

# 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.



## Why a Home Tour?

By now most of you understand the importance of our Home & Garden Tours, but some of our newer residents may wonder just what it's all about. In the first few years following California Heights' historic designation in 1990, the fledgling board determined to establish a sense of place and unique identity for the neighborhood by undertaking an ambitious project to restore the vintage lampposts and explore other community improvement projects. The Home & Garden Tours were born to finance those projects, which continue today, but also to exemplify the value that maintaining our historic character, could offer everyone, and hopefully stop or slow down the incremental destruction of the unique architecture and charming fabric that set our neighborhood apart. While some questionable and unfortunate projects still take place today, the effort has slowed the rate of deterioration. Local realtor and Home & Garden Tour primary sponsor, Lewis Ebersole, notes that during the severe economic downturn, Cal Heights weathered the storm with far less severity than other similar but non-historic local neighborhoods and those homes that maintained their historic integrity and charm sold much more quickly and for significantly higher prices.

Our tours have raised over \$100,000 that has been reinvested back into the neighborhood, funding ongoing and past projects like the Cal Heights Mural by Art Mortimer, our historic district street signs, tree plantings and care efforts, Clean Streets litter pickups and alley cleanups and our signature lamppost restoration project that started it all. The Home & Garden Tour efforts have been made possible thanks to countless volunteer hours over the years, the dedicated generosity of homeowners willing to open their homes and gardens, and thousands of paying guests who enjoy the Cal Heights charm and appreciate the value that maintaining our historic integrity offers. With robust returns, we hope to complete the lamppost project with a final installation of replicate vintage tops in 2014.

The 2013 Home & Garden Tour, Sunday, Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm. Complete info: [calheights.org/home\\_tour.htm](http://calheights.org/home_tour.htm). ❁

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Is there ever enough thanks doled out to volunteers? No purer form of generosity exists, and far too often volunteers find themselves and their work dismissed as something that's done by those who have nothing better to do with their time. Much of what volunteers do and accomplish is real work; from the drudgery and minutia of office work to dedicated physical labor and everything in between. The fact that volunteers willingly work for no pay is testament to their constitutions, dedication and concern for the larger world around them. The time that some of our most proficient volunteers donate is time they could otherwise spend bringing home the almighty dollar to their own households instead of saving taxpayers the added expense or providing that little extra something that would not have been otherwise afforded.

Yet, volunteers, by their very nature, don't require thanks to continue what they do. But make no mistake, expressed appreciation, we all know, goes a long way toward making us feel better about moving forward in all that we do, especially at those times when it seems that no good deed goes unpunished. As president of this little association, I've done my best to thank those who donate their time, resources and talents to our pursuits. No matter how small the effort or minute the time spent, the fact that they did it at all is reason to celebrate.

And celebrate we should. As we move into the final preparation stages for our fourteenth Home & Garden Tour and take a moment to ponder the time and effort that has gone into their production over the years, what a remarkable feat it has been! If we each consider the busy lives we lead, responsibilities we accept and recognize what little time we have leftover, how amazing is it that so many found the thousands of hours to dedicate not only to the tour itself, but to all the pursuits it has made possible for our little neck of the world, all virtually free of labor expenses!

I am grateful to all our volunteers, past and present, and express my own heartfelt appreciation for those of you who do take the opportunity to utter those two incredibly magical, healing words so often taken for granted. Thank you. It means so much.

To volunteer for the Home & Garden Tour, leave contact info at 424-6727, or [hometour@calheights.org](mailto:hometour@calheights.org). \*



John Royce  
CHNA President

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Gratitude      Mahalo  
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## Summer Festival Thanks

CHNA thanks all who assisted or set aside a bit of your weekend to attend our Summer Festival fundraiser on August 10<sup>th</sup> hosted by Roxanne's Lounge. While we fell short of covering the travel expenses for our 2013 Neighborhoods, USA effort in Minneapolis in May, we made a healthy dent. Our three participating board members, who donated five days of their time and many hours of preparation, will each receive approximately \$850 in reimbursement to help pay for their airline, hotel and taxi expenses.

As a first of its kind event for us, there were many lessons learned. We'll tuck them in for future contemplations about hosting another. But thanks to all who pitched in, we came out ahead, and that spells success!

In alphabetical order: Aquarium of the Pacific, Averyboo Arts, Baskin Robbins, Blackbird Café (generously donated 100% of their food proceeds!), Bouffant Hair Parlor, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Cal Heights neighbors and community friends, Chef Tech Cooking School, Cherry Hill Auto Wash, Councilmember James Johnson & staff, Delius Restaurant, Don & Harold's Auto Care, The Federal Bar Pine Avenue, Gondola Getaway, Hole' Mole' Tacos, JetBlue Airways, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach Ballet Co., Morrison, LaRossa, Price & Iturrioz, APC, No Resistance Wear, Orange Avenue Salvage, Red Eye Media, Roxanne's Lounge, Sharron Weissman, Maria Weston Certified Massage Therapist, Surrender Salon, The Vintage Emporium, Willmore Wine Bar. Thank you all for your generosity. \*



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## Cal Heights Vintage Tee



We sold almost 100 of our new Cal Heights T-shirts via Red Eye Media's live screen printing at the Cal Heights Summer Festival! The design, along with a limited edition tee, will be available at the Home & Garden Tour on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The "Vintage" tee can also be printed by request at Red Eye Media's live screen printing tent at First Fridays in October for only \$7 each! ✱

Show this card and enjoy a discount at the following restaurants:

Baba Ghanouj	4276 Atlantic	\$15 off 2 dinners & one bottle of brown wine
Baja Sonora	3502 Atlantic	15% off all food & drink
Black Bird Cafe	3405 Orange	10% off all food & drink
Cafe Bixby & Pizza	3900 Atlantic	15% off all food & drink
Delius	2951 Cherry	10% off all food & drink
Ej Malloy's	4306 Atlantic	10% off all food & drink
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Red Brick Pizza	4085 Atlantic	Buy 1 get 1 free
Roxanne's Lounge	1115 Wardlow	15% off all food & drink



## Dining Card Returns with Home Tour Ticket Purchases

Once again, tour goers and volunteers receive the Cal Heights Dining Discount Card, our way of promoting the local eateries that share our community. The specified discounts are good repeatedly through the end of the year, so don't forget to show your card and save! Used well, it could more than cover the cost of your tour ticket! ✱

## Orozco's Adopts the Cal Heights Truck

It's been over a decade since the Cal Heights mascot truck was renovated. In fact, 2014 will mark the tenth anniversary of its appearance in Sunset Magazine! The canvas top has deteriorated and the wood finish is getting a bit, well, unfinished! Our wonderful community partners, Servando and Cindy Orozco of Orozco's Auto Service have generously offered to pay for the renovation project. We're not sure if we can swing it in time, but we're doing our best to have it done before the Home & Garden Tour. Either way, it will enjoy a facelift soon thanks to neighborly generosity. ✱





## John Brinkmann



We're honored that John Brinkmann, founder and publisher of American Bungalow Magazine, agreed to speak at our tour, extolling the virtues of small home living, exemplified by the Spanish, Craftsman, Tudor and Neo-traditional bungalows of Cal Heights.

John has bungalows in his blood. Both grandfathers built bungalows for a living, and John grew up in the family bungalow where his mother still lives.

Early in his career as a graphic designer studying in Europe, John discovered that his employer had a library of Arts and Crafts magazines that he pored over during his lunch breaks.

Back in LA 20 years later, John moved his thriving graphic communications business from metropolitan LA into a 1914 bungalow in Sierra Madre for a more pleasant atmosphere in which to spend all those working hours. He found that many of his corporate clients enjoyed leaving their chic high-rise offices to visit his snug bungalow studio. One rainy evening in 1987, while sitting by his fireplace, this native Californian, avid mountaineer and outdoorsman, had an inspiration. Popular shelter magazines had completely ignored the bungalow in favor of Victorian and Early American styles. But John had witnessed first hand the enthusiasm and interest so many had shown in his bungalow. Why not start a newsletter for bungalow owners? American Bungalow Magazine was born! \*

## LB Open Studio Tour - October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

October is Arts Month, a fitting time to celebrate the craftsmanship and architecture by the artisans who built many of our unique homes.

On the weekend before the Home Tour, our city's local artists open their studios to the public for a peak at what they've been up to over the past year. For this year's Open Studio Tour, sponsored by Arts Council for Long Beach, 31 local artists invite you to the homes and studios where their creative juices flow, from Belmont Heights to Wrigley, and the East Long Beach Ranchos to Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls! The studios are open from noon to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday. [LBopenstudiotour.com](http://LBopenstudiotour.com) \*

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## School Days - News from Longfellow Elementary by Longfellow PTA President, Jeff Price

As you know, our Longfellow Lions started school on September 4<sup>th</sup>. It was great seeing so many enthusiastic students at school ready to learn. As PTA President and Chair of the School Site Council, I'd like to remind you:

- Please use caution when driving near and around Longfellow. We have 1100 students arriving between 7:45 and 8:00 am. Please be alert, look out for our kids, and slow down. Adding a minute or two to your drive could save a life.
- I would like to thank *Out and About Long Beach* for its generous grant of \$2000 to the Longfellow PTA. This money will help support our Meet the Masters art program, provide listening stations for our first grade classrooms, and help purchase much needed playground equipment.
- Trunk or Treat is coming!! Join us on October 25<sup>th</sup> for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat event, with food trucks, silent auction, fun events, and cars decorated for Halloween with trunks full of candy!! Email me for information: [pricejs@aol.com](mailto:pricejs@aol.com) \*



## Jog-A-Thon Returns!

by Trina Rufo, Longfellow PTA Community & Business Liaison

Longfellow Elementary School's Annual Jog-A-Thon Fundraiser is early this year! In an effort to raise the bulk of our badly needed funds, the PTA Board has moved this event to Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, rather than March. We have found that our donors seem better able to donate at the beginning of the school year. If we reach our goal of \$75,000, it will alleviate the necessity to host other fundraisers later in the year. The PTA helps to fund ALL field trips, the music program, supplements our P.E. equipment, teacher classroom enhancements, and even other schools that do not have active PTAs to organize fundraising events. Longfellow has had very strong support from local families and businesses over the past several years. If you would like to make a donation, gift basket or gift certificate, please contact me: 562-896-9716 or [trinarufo@gmail.com](mailto:trinarufo@gmail.com). Your support will continue to make Longfellow Elementary School the very, very best! \*

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## From the 7<sup>th</sup> District

James Johnson Councilmember

After years of tough budget decisions, for the first time in a decade, we have a budget surplus. The budget passed by City Council begins to reinvest in our city.

It is important to reflect on how we came back to fiscal health. We faced our problems head-on. While some other cities endlessly deferred maintenance, we increased our spending on infrastructure, realizing that letting our assets deteriorate does not save money but simply shifts the rapidly escalating costs to future budgets. We reinstituted our street maintenance budget, which had previously been eliminated in 2003. We increased tree trimming to get back to a standard trim cycle, instead of waiting for overgrown or diseased trees to fall and damage property. We worked in partnership with our employees to reform pensions, saving \$215 million over the next ten years. This year's budget will also allow for responsible investments to improve quality of life for our residents, including an additional \$400,000 for libraries, almost \$8 million extra dollars for infrastructure like streets, sidewalks, and parks, as well as \$2.46 million for reserves and unfunded liabilities.

As you know, the City was awarded a grant to plant 6,000 trees in the western parts of our city. The 7<sup>th</sup> District is leading the way, with more plantings than any other district and we hope to extend our lead. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, I will be co-hosting a tree planting with the BKBIA and the CHNA. Contact me if you'd like a tree in the parkway in front of your home or if you'd like to help us plant trees.

Finally, you've likely noticed the construction on Orange Ave. The Water Department is upgrading their equipment at Orange and Wardlow in preparation for the upcoming repaving of Orange Avenue. Like we did on Wardlow Road, we are trying to do as much utility work as possible now so that we can avoid ripping up a brand new street later. Orange Avenue reconstruction is slated to begin this fall. While the construction has been long, it will result in a brand new street which will be a big improvement for the neighborhood.

Yours Truly,  
James

As always, if you need to reach me, you can email [District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com](mailto:District7@JamesJohnsonLB.com) or call (562) 570-7777.

I'll see you soon in the community. ✿



## At the Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster

The Dana Library has been the beneficiary of much neighborhood support throughout the years. As I thought about the topic for this column, I decided everyone probably knew school was starting, but many may not know about some of the support the Dana Library receives from our patrons and neighbors. Here are a few of the volunteer projects and donations:

**The library is very proud of our front garden,** and it was a volunteer project almost 10 years ago. Exclusively native Southern California plants (except maybe one or two) the garden was installed by a group of volunteers led by John Royce. The old plants were removed, a drip system put in, and the beautiful plants you see thriving there today were planted. The garden is still maintained on a volunteer basis by John Royce, who stops by periodically to tidy up and control the wild nature of some of the plants.

Dana Library has also been the recipient of **two Eagle Scout projects in the past few years.** The first was the ship sign in front of the library. Using the library's seafaring namesake as an inspiration, Matthew Jones designed, built, and installed the sign for his Eagle Scout project. The other Eagle Scout project is inside the library and unless you are attending one of the weekly story times, you probably won't see it. In 2009, Luke Higbee designed, built, and delivered a lovely cabinet to store the toys, props, and oversized books used during story time.

**The Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach Kiwanis** is also a strong supporter of the library, but they aren't doing construction projects. No, what they do is donate a children's book in honor of their guest speaker each month. Perhaps you have seen their bookplate in one of the almost 30 books they have already given the library? The library has received titles for kids of all ages by authors ranging from Dr. Seuss to Carl Hiaasen. **The Bixby Knolls Literary Society** also has a presence in the library. Each month Blair Cohn donates that month's title to the "Bixby Knolls Literary Society Collection." The collection is nearly complete with just a few of the earliest titles missing.

The library thanks these organizations and individuals, as well as our "regular" volunteers, who help out with less visible or glamorous projects and programs. \*

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### From the North Division

Robert Luman - LBP North  
Division Commander

The kids are back in school and fall is here! Please remember that our local streets are filled once again with kids heading to and from school in the mornings and afternoons; extra caution ensures safety for all. Also, Halloween

is just around the corner, so please take precautions while planning holiday outings and events to keep it safe and fun.

- Be sure your child's activities are age-appropriate
- All children should be accompanied by an adult
- Only visit well lighted homes; never go into a stranger's house
- Stay on the sidewalk and only cross at corners
- Stay in well populated areas; never cut through alleys or parks
- Apply reflective tape to costumes; use glow sticks for visibility
- Use face paint instead of masks that may block vision
- Map out routes ahead of time and carry a flash light
- Ensure tips of props (pitchfork, sword, etc.) are smooth
- Be cautious of animals and keep pets indoors
- Inspect candy before eating
- Program LBP's non-emergency number, (562) 435-6711, into your cell phone and report any suspicious or illegal activity immediately, or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Reminder: Curfew law prohibits anyone 17 years old or younger from being out past 10 pm without a parent/guardian, unless going to or returning home from work or an organized event supervised by an adult, without detours or stops. ✱

### GET YOUR HOME TOUR TICKETS!

Tickets on sale now at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org)! New this year, invite friends and family to share their recollections of Cal Heights and our local community with Cal Heights' own Rachael Rifkin, who will record memories for posterity before they are lost in time.

Also, 120 volunteers provide the backbone for our tour! Volunteer docents receive a free ticket! Please email [hometour@calheights.org](mailto:hometour@calheights.org) if interested.



## Bizz Buzz

### Atun Opens it's Doors - 4262 Atlantic Ave

When Chef David Santiago pulled out of Atun this summer, it created an opportunity to land the eclectic culinary history of Executive Chef, Yama. His experience with French, Italian and the traditional Japanese sushi and yakitori cuisine of his homeland, promise a premium local culinary adventure! If you've been out on the street during the past two First Fridays, then you've seen the stunning décor, complete with a deep set entrance that offers semi sheltered outdoor dining that should offer reasonable comfort even in winter. By the time you read this, if all goes as planned, anticipatory local diners should have already beat you to the table! ✱



### Eco Corner

This year, CHNA responds to requests for a more bike friendly Home & Garden Tour. Thanks to our partnership with **Bikeable Communities**, we will have bike racks and volunteers at each tour location. Since this is our first

effort, we're taking a stab in the dark guessing how many guests will attend on their bikes.

### Local Tree Plantings

These events are outside of Cal Heights, but that has never stopped us from participating in tree planting and tree care projects along the commercial corridors, parks and vacant lots in our area, Wrigley, Westside, East Village and Central Long Beach over the years.

**Saturday, October 5**, 9am to 12pm - As part of the Port of Long Beach's 6000 tree grant program, the 7th District Council Office and Neighborhood Services, with help from various local organizations, including the BKBIA, TreePeople and Cal Heights Releaf, request volunteers to help green the streets bounded by Long Beach Blvd., Atlantic Avenue, Bixby and Wardlow roads, staging at the Long Beach Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue.

**Saturday, November 9**, 9am to 12pm - Wrigley is Going Green takes advantage of the Port's grant as well. As in the past, we hope some our veteran volunteers return the favor to assist our Wrigley neighbors. After all, every tree in our city cleans and adds oxygen to the air we all need to breathe easier. Volunteers meet at Walgreen's at the corner of Willow/Pacific.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Visit the **Cal Heights Facebook page** to get all calendar items  
[facebook.com/calheights](https://facebook.com/calheights)

**Thursdays:** 8:30 am litter pick up - see [calheights.org](http://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](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com)

**Every third Sunday:** Kidical Mass [bixbyknollsinfo.com](http://bixbyknollsinfo.com)

**Saturday Oct 5** – South of Bixby Tree Planting – see page 8

**Sunday Oct 20** - 2013 Home & Garden Tour; 10am-4pm; check in begins at Longfellow School, 3800 Olive Ave at 9:30am; Guest Speaker John Brinkmann, 10am at Longfellow Auditorium, tour of homes/gardens 11am-4pm

**Saturday night, November 3** - we get the hour back we gave up last spring! Clocks fall back one hour at midnight! It's a great time to change smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries, adjust light timers and porch lights and remind ourselves to be extra careful while we adjust to commuting, shopping and walking in the dark.



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brokers

**Connie**  
Broker, GRI, Cal Heights Specialist  
CPRES - Certified Probate Specialist

• BRE#01221986 **(562) 824-4846**

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7<sup>th</sup> District Council - James Johnson  
**570-7777** email: [district7@longbeach.gov](mailto:district7@longbeach.gov)

8<sup>th</sup> District Council - Al Austin  
**570-1326** email: [district8@longbeach.gov](mailto:district8@longbeach.gov)

54<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal  
**495-2915** web: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54)

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

California Heights ReLeaf  
**997-9094**

Community Watch North Division  
**570-9825 or 570-9827**

Dana Branch Library  
**570-1042**

Fire Department  
**570-2500**

Graffiti Paint-Out  
**570-2773**

Garage Sale Hotline  
**570-YARD (9273)**

Long Beach Building Department  
**570-6651**

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

Neighborhood Preservation Information  
**570-6194**

Parkway Tree Trimming  
**570-2700**

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

Police North Substation Information  
**570-9800**

Senior Check-In  
**570-7212**

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

SoCal Harvest  
**(323) 678-6036**

Street Potholes  
**570-3259**