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Alfredo Valenzuela, Tim Price, Christa Stelzmuller, Council Member Uranga, Emily Tanaka, Stacey Morrison and Tom Underhill

Mural Update

By Christa Stelzmuller

After almost a year of planning and work, I am thrilled to share with you the news that the mural planned for Orange Avenue and Bixby Road has reached its funding goal and will move ahead! I am especially excited as the reason for reaching our goal so quickly is Councilman Roberto Uranga stepped in to support the mural by recommending to City Council that they make funds available to the Seventh Council District for this beautification project. That recommendation was approved on January 10, 2017. Councilman Uranga, on behalf of CHNA and all the community members who have dedicated their time and energy to this effort, thank you so much for making this possible!

Now that we have a green light, we will be finalizing the dates the mural will be painted. It seems that this winter we are finally seeing some rain and cooler weather, so we'll have to wait for the weather to clear and warm up a bit before the painting can begin. We'll be targeting April or May and we'll keep you posted in the next newsletter.

Stay tuned as well for information on events that we'll be planning related to the mural. We are hoping to provide an opportunity for community youth to participate in the creation of the mural, namely to help with the simpler aspects of it, such as wall preparation. When the mural is complete, we hope to have an unveiling event, where we can celebrate this newest addition to the neighborhood. We should have more information on that soon.

In the meantime, please take some time to thank Councilman Uranga for helping this grass roots effort become a reality, and for actively demonstrating the City of Long Beach's commitment to the arts. He can be reached at district7@longbeach.gov 📧

President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

Good news, everyone!
(please forgive and indulge my Futurama reference)

As you read on the front page, on January 10th, the city council voted to fund the remaining balance on the cost of our mural project at the California Heights Market. This vote was the culmination of a really heroic amount of work by the dedicated group who saw this idea through from inception to what will soon be finished. I think it will be a very welcome addition to our neighborhood. I also think it will likely be complete well before our Home and Garden Tour this October.

Home Tour years are always busy for us, so please bear with me if I flog it mercilessly in the coming issues. As much work as it is, it is also tremendously rewarding, and I think it's safe to say we're all looking forward to another successful event.

I won't keep you – I have some rain to go enjoy while it lasts. I hope you were able to as well.

Kindly,



Hugh Little, CHNA President

Volunteer with CHNA!

If you would like to volunteer at this year's home tour, deliver newsletters, assist with our website and social media, plant a tree or pick up litter, email us at info@calheights.org.
It's take a village!



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

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

Americans love pizza. It is our favorite food and we eat over 45 slices of it a year. Wouldn't you love to have your very own pizza restaurant? That is just what the Galletta family did, right here in Cal Heights.




In 1967 Mario and Gini moved their growing family to Gardenia Avenue. Mario could walk to his job at the LB Water Department and the children could attend the local Catholic schools. Maybe it was his Italian heritage calling out to him, but Mario really wanted to own and run a pizza restaurant. In 1978 that dream came true and he and Gini bought a hardware store at the corner of Wardlow and Orange, and after months of hard work transformed it into Mario's Pizza Deli "Home of the Fabulous Family Pizza."


Gini recalled that the restaurant was one of the first to create a huge 24-inch family pizza. Gini and her daughter Trina laughed about watching customers trying to wedge that enormous pizza in their cars. Of course, they first noted that Mario had to buy special front doors to even get the pizza out of the restaurant! Pizza was popular but the restaurant had its own deli too, where you could buy sliced meats, salads and even a 6-foot sub.

Mario's was a real family affair, with Mom Gini creating some menu items including the popular pesto pizza, and all three children (Trina, Tony and Maria) working at various jobs there through the years. They had a great cook, Tony, who was like a family member. Gini remembered that many of the local businesses in Cal Heights were family-owned back then and often helped each other out if supplies suddenly ran short. Gini was especially proud that they not only hired many people from the neighborhood but took a chance on giving several developmentally disabled people a good job.

Mario's closed their doors in 1998, I for one wish I had one more chance to order that 24-inch fabulous family pizza and try to get it my car. 🚗

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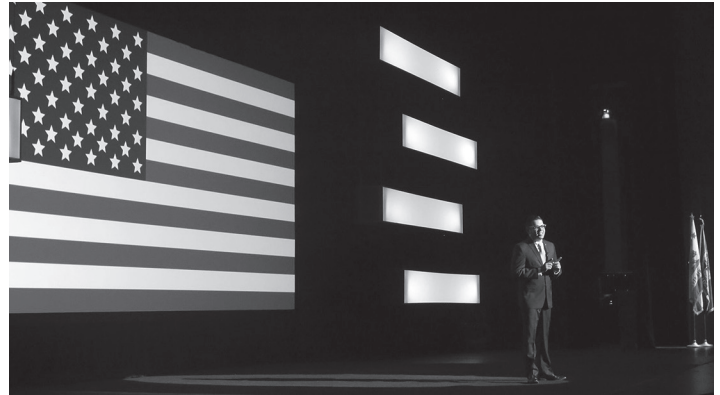
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State of the City

by Stacey Morrison

On January 10th, Mayor Garcia delivered his third State of the City address at the Terrace Theater. More than 2,000 attendees were greeted with music, lights and food trucks.

The Mayor began his presentation with an update on Measure A. He said the city was stronger than ever because, for the first time in more than 50 years, voters approved Measure A, a sales tax increase estimated to bring in \$387 million over the next 10 years.

Measure A spending will include:

- A \$150 million plan for the next 3 to 4 years, which will make a huge investment in streets, community facilities, storm drains systems and public safety projects
- Investing nearly \$91 million on street repairs
- Another \$15 million has been allocated to sidewalk repair and \$5 million being spent to fix the city's worst alleys
- \$19 million for parks, including \$4 million for Houghton Park Community Center and more than \$1.7 million worth of fixes for the El Dorado Duck Pond and \$2 million for our historic Ranchos
- \$3.7 million will be invested in community facilities such as senior centers and the animal care center
- Nearly 3.7 million will be spent on improvements to our libraries
- \$6 million will be spent on public safety facilities including repairs to 6 fire stations, improvements to the Police Crime Lab and the West Police Station

Mayor Garcia reported that the city issued 900 new business permits last year and 9,000 jobs were created, resulting in the low unemployment rate of 5.6 percent .

Other priorities included stronger climate control measures, civic technology improvements and support of the arts. Long Beach is finally digging out from the Great Recession, but much more hard work is ahead to make sure the momentum continues with everyone benefitting. 🐼

Home Tour 2017 is Just Around the Corner

By Karen Highberger

It is hard to believe that 2017 marks the 20th year that California Heights will be hosting their Home & Garden Tour. Our first tour was held in 1997 in conjunction with Long Beach Heritage. It was a success and since then we have achieved our own non-profit status, allowing us to host the event and reap the financial rewards. It has been our major source of funding for neighborhood projects including the Cal Heights mural at Wardlow Road and Orange Avenue, Clean Streets, Cal Heights Re-Leaf and our biggest endeavor to date, the restoration of our historic lampposts. Since the lamppost restoration was completed in 2015, The CHNA has turned their efforts to adding another mural on the Cal Heights Market. Monies raised at our 2015 Tour coupled with a very generous donation from the Seventh District Council Office of Roberto Uranga will allow this mural to be started within the next few months.

The Home & Garden Tour is a wonderful event enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Our tour helped put Cal Heights on the map, garnering a Sunset Magazine "Best in the West" award in 2002 and Neighborhoods USA Grand Prize for Best Neighborhood in 2012. The tour is an opportunity for Cal Heights to show what a great neighborhood we have. Our sense of community and pride of ownership in our Historic District homes are on full display at the tour.

First and foremost is finding homes and gardens to feature on the tour. The selection committee will be starting this process within the next 30 days. The tour is held in October so this gives us time to visit the homes and gives the homeowners ample time to finish whatever projects they wish before the tour. Final selection is usually announced by mid-June. As many homeowners have told us, one of the best reasons to be on the tour is it forces the completion of the "honey do" list. Not only are you enhancing your home for your enjoyment, you are contributing to your community in a big way. It's a win-win! Any homeowners who are interested in volunteering their home or garden for the tour, please let us know. Or if you know of a home that is a good candidate, please send us the address and contact info, if available. The selection committee will contact the homeowner to schedule a visit. As someone who has had their home on tour twice, I can say that it is a positive experience.

If you are interested in opening your home or garden for the tour, please contact me at khighberger@gmail.com or 562-280-8132. Thanks so much to all of our faithful volunteers and homeowners over the years who have made the tour a success. Let's make 2017 great as well! 🐾

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CHNA IS LOOKING FOR GREAT HOMES FOR THE 2017 HOME TOUR

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Long Beach Ballet Annual Gala Dinner Arabian Nights

by Kerrie Weaver

The Long Beach Ballet Academy, one of the nation's largest and most successful ballet training institutions, and right here in California Heights, is getting ready to present a spectacular and sumptuous new production of Aladdin.

Preparations for this new production are currently underway, with scenery, costumes, musical score, and choreography all in artistic development. The premiere of Aladdin will be in June, but Long Beach Ballet's Annual Gala Dinner to raise money for its creation will be at the Reef Restaurant on Friday evening, March 24th.

The theme of the gala dinner, in keeping with the new ballet's title, is Arabian Nights, and will be a fun evening of entertainment and casino action, accompanied by a silent and live auction.

Last year's gala dinner raised \$70,000 toward the purchase of scenery and costumes for another new production, Don Quixote, an elaborate performance that wowed audiences with a cast of over 250 who danced beautifully amidst 10,000 square feet of newly painted scenery. Donors had their names painted into the scenery and sewn into the costumes to be honored in perpetuity.

Long Beach Ballet is best known for their annual production of The Nutcracker at the Long Beach Terrace Theater, a performance that has been seen by over half a million people over a period of 34 years. In addition, the Long Beach Ballet tours to China every year and attracts hundreds of students from across the U.S. for their five-week summer training intensive.

For more information about the Long Beach Ballet or to receive an invitation to Arabian Nights, the exciting Gala Dinner at The Reef on March 24th, please call 562-426-4112, or send an email to Admin@LongBeachBallet.org. 📧

Save the Date!


**Our first alley clean-up of 2017
will be March 25th!**

More details to follow on our facebook page and next edition of the Heights.

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Two Steelheads are Better Than One!

by Tom Underhill



Baristas Izzie Mattox and Adam Gonzalez.

As of September 17th we have the the luxury of two excellent coffee establishments within walking distance of our Cal Heights homes. Neighborhood locals John and Rany Aguirre of Steelhead Coffee have opened a second location to compliment their Wardlow store. The new Steelhead is situated in Steelcraft, described as an "outdoor urban eatery" located on the Southeast corner of Bixby and Long Beach Boulevard. The new Steelhead is a walk-up, open-air establishment, fashioned from a repurposed shipping container.

John acquired his love of good coffee while stationed in Afghanistan with the Marines. A member of his squad would get gift packs in the mail containing various craft-roasted coffees. There was a brief period of heckling, until the delicious results were shared with the squad. Wartime does not usually make for fond memories, but for John, this is where he became a true connoisseur of the coffee bean.

The Wardlow location has a small but excellent breakfast menu, with various takes on toast, such as egg toast and avocado toast made from fabulous handmade loaves from the Bread Lounge in Downtown L.A. These are not yet available at the Steelcraft location, but donuts (the lemon poppy donut is heavenly) from Long Beach's own Caffeinated Kitchen are in abundance at both locations.

John and Rany's first date was at a coffee house, so it's only fitting that they are now providing our neighborhood with two great places to meet friends, family and co-workers. Cal Heights neighbors gather at both Steelheads to discuss the day's events, plan the next alley cleanup, or just bask in the glow of great coffee and friendly people.

Steelhead 1208 E Wardlow Rd, Long Beach, CA 90807
Steelhead at Steelcraft 3768 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90807. www.instagram.com/steelheadcoffee/



From the 7th

Roberto Uranga
Councilmember, Seventh District

Welcome to a New Year! I am excited for this year and ready to work with each one of you to improve our City.

Recently, we have partnered with the California Heights Neighborhood Association on a community mural on the corner of Orange Avenue and Bixby Road. The mural design has a tribute to each of the main streets throughout the neighborhood and was created by Emily Kiwa Tanaka, a local Long Beach artist. The California Heights Neighborhood Association will also be collaborating with the Long Beach Unified School District to bring students to the mural site contributing to the City of Long Beach's commitment to the Arts.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Citywide Homeless Count on Thursday, January 26, 2017 from 5am to 1pm. The 8th biennial Homeless Count, defines the scope of homelessness, both in the community and across the nation, and helps to determine existing resources, identify gaps, and highlight progress toward ending homelessness. For additional information about Homeless Count, please contact Elsa Ramos, Multi-Service Center Coordinator, at Elsa.Ramos@longbeach.gov or 562-570-4588.

Also the FIS customs facility agenda item will return to the City Council on January 24, 2017 for a potential vote on the feasibility study and to potentially move forward with the next phase of this project.

Lastly, applications are being accepted for Community Police Academy. This is an informative day of interactive training on topics such as patrol operations, laws of arrest, internal affairs, and community engagement is on February 11th from 8am to 5pm. For an application call LBPd community engagement division 562-570-7401.

Let's keep working together on improving California Heights and the Seventh District!

Please sign up for my newsletter by sending an email to district7@longbeach.gov to stay informed about community news and upcoming events. (562) 570-7777 🐾



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At Your Local Library

By Silke Kinoshita

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had some time to do the things they enjoy doing during the holidays: visiting with friends and family, taking a vacation, or curling up with a good book. We would also like to thank everyone who brought us cookies, cards, muffins, chocolate, and cinnamon buns to make the holidays a bit sweeter for us.

A special shout-out to the Kiwanis of Bixby Knolls & Long Beach for their generous book donations and the donation to buy more LEGOS for our Imagineer Club (Saturdays 3 - 4pm). If you have time, come and check out the many wonderful creations.

If you haven't yet checked our calendar for upcoming programs, as well as some familiar ones, you can do so at www.lbpl.org. Check the Storytime page for storytime days and hours. We'll be adding a toddler playtime to the storytime on Fridays. Our library aide, Carl, will be organizing some very small computer classes with different topics, e.g. e-books, Internet, Word. Maybe your tween/teen would like to join us on January 24th in the Teen Café to make dream catchers, and stay tuned for other fun programs throughout the year.

Feel free to come in and check out our themed monthly book displays at the circulation desk. January's themes are famous January birthdays, and of course, New Year's resolutions. Enjoy specially selected DVDs and biographies of Martin Luther King, Elvis, J.R.R. Tolkien and others, as well as books on travel, fitness and saving.

Oh, and look for the Long Beach Public Library at LB Comic Con President's Day Weekend. You may just see Carl over there.

Fun Fact: There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the US – a total of 16,541 libraries including branches! (Source: <http://www.librariesforreallife.org/facts.html>)

Branch Librarian – DANA Neighborhood Library
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LET'S WALK!

Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Lemon and Wardlow. Details will be on our facebook page: facebook.com/calheightspavementpounders

Romancing the Revival

By Bungalow Kev Doherty

The charming array of late 19th through early 20th century residential architectural styles that grace our historic neighborhoods are part and parcel of the Romantic Revival movement in the arts that began as a literary tradition in England. As naturalist John Muir reminds us "You tug on any one thing and you find it's connected to everything else." So it is with the arts in general and the Romantic Revival Architectural Movement specifically. So, how is it that a literary movement in England profoundly affected the look of residential architecture throughout America for a period of roughly 50 years thereafter? It's a fascinating story the essential points of which we'll explore beginning with this introduction and later with a tour of Romantic revival housing styles that we see every day in our neighborhoods.

The Romantics

The Romantic Revival became a widespread artistic and aesthetic movement throughout Europe and later in America throughout the 19th century. It was essentially a literary movement that inspired a multi-arts response to the 18th century European Enlightenment. Romantics sought to widen the Enlightenments exulting of human reason and rationality as a means to human fulfillment and progress. Romanticists broke with those social norms and embraced new human values of intense emotion, spontaneity and intuition as a means to greater self-understanding, creative expression and human progress.

Romantic Revivalist: William Morris

The ideals and arts of William Morris, who originated The Arts and crafts Movement in England, exemplify perfectly the effect of the Romantic Revival upon European and American arts and architecture. Romantic artists such as Morris, dismayed with the deleterious effects of the industrial revolution, suggested a return to pre industrial agrarian society values and lifestyle elements. He manifested these ideals in rustic, simple, hand made furnishings and, decorative objects created in his studio. Concurrently, the earthy simplicity of the rustic bungalow brought to England from India by English colonialists became popular throughout Europe among Romantics and gained widespread popular appeal. The journey of the Romantic Revival and the bungalow from England to America we shall explore next time. 🐾



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Long Beach in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

- Happy New Year
- MLK Day of Service
- MLK Day of Service
- George's Fire
- Steelcraft
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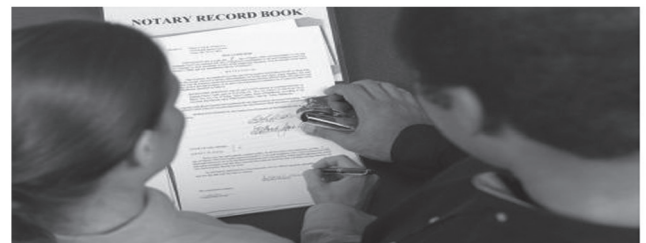
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IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hi Neighbors:

Okay, so I am still thinking back to the incredible Rose Bowl victory by the USC Trojans. It was my favorite start to any new year ever!

In February we turn our focus to the BKBIA's "Annual Meeting" or as we call it the "State of the District." This is when we report to our business members and the community what we did all of 2016 and what we have planned for 2017. You are ALL invited to attend this meeting on Wednesday, February 22nd. For just \$10 you get a pizza party with drinks and desserts and get to hear our presentation on the progress, challenges, and plans for the business district.

We breakdown the presentation into segments such as: our monthly event and program status; other special events; marketing and promotions of the district; and all the updates on our Bixby Work Plan that includes façade improvements (paint, lighting, landscaping, signage), Clean & Safe Program (private security patrols of the district), and the other beautification projects to make the area even more attractive.

By the time of this publication just about all of the Steelcraft vendors should be moved into their cargo containers and be open for business. It was great to see everyone show up once Steelhead Coffee opened their doors. And when we posted the "teaser" about Smog City Brewing pouring beer for the first time it was really fun and exciting to see all the familiar faces from the neighborhood coming out to enjoy Steelcraft for the first time.



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The full tenant list includes: Steelhead Coffee, Smog City Brewing, Tajima Ramen, DeSano Pizza, Waffle Love, Wantsome Chocolates, and a burger place to be named soon. This is the first of its kind for the greater Los Angeles area. Container parks exist in San Diego, Las Vegas, and San Francisco. We are very fortunate to be the example for the region. In fact, planners from the City of Los Angeles have been down to check it out as L.A. just now starts to warm to the idea of containers repurposed in this way. Steelcraft will help to be a draw from all over the region and raise the profile for the entire Bixby Knolls business district. Even before being fully operational there has been a great deal of media coverage for the site. KCAL9 and CBS ran a promo spot for Steelcraft in late December as the finishing touches were being made. If you have not gone yet, head over to Long Beach Boulevard and Bixby Road to see what all the fuss is about.

First Fridays on February 3rd kicks off the themes for the year with it being Black History Month. Stop by the Expo Arts Center to see the powerful Forgotten Images and Black Wall Street exhibits. March 3rd will be our Mardi Gras Parade and celebration and April 7th is our annual "Long Beach County Fair" event. As always, we will have the best musicians from Long Beach performing and the local artists showing their work. The business owners are always welcoming and excited to serve the community.

And as always, we rely on all of YOU to be out and about regularly to support all of the businesses in the district that are here for you.

Fight on! 🦊

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3515 Atlantic Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706
562.920.1873

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Thursdays: Clean Streets Litter pickup - 8 am 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 Bike Ride, bixbyknollsinfo.com

Fridays: Preschool Story Time (3 to 5 yrs of age) at the Dana
Branch Library 10:30 am

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

Saturday, February 25: Foodways of the West: Tongva Traditions
at the Rancho Los Cerritos. rancholoscerritos.org

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