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#### Official CHNA Website www.calheights.org

Heights The is a 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.



Zach leads younger scouts (see more images on the CalHeights Facebook page)

### **Don and Harold's Community Project**

Drive past Don & Harold's Automotive at 500 E Wardlow Road to catch a glimpse of the latest public easement community partnership project, which improves the aesthetics of the street and the face of the business with an attractive, drought tolerant landscape. Where an ugly, sharp and uneven surface forced many to walk dangerously in the street, pedestrians now have safe, convenient passage, including an ADA access ramp at the corner of Wardlow Road and Pasadena Avenue.

The project marks another successful partnership between local Boy Scout Troop 29, Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, Long Beach Redevelopment Agency, City of Long Beach Public Works, 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office, CalHeights ReLeaf and local businesses. The designs were conceived and donated by CHNA president, John Royce, with project management by Boy Scout and local resident, Zachery Sutter. Zach's efforts will satisfy the community service portion of his Eagle Scout rank, the culmination of his record of achievement as a Boy Scout.

Don & Harold's owners, Don Petty and Ken Herzog, were engaged throughout the process and provided significant financial contributions to the project. Most of the plants were sourced from Ricardo's, a local Long Beach nursery, local irrigation expert, Brian Norton, provided attractive pricing in recognition of the volunteers who donated so much time and sweat equity, and South Coast Supply provided discounts on the boulders and mulch. Beautifully installed by Public Works, the serpentine pedestrian way found approval when a typical straight sidewalk would have been easier but far less attractive.

As was the case with the Parkway Garden (Carson & Atlantic), the 3500-3700 block Atlantic Avenue trees, and Lot 33 (33<sup>rd</sup> & Atlantic), the labor and management provided by Zach and the Boy Scouts, their fundraising efforts and the donated and discounted services saved thousands of dollars to ensure a successful project at a time of shrinking funding and limited resources; another example of the possibilities that exist when community partners work together and pool our resources for a common goal.

# president's message \_\_\_\_\_ A message from john royce

Just over four years ago, when I became CHNA president, my first president's message expressed my appreciation to our community of neighbors for helping return our dog, Kela, back home safe and sound after our front door failed to latch.

After sixteen and half wonderful years, we lost Kela over Valentine's weekend. Like so many who have lost beloved family pets, it's been a very difficult transition. My partner, Kent, and I have never lived in this house without her, and for most of our twenty years together, she was a gentle soul whose presence alone begot comfort, joy and peace when life's goings got rocky. One look in her almond eyes or one stroke of what had to be the softest ears on planet earth, and we could feel our blood pressure retreat. For many, our pets are family members and cherished friends. Some have had the unpleasant experience of searching for a lost pet, and sadly, many never retrieve them. In Kela's memory, I'd like to share the many ways we can improve our chances of finding our furry loved ones when they get away from us.

Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) provides low cost microchip clinics (\$28) throughout the year. Microchips provide one of the best modern advances to retrieving lost pets. But please, register your chips! Most vets provide free chip I.D. services. If you don't register your chip it will trace your pet only to the location where he or she was chipped, not back to you. I've rescued several dogs over the years, only to run into dead-ends because an owner failed to register! ACS also provides an online photo gallery of pets in their custody, and the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association emails, website and Facebook pages offer often immediate access to hundreds of local residents. Posting flyers on street trees, lampposts or other public property is illegal, but in the time it takes to print and post twenty five flyers, you could reach hundreds while saving time to personally search the streets and check ACS bulletin boards and kennels. Don't forget to check local vets and animal control in adjacent cities.

Help yourself avoid the anxiety of the needle in the haystack search. Don't allow your dogs and cats to wander, it greatly increases their chances of being injured by other animals, hit by cars, stolen or lost. License and tag your pets, including phone number and contact info. Check fences, gates and door latches regularly, and above all else, take advantage of ACS chipping services. A chip is worth a thousand flyers!  $\gg$ 

longbeach.gov/acs/ calheights.org/pets.htm Facebook (search by California Heights Neighborhood Association)

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.



#### *CaliforniaHeightsLiving* Promotes Local Businesses

Trina Rufo, local businesswoman/realtor, debuted a new website in March dedicated to area businesses. Born and raised in Cal Heights, three generations of Trina's family call CalHeights home. Trina imagines CaliforniaHeightsLiving.com as a tool for residents to plug into local businesses for special offers, coupons and events. The goal is to help encourage residents to shop locally, something CHNA and the BKBIA have been encouraging for many years. The site's listings are free to local businesses and non-profits. In its infancy now, Trina explains that the site will build over time and she is open to residents' suggestions as they move forward. Look for an inaugural business coupon mailer due out soon. \*

### **Bike Friendly Long Beach**

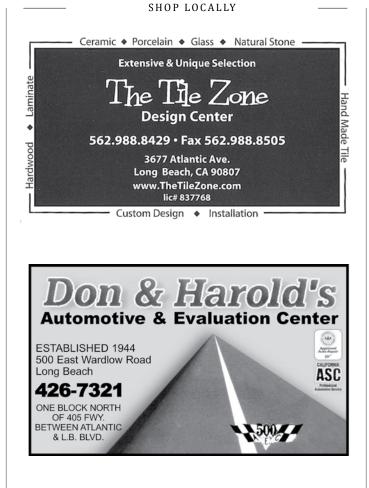
by Blair Cohn

Bixby Knolls is working its way to be a bike-friendly business district. Recently the city of Long Beach installed new bike lanes on Bixby Road from Country Club Drive to Cherry to make an east/west ride safe for cyclists. Plus, Carson also had bike lanes added. And have you noticed all of the new bike racks up and down the corridor? You may have mistaken them for public art, which they are, but more practical usage is for you to ride your bike to shop or do business and lock it up to one of these fun and funky shapes. Check out the yoga pose in front of FreeSpirit Yoga.

The biggest news comes from Long Beach Boulveard, just south of Bixby Road, where you will soon see a big "BIKE" sign installed as Howard CDM prepares its property for La Habra Cyclery to expand into the Bixby Knolls area. Though a small space, this will be a full service shop to repair bikes as well as having many bike models for sale. There is talk of making this location the hub for a new Bixby Knolls Cycling Club which would organize weekly rides through the neighborhoods or city-wide and then ending at a local restaurant for breakfast. Stay tuned for more details... \*



Bike racks in front of FreeSpirit Yoga and Baskin Robbins!







#### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



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#### At Your Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster

All across the country, National library week in April celebrates the contribution of our nation's libraries. In Long Beach, we celebrate all month long with this year's theme, "Create Your Own Story @ Your Library." At the Dana Neighborhood Library (3680 Atlantic Avenue) we celebrate with special programs and highlight new books. On Saturday, April 2, at 10:00 am we host a workshop for caregivers and families with people suffering from dementia and other memory disorders. This workshop, presented by local artist, Sue Ann Robinson, will explore making mono-prints and accordion books as a means of engaging a person with memory loss. These books can be made as a joint project with the person with dementia or made by the caregiver to spark conversation. This program is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, Dana Book Club meets to discuss The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean. Dean's first novel tells the story of Marina who, in her youth during World War II, worked as a docent at the Hermitage. Having immigrated to America and now aging, she suffers from Alzheimer's. Marina's only solace is her memories of the artwork at the Hermitage. Described as "thoughtful" and having a "satisfying fullness," The Madonnas of Leningrad is sure to generate a lively discussion. Stop by the library to check out a copy, then join us for our free discussion.

"What's going on for children?" you may ask. In addition to homework help (every day after school and on Saturdays), and our three story times each week (Preschool Story Time for ages 3-5 on Thursdays at 9:30 am, Toddler Stories and More for ages 1-3 on Fridays at 9:30 am, and The Bookworm Buddy for all ages on Saturdays at 11:30 am), First Books at First Fridays with Councilmember James Johnson is on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm and Family Game Day is on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. First Books offers excitement and fun with special guest readers and children's activities. On Family Game Day, drop in anytime with family and friends between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm to play a board game or two. We feature Monopoly, Scrabble, Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, Mastermind, Chess, and many others for game players young and old. All these programs are free open to the public. 🚸

(562)-570-1042 | www.lbpl.org.



#### **Green Lab Farm**

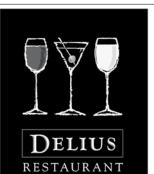
Transporting food thousands of miles consumes enormous resources and introduces harmful pests and plant disease that can threaten local agriculture.

Managed by familiar local, Kelli Johnson, Spring Street Farm (Spring and Elm) and Long Beach Community Action Partnership's Green Lab Farm (3012 LB Blvd) prove how successful gardens can flourish on fallow urban lots. With early funding kicked off by the American Recovery Act, local youth were paid to clear, prepare, then continue to plant and raise food crops and eggs. But cultivation doesn't stop with food! Ongoing tasks provide valuable hands on training, work experience, exercise and education about healthy lifestyles and eating habits. Kids involved with the gardens experience the camaraderie and satisfaction of witnessing the evolution and fruition of their collective efforts, and gain a clear understanding of the production chain that makes food appear on their tables. More importantly, these impoverished kids are able to provide healthy foods to their own and other struggling families.

The vacant lots, owned and donated for use by the Salvation Army, are the first fruition of the Give a Lot Grow a Lot program, where community partnerships turn unused land into productive soil for food and on the job training. The Spring Street Farm Stand is set to open sometime in April. Open to the public Monday-Saturday, sales will help finance continued success. To find out more go to TheFarmDesk.wordpress.com.



#### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



Delius Restaurant Still in your backyard!

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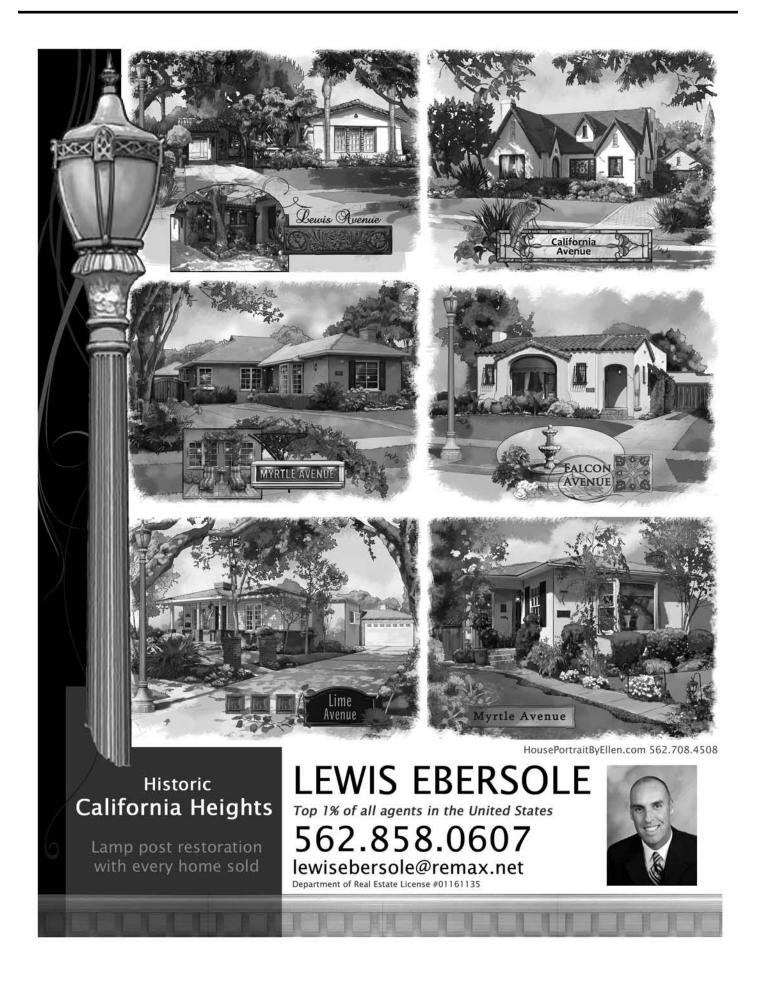
Reservations: 562.426.0694 www.deliusrestaurant.com

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## SAVE THE DATE!

The CalHeights Home & Garden Tour **October 2!** Suggest a home or garden at hometour@calheights.org!

## Willow Spring Gulch Clean Sweep Rained Out but Not Forgotten!

The Cal Heights Clean Streets Willow Gulch Clean Sweep, highlighted in our last issue, was cancelled due to rain. We're pretty sure mud and volunteers wouldn't have mixed well, so we're celebrating Earth Day with a rescheduled event for Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9am-noon. The morning will begin with snacks and a brief history and vision for this unique site presented by Councilmember James Johnson. Imagine the possibility of taking a weekend stroll along meandering pathways amidst rolling hills of wildflowers and native trees, where the sites of the city all but disappear, mere blocks from Cal Heights. With careful planning, the dream could become reality.

Community service hours will be signed for, so please give your scout troop, high school teens and church groups the heads up, or just come out to help clean up and explore what may be a once in a lifetime opportunity for open space near Cal Heights! Gloves and refreshments will be provided.

Litter Free Long Beach will also be collecting tires and e-waste - if it has a cord attached, it's e-waste, excluding large appliances. To join the Clean Streets email list visit calheights.org, click on Clean Streets. Please wear sturdy shoes. Parking will be limited so carpooling is recommended. \*



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## From the 7<sup>th</sup> District

James Johnson Councilmember

Thank you for joining me for First Books at First Fridays on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Our guest readers for this month were North Division Commander Galen Carroll, West Division Commander Joe Levy, and Deputy Chief Luna. Families and children had the opportunity to meet the Long Beach Police Department, learn about public

safety, and inspect a police car! Make sure to mark your calendars for our next First Books on April 1st, April Fools' Day. The fun and surprises start at 5:30pm at Dana Library, every First Friday.

Due to heavy rain, the California Gardens (Willow Spring Gulch) Clean-Up was rescheduled to April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please join the California Heights Neighborhood Association, Litter Free Long Beach, and myself for a clean-up of this beautiful 55-acre spot that offers wetlands, rare and endangers species, and amazing views of Long Beach. The area is located between Willow Street and Spring Street, Orange Avenue and California Avenue. The entrance is located on California Avenue and 28th Street.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate Zack Sutter for completing his Eagle Scout Project. The new sidewalk with ADA access ramps is at Don & Harold's Automotive on Wardlow Road and will allow for safer crossing for residents who were forced to use the street before. It is great to see the community coming together for the betterment of Long Beach. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. 🚸



Left to right: W. Division Commander Levy, Deputy Chief Luna, N. Division Commander Carroll, and James Johnson)

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#### ...SHOP LOCALLY

### Spring has Sprung!

How are your batteries? Let the switch to Daylight Savings Time remind you to replace batteries in smoke detectors and sprinkler system timers.

#### **First Fridays**

First Fridays seems unstoppable now. It's been a long time since we've had a slow one, and even when January was skipped due to the New Year's holiday, a mini-First Fridays blossomed when diehard businesses and fans wouldn't take "no" for an answer! March's FF was blessed by pleasant weather and a hint of Mardi Gras. Live music was everywhere; jazz, bluegrass, folk, rock, amazing piano solos, Latin rhythms all wafted in the night air while the Big Red Bus hauled guests from First Books at Dana Library to the new exhibits at EXPO. Great food and fabulous company, right at our back doors!

Check FirstFridaysLongBeach.com the week before each First Friday to see what's up for that month. \*



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**First Fridays Fun!** 





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## **Clean Streets Happy Hour & Shout Outs**

Cal Heights Clean Streets recently celebrated more than eighty weeks of local litter clean ups along our Atlantic and Wardlow business corridors and freeway access areas with a happy hour at Roxanne's Lounge, our way of thanking our regular volunteers while showing appreciation for Roxanne's efforts in keeping their section of Wardlow Road clean. We also wish to point out Bamboo Teri House management and employees for stepping up to keep one of our most litter strewn lots clean. We've noticed the difference and hope you will too. Soon we'll schedule lunch at Bamboo Teri House to say "thanks for being our community partner!" \*

## Cal Heights Receives Awards at BKBIA Annual Meeting

Cal Heights Clean Streets received BKBIA "Supporter of the Year" for their ongoing efforts to clean litter and engage local businesses to keep our community clean, healthy and attractive to customers and new businesses. CHNA president, John Royce, received the "Spirit Award" for his volunteer spirit and community involvement. The awards were presented by BKBIA Executive Director, Blair Cohn, and BKBIA President, Brent Dunn at the association's Annual Meeting and "State of the District" event in February.

## There's an App. for That!

Download the Go Long Beach App for your Android or iPhone. With a few clicks you can report various issues from graffiti to potholes to sidewalk damage. You can easily add a photo or comments and the app's GPS system tracks exactly where the issue is. The service requests are forwarded to work crews, who will be able to respond faster than if the requests were made by telephone or e-mail. \*



#### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

## **STAY CONNECTED**

Interested in Bixby Strollers, Literary Society, First Fridays, Monthly Community Happy Hours and special events? Go to BixbyKnollsInfo.com and click "Newsletter Sign Up," then select the newsletters and reminders you'd like to receive from the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association.

The more we know, the more opportunities we have to participate in the community we all share!

#### **Garden Irrigation for Spring**

Even if we receive no more, we're at least a little ahead of normal rainfall. To those who turned off or limited irrigation this winter, thank you. What we don't use now will be available for the long summer ahead, when we depend upon stored water to augment our limited ground water supplies. As the weather warms and the days lengthen, it's time to turn your irrigation timers to "run" again. Most drought tolerant gardens will do with weekly irrigation, native gardens even less, but if you have a lawn, two to three times per week is about right.

The city's irrigation ordinance limits irrigation to Mon/Thurs/ Sat, after 4pm and before 9am, no more than ten minutes per station. See how you can save water at Ibwater.org.

#### Trees at Pasadena Ave/33rd Street

Cal Heights ReLeaf assisted our 7th District Council office in creating a plan for planting trees along the 405 Freeway where little but ice plant and weeds marked the transition from neighborhood to the wide expanses of concrete and speeding vehicles. While not in Cal Heights, when we plant trees along our freeways, they trap particulate matter and other pollutants that would otherwise be carried with the prevailing winds into our neighborhoods. Fast growing, drought tolerant Canary Island Pines grow tall, with dense evergreen foliage to trap pollutants year round, while native California Sycamores tap into moisture with their deep roots, building soil with their yearly shed of bark and leaves. We thank Councilmember Johnson and Public Works. Cal Heights ReLeaf volunteers and the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association have pledged to water the trees for their first summer in their new home. After that, they will get by on natural rainfall. 🚸







# 式 MARK YOUR CALENDAR 🏂

Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pick up - see calheights.org click on Clean Streets
Each First Friday: www.firstfridayslongbeach.com
Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind

Find great Long Beach calendar events at calheights.org, on our facebook page and at www.limelightlb.com.

April 02 - Clean Streets Quarterly Clean Up at Willow Spring Gulch 9:00 AM to Noon (see details on page 7)

**April 07 - Toastmasters Weekly Meeting - 6:15 to 7:30 PM** Toastmasters meets every Thursday at 545 East Bixby Road. diagonals.org

**April 08 through May 14 - "Anna in the Tropics"** LB Shakespeare Company performs at the Expo www.lbshakespeare.org

April 09 & April 10 - Earth Day Celebration at the Aquarium Learn what you can do to help our ocean planet at the Aquarium of the Pacific's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day Celebration. 562.590.3100

May 12 - Cal Heights Community Meeting 6 - 7:30 PM Dana Branch Library CHNA hosts local disaster preparedness officials who will teach us how to be better prepared for an earthquake or other disasters. Don't be caught off guard.

May 22 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Long Beach Festival! Lectures, Live Music, Art and Food in the East Village Arts District. www.greenlb.org



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

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

54<sup>th</sup> 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