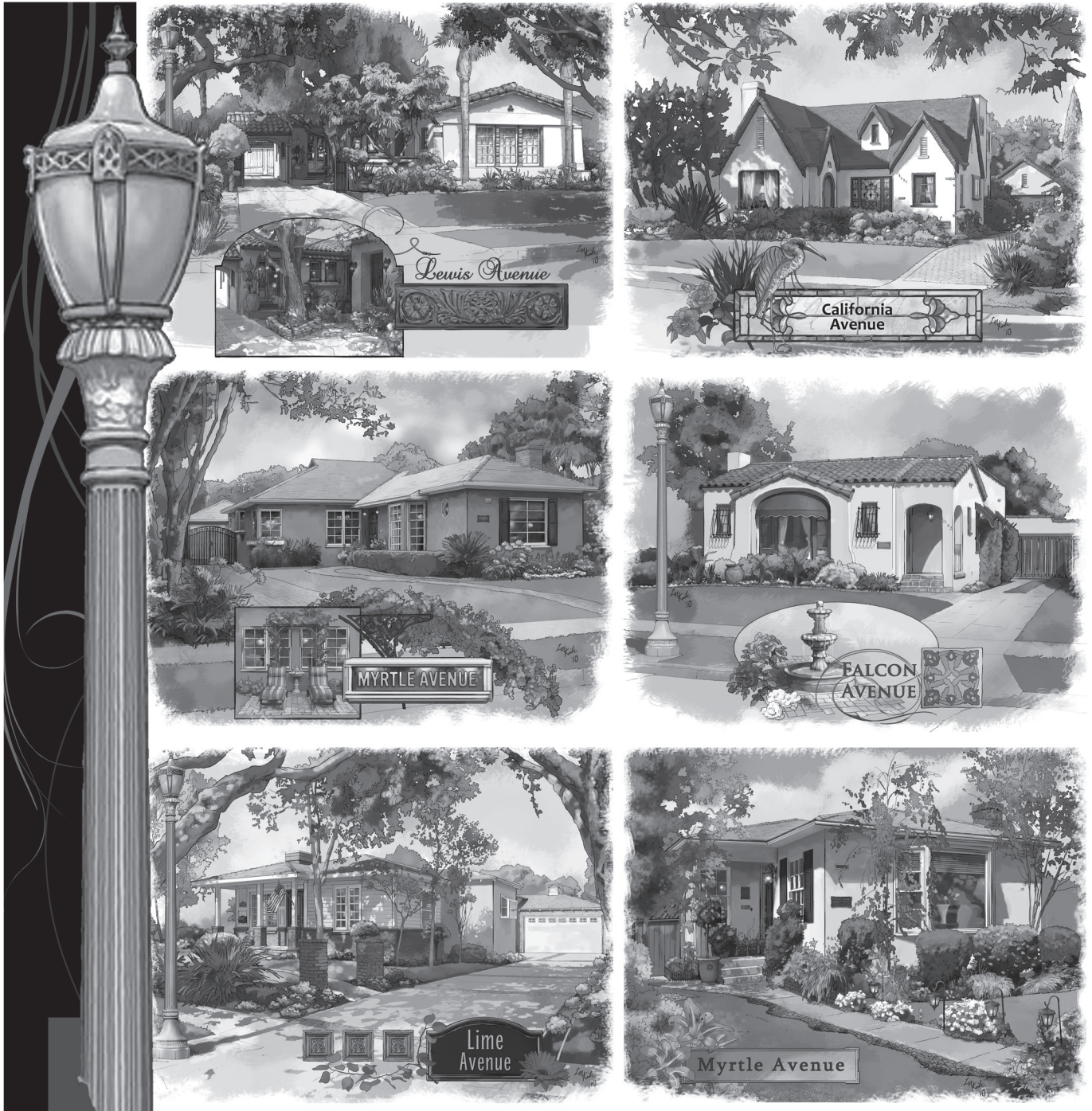


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Quarterly Clean Sweep

Join Cal Heights Clean Streets for our quarterly Saturday Clean Sweep at Willow Gulch, with our 7th District Council Office and Litter Free Long Beach.

Volunteers will pick up litter and debris in and around the site. Community hours will be signed for, tools and refreshments will be provided and two lucky volunteers will win tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific!

Litter Free Long Beach will also be collecting tires and e-waste - if it has a cord attached, it's e-waste, excluding large appliances. To join the Clean Streets email list visit calheights.org, click on Clean Streets. Please wear sturdy shoes. Parking will be limited so carpooling is recommended.*



Touring the Willow Spring Gulch

Mosquitoes Among Us

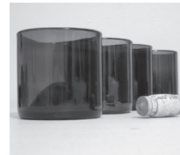
It may seem like it's too cold for mosquitoes, but without hard freezes and plenty of standing water from our recent rains, they're out there and they're breeding, albeit at a slower rate than in the warmth of summer.

Please take a few minutes to remove standing water from your property. Turn over buckets and unused flower pots, keep your rain barrels screened, and remove water from tarps, spare tires and pool covers. Replace non circulating water in bird baths twice per week. Report stagnant swimming pools to Vector Control at 570-4132 and follow the recorded instructions. You can press "0" during the recording to talk to a clerk Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm or you can leave a message.*

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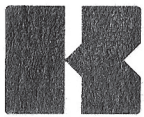
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**From the 7th District**

Dear Neighbors,

Our monthly event, First Books at First Fridays, has been a great success. I want to thank the parents, guest readers, entertainers, Dana Library, and most importantly, the children for making this event possible.

The next First Books will be on February 4th at 5:30pm. We have multiple guests in February: 8th District Councilmember Rae Gabelich and Animal Care Services. Animal Care Services will also be bringing some furry guests of their own. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

On February 17th, I will be hosting a 7th District Aquarium Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Admission will be free to everyone from 6:30 - 8:30 PM, so bring your family and friends for a fun evening.

On February 19th, we are joining forces with the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association for a clean up of the area between Willow and Spring Streets and Orange and California avenues. This 55-acre parcel is an amazing spot that offers wetlands as well as rare and endangered animals. Restoring these wetlands and creating an open space park in central Long Beach is very important to me over the next few years.

If you would like to volunteer, please call our office for more information.

I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Sincerely,
James Johnson
7th District Council Member ✱

STAY CONNECTED

Join us on Facebook, sign up for "What's Up?" emails at calheights.org (click "contact" in the upper right corner), sign up for the BKBI's "Buzz" at bixbyknollsinfo.com, and check other sites like EverythingLongBeach.com and LimelightLB.com.



Recycling aluminum cans reduces the need for destructive bauxite mining in the world's rainforests. Each can recycled saves enough energy to run a TV for four hours. Common tin cans (actually steel) can be used to manu-

facture everything from car parts to building materials. Each ton recycled conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.

While plastics tend to be down-cycled, or turned into something of less value, doing so reduces the need for petroleum products and produces less greenhouse gas emissions. Glass bottles and jars can be recycled endlessly with no loss in quality. In the US about 35% of glass beverage containers were recycled, but in California it's nearly 80%.

Americans use over 700 pounds of paper per person each year. If all morning newspapers in the US were recycled, 41,000 trees daily and 6 million tons of waste would not end up in landfills.

Cal Heights Welcomes Roxannes

Roxanne's Lounge celebrated their grand opening on February 7th and we couldn't be happier that they've put a much more attractive face on a corridor that can use it! This could become that place in our midst "where everybody knows your name!" If you have a cause, Roxanne's hosts Pink Wednesdays to donate a portion of proceeds to local non-profits. To see what's up, join them on Facebook! 562.426.4777 info@roxanneslounge.com ✱



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Red Oak, green leaf, romaine and iceberg lettuce respond to robust winter rains at Green Lab Farm near Spring and Long Beach Blvd., cared for with volunteer labor led by local resident, Kelli Johnson. ✨



All About Windows!

Community Meeting - February 10th

Many homeowners install un-permitted vinyl windows. Yet when Consumer Reports Magazine tested replacement windows, no sampled vinyl window product was top rated. They didn't do as well in long term durability tests. The culprit? Vinyl expands and contracts with temperature changes at a seven times greater rate than glass, stressing seals that make double paned windows so efficient. Learn more about windows and the value in restoring and weatherizing original wood windows from a local company. Dana Branch Library, Thurs, Feb 10, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

A Sincere Thanks!

CHNA thanks several local businesses for their recent donations: Realtor **Lewis Ebersole** sponsored two more lampposts at \$600 each, as well as a \$600 donation to our general fund. **Roxanne's Lounge** donated \$600 for a lamppost, and local realtor and resident, **John Gazdik**, donated another \$200. We would also like to acknowledge CHNA board member, Eric Kervin, for securing a \$500 grant for Cal Heights Clean Streets from his employer, Chevron, in recognition of his volunteerism. Thanks to everyone for helping make CHNA such a successful community organization. ✨

What Does it Mean to Volunteer?

According to one definition it is to "work on behalf of others or for a cause without payment for time and services." The reality is a bit more complex and can be less altruistic.

We give our time and our expertise without remuneration certainly to help others and advance our beliefs. We can also give it to have fun, meet people, network, find job opportunities and improve our skills.

"Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." Anonymous

Volunteer Spotlight- Hughes Green Team

Hughes Middle School Green Team continues to transform the school's grounds to make once forgotten spaces welcoming and productive, with volunteer labor from students, parents, teachers and community supporters. January 15 was another successful work day! Here's a short list of what the 185 volunteers accomplished:

- collected 46 lbs of litter
- planted perennials in the borders, vegetables in the farm patch, and herbs in the herb garden
- mulched, trimmed, and built berms around our street trees
- amended soil, installed benderboard, and planted a new butterfly garden — including a tree and many shrubs
- replenished pathways with several TONS of decomposed granite
- raked ALL our grass areas and decorated four new planters in gorgeous glass mosaic tile
- scrubbed, de-gummed, and power-washed the school front entrance
- created hilarious new recycle bins for the lunch area.
- moved a SEMI-truck load of mulch to shrubs and planters throughout the campus! ✨



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Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pick up - see calheights.org click on Clean Streets.

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

See all calendar events at calheights.org or visit us on Facebook!

Feb 04 - First Friday! firstfridayslongbeach.com

Feb 10 - Cal Heights Community Meeting 6:00-7:30pm at Dana Branch Library. ALL ABOUT WINDOWS! As energy consciousness has grown, windows in our old homes have come under increasing attack. But before you decide to throw away windows that, in many cases, have lasted for eighty years or more for units that are designed to last only fifteen to twenty, the greenest and most economically sensible plan may not be what you think! We've invited local window restoration experts, Window Restoration and Repair, for an informative presentation on the feasibility of restoring and weatherizing your original windows.

Feb 17 - 7th District Council night at the Aquarium 6:30-8:30PM
Free admission for 7th District residents so bring your family and friends. For more details email district7@longbeach.gov.

Feb 19 - Quarterly Clean Up and Ewaste Drop off 9am to Noon
Volunteers will pick up litter and debris in and around the site. Community hours will be signed for, tools and refreshments. Meet at California and 28th - parking is limited so car pooling is encouraged.

Mar 05 - E-waste Drive & Shredding Event 9AM-1PM Longfellow School - More info email Kim at petsit@earthlink.net

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

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

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal
495-2915 web: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54

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
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Long Beach Building Department
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Long Beach Animal Control
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Neighborhood Preservation Officer
570-6864

Neighborhood Watch Program
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Parkway Tree Trimming
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