

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.



Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour 2013

Home & Garden Tour

Sunday, Oct 20th, 10 am to 4 pm

Time flies! And it never seems to fly faster than when our CHNA board members are working to pull together another Home and Garden Tour. Since we start the planning process in February, it always seems as though we have all the time in the world. But there are so many things to coordinate, arrange for and secure, that the dreaded nipping-at-our-heels feeling eventually catches up.

Now that our homes and gardens have been secured, ticket sales have begun and it's time to button up the details so our bread and butter event comes off with as few hitches as possible. While we need to make money to finance our projects, we also want our homeowners, guests and volunteers to have a positive experience.

For 2013 our tour spans the length of the neighborhood, starting at the Longfellow School auditorium where guest speaker, John Brinkmann, founder and publisher of American Bungalow magazine, presents the virtues, livability and charm of small home living, to a home not so common in Cal Heights on Gardenia Avenue. Most graciously, residents Dave and Pat Wheeler have once again donated their charming home as the refreshment house location.

New for 2013, we're working with Bikeable Communities to create a bicycle friendly tour for those who would rather skip the car and the wear and tear on their sneakers! Bicycle racks at each of the five homes, two gardens and the refreshment house will enable cyclists to park and ride between locations. Let's just say we're doing our part to reduce our carbon footprint. Of course, the Cal Heights trolley will make its rounds, too!

Tickets: \$20 presale at calheights.org through October 18th, or mail checks postmarked no later than October 11th to: CHNA, 3553 Atlantic Ave #350, Long Beach CA, 90807. No paper tickets will be issued. All guests will check in at Longfellow School beginning at 9:30am. Guest speaker presentation starts at 10:00 am and tour locations open at 11:00 am. calheights.org/home_tour.htm or see our California Heights Neighborhood Association Facebook event page. ❁

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

When change takes place over time it often escapes our attention, passing by as imperceptible nuances. Unless we take a step back to look at the before and after, we fail to recognize our accomplishments.

Like you'll read in Blair's article (pg 11), we have much to celebrate. When I discovered Bixby Knolls over twenty years ago, it represented what was. Atlantic Avenue on that day was uninviting, the heat reflecting off the sun bleached window displays in the Touch of Travel office where I had stopped in to pick up airline tickets. When I left, I walked up the street to check out a few more shops, but the heat and empty store fronts led me back into the air-conditioned comfort of my car.

After the hair-raising blind back-up from the angled parking stall, I turned right on Marshall, then again on Olive Avenue. "Where am I?" I thought, passing the character rich homes. When I crossed Bixby Road and passed beneath Olive Avenue's canopy of old camphor trees, I fell in love with the old cottages and bungalows of Cal Heights. Unbeknownst to me, I drove past the house that would eventually become my home.

We barely knew that Long Beach existed beyond the no man's land across 7th Street! We also had no idea how involved I would become in my own little way in affecting the transformation my partner and I imagined when we made this place our home. Hundreds of trees soften the urban landscape, inviting pedestrians to linger and explore, vacant lots and parkways became gardens, and numerous unique shops and restaurants continue to discover the benefits of our local Renaissance, where we bump into neighbors and friends that share our community. Despite protracted economic stagnation, First Fridays blossomed from a couple folks hanging out at Chroma Glass to thousands of happy faces strolling, spending, eating and socializing in our backyard playground! Much of the success has depended upon the partnerships we're proud to be part of.

On Wardlow Road, our Cal Heights volunteers have again contributed to the emerging transformation. Our Clean Streets volunteers, who celebrate four years of Thursday morning cleanups in August, have removed thousands of pounds of litter, weeds and graffiti and engaged business owners to take part in a renewed face for the Wardlow Strip. We've already planted 42 trees to augment the new street and sidewalks, and just like we did on Atlantic, our ReLeaf volunteers commit to seeing them through to maturity.

Let's celebrate by continuing to shop and dine locally, play at First Fridays and Concerts in the Park(ing Lot), but let's also continue to improve! Please join us on Saturday, August 10th, from 4-10 pm for the first Cal Heights Summer Festival on the Wardlow Strip, hosted by Roxanne's Lounge, as we raise funds, celebrate and bring attention to the possibilities of our southern border. ✿

John Royce
CHNA President



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

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Summer Festival Celebrates Cal Heights & Wardlow Strip Sat Aug 10, 4 pm – 10 pm

CHNA volunteers have contributed a great deal to the revitalization of Wardlow Road. Our Clean Streets volunteers scour the street regularly for litter and graffiti and report problems, while our ReLeaf volunteers have planted two phases and have dedicated many hours watering, weeding and mulching our young trees. So, the Wardlow Strip, led by Roxanne's Lounge, wants to thank us by hosting a fundraiser to celebrate four years of Clean Streets and help us recoup the costs of our recent trip to the Neighborhoods, USA conference in Minneapolis, where CHNA took top honors for The Heights newsletter. The Cal Heights Summer Festival on the Wardlow Strip features food on sale from Blackbird Café' and Roxanne's Lounge, opportunity drawings and silent auction items. Two live bands, free shaved ice for the kiddos and reps from local businesses will be on hand to promote the growing vitality along the once neglected corridor. So join us for some summer afternoon fun in and around Roxanne's Lounge, debuting their new outdoor patio and speakeasy room! It's family friendly and free entry! *

Sweet Lucie's & Helms Bakery Truck Join the Tour!

Here's a sneak preview of two additions to the 2013 Home and Garden Tour, adding even more vintage flavor and nostalgia, especially for those who recall the days when vehicles like these roamed the residential streets of Southern California! Sweet Lucie's, owned by Mike and Geri Czako and named for their daughter, serves up fresh and creamy organic ice cream in unique flavors the Good Humor Man never dreamed of, from the sweetest vintage 1950s ice cream truck featured in the March issue of Sunset Magazine.

Courtesy of local collector Rick Lorentzen, two vintage, meticulously restored Helms Bakery wagons bring the past alive, featuring treats from Sweet & Saucy boutique bakery, which opens in August at 3720 Atlantic Avenue. Considering the restoration and new life of the iconic Helms Bakery building and district in Culver City, could the timing be more perfect? *



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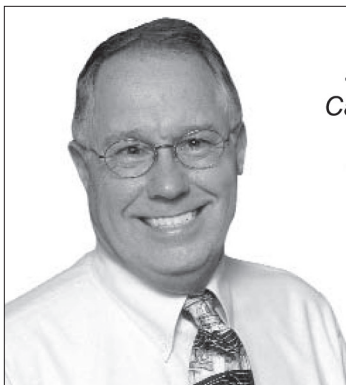
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"Action!" in Cal Heights



Duke smiles for the camera on June 10 when the 3700 block of Lemon Avenue was transformed into 1969 for a day-long film shoot of Warner Bros Studios' "Inherent Vice," starring Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson, Martin Short and Jenna Malone. View more photos on our Facebook page. ✱

Urban Coyotes

As often as we mention it, it's surprising how many of our local residents are surprised when they see or hear reports about coyotes visiting our neighborhood. Please don't tempt fate by allowing pets to roam freely, especially from dusk to dawn.

Besides coyotes, unsecured furry loved ones are at greater risk from vehicles, encounters with other pets and strays and disease. And please, don't leave pet food and food scraps outdoors. If you see a coyote, let them know they are not welcome by making loud noises, waving your arms and stomping your feet. Very bright and quick to learn, if we don't provide them with food sources and make them feel unwelcome, they'll go elsewhere.

For complete coyote info, visit Long Beach Animal Care Services at longbeach.gov/acs/. ✱



West Nile

Don't let mosquitoes take a bite out of summer fun!

We can all help prevent the spread of West Nile virus. Report stagnant pools and water to City of LB Vector Control, 570-4132, and report dead birds and tree squirrels to 877-WNV-BIRD.

Call for Volunteers

Home and Garden Tour - Earn a free Ticket!

We need more than 100 volunteers! Docents represent the bulk of our need, but set-up, tear-down, ticket holders and more round out the wish list. Please leave your contact info at hometour@calheights.org or at 424.6727.

Rancho Los Cerritos seeks volunteers for a variety of programs. Become a tour docent, help with the historic gardens, work on historical collections, conduct research or assist with the museum gift shop. Learn about programs and events, including the award-winning fourth grade school program, Adobe Days Revisited, and seasonal Christmas Candlelight Tours, Summer Concerts and Mud Mania. Make new friends, see how a museum operates "behind-the-scenes," and learn about local history and antiques. 570.1755

Alley Cleanups The Clean Streets team will assist residents with alley cleans up once a quarter. The next alley clean up is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th and will cover the alleys on Cherry/Gardenia, Gardenia/Rose and Rose/Gaviota. ✱

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Eco Corner

Lawn to Garden Ups the Reward!

Long Beach Water has recently raised the incentives to transform thirsty lawns with drought tolerant landscapes. Participants now earn \$3 per square foot of lawn removed, up to 1000 square feet. That's \$3000 smackers towards a new landscape! lawn-togarden.com




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Bizz Buzz

Aura Thai will soon debut a new outdoor dining area, spilling onto the wide sidewalk along Carson Street. 4085 Atlantic Ave, Suite C.

Nino's celebrates their 55th anniversary in Bixby Knolls. Stop in for favorites from their original menu or sample new pizzas and other items introduced by Gordon Ramsey. 3853 Atlantic Ave.

Pop Physique boutique fitness studio, offering "barre classes" and mat Pilates classes opens at 4223 Atlantic Ave.

Roxanne's Lounge has a new covered outdoor patio, vintage speakeasy room and new Latin menu items. 1115 E Wardlow Road.

Salvage Life 3712 Atlantic and **Sweet & Saucy Bakery**, 3720 Atlantic (grand opening party Sat Aug 3rd, 4-12pm) activate the 3700 block!

Weiland Brewery restaurant is coming to Atlantic Ave at Claiborne, adding to the growing list of dining options. Keep an eye out. ❁



Doug & Dave Event a Success

Hundreds of community members showed up in support of the fundraising event at EXPO for Doug Orr and David Rodriguez last month, raising well over \$20,000 thanks to generous local restaurants, artists, businesses and residents who showed that our community has a heart. The proceeds help pay for medical bills and expenses incurred after David's extended hospitalization and continuing recovery. ❁

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From the 7th District

James Johnson Councilmember

First, I want to thank everyone who joined me for the 4th of July Concert at Willow Springs Park. Attendance was more than anticipated with over 1,000 guests. Please let me know if you have feedback; I look forward to making next year's event even better.

Recently, I was pleased to kickoff "Be S.A.F.E." (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment). This program provides safe recreational opportunities for youth during summer evenings in Long Beach. By providing positive activities for the hours we know young people are most at risk of being involved in gang activity, we are developing character in our youth as opposed to leaving them to the streets. Be S.A.F.E., which is offered at Admiral Kidd Park among other locations, is a public-private partnership in which non-profit resources allow us to do more with less.

Also, the numbers for 2013 are in - we saved over \$21.4 million citywide with our preventative street maintenance program. By adopting this approach, we are maintaining our streets before they deteriorate and require replacement at a far greater cost, thus both improving our streets and saving significant taxpayer dollars over the long run. You'll be able to see these efficiencies in real life as we're doing record amounts of street work this year in all parts of the 7th District, including the Bixby Knolls area. This year we will be repairing or maintaining more streets than we have in many years!

Finally, don't forget our 3rd Annual BBQ and Croquet Tournament is quickly approaching. Join your 7th District neighbors and I at Somerset Park on August 18th at 1 PM. I will provide the BBQ and drinks. Feel free to bring your favorite side dish to share with your neighbors, though I'd like you to join us even if you can't. The Croquet Tournament winner will bring home a trophy. This is a free event for all 7th District Residents. Though the park has tables, we recommend bringing blankets and/or chairs, as the tables go quickly.

As always, if you need to reach me, you can email District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com or call (562) 570-7777. I'll see you soon in the community.

Yours Truly, James

P.S. - The City is moving forward with our anti-bullying policy that came out of the "Joint Use Committee" with LBUSD that I started. For more information on our anti-bullying initiative, visit www.JamesJohnsonLB.com. ✱

At Your Long Beach Library

by Jennifer Songster

One of the many, many nice things about Long Beach is that our gardening season is pretty much year 'round. Right about now we are harvesting fruits and vegetables and gathering seeds; soon bulbs will go in, and then planting season for natives begins. Once planting season for natives ends in February, we can dig right in to spring gardening, then harvest our summer fruits and vegetables, and after that we are right back into bulbs and native plants. The Long Beach Public Library has information for just about any type of garden you are planting, and if you are not sure, we have books for that too, even some ebooks!

Here are a few titles we recommend, but there are literally hundreds throughout the library system that can be put on hold and picked up at the Dana Library.

Small-Space Container Gardens: Transform Your Balcony,

Porch, or Patio with Fruits, Flowers, Foliage, and Herbs
by Fern Richardson (e)

Big Book of Garden Designs by Marianne Lipanovich

California Gardening Rhythms: What to Do Each Season

To Have a Beautiful Garden All Year by Bruce Asakawa

The California Gardeners Book of Lists

by Catherine Yronwood

The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener: How to Grow Your

Own Food 365 Days a Year, No Matter Where You Live
by Nikki Jabbour

Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving

Plants, Practices, and Designs by Carol Bornstein

Tough Plants for California Gardens: Low Care, No Care,

Tried and True Winners by Felder Rushing

Apartment Gardening: Plants, Projects, and Recipes for

Growing Food in Your Urban Home by Amy Pennington (e)

Get Fit Through Gardening: Advice, Tips, and Tools for Better Health Featuring the Unique Exercise Plan to Save Your Back and Knees! by Jeffrey P. Restuccio

Gardening With Children by Monika Hannemann

Starting Seeds: How to Grow Healthy, Productive Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers from Seed by Barbara W. Ellis ❁

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From the North Division

Robert Luman - LBP North
Division Commander

Does your block have an active Community Watch group? If not, I highly encourage you take part in our LBP crime prevention program that invites individual groups to work closely with the

police to affect crime.

Community Watch encourages participants to keep a watchful eye, not only on the block where they live but the community as a whole, and report suspicious and potential criminal behavior. Community Watch begins with a block approach and expands to include others in the surrounding area and scope of influence. Participants are encouraged to reach out to businesses, nearby schools, and non-profit organizations to get to know each other and communicate.

To get started, first define your Community Watch group, usually 12 to 20 homes or businesses. Everyone on your block should be invited, including neighbors on the next block. School or faith based representatives, and community leaders should be considered. Purposely excluding renters or specific people causes tension and may make some residents feel ignored or discriminated against.

Second, at least one person per group needs to volunteer as the liaison, known as the Community Contact, usually the individual who gets the group started. He/she should live or work on the block and should not be an absentee property owner or businessperson.

Last, contact your North Division Patrol Resource Officer, Juan Carlos Reyes, at (562) 570-9827 or email lbpdnorth@long-beach.gov to schedule your meeting or request additional information.

Please join me and the Long Beach Police Department in working together to affect crime in the "Top of the Town!" *

**Don't dump curbside or in alleys!
Schedule a Free Pickup! 570-2876**

Hey BKBIA, What's Next?

by Blair Cohn - BKBIA Executive Director

We have been busy in our "laboratory" (or the BKBIA office) working on all types of projects on our to-do list. Our website has been updated and has a more clean and user-friendly look (www.bixbyknollsinfo.com). We added our Instagram feed to the site and keep updating it with great photos of the area; our member directory has been updated so it is easy to find a business in the area. We are also taking the time to work on filing, administrative business, directory lists, all the un-sexy things like that but are very important to us.

We launched our Concerts in the Park(ing Lot) series and love the turnout! At the August 2nd First Fridays we roll back the clock to the Summer of Love. The focus is 1967 so you'll hear all the great music of the times.

As you may now know, Ralphs on Long Beach Boulevard closed its doors on June 15th and now Orchard is set to close, too. The big box retailers like Ralphs and OSH have major internal issues within their corporate structure that are far beyond our control. We hate to see these businesses close but their issues are ones we cannot do much about.

However, we are here to tell you that the sky is not falling! There is so much positive momentum in the area and we are seeing more and more investment in Bixby Knolls than ever before. People are buying buildings and making improvements; businesses are relocating to Bixby Knolls because it's a "hot" neighborhood; retail spaces are being filled along Atlantic Avenue; service businesses are moving onto Long Beach Blvd; two new restaurants will open up in the area; the BKBIA continues the façade improvements, security patrols, and monthly events and programs; Cal Heights Clean Streets keep the corridors spotless each week; the former Blockbuster space on Roosevelt & LB Blvd has been leased and will get a major face lift and same for the former Arnold's property; and a real estate agent told us that people referring to the April Sunset Magazine article are coming to look for houses in the area. City Manager Pat West says other parts of the city are looking at Bixby Knolls as a model for community-building. We ask that you continue supporting our smaller businesses that make up the backbone of our area. There is a lot to celebrate and be proud of in Bixby Knolls.

Next Concert in the Park(ing Lot): Monday, August 19th, It's a Grind parking lot, featuring "Jungle Fire" We dare you NOT to dance. ❁

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10/20 Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour

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Visit the **Cal Heights Facebook page** to get all calendar items
[facebook.com/calheights](https://www.facebook.com/calheights)

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 Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass bixbyknollsinfo.com

Saturday, August 10: 10:00 AM - Dana Book Club. Everyone is welcome. Please call or stop by Dana Library to find out what the Book Club is reading this month!

Saturday, August 10: Summer Festival at Roxanne's (see page 3)

Sunday, August 11: MUD MANIA at Rancho Los Cerritos. Squish a little history between your toes at this delightfully muddy festival where you're not supposed to stay clean! De-mudding station available; bring old shoes (required), a change of clothes and a towel. Tickets: \$6 adults/\$4 children; children 3 and under are free. 12:30-4:30 p.m. rancholoscerritos.org

Sunday, August 18: 7th District Annual BBQ (see page 8)

Sunday, August 25: Free jazz concert Rancho Los Cerritos featuring the Secret Jazz Band, 5 :30 - 7:30 p.m. rancholoscerritos.org

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

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

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

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Community Watch North Division
570-9825 or 570-9827

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Fire Department
570-2500

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Long Beach Building Department
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Neighborhood Preservation Information
570-6194

Parkway Tree Trimming
570-2700

Police Department Dispatch
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