

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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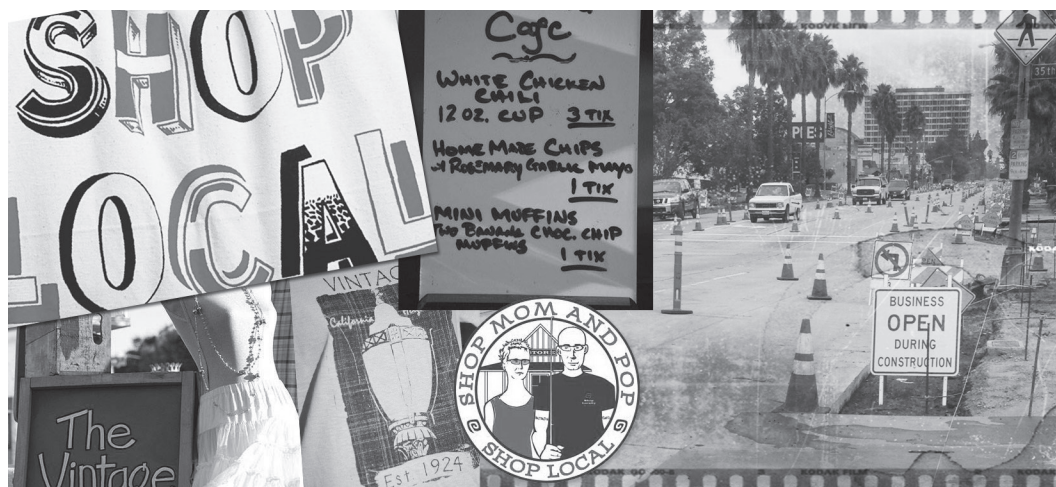
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The Heights is a bimonthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association. All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all residents nor the editor. Our goal is to provide a voice to our community and keep residents informed of issues affecting California Heights.



Our Locals Need You this Holiday Season!

We hope you all enjoyed time with your loved ones during Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. With the Christmas trees lit and the holiday season still well underway, we reignite our familiar reminder to support our local businesses, many owned and operated by friends and neighbors who share our community.

For most of us the inconvenience of the Atlantic Avenue reconstruction has already begun to fade, but for our business owners in the thick of it, no matter how brief the disruption, construction meant lost revenue. Certainly the improvements to the roadway create a more attractive place to do business, but they need us more than ever this holiday season to cover their losses. Thankfully, the City planned for and our 7th District Council Office & BKBIA pushed for completion before the official start of the shopping season; a promise kept.

Much attention went to Small Business Saturday. Still, we invite our residents to recognize the increasing vitality of our local shops and eateries and what it might be like if we stepped backwards five or ten years. We'll save our often quoted statistics that prove that more of what you spend stays local when you spend at local independents.

Please support our continuing success by dedicating a healthy portion of your holiday spending right here where it generates not only jobs and tax revenues that support local services, but enhances our sense of place and the community amenities we've long anticipated and worked so hard to obtain.

And don't forget the value of local personal services as viable gifts. Massages, beauty services, cooking and yoga classes, kids' activities, etc. offer great gifts, and save a trip or two to the mall. Even tickets to local performances or gift memberships can be meaningful alternative gifts to their recipients and the organizations they support! ❁

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Why Old Places Matter

With all the time and effort that has gone into fourteen Home and Garden tours, I took particular notice of a blog I read on the National Trust for Historic Preservation website that focused on the question, "Why do old places matter?" Many historic city cores and even local "main streets" in older neighborhoods throughout the country benefit from the relatively recent rediscovery of community by those looking for stronger connections to the places they live, often finding it in older neighborhoods just like ours.

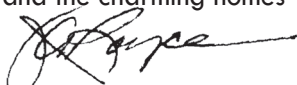
With suburban development of the post war era, vested interest became less important as people began to think of houses as places to rest their heads between long drives to work and regional shopping centers. Communities were replaced by gated or walled developments and neighborhoods became subdivisions, segregated by different builders, sharing little more than a strip mall or two and a massive collector road. One's sense of place became more difficult to define as a less intimate "home" stretched over increasing miles of interstate and super avenues. The fact that more people once again seek out places where they feel more connected, where history contributes to local culture and sense of place, offers hope for both the strength of our communities and appreciation for preservation efforts in the special places experiencing rediscovery.

The popularity of our Cal Heights Home and Garden tours and many other similar events indicates just such an appreciation, as guests imagine life amongst character rich homes and local shops, their sense of place and belonging hinting of the intangible bonds between a neighborhood and its inhabitants.

As we progress further into this Twenty-First Century, I sincerely hope that more of our current residents and those yet to arrive realize the fragility of this relationship and how easily it can be eroded when the historic fabric that defines it is allowed to whittle away via the forces of incremental destruction. Many neighborhoods, some nearby, offer glimpses of such unfortunate turning points. Unless homeowners understand their role as caretakers of our unique value and sense of place, we may eventually have neither.

Many thanks to those residents who've taken their homes' special considerations to heart, find pride in their preservation and restoration, and truly act as caretakers of history while embracing and enjoying their time within their walls. Without you, we would have no Home & Garden Tours, no community projects, and little reason to celebrate this special home we affectionately call Cal Heights.

We hope you enjoyed a happy Hanukkah and wish you a Merry Christmas and many happy and healthy New Years in our neighborhood and the charming homes we celebrate. *



John Royce
CHNA President

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on local happenings,
resident alerts, and lost/found
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ECO - RESOLUTION

Make reducing waste a New Year's resolution with these tips from the City of Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau, winner of the nation's best solid waste management program award!

- Cloth instead of paper napkins
- A travel mug instead of single-use paper, plastic or Styrofoam cups
- Storage containers instead of single-use plastic bags
- Reusable tote bags instead of paper/plastic shopping bags
- Rechargeable batteries
- Reusable sports bottle instead of bottled water
- Composting
- Order a free Junk Mail Reduction Kit at longbeach-recycles.org

And please remember that we now have a permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection facility close by, open the second Saturday of each month from 9am-2pm for convenient drop off at EDCO Disposal, 2755 California Ave, Signal Hill.



ReLeaf Update

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for upcoming opportunities. We requested and were granted new tree wells during

the Atlantic Avenue reconstruction project and we still have some wells to fill on Wardlow Road.

Winter is a great time to plant, since winter rains help establish strong roots before the spring growth spurt and helps ensure their survival through the first hot summer. We are also assessing looking forward to announcing our next residential tree planting in the neighborhood based on recent requests. We will be taking advantage of the Port of Long Beach's 6000 tree grant for our upcoming plantings, administered through the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau. Cal Heights ReLeaf thanks our volunteers who helped plant trees in Bixby Knolls and Wrigley in October and November. ✱

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Home Tour Appreciation

The CHNA Board extends our sincerest appreciation to everyone who contributed to one of our most successful Home & Garden Tours to date! We raised over \$17,000, replenishing our treasury to fund our ongoing projects until our next tour in 2015, including \$10,000 dedicated to the completion of our lamppost restoration project in 2014. 738 ticketholders, over 150 special guests and 100 volunteers made for a very busy Sunday afternoon in Cal Heights! John Brinkmann's talk so overwhelmed the capacity of Longfellow's auditorium that fire regulations required us to turn some guests away.

We received appreciation for our first stab at hosting cyclists with Bikeable Communities Long Beach, and with the 2013 tour spanning the breadth of the neighborhood, the Cal Heights Trolley stayed busy all day. Sweet Lucies Organic Ice Cream & Treats sold out twice, guests charmed by their blue and white vintage ice cream truck, as they were by the impeccably restored 1938 Helms Bakery wagon, which featured delicious Sweet & Saucy Shop treats, who also sold out! We even received a Certificate of Recognition from 70th District Assemblymember, Bonnie Lowenthal, who also volunteered as a docent.

Special thanks to our homeowners, Elizabeth Clark, Lori DeBold, Paul & Pamela Erwin, Sylvia Gauditz, Susan & Bernie Hawkins, Amanda Kaleps & Kimberly Homa, Julianna Robbins & Jahn Hardison, and Dave & Pat Wheeler for hosting hundreds of guests at their lovely homes, a wonderfully generous gift to CHNA, its projects and the community they support. And, of course, we sincerely thank our primary sponsor, local realtor, Lewis Ebersole.

In an effort to recognize each and every one of our volunteers and contributors, here are the names of those not already mentioned in alphabetical order. If we missed your name, please accept our sincerest apologies and our heartfelt thanks for your generous contribution.

7th District Council Office, Judith Anderson, Aura Thai, Baja Sonora, Corina Barajas, Alex Barajas, Bella Pizza, Bixby Knolls Florist, Blackbird Café, Allen & Ilana Brackett, Kate Braid, Café Bixby & Pizza, CalBungalow.com, Thor Carlson, Tiffany Champagne, Bill & Beth Christen, Emily Clark, Millie Cook, Dana Crompton, Nancy Cruz, Delius Restaurant, Angie Diaz, Matt Dominguez, Kimberly Dunnegan, Merril Edelstein, E.J. Malloy's, Maria Evans, The Factory Gastrobar, Five Star French Doors & Windows, Georgie's Place, Trish Gergen & Bob Gill, Doug Haubert-City Prosecutor, Terry Hew, Karen Highberger & Lou Gaudio, Cindy Hinderberger-Coldwell Banker, Keith Homeszyn, House Portrait by Ellen, Stephanie

Hubbert, Mary Hume, It's a Grind Coffeehouse Bixby Knolls, Ed Janik Insurance, George Janquart, Gabrielle Johnson, Councilmember James Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Kelly Sutherland-McLeod Architecture, Inc., Ellen Kirk, Kitchen Kreations, Dick Krause (in memory of Bob Krause), Myra Kremin, Lillian Kron, Joy Lewis, Cyndy Lippert & Pete Manriquez, Hugh Little & Mark Chambers, City of Long Beach, Long Beach Water Department, Grace Lorentzen, Rick Lorentzen, M&A Finish Carpentry, Margaret Madden, Larry & Marie McCue, Emma McWaid, Red Eye Media, Lynda Merrill, Mirage Café, Stacey Morrison, John Newell, Omnicraft Enterprises, Orange Ave. Estate, Salvage & Garden, Orozco's Auto Service, Debbie Palmer, Barbara Parkins, Patricia's Mexican Food, Marie Pemberton, Laura Perez, Emily Peterson, Port of Long Beach, Jeff Price, Nikki Rash, Lynda Renner, Jim Richardson & Bette Jamieson, Rachael Rifkin, Bill Rosalyn, Roxanne's Lounge, John Royce & Kent Lockart, Trina Rufo-Nationwide Real Estate, Lee Schweickert, Carrie Shay, Signal Tribune Newspaper, Jennifer Songster, Becky Stahley, DJ Stansfield & Christa Stelzmuller, T.R.C. Roofing, Kim Tedesco, Gary Tesch Masonry, Julie Tilsner, Mark Tokunaga & Todd Weisenhutter, Ellen Underhill, Robert & Tonya-Reyes Uranga, Alfredo Valenzuela & Tom Adock, Keven Vaughan, David Villaseñor, Vintage Emporium, Bill & Peggy Walker, Kiely Ward, Rob & Kerrie Weaver, Connie W Cal Heights Specialist, Willmore Neighborhood Wine Bar, Window Restoration & Repair, Jerry Wilson & Sarah Leyba, Julie & McKenna Woolley. ✱



Home & Garden Tour 2013
images by Tom Underhill

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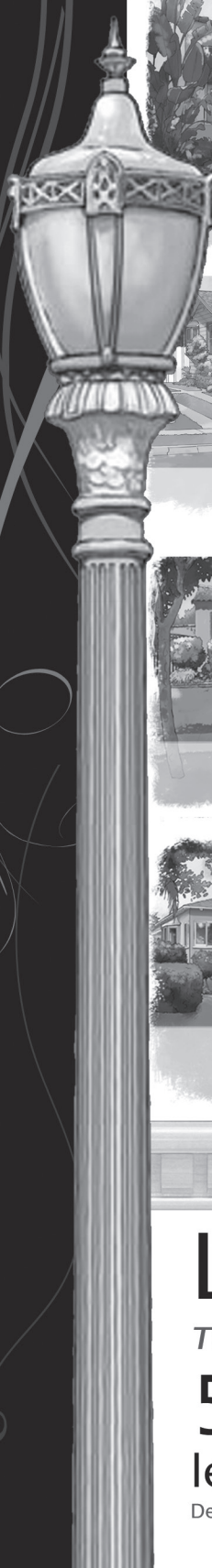
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Local Holiday Events:

Bembridge House Victorian Christmas

Our CHNA volunteers joined other Long Beach historic district volunteers again this year by adopting rooms to decorate in the beautiful 1906 Queen Anne Victorian style home at Drake Park in support of Long Beach Heritage Association's maintenance and restoration efforts. The house is open for tours through the holidays. Lbheritage.org or 493-7019. ❀

Candlelight Tours at Rancho Los Cerritos

Celebrate with "Unexpected Guests for the Holidays" at Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site on Saturday and Sunday, December 14th, 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Step back in time as your stagecoach, en route to Los Angeles, arrives at the Rancho having gotten lost in the fog on the road from Santa Ana. As you wait for your horses to be fed and watered, you'll visit with Mr. Bixby's family, friends and workers as they prepare for the holidays. Guests tour the historic adobe with costumed docents, circa 1878. Live music and refreshments in the garden follow the tour. Reservations required by calling 570-1755. ranholoscerritos.org. ❀

Long Beach Ballet's The Nutcracker

Did you know that the home of our local Long Beach Ballet housed the popular Ola's produce market in the 1940s, with fruits and veggies spilling out onto the wide sidewalks for shoppers to peruse? Today it's celebrated as the location where thousands of local youth have perfected their ballet talents and prepared for their performances of The Nutcracker, now celebrating its 31st year as an annual holiday tradition and the only LA area Nutcracker featuring a full symphony orchestra! Performances on December 14, 15, 21, 22. Longbeachnutcracker.com or 877-852-3177. ❀

Handel's Messiah with LB Camerata Singers and Symphony Orchestra

The Long Beach Camerata Singers celebrate the holidays with their annual festive performance of George Frederic Handel's timeless and beloved Messiah. Radiant trumpets and thundering timpani will make you want to sing "Hallelujah!" The group performs at the Long Beach City College Auditorium on Saturday, December 21st at 3pm. longbeach-cameratasingers.org or 562-522-1045. ❀

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From the 7th District

James Johnson Councilmember

I am pleased to report that rating agency Fitch recently analyzed Long Beach's finances and was impressed enough that they upgraded our city's outlook from "negative" to "stable". In this report, Fitch specifically cited two of my initiatives, our revised financial policies and reserves set aside for known future challenges. Long Beach's strong financial rating is

directly responsible for recent refinancing deals that saved residents millions of dollars.

Long Beach's fiscal prudence comes at the same time we are pressing forward with several community improvements:

- Repavement of the Dana Branch Library parking lot, improving the library while savings thousands of dollars by efficiently consolidating the work with repairs being done on Atlantic
- Approval of \$300,000 for a new "Westside Plan" that will re-envision the western side of Long Beach
- Proceeding to the next round of a \$924,000 grant for improvements at Willow Springs Park
- And the pending reconstruction of Spring Street. We can improve our city now while leaving a better city for our kids.

Boeing may be considering alternative manufacturing sites for construction of its 777 jet. While this is Boeing's decision to make, the City Council went on record that we will do whatever we can to maximize our chances of bringing these jobs to LB.

Finally, this year we're celebrating the 60th Annual Daisy Parade. The applications have all been collected and it looks like we'll have almost 80 entries for this year's parade. The parade is 12/14 at 5pm, located on Daisy Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and Burnett Street. We will have the community tent on 21st Street with flyers and information about things going on in the city, as well as hot chocolate (while as supplies last). The 5th Annual Wrigley Snow Day will be held on 12/28 at 11am at Veteran's Park. For details on the Parade, Snow Day, or other Daisy holiday events, visit www.jamesjohnsonlb.com/daisyparade, or call my office at (562) 570-7777. I hope you can join me for this year's parade.

Yours Truly,
James

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

I'll see you soon in the community. ❁



Holiday Reminders

Street Sweeping – Will not take place Christmas or New Year's Day, but will take place on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Trash/Recycle Pickup - To be delayed by one day, ending Saturday

Christmas Trees - All decorations and stands must be removed and trees over 12 feet should be cut in half.

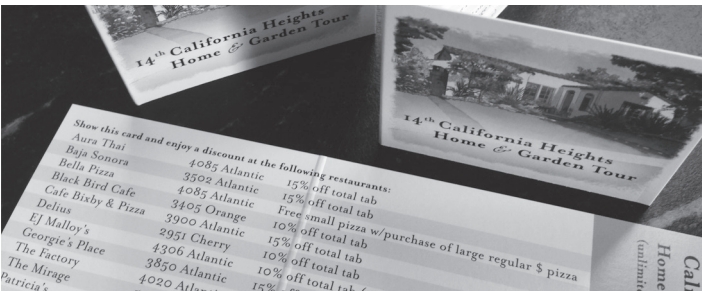
- Drop off from Dec 26-Jan 11, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat/Sun 9am-2pm at LB North Police Substation, 4891 Atlantic Ave (enter at light on 46th St)
- Free pickup where your trash is normally collected by 7am on Saturday, January 11 ❄



Food Finders

Our local Food Finders network collects food and hygiene products throughout the holidays at every City of Long Beach Public Library branch and Fire Station and many local businesses through December 31st. Canned goods, packaged dried

foods, pet foods and toiletries will be collected for distribution to local needy families. To obtain a collection bin for your location or for a complete list of accepted items, visit foodfinders.org or call Diana Lara at 562-283-1400 Ext 101 ❄



Dining Card

Did you attend the Home & Garden Tour in October? Then you also received your local Dining Discount Card! Your card provides unlimited use at participating restaurants through the end of the year, just one more reason to dine locally in support of our local independently owned and operated businesses. ❄

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From the North Division

Robert Luman - LBPD North
Division Commander

With the holiday season in full swing, it's a time for very busy schedules, celebration and shopping. We don't want you to be paranoid, but taking a few simple precautions will help to ensure a happy and healthy time for all.

When shopping:

- Park in well-lighted areas
- Keep car doors locked and windows closed
- Carry purses or bags close to your body
- Be aware of your surroundings and walk with confidence – avoid ear buds and cell phone usage which can distract you from your environment
- Avoid shopping alone; there is safety in numbers
- Use credit and debit cards to avoid carrying large sums of cash
- Keep packages in the trunk or out of sight
- Have your car key ready before arriving at your car
- Report suspicious activity to on-site security or police
- Keep receipts and take photos of purchases

At home:

- Make your home look occupied – use energy efficient lights on timers, leave a radio on and don't let ads and newspapers accumulate
- Let your Community Watch or trusted neighbors know when you travel
- Lock doors and windows – unsecured entries are the most common entry points for burglars
- Keep windows covered to deter prying eyes
- Break down boxes to fit inside recycle bins to avoid advertising expensive items and don't place bins out until day of collection
- Never store gifts or leave purses or electronics in your car
- Consider a home security system

And always remember, if you see something suspicious, **REPORT IT** immediately by dialing 911 and be prepared to give as accurate descriptions as possible.

From all of us at the Long Beach Police Department North Division, have safe and happy holiday season! ✱

At Your Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster

I remember hours of fun when I was a child playing board games. My favorite was always Clue, with the layout of the fancy house (it had a parlor!), the exotic names, and the mysterious circumstances. I could play that game for hours!

Back then libraries didn't have games or game programs for their patrons. However, research shows that games, even video games, have educational value and everything about them points to reading and/or math. In addition, games are a great cultural activity for the library community.

Last month Dana Library participated in International Games Day. The American Library Association (ALA) has sponsored International Games Day since 2008. In its second year, the program went international with 2 countries aside from the United States participating (this year 27 additional countries and all continents, yes, including Antarctica, participated).

This was not the first game day at the Dana Library, in fact Dana Library has been holding a game day in November since ALA started it. This was the first year, however, that we incorporated the Nintendo Wii. Dana Library patrons raced time trials in Mario Kart and competed against other library patrons around the world. Dana Library's 1st place winner, Travis, placed 8th overall and 4th worldwide on the track he chose. (Way to go, Travis!) In addition to the Mario Kart races, a variety of board games were made available, as well.

Game day was such a good time for everyone that the Dana Library is going to start a monthly game day where patrons can play board games or cards, maybe even charades, along with video games with their friends and neighbors. The next game day will be held on Saturday, December 14 from 1pm – 4pm at the Dana Library. So take a break from the holiday and end-of-the-year rush with a little extra fun. And if you are interested in the research behind the educational value of games, stop by the librarian's desk and we will give you the information. ✿

Shopping Locally

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facebook.com/calheights

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

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

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass bixbyknollsinfo.com

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

Dec 14,15 – Rancho Los Cerritos Candlelight Tours; rancholoscerritos.org

Dec 14, 15, 21, 22 – Long Beach Ballet's The Nutcracker; LongBeach-Nutcracker.com

Dec 19 - Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Holiday; bixbyknollsinfo.com

Dec 20-22 – A Christmas Carol by Long Beach Shakespeare Co; lbshakespeare.org

Dec 21 – Camerata Singers' Messiah (See article on page?)

Jan 7 – Creation Station at Rancho Los Cerritos; rancholoscerritos.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8th District Council - Al Austin
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal
495-2915 web: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54

Airport Noise
570-2665 / 570-2600

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

Community Watch North Division
570-9825 or 570-9827

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Fire Department
570-2500

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Long Beach Building Department
570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Neighborhood Preservation Information
570-6194

Parkway Tree Trimming
570-2700

Police Department Dispatch
435-6711 or Emergency **911**

Police North Substation Information
570-9800

Senior Check-In
570-7212

Special Garbage Pick Up (2 free per year)
570-2876

SoCal Harvest
(323) 678-6036

Street Potholes
570-3259



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

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