

# THE HEIGHTS

## CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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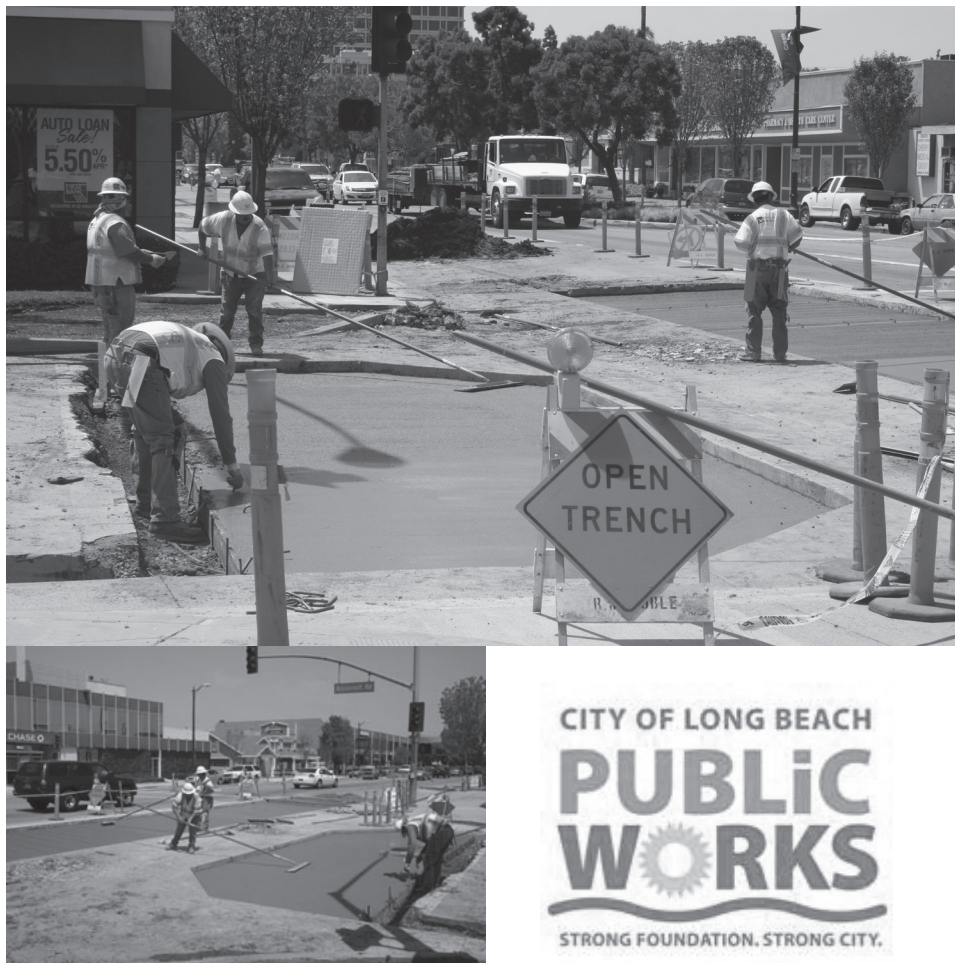
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newsletter@calheights.org

#### 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.



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### A New Atlantic Avenue!

It probably seems like it has taken longer than it has, but the Atlantic Avenue street reconstruction has been completed, and it's ahead of schedule! It was just in time to show off all of the classic cars for the Bixby Knolls Car Show, taking place right about the time this newsletter was being printed.

The revitalization of Atlantic Avenue is very important to our community. It has the potential to enhance our lives with shopping, services and entertainment, jobs, and important sales tax revenues. Healthy commercial corridors also bolster our property values. That's why CHNA continues to be active beyond our neighborhood borders, and soon, Cal Heights ReLeaf will assist with another tree planting to green the avenue from Wardlow to Bixby Roads.

So go check out Atlantic Avenue -- local businesses will be glad to see you! ☘

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Summer is here! Who doesn't enjoy outdoor dining, summer strolls, beach days, the Hollywood Bowl, or Wednesday evenings at the park with the city band and a guest jazz vocalist? By the time you read this, the Rancho's Thursday evening summer concerts will be winding down, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Bixby Knolls car show will be over, but we still have the Summer Ice Cream Social and so much more to look forward to. I hope our *What's Up* emails gave you the opportunity to take part in some of the local activities.

Summer meant so much when we were kids. The prospects of weeks without school seemed endless, didn't they? Saturday morning all week long, going barefoot in the grass, swimming and grilled cheese sandwiches, the walk to the drug store for a Popsicle, all were synonymous with summer. I've always been a night owl, so I cherished the long summer nights after we moved to Idaho when I was nine.

But before we moved to Idaho, I remember some early road trips in our camper. Dad and Mom loved to pack us up and take off - the Grand Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, Sequoia, trips to Kansas, where my aunt lived, Texas, Kentucky, and all the way to Florida and back. Mom and Dad discovered Idaho on one of those trips. We covered a lot of ground and stored up lots of memories in that camper. I'll always equate summertime with those road trips.

It was always so hot! We didn't have AC, and the endless miles would go by, hot wind blowing through the curtains, making it difficult for my big sisters to keep their cards from blowing off the table. Then we'd stop for gas at a lonely station in the middle of nowhere. "Fill 'er up with ethyl," my dad would say, while we piled out of the camper, eager to discover what was outside. Even in the middle of nowhere we would find an ice cold Coke machine!

Those Cokes might as well have been gold bars! I'd open the narrow glass door to touch and tug on the bottles that teased me with their frosty cold necks, but they only budged enough to tease me a little more. On those rare occasions that Dad handed over the dime or 15 cents or whatever it cost, it was pure magic - my very own ice cold, tingly Coke! Today, it's still my special treat and a quick walk down memory lane. Just wish they were still in money back bottles, the ultimate recycling system!

So, I hope you are all making some fun, lasting memories this summer. Make some plans, steel some moments, and have a happy and healthy summer of 09. ✿



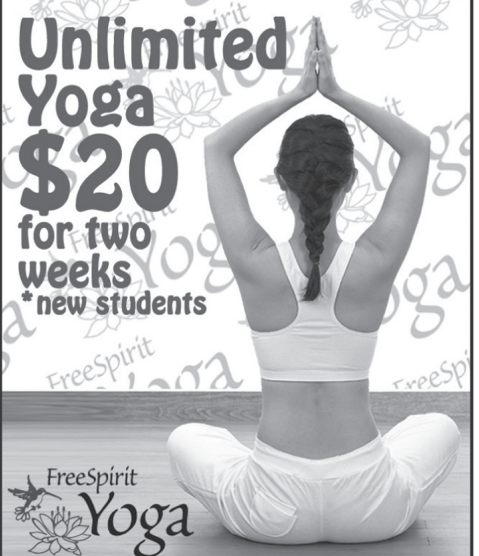
John Royce  
CHNA President

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## Home & Garden Tour - 10/11/09!

The homes and gardens have been chosen! Five Spanish style bungalow homes and three lovely gardens will grace our tour this year, along with a special speaking engagement by prominent restoration author, Jane Powell. Her titles include the very popular *Bungalow Baths* and *Bungalow Kitchens*, among others.

The overwhelming response this year made the selection process very difficult. There were many very attractive homes that we would love to have shown, but we can only pick a few each year. If your home didn't get chosen, your neighborhood thanks you very much for your willingness to contribute to your community!

Unlike many other neighborhood associations, CHNA activities are not supported by resident dues. As our primary fundraising source, monies we raise on the tour have funded ongoing projects like Cal Heights ReLeaf, lamppost restorations, the website, newsletter, and past projects like the beautiful Cal Heights Mural, last year's Summer Evening at the Rancho and our city of Long Beach historic district street signs, pioneered right here in Cal Heights. And since we have to spend money to make money, even the Home Tour itself is put on with funds raised at previous tours.

We hope we can consider your home in the future. In fact, many of our homes that don't show in a given year do, indeed, show up on future tours!

Tickets are on sale now at [www.calheights.org](http://www.calheights.org) - \$20 presale, (\$25 day of). Stay tuned and save the date! 🌸

### Home and Garden Tour Docents Needed!

You may not know that it takes 100 plus volunteers to make the Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour happen.

While the volunteers assist with a variety of things the majority of them participate as docents on the day of the tour. We never seem to have enough docents. We could really use your help-only a couple hours of your time!

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call Bill Cliatt at 562-972-2940.

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## Restoration Trade Fair & Great Homes of LB

As the CHNA continues planning for our 2009 Home and Garden Tour, we'd like to congratulate the Rose Park Neighborhood Association on another successful Restoration Trade Fair. We hoped they would be back for an encore, and the success of the event on June 28 secures it as an annual affair for our friends in Rose Park. Much like our annual Home and Garden Tour, the fair provides a source of community camaraderie and identity, promotes respect for our historic homes and provides a solid source of funding for neighborhood projects. Thanks to all of you who attended and stopped by the Cal Heights table to say hi.

June also saw another successful Great Homes of Long Beach tour, presented by Long Beach Heritage and benefiting the restoration and maintenance of the historic Bembridge House at Drake Park. Long Beach Heritage is worthy of your donations and volunteer hours as they work diligently to preserve our precious historical structures in Long Beach. For more info, go to [www.LBHeritage.org](http://www.LBHeritage.org). ☼

## Urban Coyotes

Thanks to everyone who made it to the coyote meeting to voice their concerns and find out more about what we can do to help solve this dilemma.

Coyotes have always been a part of our local environment, living in and around flood control areas, wetlands and other open spaces. Coyotes typically shy away from populated areas; however, if tempted by easy food sources, they can be invited into our neighborhoods.

Do not leave pet food outdoors, keep your trash cans covered, please keep smaller pets indoors from dawn to dusk, pick up fallen fruit, and report feral cat infestations.

Feral cats and kittens are a sad reminder of how irresponsibility breeds tragedy; please have your animals spayed and neutered. It's the law. Preventing feral cats significantly reduces a primary attractant for coyotes.

Animal Care Services will deal with the two daytime area coyotes that are causing much concern. But there still are, and always have been coyotes in our midst. If we want to teach them to stay away, then we must remove the attractants. Together we can be part of the solution – a method that has been proven effective over and over again. Please help spread the word to your neighbors.

Report coyotes and feral cats to Animal Care Services at 570.PETS, or at [www.longbeach.gov/acs](http://www.longbeach.gov/acs). For more information about feral cats, contact the Humane Society of the United States at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org). ☼

## Neighborhood Watch

At nearly every quarterly meeting with LBP North Division's Commander Quach, as well as our regular reports from Officer Brown at our community meetings, we are told to report suspicious behavior and activities that are out of the ordinary. It stands to reason that if we know our neighbors and their regular activities well, then we have a much better chance of noticing what is out of the ordinary. One of the best ways to know your neighbors is by forming block by block Neighborhood Watches.

While crime in our area remains near twenty year lows and our neighborhood has a solid reputation as a safe community, we are still part of a vast urban complex, one that is being hit hard by the current economic recession. Crimes of opportunity are an unfortunate side effect of these conditions.

Please help our Long Beach Police Department help you by talking to your neighbors and consider forming a watch for your block. Contact Lisa at 570.7229. The number is always posted on the "Community Contact" page at CalHeights.org. She is eager to help you get started. Once your group has held four meetings, you will be eligible for new Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted at the ends of your block.

In the meantime, if you do witness suspicious activity, don't assume someone else will report it. Call 911 immediately. If you are within the Long Beach city limits, a 911 call from your cell phone will now go directly to LBP North Division instead of the CHP for all major carriers. Please be prepared to give as complete descriptions as possible about persons and vehicles in question: race, sex, age, hair color, clothing, vehicle color, make, type, etc., their location and if no longer there, the direction of travel last noted.

Help take a bite out of crime! 🍷

### Thank You from the CHNA

Marsha Brown contributed to our on-going Lamppost Restoration Project.

In 1999, the CHNA embarked on an ambitious project to restore our neglected historic lampposts. Since then we have successfully restored many lampposts and continue to receive generous support. To learn more about this project or to make a donation visit [calheights.org/lamppost.htm](http://calheights.org/lamppost.htm).

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**What Is Old Can Be New Again**

by Suzanne Farrell

For the more "seasoned citizens" of Southern California, O'Keefe and Merritt appliances are as familiar as GE and Kitchen Aid are to more recent generations. Dating back to post World War II Los Angeles, when Parkie O'Keefe and Robert Merritt opened a factory on Olympic Blvd., O'Keefe and Merritt stoves became a mainstay of homes throughout the region, including Long Beach. Boasting state of art technology, the prices ranged from \$29.50 to \$173.50 and were "built to last." Sadly, the company is long gone, however, their products that were "built to last," need not be only a fond memory.

When the opportunity arose for me to return to Southern California, I was intent on purchasing and living in a historical home. Long Beach, and California Heights in particular, was the logical place to start and I was fortunate to find a home on Gaviota Avenue that was built in 1937 and contained many of its original attributes. To my disappointment, however, the stove had been replaced by a perfectly fine, however mundane, modern appliance.

I immediately began my quest to find an O'Keefe and Merritt stove. I had used one for years growing up in Downey, and then later in an apartment on Ocean Blvd. in Belmont Shore. After moving and using more modern stoves, I was flabbergasted that recipes that had been baked flawlessly in the old stoves, now never seemed to be as well baked or roasted as in the O'Keefe and Merritt ovens. Even the grid-dle on those stoves cleaned up like a dream-and no Teflon!

I was fortunate to find a 1950, four burner, porcelain topped, 38" model on Craig's List for \$150. After bargaining the seller down to \$125, I drove to Templeton, CA and picked it up-I was rather disappointed. It had been in a barn for five years, was rusted and full of walnuts and rat droppings, missing a drip tray and oven knob. Still, I had heard that miracles could be accomplished on stoves in worse shape than this one and had high hopes for it being returned to its original glory.

I contacted Jim Noyes at Bond's Stove Works, 965 E. 4th St., Long Beach (562-432-8757). Jim came to my home, and upon examination, pronounced the patient a "good deal" and began dismantled all the parts that needed to be re-chromed or painted and left me the shell. Fortunately, all the wiring appeared operational (these stoves were built to last!) Jim gave me an estimate and said that he would be back in about a week. In the meantime, I bought a can of Easy Off oven cleaner, and began scrubbing, polishing and

disinfecting what was left behind. After removing what was easily 40 years of dirt and grease, the old girl was shining like a new penny.

True to his word, Jim was back about a week later with all the parts he had taken, plus a new oven knob and griddle for the pitted one that could not be saved. He spent about 3 hours installing the parts, cleaning and attaching the lines and calibrating the oven. I felt like a kid on Christmas morning when I saw the finished product-that old stove looked like it had never left my little kitchen and shined like it was right off the showroom floor. I took her for a test run--brownies that were baked to perfection!

For his efforts, Jim charged about \$1,000, bringing my total investment to \$1,125. While much more than the original \$50 it would have cost in 1950, a bargain nonetheless. Fully restored O'Keefe and Merritt stoves can run between \$4,000 to \$6500 and can be easily found on the internet.

While these prices may be daunting and most of us are grateful for modern conveniences, the importance of maintaining the historical integrity of the inside, as well as the outside of our wonderful homes cannot be discounted, especially when the old is as good, if not better than the new. Old gems like O'Keefe and Merritt stoves should be used proudly, and not relegated to the junk heap. With a little elbow grease, and the talents of fine craftsmanship, this can be accomplished with most satisfying results. ✿



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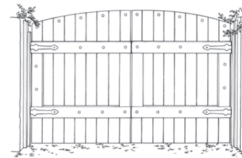
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## Ice Cream Anyone?

Join our local neighbors for a Summer Ice Cream Social, hosted by Rancho Los Cerritos on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Budget cuts prevent the rancho from allowing us to have our own separate Cal Heights event this year, so we're teaming up with Los Cerritos and Bixby Knolls to make the most of the rancho grounds and provide ice cream and treats for all of our guests. The fun includes a magic show and lawn games to keep the kids happy, and the historic adobe will be open for self-guided tours. It's all free! So grab a bottle of wine, a blanket and a picnic and join your neighbors for a summer evening.

Event is from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Bring mosquito repellent if you are susceptible. 🌿



### Our Young Trees Need You!

As the weather heats up, don't forget the young trees on your parkway. Just like us, they need water to get them through the hot days of summer, but not as much as you might think.

If your trees are recently planted, they will benefit greatly from twice monthly deep soaks. Fill up the watering basin with water and let it soak in, and repeat three times. This will ensure that the water will soak in well to encourage roots to grow deeply, enhancing drought tolerance and speeding their maturity. Once your trees are over a year old, a monthly soak will be plenty. After five years, most trees, if they have been properly nurtured, will only need supplemental water a few times during the warm months.

## Jammin' for Five Years!

Jammin' Music, 3972 Atlantic Avenue, has been providing a wide range of music lessons to kids and adults for five years. Congratulations! Beyond business, owners Kerri Hikida and Geoffrey Parry are determined to involve themselves and their talents in the community where they live and work. Check them out on First Friday, where everyone is always having fun! [www.jamminmusic-lb.com](http://www.jamminmusic-lb.com), 490.0222



## FreeSpirit Yoga Food Drive

FreeSpirit Yoga, 3910 Atlantic, continues its food drive to assist Food Finders in feeding the hungry. Food Finders provides approximately 50,000 meals a day to men, women and children. So don't forget to roll up some pasta or canned goods in your Yoga mat before you head off to class! [www.freespiritryoga.com](http://www.freespiritryoga.com), 989.9959 ☸

## First Fridays is back on August 7!

After a one month hiatus due to road construction, First Friday will be back bigger and better than before, on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

You'll find live entertainment and great exhibits. The reception for the Summer Shutters photo contest winners will be held in the Expo building (4321 Atlantic) as part of the event program.

We encourage you to continue to go out for dinner and support the participating businesses on Atlantic during this tough time. ☸

## From Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga

I hope you are having a fun and safe summer. I have enjoyed chatting with many of you at various activities around town and I look forward to talking with even more of you in the coming weeks.

This year the City Council will face one of the most difficult budget processes ever as we work to adopt the City's 2009-2010 General Fund Budget. Public participation is vital as we move forward setting funding priorities for the City's fiscal year that begins October 1<sup>st</sup>. You can find out more about the proposed budget at [longbeach.gov](http://longbeach.gov).

I hope some of you attended the Community Budget Town Hall that I hosted at Silverado Park. I encourage you to attend your community meetings where you will have an opportunity to speak to my staff or me about the budget.

The safety and health of everyone is important to me. With the summer heat, it is critical to remember not to leave pets or children inside vehicles. It can be deadly and it's against the law. Kids are out of school and more of them will be out playing, so please, drive safely through our neighborhoods. Also, remember to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

As always, please feel free to share your opinions with me either via email to [District7@longbeach.gov](mailto:District7@longbeach.gov) or by phone at (562) 570-6139. Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Tonia Reyes Uranga-7th District Councilmember ☸

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Thursdays:** Farmer's Market - 3 to 6:30 pm (Atlantic at 45<sup>th</sup>)

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

See all calendar events at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org), click on Calendar!

**07/12 1:00 PM - Bixby Knolls Has the Blues**  
Chill out Sunday afternoon and listen to some good music at the Expo (4321 Atlantic Avenue). 3 Bands for \$10.00.

**07/15 Weekly Concerts in the Park- Los Cerritos Park**  
Support local restaurant before the concert by ordering your dinner to go!

**07/16 5:00 PM - Bixby Knolls Community Happy Hour**  
It's more than a mixer, it's a happy hour! Bring business cards and a warm smile for your new friends. Everyday Zen Relaxation Studio - 424.2444.

**07/18 Long Beach Shakespeare Company's Free Summer Festival @ Expo: Julius Caesar**  
Through 8/9. Saturdays at 6PM, Sundays at 2PM  
It's festival seating: bring blankets or low-backed chairs. Bring a picnic or get a meal there! Call 997-1494 for special reserved seating. [www.lbshakespeare.org](http://www.lbshakespeare.org).

**07/26 5:30 PM - Ice Cream Social at Rancho Los Cerritos**  
The fun includes a magic show and lawn games to keep the kids happy, and the historic adobe will be open for self-guided tours. It's all free!

**08/07 First Fridays!** Check [firstfridayslongbeach.com](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com) for details.

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**570-6139 email: [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov)**

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Rae Gabelich  
**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)**

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**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  
**570-6864**

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**