CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.





Summer is Here!

SUMMER SOLSTICE STROLL AND RANCHO RECEPTION

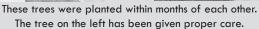
The evening cooled just in time for the Bixby Strollers special Summer Solstice Stroll on Saturday, June 21st. Participants were greeted with balmy breezes and plenty of friends and neighbors. Those taking part in the Summer Shutters photo contest also had that chance to snap some dramatic evening shots of the streets, homes and residents of the Los Cerritos and Virginia areas as well as the peaceful and historic grounds of Rancho Los Cerritos. The Rancho hosted a reception afterwards, complete with ice cream, watermelon, lemonade and other treats. It was wonderful to see so many Cal Heights folks participate in the event, where we had a chance to meet and chat with both new and familiar faces and escape the heat during our first weekend of summer!

Tree Care

Proper tree care can make a surprising difference in the growth of our street trees. We have ReLeaf trees that were planted just three years ago that are two-three times the size of others that were planted six years ago! Why? Occasional deep soaks (once every four to six weeks) and keeping weed whackers at bay by asking your gardener to maintain a turf free area around the base are the main reasons some trees flourish where others languish or fail. (For more tree care photos visit calheights.org/releaf.htm)









Clearing grass away from the base of the tree protects it from lawnmowers and weed whackers.

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president's message A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Summer is here, hailed in with record breaking heat!

We in Cal Heights live in modest homes, for the most part. If you think about it, it encourages us to get out for a stroll, meet our neighbors and lends us our sense of community. Especially on those hot summer nights!

I hear from many of you, wondering why we can't get more merchants, especially eateries, to locate in our business corridors. It's not for lack of trying. Interestingly, Cal Heights residents have been found to be much more likely to patronize local establishments than some of our neighbors. Again, maybe it's our intimate homes that get us out and about to explore our walkable dining and shopping destinations.

There have always been places for lunch, but a nice dinner has been harder to come by. The Bake'n'Broil and Nino's have had their loyal following of Cal Heights pedestrians for forty-four and fifty years respectively, and Trattoria Limone, at Orange and Wardlow, is seeing amazing success as a new neighborhood hang out. Il Poggio, north of Bixby on Atlantic, holds promise as well.

Still, the restaurant biz is a low profit margin, labor intensive undertaking, so they require consistent support. Delius moved to the hill, unable to find a pad and willing landlord on Atlantic in their quest to replace the hidden LB Blvd location. And, sadly, the Four Olives, owned by Cal Heights residents, has closed. The avenue has lost an attractive spot. We wish them well during this transition.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about efforts to do exactly what so many of you are asking for. There are many ways you can help without drastically affecting your busy schedules. Inform yourselves, take opportunities to be heard and make attempts to explore our area. With fuel prices and lengthy commutes affecting our budgets and free time, it makes more sense than ever to help create a playground right here in our own backyard!

In the process, we glean the fruits of our community building activities with neighboring areas and business districts, bolster our image and property values, and enjoy a more complete, livable community in the Cal Heights we already love. Thanks for the help!

As we begin a new ad year we welcome new local advertisers: Vintage Emporium, YMCA, Ed Janik and Jeff Anderson. Please check out their ads and consider their services.

John Royce **CHNA President** Summer Shutters Contest Winners Announced!

The one-day photography event was a great success. Participants revealed hidden gems and rediscovered their community. A Cal Heights resident won the "People" category and a Cal Heights image won the "Maverick" category.

More images of the Olive Avenue tree canopy were submitted than any other single subject.

View the winning photos at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com /summershutters.html. All entered photos will be featured in an upcoming photo book.



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The Ninety Five Nights

Don't you just love those expansive porches found on Craftsman and Spanish style bungalows? I carry fond memories of our old Spanish home located on a quiet street in West Hollywood where I grew up. It had one of those big characteristic front porches with half walls on all sides and a tile roof overhead. We'd spend hours playing in the yard and then take shelter under the shade of the porch on balmy summer afternoons.

Perhaps you too have fond memories of porch life during your early years and wish to bring that element back into your summer lives. If so, consider embarking on a project to design and build an enclosed patio or sleeping porch for your home!

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT - Sleeping porches have long been part of bungalow architectural vernacular. The origin of the California Bungalow has its roots in far away India where the native dwelling was called a Bengala. Like the bungalows familiar to us, the Bengala was aptly designed with expansive porches and numerous windows to cope with the hot Indian summers. The American bungalow's immense popularity in Southern California was due in part to the relatively warm climate we share with India combined with the open air architectural design including porches on which to sit and sleep.

Tour Historic Bixby Mansion! Sunday- August 3

Tour the impressive, historic 1887, 7000 square foot George Bixby Mansion at 11 La Linda Drive. Twenty two floral designers transform each room to benefit the Cal State Floral Association. Seventeen rooms and the 1.25 acre stunning gardens will be open from 4pm to dark with an ice cream social provided by Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos.

Tickets can be purchased at the Rancho, or send a check payable to "Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos" with "George's Open House" in the memo line, and send it with a self addressed and stamped envelope to: Rancho Los Cerritos,

4600 Virginia Road, LB, CA 90807

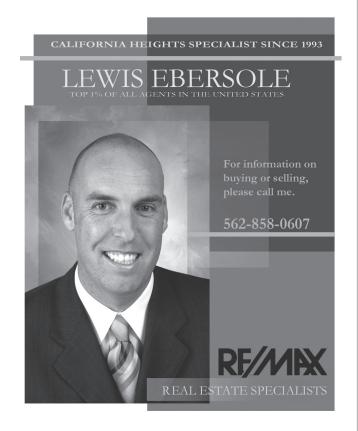
This is a one time chance to view this private home, lovingly restored by its current owners.

Don't miss it!

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DOORS and WINDOWS SALES - INSTALLATION - SHOWROOMS BENEAR DESCRIPTION - SHOWROOMS Two locations: 929 E. Wardlow Road 562-490-2669 387 Redondo Ave. 562-438-2669 BnBHardware.com State Lic. B-893650





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Proponents of the Naturalist Movement in Southern California during the late 19th and early 20th century extolled the virtues of outdoor living including the health benefits of sleeping outdoors.

A "get back to nature" craze became highly fashionable and soon mountain retreats were built throughout the wilds of the San Gabriel Mountains frequented by scores of hikers seeking the elixir of life. Their zeal carried over to their home lives down in the flatlands of Los Angeles where they made the most of their outdoor porches affectionately called "outdoor living rooms" by savvy home speculators. For those who could not afford a bona fide sleeping porch, a hilarious "window tent" became readily available. This contraption was fitted directly onto the open window and then ones bed was positioned onto it so that the sleepers head and upper body became exposed to the open air!

GETTING STARTED - There are many ways to arrive at a suitable outdoor sleeping room for your home. Begin by assessing the porch areas you already have. The simplest solution would be to place a daybed or a couple of folding cots outfitted with mosquito netting on the porch or deck area. A more substantial approach might entail the design of a screened in porch area that ties in architecturally with your home. If you own a two story bungalow consider the upper story as the ideal place to build the addition. Always augment your plans with ample study prior to construction to fine tune your design vision and your ability to communicate effectively with your designer, architect and builder.

PROCESS AND PRODUCT - As a designer I know all too well the potential pitfalls that accompany room addition projects. To insure a good start gather a team of professionals that are bungalow savvy and have experience dealing with historic homes. Visit the Building and Planning department to learn about building code guidelines and then begin discussions with your designer sharing your needs, your budget and pictures of porches you enjoy. Once the drawings are made you can assess them, revise as needed and then gather accurate bids for the work. Remember, it always costs more and takes more time to build than you may imagine, so be patient and enjoy the process all along the way. Remember that good design, quality materials and skillful craftsmanship are well worth the expense in the long run.

FURNISHINGS - A vast array of choices lay before you. I'd suggest Adirondac style, Dutch Colonial or Wicker furniture as main items. Augment floors with natural fiber rugs and then opt for low wattage electrical lighting. Compliment your lighting scheme with candle lanterns. They set just the right ambiance on warm summer nights! Consider adding some

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lush and fragrant plants to the immediate area and then humanize your garden with a low key water element and delicate wind chimes for the soothing effect they bring.

Enjoy! - Once all the work is complete on your porch project you'll be ready to entertain. Invite a few neighbors over for good wine and food. Celebrate the fruits of your efforts and share tales of process, product and the old Naturalist Movement in Southern California. When all the guests have gone pretend you're a kid again and get back to nature. Unfold your sleeping bag, get into your jammies, light a few candles and lull yourself to sleep singing old camp songs! ~ Kevin Doherty

Fall Cruise, Anyone?

If you remember, last fall we reported on a wonderful cruise to Alaska, organized by local residents Sandy Facon of Touch of Travel and Dave and Louise Solzman, owners of Delius Restaurant. Well, they are at it again, and several CHNA board members and local residents have already signed on for a ten day culinary cruise to Mexico's Sea of Cortez. If you've been thinking of a cruise, why not join us? The cruise takes place November 1-10, calling from the port of San Diego, with stops in Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Loreto and Topolobampo, gateway to Mexico's spectacular Copper Canyon. For details call 562-426-9130.



Estrella Residence on Olive Avenue circa 1930s

Vintage Photo Search!

The CHNA with the assistance of the Historical Society of Long Beach is scanning vintage photos of California Heights. If we locate enough vintage photos we may be included in an upcoming exhibit on architecture. If you grew up in Cal Heights, are second or third generation residents, know someone who once lived here or were just lucky enough to have found old photos, letters or blueprints in your attic or closets, we need your help.

If you have photos you are willing to share, please contact us as soon as possible at 562-424-6727. We will scan them, return then to you, and email a copy to you.

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Enjoy periodic updates on local happenings, meetings and resident alerts. Request adding your email address at calheights@earthlink.net.

Community Meeting Review

Thanks to everyone who attended the standing room only June 12th Community Meeting! CHNA's dynamic and energetic guest speakers, Blair Cohn, Executive Director of the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, and Carina Cristiano Leoni of Leadership Long Beach's Connected Corridor project, shared their visions and passions for returning Atlantic Avenue to a vibrant and healthy, community driven business district, with shopping, dining, and services right at our back doors!

The current efforts encourage a healthy exchange between business owners, public agencies, developers and residents, bolstering the success of the businesses while instilling a cohesive sense of community and camaraderie.

It's a complicated equation — which comes first, residents' support for local businesses or shops local residents are happy to support? Well, in a nutshell, neither! Businesses won't locate until we prove our ability to support them, and residents won't support the corridor until that critical mass is achieved to draw them there in the first place. Essentially, it will take both efforts from residents and some risks on the part of recruited businesses. So please, at least dedicate some time each month to check out what's happening locally before you drive out of the area. Gasoline is expensive, so it makes sense to stay local, especially if you can walk!

If you haven't already, please check out Bixby Strollers, BK Literary Society, and First Fridays. Stay informed by adding your email address to calheights.org (email calheights@ earthlink.net) and sign up for the Buzz & Banter (bixbyknollsinfo.com). Also keep an eye out for new businesses, special events, community meetings and community building projects. Broaden your sense of community beyond your driveway and street. It's been wonderfully satisfying for those of us who have, so please join us!

Let Them Know We Care!

Thanks to everyone who heeded the call to action and attended the North PAC meeting to announce our collective interests in seeking available Redevelopment area calheights.org Page 7

funding to continue our improvement projects along our Atlantic Avenue corridor. We made a terrific showing. Let's keep it up.

The North Project Area Committee to a large extent controls the purse strings and allocates Redevelopment area funds to projects designed to remove blight and encourage economic development. Our local Atlantic Avenue business corridor is part of the North Project Area. While our problems are less severe than those requiring huge efforts north of Del Amo, our challenges are no less important. The nice thing is, ours cost much less, but to be adequately funded, we need to let the PAC know that we want it and we're willing to work hard to make those changes successful.

The money allocated is spent on everything from banners, trees and mini parks to façade improvements, new signalized pedestrian crosswalks and center medians. They've been instrumental in securing vital anchors like Trader Joe's and other recent businesses, as well as the coming redevelopment efforts in the long neglected GASKA owned center at San Antonio and Atlantic.

Money was allocated at the June 26^{th} to acquire the empty EXPO building north of Burlinghall, a long standing source of frustration on the avenue. A study will determine the best use for the site.

The meetings take place each fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the LBPD North Division community meeting room at Del Amo and Atlantic.

Dana Branch Summer Reading Club Prizes for reading! Dana Library's Summer Reading Club is for all ages – babies to adults!

Stop by the library to sign up (hours are Tuesday 12–8, Wednesday 12–6, Thursday 12–8, Friday & Saturday 10–5). Visit www.lbpl.org for a calendar of events, to place books on hold and even to renew items you have out.

Cell Phone Laws Officially in Effect

The Long Beach Police Department reminds residents that the laws requiring hands-free cell phone use while driving and the law prohibiting teens under 18 from using a cell phone or any other wireless devices while driving took effect on July 1st. Officers can pull you over just for these infractions and fines will be assessed.

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Summer Tree Care Event

SATURDAY - AUGUST 16TH ON GARDENIA AVENUE

Cal Heights ReLeaf and Tree People Los Angeles will host a summer tree care event this August 16th from 9:00 am to noon. For the most part, the trees on Gardenia are doing well, but we will take the opportunity to do some light pruning, weeding and clearing of grasses near the trunks, and provide cool deep soaks to take them through the hot summer and fall months. Any stakes that remain will be removed if appropriate. We will meet at the corner of 36th and Gardenia. Bring only gloves and elbow grease. All tools will be provided. If you do not wish us to tend your tree, please tie a ribbon to the tree the morning of the event.

Lost Pets

The Cal Heights website has a free lost pets page. Few things are more traumatic than losing a family pet. We want to become the place to go to search and recover our lost pets. Send a digital photo and contact info to lostpets@calheights.org. We'll do the rest. We'll keep the posting active as long as we can, just remember to let us know if you find your pet. As a courtesy, The Signal Tribune will run a notice for one week, free of charge!

Don't forget to keep your pet licensed and tagged for easy identification and speedy return. Please, don't post on lampposts, trees or electrical poles!

New Business Saves Dough and Environment

Welcome InkPeace to 3636 Atlantic Avenue, just north of the 98 Cent Store. Recycle your empty ink cartridges! Trade them in to save 30%–70% off compatible new cartridges. Phone 562–912–4657 or visit inkpeace.com.

Not Just a Shop!

In our own neighborhood at 3423 Orange Avenue is a quaint shop called The Vintage Emporium. It's not just a kitschy shop with unique antique items and gifts, but a neighborhood hang out for some customers.

Julie, the owner, has become a neighborhood friend to many. The day I stopped by to see what goodies I could find I was welcomed with cookies and lemonade. Julie is very friendly and knowledgeable about the items in her shop. One of her good friends even stopped by to have Julie peruse items found at a yard sale. Julie rattled off the items and the value

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CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER

off the top of her head as if she was relaying the weather for the day. You could tell how her friend valued her input and knowledge.

The shop itself is decorated with a range of items from shabby chic to kitschy one of a kind collectibles. You can find gift items like cards, notebooks, vintage pins, button bracelets, and market bags made from vintage linens.

Julie sells many items you can find on Second Street, but at lower prices. One truly fun and inspiring event Julie hosts is The Last Thursday Evening Event. Each last Thursday of the month Julie hosts a guest artist and features their wares, available for viewing and sale. She has had featured artists who do book signings or show their jewelry collections, with 100% of the profit going to the artist.

If you are looking to reminisce about the good old times and find quaint gifts for your family, friends, and neighbors... go to The Vintage Emporium! You'll be happily surprised to meet an awesome new friend and discover great items to be purchased. ~ Ilana Brackett

The Vintage Emporium | 3423 Orange Avenue | 988-8460 vintageemporium.com | Hours are Tues. - Sat. 10:00-6:00 Last Thursday Evening Events 6:00-10:00

Rose Park Restoration Trade Fair

CHNA is proud to assist the Rose Park Neighborhood Association (RPNA) with their first annual Restoration Trade Fair on Saturday, September 21st. Generously hosted by Luther Burbank Elementary School at 4th and Junipero, the one day event will present resources for historic district homeowners and owners of older homes to restore and repair their homes. For more information, contact RPNA at tradefair@RPNA.org. The cost is \$5, free to RPNA members. Proceeds benefit the Rose Park Neighborhood Association.

Fiery Dragsters and Vintage Cars

Once again, the BKBIA will sponsor the Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo on July 12th. This year the festivities will be held from 3-9 pm to take advantage of afternoon breezes and evening light to make the most of the fire breathing dragsters display! Vintage cars will also be on display, and a special showing of Ferraris will add to the supercharged mix of fabulous autos! The event is free. Those showing their cars have paid an entrance fee to benefit Long Beach Special Olympics. For more info, visit bixbyknollsinfo.com.

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

First Friday of Every Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

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

First Sunday: (through October) Free Garden Tours at Rancho Los Cerritos. Call 562-570-1755 for reservations.

- 7/11 (through 8/2) Richard Goad Theatre presents a dramatic reading of Alice in Wonderland, Fridays 8pm, Sat and Sun 2pm. Call 562-997-1494 or visit lbshakespeare.org
- 7/12 (through 8/6) The ONE Project, presented by Tuttle Cameras, followed a single camera with 52 perspectives as photographers captured the greatness of Long Beach one week at a time. Historical Society of Long Beach, 4260 Atlantic Avenue. historicalsocietylb.org
- 7/12 Bixby Knolls Dragster Expo and Car Show, 3-9 pm
- 7/13 Rancho Evening Concerts, Rancho Los Cerritos 5:30 7pm Big Band Sounds of "Wartime Radio Review" Free 562-570-1755
- 7/31 Nino's celebrates 50 years with 1958 prices!
- **8/03** Bixby Mansion Tour (see article) 562-570-1755
- 8/13 Bixby Knolls Literary Society book club. bixbyknollsinfo.com

Newsletter Submissions: If you would like to include information for future newsletters, please forward articles, photos or suggestions to newsletter@calheights.org. Thank you to all who have responded. Next deadline for submission is August 15th.



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**