

# THE HEIGHTS

## CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.



Bob's 1924 Flint



Bob and his friend Sterling

## Olive Avenue Memories

by Rachael Rifkin

Bob and Hazel Krause moved to 3611 Olive Avenue in April of 1943. Originally from South Dakota, Bob came to California in search of a job at Lockheed. By the time he arrived, they didn't have any jobs. He eventually found one at the new Douglas Aircraft plant opening up in Long Beach.

When Hazel became pregnant with their second son a couple of years later, they decided they needed a bigger place. They found a house on Rose Avenue, but they wouldn't be there long.

"I was out working in the backyard, pattering around in the garden," he recalled. "The gate was open and my son walked out, looked around and saw the woman next door working on her garden." She looked up, cursed inappropriately at his little boy and shouted, "You get back in your yard. I don't want to see you here! Get out of here!" "You're talking to a 2 1/2 year old boy, sweet as they come," Bob replied.

"I went into the house and told my wife, 'Hazel, call the real estate agent. The house is for sale. We're not going to live next to something like this.' So we sold the house and bought the first house we could find on Olive Avenue!"

He fondly remembers his block of Olive Avenue as being extremely neighborly. "My wife and the lady next door would leave their back doors open. If my wife ran out of something she'd go and take it off the next door lady's shelf, and they'd do the same."

They had an especially good time during the Fourth of July. "Sometimes we'd close the block and play games in the middle of the street. Everybody brought something. We had tables lined up and we'd eat together. We had a great big party for the bicentennial. People in the neighborhood invited everybody that they knew. We had a great time. One of our neighbors was a drummer in a band. He had his band set up in a yard and we all danced in the street."

(cont'd on page 3)

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Can you believe another summer is upon us? I relished summer vacation's bare feet, road trips, sleeping in, dripping Popsicles, Disneyland, swimming until we were wrinkled, exhausted and ravenous! I loved kick-the-can during a balmy dusk. I mowed lawns for pocket change and then took the satisfying walk to Dairy Queen to buy my own well-earned scrumdillyicious treat!

I sometimes hear residents say they don't do much locally because there's not enough activities for kids and families. But it just isn't so! Granted, I can't remember the last time I saw neighborhood kids playing kick-the-can or mowing a lawn for that matter. Those activities have been traded for more sophisticated and sedentary electronic pursuits. But, from businesses to volunteer and parks programs, there are a plethora of creative summer opportunities for kids and families to enjoy that can pull them away from their electronic companions.

Long Beach Ballet, LB Shakespeare Summer Camp at EXPO, Jammin' Music, Averyboo Arts, Eat Play Grow and Tang Soo DO Academy offer interesting and engaging activities for kids of all ages, within walking distance from many of our homes. The Petroleum Club has very attractive summer family pool memberships. Free or very inexpensive activities abound, like Summer Adventures, Adventure Tours and summer concerts at Rancho Los Cerritos, Fairfield YMCA Summer Day Camps and Kid's Club, and infinitely family friendly Summer Concerts in our local parks. If you've never attended our Summer Ice Cream Social, CHNA will combine efforts again this year with Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos for a fun-filled, late summer evening celebrating community on July 11<sup>th</sup>. And don't forget our popular Sunday Farmer's Market at Longfellow Elementary and increasingly family friendly First Fridays.

Also close by, the Aquarium of the Pacific offers age specific day camps, sleepover camps and extraordinary job shadow programs and other activities geared for children, families and adults, like Outdoor Adventures that include kayaking and sea life, port and harbor cruises. The Museum of Latin American Art holds Summer Art Camps, and our award winning Parks and Recreation Department offers both parks and aquatics day camps, adult sports leagues and more or just relaxing days among the trees with a good book on a summer day.

Take advantage of our local resources this summer. Visit our "Community Contacts" page at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org). Enjoy a safe and happy summer! ❁



John Royce  
CHNA President

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(cont'd from page 1)

Bob has seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood over the last 60 years. "I love this area. I have pictures of the trees out there that are only so big around. I remember it took 50 years to get a four-way stop at Bixby and Olive. There used to be a lot of accidents there before. 37<sup>th</sup> Street used to flood before they put in better drainage. My kids sometimes had a hard time crossing that street. It's amazing what's happened between 1940 and now. The thing that I think is so amazing is the fact that we've been able to keep this neighborhood looking so nice and original."

Neighbors have known Bob for years as the guy with the old cars, a hobby he continues to relish today. In 1937, at the age of 16, he bought a 1927 Star Coach. It provided him with dependable service for two years, through snowy winter days and hot summer nights. A vintage photo of Bob in his car graced the pages of the 10/09 issue of *The Heights*.

The Star Coach reappeared in his life in the mid-1960s. Working as a senior industrial engineer with Douglas Aircraft, he noticed a calendar picture of a 1923 Star Station Wagon in a vendor's offices. The vendor told him if he came back next month, he could have the picture. He still has it today. When heart problems forced him to retire in 1976, he decided he wanted another Star.

"My mind was made up. When I retired, I wanted to find the remains of a 1923 Star and make a woodie body for it. In my impatience, I bought the remains of a 1925 Star that was registered as a pickup, but turned out to be a service truck. After a lot of research on woodies, I restored the remains as a Star Dealer Service Truck." He also rebuilt and restored a 1927 Star Station Wagon, a 1947 Studebaker, a 1987 Mercedes, and most recently a 1924 Flint by Durant Motor Company. The Service Truck and Station Wagon appeared at the 2009 Home and Garden Tour.

"I bought the Flint from a fellow in Florida and it was delivered to me in February 2010. It's a big grey touring car with the black top and fenders and sliding windows. It was in pretty good shape when I got it. The rest of the cars I restored from what most people would call junk."

If you drive down the 3600 block of Olive Avenue, keep an eye out for Bob. You might see him tinkering with his fabulous cars, or catch a glimpse as he walks with his grey poodle, Sterling, in the dappled sunlight under the canopy of the old camphor trees. ❁

Rachael Rifkin is a personal historian (i.e., she helps people record their memories and write their memoirs). For more information, visit [lifestoriestoday.wordpress.com](http://lifestoriestoday.wordpress.com) or call 424-2362.

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## The Restorer's Notebook #2 Knob and Tube Wiring, Truths and Myths

By Lou Gaudio

As a contractor with over 30 years experience, I have gained a good bit of knowledge about issues common to aging early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction. An area of concern for many vintage home owners and restorers is the electrical system and related safety issues.

Is knob and tube safe? The original wiring systems in our 20s and early 30s homes was/is a system known as knob and tube, named as such for the porcelain insulating stand-offs and sleeves. The wire insulation was asphalt-saturated cotton cloth and natural rubber. Wire splices in such installations were twisted for good mechanical strength, then soldered and wrapped with rubber or asphalt insulating tape. Since the wires run in free air, and separate from each other, they dissipate heat very well. As long as they are not damaged physically by abrasion or vermin (apparently rats and mice find the insulation quite tasty!) the wire should remain safe almost indefinitely. Of course, proper over circuit protection (fuses, circuit breakers) must be maintained.

Areas of concern with aging knob and tube wire are; heat damage, fire hazard and grounding. Ceiling light junction boxes which are subject to constant rising heat from the fixtures lamps will very often suffer drying and crumbling of the asphalt or natural rubber insulation. Bare wires result, and can create a spark ignition scenario. Loose or improperly made connections when replacement lights or switches are installed can add to this problem by creating resistance, and therefore additional heat and corrosion. Knob and tube systems also lack grounding to the main circuit panel. Most original bath and kitchen circuits were grounded to the water piping inside of the walls, but those grounds are often unknowingly lost when re-piping, creating a shock hazard.

Just fix it! In my opinion, rewires and upgrades to vintage homes need not be destructive or invasive to the structure. I have no concern leaving the in wall wires and switch legs undisturbed, as long as the connections are properly insulated and correctly done. Exposed wires in attic areas can be easily replaced with new modern wire and junction boxes less susceptible to damage. Most of the ungrounded plugs can remain, and additional grounded plugs can be added in areas of high concern. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) should be installed in kitchens and baths. All original and new circuits should be connected to a new modern breaker panel of 100 to 200 amp capacity. The new upgraded system should of course be installed per local codes by a licensed and qualified contractor. I advise checking license and insurance status at [www.cslb.CA.gov](http://www.cslb.CA.gov). ❀

## ReLeaf Summer Tree Care

In summer our ReLeaf tree planting tasks are replaced with tree care. Two care days are scheduled with our Tree People partners.

**Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>**, Orange Avenue - volunteers gathered to remove stakes, conduct light pruning and removed grass and weeds to prevent string trimmer damage and gave trees a deep soak if needed. Thanks to our volunteers!

**Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather at 9 am at 37<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic to water and adjust stakes for the 37 trees planted in January along Atlantic Avenue. Future dates will be scheduled for our young Lime Ave/36<sup>th</sup> Street trees, springing forth from their winter naps, robust from winter rains and root growth, and our youngest Lewis Ave trees planted in February, also off to a raging start.

All our young trees made it through the winds intact and stronger for the experience! Please join us! Wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen and gloves. Tools and refreshments are provided.

## Give a Hoot- Don't Pollute!

by Ava Brackett, 10 years old

It's important to clean up trash. This past spring break, I worked Cal Heights Clean Streets. I had to pick up cigarette butts, lip balm, Starbucks coffee, and McDonald's trash. You know it's important to clean up trash because we want our city to be beautiful and the animals need a clean environment too. Trash goes to the ocean after it has been left in the gutter and down the storm drains. So please stop littering and if you see trash, please pick it up and throw it into a trash can. ❀

## CHNA Board Seats Open

The CHNA board has two of our eleven seats currently open. Board members serve a variety of volunteer functions and help plan for and participate in our events and neighborhood programs, make decisions about fundraising and activities, and are expected to attend board meetings and represent the neighborhood association in a variety of capacities. If you would like to know more about volunteering as a board member, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us at 424-6727, or [calheights@earthlink.net](mailto:calheights@earthlink.net). ❀

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

by Tonia Reyes Uranga

Social media is an increasingly popular form of communication these days. Recently Facebook users topped the 400 million point and Twitter is close behind! Social media has proven to be an effective way for communities to stay connected, like the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association for example.

The city of Long Beach is joining the effort for better communication through the use of social media as well. I encourage you to sign up for the various city officials' and city services' Facebook accounts. All it takes is typing in the keywords "Long Beach" to access most of these profiles. Many of your local officials are also on Twitter, where you can get instant messages and updates on everything from street closures to upcoming city events.

Another great way to get connected to the city of Long Beach is through *E-Notify*, a free email service that provides the latest city news from over twenty departments. Just visit [www.longbeach.gov/enotify](http://www.longbeach.gov/enotify) to set up your subscription. Choose from departments like the Long Beach Airport, Mayor and City Council or Police and Fire to name a few.

I've been enjoying communicating through both Facebook and Twitter. It has been a great way to stay in touch with the community, share pictures and invite people to city meetings and events.

These latest social media technologies increase our opportunities to keep residents and the city connected, so please take advantage of them to stay informed and engaged in all things Long Beach. Better communication means better government.

See you on Facebook and Twitter! ❁

## Your Guide to Summer Fun in LB!

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, *100 Days of Summer* offers fun for kids of all ages.

Browse hundreds of events in the calendar, or browse over 500 classes in the arts, sports, music and more! Just visit [100daysofsummer.org](http://100daysofsummer.org).



At 25mpg and 15,000 miles per year, a car emits 6 tons of greenhouse gasses and burns \$1800 worth of gasoline. A large SUV can double that. Vehicle exhaust contributes to smog which kills more Americans than traffic accidents! Think exercise. Walk to local shops and restaurants.

Go for a stroll rather than a Sunday drive. Walk to the park! Hoof it with the kids to the Farmers Market and library. And think fuel efficiency when you consider your next vehicle. On average, every gallon you save prevents 1.3 pounds of nasty stuff from entering the air we and our loved ones breathe. Save money, reduce smog and with all the activity, maybe even kick that diet!

## Rancho Los Cerritos and Summer Band Concerts in the Park Schedule

Rancho Summer Concerts are free. Parking is limited with overflow available on Virginia Road. Guests are welcome to bring picnics, blankets and lawn chairs. June 25: Voxinglero -- Sizzlin' Latin rhythms! July 23: Steel Parade -- Chillin' Reggae. August 27: Sligo Rags -- Soulful Celtic with a twist of Bluegrass

Summer Band Concerts at Los Cerritos Park: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm from June 30<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>. Too busy to put your picnic together? Catering is now available! Place orders up until 10 am the day of the concert via phone: (562) 499-7565 or fax: (562) 499-7532. Pay with cashier's check, Visa, MC, AmEx. Pick up orders at the SAVOR Mobile Retail Food Service Outlet at the park! ❁

## Annual Ice Cream Social

CHNA will team up with Friends of Rancho Los Cerritos on **Sunday, July 11** for a late summer afternoon of ice cream, games and community on the beautiful grounds of the rancho. This event is free to guests. Feel free to bring a blanket, lawn chairs and picnic. If you haven't taken the opportunity to explore our historic rancho adobe, it will be open for self guided tours.

Details and RSVP info will be posted soon on the calheights.org calendar page, the CHNA Facebook page, and for those who have signed up for CHNA "What's Up" emails, it will be included there as well.

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### Curb Address Painting is Back

Our curb painting is back in operation, thanks to volunteer Steve Powell! Thanks, Steve! The cost is \$15 and proceeds support our neighborhood projects. Place your order by sending an email to [calheights@earthlink.net](mailto:calheights@earthlink.net), or leave your contact info at 424-6727.

As reported earlier, someone has copied our Cal Heights logo and is going door to door soliciting curb address painting. Even though he often claims to represent CHNA, he does not. CHNA representatives will never solicit. ❄

### Volunteers Give and Give on April 24<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to community volunteers who give unselfishly of themselves, our community reaps the golden benefits. Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was a busy day as several wonderful events graced our community's streets, homes and schools. (see photos)

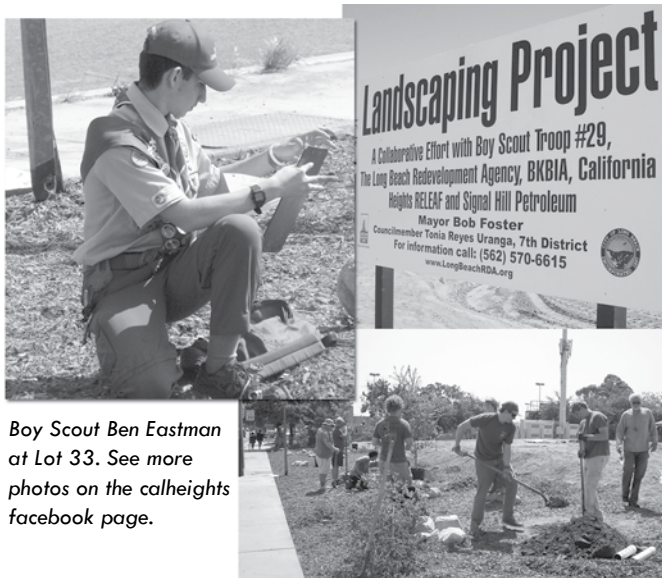
- 7<sup>th</sup> District neighborhoods and organizations assist Westside residents with a street tree planting.
- Rebuilding Together Long Beach volunteers put a new face on a house in Cal Heights.
- Hughes Goes Green takes ownership of campus beautification and environmental stewardship at the latest Campus Cleanup Day.

Many thanks to all who took a few minutes from their busy lives to pitch in. ❄



See more photos on the [calheights Facebook page](#).





Boy Scout Ben Eastman at Lot 33. See more photos on the calheights facebook page.

## Installation Begins on Lot 33

by John Royce

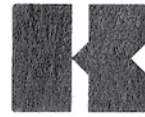
A long sought after goal to improve the Atlantic/405 entrance to our community was realized on May 15/16 at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Atlantic. Led by Boy Scout and Cal Heights resident, Ben Eastman from Troop 29, the effort serves the community service portion of his Eagle Scout project. Collaborative partners included City of Long Beach RDA, BKBIA, Cal Hts ReLeaf and Signal Hill Petroleum. The mostly California native plants were sourced from Ricardo's Nursery, four and half tons of boulders from South Coast Supply, free mulch from the city's Mulch-A-Lot Program and grading and debris removal generously donated by Crew Inc. The adaptive irrigation system was designed and installed by Brian Norton. Once the native trees, shrubs and grasses are established they will survive on their own, while only a small portion of the site will require weekly dry season irrigation. The RDA also pledged to build its signature white fence along the back of the landscaped perimeter.

I am proud to have supplied the plans for this project and enjoyed working with Ben, a very attentive and professional young man, to see it through to fruition. He did an excellent job. We invite you to watch it grow! As it does it will soften the vacant lot, screen the oil operations and provide for a more welcoming entrance to our Bixby community of neighborhoods.

We thank Troop 29 members and parents, neighborhood volunteers and several members of the Poly Down to Earth Club for volunteering for the weekend installation. We had lots of tired and dirty bodies! Lot 33 is another example of community partnerships and volunteers at work improving our community. ✨

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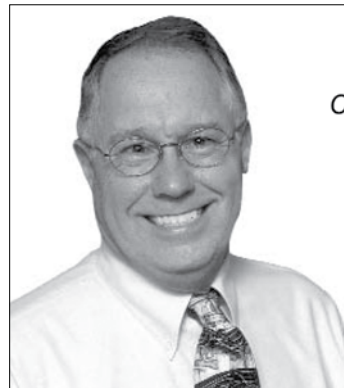


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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Thursdays:** 8:30 am litter pick up - see [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) click on Clean Streets.

**Saturdays:** Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind.

**Sundays:** Farmer's Market - 9 am to 2 pm (California and Bixby)  
See all calendar events at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org), click on Calendar or visit us on Facebook!

**05/30 Visitors from the Past Living History Tours - Rancho Los Cerritos 1 - 4 PM-** Tour the 166-year-old adobe house with "visitors from the past" who step forward in time to conduct tours of the Rancho. Free.

**06/08 Election Day - Remember to Vote -** You'll need an official city ballot and a state wide ballot for this election.

**06/12 Wrigley River Run 5K/10K and Tadpole Trot -** Run a flat, fast course through Wrigley Village and on the L.A. River bike path! Train with the Rivers Runners. More info at [lbfoundation.org](http://lbfoundation.org) click on Events.

**07/04 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks -** Personal fireworks are illegal. Find public firework displays information at [queenmary.com](http://queenmary.com), [firechannel.org/blog](http://firechannel.org/blog) and [safejuly4th.org](http://safejuly4th.org).

**Summer 2010 - Rancho Los Cerritos Summer Adventures**  
This half-day program is especially designed for children ages 6-10. Space is limited - call Rancho Los Cerritos at 570-1755. [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)

See more calendar items and events at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) and Facebook

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**Sell Your Home  
in 39 Days  
Guaranteed\*  
or FREE**

**Connie W.**  
**(562) 824-4846**

\*Restrictions Apply  
DRE#01221986

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7<sup>th</sup> District Council - Tonia Reyes-Uranga  
**570-6139 email: [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov)**

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Rae Gabelich  
**570-1326 email: [district8@longbeach.gov](mailto:district8@longbeach.gov)**

54<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal  
**495-2915 web: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54](http://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**