

# THE HEIGHTS

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.



Photos: Tom Underhill

## MLK Day of Service Tree Planting with Cal Heights ReLeaf

When Leadership Long Beach's Jeff Williams contacted us to participate in their National Day of Service projects in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday, we responded with a resounding "Yes," a perfect way to set a positive tone for the New Year ahead while reflecting on an important part of our nation's past. We had already begun planning for a tree planting to fill the additional sidewalk cuts we requested through the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office during the Atlantic Avenue and Wardlow Road construction projects, so we just moved it into place a month early, posted the event on our Facebook page and set to task sourcing our trees and supplies.

While very proud of our planting efforts, the highlight of our MLK Day of Service came at the commencement of our activities, taking in Evelyn D Knight's eloquent insights and recollections of her own participation in one of the great defining moments for African Americans, the 1964 March on Montgomery. Despite the horrors she witnessed that day, her heart remains dedicated to peace, love and the power of community. We can't thank her enough for inspiring us with her experienced words of wisdom.

Most of the sixteen trees we planted came from the We Dig Long Beach 6000 tree grant from the Port of Long Beach. Trees not on the grant list were purchased by CHNA. Volunteers planted trees at 37<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic, 36<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic, Atlantic Avenue and the 500 block of Wardlow Road. We thank Neighborhood Services Bureau, City of Long Beach Sustainability Department, Public Works and, of course, Leadership Long Beach. ❁

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

2014 marks the ten year anniversary of both the Cal Heights mural and Sunset Magazine's "Best of the West" issue that named California Heights the West's "Best Neighborhood!" I recall the morning well when I received a rather urgent call from CHNA board member, Kerrie Weaver, who was riding around the neighborhood with then president, Albert Guerra, and Sunset staff writer, Peter Fish, scoping out those of us available to show our properties and share our thoughts on our neighborhood.

Now you all must know that I often used to think after I'd been cleaning or gardening, "Well, if Sunset Magazine were to suddenly knock on my door, it wouldn't be half bad." Well, let me just say that particular morning was NOT one of those days! I had sheets off the bed, sorted laundry piles everywhere and a gardening project interrupted by rain remained half done in the backyard. When I tried to explain that my house was in disarray, Kerrie responded that she couldn't imagine my house being that bad and besides, "They really needed to see some houses" to make the most of the surprise situation at hand. Reluctantly and dutifully I agreed, and began charging through the house attempting to make it look like I always wanted it to appear on that day I was certain would never come but had, indeed, arrived!

I'd barely gotten my jeans over my boxer shorts when the door bell rang an impossibly short few minutes after the call. I'm pretty sure I was hyperventilating when I answered the door. Peter was gracious and asked me what things we'd done since we moved into the house in 1999 and what we still planned to do. I sucked up my shame and answered his questions, explaining that we'd restored our windows, put in copper pipes and hoped to someday replace the 1971 "updates" to the kitchen and bath with a proper homage to 1927. After talking about what attracted us to Cal Heights for a minute or two, they left. I sat down on the bed and wondered how Sunset had come to my door on the worst day I could imagine. I don't know, I may have cried.

Well, despite it all, he must not have held it against us, because in December when we received our January 2004 issues, it was time to celebrate! I wasn't a board member then so I wasn't in the fabulous photo spread, but I was proud of my neighborhood and happy that we'd gotten our "gotta have it" house five years before in the neighborhood we'd fallen in love with. Little did I know just how involved I would be one day, or that I would find myself presenting our little 'hood at a national conference eight years later, landing the coveted Neighborhoods, USA Neighborhood of the Year award! ❁



John Royce  
CHNA President

*"Precisely because we are so inclined to think in terms of individual greatness and personal heroism, it is important for us to reflect carefully on the fact that the compassionate life is a community life."*

Henri J.M. Nouwen, Donald P. McNeill, Douglas A. Morrison

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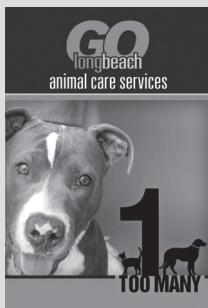
## Let's Make 2014 Safer for Our Pets

Judging by the sheer number of pet related emergencies and inquiries our volunteers respond to, there are proactive steps many of our pet owners fail to take that greatly improve the health, safety and chances of retrieving their furry loved ones should they go missing.

According to the American Humane Society, 6-8 million pets enter US shelters each year. Only 30 percent of shelter dogs are reclaimed by their owners, and only 2 to 5 percent of cats. Even more tragic, despite increasing efforts to expand adoption programs, 3 million pets are euthanized each year in the United States. Resources to operate these programs have been strained by budget cuts over the past decade, yet still cost taxpayers in excess of \$2 billion annually.

What can pet owners do to help alleviate these issues? **License, tag and or microchip your pets.** Most pets we're asked to post on Facebook or send Lost Pet emails for could be returned home with a simple call if they only had tags, and with only slightly more hassle with a chip. When you chip be sure to register it or it will prove of little use to Animal Care Services personnel or those who take them in. Spay and neuter to limit pet overpopulation and adopt pets from local shelters. It is against the law to breed pets in the City of Long Beach. Vaccinate to protect against spreading diseases and please, don't let pets roam! Free roaming pets are more prone to deadly encounters with vehicles, strays, diseases, coyotes and other wildlife. Finally, don't leave food outdoors. Pet food, food scraps and fallen fruit attract wild animals that could harm our furry loved ones. For more local pet info, go to [longbeach.gov/acs/](http://longbeach.gov/acs/). \*

### Go Long Beach - Animal Care Services App



Local pet owners and animal lovers can now easily search for adoptable cats and dogs, find local dog parks, search impounded animals and locate emergency and after-hours veterinary facilities with the new "Long Beach Animal Care Services" mobile application, available on iTunes and Google Play.

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## 2014 - A Milestone Year!



**Sunset Magazine's "Best of the West!"** – Sunset Magazine's January 2004 issue held a special for us, as it named California Heights it's Best Neighborhood as part of its "The Best Places to Live" feature. Denise Kiss responded to Sunset's invitation for readers to write about their neighborhoods. That letter earned a visit and tour from Sunset and eventually landed Cal Heights the top pick. The article began: Carol and Leonard Thompson got their first glimpse of the Long Beach, California neighborhood, California Heights, while house hunting ten years ago. "When we saw it," Carol recalls, "I said, 'We have to live here.' It just felt like home."

We think it still does, and we thank all of the dedicated volunteers and homeowners, past and present, who support efforts to maintain our neighborhood's historic integrity and the value it represents to all of us.



**Cal Heights Mural** - On March 20, 2004, CHNA dedicated Art Mortimer's now familiar welcome to the neighborhood, the Cal Heights mural. At the intersection of Wardlow Road and Orange Avenue, the mural marked the successful fruition of a plan to beautify a less than attractive entrance to the neighborhood. Directed by volunteers Janet Anderson and Heather Green, funds raised included start up money from then Councilmember Ray Grabinski's office to hire the artist to develop a design in 2001, CHNA funds and the sale of special edition mural tee shirts, and a generous grant from the Public Corporation for the Arts. Helping to cut costs, community volunteers helped scrape, sand, fill mortar joints and prime the wall in

preparation for Art's beautiful work we take for granted today. Ten years later, the mural has never been tagged with graffiti, which we think speaks to the respect the Cal Heights mural continues to command. The colors remain nearly as vibrant as the day they were painted. We're working on a special event and a tee shirt to celebrate this milestone, so please keep an eye out on our Facebook page as the details become available, since the next edition of The Heights will arrive shortly after the mural's anniversary.



**Lamppost Project** – Following a very successful 2013 Home & Garden Tour in October, CHNA is on track to complete our ambitious Lamppost Restoration Project in 2014. We've restored 211 of the 286 vintage posts since the first one was unveiled at the 1999 Home & Garden Tour at 3650 Olive Avenue. That charming home's beautiful restoration was featured for the 2011 tour! ❀

## Architectural Tours

We love our vintage Cal Heights architecture, plus it makes our Home & Garden Tours popular and profitable! In SoCal many more tours are available on a regular basis. Here are just a few:

- **Long Beach Heritage Monthly Downtown Walking Tours**  
lbheritage.org
- **LA Conservancy Historic Downtown Walking Tours**  
(variety)- laconservancy.org
- **Old Pasadena Monthly Walking Tours**  
pasadenaheritage.org ❀

## Fight the Drought!

Help fight the increasingly serious drought situation while saving money.

- Receive \$3 for each square foot of turf converted to drought tolerant landscaping – lbawntogarden.com
- Earn \$50 rebates for high efficiency toilets and \$175 for high efficiency clothes washers – socialwatersmart.com
- Don't water between 9am and 4pm (It's best for your plants to water in the early morning)
- Repair broken sprinklers

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## ECO STATS

### Hughes Green Team Stats (2012-2013 school year)

- CRV beverage containers:  
4,118 lbs recycled
- Whole food donated to

Salvation Army: 4,267 lbs

- No Trash Friday food scraps donated to feed chickens at Spring Street Farm: 1,070 lbs
- Paper, cardboard & comingled recycling: 47,900 lbs
- Total of **29 tons** of materials diverted from the waste stream!

### Cal Heights Clean Streets Stats (2013 Thursdays only)

- 4,125 pounds of litter removed
- Over 600 volunteer hours logged

### Lawn to Garden Stats (Long Beach Water Dept)

- 1,165,988 square feet of turf removed (to date)

## Bizz Buzz



Photo by Tom Underhill

Our local **Blackbird Café** has become popular for more than it's unique and tasty menu. Regulars take notice of the constant turnover of interesting artworks, most by a steady array of local artists. Blackbird's owner, Debbie, credits Mac, of Mac's Barber Shop on Wardlow for his connections with local artists.

**Metropolitan Design Furniture** - According to the BKBIA's Blair Cohn, a proper furniture store will be locating on Atlantic Avenue, north of EJ Malloy's this spring. Metropolitan Furniture is currently at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Long Beach Blvd.

**UP Pilates** - Long Beach Dance Conditioning is now called UP Studio, offering private instruction, group classes, workshops and teacher trainings as well as an attached dance studio/movement space that allows exploration of both Pilates and GYROTONIC® methodologies. Owner, Alicia Head, plans to enhance the appearance of the building at 1116 E Wardlow, next door to Long Beach Ballet. ✱

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James Johnson Councilmember



In the 7<sup>th</sup> District, residents have requested improved public lighting for many years, particularly on major corridors. Several months ago, we completed a photometric study on Santa Fe Avenue that confirmed that the lighting there is inadequate. Data confirms what many residents already know -- proper public lighting is a smart way to fight crime. According to the

FBI, improving lighting is the most important thing cities can do to fight crime outside of having more police officers. At meetings for the city's new Violence Prevention Plan, residents also shared concerns about lighting. Though crime in Long Beach is at historic lows, we can still make our communities safer and create streets where residents feel more secure as well.

Last year, the 7<sup>th</sup> District was part of a pilot by Edison and the City to test new LED street lights on residential streets, which shine brighter than traditional bulbs while consuming less energy. The results were overwhelming; residents loved the new lights. In 2014, we will expand this pilot program to install these lights on a major corridor, Santa Fe Avenue. In addition to putting out improved light, LEDs save the city money by using a fraction of the energy of traditional bulbs while lasting longer. My hope is that this will be the first step in replacing our old lights throughout Long Beach with LED street lights, improving the quality of life for residents, saving taxpayer dollars, and reducing our impact on the environment.

As you all know, Atlantic Avenue construction is now complete. In addition to fixing the street we replaced 80% of the sidewalks, widened several storm drains to assist with flooding issues, and added many new tree wells. We were also able to save taxpayer dollars by repaving the Dana Branch Library parking lot at the same time Atlantic was being repaired. I hope you enjoy the new lot and visit the library soon.

I will be hosting an Introduction to Participatory Budgeting Workshop on February 25th at 7 PM at the Long Beach Community Action Partnership (3012 Long Beach Blvd). What is participatory budgeting? It's designed to empower community members to make informed, democratic, and fair decisions about where we spend public funds. In addition to learning about how participatory budgeting can work in Long Beach, you will be the first group in the city to pilot the concept by deciding where to spend \$200,000 in infrastructure funds in the 7th District. For more information, go to [JamesJohnsonLB.com](http://JamesJohnsonLB.com). ❁

## At Your Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster

The other day a patron stopped in to tell me how excited she was to have found the online resources available through the library's website ([www.lbpl.org/databases](http://www.lbpl.org/databases)). I do not remember which one she was raving about, but patrons have access to everything from ebooks to legal forms there. A few of my favorites are **Mango Languages**, for learning or brushing up on a foreign language; **Testing and Education Resource Center**, to take practice standardized tests, search for college financial aid or write a resume; and **A-Z Databases**, for marketing research, mailing lists, or finding a person or a company.

Mango Languages has 61 different languages to learn and 15 different English language learning course specific to a native language. Bengali anyone? Biblical Hebrew? Haitian Creole? How about Pirate? Yes, Pirate! Among those, there are also courses for the more commonly learned languages like Spanish (Latin American and Spain), French, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), and Italian. The courses cover beginning to intermediate language skills and you can learn at your own pace. Be sure to try out the Mango Languages app if you have a smart phone or tablet!

The Testing and Education Resources Center is such an amazing resource! There really is nothing like it. In addition to ResumeBuilder, there are tutorials for finding the right career, interviewing, salary negotiation, and transitioning out of the military, among others. And we can't forget the 40+ practice tests; truly, the CAHSEE to the GMAT and everything in between! Oh! I did almost forget to mention the scholarship database and the college and vocational school databases; it has those, too. It's worth checking out; you will definitely find something useful!

Where else can 30 million business and executive listings, job searching, resume, templates, 200 million residential listings be found, and more? AtoZdatabases? That's right! AtoZdatabases is the premier marketing database available through libraries. While its primary use is marketing and sales, it can be used for so much more. Find a person, view sales growth information, find a physical address, find a job, revise a resume – it's all there on AtoZDatabases.

These online resources and databases are available through the library's website with your Long Beach Public Library card. Check them out and if you need help or more information, stop by or call the library. We are always happy to help! \*

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## Team Lorri

By Stacey Morrison

In April 2011 my sister-in-law, Lorri, was diagnosed with lung cancer. On October 15<sup>th</sup> she passed away with her family at her side. As you can imagine, this 2.5 year period proved extremely difficult for Lorri, her family and friends. It was, however, an amazing time of togetherness.

A wonderful group of friends, led by Lorri's neighbor, Jeannie, united to form "Team Lorri," dedicated to supporting her after she was no longer able to work, drive or take care of life's tasks as they grew increasingly difficult for Lorri to handle on her own. Jeannie knew "there was a need – and that's what friends do." That's how close friends and neighbors Kim, Jane, Nina, Mary, Lisa, Monica, Julie, Jean, Jeannie and others settled into their mission of love and support.

Each Sunday Jeannie obtained Lorri's schedule of doctor appointments, chemotherapy visits and other errands that needed tending and alerted the team, assigning each team member their "Lorri Day." If all the medical visits were handled, the rest of the day could include visiting the park, sewing, making homemade pasta or enjoying simple lunch and coffee dates.

Lorri spent her last normal day of life with Lisa. They baked cookies, went out to lunch, shopped and played scrabble. The special day culminated in a text Lorri sent to my brother, "Had a great day, taking a nap, love you!"

I'm so grateful Lorri had so many special friends in her life; they helped make her life fuller and hopeful right up to the day they had to let her go. While Team Lorri consists of an amazing group of women 2500 miles away in Chicagoland, I feel like this could easily be a Cal Heights story. Taking the time to get to know our neighbors can create lifelong friendships; friendships that change our world for the better and relationships that form the heart of community. ✿



Part of Team Lorri: Cindy, Lorri, Jane, Jeannie and Nina.

## Bach Festival Returns!

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Beach Bach Festival returns for five beautiful performances commencing and ending at our local California Heights United Methodist Church! Presented by the Long Beach Camerata Singers, a series of choral-orchestral programs celebrate the works and influences of Johann Sebastian Bach. Other venues include The Sky Room, Bayshore Community Church and Long Beach City College Auditorium. February 15 through April 4 – 562.522.1045, [longbeachcameratasingers.org](http://longbeachcameratasingers.org),

## Rancho Los Cerritos Goes Volunteer & Native

Our Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site embarks on important changes as the City of Long Beach turns over the keys to the all volunteer governing board, set to take over operations early this year. The existing staff will remain, working under the guidance of the new governing board. We wish them well.

Construction has already begun on the long planned California native garden in the northwest corner of the Rancho property that will connect with the plantings and pathways installed after the parking area was removed to make way for the new visitor center. Rancho guests will be able to follow pathways through 1.5 acres of native landscape beginning at the main entrance. [rancholescerritos.org](http://rancholescerritos.org) ✧

### Slow Down - Let's enjoy our neighborhood!

Several residents on Walnut Avenue contacted our 7<sup>th</sup> District Council office and asked to send an overall message of safety to all Cal Heights Residents.

"Slow down to enjoy California Heights, AND keep it safe!"

"California Heights is a quaint historical neighborhood made up of narrow streets, big trees and parked curbside cars, adding up to endless blind spots."

"Despite posted speed limits, never drive faster than is safe to do so. This is a neighborhood of dog walkers, children, joggers and cyclists. Let's be considerate of each other when backing out or pulling into our driveways. Keep driving speeds down and keep everyone safe."

Sounds like great advice!

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



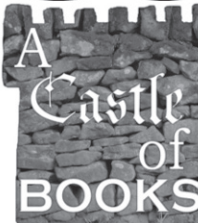
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[facebook.com/calheights](https://facebook.com/calheights)

**Thursdays:** 8:00 am litter pick up - see [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) click on Clean Streets.

**Saturdays:** Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

**First Friday of each Month:** [firstfridayslongbeach.com](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com)

**Every third Sunday:** Kidical Mass [bixbyknollsinfo.com](http://bixbyknollsinfo.com)

**Every Second Saturday:** Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO; [longbeachrecycles.org](http://longbeachrecycles.org)

**Wednesday, Feb 12:** Rancho Los Cerritos - Volunteer Open House 5:30-7 p.m.; reservations requested. Call volunteer coordinator, Jan Shafer at (562) 570-1324.

**Thursday, Feb 27:** Long Beach Heritage 2014 Awards and Benefits Gala. In the Grand Salon aboard the RMS Queen Mary. [www.lbheritage.org](http://www.lbheritage.org)

**Wednesday, Mar 5:** Havana Nights at Roxanne's. Enjoy cocktails, live music, and a cigar on the patio. [roxanneslounge.com](http://roxanneslounge.com)

**Saturday, Mar 8:** Clean Streets Quarterly alley clean up. 8:30 to Noon. Alleys to be announced - look for details on the Calheights Facebook page

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7<sup>th</sup> District Council - James Johnson  
**570-7777** email: [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov)

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Al Austin  
**570-1326** email: [district8@longbeach.gov](mailto:district8@longbeach.gov)

54<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal  
**495-2915** web: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54)

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

California Heights ReLeaf  
**997-9094**

Community Watch North Division  
**570-9825 or 570-9827**

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 Information  
**570-6194**

Parkway Tree Trimming  
**570-2700**

Police Department Dispatch  
**435-6711** or Emergency **911**

Police North Substation Information  
**570-9800**

Senior Check-In  
**570-7212**

Special Garbage Pick Up (2 free per year)  
**570-2876**

SoCal Harvest  
**(323) 678-6036**

Street Potholes  
**570-3259**



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brokers

**Connie W.**  
Broker, GRI, Cal Heights Specialist  
CPRES- Certified Probate Specialist

★ BRE#01221986 **(562) 824-4846**