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Orange Avenue Repairs

In August of last year, the Public Works department for the City of Long Beach, and the Seventh District Council Office held a community meeting to discuss the condition of Orange Avenue between Bixby and Wardlow. Currently this entire half-mile stretch of Orange Avenue is cement, as are the rest of the streets in and throughout California Heights, west of Walnut Avenue. North of Bixby and south of Wardlow is already asphalt. The purpose of the community meeting was to answer questions about the City's proposal to resurface this stretch of Orange in an asphalt "strip." Concerns were voiced about the aesthetic and practical impacts of changing this section of Orange over to asphalt, and the concerns of many current residents of Orange Avenue with regard to a pressing need to take action to improve the condition of this stretch of Orange Avenue.

Of the alternatives discussed in that meeting, it seems only two are viable. The City's proposal is asphalt overlay for a cost of about \$435,630. This would include the asphalt overlay on the center of the street, curb reconstruction, and some sidewalk replacements. At the time of the meeting, the City had funds available to move forward with the asphalt option. The other alternative was a complete concrete replacement for a cost of approximately \$1.3 million. Were that option chosen, we would likely need to wait some time, as the majority of that funding was not available as of last August.

There are significant pros and cons to each option. Asphalt is much less expensive, would be a significantly shorter project with less interruption to the homes and businesses along that section of Orange, and would reduce tire noise from its current levels. It would probably also significantly increase the heat in that area. Cement, while being more expensive, would likely reduce tire noise, would take longer to set, and probably be a longer project overall. Additionally, it would preserve the character of a major thoroughfare running through the heart of our neighborhood.

The CHNA is working with the 7th District Council Office to arrange another community meeting in the next month or two to get updates on the estimated costs of the options being discussed and to answer any community concerns. Our goal in setting this meeting with Council Member Uranga's office is to follow up with balloting to the entire Cal Heights neighborhood to determine which course of action we, as a neighborhood, wish to pursue. We will publicize the meeting through our usual outlets; Facebook, Next Door, and the calheights.org website as soon as a date and location is chosen. If you have any specific questions, or points to raise during the meeting, please feel free to send them to info@calheights.org or Council Member Uranga's office directly. We'll work to ensure many questions get answered during this meeting so that we can move forward to a decision on how to proceed. ↩

President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

Late July seems like a pretty good time for a Summer Celebration, doesn't it? I mean, we've got lots to celebrate here in Cal Heights. I still flush with pride when I see our street lamps; we just recently had a huge (and hugely successful) tree planting; and by the time you receive this issue, we should have just completed a summer 'tree care' event for those same newly planted trees. We continue to make progress on a mural project at the California Heights Market, and not too long ago had a successful community meeting with the Commander of the North Division. There's been a lot going on, and it seems to be going well!

So on Saturday, July 23, we hope you'll join us for a block party. We're going to be closing the 3600 block of Cerritos Avenue to through traffic, pulling out (a few) grills, setting up some Port-a-Shade, some tables, and potlucking as only Cal Heights can potluck. There's going to be a live band, fun (albeit economical) entertainment for kids of a variety of ages (I will try to make myself share the bubbles, but I'm not making any promises), and we're trying to arrange for a tasty surprise that will be sure to please on a late July afternoon and evening.

We'll be going from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and we will have the 'grillable' basics covered. Bring enough of your favorite side, salad or dessert to share, grab the family, and come on over! Much of the CHNA board will be in attendance, both selling Cal Heights merch (new run of T-shirts and tote bags!), and making ourselves available for whatever bouquets or brickbats you may want to throw our way.

Kindly,



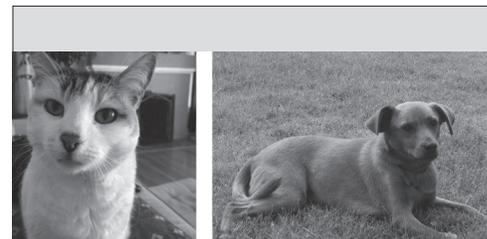
Hugh Little, CHNA President



Block Party Saturday July 23
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
3600 block of Cerritos

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

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



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

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

Ah, summer in Cal Heights. What summertime traditions does your family celebrate? Do you attend the concerts in the park, stroll through First Fridays, have a pool party or maybe enjoy a backyard BBQ with your neighbors? We consider our neighbors one of our greatest treasures, and celebrating with them is a time-honored tradition. While we may be in the waning days of summer, perhaps it is not too early to plan for Christmas!

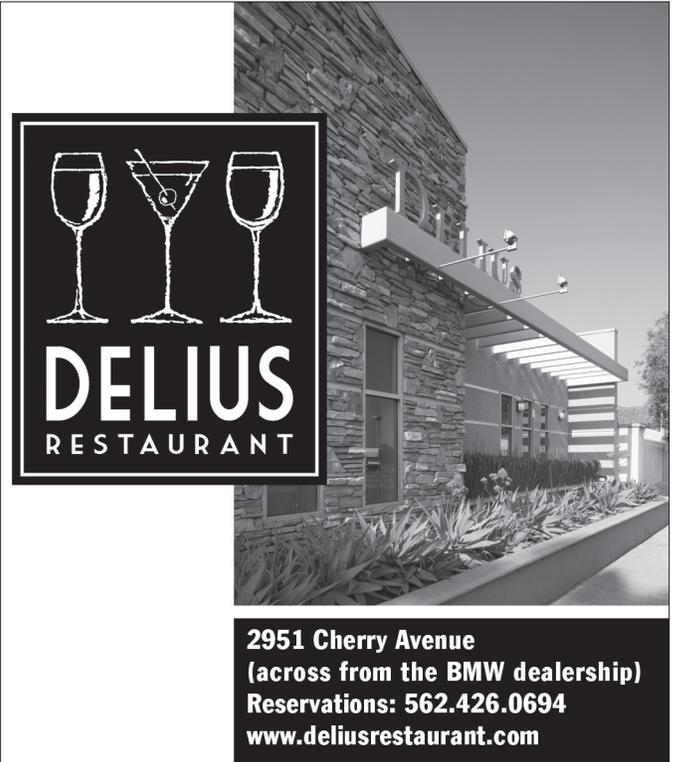
Joe and Marie DiMassa have been celebrating a wonderful tradition on Myrtle Avenue for over 20 years, the Annual Progressive Christmas Party. It all began with an idea to see everyone's decorations, enjoy a bite to eat and sip some Christmas cheer. The merry band of neighbors would move from house to house and finish with holiday desserts and a raucous white elephant game, with some of the more "unique" gifts showing up year after year. An especially kitschy Sleeping Snoring Santa has made the rounds for years.

The DiMassa's are also linked to two of Long Beach's greatest industries. When they purchased their beautiful colonial home in 1978, the seller was looking for help in his company, Cavins Oil Well Tools, and hired Marie. Through the next 35 years Marie saw the company's fortunes fluctuate with the price of oil, all while learning every aspect of the business - from doing payroll manually in the early days to managing the office and processing thousands of orders for equipment. Marie stated that the equipment has not changed much over time. In fact, the drill bits are the same as when Howard Hughes Sr. (father of the famous tycoon) invented them.

In 1965, Joe began his long association with the Port of Long Beach, beginning as a manager with Matson Navigation Company. "When I started, the Port of Los Angeles had one crane and Long Beach had two - today there are over 120 cranes." Moving almost 7 million containers a year also causes pollution, and Joe was on a team to help the port go 'green' by constructing docks that allowed ships to run on electricity instead of running their diesel engines.

I consider myself fortunate to be part of the Annual Progressive Christmas Party on Myrtle Ave. We consider ourselves one large extended family and have welcomed new members over the years and miss the ones who have moved on. It is a wonderful tradition we hope carries on for years to come...now, where did I put that Sleeping Snoring Santa? 🐉

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Caring For Your Trees During the Drought

By Nicole Weaver (13 year old Cal Heights resident & member of Girl Scout Troop 2003)

For many years we've been experiencing a drought, and El Niño did not bring the rain we hoped for in Southern California, so we need to be extra careful when it comes to taking care of our trees.

When in a drought, residents need to use less water, and use it more wisely. Keeping your trees alive is important and has many benefits. Trees provide shade which reduces water needs and keeps our homes cooler in summer, they clean the air and create oxygen, reduce soil erosion, and also raise property values!

To keep your mature trees alive during a drought, you need to water them deeply and slowly. You might consider installing a drip system or a soaker hose. You need to water the area under the canopy and a few feet past the edge of the branches. It is important to remember NOT to water too much at the base of a mature tree, because that can cause it to rot. Give mature trees at least two deep soaks per year, once in late winter (or early spring if winter rains didn't come), and once in late June or early July to get through the hot summer. Deep soaks are important because it ensures that their roots will be deep in the ground, which means the trees will be more sustainable, sturdy, and more likely to be drought tolerant. Your lawn watering system will NOT provide enough water to reach your trees' deeper roots and will cause the roots to surface, creating safety problems along with sidewalk damage. If you have a native California oak tree, you should NOT water it during the summer!

If you have a newly planted tree, it is crucial that you water it. New trees need about fifteen to twenty gallons of water once to twice a week during their first month in the ground and often through their first summer. You can use a five-gallon bucket to make it easier to know how much to water. Putting mulch around your young trees also helps; it slows evaporation, keeps weeds down, prevents a hard crust from forming, and keeps the root zone cool, which makes a healthier environment for your young tree.

You might also consider letting your lawn sleep or go golden for a year or two to help keep your trees healthy. Some of the water you save can be used to deep water your trees! Lawns are something easier and quicker to replace than trees are and don't provide nearly as much oxygen or clean air.

Remember, healthy trees make healthy people and healthy neighborhoods! 🌳

Fitness Corner

By Christa Stelzmuller

It's summer, and if you're anything like me, this means it's time to get outside and enjoy some nature with a lovely hike. We're very lucky here in Long Beach to be near the Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountains, and we have hikes to choose from at all levels.

Sometimes, though, I don't have time to drive 20 minutes to a hike, but I still want to take a moment to get outside, breathe some fresh air, get the heart pumping, and feel like I've stepped out of the city. This is where our local El Dorado Park is this perfect gem in Long Beach.

El Dorado Park offers 2 miles of nature trails on 105 acres that take you around lakes, a stream, through trees, and offer plenty of opportunity for spotting a wide variety of birds. Everything from herons, woodpeckers, and ducks to hawks, osprey, and owls can be found if you're lucky. It's an easy level hike that is especially fun with children as they love to discover the lizards, butterflies, and other small creatures. I know for myself, when I'm walking on the trails, I often forget I'm in an urban setting, and I feel invigorated and refreshed for taking a small part of my day to just enjoy my surroundings.

There is a vehicle entrance fee between \$5 and \$7; and this summer there will be some improvements happening at the nature center, so make sure to call ahead to ensure the trails are open. Other than that, I hope you enjoy this lovely sanctuary close to home that offers us a wonderful mental and physical break from the day-to-day!



El Dorado Nature Center - Photo by Danny Bradfield



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Heart and Home - It Watches the Sun

By Bungalow Kev Doherty

Along California's coastal roads while hitchhiking through the fragrant summers of my youth, I developed a deep love of local floral and fauna. I'd pick native plant seeds in fields along the roadside, plant them at home and have living reminders of freewheeling days and warm nights sleeping out under the stars in open fields overlooking the Pacific.

Back in the day, no one in suburbia considered planting what were thought of as "weeds," opting instead for benign lawns with neat borders of annuals. Fast-forward 50 years, and things have changed considerably for the better.

Native plants have become very popular, offering the perfect landscape choice given our need to conserve water. While there are hundreds of available water-wise species, consider choosing shrubs and trees that actually grew abundantly in our own locale until development destroyed 90% of what we call Coastal Sage Scrub. The species that comprise this plant community are best suited to our climate and soil. You can still experience Coastal Sage Scrub gracing the rolling hillsides along old Pacific Coast Highway from South Laguna Beach down to San Diego. There are also nature reserves along the way such as El Elijo or Torrey Pines that you can visit, take hikes and gather a sense of how these fragrant plants grow, coalesce and comprise the natural landscape.

Las Pilitas Nursery in Escondido and Tree Of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano specialize in growing native Californian plants and offer a wealth of online information for do-it-yourself landscapers and professionals. Here you will find a list of the classic Sage Scrub plants and suggestions for grouping them in your garden.

I love the garden I recently designed for our bungalow! I named it Nahekwi, a local tribal word for one of our showy yellow flowers meaning, "It watches the sun." All these fragrant plants produce blossoms that attract butterflies, bees and birds; so we often sit out on the front porch, sip tea, and witness the poetic flow of wildlife in a landscape that harkens to a valuable part of old California now all but disappeared.



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From the North

Commander Rudolph Kosmiza

Recently the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association reached out to my office and requested a community meeting. On June 13th I met with community members and listened to concerns about what feels like an increase in criminal activity in our area.

While our crime statistics are still much lower than they have been in recent years, we are experiencing an increase in auto break-ins. I ask that residents of Cal Heights, and all residents in the North Division, be diligent in not leaving any personal possessions inside a vehicle. Even items like a gym bag or loose change are inviting to a criminal. If residents and the North Division work with one another to be problem solvers, together we can reduce the amount of auto break-ins.

Also on the topic of working together, The LB Police Department is currently accepting applications for its Senior Police Partner Program, with interviews expected to begin on July 25, 2016. Senior Police Partners are a motivated volunteer team dedicated to improving our community.

They provide the following services: crime victim assistance and peer support / resource referral, vacation checks, graffiti reporting, limited safety patrols, handicap parking citation issuance, community presentations, education and awareness programs, and assist at DUI checkpoints.

Requirements to apply: Be at least 50 years of age, good moral character, no felony convictions, good physical health, ability to volunteer at least 20 hours per month, possess valid California driver's license and vehicle insurance. For more information or to request an application, please call (562) 570-7212 or email LBPDPVolunteer@longbeach.gov.





From the 7th
Roberto Uranga Councilmember

Summer is here and there are several events and news happening in the Seventh District.

As part of the Seventh District's ongoing community improvements, we have removed the oleander bush on Cherry Avenue from E. Wardlow Rd. to Carson.

The oleander bush was diseased and dying due to an insect infestation. Upon completion of the oleander removal, we will make improvements to the irrigation system and replant a hopseed bush variety that will provide a screening and barrier along the median, similar to the oleander bush.

I encourage you to take the opportunity this summer to visit the upgrades at Longview Point, located atop the highest hill of Willow Springs Park. Approximately 250 new native, drought-tolerant plants were added. A drip irrigation was augmented to support the establishment of these plants, and several invasive trees were removed. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine will begin grading and construction at the site in August 2016.

We welcome POW! WOW! Long Beach to the Seventh District, beginning Monday, July 11 until Sunday, July 17. Mural artists will be at several locations in Long Beach, including at your local neighborhood coffee shop, Steelhead Coffee, 1208 E. Wardlow Road. This world-renowned outdoor art festival is described as a gathering that celebrates culture, music, and art. Check out the full schedule online at www.powwowlongbeach.com/schedule/.

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine, Aquatics, in partnership with Long Beach Unified School District, is offering swimming lessons, lap swim, recreation swim, water exercise classes and LA84 foundation programs for youth ages 7-17 years. For more information, please call 562-570-3232.

Please mark your calendar and join us for our Seventh District Harbor Cruise, Wednesday, August 24th, at 6 pm. This guided tour of the Port of Long Beach is always a wonderful and informative event. Space is limited; to reserve your seat, please contact our office.

Respectfully yours,
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach,
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At Your Local Library

by Melissa L. Strasser

Branch Librarian - DANA Neighborhood Library

Hello Neighbors...

Though the heat is really just starting, summer is winding down and DANA Library is mostly recovering from our very busy Summer Reading Challenge. If you haven't come in to claim your prizes, hurry in before Saturday, August 20th.

Our biggest news is bittersweet and tough to break:

The sweet news is that DANA Library has done some really great stuff over the past two years and staff have recently been recognized for all their work.

The bitter news is that many of the staff you know and love will be moving to the new Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library to continue their great adventures.

Fear not, DANA Library will remain open. Some new faces have come to meet you and I've told them already that you are friendly folk, warm and welcoming, so I expect you to be on your best behavior. Silke Kinoshita and Scott Russell have worked for LBPL for a long time; they are smart and seasoned.

As for me, Cal Heights will hold fast to a soft place in my heart. Please don't be surprised if you see me (or Shaina) moving into the neighborhood at some point. This will always be my Long Beach home. We will definitely miss you.

Please come and see us,

melissa l. strasser

Branch Librarian

DANA Neighborhood Library

3680 Atlantic Ave., (562) 570-1042 ↗

LET'S WALK!

The Cal Heights Pavement Pounders have been walking since April 6th. We will now start walking three miles in all different directions around our neighborhood. Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Lemon and Wardlow.

Details will be on our facebook page: [facebook.com/calheightspavementpounders](https://www.facebook.com/calheightspavementpounders)

Memorial Day at Rosie the Riveter Park

by Ellen Rooney

Memorial Day 2016 marked the unveiling of the Honoring Our Fallen Memorial Wall at Rosie the Riveter Park at 4900 East Conant Street in Long Beach. The wall is unique in that it honors the 6,864 US active service members lost since September 11, 2001, including those lost to suicide or accident.

Families of fallen service personnel were in attendance at the unveiling, as were current and past members of the US military. The event included a Marine color guard ceremony, dedication of the memorial, and casual picnicking. Commemorative stationery was provided to families to make rubbings of loved ones' names from the engraved plaques.

The wall was conceived by Laura Herzog, founder and CEO of Honoring Our Fallen. Speaking to the Long Beach Press Telegram before the unveiling, Ms. Herzog explained that she got the idea while working as a public affairs officer at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

The foundation has raised just over \$32,000 for the memorial wall through private donations, but more funds are needed to improve, update, and maintain the memorial, as well as recoup additional foundation funds used for completing the project.

Honoring Our Fallen raises funds to help families who have lost a beloved service member. They assist families with memorial arrangements in cooperation with the US military's Casualty Assistance officers. Additional support is given to grieving families through retreats and other social activities.

Rosie the Riveter Park was dedicated on March 24, 2007, to honor the women who worked in defense construction plants during World War II. It is a 3-acre park featuring an interactive history trail, audio features, and open green space.

For more information about Honoring our Fallen, or to donate, visit their website at www.honoringourfallen.org or call 800-796-6359 Rosie the Riveter Park: 562-570-1600.



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Long Beach in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

- Commander meeting
- Roxanne's Booze Cruise
- POW WOW! meeting at the Expo
- Removing dead oleander plants on Cherry
- Neighborhood cleanup
- July 4th celebration
- Clean Streets Team



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The local Kiwanis club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at The Breakfast Club. Drop-ins welcome! For questions, call BT Tuggle 562-254-1447.





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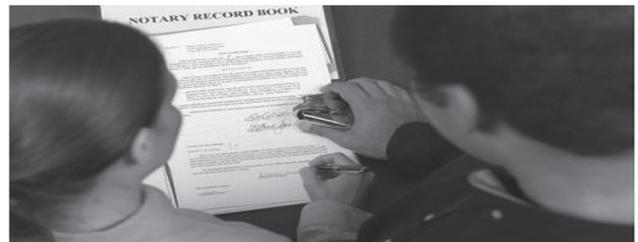
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IN THE KNOW'LLS
What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hi, Neighbors!

Summer in Bixby Knolls and we're writing to you pool-side! We hope your summer so far has been fun and full of adventures. We, of course, hope that you are also spending some time locally and supporting our local businesses!!

We encourage you to come enjoy **First Fridays** on August 5th with the theme of "World Fair." There will be an eclectic mix of music along with all of the great art, shops, restaurants, poets, performers, and s'mores. If you have not signed up for our newsletters, you can do so at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com.

Our monthly family bike ride, **Kidical Mass**, is set for Sunday, August 21st. This month's ride will feature the presentation of the annual "Iron Kid Award" to the most improved cyclist over the last year. The average age of the award winner has been 4!

Did you attend our two **Concerts in the Park(ing Lot)** so far? If so you enjoyed The Jazz Angels and the Boogaloo Assassins. We have one more great concert to bring you on August 22nd at 3745 Long Beach Boulevard. Come listen to Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra, the big band jazz arrangements of the 1940s colliding with the sound of early Jamaica! These extraordinary musicians have taken Jamaican music, added big band jazz arrangements, and created a sound unique unto itself. At a "standard" performance, there are more than 20 world-class jazz musicians. The featured performers in Western Standard Time have been awarded and/or nominated for Grammy Awards, performed on Oscar, Grammy, and

Emmy television broadcasts, and played with international stars and major motion picture soundtracks. Music begins at 6:30 pm Bring your lawn chairs, tables, and dancing shoes.

Did you know...?

Did you know that the BKBIA hires a private security company to patrol our district 5 nights and 3 days a week? **CSI Patrol Service**, a member of the BKBIA with their office located on Long Beach Boulevard, keeps an eye on every driveway, alley, and parking lot within the boundaries of 33rd Street and 46th Street on Atlantic Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. The company keeps an extra set of eyes on the street to make sure the area is safe for everyone. Look for them in their car or on Segway and say hello.

And did you know that the BKBIA has a **Clean Team** to pick up trash, report graffiti, water trees, and report issues to the city via the Go Long Beach app? Keeping the area clean and attractive is top priority for us, so we try to stay on top of these issues every day.

If you have not downloaded the Go Long Beach app on your phone yet, we highly recommend it. You can report all sorts of issues, from graffiti to illegally dumped items, and the city will respond quickly to remedy the situation. Check it out!

Enjoy these hot days of summer and we look forward to seeing you out and about. And remember to support your local businesses!

Find us and follow us:

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @bixbyknolls

We also encourage you to sign up for our newsletters at: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com

Also visit: Firstfridayslongbeach.com and Expoartscenter.org

And use the hashtags: #bixbyknolls #boughtitinbixby

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Visit the calheights.org for calendar events!

Wednesdays: Cal Heights Pavement Pounders Walking Group
6:30 to 7:30 pm Wardlow and Lemon

Thursdays: Litter pickup - 8:00 am meet at Wardlow & Lime

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

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass, bixbyknollsinfo.com

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO,
9 am to 1 pm longbeachrecycles.org

July 23rd Saturday - CHNA Neighborhood Block Party.
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, on the 3600 block of Cerritos. Music, food and socializing! We will have the 'grillable' basics covered. Bring enough of your favorite side, salad or dessert to share, grab the family, and come on over!

Check out the Free Concerts in the Park at Los Cerritos Park, Wednesday nights from June 29th through August 3rd at 6:30 pm

Mariachi Under the Stars with Gregorio Luke, Saturday, August 20, 2016, 8:00 pm at Los Cerritos Park. Please join Council Member Uranga for an evening exploring mariachi music, a distinctive cultural staple of the Mexican and Mexican American Community.

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. For more information or a submission, email newsletter@calheights.org



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Robert Garcia, Mayor
570-6801

Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

Al Austin, 8th District Council
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

Patrick O'Donnell, 70th Assembly District
562-495-2915

Ricardo Lara, State Senate 33rd District
562-256-7921

Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise
570-2665 / 570-2600

Building Department
570-6651

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

Code Enforcement
Monday thru Friday: 570-2633
Saturday: 570-0000
www.lbcode.org

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)

Neighborhood Preservation Information
570-6194

Parkway Tree Trimming
570-2700

Police Department Dispatch
435-6711 or Emergency 911

Police North Substation Information
570-9800

Senior Check-In
570-7212

Special Garbage Pickup (2 free per year)
570-2876

Street Potholes
570-3259