

# THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Few Good Homes	1
President's Message	2
Lamp Post Update	3
Where's the Rain?	4
Community Meeting	5
Restoration/Preservation	6
Long Beach 2030	9
Community Calendar	10

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California Heights Neighborhood news is a bi-monthly 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, keeping residents informed of issues affecting the quality of life in California Heights.

## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD HOMES



HousePortraitbyEllen.com

Once again it is the time of year when the Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour committee looks to the community for homes and gardens for the annual home tour. Scheduled for Sunday, October 21, 2007 we expect our 11<sup>th</sup> annual tour to be another great success!

Each year the CHNA showcases five to seven neighborhood homes and gardens. It is one of the most successful tours in Long Beach. Its success is not possible without our homeowners whose dedication exemplifies the continued effort of our community to preserving our past.

The home tour has enabled the continued success of neighborhood improvement projects such as lamppost restoration, the commission of the Orange Avenue mural, the house plaque program, Cal Heights Releaf, and the street signs identifying Cal Heights as a historic district.

If your home has original detail, has undergone a sensitive restoration or has unique features we want to hear from you.

If you would like to have your home or garden considered, either e-mail [calheights@earthlink.net](mailto:calheights@earthlink.net) or call Kathryn Costantino at 562-424-6727.

Let's make 2007 the most successful home tour yet!

*Kathryn Costantino*

*CHNA is a nonprofit preservation organization working to protect and preserve historic and architectural resources in the California Heights Historic District.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A neighbor stopped by recently to chat. Nice that we still do that around here. But, when she stepped in the front door's latch never found its hold. Of course, the open door went unnoticed until it was time to go.

"Where's the dog?" Grab the shoes, the leash, and a pocket full of kibble! I had brushed her just minutes before, so her collar and tags lay on the floor. Murphy can be so cruel.

My neighbor jumped in her car as I hit the streets calling into the night, having no clue which direction Kela had wandered. I ran to another faithful neighbor to enlist her support, and, as expected, she joined the search.

If you aren't out and about much in our little corner of the world, you might not know just how many of us are out strolling at any given moment. As I encountered each of them I pleaded, out of breath and likely noticeably distraught, "Have you seen a dog that looks like a husky little fox?"

After an hour passed my heart began to sink. It was not how I wanted to say goodbye to our companion of thirteen years! Will she encounter a friendly face and a safe new home or the cold hard bumper of a passing SUV?

Just as my tears began to flow, my cell phone rang. "Stop that!" Candice said. "Come home! I found Kela and I have her in my car. She's fine."

The world that seemed hopelessly skewed just moments before righted itself once again. When I rounded the corner, I saw that a small crowd had gathered in the driveway. Some I knew, some I didn't. Everyone we encountered had joined in the search. My heart was full. I cannot imagine a more perfect example of the wonderful community we are so lucky to call home.

The following evening I accepted my position as your new association president. Community service is not new to me, so it seems a logical step. Volunteer positions may not pay well, but the rewards multiply. I am honored that our dedicated CHNA board members placed their trust in me, and I will do my best not to let them or our residents down.

Many of you know me as Chairperson of Cal Heights ReLeaf or from my efforts to maintain and improve our Dana Branch Native Garden. I've met some of you as I've sold advertising space in The Heights Newsletter, and still others may know me as that chatty guy on the corner who is always in his garden. For those of you who don't know me, I'll look forward to meeting you when the opportunity arises.

Please join me in thanking Albert Guerra, who, during his eight years at our helm, has done so much to take our association to institutional status. He has a lot to be proud of and I am happy to call him a friend and neighbor. Don't expect Albert to fade away. He plans to stay active and for that we are grateful.

Don't be strangers. I promise not to be either.

John Royce  
CHNA President

## Transitions

I would like to be one of the first to announce and publicly welcome the appointment of John Royce as the new President of the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association.

John has been an active Board Member for several years. His enthusiasm and passion for the neighborhood and community have placed him right in the middle of several community projects, from assisting on the Home & Garden Tour to leading the charge in planting the Dana Branch Library Native Garden.

John's leadership can also be seen throughout the neighborhood by simply looking at the many trees that have been planted on the streets of Cal Heights. His dedication to the Releaf Program has inspired many residents to help make our neighborhood greener.

As I transition from President of the association to Board Member, I am pleased to look back on the accomplishments that have been achieved with the help of all of my fellow Board Members past and present.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with them for the last eight years. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board and as a representative of the community as the neighborhoods Parks, Recreation and Marine Commissioner.

I know that John will continue the good work that was started by residents of the neighborhood, over twenty years ago, who had the vision of creating a historic and dynamic family neighborhood like no other in the city.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Albert Guerra

## LAMP POST RESTORATION UPDATE

At long last, the order is placed for replacement lamp post tops. A big thank you to all residents who have ordered lamp posts. We anticipate the new tops to be installed within 2 months. For those of you who missed the article late last year, the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association is paying to replace all the lamp post tops on both sides of Orange Ave. (Wardlow Road to Bixby Road) with funds raised by our Annual Home Tour. We will be replacing 25 lamp post tops on Orange Ave. and we are ordering an additional 11 that have been purchased by homeowners. What a difference it will make!

Hopefully, once we can see an entire street illuminated with the restored globes and cage assemblies, we will all be inspired to order more. We are also working on getting the lamp posts repainted, since they have faded in color. Thanks again for your support of this project that benefits the whole neighborhood and thank you to participants and attendees of our Annual Home Tour.

*Karen Highberger*

**Plan to Attend Our Next  
Community Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 17th  
at the  
Dana Branch Library  
3680 Atlantic Avenue**



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## What Happened to the Rain?

It's dry out there. And there isn't much of a chance for any more significant rain, which means our trees will need your help this spring and summer to stay healthy. Young trees will need a deep watering once or twice a month until the weather cools. Even mature street trees could be stressed this year, so plan to let your hose dribble for extended periods for good deep soaks every four to six weeks. If you are lucky enough to have Coast Live Oaks, water them well once this month to make up for the lack of rain, then let them stay dry until fall. Hopefully the rains will come next season!

Also, don't forget to keep a mulched, grass and weed free area at the base of your trees. This will prevent weed whacker and lawn mower damage. Only a lack of water kills more trees!

This is most important for residents of Gardenia, Walnut, Lime, Rose and Orange Avenues, where many of our young, recently planted trees are still struggling to survive. The average life of a new street tree is seven years – let's see if we can beat the numbers game!

*John Royce*

## GARDEN TOURS AT THE RANCHO

### First Sundays, May through October

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Rancho Los Cerritos - Garden Tours at our local historic treasure! Trees here date to the 1840s! First Sundays at 2:30 pm, May - October. Reserve your free guided tour at 570-1755.

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## WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT MOLD

(And What To Do About It)

Join us at the next Cal Heights community meeting and learn about the hidden signs of active mold. Robert Miller, a forensic construction expert will identify and discuss the problem of water intrusion. During his presentation Mr. Miller will provide a comprehensive understanding of the mold epidemic and how to protect you and your family.

For many homeowners and renters, unpleasant odors and sinus problems are the most apparent signs that something is seriously wrong with their home. These types of problems are usually the result of water intrusion.

Despite these obvious effects caused by water intrusion, in many instances, homeowners are not aware of the less obvious signs which usually are not visible to the naked eye.

Most mold outbreaks do not produce obvious signs. Mold spores are microscopic and when exposed to the right amount of moisture and temperature, will leave their otherwise dormant state and become active. At certain levels and when combined with the right circumstances, these mold spores become extremely dangerous to some people. When mold spores are at these levels most people notice odors and the physical side effects.

Most homes have areas of water intrusion. It is advisable to have a professional water intrusion expert determine where the moisture is coming from and define how the problem can be corrected to prevent the growth and spread of mold to other areas of the home.

Mr. Miller has over 30 years experience in architecture and construction. He specializes in the causes and remediation of WATER INTRUSION in buildings. He routinely provides expert testimony and technical assistance relating to the cause, remediation and prevention of water intrusion.

**When: May 17, 2007 at 6:30 PM**  
**Where: Dana Branch Public Library,**  
**3680 Atlantic Avenue**



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## FROM LANDSCAPE TO DREAMSCAPE

By Kevin Doherty

Early mornings at our house begin with first flush Darjeeling tea enjoyed on the front porch of Craftsman bungalow. Seated in my wicker chair, contemplating the day before me, I view the distant hills where the waterfall empties into the lake, creating ripples upon its surface. A grove of maples with day lilies under foot shades the rugged shoreline and a path of arroyo stones provides access from the steps of our front porch through a mossy glen and around the lakeside.

This landscape is not in the heart of the San Gabriel Mountains as it may seem, but rather it exists within the small yard of our bungalow. The hills, lakeside waterfall and mossy glen are visually implied through careful placement of mounded earth, boulders, pebbles and various plantings. This stylized wilderness scene I've designed is much more than a garden! It's a place of calm and repose, a point of departure from landscape to dreamscape offering perfect union of our Craftsman home with its surroundings.

### Uniqueness

There are as many ways to design gardens as there are willing designers, so how shall you envision yours? In a word: uniquely! Start with that trusty journal that I suggested you keep in my previous articles. Begin your garden project by listing the size of your lot and your practical needs for daily living relative to that space. Include aesthetic considerations and employ descriptive words and phrases that capture the overall feeling of the garden you'd like to create and inhabit. State your budget and what you'd like to accomplish. Next, visit and photograph some of the historic homes and gardens open to the public. Schedule hiking excursions into the local mountains and always take your journal with you. These places are full of interesting textures, smells and floral compositions. Record anything that inspires you or gives you an idea for your garden to be.

### Read All About It

Thousands have set about to accomplish the task that lies before you and volumes have been written about good garden design. Visit Hennessey and Engles in Santa Monica or the Gamble House Bookstore in Pasadena. There you will find all manner of tutorials filled with pictures and examples. Most architecture is surprisingly compatible with a wide variety of garden styles, so you need not feel that any one style or design approach is more "correct" than another. Indeed, the essential appeal of American architecture resides in its eclectic splendor.

### Etchings in the Sand

Good garden design results from careful study, preparation and patience. Once you've done your homework sketch the design! If you doubt your ability, hire a designer to make the conceptual plan. After completing a rough draft on paper, I sketch directly in the sand with a long piece of bamboo once the ground has been cleared and graded . . . After all that I contemplate the space, let it stew for a while and revise until it feels right.



Beauty and Simplicity

Additions that facilitate social gatherings, privacy and ambience are worthy considerations. Fence design, for example, is an underappreciated art form. It can make or break the unity of a finished garden and its relation to the architecture. Pursue simple custom fence and patio design motifs that echo the architectural lines of your home and construct them with good quality materials such as all heart redwood. The longevity and beautiful patina that redwood acquires with age will deepen the personality and appeal of your garden over time.

Ground the Garden

Boulders, paths and planters comprise the underlying structure of a garden. Good structure is essential because it grounds and stabilizes the garden, supports colorful focal points and defines spatial relationships. Once you are satisfied with the structural design of the hardscape schedule the installation.

Water-Wise Design

Once the hardscape is complete you're ready to install the plantings. If you value the combined notions of conservation, practicality and beauty, choose drought-tolerant plants. Native plants provide beauty and grace while decreasing your water and yard maintenance bills. They also provide a pleasant herbal fragrance while attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. Combine these with shade plants as needed. Create focal points in your garden with patio trees and contrast these with elegant evergreens. Consult the Sunset Western Garden Book for essential information pertaining to species and growth habits.

Finishing Touches

Ornamental objects and patio furniture humanize the garden and provide finishing touches. Discreet water elements and wind chimes are worthwhile for the soothing sounds they bring. I crate my fountains using bamboo spouts and river rock boulders with natural depressions where water can gather and play. Adirondack furniture crafted of teak or mahogany is rugged, durable and comfortable.

Lighting will be essential to your garden's nighttime appeal. Opt for understated low wattage copper fixtures and combine these with simple iron or bronze candle lanterns. On warm summer nights they create just the right ambience! Above all, take your time, enjoy the creative process and choose only that which you deem truly beautiful.

Our front porch with its shades, outdoor furniture and fiber rug is an extension of our living room, uniting house and garden in the Craftsman tradition. As the garden matures, it takes on its own personality – ever changing, full of mystery and subtle surprises. In time both garden and fence will attain the patina of age, enhancing their beauty and relationship to our sage colored bungalow.

This morning, a small Chinese chime lends music to the sea breeze. Water trickles and dances in and out of the water stone and a bird lands to gather a drink. Seated in my wicker chair I sip tea and contemplate the dreamscape before me.

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 Visit [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) for details.

## HISTORIC HOME PLAQUES AVAILABLE AT B&B HARDWARE



In 1999, the California Heights Neighborhood Association was recognized by the Cultural Heritage Commission for its innovative leadership in promoting the historic district through its newsletter, house plaques and home tour.

The house plaque program was started in 1997 as a way for historic homeowners to show their pride in owning a historic district home. The house plaque is currently displayed on over 200 California Heights homes.

Show your pride in owning a historic district home. Order your plaque today at B & B Hardware, 929 E. Wardlow Road, (562) 490-2669. The price should be about \$95.00 plus tax, S&H.

## A Child's Perspective on Community

I think I am doing a good job parenting when my daughter beams with pride as we are driving down Orange Avenue. "Look mom, that's where we planted *Myrtle*. Did you plant that tree, too?" My daughter watched and helped welcome the newly planted trees along Orange Avenue. She has and is giving back to the community in which she lives. My daughter will grow up with these memories and look at our community with pride. She has helped to deliver newsletters since she was a few months old. Now she is attending community meetings and helping name trees.

I welcome you all to encourage your children to help and become a part of the community in which they call home. Good citizenship starts in the home and the community.

*Ilana Brackett*



# LONG BEACH 2030

Imagine what Long Beach will be like 2030. You and your organization have the opportunity to make Long Beach one great city by participating in the Long Beach 2030 Plan. The Long Beach 2030 Plan is the process to update the City's General Plan, a comprehensive, long-term plan that creates a vision for the future of our great city. Join us and share your ideas for our great city through the Long Beach 2030 plan.

**The City of Long Beach wants to know:**

*Where should new development occur in our City and what should it look like?*

*How will we integrate cars, buses, bicycles, and walking into how we move around our City?*

*How do we preserve and protect our environment for future generations?*

*How do we encourage jobs within the City and what kinds of jobs do we need?*

*How do we balance new development with the historic assets of our past?*

The Long Beach 2030 plan, with your participation and input, will protect the things we cherish about our city while planning thoughtful, positive changes that will improve our lives.

We invite you to use your imagination and participate in the Long Beach 2030 Plan! Over the next 24 months, you will have ongoing opportunities to share your vision for our great city:

Log on to our website, [www.longbeach2030.org](http://www.longbeach2030.org), where you can take our survey and view other interactive information

Visit your local Library, Neighborhood Resource Center or City Hall where you can pick up information and offer your opinions

Attend neighborhood meetings where you can tell us how you imagine the future of Long Beach

Join us at Community Festivals where you can share your vision for the future

**May 12 - Hughes Middle School: 9 am -noon**

**May 19 - Hill Middle School: 9 am -noon**

**June 2 - Stevenson Elementary: 9 am -noon**

**June 9 - Jordan High School: 9 am -noon**

**June 16 - El Dorado Park: 9 am-noon**

Visit the Long Beach 2030 traveling kiosk and LB2030 Plan Van where you can provide ideas for how Long Beach should grow and prosper

Participate at local schools where students can put their imaginations to work designing a future Long Beach.

*Jan Ostashay  
Neighborhood Preservation Officer*

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour  
Sunday, October 21, 2007

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Department (Non-Emergency)  
435-6711

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency)  
570-5891

Fire Department  
570-2500

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc.  
981-2258

California Heights Releaf  
426-3407

Dana Branch Library  
570-1042

Rancho Los Cerritos  
570-1755

Long Beach Building Department  
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control  
570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise  
570-2678 / 570-2600

Graffiti Paint-Out  
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline  
570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control  
570-4126 (press 4)

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal  
570-2755

Shopping Cart Retrieval  
570-2876

Street Potholes  
570-3259

Tonia Reyes-Uranga  
7th District Councilmember  
570-6139  
district7@ci.long-beach.ca.us

Rae Gabelich  
8th District Councilmember  
570-1326  
district8@longbeach.gov

Jan Ostashay  
Neighborhood Preservation Officer  
570-6864

City of Long Beach Website  
[www.ci.long-beach.ca.us](http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us)

Long Beach Recycles Website  
[www.longbeach-recycles.org](http://www.longbeach-recycles.org)

Long Beach Unified School District  
[www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp)

Official CHNA Website  
[www.calheights.org](http://www.calheights.org)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### APRIL

**28-29th Floral Park Home & Garden Tour**, Santa Ana,  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., info [www.floral-park.com](http://www.floral-park.com)

### MAY

**12th Long Beach 2030**, Hughes Middle School, 9:00 a.m. to  
noon, for more info, [www.longbeach2030.org](http://www.longbeach2030.org)

**17th Bi-Monthly CHNA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

Now at Dana Branch Library, 3680 Atlantic Avenue,  
(Corner of Atlantic Ave. & 37th Street)

Info **997-8888** or [www.calheights.org](http://www.calheights.org)

### MAY through OCTOBER

**Garden Tours at the Rancho**, Rancho Los Cerritos

Garden Tours at our local historic treasure!

Trees here date to the 1840s!

**First Sundays** at 2:30 pm, May - October.

Reserve your free guided tour at 570-1755.

### OCTOBER

**21st SAVE THE DATE Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour**

### Get involved in the community

If you would like to include information for future newsletters,  
please forward articles, photos or suggestions to  
[calheightsnews@aol.com](mailto:calheightsnews@aol.com) by the following dates.

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