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Looking Back and Looking Forward; A Cal Heights Re-cap

By Karen Highberger

As we approach our October 15, 2017 Home and Garden Tour, it's hard to believe we hosted our first tour in 1997 in conjunction with Long Beach Heritage. Fast forward to 2002 when California Heights became incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. This status enabled the CHNA to host the home tour and other fund-raisers and keep 100% of the revenue for the neighborhood as well as apply for grants for projects, many of which contributed to the completion of the lamppost restoration project. With many new residents moving in and embracing our wonderful neighborhood, I thought it would be appropriate to share the original Objectives and Purposes of our association. They are as follows:

- To promote public education and preservation of significant historic and architectural resources in the California Heights Historic District.
- To educate residents to understand and appreciate the architectural qualities of their homes, to be respectful of their special character and consider themselves as "stewards of history" in the context of their historic neighborhood.
- To educate residents through newsletters, outreach materials, welcome kits, quarterly community meetings, lectures, and educational programs.
- To foster a sense of community by encouraging communication between residents, local businesses, and city officials to promote public safety and awareness.

In retrospect, CHNA has done a great job of fulfilling these objectives. Our Home & Garden Tour has played a large part in this educational outreach to residents and visitors. Our guest speakers at the tours have covered a variety of topics related to restoration and history. The tours also foster a sense of pride in our neighborhood and show attendees the beauty of our restored homes. Our newsletter, website, and Facebook page keep residents informed of neighborhood happenings and related pertinent topics. Clean Streets, our alley clean-ups, and walking group, Pavement Pounders, promote public safety and improve our quality of life. Home Tour proceeds, in conjunction with a generous donation from Councilman Roberto Uranga paid for the new mural on the Cal Heights Market which fosters our sense of community.

Despite how far we've come, we do need to keep in mind the original Objectives and Purposes, the major one being promoting the preservation of our Historic District. It is the common thread that runs throughout all of our projects and is a bond that residents share. We can all be proud of our neighborhood. The tremendous efforts of residents to maintain and restore their homes have been of great benefit to everyone. Cal Heights is a very desirable neighborhood which continues to improve and our property values reflect this. They say time flies and the past 20 years since the first Home Tour have sped by. Cal Heights has a lot to show for the past two decades of volunteer work and community involvement. Here's to another 20 years of success!

President's Message

By Hugh Little

The biennial California Heights Home & Garden Tour is fast approaching. Sunday, October 15th is shaping up to be one of the best we've had in some time. It's a great opportunity to support the neighborhood. Whether you join the ranks or our irreplaceable volunteers, or whether you contribute via the purchase of your Home Tour ticket, it's pretty much a guaranteed good time while you get to know your neighborhood and neighbors better.

We've got a few notable changes to the tour this year. First, we're going to have six homes with gardens this time around. That's more houses than we've normally have and more gardens, too. There's going to be plenty to see, and you're going to want to get started early to see it all.

We also have a very special guest speaker this year. Alexander Verticoff is a world-renowned photographer, whose photography has been on the cover of every single issue to date of American Bungalow. His work has been featured at the Getty, in the New York Times, in Architectural Digest, and in 15 books of his own. Our speaker presentation this year will start at 1 pm, rather than first thing upon the opening of the tour, and will be at the auditorium of the Hughes Middle School rather than at Longfellow Elementary.

The years' tour features more homes, more gardens, an impressive speaker, and much more. Hope to see you there. Purchase tickets at calheights.org/community-events/home-and-garden-tour/.





Sample of Cal Heights home architecture [Photo Tom Underhill]









Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

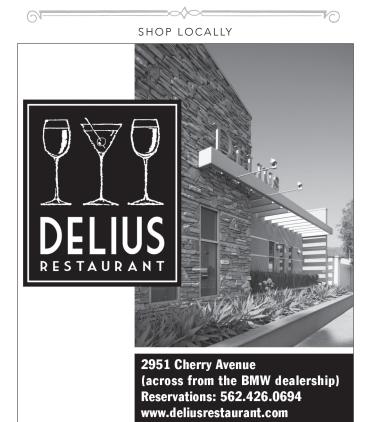
When I started writing the "Looking Back" column three years ago I was motivated to celebrate the people who made our neighborhood so unique. Through them I was able to 'see' the Iowa Pork Shop, Grisinger's Drive-In and the Signal TV store. I learned about the Teeter family whose three generations have lived in Cal Heights, the Odell family who built so many homes here, and even Jeff Skinner who raced Model Ts up Signal Hill.

Lucky, lucky me to meet all of these wonderful people and listen to all of their wonderful stories, but what was I really doing to make sure these wonderful oral histories are preserved for everyone to enjoy? Luckily the Historical Society of Long Beach does that for us. Created in 1962, its mission is to collect, preserve, and exhibit all things Long Beach. With over 40,000 images, research capabilities and a gallery to present programs, we have a real gem right here in the old Harris Fur building at 4260 Atlantic Avenue.

I recently wandered in to buy an old photo of the Crest Theatre and walked out a member and volunteer. Cal Heights resident, John Royce serves as Membership Coordinator there. John pointed out there are many hidden treasures in our homes. Many long-time residents may not think that old photo of your grandparents' house is significant, but it can show more than you think. John encourages people not to throw out those photos, but rather donate them.

The Society is currently exhibiting "Long Beach Remembers Pearl Harbor", with photos and memorabilia focusing on Long Beach residents. The gallery also displays newspapers, books, and great old photos for purchase. Several people wandered in while I was there and shared wonderful memories of their Long Beach connection. It made me realize how many more stories are out there for us to discover. As I left I thought about all the people I have interviewed and how generous they were with their time. Now it is my turn to volunteer my time to make sure their stories are preserved forever.



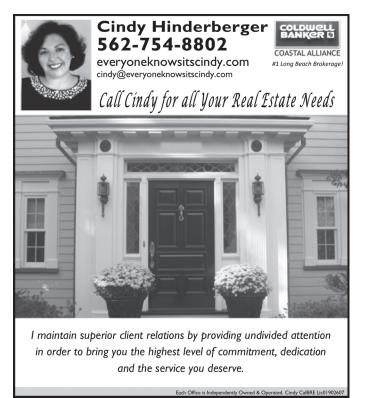






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Update on the General Plan Update

By John Moreland

Over a year ago, the City of Long Beach kicked off an update to the City's General Plan. The General Plan sets "the goals, policies, and directions the City will take in managing its future. The General Plan is the citizens' 'blue-print' for development" and the guide to achieve the City's physical vision. State law mandates that a City must plan for growth that is expected to come to the City. In this update, the City of Long Beach has planned for most of the growth to occur within downtown, in close proximity to Blue Line stations, and along major corridors, such as Long Beach Boulevard. Heights are limited to three stories along most stretches of Wardlow and Atlantic next to Cal Heights.

However, the CHNA Board had a concern about growth along Cherry Avenue at Wardlow Road. When the City staff met with the CHNA Board on October 13th, Cherry Avenue between Spring Street to just north of Wardlow Road was identified as being a commercial corridor. However, on February 2nd, the City changed this designation along Cherry Avenue from commercial to industrial, with the exception of the small area where Donut Island is located. The CHNA Board drafted a letter opposing this change and requested that the City include a buffer to protect our district from the industrial uses.

On June 13th and June 15th, study sessions were held with the City Council and Planning Commission, respectively. At these meetings, the City included a commercial buffer to include the properties where Fantastic Burgers, the Mobil gas station, and the historic, former Long Beach Airport Fire Department building are located. Beyond that, the General Plan Update could allow for "industrial and manufacturing endeavors, tank farms, oil drilling and the like," although our community would be notified of any significant development occurring here.

The updated General Plan Update is heading back to the Planning Commission on July 20th. We urge you to review the General Plan Update at http://www.longbeach.gov/common/templates/city-news.aspx?id=71777 and contact Fern Nueno of the City at (562)570 - 5081 or fern.nueno@longbeach.gov if you have any comments. You can also forward your comments to the Planning Commission and/or Roberto Uranga's office at district7@longbeach.gov or (562) 570-7777.

After 71 Years, Tuttle Camera Moves to a New Location

By Tom Underhill

In 1947, after using the G.I. bill to help fund their business, local photographers Harvey and Dick Tuttle moved their year-old camera store from 2nd Street in the Belmont Shore area to a former furniture store on Atlantic Avenue in Bixby Knolls. Harvey and brother Dick's family-run photographic business is credited with being the first to offer overnight printing in the area. Tuttle Camera has provided the community with camera sales, service, and rentals ever since, all while answering customers' photographic questions with knowledge and style.

Seventy-one years later, current owner Eric Vitwar made the difficult decision to move to a new location. Eric had worked at Tuttle since 1990, and purchased the store from Harvey Tuttle in 1998. Rising rent at the Atlantic location made a new location an attractive alternative. Eric's new location at 5467 E. Carson Street, near Carson and Bellflower, has that familiar Tuttle signage inside.

Tuttle is now just three miles from the Atlantic location, and still offers the same great service inside a slightly smaller store. Whether you are looking for a compact camera to capture Christmas morning; some pro-level gear to document the kids' sporting activities; or that special last-minute item needed just before traveling; Tuttle Camera can help you, with all the major brands, latest technology, and expert advice.

Digital certainly dominates the photographic craft, but you can still find plenty of analog offerings at Tuttle. From 35 and 120mm film, to the latest Instax and Lomo cameras and film, Tuttle has you covered.

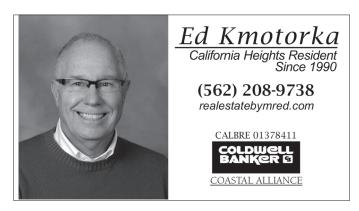
With these comprehensive offerings and great service, Tuttle should be around for at least another 71 years.



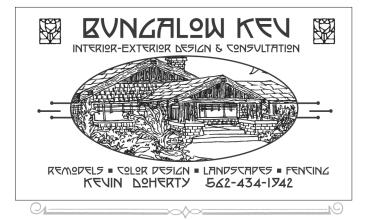
Eric Vitwar owner (Center) and Steven Lopez (L) and Latoya Tyson(R)

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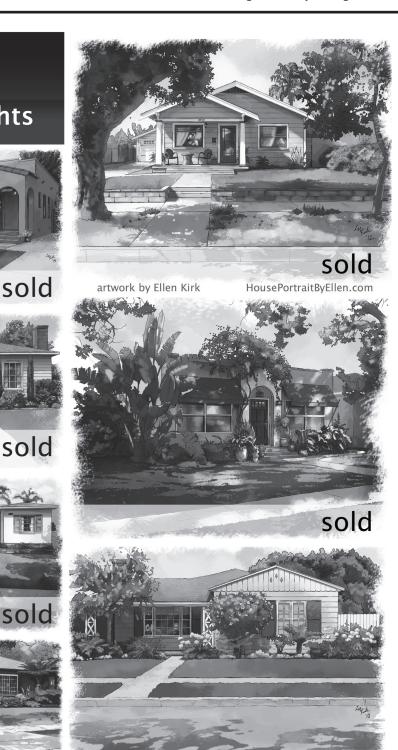














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Final Mural Update: We're Finished!

by Christa Stelzmuller

After more than a year of planning, fund-raising, and hard work we were thrilled to join Councilman Roberto Uranga on July 1, 2017 for the official unveiling of the newest Cal Heights mural! The mural was designed and painted by Emily Tanaka, a local Long Beach artist, and she was on hand for the festivities at the Cal Heights Neighborhood Market along with Frank, the owner of the market, and over 100 Cal Heights residents who enjoyed hamburgers provided by HashTag Burgers. It was a great time catching up with neighbors who I don't often have a chance to see. Everyone took tons of pictures under the mural's sun, in front of their street, or with characters in the mural that remind us of ourselves.

The mural is painted in a whimsical style with many elements designed to encourage residents to stop and appreciate the small details. It adds a dimension to the northern Orange entrance to the neighborhood that complements the murals at the southern Orange entrance, providing a balance to the evolving community art spaces that are gracing our neighborhood.

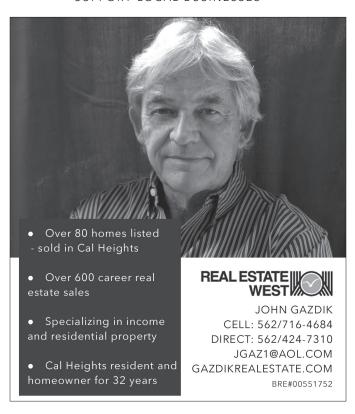
Emily will be moving on to her next project which is the annual Zinefest at MOLAA and CHNA is moving on preparing for this year's home tour that is rapidly approaching in October. If you haven't had time to check out the mural, we hope you stop by and be sure to say hi to Frank as well.

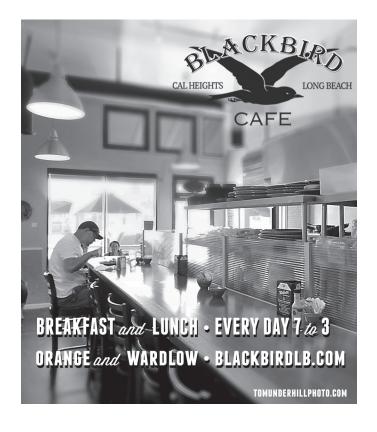
We thank Councilman Uranga for hosting the unveiling event and for his contribution to the creation of this mural. It is one that we hope the residents of the neighborhood will continue to enjoy for many years to come.



Emily Tanaka and Councilmember Uranga [Photo Tom Underhill]

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At Your Local Library

First, I would like to give a heartfelt "Thank you" to the Kiwanis of Bixby Knolls and North Long Beach for their generous donation that will fund our Karaoke Fun Time program throughout the year. We had borrowed a Karaoke machine from Burnett Library and the kids had so much fun on Karaoke days here at Dana, that we are so happy to have our own.

Our annual Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Have you registered yet? If not, come on in, sign up, track your summer reading, and report your progress to earn rewards along the way! Also, check out the online special events calendar for Summer Reading programs throughout the system. You can also get a schedule at any library while supplies last.

You may enjoy our Summer Book Club. We will be reading the first three books in George R. R. Martin's Game of Thrones series. We're currently on the second book: A Clash of Kings. Feel free to pick up or request a copy at the front desk. The book club will meet on July 29th @ 1:00 pm.

While you are at it participate in "Book in a Jar". Use your detective skills to guess which classic book is in the jar!

Last but not least, many of you will have noticed our new carpeting throughout the building. Next will be a face lift (paint) for the outside of the building.

Silke Kinoshita, Senior Librarian DANA Neighborhood Library, 3680 Atlantic Ave., (562) 570-1042



July 4th Celebration [Photo Tom Underhill]



From the 7th

Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone is staying cool and enjoying this beautiful Summer. Last month, I was proud to partner with Vice Mayor Rex Richardson for the 6th Annual Uptown Jazz Festival with special guest, Ozomatli. We had over 5,000 neighbors and community members enjoying the festival.

I hope you had a great time like we did.

Also, I want to thank the 130+ residents who joined us at the California Heights Mural Unveiling BBQ. Thank you to the California Heights Neighborhood Association, Frank Midaa owner of the California Heights Market, and Emily Kiwa and the Tanaka family for the beautiful mural.

Additionally, I want to invite everyone to this year's Seventh District Harbor Cruise on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Port of Long Beach. Space is limited and RSVP is required. If you are interested in attending, please contact our office.

Lastly, please save the date for this year's Seventh District Aquarium Night on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Aquarium of the Pacific. This is a great, family friendly event. To RSVP, please contact our office at 562-570-7777 or at district7@long beach.gov.

I'm glad to represent the residents of California Heights, and I look forward to continuing to work together!

Respectfully yours, Roberto Uranga

Please sign up for my newsletter by sending an email to district?@longbeach.gov to stay informed about community news and upcoming events. (562) 570-7777 &



Vincent St. Thomas Bridge [Photo Tom Underhill]



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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hope you are enjoying your summer as much as we are. And have you been to the parking lot concerts? Here's a quick check in update on what's new and what's going on around in the district:

- Former Tuttle Cameras space (4019 Atlantic)
 Tuttle Cameras has moved and the broker for the property owner has been showing the space to potential tenants. We are keeping in touch with the broker to gauge the interest of the space.
- Nino's building (3853 Atlantic) The demolition work began on June 12th and should be completed very soon. Once completed, the owners will start their outreach to those who have contacted them with interest to be a tenant. (Property is fenced off currently)
- Edgar & James (4121 Atlantic) The grand opening was on July 14th and we are happy to have more retail along Atlantic Avenue.
- Cheese Addiction (4236 Atlantic) The business owners are working their way through the permitting processes and we should see construction in the space very soon.
- 4262 Atlantic Avenue -- Chef Scott is working out the details to get the business in escrow and buy the restaurant from previous owner. He has a new concept for the space and he and his partners want to get started as soon as possible with the renovations.
- The Merchant (4121 Long Beach Boulevard)
 The newest coffee shop in the district is open and took off immediately. Their breads and pastries have been selling out quickly each morning and the business already has its "regulars" from the neighborhood.

- Niky's Sports (4310 Atlantic) This soccer specialty store has seven locations around the greater Los Angeles area. Work has begun on the interior for the build-out and we are waiting to hear about the grand opening date.
- There is a **new dental office** going in next to El Pocho Grill (Carson & Atlantic). This space has been vacant for 3-4 years so now they will at least have a steady tenant to fill in that retail center.
- Hof's Hut The property has been sold and the owner and brokers have been reaching out to a number of restaurateurs about the property. So the good news is that there eventually will be a restaurant back in that location. That whole area with Trader Joe's, a new restaurant, and the businesses at LB Blvd and Carson will have that part of the district fully activated.
- Smart & Final We have not been able to get any status update on the store as of yet. The 8th District Council Office will reach out to the landlord to see what the timeline is for opening.
- **Summerjax**, who purchased the Killingsworth building at 4047 Long Beach Blvd., are moving fast on their renovations for the building to restore it to its original mid-century modern glory. There will be two photo studios in the back so they can have their clients come down to this space for work. The business represents many popular brands such as Hollister, Fender, and Roxy.
- At the time of this writing, major work has begun inside of West Bistro (Atlantic & Roosevelt) and we are reaching out to the owners to get details on their plans.

As always, get out and support YOUR local businesses! We appreciate you all. See you in the neighborhood, Blair



Bixby Trading Post [Photo Tom Underhill]

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6:30 to 7:30 pm Wardlow & Lemon

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Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic

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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 EnforcementMonday 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