

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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President

Hugh Little | 424-6727
hughlittle@gmail.com

Home Tour Coordinator

Kerrie Weaver | 424-6727
info@calheights.org

Newsletter Editor/Layout

Stacey Morrison
newsletter@calheights.org

Newsletter Idea Submission

newsletter@calheights.org

CHNA Information

calheights.org | 424-6727

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.



Work and Play all Rolled into One Great Event!

by John Royce

Our Clean Streets Volunteers have learned a lot from ongoing alley cleanups: 1) monthly cleanups come around very quickly, 2) our success varies greatly depending on residents' participation levels, and 3) the alleys we clean look amazing!

You've heard it before, but cleaner alleys really are safer alleys, and we're committed to keeping that message alive, backed up with action! Clean Streets Team Leader, Stacey, already reported a new quarterly strategy but we also thought we'd try to combine the cleanup with an informal block party to see if it might spur a bit more participation and build on the safety theme, since knowing our neighbors also contributes to our vested interest in each other's safety and well-being. So we tossed the event onto our Facebook page and started knocking on doors to see if neighbors would embrace closing off the street for a little post cleaning potluck shindig!

On Saturday, March 8th, volunteers from across the neighborhood and beyond gathered on a stunningly beautiful winter morning, worked hard for a few hours then played in the street under the beautiful canopy of Olive Avenue. Neighbors met, others reacquainted, and new neighbors were introduced. So we think it all went rather well.

Thanks to everyone! Special thanks to California Heights Methodist Church Cub Scout pack 78 (pictured above) for the elbow grease and resident family team, John, Lauren and Andrew Gazdik of Real Estate West for generously supplying drinks and two, yes, two fabulous Bake 'n' Broil cakes. CHNA supplied a hundred tacos from Baja Sonora, and a huge tray of Patricia's taquitos and fixin's were contributed to create a perfect treat for a warm SoCal summer day in March. Maria Weston, CH resident and local massage therapist, rewarded volunteers with free chair massages, and all enjoyed live music, courtesy of CH musician, Lee Hansen.

Hope to see you for our next quarterly alley cleanup and block party on June 14th. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the next issue of The Heights for details! a

President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

Hello California Heights!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. My name is Hugh Little. I moved to Cal Heights in 2008, and joined the California Heights Neighborhood Association Board not too long after that. My involvement with our neighborhood activities began when John Royce recruited me for a ReLeaf planting in April of 2009 – where I got to combine my green thumb with neighborhood improvement for the first time.

In February I was elected by the CHNA Board to serve as our President. It is going to be a big change for me – and some pretty sizeable presidential shoes have been left behind for me to fill. I come to this position in “interesting times” for our neighborhood - we are coming off the most successful home tour to date, the Lamp Post Restoration project is lining up to be completed this year, the Home Tour committee is changing leaders and we'll soon be forming new partnerships with our newly elected City Council Member and Mayor.

I hope to maintain the city-wide relationships our neighborhood has developed and nurtured over the past decade, while also trying to increase our focus on the goals and needs of Cal Heights residents. A (small) first step in this regard is the first of what we hope will be quarterly, neighborhood-wide potluck block parties, timed to follow our quarterly Alley Cleanup events (the next one scheduled for June 14th!).

Many of you may already realize this – some may not - but keeping this newsletter fresh, interesting, and relevant actually takes a great deal of work from our dedicated team. Ideas I would like to explore more thoroughly in future issues would include feedback from residents in terms of submitting items for publication in future newsletters, and even developing some sort of “Ask a Neighbor” column – where questions any of us may have could be answered to the benefit of all. Any suggestions can be emailed to newsletter@calheights.org.

That is probably more than enough for now. I look forward to both assisting and learning from each of you over the course of my tenure as President of your neighborhood association. a



Hugh Little
CHNA Presiden

First post alley cleanup block party!



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

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Lamppost Restoration Update

by Karen Highberger

The CHNA is happy to report we have been awarded a Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association grant in the amount of \$35,000.00. This grant, in conjunction with the \$10,000 in Home Tour revenue pledged, will allow us to hopefully finish the restoration project in 2014. As most of you know, this has been an ongoing project and the focus of the CHNA fundraising for over 10 years. We are so excited to see the light (no pun intended!) at the end of the tunnel.

We will not be able to complete the restoration without additional support from the neighborhood. In 2012, we offered a "two-fer" program for sponsorships that was quite successful and we will be doing the same with this installation. This program allows residents to sponsor one lamppost for \$725 and the CHNA will sponsor a second lamppost at no cost. The paid sponsorship includes the engraved service door plaque. The "free" lamppost does not include a plaque. The plaques have four spaces suitable for engraving so you can pool your resources with your neighbors and get two restored lampposts on your block. In 2012, neighbors did just this and Lemon Avenue managed to complete their entire street as well as other "two-fer" restorations throughout the neighborhood.

Again, we want to give a big, well deserved thanks to the residents who have supported the restoration through the years. The "two-fer" program will help some streets who have been lagging behind in their restoration efforts to achieve completion. These streets include Myrtle, Lewis, Brayton, Gundry, and Falcon Avenues. If residents who live on these streets could have someone step up as a block captain to solicit donations for a sponsorship, the donations will go twice as far with the "two-fer" program!

Many streets in the neighborhood are completed and we all enjoy how beautiful they look. This is a great opportunity for community building and getting to know your neighbors. We hope everyone in Cal Heights supports this last big push for completion of the restoration project. The engraved plaques are a wonderful way to commemorate a special person, event or even pets! The donation is tax deductible.

The next time you walk through Cal Heights, please take the time to read some of the plaques. It will warm your heart and it is a reminder of what a great neighborhood we live in.

Donation forms can be downloaded at <http://calheights.org/lamppost.htm>. a

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Time for Change

by John Royce

Seven years in a few paragraphs! As with all of us, it included life's ups, downs, challenges, victories, joys and sorrows. No aspect of our lives occurs in a vacuum, which, naturally, brings me to the concept of community. I've never felt so grounded and not since I was a child have I felt more connected to the place I live and the people who share it with me. I'm convinced that my connections here have enhanced the ups and softened the downs.

So I guess it makes sense that I'd devote so much passion to this special place. It's where I share in celebration, enjoy cherished friends and neighbors, find the consolation of a hug, or seek refuge after a challenging day. My home is more than the historic little house we preserve and restore; it's the streets we clean and the trees we plant and care for, the lampposts we adopt, the shops and diners we promote, organizations we support and the causes we join; it's the friends we make, the officials we engage, the relationships we build and for me, it's the effort I've taken on with so many of you to preserve it that ties me here so securely.

My community vision remains one of camaraderie, vested interest and dedication to the changes and improvements we want to see, and when we disagree, mutual respect. I'm proud of the community partnerships we've forged, the communications we've broadened, the local businesses we've promoted and the souls we've touched. Our connections to each other remain central to my community philosophy.

Encouraged for years to submit for NUSA's Neighborhood of the Year award, Vice President, Stacey Morrison, and I poured our hearts and souls into creating a presentation that best represented CHNA and the challenges our volunteers have turned into victories. I'll always consider the award a crowning achievement of my tenure and testimony to the hard work our volunteers commit to this place we love.

Your new CHNA president, Hugh Little, extended his hand shortly after moving in. He committed to better understand how to return some period charm to his pre-historic district remodel, and despite a demanding career and hellish commute, he immediately began showing up for tree plantings and cleanups, volunteered for Home Tour and newsletter delivery and adopted a lamppost. Lucky for us, when I asked him to join the board, he accepted and the board agreed. I'm confident Hugh will forge his own legacy as president, infusing CHNA with new ideas and opportunities. I look forward to working with him as I pledge my return to a supporting role as an active and dedicated board member.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have helped make my time as president meaningful and successful. My partner, Kent, and I cherish our Cal Heights home and the community family we've come to know, love and appreciate so much.

Finally, I consider it an honor to preserve our historic charm and the sense of value, place and belonging it affords us all. For those who already understand, bless you.

Thank you. The pleasure has been all mine. a

Farewell John!

I want to thank John Royce for all the work he's done for our neighborhood. John's term as President of the CHNA has come to a close and our community is better because of his passion and energy in making Cal Heights a great place to live. The CHNA has seen great successes during his term, too many to name here. Thank you for all you've done, John.

~ James Johnson - Council Member

Taking us to new heights!

John, I want to thank you for being a great steward of the neighborhood. The residents of California Heights are very fortunate to have had such a dedicated, resourceful, responsive and caring neighborhood leader. Cal Heights is and will continue to be a great neighborhood because of the seeds of inspiration you have planted in the hearts and minds of your friends and neighbors.

~Albert Guerra - Past President of CHNA

Thank you John!

The greater Bixby Knolls area has seen and felt the impact of your tireless efforts to beautify and improve the neighborhoods. The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association applauds all your hard work and sweat equity. Your fingerprints are all over the district and have many legacy projects to be proud of. I personally believe you should be cloned and every neighborhood in the city should have one of you.

~ Blair Cohn - Executive Director

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Long Beach Election Season

by John Royce

Long Beach faces a major primary nominating election on April 8th, with no less than fifteen offices on the ballot and one ballot measure deciding whether or not to tax medical marijuana sales. Candidates for the offices of Mayor, Council Districts 1, 3, 5, our own District 7, and 9, City Attorney, City Prosecutor, LB Community College District Board of Trustees areas 1, 3, and 5, and Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education areas 1 and 3.

Several forums have offered voters opportunities to become familiar with the candidates and issues, including two at the Petroleum Club, a mayoral forum sponsored by the Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association and LBHUSH2, and a 7th Council District forum sponsored by the Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association and the California Heights Neighborhood Association. We thank the Petroleum Club for offering our local organizations free use of their facilities. Voters may view the Padnet televised and streamed 7th Council District forum at padnet.tv/elections/.


Early voters and permanent vote by mail voters have been submitting ballots since March 10th. The last day to register for the election was March 24th. Complete election info can be accessed at longbeach.gov/cityclerk/elections/. ^a



Long Beach Water Reinstates Drought Restrictions



Despite our very welcomed recent soaking rains, California still faces a severe water shortage. As a result Long Beach Water Department has declared the city "under imminent water supply shortage" and has returned to the Monday, Thursday, Saturday, before 9am and after 4pm schedule that helped reduce water consumption in Long Beach during the last crisis. Long Beach Water continues to encourage water conservation with its popular Lawn to Garden Incentive Program, landscape classes and rebates for high-efficiency washing machines, toilets and water-saving sprinkler heads. For more information on these programs and water saving tips, go to lbwater.org. ^a

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James Johnson Councilmember

Dear Friends,

Recently, we were the first Council District to pilot "participatory democracy" here in Long Beach. We asked you to decide how to spend \$200,000 of one-time funds, and you responded. When we tallied all the votes, the projects in first through third place were extremely close. Here are the results:

Sidewalk Repairs (in addition to the \$521,173 being spent in 2014): \$60,000

Priority 1 Project: Sports Court Resurfacing (\$83,750)

Priority 2 Project: Neighborhood Tree Trimming (\$10,000)

Priority 3 Project: Interior Library Repairs (\$50,000)

The repairs will begin in 2014, helping to move Long Beach forward. I want to thank everyone who attended the February 25th workshop, whose input will be incorporated into the completion of these projects, and everyone who took the time to vote online, by mail, or by voting at the various polling stations throughout the district. If you want more details on the projects selected, visit my website: www.JamesJohnsonLB.com.

Also, another first comes to the 7th District -- LED lights. After piloting these new lights in a residential neighborhood in West Long Beach, we will be installing all new LED lights on Santa Fe Avenue from Wardlow Road to Pacific Coast Highway. These lights will improve public safety and beautify our neighborhoods while reducing energy costs and improving our environment over the long term. This will be the first arterial street in Long Beach outfitted with LED lights, but stay tuned -- it won't be the last.

Finally, these next few months you will see us continue sidewalk repairs in all parts of the district, as well as street work, continuing the tremendous progress we've made over the past three years on repairing our previously neglected infrastructure. While we still have a lot to do, by increasing our infrastructure budget and being more efficient with your tax dollars (like reinstituting a street maintenance program), we've made headway to returning our streets and sidewalks to the condition our communities deserve.

As always, if you need to reach me, you can email District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com.

Yours Truly, James

I'll see you soon in the community. a

Bizz Buzz

With almost all of our Atlantic Ave and Long Beach Blvd shop spaces taken or accounted for, new retail spaces offer a significant hint that there's currently more demand than we have space for, proof that the hard work of the past several years to invite residents to shop local and entice more entrepreneurs to open new eateries and shops has paid off.

Construction has begun at 3640 Atlantic Avenue on a new retail structure by architect Don Gottfeld that should serve to further activate the Cal Heights portion of Atlantic. No tenants have been announced but we'll keep you posted. a



River Clean Up

The Great LA River Cleanup – Friends of the LA River host the 25th Annual La Grand Limpieza, as thousands of volunteers will once again remove many tons of trash and debris from the Los

Angeles River.

This year the event takes place over the course of three Saturdays, from 9am to noon:
San Fernando Valley sites – April 26
Glendale Narrows sites – May 3
Lower River sites – May 10, including our Willow Street Estuary and Golden Shore Marine Biological Reserve in Long Beach.

It's a perfect opportunity for groups, individuals and businesses to schedule volunteer opportunities. To register your group, call 323.223.0585. Individual registration will begin soon at folar.org. Click "CleanUp."

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Springtime's Busy Bees

by Hugh Little

Spring has sprung! New leaves and flowers in our neighborhood say it is so! In spring, beehives grow by division and start to swarm. The reigning queen of an established hive departs with about half of the workers. While they search for a suitable spot to set up shop, they shelter in protected locations. They will typically move on within a few days.

A note about "Africanized" bees: Almost all feral colonies of honey bees in Southern California have some percentage of Africanized stock - some more than others. This accounts in no small part for the continued success and survival of colonies in the face of parasites and pesticides. It's not necessarily a cause for alarm. Incidents with Africanized honey bees almost always relate to a perception of threat to their hive. Their behavior in defense of home and honey is very different than their behavior when looking for a new home.

A few facts about bees and swarming: Bees are far more protective of the entrance to their hive than they are when foraging, and swarming bees remain surprisingly docile; they're exposed, and have everything to lose by getting into a fight.

Swarming bees, which generally look like a glob of bees in a tree, under an eave or in a backyard barbeque, are rarely cause for alarm. Still, avoid approaching them and forcing a confrontation.

If you encounter an established hive by surprise, do not approach it. Bees guard the hive's entrance, often with their lives. Move calmly away to lessen the likelihood of attack. If you find yourself the subject of a hive's wrath, run. An angry hive cannot generally travel as fast as a motivated human. Get inside or into a completely enclosed location. Taking refuge underwater is actually an incredibly dangerous gambit.

If you find a swarm or a new hive on your property, you need not destroy them. When outside your house, local bee groups can remove and relocate them. Contact Long Beach Beekeepers at LBBeeRescue@yahoo.com. They will help determine if the new hive can be relocated safely. If bees have already become tenants in your home, however, you will likely need a professional bee removal service. The weight and moisture of a hive can be very damaging to your home's structure. Simply killing or removing them may not solve the problem.

If you have any questions, I am happy to help. Email me at hughlittle@gmail.com. a

An Indoor Cat is a Happy Cat!

by Theresa Hew

So you think your cat can only be happy going outside? Do you rationalize that he's been going outdoors all his life and couldn't adjust to an indoor-only life? Cat welfare organizations assure us that as long as a cat's basic needs of food, water, shelter and stimulation are met in an indoor environment, they live contented lives. A cat kept indoors lives on average of 14 -15 years or more. Of course, spaying/neutering and vaccinations are vital to this longevity.

A free-roaming cat encounters many dangers on a daily basis. Being hit by a car, killed by coyotes, subjected to animal cruelty by humans including deliberate trapping and poisoning are the worst part of the spectrum. But also fights with other cats and exposure to infectious diseases mean higher vet bills.

Turn your cat into a lover of the great indoors! Start by feeding **ONLY** inside the house. Instead of letting him back outdoors immediately, keep him inside for gradually longer periods of time. Be prepared with some attempts to escape by distraction with treats. Toss them away from the door. No cat can resist a little canned tuna or sardines (in water only please). Give the cat lots of positive attention with holding, petting, brushing, playtime and soothing talk. Treats with natural ingredients known to calm cats are available at pet stores. Use them especially at bedtime to reduce vocal protesting.

Once the cat is confined to the house, set out a scratching post and litterbox in a bathroom or bedroom where the cat can retreat to and feel safe. Cats love stimulation; rotate different toys for interest or bond with a kitty using a pole toy. Grow and set out cat grass - it will be a comforting reminder of the outdoors. Appeal to their inner scavenger by hiding treats behind closet doors, sofas or other places to make them "hunt."

Buy a cat condo for exercise. The ones with an enclosed portion for peeking out are popular with cats. Install a windowsill perch. Hang a bird feeder where kitty can see it from a window. If you feel kitty must have outdoor time, consider the more sturdy enclosures and cat runs. Some attach to the house and can be accessed from a window to the outdoors. Check online for many sources.

Remember this process takes patience. It took me about two weeks to adapt my cat to an indoor-only life. That was ten years ago. She is now a happy 14 year old with a safe, secure indoor habitat. For more information visit www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care. a

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facebook.com/calheights

Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pickup - 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

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO;
longbeachrecycles.org

Saturday, April 5: Habitat for Humanity Donation Drive the Bixby Knolls Christian Church will host a donation drive for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles at 1240 E. Carson from 9am to 3pm. habitatla.org

Saturday, April 5: Loft Walk 2014 Long Beach Heritage's annual Loft Walk returns, featuring Pine Avenue's Walker Building. Tickets and info: lbheritage.org, 562-493-7019.

Sunday, April 12: Hughes Green Team's Annual Plant Sale! 9am to 3pm at the Longfellow Elementary School upper playground adjacent to the 3800 block of California Avenue. 562-673-2401

Sunday, May 11: Rancho Los Cerritos is currently taking reservations for Mother's Day Brunch; champagne brunch, live jazz and "living history moms" in the garden. 570.1755

Saturday, June 14: Alley Cleanup and Block Party (See CalHeights facebook page)



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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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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
570-3259