

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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President

John Royce | 997-9094
roycelockart@msn.com

Home Tour Coordinator

Kerrie Weaver | 424-6727
info@calheights.org

Newsletter Editor/Layout

Stacey Morrison
newsletter@calheights.org

Newsletter Idea Submission

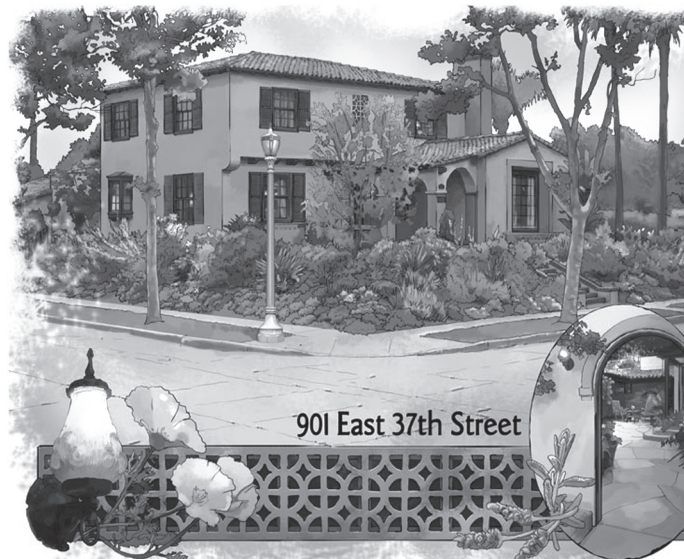
newsletter@calheights.org

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.

13th Annual California Heights Home and Garden Tour - Oct. 2nd



2011 Home Tour illustration by Ellen

The California Heights Home and Garden Tour returns Sunday, October 2nd, from 10 AM to 4 PM (guest speaker begins at 10, homes and gardens open for visitors at 11.)

Presented by the California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) and sponsored by local realtor, Lewis Ebersole, the tour will showcase historic homes, charming gardens and high-light local home improvement and restoration resources.

While highlighting the value added aspects of maintaining and restoring the neighborhood's historic fabric, the home tour remains the largest source of income for the volunteer-run CHNA, providing funding for ongoing community improvement projects and public outreach, including historic lamppost restorations, Cal Heights ReLeaf, weekly Clean Streets, CalHeights.org, The Heights newsletter, community meetings and our annual ice cream social. Past projects include the mural at Orange and Wardlow by Art Mortimer, historic district street signage and neighborhood information kiosks. The tour, which began in 1997, is expected to draw 600 plus visitors, with an additional 100 residents volunteering their time and talent throughout the day.

This year's tour features guest speaker, Carole Coates, co-author of *California Revival, Vintage Decor for Today's Homes*, showcasing the latest indoor-outdoor design trends that use vintage furnishings, pottery, tile, paintings and decorative arts from California's golden Spanish Revival period of the 1920s to 1940s.

Tickets are \$20 presale and \$25 the day off. All tickets include a Cal Heights Dining Discount Card and the popular home tour brochure, featuring home portraits by Ellen Kirk. Live music and light refreshments are included.

Purchase tickets online at calheights.org, or mail checks to CHNA Home Tour no later than Tuesday, September 27th, to 3553 Atlantic Ave. #350, Long Beach, CA 90807. Please be sure to include your name and phone number on your check as no tickets will be mailed. You will pick up your tour packet at the check in table located at Longfellow Elementary, 3800 Olive Avenue, on the morning of the event. ❁

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM ILANA BRACKETT

Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls - Long Beach's revitalized treasures. Where else can you walk to Concert in the Park, First Fridays, dining on Atlantic Ave, Trader Joe's, and a soon to be Fresh & Easy. We all have busy lives, but it's important to take the time to unwind and enjoy life's simple pleasures. With weather like this, may we suggest parking your car, turning off your television, and walking to the many gems in the neighborhood.

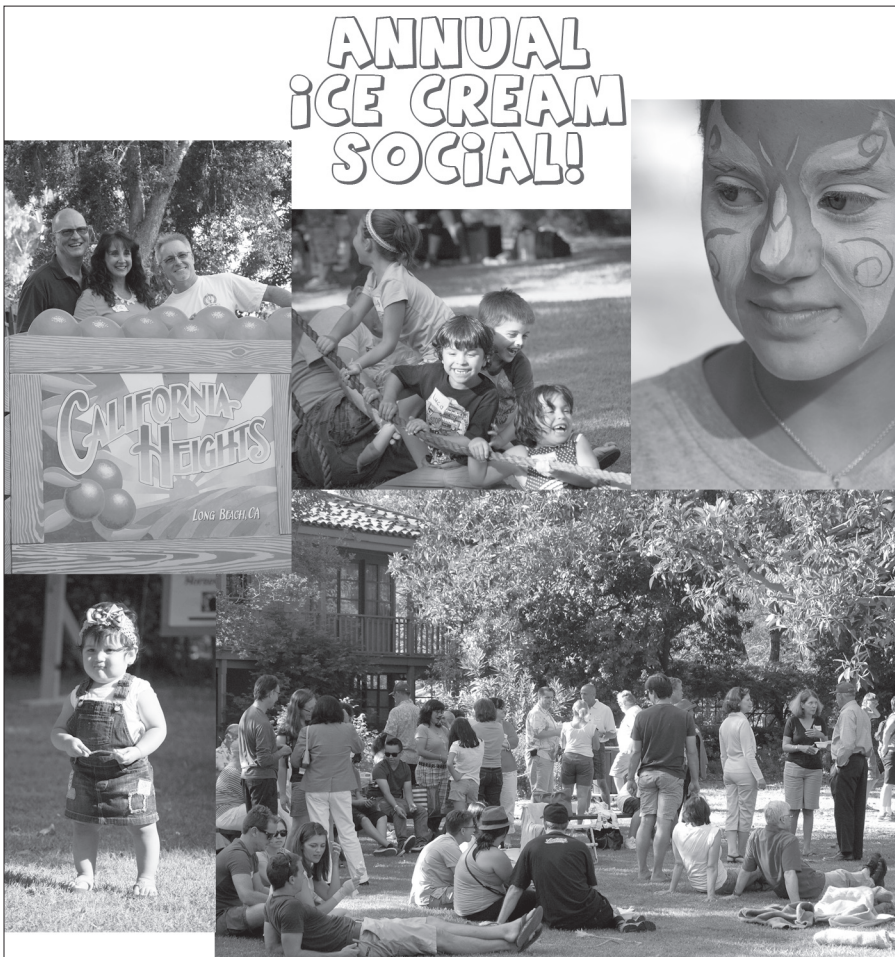
The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association promotes many wonderful activities, businesses and restaurants in our area. During this difficult economic downturn these businesses need our continued support. In turn, we need them as much as they need us. The last five years have brought trying times and we need to help each other to navigate through this financial chaos.

We hope that you will also support the neighborhood association by attending the Home Tour this year. This fundraiser helps with supporting lamppost restoration, Cal Heights Re-Leaf, Cal Heights Clean Street and other important ongoing activities.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Ilana Brackett, Vice President

(John Royce is away tending to family matters)



check out more photos at facebook.com/calheights.org

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

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Home and Garden Tour Docents Needed!

by Kerrie Weaver

As many of you know the California Heights Neighborhood Association hosts a home and garden tour here in California Heights. What you might not know is that it takes 100 plus volunteers to make this event happen. While the volunteers assist with a variety of things the majority of them participate as docents on the day of the tour. We could really use your help - and it's only a couple hours of your time!

What does a docent do?

It's very easy. Docents act as tour guides for each of the tour's homes and gardens. Docents are assigned to one of the homes and are given a brief "script" describing the architectural features and other key information of the house. Four to five docents are usually assigned to each home and each docent only works one shift.

Why should you volunteer?

Besides the personal fulfillment you feel from helping your neighborhood, all docents tour the homes for FREE (\$20.00 value). In addition, you have the opportunity to learn more about your neighborhood and get a chance to meet and socialize with your neighbors.

Our home and garden tour showcases our neighborhood beautifully and the value of our homes has continued to climb. The tour and given us regional and national attention. Real estate agents will tell you that people want to move to our neighborhood for our sense of community, our high community involvement, and of course our great homes.

Being a docent is fun! You get to meet and work with really great, like-minded people. So please help continue this great tradition that offers so many benefits. Give us a few hours of your time and support CalHeights!

The home and garden tour is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Two docent shifts are available 10:45-1:30 and 1:15-4:00. We also need volunteers for the docent check-in table and various other small tasks. You don't have to live in the neighborhood to be a docent- so ask a friend and take the tour together! And yes, you can be in the same home- just let us know who you would like to be with.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call the CHNA at 562-424-6727 or e-mail Bill Cliatt at Bill.Cliatt@yahoo.com.

We look forward to hearing from you! ✱

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Police Commander Galen Carroll

Together we can all help prevent auto burglaries in our area. Too often, valuables are left in unlocked vehicles, making it easy for thefts to occur. We have conducted special operations to address this increase and successfully apprehended several

individuals with the help of vigilant neighbors.

You can do your part to reduce these crimes:

- Report suspicious persons or vehicles by calling police dispatch at 9-1-1.
- Secure vehicles by closing and locking all doors and windows. Roll windows up all the way and secure sun roofs and wind wings.
- Park vehicles in well-lighted areas within view of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- If you have a garage, use it and keep it closed and locked.
- Do not leave mail or documents with your personal information in the vehicle.
- Remove valuables such as GPS, GPS holders, laptops, and cellular phones or at least keep them from public view.
- Equip your vehicle with an alarm or other anti-theft device.

Follow these steps when reporting a crime to the police:

- Remain calm.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Identify yourself (name, address, and phone) and give your location.
- Describe what is happening or what you saw happen.
- If there is a suspect or vehicle, be able to provide the police dispatcher with a detailed description and the direction of travel.
- Be patient and remain on the line until the police dispatcher's questions have been answered.

Whether home or away, may you and your family enjoy a safe and memorable 2011. ✱

Making Progress with a Moving Landscape

by Blair Cohn

There have been lots of "hot topics" in the news lately and lots of distractions with what I call a moving landscape. Redistricting, redevelopment, changes in personnel in key positions, and even the joys of summer can be a distraction for what we, in our office, consider "making progress."

Recently, while many folks were focusing on the issue of redistricting, I had my eyes on Sacramento and the legislation to dismantle the state-wide redevelopment agencies. This, too, is a hot topic to some that turned into an education vs. redevelopment debate. I'm not going to get into the whole explanation, but I wanted to voice my opinion on how important redevelopment has been to the Bixby Knolls area.

The redevelopment funds used in our area have gone to such infrastructure projects like repaving Atlantic Avenue and putting in the medians along the pedestrian zone. But much more than those obvious large projects have been the many "layers" (as we call them) of the individual projects completed. Our light pole banners, new lighting, façade painting, signage for businesses, tree plantings and landscaping, community parties, newsletters, the dragster expo and car show, and the growth of First Fridays have all been the result of our RDA Work Plan projects. RDA funds have also helped four boy scouts from Troop 29 pursue their Eagle Scout designation with landscaping projects on our corridors. Our BK Clean Team activities have put great focus on graffiti and weed abatement and supplements the work that the Cal Heights Clean Streets group does each week. And the Expo Arts Center has become a hub for community events and meetings thanks in part to the continued maintenance of the RDA.

Without this funding in the upcoming fiscal year, the BKBIA will be incredibly challenged to maintain the momentum that has been growing for the last 3 years. We reached one of my first goals of the job by putting Bixby Knolls back on the map with all of our events and programs. Without our RDA funding we'll be back at the drawing board to figure out how to. In the meantime, the important thing is to keep moving forward. I am committed to our check list until the city yells Stop! once and for all.

While the political ground keeps shifting, I have been focusing on the positives. We have other "foot soldiers" who share the same passion for community and we will continue these partnerships. But while we waded through the uncertainty of our moving landscape, I'm reminded of the lyrics from one of my favorite songs, Tom Sawyer by Rush: "No his mind is not for rent, to any god or government, always hopeful yet discontent, he knows changes aren't permanent, but change is." ❀

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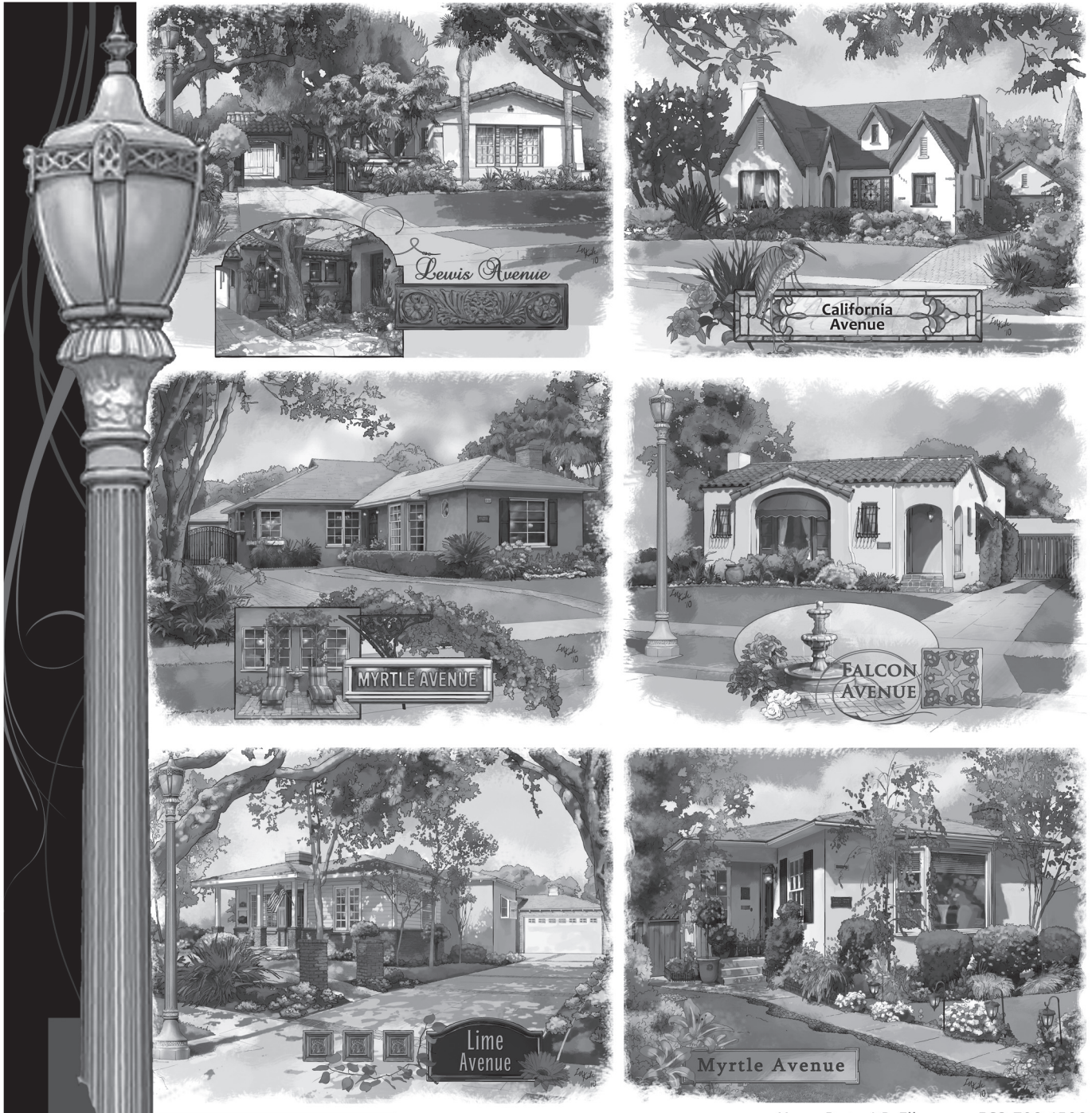
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Kitchen Floors

by Karen Highberger

The selection of Kitchen floor covering for our period homes is always a challenge-we want style and durability, as well as a floor that fits in with the architecture and period of our house.

Many of our homes have the original wood floor-either Douglas fir or oak strip. If the wood is in good condition it can be repaired and refinished. If you have an active household and worry about the upkeep of wood, linoleum is a good alternative for you. I am speaking of genuine linoleum, not vinyl flooring. Linoleum has been in use for over 100 years. It was originally patented in 1860. It is made from linseed oil, rosins (from pine trees) and wood flour, all of which are readily renewable natural resources, which are calendered onto a natural jute backing. Linoleum fell out of favor with the invention of vinyl flooring and no wax coatings for vinyl.

Linoleum has gained popularity in the past 20+ years with the "green" building movement. In recent years the product has been improved with the development of factory applied finishes, which eliminate the need for a surface finish application at the time of installation. It has inherently bactericidal properties, is anti-static and very resistant to many solvents and acids, including acetone, alcohol, paint thinner and citric acid. It's easy to maintain, is repairable, is warm and comfortable to the touch as well as inherently resistant to fire.

In addition to all of these excellent qualities, linoleum is available in a wide range of colors and patterns and the design possibilities are endless. The material can be hand cut on the job by installers for borders and simple patterns or water jet cut for more intricate patterns. Seam weld rod can be used in matching or contrasting colors to add to the design. Any motif is possible. You can match a pattern in a tile or fabric or create a custom border pattern. The subtle marbling pattern of the material itself adds to the design and is a great camouflage for dust and dirt between cleanings. Maintenance involves sweeping on a regular basis to prevent damage from soil and grit and damp mopping with the recommended cleaner. Most manufacturers have a floor finish available for use in high traffic areas once the factory applied finish shows some wear (usually after 5-7 years) or if you prefer a high gloss finish.

These products are "green" as well. So if you are considering a new kitchen floor, take a look at "old school" linoleum. You may be pleasantly surprised. ❀

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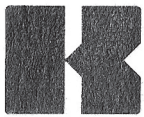
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**From the 7th District**

James Johnson Councilmember

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since I was sworn in to represent you as the 7th District Councilmember. As we head into another busy year, let us reflect on some of what we have accomplished together in my first year.

On the legislative front, I introduced several Council items that affect Cal Heights and the city as a whole. My proposals to plan our budget and capital improvements over several years will allow the City to be smarter with our money. The Council also approved my street maintenance plan, which will save the city \$30 million over the next 20 years, focusing on not only repairing our poor streets, but maintaining the good ones. This new street maintenance plan will allow us to repair or maintain more than five times as many streets in the 7th District. We also passed a greywater pilot program, which will make Long Beach one of the first cities in the nation to study this innovative way for us to conserve water.

First Books at First Fridays has been a huge success. Upon taking office, I wanted to incorporate my love for reading with my love for First Fridays, all while increasing the involvement of the southern part of Atlantic Ave.

We partnered with Boy Scout Zach Sutter, the BIA, CalHeights ReLeaf and Don & Harold's Automotive for Zach's Eagle Scout project, building an ADA accessible sidewalk on Wardlow Ave. We also partnered with AQMD and Oil Operators, Inc. to plant over 40 new trees on 33rd St. and Pasadena Ave., near the 405 Freeway.

We placed several new bike racks in front of many Cal Heights businesses. We were successful in facilitating a façade improvement for Alex's Auto Repair on Atlantic Ave, and we have another coming shortly for Dave's Burgers just down the street. Lastly, we're all looking forward to the new Fresh & Easy opening on Atlantic and 33rd Street! To keep up-to-date, join our E-blast and Facebook page at www.jamesjohnsonlb.com, or call us at 570-7777.

Please join me for a Community BBQ and Potluck on August 27th, 11 AM-2 PM at Somerset Park (1500 Carson St). We will be providing the BBQ and refreshments. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad, snack, or dessert to share with your neighbors and friends. If you cannot bring something, feel free to join us anyway, as there will be plenty of food for everyone. I hope to see you there. ✱



Our Old Trees

by Brenda Martinez

Old growth trees are a beautiful sight in our community. They are living, breathing organisms that increase our homes' property values. Furthermore,

they provide homes for song sparrows, house wrens and squirrels that are so delightful to watch. Recently, while hanging out on our deck, my husband and I saw a red hawk emerge from our neighbor's enormous pine tree. It was a beautiful bird and one we don't often see in our community. Because our neighbor has taken such great care of his 70+ year old pine tree, animals like this red hawk have found solace there. Trees also provide magnificent shade for our homes, thereby reducing our reliance on air conditioners and ceiling fans. Most importantly, a single, mature tree can absorb about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide a year spewed by the constant traffic on the 405 and 710 freeways that are near our quaint and historic neighborhood.

Please think twice before removing any tree from your property, especially one that has been there for over 15 years. Too often, we do not realize the tree was shielding us from the sight of an unattractive building until the tree is gone. Also, those tiny hairline cracks we see in our walls, doorways and concrete patios are usually not from the roots of these old trees, but from the natural shifting of the clay soil upon which our homes were built.

One last word about parkways trees - even though we are responsible for taking care of the parkways, they ultimately belong to the city of Long Beach, and the trees that live there may not be altered in any way without a city permit. ✱



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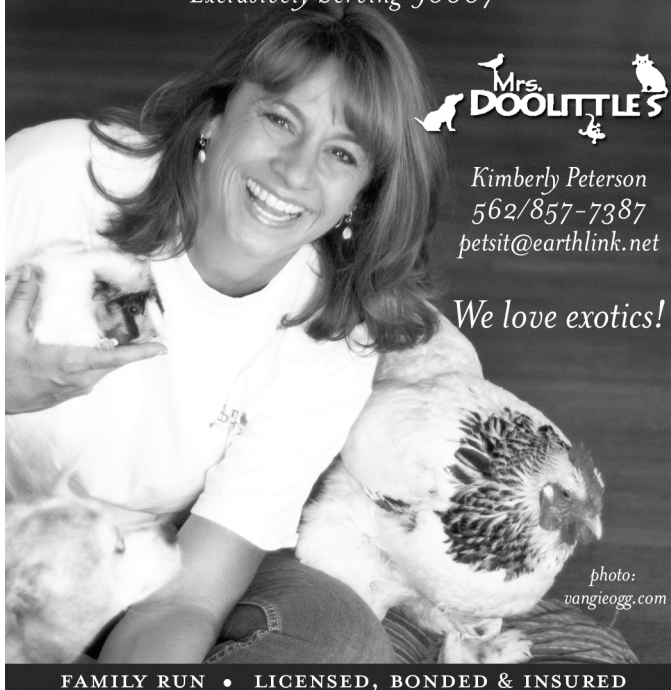


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The Wishing Tree: Year Two

by Tara Minton

Some of you may remember my story from last summer. My son and I were inspired to create a "wishing box" after watching the movie Pinocchio. I was so touched by the wishes of our wonderful neighborhood, that I saved the box and hung it again this summer. Last time the box received around twenty wishes. This time there were over sixty! From my family to yours, may all your wishes come true!

I wish...

- 4 world peace
- to get Disney passes that are \$1.00 and no crowds
- my children would be aware of other people's needs and not self-centered; for them to self-controlled for their age and love good things
- peace and happiness for those that live here
- that I could see a firework
- they were a new Godzilla movie
- that Polo would come back (this wish was repeated several times)
- I could have a big gown but a tank top
- I did not have to go back to school in September-summer forever!!
- For the beautiful family that put this out to always be blessed and have a home and community filled with love and happiness
- I could see Grady every day
- That we will be able to get a puppy this year
- For health, strength to keep possibilities open and love to feed the soul.
- For my children to be happy and healthy
- To go to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter
- To meet Justin Bieber!
- To have a husky puppy dog
- For more bikini malfunctions
- I am able to do my new job with some grace
- We would go to Hawaii
- I find true love
- My family had a billion dollars
- I could have the American girl doll Rebecca
- I had a pet fish
- That me and Ian get married someday!
- For something with 4 arms
- Perfect love
- I wish I was a baby again
- That my husband will like his new job, and that my children will stay healthy and safe.
- I will be a baseball player
- For more candy
- That I lived with my cousins, aunt, and uncle

(I wish cont'd)

- I could get \$30,000
- That my job picks up and that my broken heart heals
- I can ride a two wheeler perfectly
- I will get a puppy on my birthday (10)
- My grandpa lived with me.
- I wish for more patience and less defensiveness and for a good cup of coffee
- Health, healing and everyone feeling good mind, body and spirit
- Smile, live happily forever and ever!
- My baby is healthy
- Edmond will come soon and I wish for 2 dogs and a million cats. And that Xmas will come soon
- Find love
- Get straight A's & get into a really awesome university!
- For my dogs back! Help!
- For 1,000,000 dollars!
- A Arora dress when she was her berry picking and when she touched the spindle.
- That the government would stop controlling my brain!
- Tara, Dan, and Finn to be happy forever.
- I could have a sleepover whenever I want
- To fly to my grandma and grandpa's with my family whenever I want
- Dan, Dan the Trash Can Man a Happy 50th Birthday and many more!

About our Home Tour Guest Speaker

Carole Coates, Co-author of *California Revival, Vintage Decor for Today's Homes*

California native, Carole Coates, was raised in Los Angeles and bonded with the hand crafted art pottery, tile, textiles, ironwork and paintings that surrounded her during an idyllic childhood as a "studio brat" in the 1950's and 1960's.

After a successful career in the television industry, Carole moved to Sonoma County to raise her children. When decorating her own ranch style home she naturally returned to her early passion and was disappointed to find little was being done to preserve vintage art and tile, not to mention scant information and resources available for collectors.

Through her lectures, exhibits, and writing, Carole hopes to inspire others to understand and appreciate vintage art and decor and it's place in today's homes.

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First Friday: firstfridayslongbeach.com

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

August 11th Community Meeting 6:00-7:30pm, Dana Library
CHNA hosts the Southern California Green Economic Council.
Learn about available financial incentives to upgrade your home's energy efficiency while supporting green jobs in our area. For more info call Stella Ursua @ 562.413.1749.

September 6 - Articles due for the next edition of The Heights

September 25 - 4th Annual Restoration Trade Fair
rpna-tradefair.org

October 2 - CalHeights Home & Garden Tour
10 am - Guest Speaker, Carole Coates
11 am - 4 pm - Tours Homes and Gardens

October 8 & 9 - Open Studio Art Tour
lbopenstudiotour.com

Great LB websites and facebook pages to check out:
facebook.com/calheights facebook.com/LongBeachCalif
facebook.com/bixbyknollsBIA facebook.com/longbeachstuff
facebook.com (search on 562CityLife) www.welovelb.org
www.everythinglongbeach.com www.limelightlb.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson
570-7777 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 Information
570-6194

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

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