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Images: Tom Underhill

Cal Heights Home Tour Is Coming In October!

By Karen Highberger

CHNA is excited to be working on the 2019 Home & Garden Tour! The tour is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 6th. As a reminder and to those who are new to Cal Heights, the Home & Garden Tour is our major fundraiser. Proceeds from the tour pay for The Heights newsletter (delivered to 1600 homes 6 times a year), Cal Heights Re-leaf, our Clean Streets program, and various community events. Revenue from past tours helped pay for the restoration of our vintage lampposts and the murals at the Cal Heights Market and the building that houses Orange Avenue Salvage.

In addition to providing funds for our neighborhood, the event is a great way to meet neighbors and make new friends. It is a wonderful community building event and is fully staffed by upwards of 100 volunteers. If you are not interested in opening your home or garden for the tour, we would love to have you volunteer to be a docent, help at check-in, or help promote the tour to your family and friends.

The tour started in 1997 as a way to promote our Historic District and the restoration of our homes. As always, there will be vendors and tradespeople in the area of restoration available at every home to answer your questions and promote their businesses. Homes that have been on past tours are great examples of loving restoration of period homes and the interiors and gardens provide inspiration to tour attendees.

As always, we are in search of homes and gardens to be on the tour. We have had some homeowners express interest in having their homes on the tour and the selection committee will be scheduling visits in the near future. If you or any of your friends or neighbors are interested in opening your home for the tour, please let us know by emailing info@calheights.org. October will be here before we know it, so if you can help with the tour in any capacity, please contact us. Thanks so much for your support of our major event! 🍷

SAVE THE DATE!
October 6th

President's Message

This has easily been the wettest winter we've had since we moved to the neighborhood in 2008. It certainly seems like my yard got nearly as much water in the last few months as it has in the last several years. In addition to growth spurts from a few plants that I'd pretty much given up on, I've already noticed an unusually strong start to the spring wildflower crop, as well as seeing a poppy bush I planted years ago quadruple in size and bloom for the first time. If nothing else, this bodes well for the gardens and yards this fall for the Home Tour.

Speaking of which, (as I may have mentioned last issue and will probably keep bringing up for some time to come), is this the year you're ready to take the plunge and put your home out there for Home Tour consideration? You'll never have a better motivator to finish up all of your house projects and you would be helping CHNA continue to do the work we do such as paint murals, restore lampposts, clean streets and alleys, and plant trees to name a few of our community projects. It's a win-win!

Whether or not you wind up as part of the tour, we always have room for more volunteers. Reach out to info@calheights.org for more information, or with any questions you may have.

Yours,



Hugh Little
President, CHNA

The Best Wildflower Viewpoints in Southern California

(Late-March to Early-May)

- Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve
- The Anza Borrego Desert State Park
- Joshua Tree National Park

The Best Wildflower Viewpoints in Central and Northern California

(Late-April to Early-June)

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

Here in Cal Heights we like to brag that our homes have "good bones". Our historic houses are known for their superior construction, solid infrastructure, and unique character. So many of these houses built in the 20s and 30s have stood the test of time. But if our homes have good bones, what else do they possess - a personality, a spirit? Do the many families that once inhabited our homes leave an imprint, like a ghostly whisper that if we listen hard enough you just might hear?

Rich and Liz Ruiz loved living in Cal Heights, and after three years on Falcon Avenue they moved to Cerritos Avenue in 1988. Here they raised three children and lived a happy life. As their family grew Rich began to make changes in the house including a new kitchen, den, and bedrooms, always keeping the character of the Spanish style home intact.

Not all of us are lucky enough to know the people who occupied our homes before us, but by a fortunate set of circumstances Rich and Liz did get to meet Mary Ellen Greenlee (Meg), who began her life in their Cerritos Avenue home in 1939. Meg's great-niece was driving by the house just as the Ruiz's daughter pulled up in the driveway. She stopped to tell the Ruiz's that Meg was coming to town from her home in Colorado. Rich and Liz invited their family to drop by later and tour the house.

"We explained that we were having some electrical problems" noted Rich, "and were waiting for the electrician to come over. By the time Meg arrived it was pretty dark. We fired up all the candles we had and with a couple of camping lanterns gave Meg and the family a walk-through." As Meg strolled down the long hall in the flickering light, she remembered her old bedroom being just the same, even down to the original wall sconces, while the boy's room was now a den. As she walked from room to room she thanked the Ruiz's for keeping the character of the house intact, noting how they had replicated the arch between the new den and kitchen to match an original. "I am not sure who enjoyed the visit more, Meg and her family or us," Rich stated, "but touring by candlelight certainly added ambience to the tour!"

Time passes, our homes grow older and new families move in. Each family adds a layer of their personality to the wonderful character of the house, helping to create the charm of Cal Heights. 🐾

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New Historic District in North LB

On March 5th, a motion to establish the first historic district in North Long Beach was approved.

This proposed district, on Walnut Street, north of South Street in the Grant Neighborhood, is an opportunity to recognize post-war history in our city. The Grant Neighborhood is predominated by the Minimal Traditional architectural style, which was common in the Great Depression and post-war era.

The city found that the properties on the 6000 block of Walnut Avenue represents a distinguishable part of Long Beach history and was deemed significant as an intact cohesive automobile suburb whose cores were constructed between 1928 and 1930 and that these homes reflect the booming economic growth in the 1920s.

This is the first historic district in the 9th District and expands the geographic diversity of landmark districts around the City. Currently there are 17 Historic Districts in the city, Cal Heights being the largest, including Belmont Heights, Bluff Heights, Bluff Park, Brenner Place, California Heights, Carroll Park, Drake Park / Wilmore City, Eliot Lane, Hellman Street Craftsman, Linden Avenue, Lowena Drive, Minerva Place, Rose Park, Rose Park South, Sunrise Boulevard, Wilton Street, and Wrigley Area. 🐾

NEW DATE!
Alley Cleanups for 2019

Please mark your calendars for the two annual alley cleanups of 2019. Residents can discard of any big items (no hazardous or e-waste please).

**--Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 36th and Lewis,
9 am to 11 am.**

**--Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 36th and
Gundry, 9 am to 11 am.**

Details found at facebook.com/calheights.



Heart Appreciation

By Karen Highberger

"The fireplace? The heart of the home itself."

-Frank Lloyd Wright

Many Cal Heights residents enjoy the luxury and charm of having a fireplace in their homes, whether it is a functional fireplace or a faux fireplace that once housed an unvented gas heater. It is something that most of us probably take for granted but the trend nationwide is to eliminate fireplaces of any kind in new housing. Many factors play into this trend, including construction costs and rising mortgage rates. Wood burning fireplaces are no longer allowed in new construction in California, but even gas fireplaces are on their way out. 60% of new homes built in the western United States do not have a fireplace of any type.

Years ago, builders appreciated the aesthetics and comfort of a fireplace. In many of our homes with their symmetrical layout in living rooms, the fireplace was the focal point, not to mention the only source of heat in some cases. If you have a wood burning fireplace or a zero clearance gas insert, you know the cozy feeling you get when curled up enjoying the warmth of the fire. Even placing a grouping of candles in a faux fireplace adds to the enjoyment of your room. In many of our homes, beautiful tile from companies including Batchelder, Calco, D & M, and Malibu Potteries remain. Original mantles are a big part of the equation and offer a great opportunity to decorate to your taste. In many homes, original junction boxes that powered wrought iron sconces in the '20s and '30s remain behind plaster. The location of sconces was usually flanking a fireplace and a picture window facing the street at a minimum. In some homes the sconces provided all the lighting in the space. It's good to know that in some cases where the original faux fireplace was removed for whatever reason, you can replace it. Sometimes you can see clues in the hardwood flooring or baseboards, but it might take some detective work.

Many homeowners in Cal Heights have converted their faux fireplace to a functional fireplace with a zero clearance gas unit. Depending on the setback of your home, you can install the unit from the exterior of your home in order to not damage original tile or the shape of the fireplace.

Are you inspired yet to renew your appreciation of your "heart of the home," whatever type it is? 🐾

SAVE THE DATE!

October 6th - Cal Heights Home & Garden Tour.

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From the 7th

By Roberto Uranga

Dear Neighbors,

I'm glad that spring is right around the corner and I wanted to extend an invitation to our upcoming community events. First, we are proud to partner with Green Education Inc. to bring the Thinking Green Educational

Series to the Silverado Park Community Center on March 23rd. Second, I encourage you to join the Seventh District Office as we participate in a day of service at Willow Springs Park. We will be working on beautifying the park on March 30th from 9am-1pm. Third, I am happy to announce that the City of Long Beach and Metro are working together on "Beach Streets: Pacific Avenue," which will take place on Pacific from Willow to Downtown on April 27th from 10am - 4pm. Beach Streets give you an opportunity to bike, skate, scooter, or walk while the street is closed to car traffic.

I would also like to provide you with a few details regarding the Shared Micro-Mobility item which was recently passed. My colleagues and I unanimously passed the motion to extend the pilot program for an additional 6 months, expanding the amount of scooters to 4,000 with an option to increase it to 6,000 after 6 months, depending on the review. Craig Beck, Director of Public Works, provided a staff update regarding the experience gained during the Micro-Mobility pilot program. Under the previous pilot program 6 E-Scooter vendors were allowed to deploy 300 scooters each. Currently there are 980 scooters and 230 drop zones. Data from the Pilot Program demonstrated that the average trip distance per rider was about 1.2 miles. This is a positive result as the multi-modal transportation goal is to solve the problem of "the last mile."

I believe that our City's approach to the introduction of new technology must be measured and strategic. I believe that every challenge creates a new opportunity and we should use this opportunity to carefully and strategically adopt a program that will work for our City. I believe that the vendors have been hearing and responding to our concerns and that our administrative staff have also worked diligently to ensure our concerns are addressed.

As always, it is a pleasure serving the Cal Heights Neighborhood and our Seventh District community. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 562-570-7777 and via email at district7@longbeach.gov. 🐾

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Cal Heights In Pictures

By Tom Underhill

1. Machiko and George Ota, Bamboo Teri House business owners, in Bixby Knolls for 34 years
2. Rainy Cal Heights
3. Sister expanded into the previous Bixby Knolls Market space at 3803 Atlantic Avenue



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- 6/16 - Necktie Ride
- 7/21 - Pool Party Ride
- 8/18 - Iron Kid Awards
- 9/15 - School Spirit Ride
- 10/20 - Zombie Ride
- 11/17 - Canned Rood Ride
- 12/15 - Ugly Sweater Ride

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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."
- Shakespeare

Everyone used to the time change? I am willing to give up the extra hour of sleep for the longer days and more sunshine. This month we're looking at Passover and Easter, the Grand Prix, all the BKBIA events, and making some Cohn Family vacation plans before I'm still talking about it in August.

Our Knights of the Round (Turn)Table meetings will now be held at Phil Trani's, 3590 Long Beach Boulevard and our next session is on March 28, 6:30 pm, featuring Led Zeppelin "IV." These sessions have been so much fun as we listen to great records as they were intended and as we all did as kids. Come eat, have a drink, and listen.

Have you taken the Beer Trolley through Brewery Knolls yet? It's the fun, free ride that goes around the district once a month and stops at Liberation Brewing Co., Willmore Wine Bar, Georgie's Place, Rasselbock, Lola's, Stateside Crafts, Dutch's Brewhouse, EJs Pub, knolls eat/drink, Ambitious Ales, and Smog City Brewing at Steelcraft. The thing of it is, it's FREE and anyone can ride...AND, you don't necessarily have to buy or drink beer but just have fun moving around the district. **Next ride: Sunday, March 24, 1pm - 5pm.**

This month I wanted to mention briefly about one of the biggest challenges facing the BKBIA. Our "redevelopment funds" that we receive from the 10-year contract we have with the city will sunset. That means in the next two years we will lose this

funding that gives us the tools to do all the big, visible things in the district. At this point these funds have brought a \$1.6-million investment in the district and here are some "by the numbers" stats for you of those funds at work: 10 revolving community events, 700 graffiti tags removed, 5280 feet of sidewalk power-washed, 20 new signs, 110 banners, 7 eagle scout projects, 220 lights repaired, 210 trees planted, 42 trees trimmed, 1 pocket park, 40 properties painted, 170 branded sidewalk decals, 1 community center. PLUS, all of our private security patrols. The BKBIA is taking steps to find other ways to generate revenue such as creating a new 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit (Bixby Knolls Foundation, and we are welcoming and encouraging all private donations!), booking more events at the Expo Arts Center, and project management for the city. The 8th District Council Office is also exploring ways to find the funding, too. More updates as things progress.

Business recommendation: **Complete Women's Care**, 3711 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 700, is led by Dr. Miriam Mackovic, founder and CEO. She is a highly esteemed gynecological surgeon with over 30 years of experience in complicated gynecological cases. Her primary focus areas are in advanced laparoscopic and minimally invasive pelvic procedures that include uterine and cervical procedures, vaginal procedure, hysterectomies, ovarian procedures, bladder procedures, and tubal sterilization. "A dedication to provide excellent and comprehensive healthcare for women over the past 20 years has led us to continuous improvement and expansion of our services." Check out all the details about staff and services at: www.completewomencare.com

This month we are continuing our Women's History Month celebration by highlighting the 100+ women-owned businesses in Bixby Knolls. Look on our social media to see the posts of these women and special thanks to Cal Heights resident, Tom Underhill, for documenting these outstanding business owners. Our April First Fridays we celebrate our annual "Long Beach County Fair." This always includes the "best of produce" contest with LB Fresh who brings in all the local farmers and harvesters to the Expo Arts Center. And there will be tons of fun stuff for kids and families, great music, and "fair food." I hope you'll come out and join us.

See you in the neighborhood, Blair. 🐾

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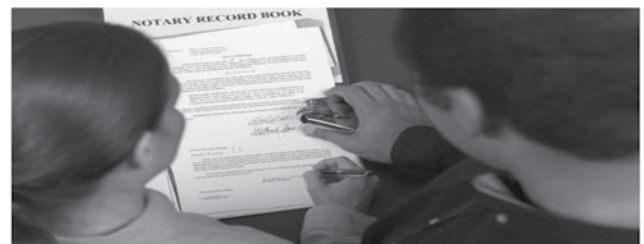
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