

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.



Many of CHNA's community projects: lamppost restoration, lost/found Pets, ReLeaf, calheights.org, address painting, Clean Streets, The Heights Newsletter, mural, ice cream social.

The Importance of the Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour

CHNA is very proud of our Home and Garden Tour, and as we embark on number thirteen, we want to remind our readers that the proceeds from this tour make everything that we do possible. CHNA remains a dues-free volunteer led association. The money we make is invested back into our community on an ongoing basis, and our many projects include both Cal Heights and community partnership projects outside our official neighborhood boundaries. After all, we realize that community doesn't end at our borders or district lines. The tour also demonstrates both the intrinsic and financial value of maintaining our historic character and the unique sense of place that makes us want to call this place home.

It all occurs because our homeowners are willing to host hundreds of guests for several hours of precious weekend time. And we all know that they've spent countless hours getting them ready for us all to enjoy. Hundreds of volunteers dedicate their time, and lest we forget our board members who have been planning since February.

We hope you have an opportunity to join us on Sunday, October 2nd, as a volunteer or as a guest. We promise our proceeds will continue to be put to good use. ❀

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Allow me to sidestep our Home and Garden Tour preparations for this issue's message to say a few words about an important group of folks in our community.

Moms are pretty special people. Every single one of us has one. While I realize that, sadly, not everyone has the fortune to know theirs, most of us do, and their efforts and contributions go largely unsung except for that day in May when Hallmark and Carlton benefit from the rest of the year's benign neglect. Whether they work outside the home or within it, moms' jobs are never ending. From family chauffeur to the dreaded science project rescue effort, relaxation is rare and "hectic" is the generally accepted term for the description of a mother's life. Yet the vast majority of them dutifully carry on, albeit with various levels of success and styles.

I was away last issue. I had suddenly lost my mom and was tending to those tasks that death casts upon us. Even though Mom was 91, I was not prepared for her departure. She was a happy contented soul who looked forward to each day. The fact that at 91 she met her end after she took her morning bath, brewed her coffee, cut and sectioned a grapefruit, retrieved the paper and was sitting down to do her daily crossword before Dad woke up says it all. My siblings and I had come to expect that Mom was going to be with us for some time to come. Expectations don't always pan out.

With eight kids, Mom was always busy and never bored. She worked hard, but never considered her chores work. She did them with pride and conviction and because she cared about all of us. Always up first, by the time the rest of us rose, she'd already taken her bath, was ready for work, had breakfast on the table and was running around to kiss us goodbye. She rarely complained or wanted for more, and even though she was busy, she allowed herself the distraction of a smile or a funny story. She never treated anyone badly because she was having a bad day. Mom welcomed and graciously accepted our friends and partners at her dinner table and in her home. Respect was never earned, it was granted and yours to lose, a philosophy I'm proud to have inherited.

We must someday say good-bye to our parents. We are so blessed to have had Mom around and healthy for so long, and that she suffered little as she left her cherished world of hugs and laughter. So in memory of my mom, thank you to all the moms in our community for all you contribute.

Peace and blessings,



John Royce

It's also a good time to remind our residents to keep an eye on our senior neighbors. If you have concerns, Senior Police Partner volunteers can pay a caring visit. They are trained to assist fellow seniors with crime prevention, grief counseling and peer support, and can recognize when seniors could benefit from outside assistance. For more info about SPPs, phone 570-7212.

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

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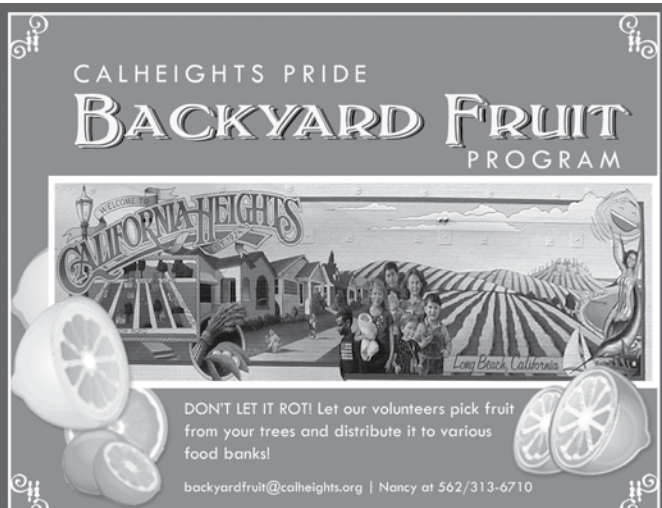


CALHEIGHTS
Home Tour Dining Card
(unlimited use through 12/31/11)

13th Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour
Corkage fee
Pizza & drink, get a 2nd pizza free
entire tab (excluding happy hour)

Dining Card

As a thank you to our guests and volunteers, and in support of our local businesses, all Home Tour participants will once again receive a Cal Heights Local Dining Discount Card. The card provides specific discount offers for unlimited use from October 2 through December 2011 at twelve local eateries. Support of our local dining options is an important key to the health of our business corridors, which have more of an effect on our property values and sense of community than most of us realize. Plus, who doesn't appreciate saving a few dollars? Use it well and you can easily make up for the cost of your Home Tour ticket! ✱



CALHEIGHTS PRIDE
BACKYARD FRUIT
PROGRAM

WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS
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DON'T LET IT ROT! Let our volunteers pick fruit from your trees and distribute it to various food banks!

backyardfruit@calheights.org | Nancy at 562/313-6710

Cal Heights Pride Backyard Fruit Collection Program

Why let backyard fruit go to waste? CHNA is partnering with the Green Lab Farm, Long Beach Community Action Partnership and So Cal Harvest to collect and distribute food to local food banks. By Halloween, we'll have a dedicated page at calheights.org, where we will have info on pruning and grafting classes, field trips and more! For more info and to adopt a free navel orange tree, email BackyardFruit@calheights.org or call Nancy at 562/313-6710. ✱

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Don't Miss the CalHeights Home & Garden Tour! Sunday October 2nd

The California Heights Home and Garden Tour is upon us. Have you purchased your tickets?

Our request for homes and gardens resulted in an overwhelming response from residents and made the selection process very difficult. Ultimately, one Craftsman Bungalow, one Colonial Revival Bungalow, and three Spanish Colonial Revival homes were chosen along with several charming gardens.

The California Heights Neighborhood Association is also very pleased to host a special presentation by Carole Coates, author and contributor to many books about today's rediscovery of the Spanish Revival movement, including "California Revival: Vintage Decor for Today's Homes". Through her lectures, exhibits, and writing, Carole hopes to inspire others to understand and appreciate vintage art and decor and its place in today's homes.

The day begins with check-in at Longfellow Elementary at 9:30 am, followed by Carole Coates' presentation at 10 am, then home and garden viewing from 11 am until 4 pm. The little red trolley will once again be out and about picking up guests and shuttling them between the homes and gardens. Tour guests can stop at the refreshment house for light refreshments, courtesy of local realtor Lewis Ebersole, and Carole Coates will be available to sign books and answer questions. Her books will also be available for purchase at this location.

In addition, guests can listen to live music and visit with local home improvement and restoration businesses that will be showcasing their products and talents at the homes.

For more information or to purchase tickets, pre-sale tickets are \$20.00, visit www.calheights.org. Please note that your name will be added to the will call list and tickets will not be mailed out to your home.

Program books, booties and dining cards will be available from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the check-in table located at Longfellow Elementary, 3800 Olive Avenue. Tickets can be purchased at this location on the day of the home tour for \$25.00.

Interested in a free ticket to the tour? Become a docent! If interested please contact our volunteer coordinator, Bill Cliatt, at bill.cliatt@yahoo.com or 562/972-2940. ✱

Long Beach Open Studio Tour

On October 8-9, local artists will once again host the popular Long Beach Open Studio Tour. The tour, free and open to the public, invites residents to explore 28 artists' works in the studios where their creativity reigns. The self guided tour includes works for sale and live music. For a complete list of artists and locations, maps and information, visit lbopenstudiotour.com. ❀

At Your Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster - Department Librarian

The school year is back upon us! I seem to remember a book of Charlie Brown cartoons titled "Summers Fly, Winters Walk;" and it really doesn't matter if you are eight years old or 38, those summers just hurry right on by into fall! This year, how about celebrating fall and the new school year by getting a Long Beach Public Library card for everyone in the family?

The Dana Neighborhood Library (3680 Atlantic Avenue) offers a full array of programs, materials, and services. Did you know, for example, that the library has after school homework help Tuesday-Friday and all day on Saturdays for children in elementary, middle, and high school? The homework centers, or "Family Learning Centers", in all Long Beach libraries have computers for students to use for Internet searching and word processing and dedicated staff to assist students with homework assignments.

In addition to the standard library materials like our books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs, the Long Beach Public Library also offers nearly 50 subscription databases available only to library card holders (<http://www.lbpl.org/databases/default.asp>). These electronic services include everything from science to literature to history to current events for patrons in Kindergarten through college. Biography Resource is an excellent place to look for all those obscure historical names. General OneFile is a magazine database with literally millions of full-text articles that can be searched by keyword, author, publication title, subject, even year! Opposing Viewpoints, which is a database of essays, articles, websites, and media is another valuable resource for current social issues. Patrons can even watch animated picture books online or download audio and e-books from the databases. All that's needed is a Long Beach Public Library card for these databases and so many more!

Stop by the Dana Library to "check out" what's new ! ❀

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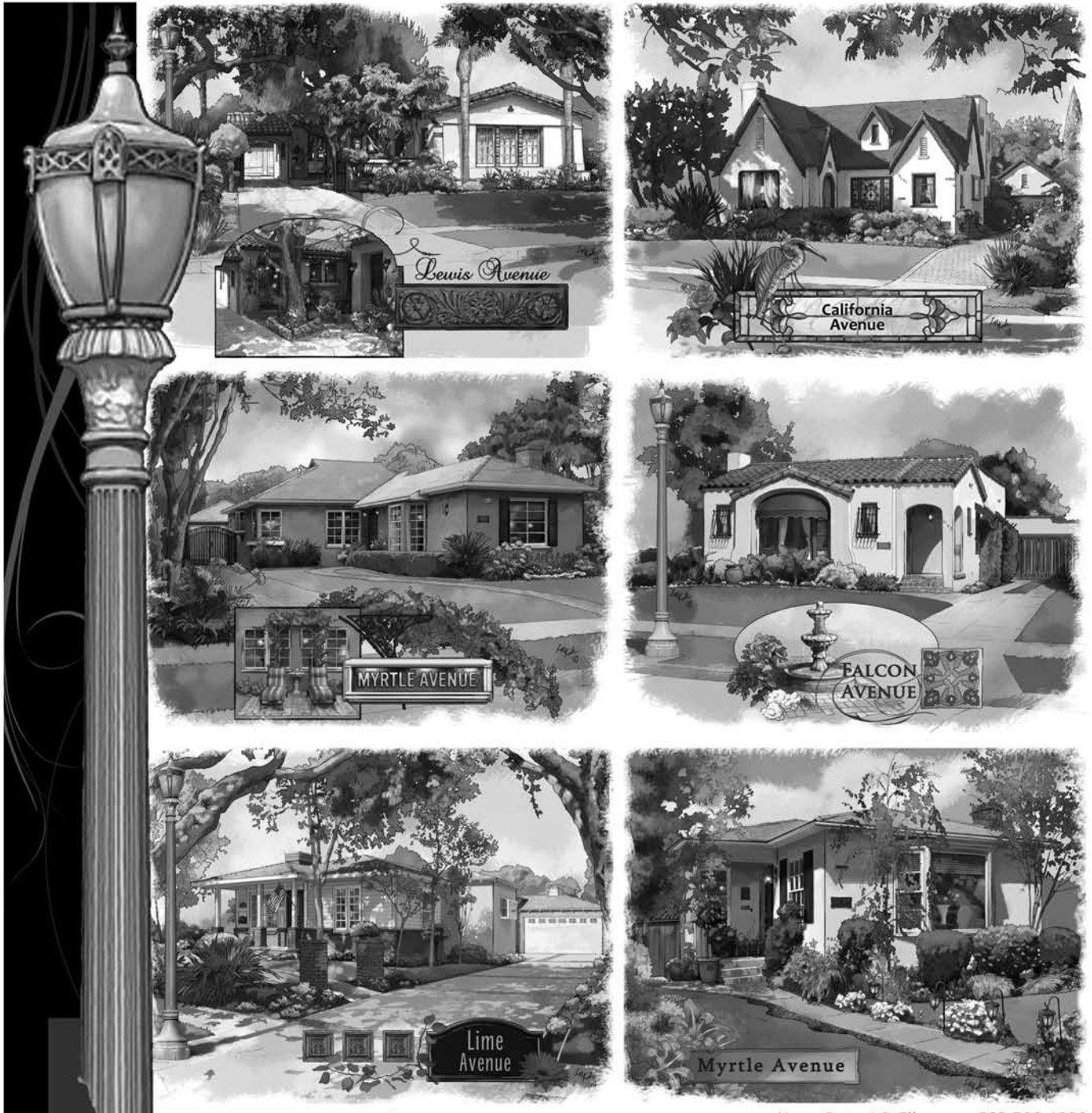
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Summer of Clean & Green!

Clean Streets and ReLeaf continue to make a difference in our community. For more than 100 weeks our Clean Streets volunteers have met each Thursday morning to pick up litter, pull weeds, remove graffiti and illegal signs and report areas of concern. We've removed over 1000 bags of litter from local business corridors and freeway access areas, trash that will never clog storm drains, wash out to the river and beaches, and won't mar the cityscape we share. Our volunteers were recently told that we could no longer clean the north side freeway on/off ramps at Atlantic and the Wardlow/Long Beach Blvd on ramp. We are in talks now with CalTrans to adopt those areas so we can enter legally and resume our efforts.

This summer as our volunteer pool increased, we combined our ReLeaf efforts for summer tree care along Atlantic, weeding and tree care at the Lot 33 (33rd/Atlantic) native garden, Uptown Farmer's Market trees and several other local project sites. ReLeaf received partnership commitments from the BKBIA and Hughes Green Team to purchase a 210 gallon pickup truck water tank to more easily water trees out of reach of water sources. CHNA's volunteer accountant, Trish Gergen and husband, Bob Gill, Los Cerritos neighborhood residents, generously offered to purchase a pump to reduce watering time, and Don & Harold's Automotive will install the pump at no charge.

Finally, for those residents near 35th & Lime Avenue, we hope you've noticed the improvement to the oil lot there. 7th District Council Office rep, Mary Sramek, attends most of our weekly cleanups and noticed the conditions of this area. Three weeks later the site's appearance had improved dramatically! We're hoping to see continued improvement in the future. We'll keep you posted. CHNA thanks all of our dedicated Clean Streets and ReLeaf volunteers! ❁

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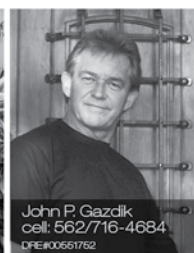
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From the 7th District

James Johnson Councilmember

Dear Friends,

Before taking office, I heard from many constituents about the dilapidated condition of Wardlow Road. This is not only one of the worst streets in our district, it is one of the worst in the city. I heard your concerns loud and clear. After months of planning, I am proud to announce that Wardlow Road will finally have its much-needed repair within the next several months. The street will be repaved from Cherry Avenue to the 405 Freeway, providing a more visually appealing, but more importantly, safe drive across our neighborhoods. I am also working with the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association to improve sight lines and allow for possible future tree planting and improvements to pedestrian access.

Another common neighborhood issue I heard before taking office was the need for a traffic light at the corner of 36th and Orange Avenue. Many residents talked about this intersection being unsafe for pedestrians and having difficulties turning onto Orange Avenue due to poor sight lines and high speeds. The traffic engineer has reported to me that, in his professional opinion, a traffic light will help slow down through traffic on Orange, thus improving safety for the neighborhood. We will begin installation of a new traffic light at this intersection in the coming months. Again, we are working with the CHNA to maintain the historic look of the area.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market to the 7th District. Located on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and 33rd Street, this new store will provide a friendly and inviting entrance to the Cal Heights/Bixby neighborhoods. This is one of the first steps in reviving the southern end of Atlantic Ave (along with façade improvements at Dave's Burgers, which is underway now, and Alex's Automotive, which is nearing completion), unifying the Bixby Knolls business corridor. I will continue my efforts on Atlantic Avenue and there will be more to come.

Your neighbor,

James Johnson

7th District Councilmember

www.JamesJohnsonLB.com

(562) 570-7777 Office

district7@longbeach.gov ❁



Autumn GREEN!

With fall upon us and winter near, it's a great time to plant. Planting in fall means winter rains will assist root development for healthy spring and summer growth and drought

tolerance.

Both Long Beach Water (lbwater.org) and Water Replenishment District of S. California (wrd.org) offer water savings tips, Lawn to Garden rebates and free gardening classes (LBW) and free Eco Gardner Classes (WRD). The City of Long Beach hosts free composting classes every third Saturday – longbeach-recycles.org, 570.4694.

New Bizz Buzz

Check out these new businesses in our area!

Blackbird Café - Wardlow & Orange

Debbie & crew are already a hit – breakfast/lunch daily!

Orange Avenue Salvage - Wardlow & Orange

Joins Vintage Emporium as local treasure troves!

Fresh & Easy - Atlantic & 33rd

A fresh new face for our community's entrance!

Aura Thai - Atlantic & Carson

Thai flavors hit the avenue!

The Workshop - 4242 Atlantic (north of Carson)

Full service bicycle repair & tune-ups, open 7 days a week!

Dave's Burgers Sign

For those of you who attended the festive Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association's Concert in the Parking Lot at Dave's Burgers at Atlantic and Wardlow a few weeks ago, this is old news. The BKBIA and 7th District Council Office announced that Dave's had taken advantage of façade improvement grants that allow local businesses in targeted areas to revitalize deteriorating store fronts.

As part of the project, the iconic Dave's Burgers sign and "Time to Eat" clock, perpetually stuck at 1:00, will be restored, and the tiny stand will receive new paint and awnings. ✱

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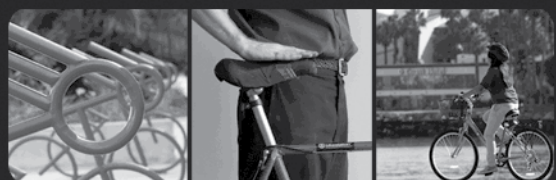
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New Life for our Wardlow Strip!

One of the most significant corridors for Cal Heights is Wardlow Road. Unfortunately, the infrastructure has seen better days. We've long held that its condition limits the viability of businesses there and causes a great many of our residents to steer clear of an area that holds promise as a walkable and attractive business district. It's one of the reasons our Clean Streets team pays so much attention to keeping it clean. The 7th District Council office diligently sought funding for this project and announced major rehabilitation to begin before the end of the year. While street trees were not in the proposed budget, the council office arranged a meeting with Public Works and CHNA. We have offered to work with Public Works to plan for trees where possible. Cal Heights Releaf will fund and organize the planting and care for the trees for five years until fully established. The most cost prohibitive part of a commercial zone planting is cutting the tree wells. Planning for them while curbs and sidewalks are being replaced means the cuts will not be needed. A green facelift for the asphalt laden cityscape and a more pedestrian friendly feel offers hope to entice resident shoppers and diners to the "Wardlow Strip!" *

Bike101
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Bike Saturdays & Safety Tips

As many heed encouragement to ditch our cars and head out on foot and bicycles to relieve congestion and air pollution, the need has grown to remind those new to or returning to cycling of the rules of the road. Grants and funding opportunities have graced our business corridors with hundreds of new bike racks to accommodate cyclists, and the Bike Long Beach participating businesses offer discounts and special offers for cyclists, like Bike Saturdays. Bicycles should never be ridden on sidewalks; cyclists should ride to the block they seek to visit, then walk their bikes to the nearest bike rack. Drivers and cyclists alike should review traffic regulations as bicycles are considered roadway traffic. For more information, visit bikelongbeach.org and click on "Bike 101." *

The Dishwasher Blues (or Crusty Whites)

by Karen Highberger

Have you been noticing your dishwasher isn't performing as well as it once did? You are not alone. Due to the banning of phosphates in dishwashing detergent (except for commercial use) in an additional 17 states this past year, most detergent manufacturers have eliminated phosphates altogether. This, coupled with the EPA mandated guidelines for water restrictions on dishwashers, has resulted in crusty white build-up in the dishwashers, not so clean dishes and cloudy glassware. We hope that the manufacturers will be able to improve on the currently available products, but until then here is some helpful info to improve the performance of your dishwasher.

Consumer Reports has rated (out of 100 possible points) the following phosphate free products as the best available: Finish Quantum (tablets) 78 rating, Finish Powerball Tabs (tablets) 77 rating, Cascade Complete All In One Action Pacs (pacs) 74 rating. The highest rated powder was Cascade Complete All in 1 with a 53 rating. Previously, Cascade rated much higher in the "Excellent" category, but the changes have taken their toll.

In addition to using a recommended detergent, you should also do the following in order to protect the investment of your dishwasher and enhance its performance. Use a rinse aid for better drying-Jet Dry or similar. Depending on how hard your water is, you will need to clean/descale the unit every 4-8 weeks. You can use Jet Dry dishwasher cleaner, Lemi Shine cleaner or simply pour 1 cup of white vinegar in the bottom of an empty unit and run a regular cycle. You can also use a tooth brush soaked in white vinegar to clean the nozzles on spray arms and any lift-out filters you may have. Check your manual.

If you need to eliminate any scale on your glassware, you can run a regular cycle (or a delicate cycle, depending on the glassware) using ascorbic acid (vitamin C powder) instead of soap. This will also help on the hard water deposits in the machine. You can also add TSP to your dishwashing detergent-which is basically adding back in the phosphates, but this seems like a lot of trouble.

There are blogs that discuss this in detail, if you're interested. Keeping your dishwasher clean, rinsing your dishes as best you can and keeping on top of the cloudy glassware should help the situation.

In conclusion, before you run out and buy a new dishwasher, try these remedies. Most likely, the issue is with the detergent, not the machine. ✱

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

First Friday: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind.

Saturdays: Bixby Rollers Bicycling Group, 8 am
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf 4105 Atlantic

October 2 - CalHeights Home & Garden Tour
10 am - Guest Speaker, Carole Coates
11 am - 4 pm - Tours Homes and Gardens

October 7 - First Fridays kicks off GLOBAL (Greater Long Beach Arts Lab) Arts Month in celebration of local artists. Firstfridayslongbeach.org

October 8 & 9 - Open Studio Art Tour 2 days, 28 artists,
live music; 11am-5pm; lbopenstudiotour.com

October 9 - Long Beach Marathon, runlongbeach.com

October 31 - Halloween, 10 pm curfew for 17 & under.
Enter "Halloween Safety Tips" at longbeach.gov

Great LB websites and facebook pages to check out:

facebook.com/calheights facebook.com/LongBeachCalif
facebook.com/bixbyknollsBIA facebook.com/longbeachstuff
facebook.com (search on 562CityLife) www.welovelb.org
www.everythinglongbeach.com www.limelightlb.com

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Connie W.

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Restrictions Apply

• DRE#01221986

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 Information
570-6194

Neighborhood Watch Program
570-7229

Parkway Tree Trimming
570-2700

Police Department Dispatch
435-6711 or Emergency 911

Police North Substation Information
570-9800

Rancho Los Cerritos
570-1755

Senior Check-In
570-7212

Street Potholes
570-3259