

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.



Historical Society of Long Beach

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



The City of Long Beach
Historic Preservation Office

Historic Who and What?

by John Royce

Judging from the notes and calls we receive, it's clear that it's not clear who does what when it comes to our historic district. Here's some insight to clear up the confusion:

The Historic Society of Long Beach preserves historic documents, photos and artifacts for our posterity. They are, in a nutshell, the keepers of our city's historic record. When we come across vintage photos or items that might be historically significant, we donate them to the Historic Society. CHNA may also, at times, donate new photos and current documents as record of our time. Other than that, the Historic Society has nothing to do with our historic district nor its preservation and regulations. HSLB.org

The City of Long Beach Historic Preservation Office is the municipal agency responsible for reviewing and approving exterior changes on structures in designated historic districts according to the guidelines of the governing ordinance. The Preservation Office issues a Certificate of Appropriateness, which is required before building permits will be issued. CHNA is typically made aware of major additions and our comments are considered as are other public comments from concerned or impacted residents. lbs.info/planning/historic_preservation/default.asp

The California Heights Neighborhood Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the awareness of our historic district designation and building community around our unique identity. CHNA is not an agency of the city and holds no regulatory power. Our volunteers create and distribute this newsletter, maintain calheights.org, and hold quarterly community meetings along with periodic email updates and Facebook posts. We work closely with our 7th District Council Office and Police to stay abreast of issues that concern us and we share resources with other local groups dedicated to the health and vitality of our community. CHNA conducts weekly Clean Streets activities and projects like the Cal Heights Mural, Lamppost Restoration Project and ReLeaf tree planting and care efforts enhance the special character that defines our unique sense of place. We sponsor the annual Summer Ice Cream Social and Volunteer Appreciation and, of course, we maintain the fundraising efforts to pull it all off, culminating with our popular Home and Garden tours. We are the only neighborhood association in the city that does all of this without requiring membership dues. We are very proud of the time and dedication our volunteers put forth. ✿

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

As I was walking through the giant Sequoias last week, it occurred to me that preservation is the flip-side of our proven record as pioneers.

After the discovery of the Sequoias, their grandeur eventually prompted the U.S. government to deny mining claims in the area, which were often exploited to set up homesteads, cattle ranches and logging operations. The creation of the National Park saved the trees from further immediate inhalation, but the amazing sights brought droves of people to experience the special place. They set up outdoor theaters under the big trees, built camp grounds, parking lots, cabins, hotels and markets, and sat in hours of bumper to bumper traffic. In time, the massive trees' shallow roots were compromised, many began to die, and when branches began to fall and damage cabins and cars, they cut them down. What good is the majesty of a giant Sequoia if we love it to death and destroy its environment? Realizing that our love for the trees changed the face of what we were supposed to be appreciating and, in fact, was plotting its demise, the Park Service removed 300 buildings, acres of parking lots and cabins and placed them in less impactful areas in the late 1990s so new seedlings could take root and just maybe the trees and the forest could recover.

In some ways, this can be equated to our historic district. When we looked for a home, many of us realized that this neighborhood held a certain appeal that told us it was good place to set up shop. Before our historic designation was requested by a majority of its residents in the late 1980s, waves of new homeowners over the decades began to change the face of our neighborhood. Often remodeling, repairs and additions took little of the original character into consideration. New units added in the back added density and an increasing number became investment properties. Some residents began to notice that the very character that made the neighborhood so special and unique was slowly eroding away, and so was its value.

We have a propensity for abandoning what we've created, or destroying it in an attempt to change it or make it into something it was never meant to be. The fact that the basic integrity of our historic district was salvaged just in time is indeed special. Neighborhoods are built and its pioneers move on to the next new spot down the freeway. There are plenty of examples of neighborhoods very similar to ours that slipped slowly through the cracks of incremental destruction. So please, respect the fact that our historic district guidelines are in place to preserve the special sense and value that come with consistent quality and defining architectural features and compatible massing. After all, what good is a charming historic district if we change out the very things that make it so appealing? *



John Royce
CHNA President

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on local happenings,
resident alerts, and lost/
found pets! Just sign up at
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Jalopy Ramblings

by John Royce (*I was asked by several residents to re-run this article from a few years back*)

We have a lot of cars. Hey, it's southern California, after all! But, some of us have more than others. So it's no surprise that a lot of people have contentious feelings about where they end up taking space. Stroll around the neighborhood on a weekend and engage your fellow citizens in friendly conversation and the subject inevitably pops up. The coveted golden space in front of one's own home has become what many feel to be a proverbial rite of passage of home ownership.

We've paid our dues over time, living in impacted areas where it takes as much time to find a parking space as it does to creep home in commuter traffic. Once we scrimp and pinch to finally have enough dough to land ourselves a castle, we want to be able to park in front of it, and we don't want some neglected, rusting heap or huge Winnebago to greet us each morning when we open our shades and enjoy a morning cup of joe.

It doesn't seem like a lot to ask, but judging from neighborly conversations, it's one of those things that threaten our good neighbor status with each other, right up there with the dude who leaves Fido's woopsy on your lawn or the neighbor who finds midnight the ideal time to start a construction project.

There are some places in our neighborhood where unused vehicles have become monstrous landmarks, appearing overnight and remaining until the street sweepers require their owners to transfer them in the stealth of the night. Where will it be next?

Okay, enough already! We get the picture. The point is, maybe we all could be a bit more courteous. Storage facilities exist for idle RVs, or perhaps it's as easy as cleaning out the garage so a car will actually fit in there! If you have a car (or two or three) that sits around unused, consider selling it or donating it to charity. Just think how nice it would be not to have to remember to move it to avoid the dreaded street sweeping ticket every week! If all else fails, at least wash it once in a while – even a clean heap is more pleasant to deal with than a crusty one. And leaving that space in front of your neighbor's house is a good thing. Maybe he or she won't be so crabby when they can carry their groceries in from their own curb!

Who knows, maybe the parking gods will bestow upon you good parking karma and land you that perfect spot at the Hollywood Bowl or Trader Joe's sometime! ❀

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Goodbye to an Old Friend

by John Royce

Cal Heights said goodbye to an old friend on Monday, September 13th, just two short weeks shy of the date his neighbors had planned a block party in his honor, just like the ones he enjoyed on countless 4th of July holidays over the decades. Olive Avenue's beloved Bob Krause passed away at his home after settling in to sleep, one hand on his gray poodle, Sterling, faithfully stationed on his pillow next to him, just as they always did when preparing for a nap or a good night's sleep. How elegantly peaceful and fitting for this wonderful man.

By the time you read this, Bob's block party will have proceeded as planned under the cathedral of camphor trees he watched mature over seven decades. Neighbors donated funds to adopt an historic lamppost in his name, lasting testimony to a man who enjoyed his community and appreciated its history.

At a time when so many folks move from place to place, Bob lived happily in Cal Heights for 67 years, raised his family, held onto lifelong friends and made new ones all along the way, spreading his kind, gentle spirit to all he touched. Bob lived a wonderfully long 89 years, never stopped looking on the bright side and appreciated every single day.

There's an empty space in my heart, but I will always be grateful for having known his wonderful soul. Neighbors Ross & Deborah have adopted Sterling so he may live out his days and enjoy his daily walks in the neighborhood he loved and shared with his best friend. If you'd like to read more about Bob, you can access the May 2010 Heights Newsletter at www.calheights.org. *



The Restorer's Notebook #4

"RESTORATION" vs "REMODELING" by Lou Gaudio

We love our old houses because they are vintage, artful examples of craftsmanship and history, right? Well..., not everyone feels that way, and some ugly things can be done to our little jewels. Is your house old, vintage, worn and in need of "restoration"? Or, has it been "updated" with an oh-so-70's kitchen with vinyl flooring and harvest gold appliances? A wise realtor that loves old houses once said to me, "the worst thing about this old house is nothing has ever been done to it, but the best thing about it is "nothing has ever been done to it!" Let's talk about what to do, what NOT to do, and how to un-do.

How can I restore and modernize at the same time?!

Rule #1, find a contractor who understands the value in preserving vintage details (many contractors do not have the knowledge of materials, or they are driven by quick profits more than preservation). It can be done, and it doesn't have to be expensive. Electrical and plumbing can be modernized without evidence, if care is taken. Cabinetry can be custom fabricated to match original. There are materials readily available that are historically correct (ceramic tile, soapstone, Marmoleum flooring, and vintage reproduction fixtures and hardware). Careful demolition can preserve tile and original molding details if expertly done.

What NOT to do!

Do not listen to the handyman who says, "we can't fix that, we gotta tear it all out." Get several estimates from professional craftsmen. Do not assume you can get what you need at big box stores, "you can do it, Home Depot CANNOT help." Do not install modern "Pergo" or other wood-like flooring.

How can I un-do the damage that has already been done?

If what has been done is wrong, cheesy or ugly, it was probably easy to do and therefore easy to un-do. Layers of cheaply installed vinyl flooring can be removed down to the subfloor and replaced with original looking Marmoleum. Bathroom floors can often be renewed by removing the new but incorrect flooring down to the original tile mortar bed, and vintage reproduction tile installed. Showers as well can be re-tiled with tile matched to the existing (it's not as expensive as you may think!) Cabinet doors can be replaced with historically appropriate styles and painted as original. Moldings can be milled to match original, and vintage reproduction lighting and plumbing fixtures ARE available to replace the offending "updates". A professional wood flooring contractor can repair and refinish your vintage wood flooring. ✨

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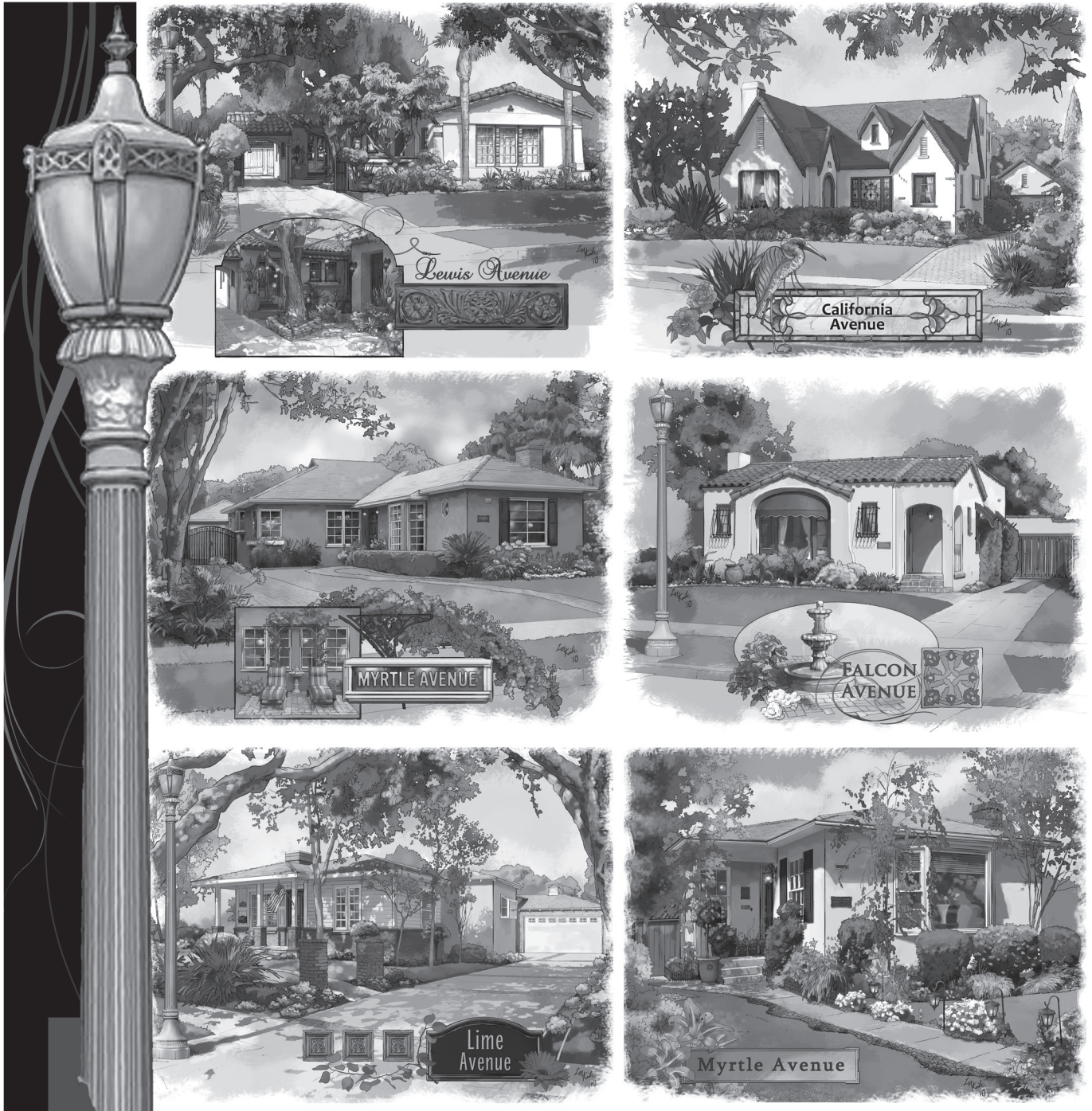
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Marijuana Collectives

Quite a few of you have inquired about the medical pot dispensaries in our midst. The new regulations enacted by the City Council became effective August 29th, which will reduce and effectively reduce their numbers. Many will be eliminated because they violate the distance requirements from schools; 1000 feet from K-8 schools, and 1500 feet from high schools. Just by that rule alone, most collectives around Cal Heights will be disallowed.

The new rules also prohibit collectives from being any closer than 1000 feet from one another. By the time you read this, a lottery at the September 20th City Council meeting will have determined which ones closer than 1000 feet will have a chance to remain. Permits and inspections now apply before any remaining collectives will be allowed to operate. Operations that are ultimately permitted should be more professional.

If you have further questions about the ordinance, contact our 7th District Council Office at 570-7777. ✱



Turn off your computer

Despite improved efficiency, power consumption in the US is on the rise. Did you know that if everyone shut down their PCs each night instead of leaving them on, the U.S.

would save enough electricity to power the Las Vegas strip for a full year?

In fact, if you allow your computer to rest in screen-saver mode, it actually uses more electricity! At least set your computer to go into a low power mode when not in use. When you're ready for a new computer, consider a laptop, which tends to use less energy and can be operated for hours on a single charge.

Speaking of chargers, with so many personal devices demanding them, the percentage of household electricity use for these devices is skyrocketing. Avoid phantom electricity use by unplugging chargers when not in use. Place your DVD players, stereos and TVs on a power strip that can be switched off, since these devices draw significant power in their built-in standby modes. According to the US Department of Energy, phantom power uses electricity equal to the annual output of 18 average power stations!

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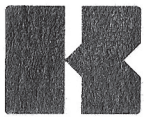
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**From the 7th District**

by James Johnson

Dear Neighbors,
Thank you to the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association for hosting me at your last community meeting (see below) and to all of you who took the time to attend. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss all that is happening in our neighborhood and throughout Long Beach.

One item I talked about at the CHNA meeting was further activating Atlantic Ave. Consistent with this, I am proud to announce that on Friday, October 1st I will be hosting a new event at the Dana Library as part of First Fridays: "First Books at First Fridays."

Libraries had a great impact on my life and I look forward to sharing my love of reading with families throughout the district. I will be reading children's books from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Live entertainment (a balloon artist) and light refreshments will be provided. The Dana Library is a great resource for Cal Heights and I look forward to maximizing its potential for the community.

I look forward to seeing you at Dana Library on First Fridays.

Sincerely,
James Johnson
7th District Council Member ✱





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Best Kept Secret Unleashed

by Ilana Brackett

I'll let you in on a little secret. Delius Happy Hour is phenomenal! Not only does Delius have a fabulous restaurant and prix fixe room, the happy hour is affordable and offers delicious specials. There are six special food items available from 4-7 p.m. as well as specials on well drinks and martinis. Draft beer is \$2 off.

We have been a few times and each time we are wowed by the drinks and the food. You can purchase the following; three fish tacos, build your own bruschetta, Asian chicken lettuce wraps, two beef or BBQ pork sliders (these come with homemade chips), homemade potato chips or onion fries with horseradish and chipotle mayo, each for under \$10! We have tried everything except the build your own bruschetta. We are saving that for the next visit.

The bar has a full range of martinis and cocktails, while also having a full liquor assortment for those interested. Lunch and dinner can be served at the bar and is quite comfortable and entertaining. There is a 42" screen to fascinate those interested in sports as well as five tables surrounding the bar area.

The bartenders are friendly and helpful. Each time I have gone to happy hour, I have seen familiar faces. Delius restaurant offers a fun happy hour that is close by and easily accessible. You just might see me there! ✱

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New Biz Buzz



Former auto dealership building makes a last stand at the corner of 33rd and Atlantic as preparations continue for a new **Fresh & Easy** market. Since the property managers shirked responsibility for maintaining the property since Drive Time left, Cal Heights Clean Streets volunteers have cleaned the site of litter and illegal signage once per month for more than a year. We all look forward to a bright new face for this important entrance to our community.

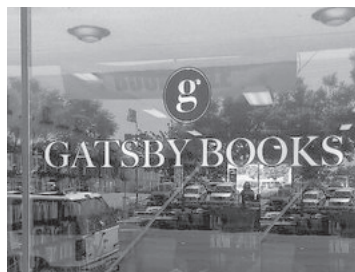
freshandeasy.com



Already open to brisk business, **Sipology Red** has been attracting customers to the former Trattoria Limone at Orange and Wardlow. New owners and a new twist put a fresh face on this familiar friend. sipologyred.com



Where the Green Dog once barked, **Roxanne's** is ready to shine. An invitingly classic interior with white onyx bar tops, lovely fireplace and separate dining room will welcome guests to what promises to be a classy and comfortable neighborhood pub and restaurant. The doors should be open by early October. roxanneslounge.com



California Heights resident, Sean Moor, has transformed his charming bookstall at the Sunday Farmers Market into **Gatsby Books** - a new and gently-used bookstore. Mention "Sunday Farmers Market" and receive \$5 off your first purchase of \$25 or more in September. Gatsby Books is located at 5535 E. Spring St., near the corner of Bellflower Blvd. 562-208-9783 or email gatsbybooks@hotmail.com. ✱

Introducing Donut Island!

by 5th Grader - Ava Brackett

I walked to Donut Island. Donut Island is a new donut shop in Long Beach located at the corner of Wardlow and Cherry. The address is 3401 Cherry Ave. Their phone number is (562) 427-1318. donutisland.com. They also have a Facebook page.

I had a taste of a lot of donuts, but I didn't get the coffee. I tried the classic, coconut on top of the chocolate donut, cream filled, orange glazed, and pink glazed. I loved all the donuts I tried. I think Donut Island has wonderful donuts.

They will also be serving ice cream, but they did not have ice cream the day I went. They also serve various beverages.



Next Community Landscape Project

The site of our next public easement community project is the area around Don & Harold's Garage, 500 East Wardlow Rd., which will receive new landscaping and improved pedestrian access. The project is a joint effort between Don & Harold's, BKBI, Cal Heights ReLeaf and the City of Long Beach, headed up by local Boy Scout, Zachery Sutter, who hopes to fulfill the community service portion of his Eagle Scout achievement. Designed by John Royce, the garden will consist of durable yet attractive drought tolerant plants that will require minimum maintenance. ✱

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Sundays: Farmer's Market - 9 am to 2 pm (California and Bixby)

Get calendar updates on our Facebook page!

October 2-3, 11am-5pm LB Open Studio Tour

Two-day self guided tour of local artists' studios. Meet new friends, listen to music and join artists in their working environment. Focused on Wrigley, Cal Heights, free trolley and refreshments at selected locations. Free and open to the public! For info and artists profiles, visit www.lbopenstudiotour.com.

October 13, Literary Society October Book

BKBIA monthly community book club. October's book: *In Dubious Battle* by John Steinbeck - 7pm EXPO Building, 4321 Atlantic Ave Park on Atlantic or Burlinghall - refreshments

October 17, Long Beach Marathon, www.runlongbeach.com

October 30, 15th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour

Tickets sold 9:00 – Noon, day of event. Sunnyside Cemetery
Last admission Noon, last presentation 2pm - hslb.org, 424-2220

November 11, 6 pm - 7pm CHNA Community Meeting

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson

570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8th District Council - Rae Gabelich

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 Neighborhood Association

424-6727

California Heights ReLeaf

997-9094

Dana Branch Library

570-1042

Fire Department

570-2500

Graffiti Paint-Out

570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline

570-YARD (9273)

Long Beach Building Department

570-6651

Long Beach Animal Control

570-PETS (7387)

Neighborhood Preservation Officer

570-6864

Neighborhood Watch Program

570-7229

Parkway Tree Trimming

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