

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Got Vintage?	1
President's Message	2
Home Tour Set 10/20/13	3
Cal Heights Truck	4
Wardlow Tree Planting	4
Simple Acts of Kindness	5
Monthly Clean Streets	5
Wardlow: More Greening!	7
Longfellow Tile Project	7
From the 7 th District	8
Eco Corner	9
From the North Division	10
Share the Fruit	11
Bizz Buzz!	11
Calendar	12

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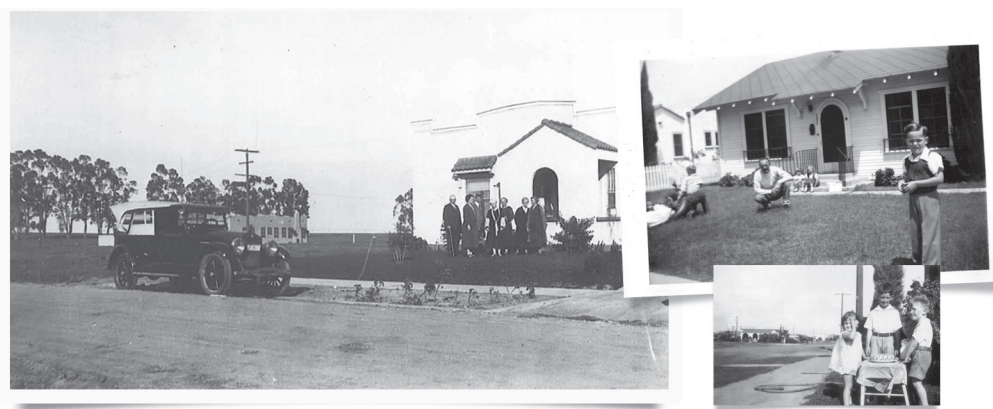
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The Heights is a bimonthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association. All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared 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.



Got Vintage?

In February we posted this vintage 1920s Lewis Avenue photo (above left) on the association's Facebook page. The response was incredible. In fact, it helped make that week one of our most popular on Facebook, with just over 4,000 unique visitors! Our record week, with 7,000 visitors, occurred in May, 2012, when we announced our Neighborhoods, USA Neighborhood of the Year awards from Indianapolis.

The popularity of that post indicates the fascination many hold for what came before. Old photographs offer tiny glimpses into moments of time and those who helped create them; moments we could otherwise only imagine.

And that, my friends, leads us to our plea: Please, if you have old photos of our neighborhood or surrounding communities, we'd love to digitize them for our historic record before they are lost in time. With each passing year, the opportunity diminishes as we lose our cherished older residents and others move away, carrying their photos to far off places to fade away in attic boxes or be tossed into the trash by those unfamiliar with their significance.

Our Long Beach Public Library and Historical Society of Long Beach archives contain precious few photographs of the earlier days of Cal Heights or the residents who called it home, and we'd like to change that. Heck, we'll order a pizza and help you go through some of those photos, and even listen to the stories they might conjure up. If you have photos from the 1920s through the 1970s or know someone who does, let us know. Even more recent photos of block parties and special events, might not seem so special now, but could be priceless to residents and historians in the future! We'll digitize those we'd like to keep and return them to you with digital copies for you to keep, so we can preserve a bit of our past for posterity. info@calheights.org or 562.424.6727. *

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE


As we've embarked on yet another round of Home and Garden Tour planning, our fourteenth, to be exact, it doesn't mean that everything else our volunteer board, dedicated residents and community partners do on an ongoing basis gets pushed to the back burner. Our Clean Streets weekly litter cleanups on our corridors and the 405 Freeway will go on as scheduled, as will our alley cleanups, ReLeaf tree care days (tree plantings are done until next fall), Facebook posts, and yes, even this newsletter. In the coming months we'll update the website, too, which admittedly has played second fiddle to the social media craze. We've also been chosen to present a communications workshop for neighborhood groups at the 2013 Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) convention and awards in Minneapolis in May, and we've submitted The Heights newsletter in the NUSA Neighborhood Newsletter of the Year competition. So, there's much to do and prepare for outside of our looming Home and Garden Tour to-do list.

On the front page you read about requests to submit old photos. Current technology provides opportunities to photograph our time and surroundings on a nearly constant basis. But in days past, especially in the early days of Cal Heights, photography was time consuming and expensive, part of the reason for our paltry photographic record. Yet, there still must be thousands of photos tucked away in attics and closets, waiting for rediscovery. We've been asking for years, and we thank those who have brought forward old photos, but we still have fewer than twenty on hand and we'd love to have more. So I'll make a second personal plea. Let's not let our history get lost in time. Bring on the photos!

Finally, I'll confide that 2012 was to be my last year as CHNA president. While I've always been open to volunteering, never in a million years did I ever expect to make it so much a part of my regular routine. As satisfying and rewarding as it all has been and continues to be, I've not been good at managing the snowball effect that leads to further commitments. So why did I allow the board to keep me seated for a seventh year? The people I'm privileged to know and work with, who volunteer their time to make all the things we do in Cal Heights and in the broader community we share possible, have become a cherished part of my life. They represent not only the very fabric of the community family who has become a part of who I am, but the community family I'm so proud to be a part of. When I discovered Long Beach I discovered community, and when I found Cal Heights, community secured a corner of my heart and soul I hope I never lose.

With that said, here we go again with some very busy months ahead. Stay tuned here, friend us on Facebook, join our volunteers, and by all means, please plan to join us on October 20th for the fourteenth Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour. As always, we'll keep you posted as the date nears. ✿

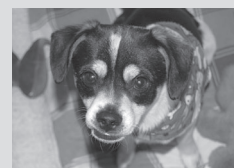
John Royce



CHNA President

Enjoy periodic updates
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Neighborhood Association)

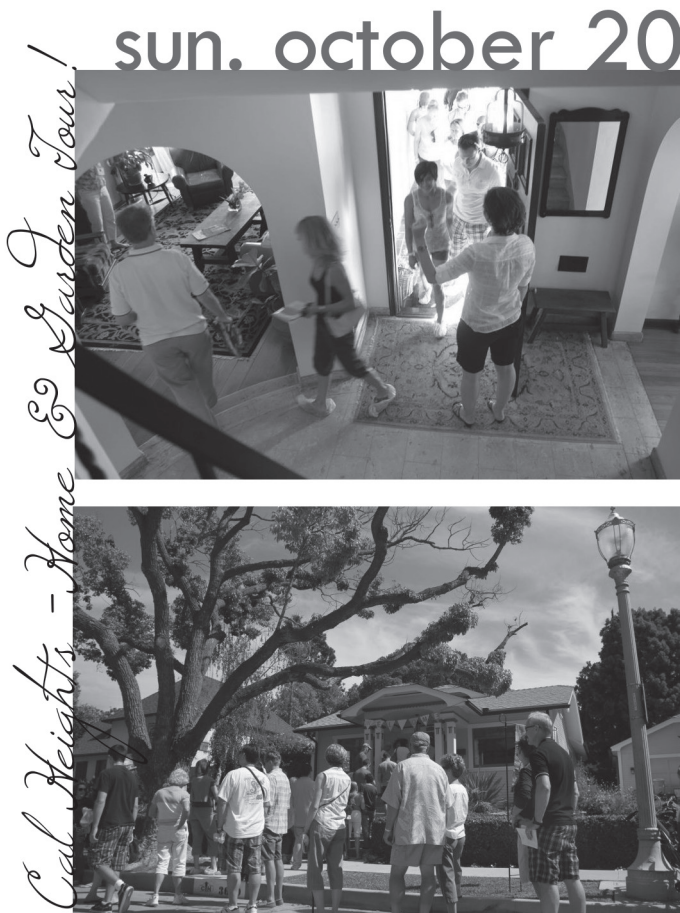


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sun. october 20

IMAGES BY TOM UNDERHILL

Home Tour Set to Sail Again on Sunday, October 20, 2013!

This year's Home and Garden tour can, hopefully, help us to complete our longstanding lamppost restoration project in 2014! The desire to take on the neglected lampposts led the CHNA board to develop the tours as a fundraising tool, together demonstrating both the intrinsic and financial benefits of maintaining the historic fabric of Cal Heights and each home's place in preserving the historic context they contribute to.

With only 73 lampposts to go, we know it's within our grasp. Once again, CHNA will dedicate the majority of our Home and Garden Tour proceeds to the lamppost project. Since the cost of the replicate lamppost top cages and globes have increased substantially, we hope healthy proceeds secure our chances to finish this important and very visible Cal Heights project.

While the tour remains many months away, the search is on now for homes and gardens! If you know of a special home or garden worth considering for the 2013 tour, please leave a message at info@calheights.org or 562.424.6727. *

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IMAGE BY TOM UNDERHILL

Cal Heights Truck

In our Nov/Dec issue we announced that the Cal Heights Model T truck needed a new home after the Will Reed Scout Camp sold. CHNA's budget cannot absorb the cost of storage rental fees, so the board reluctantly considered selling the familiar mascot, which adorned Sunset Magazine in 2004 when Cal Heights earned its "Best in the West" notoriety. With no responses, CHNA made a final attempt to save the truck via a January Facebook post.

Within several hours three offers surprised us all. Cal Heights resident, Keven Vaughan, who saw the article in the newsletter, realized the urgency of the Facebook post and generously offered not only to store the truck at his Westside warehouse, but to haul it on his trailer, too! At high noon on Valentine's Day Keven showed up to CHNA president, John Royce's house, where the truck had been stored since October, to move the truck to its new home and give John his garage back.

Former CHNA president, Albert Guerra, acquired the truck for CHNA in 2003. While the "truck" does contain some vintage Model T parts, the prop saw duty as a trade show and tee-shirt display booth. A fundraiser hosted by Delius Restaurant and sponsored by Connie Wildasinn raised the cash needed to rehab the truck to the familiar and festive appearance many know and love. Guerra stored the truck in his own garage for a time, until another Cal Heights resident, Patricia Stewart, gave it a home in her garage. The truck spent the last several years in the barn at the scout camp. With no engine or proper mechanicals, the truck relies upon peddle power or trailers to move it into place at the Home Tour and other special events.

Thank you, Keven, for your generosity, community spirit and for saving our mascot! ❁



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Simple Acts of Kindness

After Clean Streets one Thursday in late February, CHNA President and Vice-president, John and Stacey, stopped in for lunch at the Blackbird Café. When it came time to leave, instead of a check, the server delivered a special message that our check had already been paid by someone who wished to remain anonymous and just wanted to thank us for all we do for the community. How lovely. So to that kind soul who took the time to say thank you, thank YOU! You made our day. ✱

Monthly Clean Streets Alley Cleanups

Our February cleanup hosted Youth Leadership Long Beach Class of 2013 and Director, Jeff Williams. These are kids to be proud of; eager, smart, not afraid to get dirty, and a pleasure to work with. Their work with us helped satisfy the program's community service requirements. They even invited us to join them in a celebratory lunch at Roxanne's! Wait, aren't we supposed to be thanking THEM? Leadershiplb.org

Our March Cleanup crew of eighteen resident volunteers cleared more than a ton of debris from the Myrtle/Olive alley!

On April 20th, Earth Day, we clean the Olive/Lime alley from 9:30am-11:30am. Meet at the alley entrance on 36th Street. Reusable gloves and bags provided, but extra shovel, brooms, leaf rakes and pruning tools are appreciated. calheights.org or see our California Heights Neighborhood Association events on Facebook. ✱



IMAGES BY TOM UNDERHILL

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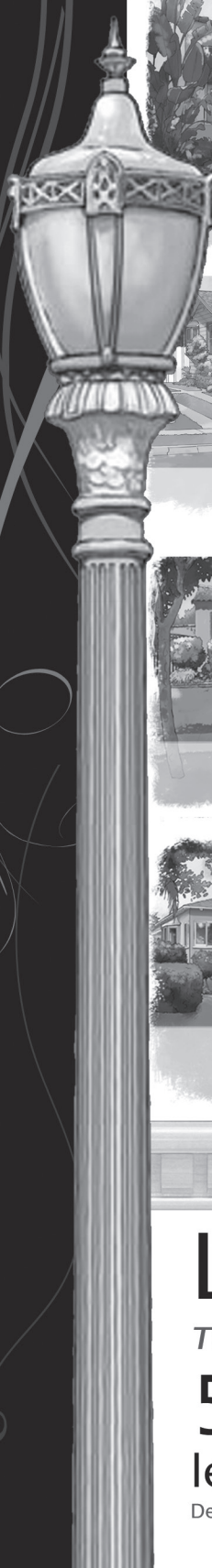















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Wardlow: The Greening Continues!

Cal Heights ReLeaf followed up our Wardlow Road tree planting in November with a second planting between Orange and Gundry avenues on March 2nd. A tree promised in November, in front of the Vintage Emporium, just north of Blackbird Café, made it this time, too! Our Council Office and Public Works cut the tree well just in time for our planting! We'll plan our next Wardlow plantings in November after the Home and Garden Tour is behind us. We dedicate April through September to tree care to ensure our young trees make it through their first two summers.

Local Campfire Kids and Girl Scouts joined ReLeaf to ensure we had plenty of volunteers, and Hole' Mole' provided 50 percent off a tasty and well-deserved lunch! We also thank City Arborist, Jerry Rowland, who got sweaty and dirty right along with us, and our Wrigley neighbors, Lee Fukui and Mauna Eichner, for assisting once again as planting supervisors. These were the first grant-supplied trees for a ReLeaf planting, thanks to the 6000 Tree Port of Long Beach grant program. ❀



SEE COMPLETE PHOTO SETS ON FACEBOOK

Longfellow Tile Project

On February 7th and 8th, the Longfellow Green Team held Family Tile Painting Nights to raise funds to transform a barren courtyard into a usable outdoor garden/work/classroom space. Participants crowded into the lunch room in camaraderie, paying \$20 per tile. After paying for the tiles, paint, supplies, pizza for the troops and tile firing, they recorded a \$3000 profit! 2nd Grade parent, contractor Art Steedle, installed the mural of memories on March 15th. ❀



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**From the 7th District**

James Johnson Councilmember

Last week I spoke at the Port of LA hearing regarding their proposed Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) project. Recent Port of LB and LA projects have demonstrated that "green growth" is possible; creating jobs while reducing pollution and establishing community mitigations. Thus, I asked the Port of LA to follow this precedent and pursue such green growth. While the Port denied my request, pursuing a model that diverts from the model of green growth, I am pleased to report that the LB City Council voted to appeal that decision to the LA City Council. I continue to think that green growth is possible and I will continue to fight for it.

On March 19th I asked the City Council to approve an item that directs the City Manager to explore the expansion of our BARK program. For the past two years, trained therapy dogs have come to the Bret Harte Library every month to help kids with their reading. Research shows that when children read to non-judgmental pets their reading and comprehension skills improve. This program has been a great success in the 7th District and I hope we can expand it to libraries throughout the city. BARK is run by volunteers without cost to the city.

Our efforts continue to plant 6,000 trees that we were recently awarded from the Port of Long Beach. We've already had tree plantings in West Long Beach and Cal Heights, with more being scheduled in Los Cerritos and other neighborhoods in the district. In addition, we have submitted the requests for those of you (over 100 people so far!) who have already requested new parkway trees, and you should be contacted soon for placement. If you would like a parkway tree in front of your home and haven't requested one yet, let me know by emailing district7@JamesJohnsonLB.com or by calling 562.570.7777.

Finally, summer is approaching and I'd like you to save the date for two events. First, join us for a 4th of July Concert at Willow Springs Park (2745 Orange Ave). Since this is the highest point in the city, we'll have a great view; last year we watched shows from Long Beach to Los Angeles. The second event is the 3rd Annual 7th District BBQ & Croquet Tournament on Sunday, August 18th at 1pm. I will provide the meat and drinks, and you are welcome to bring a side dish to share with your neighbors. And of course we'll have the annual 7th District Croquet Tournament. I hope you can join me for these two great events this summer.

Yours Truly, James ❁

Long Beach Earthquake - Earthquake Preparedness

March 10th marked the 80 year anniversary of the devastating Long Beach Earthquake. Important lessons learned about seismic engineering have protected Southern Californians ever since and have made the Los Angeles basin a center for seismic research. We posted two videos on the CH Facebook page on March 10th: a vintage news-reel from the day after the 1933 quake, and a 94 year old Long Beach resident's recollections of that day as a teen. Are you prepared for the next quake? earthquake.usgs.gov/prepare/



EDCO Environmental Collection Center Now Open!

Don't know what to do with that old computer or other household hazardous waste? You no longer need

to wait for a collection event or drive to San Pedro! EDCO Recycling and Transfer Facility's Environmental Collection Center (ECC) is now open at 2755 California Avenue in Signal Hill. LA County residents can drop off e-waste and household hazardous waste without leaving their cars.

The ECC is open 9 AM to 2 PM on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

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For more information visit CLEANLA.com or call 888CLEANLA. For info on EDCO's Buyback Recycling Center: edcodisposal.com or 562.597.0608.

Goodwill Industries at Atlantic/Willow also accepts E-Waste items during regular business hours. 562.989.3630.

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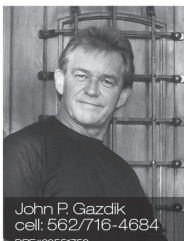
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From the North Division

Robert Luman - LBP North
Division Commander

Your LBP North Division front desk, which had been closed to the public due to budget cuts, has reopened its doors. The front desk at Atlantic and Del Amo will be staffed Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5pm. Residents can once

again file police reports and obtain garage sale permits without going downtown.

Please ignore recent social media posts urging people to dial 112 rather than 911 in certain emergencies. 112 is the European emergency number. Several wireless providers offer mobile phones that use either system for emergency calls, but even if a call goes through it causes a delay when the call is converted then routed to the appropriate 911 call center. In the U.S. always dial 911 to ensure fastest response.

Please be alert about recent reports of persons falsely representing themselves as utility workers as a ruse to commit burglary. In this scam, bogus workers apparently target homes to burglarize when no one is expected to be home, or work as a team to distract occupants and burglarize homes. The following information allows residents to confirm that they are interacting with Long Beach City employees:

- Utility employees are identifiable by their uniform and are required, upon request, to show a City-issued identification card.
- Customer contact is made either in person by a uniformed employee or through a form that is left in a prominent location on the property - The form provides a contact number to inquire about the work scheduled or to reschedule the work at a more convenient time.
- If residents have any doubt, they are encouraged to call the appropriate department to verify the legitimacy of the employee.
 - o LB Gas and Oil: (562) 570-2140 – 24/7
 - o LB Water Department: (562) 570-2300 24/7

Residents are advised to keep gates to backyards locked and secure at all times and to immediately report suspicious activity, including loiterers, to the LB Police Department by calling 9-1-1 with a suspect description. *



VOLUNTEER TRACY WEISS HARVESTING ORANGES

Share the Fruit

Photo and article by Tom Underhill

On any given weekday, volunteers converge on a fruit-laden tree and remove its bounty for SoCal Harvest. Targeted on this day in March was a very productive, mature orange tree in North Long Beach. After a brief orientation and safety talk, the volunteers took their positions for the pick. Harvesters climbed ladders, big and small, into the canopy of the tree. One volunteer went onto the roof of the home to remove the fruit that was draped over the top of the house. Stretching and reaching high into the tree, pickers with long fruit-picking poles worked from the driveway next door. It was a quick few hours of picking; sorting and boxing flew by. After taking a small amount of fruit for themselves, volunteers packed the bounty into the bed of a small pickup truck, which was soon filled to the brim. The fruit picked during this session went to local food banks and shelters. To volunteer for SoCal Harvest: socalharvest.org, 323.678.6036 or socalharvest@earthlink.net.

Bizz Buzz

• **Sweet & Saucy** – This unique boutique pastry shop, owned and operated by a mother-daughter team, will locate at 3720 Atlantic this summer! The goodies they handed out at March First Fridays found lots of happy tummies. sweetandsaucyshop.com

• **Atun** – If you're wondering what all the construction is just north of the Historical Society at 4264 Atlantic, you're in for a treat. Atun Tapas and Sushi will open in summer, with a beautiful protected outdoor seating area and stylish design sure to knock our socks off! Add Exec Chef David Santiago's culinary surprises, including unique signature pizzas, and you'll understand why Atun promises to be a local hot spot in the making!

• **Baja Sonora** celebrates fifteen years on March 30th, with happy hour all day long at both 3502 Atlantic and the original location on Clark. Stop in to say "Happy Anniversary!" And don't forget to thank them for hosting so many PTA Monday fundraisers over the years. bajasonora.com

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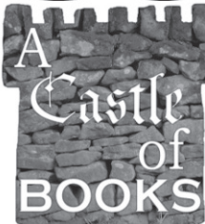
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✂ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ✂

Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pick up - see calheights.org click on Clean Streets.

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass bixbyknollsinfo.com

- **April 7** - Ronald McDonald House Walk for Kids, walkforkids.org
- **April 6 & 7** Theodore Payne Native Garden Tour theodorepayne.org
- **April 20** Monthly Alley Cleanup, Olive/Lime Alley 9:30 - 11:30am
- **May 5** Tour of LB for Miller Children's Hospital touroflongbeach.com
- **May 18** Lawn to Garden Tour Sat – lblawntogarden.com
- **May 18** Friends of LA River Great LA River Annual Cleanup Join Cal Heights Clean Street volunteers! folar.org
- **May 25** Children Today Run/Walk - runchildrentoday.com
- **June 1** Wrigley River Run – Practice runs on now through May wrigleyriverrun.com

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

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 Pick Up (2 free per year)
570-2876

SoCal Harvest
(323) 678-6036

Street Potholes
570-3259

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Restrictions Apply

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