

# THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.



## We Did it! 2012 Neighborhood of the Year!

by John Royce

In our May/June issue of The Heights, we announced that Cal Heights was named a finalist in the Neighborhoods USA Neighborhood of the Year competition. Many of you already know that we didn't just win First Place in the Physical Revitalization category; we took home the Grand Prize, 2012 Neighborhoods USA Neighborhood of the Year, in recognition of our ongoing Home and Garden Tours and all of the opportunities they fund for our community. While most past NUSA wins involve successful onetime events or projects, CHNA's entry impressed the judges with the long-standing success of the tours and ongoing investment of revenues raised, according to NUSA board member, Robert Gibbons.

We couldn't be more excited. Our message from Indianapolis on May 25, posted on the California Heights Neighborhood Association Facebook page says it all: *It has been a long but rewarding day. While we are proud of our awards and honor CHNA's recognition, Stacey, Tim and I have been inspired by the dedicated people we've encountered this week at the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) 2012 conference, who are all solving problems in their respective neighborhoods, beautifying, restoring, collaborating with community partners, making friends and building community all across this nation of ours. We can't wait to be home to share our excitement and experiences. Thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters for making this award possible.*

At the end of the day, the little pats on the back are everything they're cracked up to be. This award represents a culmination of years of grassroots efforts in Cal Heights, from the formation of the association in 1927 to petition the city for paved streets, sidewalks and ornamental street lighting, to historic district designation and down zoning, to the formation of the Home and Garden Tours to finance our projects and community outreach. Who knows what the future holds, but we'll keep doing our best to ensure ours is bright and hopeful.

Many messages of appreciation are due, so please turn the pages of this issue as we celebrate our awards. ❁

*president's message*

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

Carving out the time and effort for our Neighborhoods USA proposal package and final presentation surprised even us at how far we've come as an organization, the dynamic successes we've achieved, and the crucial role played by those who came before. We rarely get to view what we do as spectators. While I had seen our video over and over after many hours of writing, and many more hours and late nights editing with fellow board member, Stacey Morrison, and the recording sessions with her husband, Andy, trading in our gloves and elbow grease to experience our twelve minute presentation from a seat in the audience shook me emotionally. When a member from one of the other competing associations leaned over to an associate and said, "Wow, who are these people?" I knew we had captured the essence of who we are and what we do.

Our next surprise? The dedication of the NUSA directors, volunteers from across the country themselves, and the six hundred attendees, fellow volunteers dedicated to improving their communities from sea to shining sea, offered inspiration and made us proud to share their presence. Some of the challenges they face we can only imagine, but they carry on nonetheless, fed by the hope and camaraderie of common cause that their efforts will improve the lives and viability of the villages they cherish and the people they share them with.

Our NUSA experience included workshops and seminars hosted by groups who had achieved marked success, and organizations, public and private, offering services or developing strategies to overcome community challenges. A choice of local tours allowed guests to experience different neighborhoods in Indianapolis, hosted by the residents themselves. We spent an entire day with volunteers from the Irvington Terrace neighborhood, touring their successes and challenges, sharing meals, meeting their community partners and discovering almost as much as one can discover about a place in twelve hours! At the end of that day, Tim, Stacey and I realized we were hooked and wondered if we could manage a trip to next year's conference in Minneapolis! Maybe we could even present our own workshop or two!

Volunteers will only become more important as our communities face the challenge of shrinking budgets and rising expectations. Like our ReLeaf, Clean Streets and lamppost restoration efforts, we've provided services worth thousands of dollars that taxpayers don't need to fund. Along the way, we find ourselves more in touch with our community, blessed by the bonds we share and satisfied with the work we do together. That's what community building is all about, my friends!

Many thanks to all of our volunteers and supporters. ✿

John Royce



CHNA President

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)

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### Messages of Appreciation

We can't tell you how touched we were by the support we received from the community for our Neighborhoods USA effort. Donations, small and large, covered the costs of our trip expenses. Jet Blue generously provided two of our three airline tickets and Orozco's Auto Service touched our hearts with an exceedingly generous \$500 gift! Roxanne's Lounge hosted five nights of profit sharing as well, so we thank them and all who took the time to stop in for a bite. To those of you who showed up more than once, very special thanks. Other donations rolled in for several weeks, ranging from \$5 to \$100, all equally appreciated, some even coming from outside of Cal Heights and even California!

Many thanks to Margaret Madden and her City of Long Beach Neighborhood Resources Team for their valuable counsel in the final days of prep and for the lovely party they hosted in our honor to celebrate our accomplishments. CHNA received a Proclamation by Mayor Foster and Councilmember James Johnson, the Metropolitan Water District acknowledged our win with a \$500 grant for ReLeaf, and we will be introduced on August 6<sup>th</sup> on the State Capitol floor by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal. CHNA has also been invited to be recognized by LA County Supervisor, Don Knabe.

While we don't often invite media coverage, many thanks to our local Signal Tribune, Uptown Gazette, Long Beach Business Journal and EverythingLongBeach.com for their thoughtful coverage of our special news.

Support comes in many forms, so we also extend very special appreciation to all of our volunteers and community partners, past, present and future, who continue to help make Cal Heights not only a great place to live, but a special place to call home. From board members to our generous Home and Garden Tour homeowners and ticket holders, lamppost adopters, tree planters, newsletter distributors, litter pickers and alley cleaners, it's what we all do together that makes our village strong. Thank you so very much. We share this award with all of you! \*



Visit calheights.org to view the video presented at the Neighborhoods USA Conference.

NUSA photos are available on our facebook page!

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**Lampposts: Next Round, 'round the Corner**

CHNA is passionate about our vintage lampposts. As we wrap up our latest round of adoptions, we thank all who generously participated in our two-for-one opportunity! The 3400/3500 blocks of Lemon Avenue deserve special attention for rallying their residents to ensure that every lamppost on their stretch of real estate receives restored tops!

CHNA pledged \$10,000 from our 2011 Home and Garden Tour proceeds and a \$25,000 grant from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association to lamppost restoration, including the special offer to fund a second lamppost for each one adopted by local residents. Once the latest adoptions are accounted for, the order for the new tops will be placed with South Coast Lighting and the installations scheduled with City Light and Power. The new tops replace the yellowing plastic globes with decorative cages, finials and high quality polycarbonate globes, replicating the originals that once adorned the historic posts installed in 1929.

With the help of Councilmember Johnson and the Department of Public Works, we may finally have our lampposts repainted in the near future in recognition of our more than \$120,000 private investment in public infrastructure. We'll keep you "posted!" ❁

**Fight the Bite**

Warmer nights of late summer and fall breed mosquitoes. Fight the spread of West Nile virus by ensuring that water in bird baths is exchanged twice weekly and don't allow empty buckets, tires and children's toys to collect water. Even small cups or saucers hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Report stagnant pools or ponds to 570-4132.



### Clean Streets Celebrates Three Years!

This August Clean Streets celebrates three years as an official CHNA program! Our volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours to a cleaner Cal Heights and Bixby area community, led by board member, Stacey Morrison. Each Thursday volunteers meet for a rotating schedule to clean litter, graffiti and illegal signs along Wardlow, Atlantic, Long Beach Blvd. and 33rd, and periodically along parts of Cherry, Orange, and Bixby. So far this year we've removed over 4,280 pounds of litter from our commercial corridors, alleys and parking lots! Most of the areas we clean are outside the boundaries of Cal Heights, representing our dedication to the broader community we share with our neighbors.

Clean Streets engages local businesses to take better care of their lots and public easements, significantly reducing the litter that spoils our shopping areas and blows onto our residential streets. Walgreen's, Target, Staples and Fresh & Easy have responded with more frequent and thorough litter removal.

In an effort to improve alley safety and cleanliness, monthly alley cleanups began marching west across the neighborhood this year. Our partnership with Litter Free Long Beach allows us to collect E-waste and oversized items, too! While successful, more resident volunteers are needed for more complete cleaning and weeding. Cleanups take place each third Saturday of the month. The next cleanup takes place on the alley between Brayton and Orange on August 18. ✨

### Clean Streets to Officially Adopt Freeway Ramps

We realize how important first impressions are to visitors, potential shoppers and new residents when they enter our community. About a year ago, Clean Streets volunteers heeded a warning not to enter freeway areas to remove litter. With continued budget cuts further reducing the frequency of litter removal along local freeways, Clean Streets, with the help of 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office representative, Jerry Caligiuri, worked with CalTrans to secure legal freeway entry for our volunteers. In a recent surprise decision, Clean Streets will be able to officially adopt the northside on/off ramps to the 405 freeway at Atlantic Avenue and Long Beach Blvd.

Once permits are issued, hopefully in August, many of our members must take safety training classes before we hit the pavement. Clean Streets will be recognized with signage near the freeway. ✨

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If you haven't given your trees a good soak, now is one of the best times of the year to do it to deter drought stress, which can lead to weakness, limb breakage, disease and insect damage. Young trees less than a year old need water at least twice per month during the dry season, tapering to once monthly through year two, then every six to eight weeks or more, depending on weather conditions. Exceptions are native oaks, which are susceptible to pathogens when kept moist in warm months. ✧



### Pet Safety: Coyote Reminder

With, wild areas along the LA River and other surrounding open areas nearby, coyotes are a fact of life. But it seems no matter how often we fire off warnings, many residents

are surprised to know that coyotes frequently venture into our neighborhood. Prime attractants include pet food and water left outdoors overnight, unsecured food scraps and sadly, free roaming pets. Please don't allow your pets to roam from dusk to dawn when coyotes are most active. Besides coyotes, free roaming pets are more likely to be hit by cars, fight, or encounter other dangers.

### Tag and License your Pets

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July exemplifies the need to license, tag and if possible, chip our furry loved ones. More pets go missing on the 4<sup>th</sup> than any other time, and the recent holiday was no exception. Please, make it easy for caring people to return your pets to you. You'll prevent the misery of the endless search and illegal signs, and lessen the chances for broken hearts. For more info on monthly Long Beach Animal Care Services Low Cost Pet Clinics, call 570-PETS or go to [longbeach.gov/acs/default.asp](http://longbeach.gov/acs/default.asp).

### Heat and Your Pets

With the hottest So Cal months yet to come, ensure a safe summer for your pets. Never leave a pet in a parked car, beware of hot pavement and beach sand, make sure there's plenty of water and access to cool areas in the house or yard, and walk or exercise pets in the cooler parts of the day. ✧

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

This summer is shaping up to be a great one for the California Heights community; we've already had a strong start. Leading things off was Cal Heights being named the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) 2012 Neighborhood of the Year. This is an amazing accomplishment and everyone in Cal Heights, from the Board of Directors to the many volunteers, deserves a

tremendous amount of credit. Two weeks ago, I was pleased, with Mayor Bob Foster, to recognize the CHNA at the Council Meeting.

Earlier this week, we opened phase one of California Gardens for a sneak peak and July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert with the Long Beach Junior Concert Band and Flat Top Tom and his Stray Cats. Though not yet complete, the new 4-acre hill-top park was beautiful, offering magnificent views from the Pacific Ocean to Mount Baldy. Over two hundred-fifty people enjoyed the sunset; we had a full view of the Los Angeles Basin as fireworks went off all around us.

There are several other California Gardens events planned for this summer. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at First Fridays, we will be announcing the permanent park name that won the name competition. I will request that the City Council recommend the winning name to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration. Details will be coming soon, but I hope you can join us as we announce what may be the name for the largest park to be opened in Long Beach since El Dorado Park in 1952. This summer will also see us begin the master planning process for the park. This is your opportunity to help shape the design of the park and tell us what elements are important to you and the community. The first meeting (July 21<sup>st</sup>) will have passed by the time you read this, but the second planning meeting will be August 23<sup>rd</sup>, time and location to be announced. Please call my office at 570-7777 for details.

On the legislative front, the Environmental Committee recently received an update that about one-third of the pilot greywater installations have been completed, allowing homeowners to conserve water by draining the washing machines to their backyard gardens. I was proud to develop this Laundry-to-Landscape program with the assistance from the Long Beach Water Department and the Office of Sustainability. Once complete, we will be gathering the data from residents on their water savings to see what future applications may be possible, plus developing a "how-to" guide for residents to build their own system.



Last week, Council discussed Long Beach's success in lobbying our federal officials in not imposing a stricter flood standard for the Los Angeles River Flood basin that would have impacted thousands of homes in Long Beach, causing the need for residents to buy expensive flood insurance. Though it did not impact Cal Heights directly, it would have affected a large majority of the city.

Finally, I hope you can join me for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 7<sup>th</sup> District BBQ and Croquet Tournament at Somerset Park on August 19<sup>th</sup>. This year, the BKBIA will be co-sponsoring the event and will be incorporating a Kidical Mass bike ride, a free for all ages community ride, into the event. The BBQ will begin at 1pm at Somerset Park with the Croquet Tournament to begin at 3pm. Kidical Mass riders will depart Los Cerritos Park at 1pm, arriving at the BBQ in time to eat. This is a free event for all 7<sup>th</sup> District residents so I hope you can join me. ✨



**From the North Division**  
Commander Galen Carroll

Summer brings great weather, outdoor activities, and family vacations.

Preventing crime during family travel starts with making sure your home is protected while you're

away. The key is to make it look like you never left.

- Keep shades & blinds in their normal positions.
- Stop mail & newspapers, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- Put timers on several household lights so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- Make sure all your doors and window locks are in working order - and use them.
- Activate your home alarm (if you have one).
- Ask a trusted neighbor to be alert and call 9-1-1 if they see anyone suspicious near your home. ✨

**August 7<sup>th</sup> - National Night Out**

Promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships for a safer community. NNO is a perfect opportunity to host a Community Watch meeting, or plan an evening with your neighbors to organize a watch on your block. The better we know our neighbors, the better we are at recognizing and reporting suspicious activities. For more info about Community Watch, go to [longbeach.gov/community\\_watch/default.asp](http://longbeach.gov/community_watch/default.asp) or call 570-9825 or 570-9827.

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## California Heights & Bixby Terrace Video Surveillance Initiative

by Gerry Facon - Community Watch Representative

Many of us know, especially those who have been burglarized, that the majority of break-ins occur during the day and via our alleys. As a result of this, neighbors asked if there was anything that could be done to better protect our alleys ?

As a function of the Neighborhood/Community Watch Program, an initial kick-off meeting of homeowners was held. This meeting also included 7<sup>th</sup> District City Councilman James Johnson, his aid Jerry Caligiuri and police officers from LBPD North Division – who were all extremely helpful in better understanding safety options.

The outcome of this initial meeting was that residents present from the 3700 & 3800 blocks of Rose, Gardenia and Gaviota Avenues agreed that we should explore the installation of video cameras in our alleys as a joint project; and team with LBPD on the location of, and specifications for video cameras and recorders. Residents agreed to proceed with the project with the following objectives:

1. Do not impose a one size fits all solution, as each alley has its own unique characteristics and challenges.
2. Team with LBPD to achieve the “deterrent” we need and the “apprehension” capability they desire.
3. Identify video systems which are affordable, portable and scalable.
4. Use the capability we develop as a model for other blocks within California Heights and Bixby Terrace to follow.

Following these objectives, residents of the 3700 blocks in California Heights opted to pursue a do-it-yourself “wireless” video solution. This approach, while a bit more costly for the wireless equipment, is cheaper in its overall cost, is easier to install, is more portable and is easily upgradable.

Residents of the 3800 blocks of Bixby Terrace opted to pursue a turn-key “hard wired” video solution. This approach employs a contractor to procure and install the video system and run the needed coaxial cables from the cameras to the Recorders (DVRs). This approach too is easily upgradable, and provides better image range and quality, but would be harder to move components due to the hard wire cabling.

The two approach(s) selected in this pilot project will give anyone who is interested in following our lead a proven and more risk free approach to installing video cameras and recorders in their alleys.

It must be noted that Internet access, or mobile access via Smart Phones, will be implemented after our initial implementation has been tested and proven. This added capability will then allow LBPD to monitor our alleys and achieve the "apprehension" component of our project goals. In the mean time, we believe that this deterrent will keep the "bad guys" out of our alleys, as there will be clear signage telling anybody who drives through the alleys, that they are monitored 24/7 and that their license plates are being monitored – in English and Spanish.

For more details, email Gerry at [facong@yahoo.com](mailto:facong@yahoo.com). \*



### Bright Idea!

LED Bulbs are gaining in popularity as the cost drops. Even considering their expense, their ultra low energy usage and superior life (some offer 100,000 hours – nearly 35 years at 8 hours per day!) pay for themselves, and unlike compact fluorescents, don't contain toxic mercury. Choose 2700k (color temperature) for warm light, 3000k for whiter light, with greater numbers getting progressively whiter and cooler. LEDs turn on instantly and produce almost no heat.

### New Life for Nino's!

CHNA congratulates Nino's Italian Restaurant and offers best wishes for a successful extended future in our community! TV Chef, Gordon Ramsey, poured his revamping advice on the half century old Nino's during a taping of Fox's Kitchen Nightmares during the week of July 8, with new décor and menu items. The airing date has not been announced. \*



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please check [calheights.org](http://calheights.org) and [facebook.com/calheights](https://facebook.com/calheights) for upcoming events.



### Community Rallies in Memory of Volunteer

The Longfellow PTA lost a beloved volunteer, Laura Costley, to cancer this spring. Her friends, led by Cal Heights resident, Jody Johnson, wanted to do something special in her memory, so they formed a Facebook page to invite community friends to contribute to a lamppost adoption in tribute to the

friend they so dearly miss.

We sincerely hope this helps ease the pain for all who loved and appreciated Laura and her volunteer dedication to the kids she cared so much about. The loss of such a dedicated soul will certainly be missed.

Laura's friends' generous contributions not only help move CHNA towards its goal of restoring all of our vintage lampposts, they provide a lasting tribute to Laura's own spirit of generosity. \*

### New Biz Buzz

- Unless they fool us again, Creperie La Rue (just south of EJ Malloy's) will have opened by the time you read this. The long standing guessing game for local residents is, hopefully, over!
- Bundts on Melrose is now open at 4147 Long Beach Blvd., serving up gourmet bundt cakes and mini bundts in an assortment of flavors.
- Oh Very Young, 4378 Atlantic Ave., offering pre-loved children's clothing.
- Check out the new colors of The California Heights Market at Orange and Bixby. Not a liquor store, the little market is making a name for itself in micro-brewery circles, offering hard to find beers, lagers and more.

*Buying or Selling?*  
Confused in today's market?  
You are not alone... I'll show you how to win bids and sell for more. Decades of experience to assist you. Founder of  
*Community Outreach Services*  
for Sellers underwater on their mortgage. Call me...

**MetroCal**  
real estate  
brokers

**WGA**  
WISSEY GROUP

**Connie W.**  
**(562) 824-4846**

\* DRE#01221986

## 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**

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 Pick Up (2 Free per Year)  
**570-2876**

Street Potholes  
**570-3259**