

# 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.



Photo by Tom Underhill

### Lamppost Restoration Project - July 1 Deadline

By Karen Highberger

As most residents are aware, the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association was awarded a grant of \$35,000 by the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association in March of this year. This money will be combined with Home Tour 2013 revenues of \$10,000 to, hopefully, complete the restoration of the original vintage lamppost tops!

We are again offering the "two-fer" promotion for this installation cycle. If a homeowner or group of homeowners sponsor a lamppost for \$725, we will install another lamppost top at the location of your choice at no additional charge. Only one of the lampposts will have the engraved service door

plaque with this offer. We have already had some positive response and we are looking for more sponsorships. We are reaching out to residents to support this one last push for the project. If we do not get the neighborhood support we need, we will not be able to finish the project this year.

The "two-fer" is a great opportunity for homeowners to pool their resources and complete their blocks. The engraved service door plaques have four blank spaces and you can get up to two lines of engraving per space. As many as 16 residents could have their name on a plaque. That is less than \$46.00 per name and your block would have two restored lamppost tops.

The order for the lamppost tops will be placed on July 1<sup>st</sup> in order for us to stay on schedule with the grant deadline. If we are fortunate to get enough private sponsorships and complete the project, any funds beyond the completion costs will be used to finish the silver accent painting on the posts. If we are able to complete the restoration project, the engraved plaques will no longer be available for purchase after July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have ever considered sponsoring a lamppost and personalizing the service door plaque, please do not miss the deadline!

The CHNA Board would like to thank all the residents who have sponsored lampposts over the past 14 years, opened their homes for our Home & Garden Tour, volunteered and/or attended our Tour. All of this effort has resulted in the lamppost restoration project as well as the Cal Heights mural, Clean Streets and Cal Heights ReLeaf programs. It is this great sense of community that benefits our entire neighborhood. a

## President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

### Hello Neighbors,

We are off to a great start this year. Our first quarterly alley clean-up of 2014 was a great success, and had better turn out than I remember seeing in quite some time. Although it was scheduled on short notice, our potluck block party exceeded our hopes by far – both in attendance and in fun. It provided me with a great opportunity to meet some new friends among neighbors from all over Cal Heights – and get to connect with some older friends.

June 14<sup>th</sup> will be our next alley clean-up, starting at 9 AM meeting at 36<sup>th</sup> and Cerritos. We will clean as many of the alleys between Lewis and Orange as we have volunteers to support. Immediately after, starting at noon, we will celebrate our second block party of the year – on the 3600 block of Cerritos. It will be another potluck affair – and we're going to be providing some grillables to get things started. If the turn-out for sides, deserts and beverages is anything like our last one – it should be an event to remember.

Karen and the rest of the Board are hugely energized by the progress we can make by potentially finishing the lamppost restoration project this year. By the time you've read her article, I'm sure you will share in our excitement. Lamppost restoration has already done so much to sharpen the appearance and character of our neighborhood – and it just seems to keep getting better!

Lastly – I would like to follow up on the idea I threw out in our last newsletter. I would very much like to develop this newsletter into something all interested Cal Heights residents have a stake in. If you have information you think would be of benefit or interest to the whole neighborhood – please reach out to me at [hughlittle@gmail.com](mailto:hughlittle@gmail.com). I would like to begin to develop a catalog of articles, columns and the like. It will be a refreshing change for us to have more material than we can easily publish in a given issue. If you are not a budding writer, however, you can still help. We would welcome suggestions or questions that will inspire our articles. a

See you next time,



Hugh Little  
CHNA President  
[hughlittle@gmail.com](mailto:hughlittle@gmail.com)

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## For Love of an Old House

by Karen Highberger

People who love old houses are usually a bit compulsive. I know this from personal experience. There is something about an old house that captures our imagination and our curiosity. You wonder about the prior residents and what it looked like when it was originally built-especially if there have been additions or not so wonderful re-modeling of kitchens and baths.

You find yourself looking for clues of what was there. Many times you find those clues; original blueprints stashed in the garage rafters or the attic, the faint shadow or 'ghost' of a window or door that once existed, a box of old cabinet hardware saved on a shelf, old passage doors once removed but saved for future owners. It's funny how this happens in old houses. There seems to be some sense of responsibility of stewardship or caretaking by the owners. I think part of this is the respect for the history of a house that old house lovers share.

John Brinkmann, our guest speaker at our Home & Garden Tour last October, gave a heartfelt talk about this very subject that brought tears to the eyes to many attendees. A few residents requested that I track down a particular quote from the talk that seemed to hit the nail on the head for old house lovers.

So with a big thanks to John Brinkmann for getting me the requested information, here it is. The quote is from "West with the Night" by author Beryl Markham regarding her newly built home. "The walls of my house are without memories, or secrets, or laughter. Not enough life has been breathed into them-their warmth is artificial, too few hands have turned the window latches, too few feet have trod the thresholds. The boards of the floor, self-conscious as youth or falsely proud as the newly rich, have not yet unlimbered enough to utter a single cordial creek. In time they will, but not for me." a



Photo by Tom Underhill

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## ReLeaf Summer Relief

by John Royce

What happens to our young trees once they've been planted? After hard lessons learned with our first few ReLeaf plantings, we know we can't count on others, so we plant only what we can care for during the first few years. We plant fewer trees at a time, but our losses have fallen from 50 percent to nearly zero. The occasional loss results from curb hopping SUVs rather than lack of care. We don't waste the resources and funds nor volunteer efforts to plan and execute plantings. Dry winters complicate the task for our youngest Wardlow and Martin Luther King plantings, since they didn't benefit from soaking rains. Even more established trees that should be on their own required water this spring. We currently care for 60 trees less than two years old with an additional 72 four to five year-old trees that need occasional drought relief.

Tree care constitutes tiresome, strenuous work, especially since many trees aren't near a water source. We also mulch and weed the trees in sidewalk cuts and seasonally prune until they grow beyond our reach. I thank volunteers DJ Stansfield, Thor Carlson and Tom Underhill for their assistance this season.

If you've received a Port of Long Beach grant tree on your parkway or have planted trees on your property, these tips will help ensure they survive their first summer: 1) If the tree(s) has already been in the ground for a few months, monthly deep soaks will get them through summer's heat. Deep soaks encourage deep rooting, drought tolerance and superior stability. Maintain a watering mound for at least the first summer, widening it after six months. Fill and repeat several times to soak the ground around the tree to a depth of at least 12-15 inches. 2) Keep weed whackers at bay! Weed whacker and lawn mower damage kill as many trees as lack of water by severing vital tissues just beneath the tender bark that draw water and nutrients into the canopy. Maintaining a weed and grass-free ring around young trees prevents injury.

With proper early care, your trees can grow to strong, shade and oxygen giving, air cleaning, drought tolerant beauties that reduce ambient temperatures, urban runoff and demand for landscape water. <sup>a</sup>





## Summer Sizzle

by John Royce

So Cal summer can be as much about morning low clouds and fog along the coast as summer scorches and beach days. Rain? That's pretty much a non issue and those cooling afternoon sea breezes allow us to spend a lot of comfortable time outdoors, sometimes with a handy sweatshirt, sometimes without. Here's a list of some local things to do outside this summer.

Rancho Los Cerritos ([rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)) offers Summer Adventure Day Camps (ages 6-11), Summer Sunday Concerts Series on June 22, July 27 and August 24 and the very popular Mud Mania on August 17. Summer Municipal Band Concerts in the Park return Wednesdays at 6:30 pm to Los Cerritos park beginning July 2. No fewer than 29 dates for Movies in the Park ([longbeach.gov/park/movies\\_in\\_the\\_park.asp](http://longbeach.gov/park/movies_in_the_park.asp)) take place at parks throughout the city June through August. BKBIA ([bixbyknollsinfo.com](http://bixbyknollsinfo.com)) Concerts in the Park(ing) Lot, First Fridays, Kidical Mass Sunday bike rides and Strollers Saturday morning walks celebrate the outdoors and Petroleum Club Summer Pool Memberships ([lbpetroleumclub.com](http://lbpetroleumclub.com)) take the sting out of summer's sizzle!

Explore downtown this summer on Long Beach Heritage ([lbheritage.org](http://lbheritage.org)) Downtown (third Saturdays) and East Village (second Saturdays) Walking Tours, or have some fun on the sea with Gondola Getaways ([gondolagetaway-inc.com](http://gondolagetaway-inc.com)) romantic rides through Naples' canals, Harbor and Whale Watching cruises ([harbor-cruises.com](http://harbor-cruises.com)), Kayaking on Alamitos Bay ([kayakrentals.net](http://kayakrentals.net)) or sign up for Aquarium of the Pacific ([aquariumofthepacific.org](http://aquariumofthepacific.org)) boat adventures, day camps, sleepovers and more.

And a SoCal summer just isn't summer without a Hollywood Bowl ([hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com)) outing or two, a trip to Griffith Park for a concert at The Greek Theatre ([greektheatre.la](http://greektheatre.la)) an evening city view from the Griffith Observatory ([griffithobservatory.org](http://griffithobservatory.org)) or a day at the LA Zoo ([lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org)). And don't forget Dodgers ([dodgers.com](http://dodgers.com)) and Angels ([angels.com](http://angels.com)) home games all summer long!

Last but not least, our Cal Heights Clean Streets Alley Clean-up (9am-11:30am) and Block Party on Cerritos Avenue (noon to 2pm) on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>! Details at [facebook.com/calheights/events.a](http://facebook.com/calheights/events.a)

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## At Your Long Beach Public Library

By Jennifer Songster

No doubt you've heard the saying "So many books, so little time." Well, I don't know about your reading list, but mine never seems to shrink. For every one book I finish and cross off, two or three or more are added to the list. I sometimes have to remind myself that it's not one of those lists that is supposed to be completed. Even so, each summer I peruse my list; delete titles that don't look interesting anymore and pick out a few that will be particularly fun to read. Then I sign up for the Long Beach Public Library staff Summer Reading Club, of course, and get going!

To me, "summer" and "reading" just go together, like cake and ice cream or hotdogs and baseball or Batman and Robin; in other words, inseparable! The Summer Reading Club, itself, has been going on for so long, that, as a librarian, it has become ingrained. But that's ok, because reading is fun and summer is a great time to relax and read (and for kids it helps prevent the "summer slide").

The Long Beach Public Library offers a near endless supply of reading material in many convenient formats: downloadable, online, and almost one million actual books and magazines. Plus, we have Summer Reading Clubs for all ages, babies (yes, babies!) to adults. If you don't have a reading list, not to worry! You can still read this summer, because the staff at the Dana Library can find you a book you will enjoy. I guarantee it!

Sign up for the Summer Reading Club starts on June 13<sup>th</sup> at all Long Beach libraries. a



**For a complete list of City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine summer programs, classes, concerts and camps, go to [longbeach.gov/park](http://longbeach.gov/park).**

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From the 7<sup>th</sup> District  
James Johnson Councilmember

Dear Friends,

Summer is approaching, which means a lot of fun events throughout Long Beach for you and your family. On Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we had another successful Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific. All Long Beach residents enjoyed free admission to the Aquarium.

On Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM, join me for the final First Books at First Fridays, the monthly reading event I've hosted at Dana Branch Library over the past four years. We'll be closing out in style with a special two-hour First Books. In addition to reading, there will be live music and games for the kids.

On Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6 PM to 8 PM, join me for our annual Harbor Cruise and Tour of the Port of Long Beach. Light refreshments are provided. Space is extremely limited, so RSVP with my office at (562) 570-7777 or at [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov).

Finally, on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, join me for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert at Willow Springs Park. The gates open at 6 PM, and the concert begins at 7 PM. Stick around for the sunset and enjoy watching firework shows from throughout the area from the highest point in Long Beach. In addition to the concert, there will be activities for the kids (until sunset) and several food trucks for you to enjoy. Feel free to bring your own picnic (no BBQing allowed at the park). We encourage you to bring blankets and chairs; it can get breezy on top of the hill, so bundle up.

In addition to the summer events, there will be some exciting upgrades coming to Willow Springs Park. The City Council recently approved moving a historic train station to Willow Springs, most likely off California Avenue. There used to be an old rail line that ran parallel to California Avenue at the park, so this is a great adaptive re-use of a historic building that also will underscore the history of the park site. We will be rehabilitating the building for use as a visitor center, which was part of the community-approved master plan for the park. More information will be provided as we get it on this exciting development. a

Sincerely,

James Johnson  
7th District Councilmember, [District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com](mailto:District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com).





## A Day at the River

by John Royce

A huge thank you to all the good souls who joined us for the La Gran Limpieza – The Great LA River Cleanup on May 10<sup>th</sup>! Our Clean Streets volunteers join the annual trek to help Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) rid the river bed of trash and debris, and this year we were joined by more friends than ever. The Willow Estuary is part of the lower river that extends from Compton Creek to Long Beach Harbor, one of only three areas in urban LA where the river maintains a natural bottom, along with the Sepulveda Basin and the Glendale Narrows. These areas trap a lot of debris that would otherwise flow to sea to pollute our ocean and beaches.

Plastics pollution has grown to alarming levels, clearly evident in our collections and observations. Unlike paper, metals and glass, plastics do not break down into natural elements, but into smaller and smaller pieces where they infiltrate every corner of our environment and have become part of our food chain. Larger pieces strangle, maim and choke wildlife on land and sea, clog storm drains and generally form long lasting eyesores that litter our land, rivers, beaches and seas. What we have already sent out to the environment will continue to poison for thousands of years. Hopefully we'll manage to curtail our appetite for single use plastics and Styrofoam or return to products that naturally decompose. a



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## Stroke Awareness

By Tim Price, CHNA Treasurer

Use **FAST** to remember the warning signs of a stroke:

**Face**  
Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

**Arms**  
Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

**Speech**  
Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

**Time**  
If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

As a stroke survivor, I go to the weekly Long Beach Stroke Support Association meetings at the California Heights Methodist Church. Any stroke survivors and/or family members can attend. We meet on Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 am, except for one-month breaks in April, August and December.

Caregivers and stroke survivors meet in the assembly room to hear general announcements. We then divide into three groups: caregivers and two stroke survivors groups. We share what is going on in our lives and find out about new developments that are relevant to us. Each stroke is different and men and women of all ages can be affected. I had my stroke almost 10 years ago at age 43.

For more information, visit [www.StrokeSupportAssoc.org](http://www.StrokeSupportAssoc.org) or call (562) 537-0556. <sup>a</sup>



## Clean Streets Turns 5

In August the Clean Streets team will celebrate 5 years of picking up litter! Have you noticed a difference in our area, are there any areas you would like us to do a special clean up? Let's us know what you think by leaving a comment at [facebook.com/calheights!](https://facebook.com/calheights!)



## Be Water Wise!

California is experiencing one of the most serious droughts in history. Here is the most current water restriction policy published by the city:

1. Outdoor irrigation only allowed on **Monday, Thursday** or **Saturday**.
2. Irrigating landscaped areas with potable water is not allowed between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm and no longer than 10 minutes per station.
3. Do not over-water landscape to the point of causing excessive run-off.
4. Do not spray off any hardscape (driveway, sidewalk, etc.) unless using a high-pressure device. A regular spray nozzle does not count.

In addition, restaurants may only serve water if requested by the customer.

If you are a property owner looking to remove your grass and plant beautiful drought tolerant plants, visit [lblawntogarden.com](http://lblawntogarden.com) for more information and to apply for the Lawn-to-Garden Program. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to a \$3,000 rebate.

You may also be interested in attending a FREE landscape classes to learn about California-Friendly landscapes and plants. Upcoming dates are June 4, 2014 - 9:30am - 1:00pm and September 13, 2014 - 9:30am - 1:00pm. Visit [lblawntogarden.com/class-list](http://lblawntogarden.com/class-list) for more details. a



Drought tolerant garden

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## ✂ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ✂

Visit the **Cal Heights Facebook** page to get all calendar items  
[facebook.com/calheights](https://facebook.com/calheights)

**Thursdays:** 8:30 am litter pickup - see [calheights.org](http://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](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com)

**Every third Sunday:** Kidical Mass [bixbyknollsinfo.com](http://bixbyknollsinfo.com)

**Every Second Saturday:** Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO;  
[longbeachrecycles.org](http://longbeachrecycles.org)

**June 14** - Alley Clean 9am meeting at 36<sup>th</sup> and Cerritos followed at noon by our 2<sup>nd</sup> Block Party 3600 Block of Cerritos. Great way to meet neighborhoods and make Cal Heights clean and safe! Call Stacey for more details - 562.274.3790.

**June 22** - River Ride 2014 This year with start and finish locations at the Aquarium of the Pacific - [la-bike.org/riverride](http://la-bike.org/riverride)

**June 22 and July 20** - Summer Sundays at MOLAA, A Celebration of Music and Dance on [molaa.org/programs-and-events.aspx](http://molaa.org/programs-and-events.aspx)

**July 3** - First Fridays July on **Thursday** (due to the July 4th holiday)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7<sup>th</sup> District Council - James Johnson  
**570-7777** email: [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov)

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Al Austin  
**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 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 Pickup (2 free per year)  
**570-2876**

SoCal Harvest  
**(323) 678-6036**

Street Potholes  
**570-3259**



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**Connie W.**  
Broker, GRI, Cal Heights Specialist  
CPRES - Certified Probate Specialist

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