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Heights The is α bimonthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association. All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right edit for clarity and brevity. to 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.



In an Historic Light By John Royce

California Heights was established in 1924. By 1926 the new residents decided that dark dirt roads that turned into mud in the winter needed to go, so they formed the California Heights/Chateau Thierry Neighborhood Association. In 1927 they petitioned the city for paved streets and lighting, and by 1929 the concrete streets and decorative steel lampposts that mark the older parts of the neighborhood were installed.

So, isn't it apropos that today the restoration of our neighborhood's icons continues as a major goal of our association? Those of you who receive the "What's Up Cal Heights?" emails and follow us on Facebook already know that the latest phase of our decade long project was completed in July.

Installed by City Light and Power, 72 restored lamppost tops, including replicate cages,

finials and quality polycarbonate globes grace 36th and 37th streets from Lime to Falcon Avenues, complete the job along the south side of Bixby Road and restores the few that remain on the north side of Wardlow Road. A total of nine privately adopted lampposts were also installed throughout the neighborhood.

In our last phase, every Orange Avenue post was fully funded by CHNA with thirteen adopted privately. This time we had the substantial help of the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association, who graciously awarded a \$25,000 grant for our project. CHNA pledged \$9000 and the nine privately adopted posts round out the latest phase. We thank LBNMHA for giving us this extraordinary opportunity and are honored to have them as our very special community partners.

We also thank everyone who has participated in this exciting program over the years, with special mention to realtors John Reynolds and Lewis Ebersole for a number of those privately sponsored posts, and the Crosby's, long time residents who've recently moved closer to their grandkids, who adopted no less than three lampposts on California Avenue! CHNA is a volunteer, dues-free association, so we thank all of our CHNA board members and volunteers who help with our Home and Garden Tours, newsletter and website that fuel our fundraising goals for projects like these! Board member, Karen Highberger, who has expertly managed this program for years, earns our sincerest appreciation for her efforts and dedication.

For more information or to adopt a lamppost, please go to calheights.org. 🚸

president's message _____ A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Transitions are a constant. An important one took place this July when our 7^{th} District Council Office passed from Tonia Reyes Uranga and her staff to a new office headed by Councilmember elect, James Johnson.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Councilmember Uranga and her staff for eight years of dedicated service. Tonia's staff kept us informed on important matters before the City Council and listened to our concerns when we had them. They were helpful with permits and official business for the Home and Garden Tours and went to bat for us to secure paint for our 2007 lamppost restoration on Orange Avenue. Tonia or a staff member attended every community meeting and always responded to our requests for special meetings to address specific issues. Field office rep, Patti Sramek, serviced our myriad calls and emails on everything from stagnant pools to broken streetlights and overgrown lots. We thank her and wish her much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

Tonia's office understood the important roll volunteers play in the health of our community, and they demonstrated that understanding on a regular basis. Tonia was a regular docent for the annual Home and Garden Tour, our primary fundraising source, and her chief of staff, Ray Pok, was a familiar face for setup and cleanup duties each year. They and their families often participated in our kickoff and wrap-up parties, too! Tonia volunteered at many of our tree plantings and care days through the years, and most occurred with a 7th District staff member present. Tonia's hands were in the concrete mix with ours when volunteers re-grouted the brick wall in preparation for the Cal Heights mural, and staff member Mark Magdaleno gave us over 60 Cal Heights Clean Street hours picking up litter and directly reporting special problems to various city departments. We wish Tonia and her entire staff all the best during their transition.

The transition will also be significant for James Johnson and his new staff as they adjust to their jobs as our 7^{th} District Council representatives. The job of Councilmember is the most involved "part time" position I can think of. At once challenging and rewarding, sadly it's far too often thankless. So please take a moment to tell them what's right and thank them for their service when making demands and recommendations. Please also remember that they must listen to many constituents with wants and needs different from our own. While we won't always get what we want, we should expect to be heard. We look forward to the many opportunities that are before us and we wish James and his staff all the best for a successful term representing the 7^{th} District.

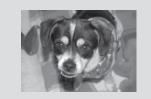
If you are free on Thursday, August 26, please welcome James and his staff at our next community meeting at Dana Branch Library, 3680 Atlantic Avenue at 6:00 pm.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

John Royce CHNA President

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.



California Heights Home Gets a Facelift

by Diane Anglin

Over fifty volunteers participated on Rebuilding Together Long Beach's (RTLB) "Rebuild Day" on April 26th including volunteers from the CSULB Recreation department and club sports teams, the VA Hospital and Council Member Tonia Reyes-Uranga. The Cal Heights resident's home received a face-lift of stucco patching, window sealant, new paint and landscaping. In her appreciative note, the lucky homeowner wrote, "I am so grateful!! So are my neighbors. I get compliments every day. My heart and thanks go out to you all. I love my beautiful house and I am so proud of it!"

Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit, nondenominational volunteer organization that enlists community partnerships to rehabilitate the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, and families with children, so they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. Rebuilding Together also assists nonprofit organizations.

Each year, after months of planning and preparation, RTLB performs two "work days" providing repairs to qualified recipients. The organization coordinates volunteers from all ages, faiths and walks of life to come together to help their neighbors in the American barn raising tradition.

RTLB's program has a long standing history serving the community with sustainable processes and procedures thanks to the vigilant work of the all volunteer Board of Directors, tailoring decisions and expenses based upon available funding and resources. Rebuild projects provide a rewarding experience for volunteers and greatly impact the homeowners' and family members' lives for years to come.

Rebuild has spent the last 18 years serving Long Beach's low-income homeowners and has witnessed the steady decline in the living conditions of older adults and people with disabilities. It is not unusual for such critical needs to create major risks to health and safety. Indeed, many lowincome families are living without basic necessities such as heat or adequate plumbing.

RTLB operates with funding from individual donors, corporate sponsors and grants and is accepting applications from needy Long Beach residents. Visit www.rebuildingtogetherlongbeach.org for homeowner applications, volunteer applications, or to make an on-line donation. 🚸

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The Restorer's Notebook #3 Asbestos, Lead Based Paints, etc. By Lou Gaudio

In this article I thought it time to address concerns some of us have about asbestos, lead and other potential hazardous materials in our vintage homes.

Our 20s and early 30s homes were built in a time when there was little known about the dangers of asbestos, lead, and carbon monoxide. We now know that long term exposure to free airborne asbestos fibers will cause mesothelioma, and pulmonary cancer. Ingestion of lead is known to cause damage to brain function in children, and cancers in adults, Carbon monoxide is an odorless poison gas that can cause brain damage and asphyxiation. But wait!! It's not that bad! Take off your hazmat respirator and go back into your cool little bungalow (bring this newsletter along for some way more uplifting reading).

Asbestos is only dangerous when the fibers are free in the air you breathe, or ingested by direct contact. If asbestos is encapsulated by other building materials, or modern coatings designed for that purpose, it becomes benign and of little concern. In homes of our vintage heating duct insulation is the area of most concern. Heater flues and some tar paper of 20s vintage can be asbestos bearing, and some types of plaster used in basement ceilings. My advice is to have asbestos heat ducting removed by a licensed abatement company, and have safe new ducting installed by a licensed heating contractor. Other asbestos bearing building materials only become a concern when they are disturbed, as in remodel demolition. Your contractor should know to have these items tested and disposed of properly.

Lead is most prevalent in the enamel paints used on woodwork and doors in our old houses. Plumbing systems can contain some lead, but only those that have been copper re-plumbed in the late 50s or 60s, prior to lead free solder. Care should be taken, though, when sanding or removing original lead painted woodwork. New EPA laws, with heavy fines, are now in effect controlling disposal of lead based painted items. (www.epaleadrenovationrule.com).

Carbon monoxide (CO) is not a huge issue, but worth mentioning. Most of our homes had original unvented gas heaters in the living room "faux fireplace", which are now illegal. Some areas of concern though, are original gravity furnaces or floor furnaces which may have leakage of CO from rusted or cracked heat exchangers or exhaust flues. My advice is have your old furnace inspected and also install a CO detector in the house for peace of mind (about \$60).*





Honoring Community Partnerships By John Royce

When we work together, ideas become reality. What seems impossible comes to fruition when we share our efforts. What is at first too costly becomes affordable when we share our expertise, resources and time.

On July 16, Councilwoman Tonia Reyes-Uranga recognized the community partnerships that have improved our community over the past couple of years. The Parkway Garden at Carson and Atlantic, the Atlantic Avenue tree planting from 35th to Bixby, the Lot 33 landscaping at 33rd and Atlantic, as well as the upcoming meandering pathway and landscape on the public easement in front of Don and Harold's Automotive at 500 East Wardlow Road all represent successful partnerships with Boy Scout Troop 29 and a host of community partners, including the Long Beach RDA, Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, Cal Heights ReLeaf, local property owners and various individuals and businesses who generously donated time and services.

I am proud to be part of these partnerships, thank everyone for their efforts, and look forward to many more opportunities! (check our more photos on facebook) *



Summer Tree Care by John Royce

Now that the heat has arrived, are your young trees ready for the dog days of summer?

A deep soak at least once per month will help them get through the hot, dry weather. Keeping a grass and weed free area around the base will prevent string trimmer and lawn mower damage, often more deadly than lack of water! See more at calheights.org - click on releaf. *

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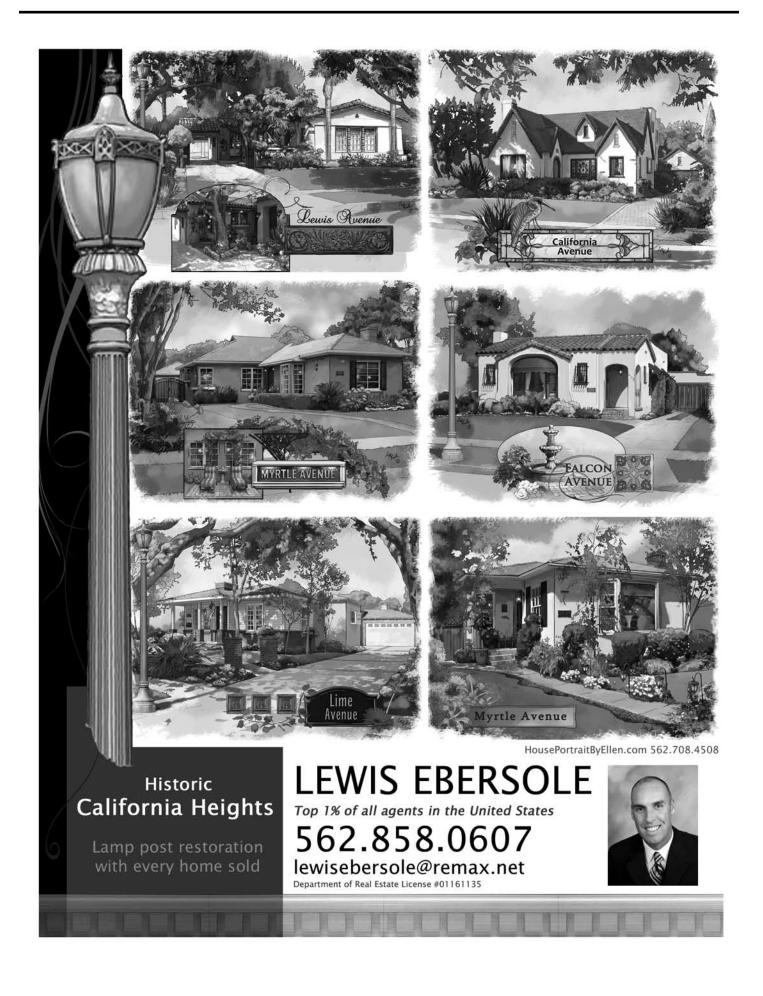
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The Wishing Tree

by Tara Minton

My son Finn loves the movie Pinocchio. Whenever he makes a wish upon a star it's for Pinocchio to become a real boy. So when we saw an article about how to make a wishing tree, I knew this would be something fun for my imaginative four year old. We decorated a box and hung it on tree in front of our house. The directions were simple: "Write a wish on an index card. Place in blue "Wishing Box." May all your wishes come true!"

We left the wishing box up for almost a week. Then one night we took the box down, sat around the table, and took turns reading everyone's wishes aloud. It was a night I'll never forget. All of them were honest, but a few touched me in ways I never expected. Here they are for your enjoyment. And from my family to yours, may all of your wishes come true!

- To have my very own pet lion.
- I wish it was sunny all over the world.
- I wish I had a big tiara.
- I would like an American doll.
- That I had lots and lots of money.
- I wish there were more butterflies in the summertime.
- Barbie car.
- I wish for a bunny.
- My wish is for peace and tranquility in my life and throughout the world.
- Can I have some shoes?
- I wish I had a blue I dog!
- I wish for a blue balloon!
- I wish it rained more.
- I wish for a promotion at work.
- I wish that I will have friends.
- I wish that this time next year I'm pregnant.
- Peaceful lives, contentment, a place to be me.
- I wish people would not litter.
- I wish for lots of toys.
- I wish...fearlessness!
- I wish dogs could talk so they could teach us how to be just like them!
- I like a mermaid.
- I wish all the babies in the world would always be ok.
- Wish for my brother-in-law to be cancer free.
- I wish you all you could wish for bringing a blessing to this street.
- I wish for the Pirates of the Caribbean the game on D.S.
- I wish for two Addies.
- I wish for a guinea pig.
- I want a safe trip to Argentina with my kids.
- I can get anything I want.
- I wish Stacy, Dennis, Addie, Tara, Finn, and Dan are friends forever!
- I wish there was a blue monkey in the world. \ast



(Photos by Kent Lockart. View more pictures at facebook.com search on California Heights Neighborhood Association.)

Rancho Ice Cream Social and Volunteer Appreciation, July 11, 2010

A cooperative effort between the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation, Rancho Los Cerritos Neighbors and the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association, guests were treated to free ice cream and fixin's and old fashioned games like sack races, balloon toss and tug-a-war. Crafty kids got to mix their own salt dough compliments of Averyboo Arts.

We thank the Sunday Farmers Market, The Factory, Nino's, Trader Joe's, Bake'n'Broil, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf and the Cal Heights Market for donating our free raffle items, and Kelli Johnson for the grand prize, a picnic dinner for four for the Rancho's Sligo Rags concert on Aug 27! *





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From the 7th District

by James Johnson

Greetings, neighbors.

First, I want to thank Tonia Reyes Uranga for her eight years of public service to the 7^{th} District. I also want to thank all of you who took the time to vote, for whichever candidate, in the recent elections. You reaffirmed that radical notion our founders

proposed over 200 years ago - that the public could and should be entrusted to pick its leaders.

I am excited to represent Cal Heights and the entire 7th District. My wife Nicole and I moved into this neighborhood because we loved the historic nature, the strong sense of community, and the blossoming Atlantic business corridor. I have seen improvements in our community over the years in large part due to the California Heights Neighborhood Association, and I look forward to working with the association and all residents to keep moving in the right direction as a community.

These are tough times for our city and our country, but I know that Long Beach will emerge from this economic downturn with the same strength and resilience we have shown in years past. By coming together and each of us working to improve our neighborhood, I know we will achieve great things.

I hope to be a regular contributor to *The Heights*, sharing events and city services with you. Also, please remember that my staff and I are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any concerns, needs, or ideas. I look forward to working with all of you towards a better Long Beach in the years to come. *

James Johnson phone: 562-570-6139 email: district7@longbeach.gov web: longbeach.gov/district7

Get our Email Updates!

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

Welcome to Patricia's

by Ilana Brackett

It had been a long time since I've eaten at Patricia's Mexican Food at Atlantic and 36th. Probably a good five years. Time just keeps going and there you are. My husband's parents are regulars at Patricia's; they go back for the usual chicken soft tacos and to see, David and Patricia the very welcoming owners.

After perusing the menu, I realized I could eat at Patricia's every day for a month and taste something different during each visit. The menu is quite extensive. There are over twentyfour burritos....yes 24! There are soft tacos, hard tacos, rolled tacos, and flautas. I noticed they serve at least twelve different beers and authentic Mexican sodas, which can be found in the refrigerated case. My daughter opted for the fresh cantaloupe juice and thought it tasted delicious. There are other authentic style juices served like the tamarind and the rice.

On our visit, the seafood was the choice for the afternoon from the myriad of customers. Families were piling in one after the other. Fish plates and shrimp cocktails were passing us on all sides.

One of my favorite features of Patricia's is the Mexican style condiment bar. They have fresh salsas, onions, fresh cut limes, radishes, and spicy carrots. All of these items help to make your meal more enjoyable, delicious, and authentic.

At Patricia's, you order at the counter where you are given a number to place at your table. After we ordered a quesadilla for our youngster, rolled tacos for me, and flautas for my husband, the server handed us a tray of chips drizzled in beans and guacamole. While we waited for our food we enjoyed looking at the different beer posters and vintage Mexican photos.

All in all, we had a good meal and are looking forward to trying something new on our next visit. *



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The Privilege of Public Service By Tonia Reyes Uranga

It has been an honor to serve as City Council representative for the 7th District for the past eight years. As I reflect upon the successes we have shared, I am grateful for the friendships and memories we've created together. California Heights is home to many of the city's strongest community

advocates who will undoubtedly continue the work to improve, what I have often called, the best district in Long Beach.

We have worked through our share of difficulties over the past few years. I believe that the people of Long Beach are ready to address the very real challenges ahead with creativity, compassion and a sense of purpose. I stand ready to work by your side to bring us all back to greatness.

I am energized and excited about what lies ahead for me and for the city I love so much. As I write this message, I am preparing for my final council meeting, but that will not be the last time you hear from me.

I will be updating you on issues we all need to know about. I'll be learning a thing or two from my colleague Gerrie about blogging and getting some pointers from LBReport.com and Dave Wielenga about writing the truth about the city in a way that motivates and informs. You can follow my blog at http://toniatalk.blogspot.com or friend me on Facebook.

I'm so proud of what we have accomplished in the past eight years and I thank you for such a wonderful ride. Don't forget that every vote counts, every action matters and one person can make a difference.

See you soon. 🚸

Our email address has changed!

Email us at info@calheights.org.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



Big Belly Trash Compactor

On July 9th a Big Belly trash system was installed on the corner of Atlantic and 36th just south of La

Penita Restaurant. This pilot program, generated by the City of Long Beach Sustainability Commission, tests the viability of advanced garbage and recycling collections along our busy corridors.

The trash compactor on the right is powered by solar panels and holds as much waste as five of our standard streetside trash cans.



Be sure to check it out! (See more photos are on our facebook page)

CHNA Home and Garden Tour 2011

by Kerrie Weaver

After a hiatus of one year, due to the worsening economy, the California Heights Home Tour returned last October and was warmly welcomed by residents, local businesses and tour visitors.

It was a beautiful fall day for strolling the neighborhood and the tour returned with many of its regular features including beautiful arrangements from Bixby Knolls Florist, coffee from It's a Grind, live music and our little red trolley. We also introduced new features including a presentation by well-known author Jane Powell, sweet treats from Vintage Emporium and Delius Restaurant and antique autos from the Long Beach Model T Club.

It was a pleasure to be able to celebrate our neighborhood and our community spirit with all of you!

We hope to see you again at our next Home and Garden tour scheduled for Sunday, October 16, 2011! *



式 MARK YOUR CALENDAR 🏂

- **Thursdays:** 8:30 am litter pick up see calheights.org click on Clean Streets.
- Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind.
- Sundays: Farmer's Market 9 am to 2 pm (California and Bixby) See all calendar events at calheights.org, click on Calendar or visit us on Facebook!

Sunday September 19th Rose Park Restoration Trade Fair

Rose Park is once again gearing up for their annual one-day Restoration Trade Fair & Fundraiser. RPNA is seeking participants! For two previous years, the fair has hosted 600+ homeowners living in historic districts in and around the Long Beach area. For this year's fair, they are seeking experienced tradesmen and artisans knowledgeable in using their skills to restore historic structures. In addition to returning vendors, they want to include specialists in tile, tile repair, period glass, decorative arts, wrought iron, sheet metal/copper, masonry, plaster and cabinetry.

This year's theme is "1910 Fair" with period costumes, music and the spoken word, along with all the resources and vendors guests have come to expect. To be a vendor or sign up for email updates, contact 562-219-3516 or info@rpna-tradefair, or visit www.rpna-tradefair.org.

October 2-3, 11am-5pm LB Open Studio Tour

Enjoy a two-day self guided tour of local artists' studios. Meet new friends, listen to music and join the artists in their working environment. Focused on Wrigley and California Heights, a free trolley will be available and refreshments will be served at selected locations. This event is free and open to the public. For information and artists' profiles, visit www.lbopenstudiotour.com.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson 570-6139 email: district7@longbeach.gov

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

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

Airport Noise 570-2665 / 570-2600

California Heights Neighborhood Association 424-6727

California Heights ReLeaf 997-9094

Dana Branch Library 570-1042

Fire Department 570-2500

Graffiti Paint-Out 570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline 570-YARD (9273)

Long Beach Building Department 570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control 570-PETS (7387)

Neighborhood Preservation Officer 570-6864

Neighborhood Watch Program 570-7229

Parkway Tree Trimming **570-2700**

Police Department Dispatch 435-6711 or Emergency 911

Police North Substation Information 570-9800

Rancho Los Cerritos 570-1755

Senior Check-In 570-7212

Street Potholes 570-3259