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## CHNA Board Members

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### President

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[hughlittle@gmail.com](mailto:hughlittle@gmail.com)

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### Community Liaison

John Royce

### Lamppost Restoration

Karen Highberger

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Tom Underhill

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### Newsletter Idea Submission

[newsletter@calheights.org](mailto:newsletter@calheights.org)

## Exciting Things in Store for 2015!

By Karen Highberger

2015 is a landmark year for Cal Heights. After 15 long years, we are completing the lamppost restoration project. The new tops have been installed, and installation of the engraved plaques is coming to a close. A very big thank you to all who have sponsored a lamppost, volunteered at the Home & Garden Tour, opened their homes and gardens for the tour, and faithfully attended the tour. Our hard work and tenacity have paid off!

As we complete this very ambitious project, we now need to look to the future for our next endeavor. The CHNA Board would like suggestions from residents as to what they would like the next project (or projects) to be. Together we can come up with some great projects. It could be mini beautification projects on the public right of way to enhance the walkability of our neighborhood, it could be sponsoring summer movie nights under the stars, or it could be signage at the main entrances to our neighborhood identifying Cal Heights - the list goes on.

Please take some time to consider what you think our neighborhood needs or what would enhance the quality of life for all residents. Please submit your ideas by email to [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org), leave a message at 562-424-6727 or post on [facebook.com/calheights](https://facebook.com/calheights). We really want to hear from you! 🐾

## ☑ Lamppost Restoration Project Completed!



Now on to our next project.

## President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

**I**t seems a little cosmically unfair that I am writing my spring letter to you with the ceiling fans going strong, the windows open, and the cats pretty much in torpor due to the temperature. Spring seems to have skipped out on us entirely, going directly from what passes for Winter to what feels like Summer.

As we begin to reap the benefits of the time change by having daylight into the evening again, it makes it so much easier to see all of the effort people have been putting into their lawns and homes over the past year. Fresh paint and drought-tolerant landscaping are showing up all over. We definitely seem to be getting our game face on for the Home Tour in October. Have you had any successes in preserving or restoring your home that you would like to share with the world? If so, please reach out to me so I can get you in contact with the Home Tour Selection Committee, who will very soon begin the critical task of determining the roster of homes and gardens. I should probably just apologize now and get it out of the way. I am afraid I am very likely to bring up the Home Tour in every message I write before October. I will do my best to try to keep it reasonably fresh.

In other news of direct impact to our neighborhood, 8<sup>th</sup> District Council Member Al Austin, and our 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Member Roberto Uranga proposed that the city effectively table discussion of Jet Blue's request to build a customs processing facility at Long Beach Airport until 60 days after a 4<sup>th</sup> District Council Member is seated and able to participate in deliberations. After that 60 days, City Staff will return to the Council for permission to begin studying the request. Whatever your view of Jet Blue's proposal, I think it is fairly safe to assume that the outcome of the decision is very likely to have a direct impact on our neighborhood for a long time to come. We now effectively have until early July to educate ourselves on the proposal and its potential impacts and to make sure our opinions are heard and considered in this matter.

Lastly, please do not forget to check in on the California Heights Neighborhood Association page on Facebook, and to our webpage at [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) to keep abreast of coming events and more. Also, pencil May 9<sup>th</sup> into your calendars for our next Cleanup and (Neighborhood -Wide) Block Party/Potluck. Hope to see you all there!

Kindly,

Hugh Little



CHNA President  
[hughlittle@gmail.com](mailto:hughlittle@gmail.com)

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## Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

If you grew up in the Long Beach area, you were probably familiar with Signal Hill when it was a very active oil field and not covered with nice houses and a park, as it is today. Back then we could practice driving, gaze at the view or even sneak a cuddle and kiss among the oil derricks, but did you ever race up it in a classic Model T Ford? From 1954 to 1976, the Long Beach Model T Club hosted the Signal Hill Climb, and as members, Jeff and Marsi Skinner saw their share of the action.

Jeff Skinner grew up in Long Beach and has always loved cars. In 1960 he married Marsi and they lived in Cal Heights, finally settling down on Falcon Ave in 1965, where they raised two children, Laura and Randy. Jeff continued to buy and restore all kinds of cars, eventually purchasing a Model T "in a trunk" - quite literally all the pieces of the car in the back of a truck. As Jeff lovingly restored the car in his garage, he was often joined by his neighbors who also enjoyed working on cars and boats, creating a community of gearheads up and down the alleyway.

Marsi fondly remembers the Long Beach Model T Club organizing monthly trips when the whole family would hop in the Model T, picnic baskets in tow, and head out together to great places like Rancho Los Amigos, the old Helms Bakery and local parks. One of the highlights of the year was attending and participating in the Model T Hill Climb up what was then known as Shell Hill. Crowds would gather along Hill and Obispo Streets to watch various types of Model T's "race" up the hill one by one to win trophies and bragging rights for the next year. The Skinners even placed in a few races in their "stock fordors" division. You can imagine the roar of the crowd and the thrill of watching as the classic cars mostly made it to the top. Some actually had to turn 180 degrees halfway up and then back up the hill to keep the gas flowing on that very steep incline.



The Skinners still drive that beautiful Model T painted a classic British Racing Green, and they often display it during the Cal

Heights Home tour. Be sure to keep a look out for it parked on the street - unfortunately, no longer "racing" up the hill. 🚗

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## Letter from Development Services

By Karen Highberger

By now, most residents have received a letter from Long Beach Development Services regarding historic properties. This correspondence is a reminder to all residents that California Heights is a Historic District and, as such, is subject to specific regulations. 7200 residents of all Historic Districts in the city have been sent this letter. For longtime residents, this is nothing new. It has just been a few years since the City has sent them out. The letters will be an annual mailing from this point on.

California Heights has benefited from the protections of Historic District designation, and it is the responsibility of residents to follow the guidelines of both the Secretary of Interior Standards and the California Heights Historic District Ordinance. More information on these guidelines can be found at [www.lbds.info](http://www.lbds.info) or at [www.calheights.org](http://www.calheights.org).

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for any exterior modification to a property, including paint colors, fences, hardscape or any other change to exterior finish materials. Failure to obtain the required Certificate of Appropriateness and a building permit, when necessary, can result in fines and other penalties, as noted in the LB Municipal Code. These guidelines help to preserve the character and architectural integrity of the homes in our neighborhood and maintain the charm of our streetscape. Since becoming a Historic District in 1990, California Heights has become an even more desirable area to live. The pride of ownership residents have, coupled with the adherence to the guidelines, has resulted in a beautifully maintained historic neighborhood and an increase in property values for all residents.

Following the guidelines is not as onerous as you might think. City staff is available to review and assist you with your project. Many things can be approved over the counter, such as paint colors and fences. Larger projects require review by the Cultural Heritage Commission. Staff can guide you on what is appropriate to your specific project and clarify the various guidelines. It is wise to have a preliminary meeting with Staff before incurring any fees from architects. It is much better to get the necessary approvals and permits rather than using inappropriate materials or designs and having to replace them at your expense, in addition to the fines.

It is up to all residents to work together to maintain this great neighborhood, and following the regulations of our Historic District is a key part. 🍷



## Mills Act Update

By Karen Highberger

At the January 6, 2015 City Council meeting, the Council voted to reinstate the Mills Act Property Tax Incentive Program for historic properties. The program was suspended in 2006, and residents have been patiently waiting for applications to again be accepted.

Entering into a Mills Act contract results in a property tax reassessment by the local county tax assessor, who assesses the property value by applying a complicated formula based on income capitalization, risk factors and expected life of the property. This new assessment generally results in an approximate 30-50% reduction in property taxes. The contract runs with the property and is passed onto subsequent owners. The contract is for a period of 10 years and automatically renews itself on a continuous basis unless the City takes steps to cancel the contract. Once the contract is cancelled, the actual termination date of the contract is 10 years from the date of cancellation.

Previously, contributing houses in Historic Districts were eligible to apply for a Mills Act contract. This is no longer the case with the reinstatement. All buildings who apply for a Mills Act contract must be listed as a local historic landmark. Typically, it is recommended that properties considered for a Mills Act contract have a high level of architectural integrity and significance and be in need of restoration that results in enhancing the architectural heritage of the entire community. The resulting public benefit helps to offset the reduced property tax revenue the City would receive. Currently, there are 113 designated local historic landmarks that would be eligible to apply for Mills Act contracts. At this point in time, Staff is recommending that a limited number of applications be accepted annually for the next five years. The recommendation is 12 single-family homes, 3 duplex or triplex, 1 multi-family building (4 or more units) and 1 non-residential building. In 2019, the program will be evaluated to assess the property tax reduction and overall effectiveness.

Currently, the fees have not yet been finalized. At the urging of Historic District residents and those in the preservation community, Staff is working on a combination fee for the landmark process and the Mills Act application, since much of the work is redundant.

For more information, please contact Long Beach City Development Services at 562-570-6194.

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## Call for Homes and Gardens!

By Karen Highberger

The Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>! The selection committee is currently looking for homes and gardens. If you are interested in opening your home and/or garden for the tour, please contact us. Or, if there is a home you have admired that you think might be tour material, please send us the address and we will contact the homeowner.

The selection committee schedules a 30-minute visit with the homeowner to walk through their home and gather information about the history of the home, descriptions of any improvement projects, etc. Once a variety of homes have been visited, the final selection is made. We like to have a total of five homes and two gardens for the tour.

Benefits to the homeowners include research on all building permits on your home, a great reason to complete the "honey-do" list and spruce up the garden, a fun Kick Off Party to meet the other homeowners, four complimentary tickets to the tour, and a beautiful portrait of your home by Ellen Kirk. Plus you get to enjoy the accolades and compliments from Home & Garden Tour attendees and volunteers on your beautiful home!

You get all this while making our major fundraiser a success. What's not to like? It really is a lot of fun and a wonderful way to meet new friends and neighbors. Contact us at [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org).



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# volunteering =

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization working to promote public knowledge and preservation of historic and architectural resources in the California Heights Historic District.

Being an active neighborhood association is no easy task and requires a great deal of volunteerism and support. The return is great; volunteering with CHNA creates a connection not only with the neighborhood you call home, but with fellow residents that you will most likely end up calling your friends.

Everyone is busy with family, work and other personal commitments, but Spring is here and it is a season of renewal and growth. Let's all take this opportunity to renew our commitment to our great neighborhood and grow our list of volunteers. Please contact CHNA and let us know your area of interest. Email [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org).

Volunteer positions available:

**Home & Garden Tour Docent:** Duties are once every two years. They consist of 2 ½ hour shifts at a home welcoming guests and telling them about the home (a script is provided), and includes free admission to the Tour.

**Clean Streets:** Clean Streets is a weekly trash abatement service. Volunteers meet every Thursday at 8 am at Wardlow and Lime and pick up in the business corridors. Volunteers usually clean until 10 am, but any amount of time is appreciated. The Clean Streets program also manages quarterly alley clean-ups and block parties. Our next one is scheduled for May 9, 2015 at Cerritos and 37<sup>th</sup>.

**Marketing and Social Media:** Are you a press release wizard? Can't get enough of facebook/instagram/twitter/pinterest? We are looking for support in getting the word out on all our community projects.

**The Heights Newsletter:** We love articles submitted by residents. Or, if you prefer walking over writing, we need assistance with newsletter delivery. It's distributed every other month, and it takes about an hour to deliver one street.

**Releaf:** Like to get your hands dirty? We are scheduling more tree plantings this year and would love your help.



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### Board Members:

The CHNA board is not at full strength. Our bylaws are written for us to have eleven members. Due to attrition, we have only nine members at present.

In the past, we have been able to fill vacancies largely by word of mouth – or, perhaps more accurately, by managing to find another volunteer willing to participate and serve. This time, though, the board is united in the desire to try to make the selection process a bit more democratic.

Organizing and executing the events and projects we undertake requires not only someone who is committed to the continual improvement of California Heights – but also requires someone who can actually commit time and effort to the realization of those improvements.

If you are interested, or even if you would like to know more before deciding if you are interested, please contact [hughlittle@gmail.com](mailto:hughlittle@gmail.com). He would be happy to answer any questions. Together we help keep Cal Heights the special place it is. 🐾



### Rethinking Single-Use

by John Royce

Judging by the litter our Clean Streets volunteers remove from our streets, parking lots and freeway ramps each week, much of the waste we create consists


of single-use disposables. Even if it doesn't get tossed carelessly onto our streets, it's clear indication that we all could reduce the amount of trash we produce by making a few simple changes. Do we really need 500 million plastic straws each DAY in the US? How about using a reusable container for that morning coffee shop visit? Starbucks alone goes through nearly 2 billion cups a year in the US/ Canada/UK; less than 2 percent are reusable. And, of course, the ubiquitous water bottle; 1500 every second in the US represents one of the most wasteful habits on the planet, consuming more water to produce than the water that's inside! If we're going to make a dent, taking personal responsibility to reduce our demand is the only way to go!



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## Matching Gift Program

By Tim Price

Does your employer offer a Matching Gift Program? The California Heights Neighborhood Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and eligible to receive funds from many sources, including the matching gift programs offered to employees of some companies. For example, if you write a check to CHNA for \$100, your company would issue CHNA a check for either the same (\$100) or twice (\$200) the amount.

In some cases, volunteer hours are matched. Monetary donations are offered as a match for an employee's volunteer work. Some examples in this case include companies donating a set dollar amount per hour of volunteering completed on an employee's own time or a certain amount after 20 to 50 hours of completed volunteer work.

Matching gift programs generally consist of five steps:

1. Individuals donate;
2. Nonprofits notify eligible donors;
3. Donors submit matching gift requests;
4. Nonprofits validate grant requests;
5. Corporations cut checks.

If your employer offers a Matching Gift Program, please consider donating to the California Heights Neighborhood Association. This provides a major source of fundraising for non-profit organizations. 🐾

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## Save Water - Try Meatless Mondays!

by Christa Stelmüller

Aside from the benefits to your health and wallet, eating vegetarian only once a week minimizes water usage. It takes considerably less water to produce one pound of vegetables as opposed to one pound of meat. This also gives you the opportunity to support local Long Beach farms like Kelli Johnson's Pop Up Farm Stand (Wednesdays, Noon - 6 pm in front of the Vintage Emporium), Farm Lot 59 (Willow Springs Park), and Gladys Avenue Urban Farm (1336 Gladys Avenue).

So give "Meatless Monday" a chance and try out some new recipes. Recipes by Beachgreens, another Long Beach business supporting local farms, can be found at [beachgreens.com/recipes](http://beachgreens.com/recipes).



## At Your Local Library

by Melissa L. Strasser - Dana Branch Librarian

For this issue, I wanted to take a moment to give a shout-out to some locals really making a difference at the Library. First, thank you to **Kathy Carey** and **Kathleen Deal**; both of these lovely ladies (among others) help to keep our DANA Book Club going, and each of them gives some of their time to the Library on a regular basis. Nothing says 'Neighborhood' to me more than the camaraderie I've seen among the people who live in Cal Heights, and these two have given me their time and some insight on what it means to be part of this neighborhood.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the **Kiwanis Club** of North Long Beach and Bixby Knolls. The Kiwanis Club is committed to providing opportunities for young people, but this group has chosen the DANA Library as a benefactor, and we couldn't be happier. Several of the members are regulars in the Library anyway, but then once or twice a month, Myra Kremen shows up with brand-new books to donate to our Youth Collections. To date, the Kiwanis has purchased almost 70 books, many of which may have been read in your living room.

What a difference a few people can make.

In other Library news (since we last spoke), Shaina Broadstone has been promoted and is now your Children's Librarian. She and I are really focused on being part of the fabric of your everyday lives, so we're increasing our event offerings, slowly but surely. As of March, there will be something going on for children of all ages every day that we're open. We're making plans to reestablish DANA Library in the First Fridays event, and I'm working on growing our programs for technology, adults, and seniors.

If you have any burning ideas, email me at [melissa.strasser@lbpl.org](mailto:melissa.strasser@lbpl.org) or come on in and let us know. We'd love to talk with you. ☺

*Save the Date*

10/18/2015 Cal Heights  
Home & Garden Tour!

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## Cal Heights in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

California Heights Coffee Co. is two weeks out from being open. Corner of Wardlow and Orange:



Mitchell Dean Collins is almost done with his work on the California Heights Coffee Co.:

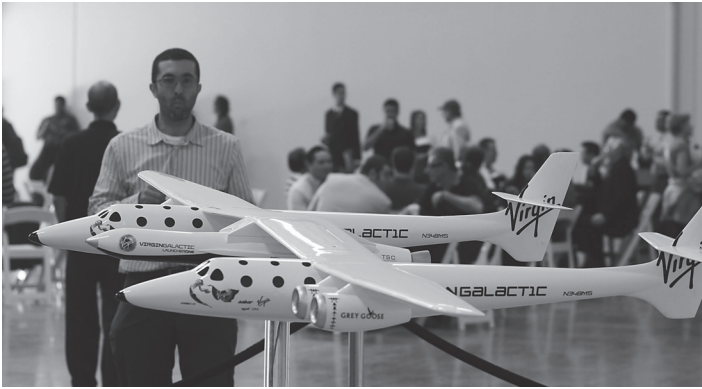


Kelli's Farm stand now open from 12 to 6 pm Wednesdays in front of Vintage Emporium:





## Virgin Galactic Job Fair / Moving into Douglas Park:



First Fridays celebrated women's history month and brought us free-form jazz and dance at the Expo Center:



Flowers from a native garden doing their Spring thing:



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

## Andrea Testa

AndreaTestaHomes.com  
athomes77@gmail.com  
562.833.9642

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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

**Beach Streets**

I wanted to give you a heads-up on "the next big thing" coming through our area. On Saturday, June 6, "Beach Streets" will be rolling along Atlantic Avenue between Wardlow (south end) and Harding (north end). Atlantic will be closed to automobile traffic and available to the public to walk, skate, ride, or even scooter from one end to the other.

The city won a grant from L.A. Metro to hold its own "ciclovía" or "open streets" event similar to what has been happening in Los Angeles, the Valley, and even Garden Grove.

**What is it?**

"Ciclovía (also ciclovía or cyclovía), is a Spanish term that means "cycleway," either a permanent bike path or the closing of certain streets to automobiles for cyclists and pedestrians, a practice sometimes called open streets. The inspiration for Ciclovías is credited to Bogotá, Colombia. Each Sunday and public holiday from 7 am until 2 pm, certain main streets of Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, and other municipalities are blocked off to cars for runners, skaters, and bicyclists. At the same time, stages are set up in city parks. Aerobics instructors, yoga teachers and musicians lead people through various performances. Bogotá's weekly ciclovías are used by approximately 2 million people (about 30% of the population) on over 75 miles of car-free streets

In that spirit, Atlantic Avenue will be activated with music, farm stands, extended patios at the restaurants, classes, games and art activities, and a music



festival in Houghton Park. Council office 7, 8, and 9 are working closely with the BKBIA, Uptown PBID, Public Works, Special Events, and Bikeable Communities to make this a spectacular event for the area.

More information will be provided to the business owners and residents very soon, and I'm sure you will see it all over Facebook and email blasts.

### In Other News:

**Deep Blue Swim School** has begun its build-out and looks to open by the end of May. This will be a great spot in the neighborhood for swim lessons and water safety for kids. Not a strong swimmer? There will be adult swim lessons, too. We welcome them to Bixby Knolls.

By the time you are enjoying this newsletter, we will have had two more scouts from Troop 29 complete their Eagle Projects in the district. **Nolan Van Wyk's** project was to transform the empty parkway on Bixby Road (west of Atlantic) into a manicured landscape with drought-tolerant plants, boulders, and small trees. **Dietrich Hensen's** project is the first of the façade improvement for the Expo Arts Center. Dietrich will be painting the setback sidewalk of the building with an artistic pattern to help the Expo Arts Center become THE iconic building in the neighborhood. Dietrich will also install new attractive landscape at the building's entrance.

Be on the lookout soon for the two new "**art alleys**" in Bixby Knolls. We are working with the property owners of Red Wing Shoes and EJ Malloy's to take the alley space and transform it with artwork. We will first install 4 metal frames on the south wall and have local artists install 4'x8' plywood paintings to be on display. On the north wall, local artists will paint murals to jazz up that side. Overhead we will remove the floodlights and replace them with attractive LED festoon lighting to create a more festive environment. On First Fridays we can shut down the alley and use it as an attractive event space with music, farm stands, or seating for EJ's. We also plan on installing custom painted pieces in the window/frames along the alley side of Healthway Foods on Bixby Road, west of Atlantic. The district will become more and more attractive when all of these streetscape projects come to fruition.

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## ✂ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ✂

Visit the [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) for calendar events!

**Thursdays:** 8:00 am litter pickup - 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](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com)

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

**Every Second Saturday:** Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, [longbeachrecycles.org](http://longbeachrecycles.org)

- **3rd Saturdays through June 20:** Civil War Lecture Series, Rancho Los Cerritos
- **Through April 12:** Long Beach Bach Festival Concert Series, [longbeachcameratasingers.org/lbcs/bachfestival/](http://longbeachcameratasingers.org/lbcs/bachfestival/)
- **April 4, 1pm-4pm:** Creation Station "Cool Blues" for Kids 6-12, Rancho Los Cerritos, Free, [rancholoscerritos.org](http://rancholoscerritos.org)
- **April 4, 10am-12pm:** Eggstravaganza! Easter fun for the kids and friends, Free, Cal Heights United Methodist Church, [calheightsumc.org](http://calheightsumc.org)
- **April 25, 9am-12pm:** Great LA River Cleanup at Long Beach Willow Street Estuary, Friends of the LA River (FoLAR), [folar.org](http://folar.org)
- **April 10-18:** Mark Twain's "Is Shakespeare Dead?" Long Beach Shakespeare Company

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](mailto:newsletter@calheights.org)

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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Robert Garcia, Mayor**  
570-6801

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

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

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

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

**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 Pickup (2 free per year)**  
570-2876

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

**Street Potholes**  
570-3259