CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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California Heights Neighborhood news is a bi-monthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association.

All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all residents nor the editor. Our goal is to provide a voice to our community, keeping residents informed of issues affecting the quality of life in California Heights.

The California Heights Annual Home & Garden Tour Eleven Years of Great Historic Homes



HousePortraitByEllen.com

TICKETS GO ON SALE AUGUST 21st

Mark your calendars and come join us for the Eleventh Annual California Heights Home and Garden Tour on Sunday, October 21st, 2007 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

This year's tour features a beautiful Craftsman Bungalow, the former home of past 7th District Councilmember Ray Grabinski, a 1930's Traditional Style home as well as several Spanish Colonial Revival style homes that dominate the Cal Heights landscape. The homes this year have both original architectural features as well as sympathetic additions, newly remodeled kitchens and bathrooms.

FIRST Team Real Estate agent John Reynolds is back again supporting our event by sponsoring the tour and hosting the refreshments. John has been with us every year since the inception of the tour

even hosting long distance while living briefly out of state. Thank you, John!

Back again but with a new menu are the gourmet box lunches prepared by Delius Restaurant. This year's lunches will include a turkey sandwich with provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and red onions, pasta salad, chocolate marble brownie and a beverage. I for one am glad to see the sandwiches return as Louise Solzman (Delius Chef and Owner) makes one of the best sandwiches I have ever eaten.

Other regulars back to the tour include the fabulous floral centerpieces by Bixby Knolls Florist, our very talented musicians and Victrola music. Our regular little red trolley should be back from its recent renovation and ready to pick up and drop off riders near each of the homes and Mr. Jan's Antique Mall throughout the event.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a busy time of year for CHNA board members. The Home Tour Committee has scoured the neighborhood for homes to serve as the centerpieces for our primary revenue raiser of the year. Home Tour proceeds help support projects like the Cal Heights Mural, Cal Heights ReLeaf, the production of this newsletter, and our grandest project to date; this fall's restoration of every lamppost on Orange Avenue from Wardlow to Bixby Roads. Planning for the annual tour starts months in advance as we work to have our ducks in a row before the big day. Yes, we've done it for more than ten years, but each year we learn new lessons, face new challenges, and hopefully get a little bit better at presenting the neighborhood that we are so proud of.

Once again, hundreds of volunteer hours will pull it all together. Our willing homeowners who give up their homes for a Sunday in October also busy themselves with last minute spruce ups that suddenly seem ripe for the to-do list. One of the most common comments we have from our homeowners is how many of the things they'd been meaning to do for months or years finally get crossed off the list. We appreciate their dedication and we're happy that they have the satisfaction of enjoying their perfected homes.

Luckily, many of our homes have withstood the test of time, lending the neighborhood its nostalgic character. Yet, others have not weathered the storm. In the 1980s residents witnessed the dangers of unchecked renovations and moved to protect the character of California Heights by seeking historic designation for the neighborhood. The ordinance that governs the historic district seeks to protect the layout and infrastructure of the neighborhood, from street trees to lampposts, and of course, the historic scale and character of our homes. These are some of the reasons so many of us find Cal Heights a welcome place to call home.

While some may find it frustrating to deal with the ordinance, one doesn't have to look far to see what has happened to many neighborhoods that have had no such protection. Poor quality materials, misplaced architecture, careless reconstruction and unchecked expansion have destroyed the character of many of our older neighborhoods and damaged the sense of value that residents and new buyers find in them. Part of what makes our neighborhood special is the sense of place that comes with our particular congruity - congruity that easily succumbs to the hodge-podge face of a place that has lost its identity, a face that has become all too common, obvious and easy to find.

Challenges will continue for residents as we reconcile our particular wants and needs with the provisions of the ordinance. Whether or not it's worth it to stay here is up to individual homeowners. Despite those challenges, I think it is, and we hope it is for you as well. Efforts are underway to make the provisions of the ordinance more clearly defined, and residents and architects can help themselves by becoming familiar with the ordinance before embarking on improvements or renovations, hopefully helping to relieve some of the frustrations so we may enthusiastically embrace the value it clearly affords us all.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We'd love to see you at the Home Tour. Whether you volunteer or purchase a ticket or two, we invite you to help celebrate the continued success of our neighborhood.

John Royce CHNA President

LONG BEACH ARTISTS TO OPEN THEIR STUDIOS ON OCTOBER 7TH

Long Beach-based artists will open their studios for one day only on Sunday, October 7, 2007 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Eleven artists will be inviting friends, colleagues, neighbors, and the public to view a diverse range of artworks including paintings, mixed media constructions, artist's books, woodcuts and etchings, photographs, and felt sculpture. The artists include Sandy Abrams, Slater Barron, Victoria Damrel, Cynthia Evans, Moira Hahn, Sue Ann Robinson, Joan Skogsberg Sanders, Annie Stromquist, Jamie Sweetman, Gail Werner and Gisele.

The Mid-City Studio Tour celebrates the vital and extensive visual artists' community in Long Beach. Victoria Damrel, photographer, observes that the arts permeate the entire city. "Studios don't just exist in garrets and storefronts," Damrel says, "Art is made at home, too, in bedrooms, family rooms, and (between meals, of course) on the kitchen table. Art making, for many people, is an intimate part of family life."

Slater Barron, known for her assemblages, paintings, and installations made of lint, comments, "There are many wonderful, creative artists in this area who outnumber the arts venues available to present work to the public. Initiated by artists Cynthia Evans, Annie Stromquist, and Sue Ann Robinson, the Mid-City Studio Tour provides a special opportunity to see artists' environments and processes."

Invitations and maps for this self-guided studio tour are available before the day of the event at the office of the Arts Council for Long Beach (110 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach 90802), the Long Beach Museum of Art (2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach 90803), and before/during the event at Oasis Gallery at Chroma Glass Designs (4242 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach 90807). Or just start the tour at the studio of Cynthia Evans (3735 Lime Ave) and pick up your maps there.

For more information visit the website at www.midcitystudiotour.info, or call Cynthia Evans, 562-981-3859.

Join us at our next Neighborhood Meeting Thursday, September 20th 7:00 p.m. Petroleum Club 3636 Linden Avenue

Maureen Neely will be presenting How to Research the History of Your Home. Known as an historic activist, Ms. Neely is going to share how she researches the former inhabitants, builders, and architects of homes.

Long Beach Heritage recently named Ms. Neely "Preservationist of the Year". Please join us as we learn how to research our neighborhood and homes.

FIRST FRIDAYS DIGS IN

If you've paid any attention to the local papers lately, as well as the last issue of The Heights, First Fridays has continued to pick up new business participants along Atlantic Avenue. This may be some of the best news for Atlantic Avenue in decades.

The Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association has worked diligently over the last several years to soften the harsh urban landscape along Atlantic with new trees and landscaped medians (more will be coming this fall), encourage façade improvements and clean up storefronts and signage, all in an effort to create a more congruous, pedestrian friendly character to the street. First Fridays may be just what the doctor ordered to get local residents to begin to explore on foot and could be the start of a newly active and vibrant commercial corridor. What better way to facilitate this activity than an arts-business partnership?

If you still have not participated in a First Fridays event, please visit **www.firstfridayslongbeach.com**. There you will find an extensive list of participating businesses and the artists they showcase. With food, music, local painters, photographers sculptors, live performances and business owners eager to cultivate a new sense of community, First Fridays can only get better – they just need you.

First Fridays takes place the first Friday of every month.







Save the Earth & Your Community Support Local Businesses

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Home Tour

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Ticket cost is \$20.00 pre-sale or \$25.00 on the day of the event. Tickets with gourmet box lunch are \$30.00 and are only available pre-sale until October 14, 2007.

Tickets go on sale August 21st at Mr. Jan's Antique Mall, 1133 E. Wardlow Road, 562-424-9935 and B & B Hardware, 929 E. Wardlow Road, 562-490-2269. Please note that the day of event tickets will only be available at Mr. Jan's Antique Mall. We are unable to accept credit cards and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For more information call CHNA at 562-424-6727 or visit our website at **www.calheights.org**. Home tour ticket order formsand general volunteers are always needed! If you are interested in volunteering please call Kathryn Costantino at **562-981-3671** or e-mail her at **calheightshometour@earthlink.net** will be available on the website.

Lamppost Update

The lampposts on Orange Avenue will be receiving new globes and finials. This is provided through CHNA funds.

In addition, lamppost throughout Cal Heights should be receiving new blue paint over the next few months.

Because of the effort that goes into making the lamppost look their best, we ask all residents not to "Post on the Posts". Please do not tape Garage Sale, Lost Pet and other signs on the lampposts.

Thank You for your consideration

Plan to Attend Our Next
Community Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 20th
at
The Petroleum Club

SENIOR WELLNESS CHECKS

Did you know that you can request a senior wellness check from the Long Beach Police Department?

Many of our senior residents live alone or have limited mobility, so we can offer help from time to time by letting them know that we are there for them if they need anything. Perhaps it's taking out the trash, picking up a couple of things at the grocery store or a quick trip to the Post Office. These small gestures of kindness can make a world of difference. A small effort for us is often much more difficult for someone without transportation or someone to call on in a pinch. Sometimes it may be a friendly conversation just to keep in touch.

If you are concerned about the health or well being of a senior neighbor, or suspect elder abuse, call the Long Beach Police Department. The department has Senior Police Partners, many of them retired police officer volunteers, who will check to make sure that all is well.

If you have an immediate concern, call 911 from your home phone or 435-6711 from your cell phone.

To leave a message for LBPD Senior Partners or to request a non emergency wellness check, please call 570-7212.

For more information about the Senior Partners program, please call LBPD Community Relations at 570-7215.

Long Beach/Bixby Knolls Farmer's Market

For those that haven't heard, Bixby Knolls now has their own weekly Farmer's Market. It is being held at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and 45th Place near the CVS/Post Office/Vons shopping center.

The merket will be in operation every Thursday rain or shine from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information please visit www.harborareafarmersmarkets.org

GARDEN TOURS AT THE RANCHO

First Sundays, May through October

FREE Admission. Reservations Recommended

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







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Save the Earth & Your Community Support Local Businesses



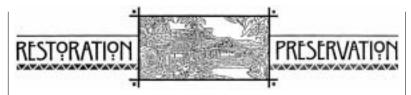
By Kevin Doherty

On my street alone there were 50 kids! During the height of the baby boom this city was alive with children everywhere. In every neighborhood you could find friends to play ball with, ride bikes, go for a swim or just relax on the front lawn to trade cards or play board games. We were an active bunch, slim and a bit ragged around the edges, sporting patched pants and well- worn t -shirts, always up and ready for mischief. That's why they preferred us outdoors, parents I mean.

Once in a blue moon I got invited indoors to play, have dinner or a sleep over at a friends house. Those occasions remain sharp in my memory and I think the budding designer in me took special delight in pondering the curious interiors that my friend's parents assembled. Many were unplanned assemblages of discount specials and odd hand me downs but others had real character ranging from high end European décor to Rustic Cowboy or Mid-Century Modern. In those days living rooms were usually off limits to us. It was an odd but fashionable practice designed to keep the living room as a sort of showplace while the rest of the house reflected the real life of the family. One family went so far as to cover all their furniture in clear plastic wrap, a practice that left me standing at the living room thresh hold feeling somewhat puzzled.

THE PATINA OF AGE

Ours was the well- lived interior, sans plastic covers and always open to family and friends of all ages. We had an eclectic mix of colonial styles and oriental rugs popular in the North East from whence my parents came. Dad was a playwright so there were lots of bookcases in our home and old periodicals strewn about. In all the homes I've experienced as a child and as an adult the ones that have impressed me most are those that were highly personalized, well designed and revealed the unmistakable patina of a family who were actively using their interior space. So how are personalized interiors created and how do they remain attractive and functional to owners and visitors alike?



EXPAND MORRISONIAN IDEALS

Arts and Crafts icon, William Morris suggested that we have in our homes only that which we deem to be truly beautiful. It is a noble idea but one that bears expansion in the name of practicality and 21st century living. Taking for granted that your interior space is of both aesthetic and practical importance to you, I suggest that you design or augment it with furnishings that are beautiful and well made as Morris would suggest but also make sure that your choices are highly personal and practical given your family's lifestyle needs. As you choose furnishings measure the available space to avoid over crowding and downsize your possessions whenever you can in your not so big house. Assemble it with an eclectic eye rather than feeling you need to envision it as a period statement. Opt for hard wood floors as opposed to wall- to -wall carpet and then grace them with versatile hand made Persian rugs. Soften harsh overhead lighting with dimmers and add warm shaded reading level lamps for ambience. Remember to conceal audio-visual equipment in cabinets. Opt for simple window coverings that offer privacy yet retain an open airy feeling that accents the architecture. As you bring new items into your closets get rid of others to keep available storage space accessible.

YOUR HOME BECOMES YOU

Ignore the staged interiors found in magazines. They exist only to sell products and with few exceptions have little to do with a personalized, functional interior. Architectural quality books represent a better bet for idea gathering and learning tools. Embrace that which excites the full scope of your sensual and practical awareness. Blend the two needs and you'll have achieved a hat trick that the best of designers hope to accomplish with their clients. You'll love your home all the more and your home will so positively be you!

Kevin Doherty will be a featured columnist in upcoming "The Heights" issues.

PLEASE DON'T POST ON THE POSTS

The Lampposts are scheduled to be repainted in the next few months







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Cal Heights Curb Painting will be making the rounds in the neighborhood over the next two months.

Visit calheights.org for details.

What's Happening Around Cal Heights



Recently I resumed a project that former Cal Heights resident and board member Steve Ortiz initiated, "The Cal Heights Curb Project." Many wonderful residents have sent in their order forms. Their curbs have hopefully been painted since, and if not, one day will come home to sparkling new painted numbers on their curbs.

This project would not be running without some much needed help. First, John O'Keefe from Branch-O'Keefe Co. kindly donated his sandblaster one morning. There are metal templates that had become so rusted I could not use them in that condition. Over 20 metal templates needed to be sandblasted. That is where my father-in-law, Steve Brackett, came in to donate an hour of his time sandblasting those metal pieces to a clean sheen. John and Steve have been friends for many years going back to the days of Branch Flowmetrics, which John has taken over. Hence the name Branch-O'Keefe Co. If you have Harley motorcycle heads that need updating or repair visit John at 1940 Freeman Avenue in Signal Hill. He can be reached at (562) 597-2850 or on the web at

www.branch-okeefe.com.

One hot summer day my daughter and I meandered over to **Red Brick Pizza** for a nice lunch. My daughter loves the pizza with the thin flatbread. She happily devoured four pieces of pizza in no time. There are numerous gourmet favorites or create your own pizzas. Of course, the chopped salads are what I look forward to as well as the Gelato. For a day out it is a fun place to go. Just like being at home with a TV in every booth. Something a little different for those hot days when all you want is airconditioning and some good food. Red Brick Pizza is located at **4085 Atlantic Avenue**. They can be reached at **(562) 283-0152**. Call ahead for takeout. You'll be happily surprised!

Ilana Brackett

Tiki-lki want to go?

Hey you Hep Cats and Daddy – O 's! California Heights local resident Larry Settle owns what is one of our neighborhoods best-kept secrets – The Puka Bar. Well the bar is kind of in the neighborhood. It's actually on Willow and just about six minutes away. So in my book, it's still the neighborhood.

Regardless of the location, Larry and his business partner Byron Mathis opened up an "Oasis" in what once was a troubled location. They did such a nice job rehabbing the location, that Council Women Tonia Uranga recognized them for their work in fixing what was once a community "eye sore" and police problem.

The Puka Bar is a fantastic voyage back into the "Tiki" Bar era. A throw back to the way Tiki bars used to be. Dim lights, lots of bamboo, custom tiki bar and stools, hula girl art and just the right balance of "Polynesian style" that lets you forget you're in Long Beach.

But the "Puffer Fish" and Tiki idols are not the only thing that set the tone. One can't forget what made a Tiki Bar a Tiki Bar- The Drinks. Larry's partner Byron whips up some of the best tropical drinks anywhere. From your traditional Mai Tais, Pina Coladas, Blue Hawaiians to Byron's secret recipe of Jungle Juice AKA "The Witch Doctor".

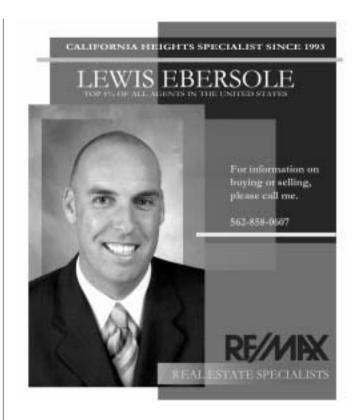
In my opinion what makes the experience complete is the friendly service provided by its staff of "Cool Cats". We really felt welcome and accepted as soon as we walked in. So much so, that we have introduced many of our friends to the Puka Bar. It's a great place to hang out "on date night" or anytime you want to just "soak in" the good vibes!

The Puka Bar offers everything from Tropical Cocktail Drinks to Tiki Flair all within a short distance. The Puka Bar is located at **710 West Willow**. They are open from 4pm till 2am daily. Call **(562) 997-6896** or visit **www.pukabar.com** for more information.

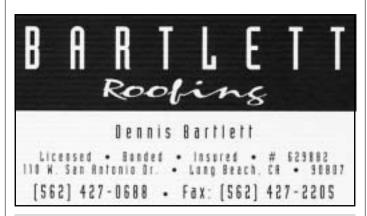
Remember - drink responsibility and never drink and drive! Aloha and A hui hou aku!

Albert Guerra

Speaking of watering holes.
It's Hot Outside!
Don't forget to water your
young trees.







SAVE THE DATE

Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour Sunday, October 21. 2007

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAYS

Farmer's Market, Bixby Knolls, Thursday Nights, 3 to 6:30 p.m., Atlantic Avenue at 45th Place, Near CVS and Post Office

SEPTEMBER

21st Bi-Monthly CHNA Community Meeting, 7:00 pm, Topic: Researching Your Homes History The Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue

OCTOBER

11th Bi-Monthly CHNA Board Meeting, 6:30 pm,
Dana Branch Library, 3680 Atlantic Avenue,
(This meeting discusses CHNA agenda and budget, etc)
21st 11th Appual Cal Heights Home & Gardon Tour

21st 11th Annual Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour, 11:00 am—4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

9th Bi-Monthly CHNA Community Meeting, 7:00 pm, Topic: Window Restoration & Repair with Scott Goldfarb The Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue

MAY through OCTOBER

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

Get involved in the community

If you would like to include information for future newsletters, please forward articles, photos or suggestions to **calheightsnews@aol.com** by the following dates. Thank you to all that have responded.

Flyer Distribution September 22 November 17 Deadline for Articles, etc.
September 8
November 3



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Department (Emergency-on Cell Phone) 435-6711

Police North Substation (Non-Emergency) **570-9800**

Fire Department **570-2500**

California Heights Neighborhood Assoc. **424-6727**

California Heights ReLeaf 997-9094

Dana Branch Library **570-1042**

Rancho Los Cerritos **570-1755**

Long Beach Building Department **570-6651**

Long Beach Animal Control **570-PETS (7387)**

Airport Noise **570-2665 / 570-2600**

Code Enforcement 570-CODE (2633)

Graffiti Paint-Out 570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline 570-YARD (9273)

Noise Control 570-4126 (press 4)

Parkway Tree Trimming/Removal **570-2755**

Street Potholes **570-3259**

Tonia Reyes-Uranga 7th District Councilmember **570-6139**

district7@longbeach.gov

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

Jan Ostashay Neighborhood Preservation Officer **570-6864**

City of Long Beach Website www.longbeach.gov

Long Beach Recycles Website www.longbeach-recycles.org

Long Beach Unified School District www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/index.asp

Official CHNA Website www.calheights.org