

The HEIGHTS

your neighborhood newsletter



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Home & Garden Tour

Sunday, Oct 18th, 10 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.

Tour guests are encouraged to walk or bike the tour route or ride the complimentary trolley. Self-service bike racks are provided at each destination. Businesses that specialize in restoration and preservation are stationed throughout the homes and gardens. Businesses along the Wardlow Strip and throughout Bixby Knolls will be popular post-tour destinations.

Check-in begins at 9:30 am at Longfellow Elementary School, 3800 Olive Avenue. Guest speaker, Carole Coates, author of California Revival and Catalina Island Pottery and Tile, will share her knowledge of Spanish Revival style and vintage tile and pottery at 10 am in the Longfellow. Tour homes and gardens are open from 11 am-4 pm.

Tickets are \$20 pre-sale and \$25 at the door, which includes the local dining discount card and tour brochure. Tickets can be purchased online at calheights.org/community-events/home-and-garden-tour/ 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.

This event is successful because of the generous contribution from hundreds of volunteers. We can't do this without you. If you are interested in being a docent, bike captain, or assisting with check-in, email us and we'll get you signed up - hometour@calheights.org. For updates on the tour, follow us on facebook.com/CalHeights. 🐾

President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

So by now, many of you have probably been made aware of the request by Jet Blue for the City to perform a feasibility study regarding the addition of a customs facility to the Long Beach Airport. If built, the facility would enable them to begin flying international routes that they cannot currently. Many residents in the council districts most directly impacted by the Airport are very concerned about the possible consequences of this change, and so oppose the addition of a customs facility to LGB.

At the July 7th City Council meeting, Our Councilmember, Roberto Uranga, spoke compellingly for the position that is shared by the CHNA, the Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association, and the Country Club Manor Association. Along with Al Austin and Daryl Supernaw of the 8th and 4th districts, Councilmember Uranga maintained that since a feasibility study had been performed previously showing minimal to no economic benefit to the city, it made no sense to commission a new one in search of a different answer. Councilmember Stacy Mungo spoke emphatically in favor of proceeding with the new feasibility study, expressing a desire to have the facts with which to make an ultimate decision about the facility. After the addition of several amendments to her motion by Councilmember Austin, her motion to solicit bids for a new feasibility study carried with the support of Lena Gonzalez, Suja Lowenthal, Suzie Price, Dee Andrews and Rex Richardson (of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 9th districts, respectively).

As a reader in one of more than 1700 households reached by this newsletter, there is a pretty good chance that not all of you reading this share the same position. Some of you may not yet have a position on this issue at all. As I mentioned above, one of the amendments added to the passing motion was the inclusion of two community input sessions during the feasibility study. So, whether you wish to see the customs facility or not, you will have further opportunities to be involved and heard before this issue is settled. As we become aware of the details for the sessions, we will do our best to inform all interested parties.

If one thing was clear at the council meeting, it was that this is, and will remain, a polarizing issue for the city. While the public comment period was mostly polite and civil, at times tensions did boil to the surface. Speakers on both sides of the issue made statements about the motivations, intentions, accuracy, and even honesty of others with whom they disagreed. I hope that over the course of this issue, we can maintain sight of the fact that we were neighbors before this proposal was made, and we will be neighbors after it is resolved. It is the real, human connection so many of us have with our neighbors that convinced my partners and I that when we moved here, we had moved home. I think that same connection, which makes our neighborhood so special, can survive this challenge whatever the outcome. 🐾

Kindly,



Hugh Little, CHNA President

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner



In 1966 I was a gawky 12-year-old kid absolutely star-struck because Bobby Burgess of the Mickey Mouse Club and Lawrence Welk fame was coming to MY house. Bobby was dating an Icelandic woman who lived with us in Huntington Beach. After dissolving in a fit of giggles, I finally calmed down enough to have my father take a few photos. Who knew

I would eventually move to the same neighborhood that Bobby grew up in. That's right - Bobby is a Cal Heights boy!

Bobby grew up on Cerritos in a house his parents purchased in 1939. He attended Longfellow Elementary, Burroughs Elementary and Hughes Jr. High. He was just a regular kid having fun growing up with his brother and sisters. Bobby recalled riding in his brother's jalopy racing up Signal Hill to see the oil derrick fires that occurred there. He and a friend would often pull a red wagon up the hill, selling lemonade to the oil workers.

Bobby began dancing at age four; then in the fourth grade, his mother enrolled him in Kay Carrol's Peppermint Playhouse. He excelled at dance, winning several awards before he had a chance to audition as one of the original Mouseketeers. I certainly remember sitting in front of our tiny black and white TV, my mouse ears firmly in place, eagerly waiting for the Mouseketeer roll call!

After the Mickey Mouse Club ended, Bobby returned to Poly High School, where he remembered his classmates teasing him and of course calling him "Mickey"! He graduated from LB State. Bobby married his wife, Kristie, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Long Beach. He has remained true to his LB roots, even after a successful career spanning two decades on the Lawrence Welk Show. He taught cotillion at the Petroleum Club on Linden and now runs the Burgess Cotillion with his grown children at the Golden Sails in Long Beach, teaching children ballroom dancing, etiquette, manners and how to have a great time.

When speaking with Bobby, I was struck by how genuinely friendly and open he is, even after being so famous since his youth. He told me growing up in Long Beach with a great family helps keep you grounded, not Hollywood. Bobby makes frequent visits to family here and still owns the house on Cerritos. He says "it just feels like home to me." We know exactly what you mean, Bobby. 🐭

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Great New Tool for Historic Preservation

by Karen Highberger

At long last, the City of Long Beach has announced staffing and a phone number to call for suspected unpermitted construction work on Saturdays. This is wonderful news for Historic Districts in Long Beach.

In all Historic Districts a Certificate of Appropriateness is required for any construction work on your home, including changing windows and exterior painting. The Certificate of Appropriateness (C of A) is in addition to any necessary building permits. Most of us have seen the contractors roll into the neighborhood late on a Friday afternoon and work furiously all weekend to install vinyl windows, unpermitted fences and incorrect hardscape, to name but a few violations. Until now, there was no one we could contact to report the problem until Monday morning, and that was usually too late to stop the work. It is frustrating for residents who follow the rules and respect the ordinance of our Historic District to see violators skirt the rules and chip away at the historic fabric of our neighborhood. There is also the worry of sub-standard construction work that is not up to code.

Now you can call 562-570-0000 on Saturdays from 7 am to 5 pm to report any suspected unpermitted work. The report is anonymous. You just need to provide an address and the type of work that is happening. This number and service will supplement the regular Code Enforcement. During the week, you can call 562-570-CODE (2633) or go to the website at www.lbcode.org. If Code Enforcement finds that no building permit or C of A was issued, they will issue a Stop Work Order to pause any construction activity until the proper C of A and permits have been issued. If they fail to comply, this will result in administration citation fines and possible referral to the City Prosecutor's Office.

Historic District residents in Long Beach have long been frustrated by the lack of enforcement of the Historic District Ordinances. In working through Code Enforcement, we now have the necessary manpower and tools to stop the unpermitted work and force compliance with the guidelines.

You can find out more about obtaining building permits and Certificates of Appropriateness at www.longbeach.gov or 562-570-6194. There is also information on our website, www.calheights.org.



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City General Plan

By John Moreland

Have you heard the news? The City of Long Beach is updating their General Plan. State Law requires that all cities prepare a comprehensive, long-term General Plan that includes goals, policies and objectives to guide a city's future. According to the City of Long Beach, the General Plan, "is the citizens' 'blueprint' for development; the guide to achieving our vision." The two elements being updated now (the Urban Design and Land Use Elements) will dictate where development will occur, what it could look like and how large it could be.

The current draft of the update encourages development near the Blue Line transit stations, downtown and other major corridors. Although no major changes are included for California Heights neighborhood, some of the neighboring areas could change:

- Wardlow Strip: Height limits proposed to increase from two to three stories. A limited amount of residential units may be allowed.
- Area between the 405 freeway, Atlantic Avenue, Wardlow Road and Long Beach Boulevard: Height limits proposed to increase from two to five stories. Residential dwellings would be allowed up to 54 units per acres (which is approximately a four-story building).
- Atlantic Avenue north of Bixby: Height limits proposed to increase from two to three stories. A limited amount of residential units may be allowed.
- Cherry Avenue between Wardlow and 405: Area will be changing from industrial to commercial.

The development guidelines included in the General Plan would serve as the framework for a future Zoning Code update, where stricter development regulations would likely be set. On July 2nd, the Planning Commission conducted a General Plan Update study. At this session, the City provided an overview of the General Plan and the Commissioners agreed to the general framework of the Update. The Planning Commission will hold another study session in the future to discuss areas of the City that will be changing uses, how to protect homes that back directly onto commercial corridors (such as Lime Avenue), and drought-tolerant landscape. This study session will probably occur sometime in the fall.

For more information about the City's General Plan update, contact Christopher Koontz, Advance Planning Officer with Long Beach Development Services at (562) 570-6288 or via email at christopher.koontz@longbeach.gov.

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Neighborhood Coyotes

Many of us at one time or another have encountered a coyote in an urban environment. Coyotes usually avoid human contact, but

some have become adapted to our urban environment. Here are a few tips from the Humane Society on what we can do as residents to help discourage coyotes who have adapted or appear to be adapting, a process called Hazing:

Yell loudly and wave your arms while approaching the coyote. If a coyote has not been hazed before, he may not immediately run, which may require you to increase your yelling or even use a noisemaker, like an air horn or shaker can. If the coyote runs partially away, but then stops to turn around, it is very important to continue after him to discourage him to leave the area.

If you are walking your dog and encounter a coyote, it can be useful to carry pepper spray or a squirt gun filled with vinegar water. Both of these are effective coyote repellents. If you are near a yard, spraying the coyote with a garden hose can also be used to haze the coyote.

It is important to remember to NEVER run from a coyote. A coyote in an urban environment should be hazed, and the intensity of hazing continue until the coyote leaves the area. It usually takes only one or two incidents of hazing to effectively encourage a coyote to stay away for good. source: www.humanesociety.org

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From the North

Commander Rudolph Kosmiza

The City of Long Beach announced on July 11, 2015, the efforts underway from the Long Beach Public Safety Continuum in response to recent increases in crime. In 2014, the City achieved the lowest reported number of violent crimes in 42 years. However, over the past few months, overall crime has increased 5.3 percent when compared to the 5-year average through May 31, 2015.

Everyone in the North Division encourages the community to be an active member in combating crime, and asks that "If you see something, say something." All cities need the members of the public to come forward and provide information on what is happening in their community.

Here's a comparison of some categories of crime through May 2015, and compared to the 5-year average (avg.):

- Murder: down 27 percent; down 47 percent avg.
- Aggravated Assault: up 33 percent; up 12 percent avg.
- Garage Burglary: down 3 percent; down 9 percent avg.
- Auto Burglary: up 5 percent; down 5 percent avg.
- Grand Theft Auto: up 6 percent; up 4 percent avg.
- Petty Theft: up 72 percent; up 8 percent avg.

The City's Violence Prevention Plan, known as Safe Long Beach, has been nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice, which provides an advantage in receiving federal grant awards to implement the plan.

Safe Long Beach is a comprehensive strategic plan for action to prevent violence in families, schools, and communities. Addressing a broad safety agenda, Safe Long Beach draws upon the City's many existing assets. These include strong neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, a thriving downtown, continuously emerging economic development opportunities, award-winning schools, and stable leadership.

I look forward to continue working closely with the California Heights Neighborhood Association and Cal Heights residents. Please contact the North Division if you see any suspicious activity, 562.435.6711. 📞



From the 7th District

Roberto Uranga Councilmember

One of the biggest concerns for 7th District residents, including many in Cal Heights, continues to be the protection of the City's Noise Ordinance and the effect of the Long Beach Airport on these protections. When the new city council members stepped into office a year ago, it became

apparent that new city council staff, and the community to an extent, would benefit greatly from a study session on the noise ordinance and the effects that our local airport has had on the surrounding neighborhoods. Soon after, Jet Blue made the request to allow international flights out of the Long Beach Airport.

From that point months ago, I began to receive an increasing amount of correspondence from residents in the Bixby Highlands, Bixby Terrace, and California Heights. I diligently requested further information from the City Manager, the Long Beach Airport, and Jet Blue. Taking a holistic approach to determine whether the perceived benefits would outweigh the effects of establishing an international port of entry at the Long Beach Airport led me to the decision I made on the evening of Tuesday, July 7, 2015.

In a council chamber packed with supporters and dissenters, Long Beach residents, business advocates, and Jet Blue staff, and after having delayed the decision until the newly elected representative for the 4th District was in office for 60 days, the Long Beach City Council decided to move forward with a feasibility study for the potential development of a Federal Inspection Service Facility (FIS) at the Long Beach Airport. Being an elected official whose constituency includes businesses, workers and neighborhoods, I was being pulled in many directions and I struggled with each one. I am proud to have stood with Councilmember Al Austin and Daryl Supernaw in defense of our adversely affected communities, voting NO on the approval of a study that will cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be better spent elsewhere.

I thank all those who expressed their opinion to me and to those residents who came out on Tuesday and sat through a two-and-a-half hour discussion on this issue. Your dedication to our neighborhoods has not gone unnoticed. Please rest assured that I will keep my constituents apprised on the progress of this matter as it moves forward and will continue to keep your concerns front and center. 🐶

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At Your Local Library

by Melissa L. Strasser

Branch Librarian - DANA Neighborhood Library

SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY HERE! And, of course, the DANA Neighborhood Library is celebrating with Summer Reading. This year, DANA Library has gone green. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do so online at lbpl.org/events/summer_reading.asp or come in to the Library and see our helpful Teen Volunteers in action. We kicked off our Every Hero Has a Story theme on June 20th, but the thick of it is really in July. We're giving out rewards for reading. We'll have a performer every Wednesday (12 noon).

Family Storytime every Friday (10 am), and, thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls and North Long Beach, we have our SuperHero Training Academy every Saturday (11 am-1 pm).

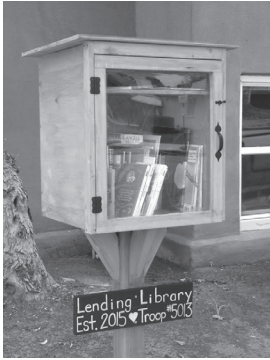
Speaking of the Kiwanis Club, if anyone's looking for a rewarding way to volunteer some time and just little bit of money, I might recommend looking into this organization. Cal Heights is all about Community, so the Kiwanis Club is easy to suggest. They've been great supporters of the Library, that's for sure, but I've also been super impressed with the Community Events and Scholarships they've given out to support local youth. I'm really thankful that they're Library enthusiasts, but I also feel really lucky to call them my friends.

In other news, you may have noticed some cosmetic changes happening @DANA Library. We got some new paint and refurbished our original shelving. We'll be moving some books and shelves around to open up some space and refresh our collection, so pardon our dust while we make some improvements.

If you're one of our Storytime Families, make sure to come in to the Library in August to get some information about Fall Storytimes.

And finally, I wanted to say thank you to everyone who had anything to do with the Beach Streets event. I find more reasons every month to be proud to be a part of this neighborhood. According to someone who knows more than I, approximately 20,000 people attended the event. More than 2500 of them stopped here @DANA Library. What a great way to show off Cal Heights!

Happy Summer! ☀️



Something New in the Neighborhood

By Tim Price

Have you discovered the "Lending Library" on Bixby Road at the California Heights United Methodist Church? It is sponsored by Girl Scout Troop #5013.

The selection varies depending on when you visit. The last time we checked, there were mostly children's books but also a few adult paperbacks and hard-cover books. 🐶

Extra, Extra, Looking for Newsletter Delivery Volunteers

By Ilana Brackett

It takes a village to deliver the newsletter you are reading. It really does. Without our neighbors helping, word would not get out about what our neighborhood has to offer or what is happening. Not everyone is connected to the Internet or wants to be, so the newsletter is one way of informing besides the town crier who is rather busy these days.

We are looking for individuals and even families who can help with the task of delivering newsletters. The newsletter comes out bimonthly so if we could get 6-7 people per street, there would be enough individuals to call without having to ask the same people every two months. Many times we have streets such as Gardenia, Rose, Gaviota, and Orange, without representation. We are making a plea to get assistance from residents from all streets to help with this endeavor.

From experience, which is over 16 years delivering the newsletter, it takes about an hour. If there are two of you, it would take even less time. You can sign up to volunteer in a few different ways. First, our website at www.calheights.org/community-events/the-heights-newsletter/ will take you to a page to sign up through our email management program. Second, you can reach us by calling 562-424-6727 and leaving a message with your name and email address. Lastly, you can email newsletter@calheights.org with the same information.

It takes a village, and we need you! Come join the fun. 🐶

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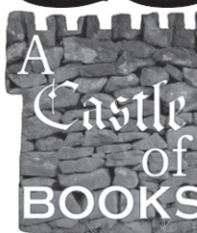
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Meet the New CHNA Board Members



Julianna Robbins has lived in Cal Heights for 11 years. She grew up in Ventura County and lived in San Francisco before moving to Long Beach. She worked as a teacher and librarian for many years, but is currently a stay-at-home parent to her almost two-year-old son. She also shares a home with her husband and ten-year-old dog.

In the past, she has volunteered with spcaLA and Orange County Pit Bull Rescue. She wanted to get more involved with CHNA after having her home on the last tour and meeting the board. She loves having friends old and new in the neighborhood and enjoys the historic homes, walkability, small-town feeling, and being outdoors in the Southern California weather.



Alfredo Valenzuela has lived in Cal Heights with his partner, now husband, Tom, for four years. They first met in the valley, and since have lived in Japan and Boston before returning to California and picking Long Beach as their home.

One Thursday morning, walking to get a cup of coffee, Alfredo saw some neighbors picking up trash. He stopped and asked how he could get involved, and the following Thursday he started volunteering with the Clean Streets team. He is glad to be part of CHNA Board and to work for the safety and improvement of our beautiful neighborhood.



John Moreland has lived in Southern California his whole life. Looking for a place to settle down with his family, he and his wife fell in love with the charm of California Heights. John desired to live in a neighborhood with character and tree-lined streets, not a cookie-cutter suburban subdivision. John, his wife, two children and their 18-pound cat have called California Heights home since 2011.

An urban planner by trade, John has been involved with the development of the Historic Preservation Ordinance when he worked for the City of West Covina. He also has experience with historic architectural guidelines. He strongly believes in local, community involvement. 🐾



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Long Beach in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

1. Beach Streets, 2. Local Dog Walker, 3. POWWOW Mural, 4. July 7th City Council Meeting



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**IN THE KNOW'LLS****What's New? What's Happening?**

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Riding off into the sunset -- Krista Leaders, Project Manager for the BKBIA and long-time Cal Heights resident, will be bidding us all a farewell at the beginning of August. Krista, along with her partner Dodie Carmichael and nephew Ashton Leaders, will pack up the cars with four cats and two dogs and head for a new chapter in Bend, Oregon. Krista has been instrumental in the renaissance in Bixby Knolls for the last 7 ½ years. Krista was a business owner with her shop Chroma Glass, and also served on the BKBIA board before closing her shop in 2008 and taking on the position of Project Manager for the BKBIA. Krista was instrumental with the inception and growth of First Fridays, the Allery (at Burlinghall) and the pocket park next to Georgie's Place. Krista will be missed, but she should be happy in the knowledge that her fingerprints remain all over the district and she helped spark the resurgence of Bixby Knolls.

Welcome! - We welcome Cait Yoshioka to the BKBIA as the new Project Manager. Cait comes to us as a 2015 graduate of Leadership Long Beach and is involved with community organizations such as Project Long Beach, Why'd You Stop Me?, Long Beach BLAST, and Operation READ. Cait brings her high energy and enthusiasm to the BKBIA and will help manage the current events and programs plus initiate new ones. Say hi to Cait at Cait@bixbyknollsinfo.com

Moving Around - The chess board in Bixby Knolls has a number of big pieces moving around...all in a positive direction! Trader Joe's will move to the former Ralphs property, and that retail center will have other tenants to support TJ's; a new tenant will move into the former Trader Joe's site; the post office will open

in the Bixby Knolls Shopping Center; the center where CVS is located, is about to get a major face-lift, and the announcement of tenants will be made soon; and new restaurants will be arriving soon, too.

Steelcraft - Also coming soon will be the Steelcraft project located in the empty lot of Long Beach Boulevard and Bixby Road. This will be made up of shipping containers fabricated to be "temporary" food stands with an interior courtyard to be activated with seating, games, and even live music. Some of the eateries will include ramen noodles, locally roasted coffee, a brewery, Working Class Kitchen restaurant/deli, farm stand and one or two others. Once the final plans are approved by the city, there will be a formal announcement to the neighborhood. This will definitely activate Long Beach Boulevard and bring more fun dining options to the neighborhood.

Lola's - Lola's Mexican Restaurant will be moving



into the Le Yen Chinese restaurant space at 4140 Atlantic Avenue. Lola's has been operating on 4th Street in Long Beach since May of 2008 and has garnered a great reputation with coverage in the Los Angeles

Times, Press Telegram, Sunset magazine, LA and OC weekly, and many more.

"We are excited to be opening our second location in such a great part of town here in Bixby Knolls. We love the community and family atmosphere here," said Luis Navarro, Chef and owner of Lola's.

Find us and follow us:

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @bixbyknolls

We also encourage you to sign up for our newsletters at: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com

Also visit: Firstfridayslongbeach.com and Expoartscenter.org.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Visit the calheights.org for calendar events!

Thursdays: 8:00 am litter pickup - meet at Wardlow & Lime

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

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, longbeachrecycles.org 9 am to 1 pm

100daysofsummer.org - Events for everyday of summer.

Sunday, August 1: 10 am Low cost mobile pet clinic. Get your animal vaccinated, microchipped etc. Wardlow Park - 3457 Sanbridge Avenue or lbarks@longbeach.gov

Sunday, August 23: 1:30 pm Architecture in Place Lecture Series, Rancho Los Alamitos, rancholosalamitos.com/events.html

Saturday, September 12: Cal Heights Alley cleanup (9 - noon) and Block Party (noon to 4 pm)

Sunday, September 27: 1:30 pm Planting Perspectives Lecture Series, Rancho Los Alamitos, rancholosalamitos.com/events.html

Sunday, October 18: Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour

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. For more information or a submission, email newsletter@calheights.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Robert Garcia, Mayor
570-6801

Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

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

Patrick O'Donnell, 70th Assembly District
562-495-2915

Ricardo Lara, State Senate 33rd District
562-256-7921

Airport Noise
570-2665 / 570-2600

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

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
435-6711 or Emergency 911

Police North Substation Information
570-9800

Senior Check-In
570-7212

Special Garbage Pickup (2 free per year)
570-2876

SoCal Harvest
(323) 678-6036

Street Potholes
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