

The HEIGHTS

your neighborhood newsletter



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1/23/2016 Tree Planting-
Photos Tom Underhill

More Trees Coming to Cal Heights!

Mark your calendar! Saturday, May 14th, will be the next Cal Heights tree planting. This planting will cover the area from Orange to Falcon and Bixby to Wardlow. The city arborist is currently surveying the area, identifying what types of trees will work well in appropriate parkways. Once the surveying is complete, homeowners will receive a letter asking for permission and partnership in the planting and care of these young trees. So stay tuned; more details to follow.

On Saturday, January 23rd, Cal Heights Releaf, Cal Heights Clean Team and almost 150 other volunteers helped plant 58 trees in the area surrounding Hughes Middle School in the 8th District. These tree plantings are made possible by the Port of Long Beach tree grant and are part of the "I Dig Long Beach - 6000 by 2020" tree planting program. This \$671,200 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Grant will support the development of an "urban forest" throughout Long Beach. Urban forests help absorb greenhouse gases, provide wildlife habitat, cool land surface, and increase property values. "I Dig" has planted almost 2000 trees since 2013.

This is a great benefit for our neighborhood, and we look forward to digging with you in May! Questions, or if you can volunteer, email info@calheights.org. 🌱

President's Message
A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

Just a short note of greeting to everyone at the start of this new year.

Not much has changed since our last edition – but last Tuesday, January 19th, the City council discussed and voted on the contract for the feasibility study of adding an international customs facility at LGB. Whichever side of this issue you are on, I think it will be important that we all try to be present for these discussions, and let the council know (your) feelings on this issue as it develops. The Mayor and the Council need to understand how important this issue is to all of the residents of California Heights, and all of the other airport-adjacent neighborhoods. Having literally been turned away at the door to this meeting (longest line I've ever seen), I can assure you that you are guaranteed some entertaining theater, no matter what the topic being discussed; and I think we're all better off with a council that is aware of the fact that their constituents are watching and involved in the decisions they are making, which impact us all.

We will soon be resuming alley cleanups, and hopefully block parties for the year, as well as moving forward with plans for a pretty large tree planting on the Eastside this May. We are also proceeding with plans to paint the electrical boxes, as well as continuing to look into the placement of security cameras at strategic locations throughout the neighborhood. We'll be having our first board meeting of the year in February, and hopefully there will be more exciting news to report on by the March/April issue of The Heights.

All of these things work better the more community involvement we have. You can connect with us via email at info@calheights.org or on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/calheights](https://www.facebook.com/calheights). I hope to see you all around the neighborhood! 🐾

Stay dry out there!

Kindly,



Hugh Little, CHNA President

Mark your Calendar!

March 5 - Alley Cleanup (Lime to Orange)

May 14 - Cal Heights Tree Planting

October 1 - Alley Cleanup (Orange to Cherry)

Enjoy periodic updates on local happenings, resident alerts, and lost/found pets! Just sign up at calheights.org/contact.htm

Join us on Facebook.com (search on California Heights Neighborhood Association)



Please don't post on the posts! Report lost/found pets at lostpets@calheights.org.

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner



family of local builders, the Odells.

When I moved to Cal Heights in 1985, I was curious about who built my 1929 house. I was fortunate enough to find out a local architect built it and lived here until 1975. Do you know who built your house? Chances are it was constructed by a

Beginning with William, born in 1869; his son Alvin, born in 1893; and then his son Rex, born in 1918, the family formed a sort of 'dynasty' of construction, building dozens of homes in Cal Heights and throughout Long Beach. William's great-granddaughter, Kathy Fleischer, still has many of the original handwritten ledgers that the family kept, including addresses and costs of the homes.

William built a house at 3429 Falcon in 1937 for \$5,800. Alvin built a house at 3566 Gundry for \$4,200 in 1941, and together Alvin and Rex built so many of the medical offices on Atlantic that it was dubbed Odell Row by the locals. The duo also constructed the Harris Fur shop on Atlantic, now occupied by the Long Beach Historical Society. You can still see the Harris Fur logo in the entryway.

The Odells loved building in Long Beach and lived here too. William relocated from Iowa and eventually moved to California Ave. Alvin lived on Brayton, and Rex moved his family to 36th and Myrtle, where Kathy grew up. "You could spend the entire day on Atlantic Avenue," Kathy recalled. "We would spend our lunch money buying pastries at Alsace-Lorraine, browse Taffy's Dress Shop for the perfect prom dress, have a great dinner at Brad's Coffee Shop, and finish the evening with a first-run movie at the Crest Theatre." Kathy even met her husband, Art, on Atlantic at a local hangout where teenagers would often meet for burgers and shakes at Ken's Drive-In. When her girlfriend did not accept Art's invitation for a date, he immediately asked Kathy. They were married at Cal Heights Methodist Church and settled on Rose Ave, where they raised their daughter.

Now Kathy's daughter and her family live on Rose too, one door down from a house her grandfather Rex built. That makes six generations of the Odell clan who lived here, a real Cal Heights Dynasty. ↩

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Koffee Pot Restoration

From We Are the Next - Photo Tom Underhill

The historic Hot-Cha Cafe, also known as the Koffee Pot Cafe located at 957 E. Fourth Street, is the last remaining example of programmatic architecture in Long Beach. This building is loved by residents, and we're proud to be a part of bringing back this 1932 restaurant.

We started working with the building in summer of 2015, when our team guided the current owners through the City of Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission application process. With approval in hand, the property owners are rehabilitating the exterior of the building, bringing it back to its former glory.

We Are the Next is acting as the construction manager and preservation consultant on the rehabilitation, scheduled for completion in early 2016. This project has been difficult but extremely worthwhile with plenty of surprises along the way! For example, our team and partners Salvage Division and Pro Renovation Enterprises discovered the remains of a Victorian-style house in the roof of the building while planning renovations in late 2015.

For more details, and to watch the progress of this renovation, visit www.wearethenext.org/koffee-pot-cafe/.



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COASTAL ALLIANCE



Don't Be Alarmed

by John Moreland

As you may be aware, the overall crime rate in Long Beach has increased in 2015, mirroring the trend in California. Mentioned in previous newsletters, the CHNA is continuously working with LBPD, area business owners, and residents about camera installations along major streets in our area and/or alleys. We will keep you posted about these developments.

In the meantime, are you considering installing a house alarm? Twenty years ago, home alarm systems were basic and offered few, if any, options. Today, an alarm system can be a simple system connected to a ground line, or could be completely operated from a tablet or a smartphone. Some of the top-rated companies include, but are not limited to, ADT, Frontpoint, Protect America, and Vivent. Be sure to research the company and the products they offer to ensure you get a product that best fits your needs. Also, be sure to inquire if the alarm sensors and panels are new or refurbished.

After installing the home security system, be sure to obtain an alarm permit with the City of Long Beach. An alarm permit is required by the City, and the fee for the residential alarm permit is \$36 for 3 years. Residential alarm permit applications can be downloaded from www.longbeach.gov/finance/services-and-permits/alarm-permits-and-false-alarms and mailed to Long Beach City Hall once completed. For any questions about the application or the residential alarm permit, contact the City of Long Beach Financial Management Department at (562) 570-6211.



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5 Energy Saving Tips

1. Switch to Energy Star-rated CFL bulbs; they use 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than standard bulbs. **2.** Plant trees around your house strategically -- on the south and west sides. **3.** Install dimmer switches to dial down electricity. **4.** Since the 1992 legislation, all new showerheads must have a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute or lower. Replace your old showerhead and save water and money. **5.** Wrap an insulation blanket around your water heater and lower its running cost as much as 9 percent.

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Heart and Home

By Bungalow Kev Doherty

YESTERDAY TODAY AND TOMORROW

The shady streets of California Heights, lined with so many beautiful bungalows, often reminds me of my childhood growing up in a Spanish Colonial home on Ashcroft Avenue in West Hollywood during the 1950s. We spent many happy years taking full advantage of the enriching lifestyle our home afforded, as do many of you. The cozy fireplaces; warm, woodsy built-ins; the textured walls, often with rustic coved ceilings, add to our aesthetic pleasure as we pursue all manner of interior social activity.

Our historic homes, part and parcel of late nineteenth to early twentieth century Romantic Revival architecture, were smartly envisioned for social gatherings, often with rooms designated by architects for specific activities popular in the day. Victorian and Queen Anne parlor rooms were places where drama games, music performances, proper courting and tea rituals took place. Semi-classical guitar music played by women for their suitors became known as Parlor Music. Sunrooms, sewing rooms and rumpus rooms represent additional examples of rooms designed and named for specific activities that promoted social, intellectual and creative growth. Solid doors allowed multiple activities throughout the home relatively free of distraction while large windows provided ample natural lighting.

As Victorian homes waned in popularity, new Craftsman and Spanish homes reinvisioned the parlor as a combined living and dining space separated by built-in bookcases or writing desks. Built-ins emphasized the value of reflection and literary pursuits while the combined rooms represented continuity of popular social gatherings, parlor games, dining rituals and fireside conversation, all in close proximity.

For today's families, sizable amounts of time spent alone on tech devices represent new trends for interior life, but also challenges and perhaps gives an opportunity to rediscover our historic home's architectural intentions in order to promote whole-person growth and optimal family relationships. If you listen very carefully, you may hear your historic home whispering wise reminders that the indoor activities, parlor games and social rituals shared by loved ones of bygone eras are still timely and remain smart, refreshingly enjoyable ways to gather, learn, share life, and celebrate humanity. 🐾



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From the North

Commander Rudolph Kosmiza

The City of Long Beach Health Department and Empact Communities would like to invite you and your family to attend a free Bicycle Safety Workshop. The Bicycle Safety Workshops are being held throughout the city, and all participants will receive a free bike helmet and a

pair of bike lights. One lucky winner will have the chance to WIN A BIKE at each workshop!

The next bike safety workshops will be on:

February 10th

9 am - 1 pm, Bixby Park - 130 Cherry Avenue

February 27th

9 am - 1 pm, Veterans Park - 101 East 28th Street

March 5th

12 pm - 4 pm, Mark Twain Library - 1401 East Anaheim Street

April 9th

9 am - 1 pm, Admiral Kidd Park - 2125 Santa Fe Avenue

At the workshop, you will learn:

- How to bike safely in traffic
- Rules of the road
- Bicycle safety check
- Practice drills

To guarantee a spot for this free workshop, RSVP at empactcommunities.org. Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog interpretation is available upon a 5-day advanced request.

For more information, contact Viki Ornelas at viki.ornelas@longbeach.gov or at (562) 570-7904. 📞





From the 7th District
Roberto Uranga Councilmember

Happy New Year, Cal Heights!
I want to begin the year on a positive note and thank all the engaged residents who made 2015 spectacular! There are few neighborhoods in the city that come close to showing the amount of passion and love for community like California

Heights. From support for local businesses like Blackbird Cafe and Mac's Barber Shop (who just so happens to be celebrating 18 years on the Wardlow Strip) to increased efforts to improve the quality of life and general cleanliness of the neighborhood with the tireless efforts of the Clean Streets Team, there has never been a better time to live in the 90807!

In January, we also take time to reflect on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and how the actions of civil rights advocates positively affect our everyday lives. Specifically, I would like to emphasize Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community - a community in which people of different backgrounds recognize that we are all interconnected and that our individual well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of others." That is what I see thriving in Cal Heights between those who have lived in the neighborhood for decades and those who have recently started calling Cal Heights home.

As my office continues to focus on improving the quality of life for our residents, small business community, and visitors to our great neighborhood in the coming year, I want to reinforce the notion that we appreciate hearing from residents who have emailed or called our office to express their concerns, and that I strongly encourage you to contact my office.

Let's keep working together to improve the 7th!

Respectfully yours,
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach,
Seventh District, district7@longbeach.gov (562) 570-7777

Doing anything Thursday mornings at 8:00 am?
The Cal Heights Clean Team is looking for more muscle to help pick up trash. We meet at the corner of Lime and Wardlow every Thursday. It's fun; sometimes there are donut holes. Questions? info@calheights.org



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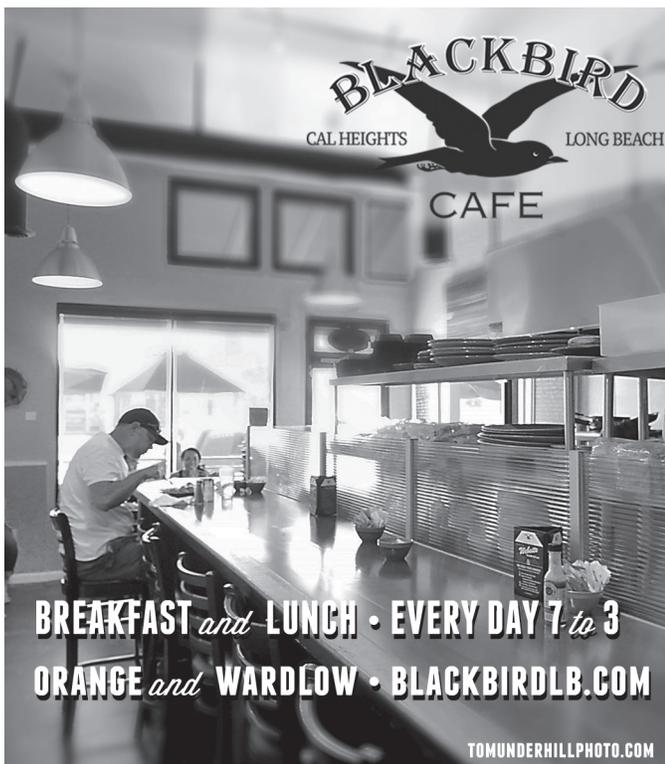
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At Your Local Library

by Melissa L. Strasser

Branch Librarian - DANA Neighborhood Library

Happy New Year! Hopefully you've settled into 2016. We here at the Library are gearing up for spring and we have lots of new things going on. These are our events:

Due to popular demand, DANA Library is now hosting our **Imagineer Club** events every Saturday. The Club is open to anyone who likes to build using bricks, sticks, blocks, dough, and other trinkets we find around the Library. We set a challenge, you build a masterpiece! Saturdays, 2pm.

Bring Your Kid to the Library Day is Saturday, February 6th! We'll celebrate with a full day of events and fun.

For the month of February, DANA Library will be offering **Beginner Computer Classes**. Let our Learning Guide show you some basics.

Saturdays, 12 noon

February 6...Computer and Internet Basics

February 13...CLOSED

February 20...Intro to Microsoft Word

February 27...Intro to Social Media

Also in the technology zone, DANA Librarians will be providing assistance with **OverDrive** downloadable collections. Bring your device and we'll show you how to access materials from anywhere in the World. Third Thursdays, 5:30 pm.

And for our final techie offering, a heads up that March 6-12 is **Teen Tech Week**. We'll be offering STEAM activities for Teens every day that week at 4 pm.

For those of you who prefer a less tech hobby, we're also hosting a **Fabric Addicts MeetUp**. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other hobby and meet some friends. Fourth Thursdays, 5:45 pm.

Also, since so many of you enjoyed our Uptown Beach Streets event, I wanted to let you know that there will be a **Downtown Beach Streets** event on Saturday, March 19th. See www.beachstreets.com for more information.

Hope to see you soon,

Melissa L. Strasser

Branch Librarian, DANA Neighborhood Library

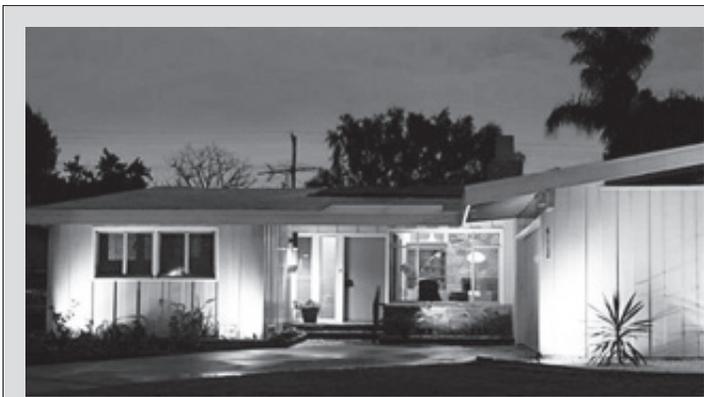
3680 Atlantic Ave., (562) 570-1042 ☎

Planning for 2016

This is the first newsletter of the year, and the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association is busy planning the year. Tree plantings and alley cleanups are already on the books, but we are thinking of other events and would love your input.

How about a Cal Heights book club or wine club? Bixby Knolls Strollers is amazing, but if Saturday morning is your sleep-in day, how about a weekday walking group? There are many musicians and artists in Cal Heights; how about a Cal Heights arts festival? Maybe a nature - eco tour, where we visit our local farmers or nature centers?

We need your input. Please give us your ideas! Email any suggestions to info@calheights.org, or post on the Cal Heights Facebook page: facebook.com/calheights.



Midcentury 90807

Are you interested in mid-century architecture and design? Do you wish there was a way to see inside the unique mid-century homes in our neighborhood? If you answered yes, check out our group, Midcentury 90807.

As the name says, we're a group of mid-century homeowners and fans in Cal Heights, Bixby Knolls and the greater 90807 area. We share ideas, photos, and beverages about once a month in a member's home.

We'd love to get all mid-century homeowners in our neighborhood on board for our informal get-togethers! Find us at www.facebook.com/groups/midcentury90807 or email Julianna at julianna.robbs@gmail.com.



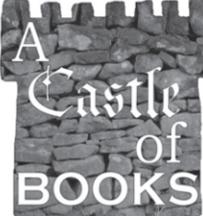
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Willow Springs Park - It's More Than Oil and Water by Stacey Morrison

Willow Springs Park, located in the heart of LB between Orange and California and Willow and Spring, is a 47-acre park, and when completed it will be the largest developed in Long Beach since El Dorado Park opened in 1952.

Willow Springs Park is a wonderful nexus of many things: geology, history, water, wildlife, and oil. The history of the park is significant, as it is the site of an artesian spring that was the original water source for Long Beach when it was founded as Wilmore City in 1882. The gulch was also the heart of a willow forest that extended west to the Los Angeles River. These original natural features of the area live on in the street names Willow and Spring. The discovery and development of oil wells after 1921 first degraded the area, but then ultimately preserved the area from development.

But the park is more than just oil and water. **Longview Point**, which opened in November of 2012, is a 4-acre hilltop plaza at the highest point in Long Beach, with views from Catalina to the San Gabriel Mountains. Just last month the Parks and Recreation Department installed a labyrinth, added additional benches, and created platforms under several trees, which are ideal for seeing the great views.

Farm lot 59 is a .5 acre farm located on the southwest corner of the lot. It is proof that farmland can exist in an urban setting. It offers the public fresh and healthy food choices and teaches a variety of farming related workshops.

In February of 2015, the park was a great example of adaptive reuse when a **train depot** originally built in downtown LB in 1907 was moved to the southwest corner of the park. Once fully restored, this will serve as a community center.

Additionally, the park hosts the citywide **free mulch program** and **pilot restaurant composting program**.

If you haven't been there, it's worth a visit. Learn more at facebook.com/WillowSpringsLB/.



Kiwanis
A Service Club Serving Children

Service projects include Christmas for the needy, annual coat drive, annual all-star baseball game, middle school awards programs, and more.

The local Kiwanis club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at The Breakfast Club. Drop-ins welcome! For questions, call BT Tuggle 562-254-1447.

Long Beach in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

1) and 2) Live music at Fingerprints on 4th Street, 3) Bixby Knolls Supper Club at The Mirage, 4) State of the City



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IN THE KNOW'LLS
What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Happy New Year to you all. The era of change is in full swing in the neighborhood. Here's what's happening:

Bixby Knolls Shopping Center: The façade improvement along the backside of the center (California Plaza) is just about complete. The parking lot will be repaved next; Massage Envy is now open; Smart & Final will be moving into the former OSH space; and the post office will move in next to Marshalls by the end of spring.

Steelcraft! This shipping container food park (Bixby Road & Long Beach Blvd.) has all its approvals from the city and now is in fabrication. Tenants include: Working Class Kitchen, Long Beach Cup Ramen, Smog City Brewing, Waffle Love, Steelhead Coffee, Seabirds Kitchen, Long Beach Farms, and Blooms by Brooke. We are looking to mid-May for the grand opening.

State of the District The community is invited and encouraged to attend our annual State of the District presentation, where we report on what the business association accomplished in 2015 and our plans for 2016. The event will be held at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 7pm, February 18th. There is a small fee at the door, and there will be pizzas, salads, and drinks for all attendees. This year's theme is "Ch-Ch-Changes..." There is plenty going on in the area, and you will get to hear the full scope.



First Fridays Mardi Gras with a twist of Bowie – We hope to see you all out on February 5th for our annual Mardi Gras Parade. We will be crowning Servando Orozco (Orozco’s Auto Service) and Jane Ho (Baskin Robbins) as the 2016 King and Queen. Crowning ceremony begins at 7:00 pm at Georgie’s Place (3850 Atlantic), and the parade will begin immediately following. You can also enjoy Bowie Karaoke all during First Fridays in the Allery (Atlantic & Burlinghall), AND, hear the Bowie tribute played by local favorites MOVE from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Ground Control (4313 Atlantic).

Lola’s Mexican Restaurant has a goal of being open in February. The build-out is full steam ahead, and with fingers crossed, they just may make the goal. Ready for margaritas?

A new restaurant coming -- **The Pan**, which has two locations in Gardena, is coming to Bixby Knolls. They will be located at 3550 Long Beach Blvd. and will be another really tasty option for the neighborhood. They have incredible reviews on Yelp, so we think they will soon become a neighborhood favorite.

Find us and follow us:
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @bixbyknolls

We also encourage you to sign up for our newsletters at: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com

Also visit: Firstfridayslongbeach.com and Expoartscenter.org

And use the hashtags: #bixbyknolls
#boughtitinbixby

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14478 Newport Ave., Tustin

Huntington Beach
COMING SOON!
17491 Beach Blvd.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Visit the calheights.org for calendar events!

Thursdays: Litter pickup - 8 am meet at Wardlow & Lime

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

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass, bixbyknollsinfo.com

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, longbeachrecycles.org 9 am to 1 pm

Saturday, February 13, 6 am to 8 pm: Romances at the Rancho, Rancho Los Cerritos. Enjoy a special evening as you stroll through a century of history and witness romantic vignettes from the Rancho's past. The program concludes with a sumptuous dessert and live music. \$15/person. Reservations are required. Call (562) 206-2040.

Saturday, February 20: Rancho Los Cerritos: Bixby family historian Steve Dudley shares the early years, when the Bixbys and their cousins came to California seeking their fortunes in the gold fields.

Saturday February 13, 11:30 am to 1 pm: Low-Cost Pet Vaccination, Animal Care Services at Bixby Park. Vaccinations, Microchips, De-worming, Nail Trims, Flea & Parasite Prevention.

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. For more information or a submission, email newsletter@calheights.org



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Robert Garcia, Mayor
570-6801

Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

Al Austin, 8th District Council
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

Patrick O'Donnell, 70th Assembly District
562-495-2915

Ricardo Lara, State Senate 33rd District
562-256-7921

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 Pickup (2 free per year)
570-2876

SoCal Harvest
(323) 678-6036

Street Potholes
570-3259