

# 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.









### Calheights.org Gets a New Look

By Stacey Morrison

It seems like just yesterday we were announcing the launch of our new website. But six years is another century in cyber land. Constructed with such outdated technology, our site became very difficult to augment and update, so our more timely messages landed in the realm of our Facebook page over the past few years.

Our new site is more comprehensive, easier to maintain and user-focused, with a blog for current events and announcements, a new residents page and extensive information on the City's historic district guidelines and the many projects and programs led by our community of volunteers. We've hope you'll find it useful, attractive and easy to navigate. Check it out! www.calheights.org. ©

President's Message A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

### Happy Fall and Winter,

It looks like we're going to be ending on a busy note this year. We're rerunning an updated version of the article Karen had in the last newsletter, in which she described a really interesting volunteer opportunity for anyone in the neighborhood with a digital camera, a bit of free time, and an interest in the historic nature of our neighborhood. The Planning Bureau of Long Beach Development services has started its compilation of a photo survey of all of the houses in all of the historical districts. California Heights is actually one of the largest, so we have quite a bit of ground to cover, literally. You can download a copy of the letter of explanation that volunteers will have with them to explain to anyone who may be curious as to why their house is being photographed, download form at www.calheights.org/ HP\_district\_volunteer.pdf. While Cal Heights has a lot of ground to cover, we also have a lot of active residents who we hope will be able to make light work of this project. In time, the new photo survey will be combined with an update to and electronic storage of the existing records, permits, and photographs of houses in our neighborhood. For more detailed information, please take a moment to read the article on this topic by Karen Highberger (page 7).

Another item you should find inserted in this round of the newsletter is a flier describing our fourth Alley Cleanup and Holiday Block Party/Potluck. As always, anyone in the neighborhood is welcome at the party, whether you are able to help with the Alley Clean or not. That said, the more folks we have helping the more quickly (and effectively) we are able to get the alleys taken care of. We're trying to arrange to use the 3600 block of Rose for the party this time. When we are able to finalize that, we'll update the event on the Cal Heights FaceBook page. Try to hold the morning and afternoon of December 13 for the cleanup and party, we'll see you in the Gaviota/Rose/Gardenia area.

Lastly, Stacey has been working tirelessly for a very long time to overhaul and relaunch the California Heights Neighborhood Association webpage. By the time you read this newsletter, it should be up and running. Please check it out at www.calheights.org. We will always be open to suggested updates and even revisions from members of our community. 3

See you next time, Hugh Little

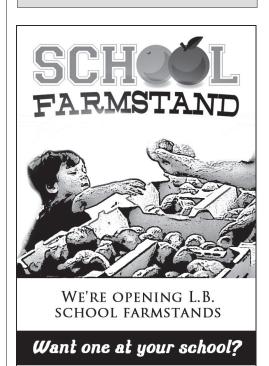
CHNA President hughlittle@gmail.com

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

Join us on facebook.com (search on California Heights Neighborhood Association)



Please don't post on the posts! Report lost/found pets at lostpets@calheights.org.



CONTACT KELLI JOHNSON AT KELLIJOHNSON1@ME.COM | 562-308-7364

### Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner



Brad & Judy Teeter - Prom 1959

In 1968 the Doors sang about living on "Love Street", and it looks like we might have our own love street here in Cal Heights. Judy and Brad Teeter have lived on Gaviota Avenue since the 1960s. They were true high school sweethearts, meeting at Long Beach Poly when Brad asked Judy to a football game and then his senior prom in 1959. Date night might include cruising into Grisinger's,

where Georgie's 50's Diner is now, but back then you parked your car, ordered a burger from a nimble carhop on roller skates, and had your meal delivered right to your car window on a tray. Then off to the Los Altos Drive-In on Spring and Bellflower to catch the latest movie. Brad and Judy even married just a few streets from Gaviota Avenue at the Cal Heights Methodist Church.

It must have been a lucky quirk of fate that brought them together, since they were both raised on Gaviota Avenue just two blocks apart. Both Judy's and Brad's parents moved to Gaviota in the 1940s. Growing up in Cal Heights in those days meant fun afternoons catching frogs and chasing jackrabbits in the open fields along Cherry Avenue or searching for lost golf balls next to Lakewood Golf Course. Judy remembers going shopping at Anthony's on Atlantic, where they had a gigantic pair of Levis 6 feet across that hung on the wall.

Brad was featured in Parade Magazine in the Long Beach Press Telegram in an article title "Be Kind to Children's Week" where 10 year old Brad gave his opinion on "what a boy thinks about growing up" in 1950. At Christmas time the families would watch as the Signal T.V. store on Atlantic would have a tree lighting ceremony held on the day after Thanksgiving. You could also visit Buffums to sit on Santa's lap and tell him your wish list.

The love of LB continues with the Teeter family. Their daughter Chris's family lives on Terrace Drive, and now her daughter Rachel and her family live right across from Mother's Beach. And who knows, maybe when the Teeters' great grandsons Remi and Louis grow up, they might carry on the great family tradition and live on Gaviota Avenue. ©

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COASTAL ALLIANCE

### 'Tis the Season!

By John Royce

Here are just a few of the seasonal opportunities for those who plan to celebrate. Whatever you do, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season and all the best in 2015.

#### FESTIVALS, PARADES & SPECIAL EVENTS

**Belmont Shore Annual Christmas Parade:** Dec 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Belmont Shore — belmontshore.org

**Bembridge House Victorian Christmas:** Sunday, Dec 7 (Open House), holiday tours through Jan 3 — Ibheritage.org **BKBIA Holiday Party:** Dec 19, 7pm-10pm, LB Petroleum Club - bixbyknollsinfo.com

**Chill at Queen Mary:** Through Jan 11; Ice Kingdom, ice tubing and more — queenmary.com

Country Club Manor Community Christmas Tree Decorating Celebration: Dec 6, Scherer Park

**Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane Parade:** Dec 13, 5 pm, a Wrigley Neighborhood tradition since 1953; Daisy Ave between Willow and PCH – 570-7777

**Downtown Long Beach New Year's Eve with Fitz & the Tantrums:** Dec 31-Jan 1, 8 pm-2 am — downtownlongbeach.org **First Fridays Holiday Edition!** Dec 5 on Art-lantic Avenue; Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting Celebration at 6 pm at Nino's — FirstFridaysLongBeach.com

**Magical Chanukah Happening:** Sunday, Dec 14, 11:30 am -3 pm, Alpert Jewish Community Center – alperticc.org.

Naples Island Holiday Boat Parade: Dec 13, from 5pm; Naples streets close at 5 pm - naplesca.com/Commonly\_ Asked\_Questions.php

New Year's Eve Aboard the Queen Mary: Dec 31-Jan 1, 21+ only, dining, entertainment, fireworks – queenmary.com Rancho Los Cerritos Old Time Christmas Festival: Dec 7, 1pm-4 pm, Victorian Christmas traditions with storytellers and Santa – ranhcoloscerritos.org

Rancho Los Cerritos A Rancho Christmas: Illuminating the Past: Dec 12, 13, Reservations required for very special holiday evening tours of the Rancho, decked out in period holiday traditions — rancholoscerritos.org.

### **HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES**

**A Christmas Carol:** Dec 13-21 at Long Beach Playhouse – lbplayhouse.org

A Christmas Carol, Old Time Radio Show Adaption: Dec 19-Dec 21, LB Shakespeare Co — lbshakespeare.com

**Messiah:** Dec 20, LBCamerata Singers at Long Beach City College Auditorium – longbeachcameratasingers.org

Nutcracker: Dec 13, 14, 20, 21, featuring Long Beach Ballet students at the Terrace Theatre – LongBeachNutcracker.com
The Plot to Overthrow Christmas: Nov 28-Dec 14, Long

Beach Shakespeare Co - Ibshakespeare.com ©

### **Keeping it Local**

by John Royce

Did you shop locally on Small Business Saturday? Thank you! Small Business Saturday, now an American Express holiday ad campaign, had its roots in Minneapolis with a simple message promoted by the 3/50 Project. Its goal? Educate local consumers on the value of spending at locally owned and operated brick and mortar shops in their own community. Now celebrated by many as an alternative to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, we proudly remind residents to support our local merchants beyond Small Business Saturday, spend cash if possible (those credit card fees eat up small-business profits!) and invite friends to do the same. Spread the cheer by giving gift certificates for local eateries, spa treatments, yoga and cooking classes, local theater groups, memberships to local museums, or tickets to events. Your holiday spending can often take a red year to black!

The Uptown Village Market returns to EXPO Arts Center December 5, First Friday, 5 pm to 10 pm, and December 6, 11 am to 5 pm, with over 90 artists featuring their art and handmade items. UptownVillageMarket.com

Made In Long Beach, opening in time for holiday shopping in downtown Long Beach, offers locals an opportunity to purchase products produced right here in the LBC. Plans include steady expansion of services for local producers beginning with expanded retail opportunities early next year, adding packaging, shipping and other resources in the future. Are you or someone you know a local producer? MadeLB.com ©

### Alley Cleanup, Holiday Block Party & Food Drive

**Dec 13 9:00 am: Alley Cleanup.** We'll meet at  $36^{th}$  and Rose and clean the alleys between Walnut/Gaviota, Gaviota/Rose, Rose/Gardenia and Gardenia/Cherry. If you have any large items to dump, please bring them to  $36^{th}$  and Rose. Large appliances and hazardous waste not allowed, however it is the free drop off day at EDCO, so you can drop off items at  $27^{th}$  and California.

**Dec 13 Noon: Block Party & Food Drive.** All are invited - you don't have to participate in the alley cleanup! We'll meet at 36<sup>th</sup> and Rose. **POTLUCK:** If you live at an EVEN address, please bring either an appetizer or beverage. If you live at an ODD address, please bring either an entree or a dessert. Bring enough for 5-7 people. **FOOD DRIVE.** We will be collecting canned food for donation to Food Finders.

Questions? Email staceyannmorrison@gmail.com.

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### Historic District Guidelines Update - Calling for Volunteers

by Karen Highberger

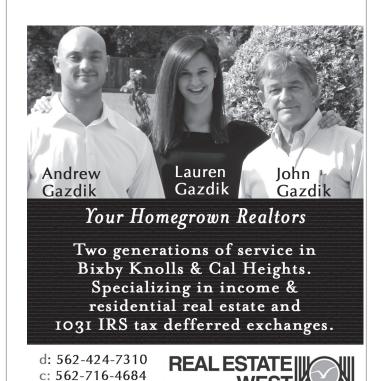
Many of you have seen information on our Facebook page and in a previous newsletter about the updates to the City's Historic Preservation programs. GPA Consulting, a preservation firm, has been contracted to work with resident volunteers in each neighborhood to conduct a survey of historic districts. The purpose of this is to photograph every home in the districts and document each home's unique features. This information will be used to update the City's records and provide information for the updating of the Design Guidelines for the historic districts. The plan is to get three exterior photos of each home, plus additional photos of characterdefining features such as architectural details, doors, ironwork, window details, lighting fixtures, etc. This information will be compiled for each district so the guidelines for each district will be more specific. Is it a daunting task, so we are seeking volunteers to take the photos. As a volunteer you will have to sign a release form, and training packets are available. Surveyors and volunteers will not be accessing or entering private property. All photography will be taken from the public right-of-way.

To participate, you will need a good-quality digital camera and a computer. We also need support people to list addresses to correspond with the photos, so if you are not comfortable taking the photos, you can assist in the process by taking the notes needed. It is suggested that we work in teams of three; one to photograph the homes, one to photograph the architectural details, and one to take the notes. We also need people who love data entry to upload the photos with the corresponding address number formula. Personnel from GPA Consulting will be assisting as needed.

We have waited a very long time for this Historic District Guidelines update, and the information collected in this survey will provide valuable information that will help form the Guidelines. The work doesn't stop with the photo survey. Meetings will be held in each historic district to allow residents to provide input and feedback on the guidelines. The purpose of the Design Guidelines is to preserve the unique character and historic fabric of our neighborhoods. They help to preserve our sense of place in California Heights and protect our property values. It is a very worthy project, and we look forward to residents volunteering to assist us. Thank you so much for your consideration. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please contact Steve Gerhardt, Acting Planning Officer for the Long Beach Development Services Planning Bureau: 562-570-6288 (office), 562-843-2001 (cell), steve.gerhardt@longbeach.gov. 3

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### From the 7<sup>th</sup> District Roberto Uranga Councilmember

I become increasingly motivated with each month of service to the residents of the Seventh District. The residents of Cal Heights, in particular, continue to provide an exemplary model for how effectively neighbors can collaborate to promote common goals. Your civic engagement and community efforts are ones to be emulated

across the district and the city so that we may build on the greatness of Long Beach!

I am pleased to report that in the past month we have worked with the City of Long Beach, Department of Public Works to address and alleviate community concerns ranging from external car traffic congestion and speeding on residential streets to proactive water main repairs to prevent major service interruptions, and street surface improvements.

Also, in the past month, we witnessed the rare approval of a speed limit decrease on Walnut Avenue. This effort included everything from community outreach to a traffic engineering study (which was ultimately the determinant in the decision). We also saw emergency, preventative repairs at the intersection of Wardlow and Orange conducted by the Water Department. Although this caused a bit of an inconvenience for local business owners, my office ensured that we communicated every step of the progress with our local business owners and, most importantly, that we prevented any future water emergencies such as those that are becoming far too common in the City of Los Angeles.

Communication with all communities of the Seventh District is a high priority of mine, especially when it comes to developments that will affect a great amount of our residents. As your representative on the City Council, it is my duty to balance the needs and concerns of all our communities with the finite resources of the city. Regardless of limitations, I remain optimistic in going forward and I encourage you to reach out to my office as I look forward to strengthening my partnership with the Cal Heights.

Sincerely,
Roberto Uranga
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov. ©

### Orange Ave Rehabilitation Project Update

The City of LB recently announced reconstruction plans for Orange Avenue. Concerned residents were invited to attend an information session at Dana Library, hosted by Councilmember Roberto Uranga and LB Public Works to discuss plans for a rubberized asphalt overlay.

Concrete is considerably more costly than rubberized asphalt, yet requires less maintenance over time, experiencing fewer potholes and requiring no regular resurfacing, as has been the case with Orange Avenue, installed in 1928. Concrete would, of course, maintain the original character of the street, which for many has become part of the signature of the oldest streets in the Cal Heights Historic District. In fact, the neighborhood association was established in 1927 to petition the City for paved streets and ornamental lighting, the same lights CHNA has been restoring for the past 15 years.

Rubberized asphalt requires much less initial capital outlay, offers a quieter surface until it starts to decay, and an opportunity to help recycle billions of tires that have accumulated on earth over the past century. While it is considerably more durable than regular asphalt, it will require periodic major resurfacing projects in the years to come.

As a result of the meeting, Public Works will obtain cost estimates on diamond grinding to obtain a smooth surface and extend the life of the existing concrete, as well as complete estimates on a new concrete installation so actual cost comparisons to the rubberized asphalt can be made before making final decisions.

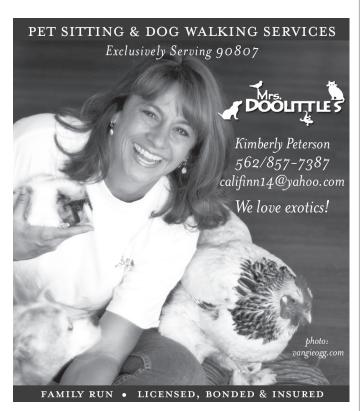
Keep an eye out for future updates on our Facebook page, and future issues of The Heights, or contact the 7th District Council Office: 570-7777 or district?@longbeach.gov. ©

### Reduce Waste During the Holidays



- Provide pitchers of water at parties instead of bottled.
- Just say no to single-use plates, cups and utensils.
- Use reusable gift bags/ boxes for gifts.
- Use reusable decorations instead of disposable.
- Replace old lights with LED's.
- Give gift certificates for local eateries & services.
- Place homemade food gifts in reusable or keepsake containers.
- Replace plastic wraps with parchment paper.
- Reuse, recycle; give vintage!

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### From Your Local Library

by Melissa Strasser

Hey There, California Heights...Please let me introduce myself; my name is Melissa Strasser, and I am the new Branch Librarian at the DANA Neighborhood Library. It took a bit to get the swing of things, and I appreciate your inviting me to re-join the game, especially since Jennifer was SO adored in this area.

Jennifer is alive and well at the Mark Twain Library and she is enjoying her role in a bigger library, but I know she misses you all very much. I am both new to DANA and new to Long Beach. I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, I've moved around a LOT (I have a nomadic spirit), and I've been a Librarian for just about 10 years. Most importantly, I am thrilled with my assignment @DANA. This neighborhood is vibrant and dynamic, and I'm really excited to work with all of you. I think we're gonna have fun. But enough about me. Let's talk library! We have ongoing programs for residents of all ages and I'd like to share a few with you:

The Dana Library Book Club: Adults, 2nd Saturdays 10 am in the Auditorium. Coffee served. (562) 570-1042 Children's Storytimes: Baby Thursdays 1:00 - 1:30 pm; Toddler Fridays 9:30-10:15 am; Preschool Fridays 11:00 -11:30 am; Bookworm Buddy (all ages) Saturdays 11:00 am -11:30 am

Food Drive: Drop canned/dried food donations in the blue Food Finders bin through Dec 31.

So please, stop in to say hi and see what we're up to at your neighborhood library!;) ©

### Holiday Street Sweeping and Refuse Collection

Street sweeping - Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the holidays, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

**Refuse collection** – Thanksgiving Day as scheduled, but delayed by one day on Christmas and New Year's

Recycle trees - Remove stands and decorations! Drop off at LBPD North Division (corner of Atlantic/Del Amo) from Dec 26 through Jan 9, M-F 9 am - 5 pm, Sat & Sun 9 am - 2 pm. Or, leave it in your normal collection spot by 7am on Sat, Jan 9 – trees over 12' should be cut in two. Longbeach-recycles.org

### Thanksgiving Message

by John Royce

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." — William Arthur Ward

We hope you enjoyed a happy Thanksgiving with those you love. CHNA extends our sincerest thanks to those who have taken time from their busy schedules to volunteer over the past year. Despite being an off year for the Home & Garden Tour, our board and volunteers racked up a couple thousand hours to clean our local commercial corridors and freeway ramps, plant and care for trees, manage our Lamppost Restoration Project, organize and participate in alley cleanups and quarterly block parties, maintain our Facebook page and website and create and distribute this newsletter. Our volunteers also supported community events in other parts of the city, from tree plantings in Wrigley and North Long Beach, local resource fairs, Hughes Green Team events, Operation Easter Basket, Long Beach Heritage's annual Great Homes of Long Beach Tour and Bembridge House Victorian Christmas, Surfrider and Clean Long Beach beach cleanups, Friends of the LA River annual cleanup, not to mention a host of other meetings and support mechanisms.

Simply put, there's so much that would never happen without our community of volunteers. Thank you. ©

### Message from the Commander

by Robert Luman

We welcome Robert Luna, 29 year LBPD veteran and former North Division commander, as our new Chief of Police. We also thank and congratulate former Chief McDonnell in his new roll as LA County Sheriff.

Yes, the holidays are here again; let's take some simple precautions to keep it merry!

- Don't shop online at the coffee shop as public networks are easy to hack.
- Never store packages in vehicles overnight or leave them in plain sight while shopping.
- Schedule parcel deliveries, have a trusted neighbor accept your parcels or have them delivered to work.
- · Park in well lit areas during late night shopping runs.
- Keep drapes pulled to keep peering eyes off your goodies and use timers to keep your home lit.
- Be aware; don't get distracted by your phone or headphones.
- · And of course, lock doors and windows.

From all of us at your LBPD North Division, have a safe and happy holiday season! ©

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### Cindy Hinderberger 562-754-8802

everyoneknowsitscindy.com cindy.hinderberger@coldwellbanker.com



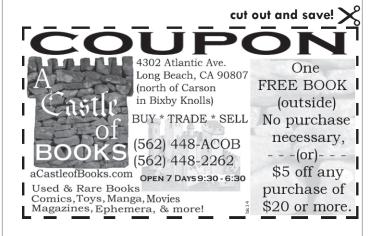
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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR %

### Visit facebook.com/calheights for ongoing calendar updates.

**Thursdays:** 8:00 am litter pickup - see calheights.org click on Clean Streets.

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

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass bixbyknollsinfo.com

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

See Page 4 for holiday events.

### **NEW BIZ BUZZ:**

Blueprint Your Space: residential and commercial organization by

design - blueprintyourspace.com

**Conversation Pieces:** 1150 E Wardlow Rd - debuted a pop up farm stand with Lincoln Spring Farms in Nov. with plans for weekly market - shopconversationpieces.com

Harmony, A Boutique Salon: 3386 Orange Ave - 424-8088
Larry's Auto Shop: 702 E Wardlow - formerly Bing's. New owners
Larry and Jackie Macias plan to upgrade the facility. 427-5989
Long Beach Creamery: 4141 Long Beach Blvd - homemade ice
creamery signed a lease and is under construction! longbeachcreamery.com

**Stateside Crafts:** 4242 Atlantic Ave - American craft beer and specialty market to open in December - statesidecrafts.com **Weiland Brewery:** 4356 Atlantic Ave - brewery/restaurant

scheduled to open in December



### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

7<sup>th</sup> District Council - Roberto Uranga 570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Al Austin

570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54<sup>th</sup> 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 Pickup (2 free per year) **570-2876** 

SoCal Harvest (323) 678-6036

Street Potholes **570-3259**