

# THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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**President**  
 John Royce | 997-9094  
 roycelockart@msn.com

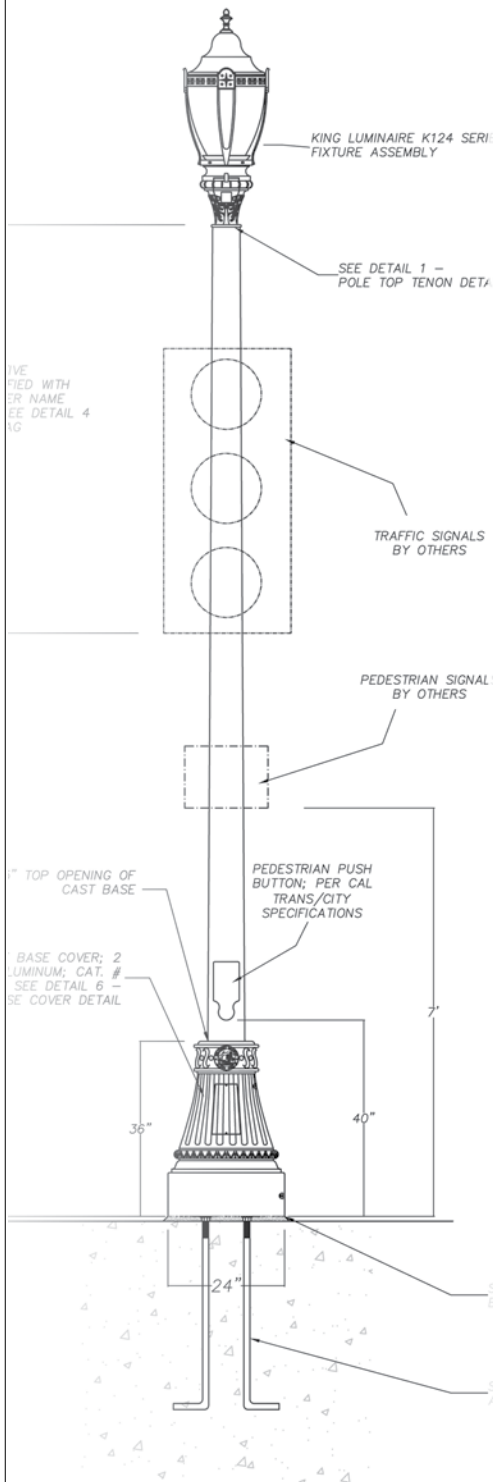
**Home Tour Coordinator**  
 Kerrie Weaver | 424-6727  
 info@calheights.org

**Newsletter Editor/Layout**  
 Stacey Morrison  
 newsletter@calheights.org

**Newsletter Idea Submission**  
 newsletter@calheights.org

**Official CHNA Website**  
 www.calheights.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.



## What's up at 36<sup>th</sup> and Orange?

If you've missed the buzz, a signal installation is in process. Long requested by some Cal Heights residents for easier pedestrian crossings between the east and west sides of the neighborhood, and by Orange Avenue residents wishing to slow traffic, it was approved after a series of community meetings with former Councilmember Uranga, Chief Traffic Engineer, Dave Roseman, and local residents. Since 36<sup>th</sup> Street is closer to the midway point between the traffic lights at Bixby and Wardlow roads, it was chosen over 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

As the only signal within the historic district boundaries, current Councilmember, James Johnson, invited Public Works to work with CHNA to create a design that reflects the historic character of the neighborhood. We think you will be pleased with the outcome!

The two historic light standards that were removed at the intersection several weeks ago were not lost. Restored by CHNA in 2007, we suggested the lamps be reused at the corner of 37<sup>th</sup> and Myrtle, where the originals had been damaged and removed. The new signal posts will each be topped with the same replicate decorative lamppost tops that adorn the other restored posts on Orange Avenue. Costs were kept in check by using simple modern posts and signal booms with vintage style bases, all painted Long Beach blue. For the new ADA ramps, we chose unpainted cast iron traction domes. They will form a protective patina, like that of manhole covers, that won't need to be recoated repeatedly, saving on maintenance costs and lending a vintage quality. The cast iron domes could be used in more LB ADA ramps in the near future. Finally, CHNA's seal will be cast into the base of the signal posts and sidewalks adjacent to the ramps were repaired.

New utility lines are in place and ready for the signals and lamps when they are received from the manufacturers. We'll plan to have photos for our next issue and on our facebook page!

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

As we settle in to 2012, we look back on a good year for CHNA. On behalf of Cal Heights, I thank each and every one of our volunteers and supporters who contributed to that success. Whether it's five minutes, five hours or fifty, every second a volunteer donates is appreciated.

The 2011 Home and Garden tour hosted hundreds of guests and raised thousands of dollars to continue our ongoing community projects. Led by board member, Karen Highberger, our lamppost project is our most expensive undertaking. The flush of new cash led our CHNA board to dedicate another \$10,000 to lamppost restoration for 2012, and in December it was announced that CHNA would be awarded the Contextual In-Fill Award from Long Beach Heritage for our efforts. Home and Garden Tour homeowners, Craig and Christine Bouma, will receive the Restoration and Preservation Award.

Under the leadership of Clean Streets chairperson, Stacey Morrison, our team of volunteers met every single Thursday in 2011, somehow dodging last winter's rains, only to be caught by an odd early summer morning rainfall which dampened our hair but not our spirits. We collected another 300 plus bags of litter from the commercial corridors around Cal Heights and beyond, removed graffiti and illegal signs and joined forces with our 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office, Litter Free Long Beach and community volunteers to clean over 3.5 tons of litter and debris from Willow Gulch. With the number of volunteers swelling, we combined Clean Streets and ReLeaf efforts to water, weed and prune the maturing trees from 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to Bixby Road, as well as the Lot 33 volunteer project at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Clean Streets also heeded the warning to stay off local freeway ramps, which we cleaned for months. The Council Office is facilitating talks with Cal Trans to resume our cleanings at the Atlantic and Long Beach Boulevard ramps with official blessings. As the first and last glimpses when we enter and leave Bixby Knolls, we can't wait to get back to business!

Community collaboration was the buzz word for 2011. We're proud of our integral rolls with the Don and Harold's public easement improvement project at 500 East Wardlow Road, thirty trees at the Oil Operators lot at 33<sup>rd</sup>/Pasadena, and two plantings that brought twenty additional trees along 33<sup>rd</sup> adjacent to the 405 Freeway. ReLeaf continued its commitment to assist with tree care in Bixby Knolls by pruning the growing trees along Atlantic from Carson to San Antonio, as well as water and pruning for the trees at 46<sup>th</sup>, home of the Uptown Farmers Market. Our board once again supported the Rose Park Restoration Trade Fair and adopted a room at the historic Victorian gem, the Bembridge House, where the annual Christmas Open House fundraiser was one of their most successful to date!

We look forward to another successful year, and we promise to keep you posted as we move forward. Thank you all and Happy New Year! \*



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

Join us on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) (search on California Heights Neighborhood Association)



Please don't post on the posts!  
Report lost/found pets at [lostpets@calheights.org](mailto:lostpets@calheights.org).

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## Alley Safety

While we enjoy low crime rates, crimes of opportunity are always a possibility amidst the vast urban fabric we share. We pay close attention to the front of our homes, but the convenience of alley access comes with notable concerns. Out of sight should not be out of mind when it comes to our alleys. They can be easy entry points for burglars, but why make it easy? Here are some common tips shared about alley safety at Community Watch meetings.

- Keep gates and fences in good repair and securely locked at all times.
- Securely lock garage doors.
- Train thorny bushes or vines like Bougainvillea, Carissa, and Pyracantha on fences.
- Clean alleys eliminate hiding spaces and keep sightlines clear. Keep trash/recycle bins inside gates and don't deposit furniture, electronics, appliances, etc. in the alley. Besides being illegal, it attracts scavengers and desensitizes residents to alley activity. Many charities schedule free pickups, and for items that cannot be reused, each home is entitled to two free City of Long Beach special pickups per year. Call 570-2876.
- Clearly mark addresses on garages or fences to make reporting criminal activity easier and speed police response.
- Light your alley at night.
- Consider getting a dog.
- Consider an alarm and post the sign in your alley as well as in front.
- Keep doors and windows locked and shades and drapes pulled when you're away to keep peering eyes off of your valuables.

One of the best ways we can all spot suspicious behavior is to know our neighbors well, so build relationships and vested interest through Community Watch today. We'll never eliminate crime, but we can reduce our chances of being victimized. Find out more at: [http://www.longbeach.gov/police/community\\_watch/default.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/police/community_watch/default.asp). \*

### Free Smoke Detectors and Installation

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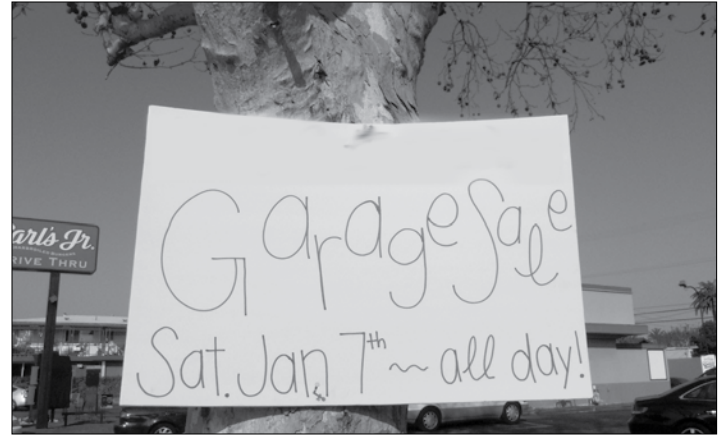


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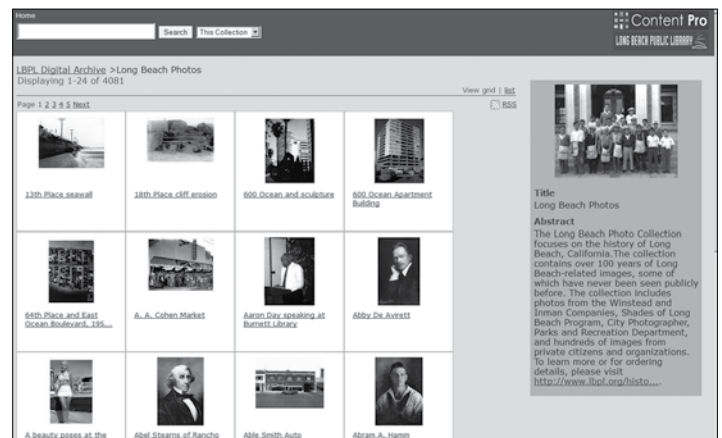
According to city arborist, Jerry Rowland, Long Beach loses trees every year because they've accumulated enough nails from illegal garage sale and other signage to sever the life giving tissues that bring water and nutrients up from the soil. Posting on street signs, trees, lampposts and other public property is illegal in Long Beach unless designated. ❁



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**Digital Photos from LB Public Library and Historical Society**

The Long Beach Public Library and the Historical Society of Long Beach have been busy digitizing their photo records of the city! You can now browse, select and order over 4,000 photos online from the library at lbpl.org – select “Library Catalog” then click “LBPL Digital Archive.” Most of the 30,000 photos in the Historical Society’s collection are available for reproduction in various sizes. For rates, licensing, and specific pricing information, call 562.424.2220 or visit them at 4260 Atlantic Avenue, where archives of Press Telegram newspapers will soon be on display! ❁



**Ed Kmotorka**  
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### Bizz Buzz



Roxanne's owner Robert Molina, CouncilMember James Johnson and his daughter Maria - photo by Tom Underhill

#### Roxanne's Vintage Murals

Roxanne's has expressed their determination to dress up Wardlow Road in advance of the makeover set to begin in March. A mural installation graces the west side of Roxanne's with four vintage photos of the Long Beach area. Roxanne's celebrated their first year in our community on January 14<sup>th</sup>! They also generously adopted one of our Cal Heights lamp-posts. Happy anniversary and best wishes!



Andrea Testa and the new owners of FreeSpirit Yoga, Veronica Silva and Denise Birtch

#### FreeSpirit Yoga Celebrates Ten Years

Can it be that ten years have passed since Cal Heights resident, Andrea Testa, opened the doors to FreeSpirit Yoga on Atlantic Avenue? The community turned out in force to help celebrate, testament to the success that comes from businesses willing to engage the community they serve. An early participant in First Fridays, the studio opened its doors to host local artists, musicians and community members, sponsored blood and food drives and other local events. Along with the celebration, Andrea welcomed the transition to FreeSpirit's new owners, Veronica Silva and Denise Birtch. We wish Andrea and the new team much success. ✨

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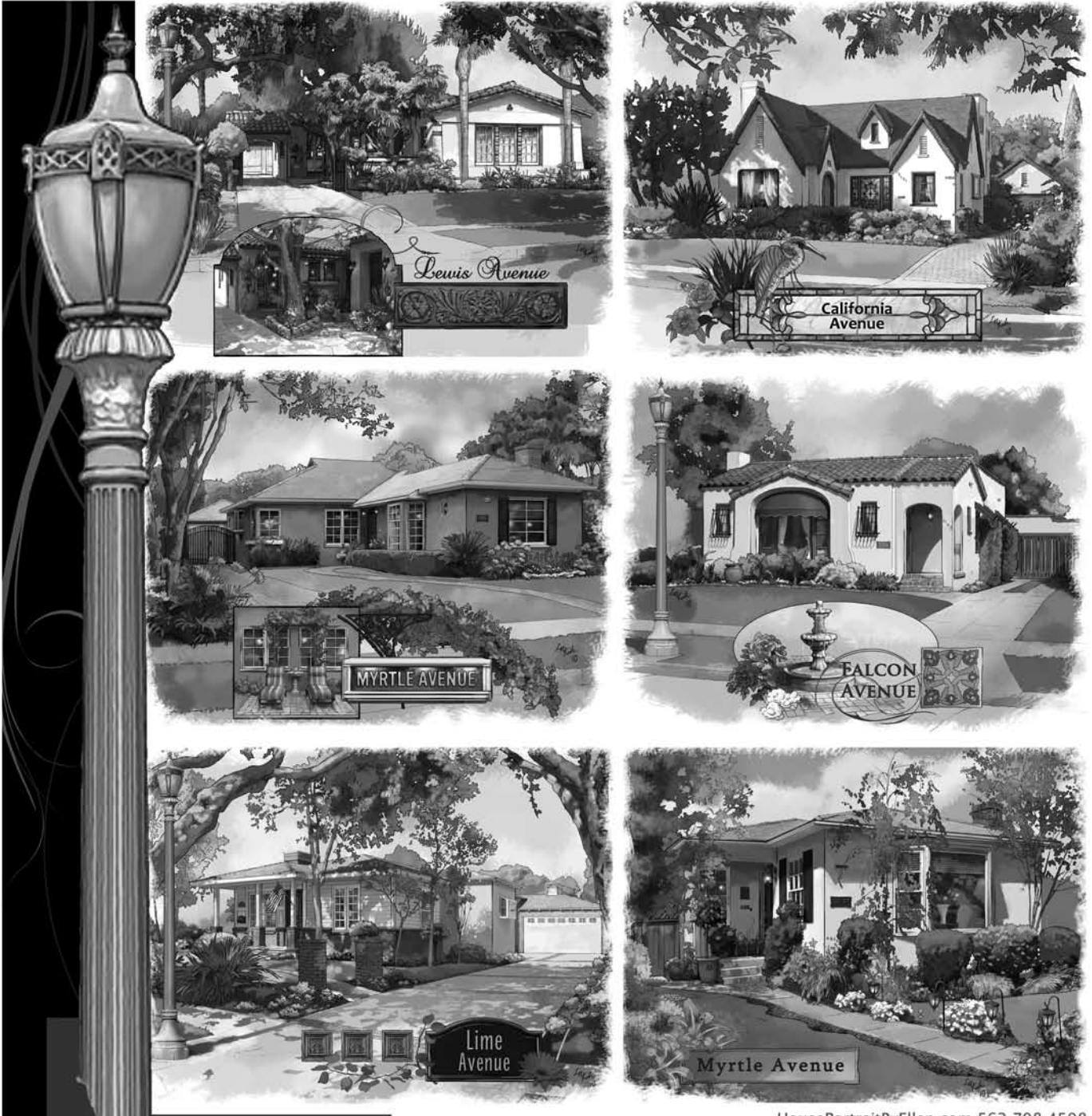
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### Oil Property Improvements at Lime/35th

Community building activities result in productive relationships and outcomes! A recent result shines at the corner of Lime Avenue and East 35<sup>th</sup> Street.

We've combined efforts with the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office, Oil Operators and Cal Heights ReLeaf on some recent successful community projects in our area. So last summer, when our Clean Streets crew pointed out the need for some attention to the oil lot behind Polly's, not only did Oil Operators clean up the public easements, trim the trees and tidy up the place, they went another step by installing new landscaping to improve the sightlines for local residents and prevent the severe erosion that covers the sidewalks with mud and debris during winter rains. We thank our Council Office and Oil Operators for improving the view for our residents! ✨



### Reuse!

Reuse is one of the buzz words for greener living.

When it's time to retire that old Yoga mat, don't throw it away! Place it in the trunk of your car. It will prevent groceries and other items from sliding around!



Reuse your used margarine and butter tubs by cleaning them and keeping them for leftovers (free ziploc containers!).

Take those old CD's, paint or cover them with paper to create one-of-a-kind drink coasters.

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**From the 7<sup>th</sup> District**  
 James Johnson Councilmember

Dear Friends,

As we start a new year, I would like to reflect on significant accomplishments from last year that will make California Heights and Long Beach a better place to live.

We made significant progress toward a more fiscally sound city. We passed two historic pension reform agreements with the Long Beach Firefighters and Police that will help the city live within its means and reduce future cuts to core services. Under the agreement, the Police and Fire pension reforms will save the city \$69 million and \$35.9 million respectively, over the next ten years.

Additionally, the Council approved my motion to reallocate a portion of our residential street repair funds to preventative street maintenance. By maintaining our streets instead of waiting to fix them once they have fallen into disrepair, we can save the city a projected \$30 million over the next 20 years. In the district, our more efficient policies in street and sidewalk repair allowed us to repair 48 blocks of sidewalks (as opposed to the 21 blocks we were previously scheduled to repair) and 24 blocks of streets (as opposed to the 6 blocks previously scheduled). In addition to being more efficient with our money, we increased investment in our city infrastructure (such as streets and sidewalks) by \$5.5 million. Also, the Council approved my motion to increase our tree-trimming budget by 70%, resulting in dramatic increases in tree trimming citywide this year. In Cal Heights, we have begun the work on two long-overdue projects--repairing Wardlow Road and installing a stoplight at Orange Avenue and 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

"First Books at First Fridays," the event where my guests and I read books to kids, celebrated its first full year. Each month, we meet at Dana Branch Library at 5:30 PM. After reading and other free entertainment, we hop on the Big Red Bus, which picks us up at 6:30PM to take us up to enjoy First Fridays in Bixby Knolls. The revitalization of Bixby Knolls continues to gather steam into 2012.

One key accomplishment was increasing access to open space and greening the city. For over 100 years, the property I call California Gardens has been owned by the City and has been sitting dormant. Upon taking office, I knew that we needed to find a way to open this precious resource to the public. Since then I developed a two-track plan for development of this space into a regional park--opening the top four acres



in the short term to activate the property while commencing a master planning process to develop the whole property for the long term. The park, when completed, will be the largest in Long Beach west of Redondo Avenue, at over 40 acres. Phase I of the park is scheduled to open this summer, but if you can't wait that long, call our office for one of our tours of the property. Furthermore, throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> District this year we opened 3 new parks, including the city's largest dog park, and broke ground on two more. Just west of Atlantic, we also planted over 40 trees along the 405 Freeway to keep pollution and noise away from those who live close by.

My staff and I were also busy providing top-notch service to residents in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. This year we closed 1,283 code enforcement cases, helped home and business owners with over \$160,000 in loans or rebates for improvements (including façade improvements to Dave's Burgers, Walk-In Medical Center, and Alex's Automotive on Atlantic Avenue), removed 1,351 illegal signs that blight neighborhoods, removed 96.5 tons of trash from our parks and streets through a variety of cleanups, planted 135 trees, removed graffiti from 4,709 locations containing 59,223 tags, and closed 2,427 constituent cases.

I'm looking forward to another successful year. In addition to the improvements on Wardlow Road and Orange Avenue, we will be repaving Atlantic Avenue south of Bixby Road. We have several more façade improvements planned on Atlantic, Wardlow and Orange, which will brighten up the neighborhood. I look forward to bringing more information on each of these projects to upcoming community meetings in 2012.

P.S – I will be announcing the ribbon cutting for the Orange Avenue/36<sup>th</sup> Street Stoplight soon. Make sure to sign up for the 7<sup>th</sup> District E-Blast and Facebook page at [www.jamesjohnsonlb.com](http://www.jamesjohnsonlb.com) to get regular updates.

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### Cal Heights Community Meeting Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>

Learn about Eco Friendly Gardening Classes from the Water Replenishment District of So Cal, presented by Lillian Kawasaki. Community updates from CHNA and the 7th District Council Office. Donated canned and dried foods will be collected for Food Finders. 6:00 - 7:30 at the Dana Library.

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### From the North Division

by Commander Galen Carroll

Thank you for continuing to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Your involvement is essential to crime prevention and reduction. Recently, your phone calls directed officers to a residential burglary in progress and the successful apprehension of two offenders.

I want to take this opportunity to direct you to a few resources, which provide the latest news and information from the Long Beach Police Department.

**Our Facebook page** is available: [www.facebook.com/Long-BeachPD.CA](http://www.facebook.com/Long-BeachPD.CA). **Nixle.com** provides alerts via text, email, or web, which, depending on your preferences, may include traffic conditions, road closures, police activity, or wanted suspect information. **Visit the L.B.P.D. website** to view news releases, crime statistics, and crime prevention information, or obtain Community Watch information, and submit "tips" via text or web: [www.longbeach.gov/police](http://www.longbeach.gov/police). ❁



*John Royce teaching young volunteers how to properly plant a tree!*

### Tree Plantings

Organized by the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office with assistance by Cal Heights ReLeaf, 14 native trees were planted along the 405 freeway in December at Elm and 33<sup>rd</sup>. Catalina ironwoods, California sycamores and blue oaks will help trap particulates that drift from the busy freeway and beautify the views. Campfire USA volunteers, assisted by the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, Cal Heights ReLeaf and Orchard Supply Hardware, planted 36 California desert willows in the long empty tree wells on the 4400 block of Atlantic Avenue on January 9<sup>th</sup>! ❁

## At Your Long Beach Public Library

By Jennifer Songster

Happy New Year from everyone at the Long Beach Public Library, and especially from your friends at the Dana Library! Reflecting on the past year it is clear we just keep getting busier here! Almost 110,000 people visited the Dana Library and the staff checked out and in more than 235,000 items (that's about 1000 each day we were open and almost 150 each hour! Whew!). There were over 11,000 computer sessions on the library's computers and more than 6000 children participated in our programs throughout the year. Topping it all off, the librarians answered 14,000 plus reference questions!

Looking forward to 2012, however, brings us already to February and Library Lovers Month. To help you celebrate such a fun and exciting monthly observation, here is a short list of books for all ages that you can find at the library each of which features libraries and books:

- *The Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen
- *Dinosaur vs. the Library* by Bob Shea
- *The Librarian from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler
- *Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians* by Brandon Sanderson
- *The Grimm Legacy* by Polly Shulman
- *Americus* by M.K. Reed
- *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron (also available as an eBook and as a downloadable audio book)
- *Running the Books: The Adventures of an Accidental Prison Librarian* by Avi Steinberg (also available as a downloadable audio book)
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (also available as an eBook and as a downloadable audio book)
- *Reading with the stars: A Celebration of Books and Libraries* by Leonard Kniffel
- *The Night Bookmobile* by Audrey Niffenegger

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Our Clean Streets efforts received a wonderful write up in the Press Telegram.

Read it online at [http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci\\_19744399#.TxKYnnQwwI4.facebook](http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_19744399#.TxKYnnQwwI4.facebook)

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Thursdays:** 8:30 am litter pick up - see [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) click on Clean Streets.

**Saturdays:** Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue It's a Grind.

Bixby Rollers Bicycling Group, 8 am  
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf 4105 Atlantic

Bike Saturdays! – Bike to local businesses for special perks & discounts - [bikelongbeach.org](http://bikelongbeach.org)

**Feb 3 thru 25:** Expo Arts Center "The Art of Light" This exhibit features art that highlights the element of light as the artistic, dramatic or focal aspect of the art piece. [galleryexpo.net](http://galleryexpo.net)

**Feb 9: 6:00 pm** – Community Meeting, Dana Library  
Learn about Eco Friendly Gardening Classes from the Water Replenishment District of So Cal.

**Feb 16: 5:30 - 7 pm** BKBA Community Happy Hour - Expo Arts Center, 4321 Atlantic Avenue - "State of the District"

**Feb 17 thru April: 8 pm** Romeo and Juliet at the Richard Goad Theatre - 4250 Atlantic Ave. [lbshakespeare.org](http://lbshakespeare.org)

**Feb 23:** Long Beach Heritage Preservation Awards Ceremony  
Silent Auction begins at 5:30 pm. RSVP by 2/16 - 493-7019

**Feb 26: 3 - 5 pm** Soldering Jewelry Workshop at Bella Cosa  
Using a tin-type soldering technique using copper tape, flux, solder and a soldering iron to create a fun keepsake necklace.  
\$39 [bellacosaboutique.com/classes.html](http://bellacosaboutique.com/classes.html)

**March 2:** First Friday! [firstfridayslongbeach.com](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

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

54<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal  
**495-2915** web: [democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54](http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54)

Airport Noise  
**570-2665 / 570-2600**

California Heights Neighborhood Association  
**424-6727**

California Heights ReLeaf  
**997-9094**

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**

Community Watch North Division  
**570-9825 or 570-9827**

Parkway Tree Trimming  
**570-2700**

Police Department Dispatch  
**435-6711** or Emergency **911**

Police North Substation Information  
**570-9800**

Rancho Los Cerritos  
**570-1755**

Senior Check-In  
**570-7212**

Street Potholes  
**570-3259**

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