

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.



New Signal Ceremony - images by Tom Underhill

Exciting News for Cal Heights Lamppost Restoration Project

by Karen Highberger

It's been an exciting first quarter for the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association and our Lamppost Restoration Project. On February 23rd The CHNA was awarded a Preservation Award for Contextual In-fill for the Lamppost Project from Long Beach Heritage. Then on March 10th the new traffic signals at 36th and Orange Avenue were unveiled, sporting the vintage tops to match the lampposts. Big thanks to Public Works and Councilmember James Johnson for working with CHNA to get a style of signal appropriate to our Historic District.

The most exciting news is the announcement by the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association that we have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,000. In addition, the CHNA pledged \$10,000 to further lamppost restoration after our successful 2011 Home & Garden Tour.

CHNA is planning a great promotion for the neighborhood to energize and hopefully complete the lamppost restoration project. The plan is to offer a "two-fer" on the lampposts. So for every block that can collect enough money to sponsor a lamppost (\$725), an additional lamppost will be installed on that same block. Some blocks in the neighborhood are very close to completion. This is a great way to finish off your block with a minimal contribution from your neighbors and a great way to bring your block together for a common goal. Sponsoring a lamppost includes the custom plaque with 4 lines for engraving.

This project will be on the fast track, due to Grant funding rules. We will be working out the details in the very near future and more information will be posted on calheights.org and facebook.com/calheights. If anyone wants to learn more or volunteer to be a block captain (this means knocking on doors and engaging your neighbors in the program), please contact me at khighberger@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support of this project! ❁

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

John Royce was called away on a family emergency, but will be back with a President's Message in the next edition of the Heights.

Rock -a- Palooza!

On March 7th an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people visited the LACMA rock while it was parked on Atlantic Avenue between 36th and 37th. The party was an all day event with food, music and rock art! It was a hugh success and fun to be a part of the rock's historic journey from Riverside to LACMA. ✱



Image by Greg Jacobs



Image by Tom Underhill

Image by Tom Underhill

Image by Stacey Morrison



Image by Tom Underhill

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

Join us on facebook.com (search on California Heights Neighborhood Association)



Please don't post on the posts! Report lost/found pets at lostpets@calheights.org.

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Part of the Window Restoration & Repair Team!

Windows 101

by Ed Sanchez - Window Restoration and Repair

In the age of "preservation and green" people, rightfully, feel wasteful trashing original windows and replacing them with non-environmentally friendly vinyl, or low quality wood windows. Many home owners are opting to restore their original windows while installing modern weather stripping. As a result you can have it all; windows that are energy efficient, work properly and maintain their original charm.

A standard wood **double-hung window** can cool your house down an additional 10 degrees just by opening the top window 3" or more. The top opening gives the heat a way to escape. If you open the bottom window as well, you allow fresh air in because the top escaping heat creates a vacuum. Apparently the Englishman Robert Hooke, who designed the double-hung window 320 years ago knew what he was doing!

The romantic **in-swinging casement window**, known by some as French windows, is a window you may never see again. Modern casement windows only open out. In-swinging casement windows are designed to be maintained every 20-50 years. The downside to this window is that if it isn't adjusted properly it could leak water. The upside is that silicone weather-stripping can be installed (without glue) to virtually eliminate water leakage, as long as the window is adjusted properly. The beauty of the in-swinging casement window is that you have your screen on the outside of your house, and when you open the window fully you get 100% of airflow through the window. Installing parliament hinges will allow the window to fold all the way back to the wall, keeping the window from moving in the wind.

Your original **out-swinging casement window** has a plus as well. Depending on which way the wind blows, you can open one or the other casement window out into the wind, and have a natural scoop to pull in twice as much air as a regular window. In addition, you can weather-strip this window just like the in-swinging casement, to insure comfort in the home.

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At Your Long Beach Public Library

by Jennifer Songster - Dana Branch Library

It's National Library Month in Long Beach! This year's theme is "You Belong @ Your Library!"

Why do "you belong @ your library"? Because your Long Beach Public Library truly has something for everyone! Go to www.lbpl.org for information on events, services and even more happening in the library in April.

Now, let's talk Non-Fiction! Some non-fiction readers are looking to expand their knowledge or skills, and some are reading it for the entertainment value (didn't Mark Twain say truth was stranger than fiction?). Regardless of the reasons why people read it, non-fiction has such a range of sub-categories that surely there is something for everyone. Here's is a selection of adult and children's non-fiction titles new to the Dana Library. Log on to the Library's website at www.lbpl.org to reserve your copy today.

For Adults:

Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope

by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly

Power Concedes Nothing: One Woman's Quest for Social Justice in America, from the Courtroom to the Kill Zones

by Connie Rice

The Iron Lady: Margaret Thatcher, from Grocer's Daughter to Prime Minister by John Campbell

How Eskimos Keep Their Babies Warm and other Adventures in Parenting by Mei-Ling Hopgood

The Ultimate Allergy-Free Snack Cookbook: Over 100 Kid-Friendly Recipes for the Allergic Child by Judi & Shari Zucker

Diet Rehab: 29 Days to Finally Stop Craving the Foods that Make You Fat by Dr. Mike Dow

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo (downloadable eBook and audio-book)

Life as I Blow It: Tales of Love, Life & Sex...Not Necessarily in that Order by Sarah Colonna (ebook)

For Children:

Saga of the Sioux : an adaptation of Dee Brown's Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dwight Jon Zimmerman

Superman vs. the Ku Klux Klan: the True Story of How the Man of Steel Battled the Men of Hate by Rick Bowers

What Color is My World: The Lost History of African-American Inventors by Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld

Just a Second by Steve Jenkins

Stylish Shoes for the Crafty Fashionista by Mary Meinking
Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution by Laurence Pringle ❁

Buying Locally Grown Food

by Kelli Johnson of Spring Street Farm Stand



Why should we care about where our food comes from? What defines local? What is the difference between sustainable agriculture and organically grown? Cage free versus pasture raised? Where our food comes from, how it's grown and where we draw the line on what is acceptable is an important decision for each of us.

For years, I've purchased cage free eggs and felt good about spending a little extra to do the right thing. But after closer examination, it turns out cage free isn't a high enough bar, the conditions are still unacceptable. Chickens are crammed in to buildings with 11 square inches per bird. So, "pastured" is the term that best describes the responsible treatment of hens - living and scratching outside, having normal chicken lives. There is nothing better than a coop egg! This is one example of how we can support local and responsible farmers with our purchasing decisions. Another is to support sustainable agriculture.

What does sustainable agriculture mean? An agriculture whose methods do not deplete soil, water, air, wildlife, or human community resources. Sustainable agriculture is a term used worldwide to refer to farming practices that strive for this ideal, as opposed to methods that rely on petroleum products (like gasoline, chemical fertilizers) and/or exploited labor. If you want to buy local and support sustainable agriculture, there are several choices you can make right here in the neighborhood!

The Uptown Farmers Market on Thursdays has a great selection of produce, **The Growing Experience in Carmelitos** offers produce grown on-site near 52nd and Atlantic and of course the **Spring Street Farm Stand** on Spring Street at Elm Ave., (open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am-5pm). We grow and sell sustainably farmed produce, pastured eggs, and backyard fruit. You can also pick up organic heirloom seeds to start your own vegetable garden, hand crafted soap and soon we will stock organic chicken feed, grains and soil amendments. We are planting beans, eggplant, zucchini and melons right now and the fava beans are about to produce. Brussel Sprouts, asparagus and strawberries are going strong, with blueberries making a recent appearance.

For more information, recipes or volunteer opportunities:
KelliJohnson1@mac.com | www.TheFarmDesk.wordpress.com ❁

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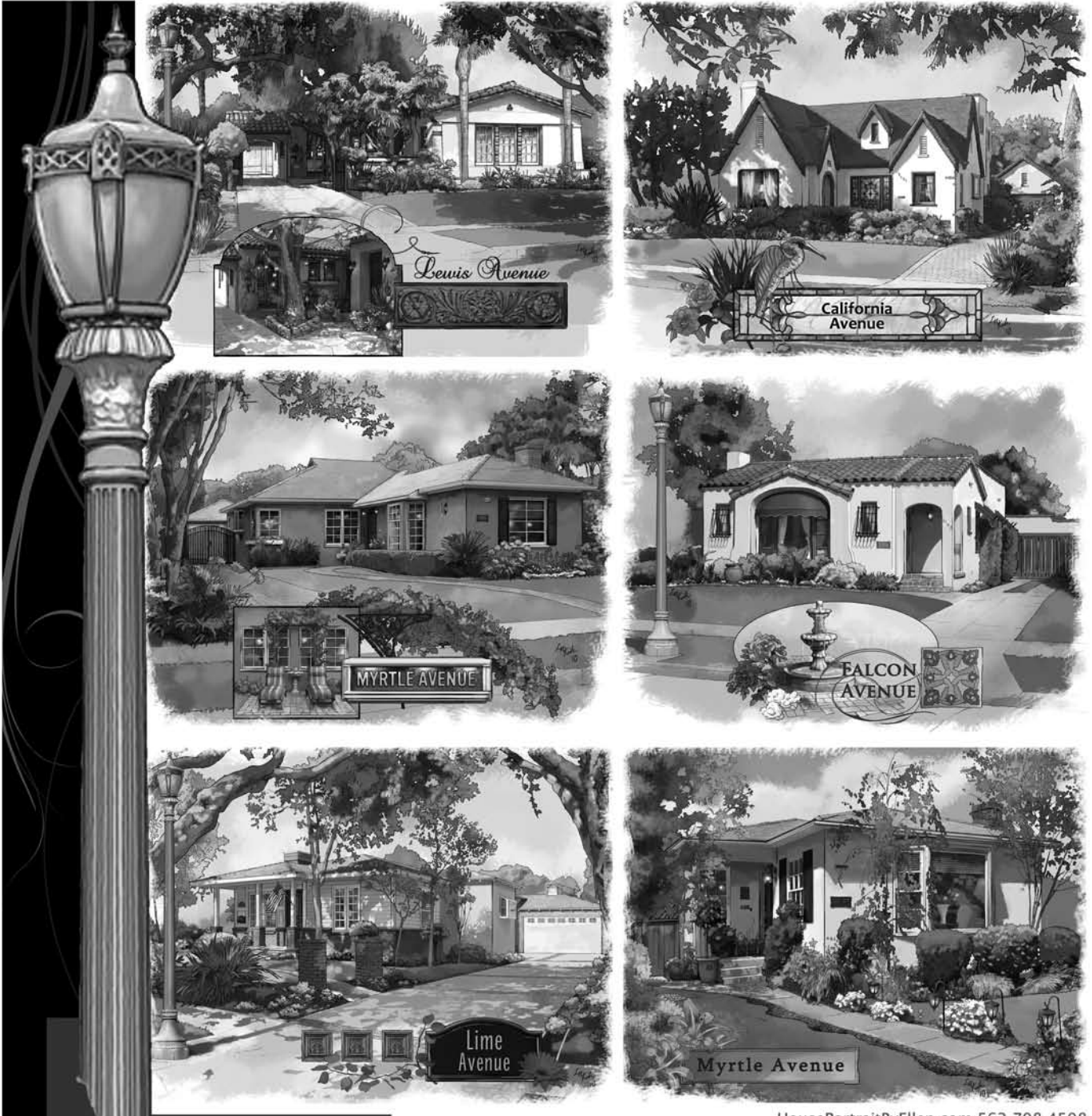
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Stay in Touch with LB Parks!

Residents can stay informed about Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine by signing up for their free "E-Notify" service. Subscribers receive emails about recreation classes, special events, park development projects, and many other programs. Visit lbparks.org and click "E-Notify" to register.

Mark your calendars for these great upcoming events:
April 9-13: Spring Fun Days: Children ages 5-12 can drop by their local park for staff-led crafts, games, sports held Monday-Friday. Visit www.lbparks.org for locations and hours.

April 14: Low cost vaccination and microchipping pet clinics will be held at 9 am at Houghton Park and 12:30 pm at Admiral Kidd Park.

April 21: Join the Earth Day Beach Cleanup at 10 am at Granada Beach.

April 27: Fundraising Concert with the Long Beach Municipal Band 6:30 pm, Long Beach Convention Center Grand Ballroom. Call (562) 252-5626 for information.

April 30: Look for the summer "Recreation Connection" program registration guide in your mailbox, community center or at www.lbparks.org.



May 5: Summer Aquatics Camp Registration Day at 8 am at Belmont Pool and Parks, Recreation and Marine Administration.

May 12: Opening Celebration for the Rancho Los Cerritos Visitor Center and restored arroyo at 12:30 pm.

This summer, Parks, Recreation and Marine will continue its partnership with the Long Beach Convention and Visitor's Bureau to promote the "100 Days of Summer." The campaign reminds residents of the hundreds of free or low cost entertainment events, sports programs, and recreational opportunities offered in the City between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The message is "there is no reason to leave town to find fun, you and your family can stay and play in Long Beach." Beginning the week of May 14, residents can visit 100daysofsummer.org, to plan a memorable summer. ✨


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From the 7th District
 James Johnson Councilmember

Dear Friends,

What a month in the 7th District! I was happy to see so many of my Cal Heights neighbors at Rock-a-Palooza last week. We estimate that 20,000 people visited us from all around Southern California to see the 340-ton granite rock the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is moving from Riverside to

the museum in L.A. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that was so popular we went 5 hours longer than originally planned. If you'd like to see video clips or a collection of newspaper articles, visit my website at JamesJohnsonLB.com. You may have been on TV and didn't even know it. Special thanks to Blair Cohn and all the volunteers who helped make this event happen.

Also, the light at 36th and Orange was activated, and we had a great ceremony to celebrate this accomplishment. Because of the work of John Royce and others, special features were included in this project in keeping with our historic district. The next time you walk by, note the special lampposts as well as the cast iron ADA ramps (instead of bright yellow ramps typically used by Public Works).

As many of you have already seen, Wardlow Road construction has begun. This project will undergo multiple phases and will take several months, but the new Wardlow Road will not only improve quality of life for our residents, but will also attract visitors and ultimately help our businesses. For the first phase, lane closures will occur at Lewis, Lemon, and Orange Avenues as the Water Department improves the water mains under Wardlow. That work is now underway. Future work will include the demolition of the road, repairing of curbs, and the replacement of the road itself. We also worked with John Royce to plant many new trees along Wardlow, including the creative use of ADA compliant tree-well grates that allow for trees in narrow spaces where they may otherwise have not been allowable. When complete, Wardlow Road will be something that compliments our neighborhood and business district, instead of the eyesore that it has been for years.

On the legislative front, at the last Council meeting, city staff presented on my request to study the Governor's pension proposals. Our police officers and fire fighters have already stepped forward to create a more sustainable pension system, but we still have work to do with our remaining employee groups. Pension reform is so important to me because I know that in order to provide the level of service that residents

deserve, we need a pension system that is sustainable and fair to both taxpayers and employees.

This week we held the first meeting of the new Joint Use Committee with the City of Long Beach and Long Beach Unified School District, of which I am chair. This committee, which was created by the Council at my recommendation, will help us work with the LBUSD to best utilize our limited resources in these tough times in order to provide the best service to residents. Amongst other topics, we had an in-depth conversation of what the school district is doing to combat bullying in our schools and ways the city and residents can help. My hope is that by working together we can combat this very serious issue.

There is a lot happening in the District. To stay updated, make sure to sign up to the 7th District E-Blast and join my Facebook page at www.JamesJohnsonLB.com.

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From the North Division

by Commander Galen Carroll



Spring is just around the corner; great weather, outdoor activities, and family vacations are sure to follow. 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 and blinds in their normal positions.
- Stop mail and 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.

Whether home or away, may you and your family enjoy a safe and memorable 2012. ✨

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Clean Streets Gets a Dumpster

In January the Press Telegram wrote a wonderful article about the Cal Heights Clean Streets Program which caught the eye of Efrain Ramirez - Vice President & General Manager of EDCO Disposal Company.

Efrain donated the use of a 3 yard dumpster for Clean Streets, which was incredibly generous and makes our jobs much easier.

EDCO, a 45 year old family run business, is familiar with our neighborhood as they have many Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls clients.



Caution!! Watch For Children

by Jeff Price

If you live close to, or have children attending Longfellow Elementary or Hughes Middle School, I'm sure you've noticed the traffic congestion on Bixby and/or Olive Avenue from 7:30 am to about 8:15 am. The combined population for these two schools is around 3500 students, and the roads surrounding these schools just weren't built to handle this much traffic at one time.

If you can, please try to avoid driving on Bixby between 7:30 am and 8:15 am. If you are dropping students off in the morning, please remember:

1. Do not stop in the red or in the cross walk areas. Please remember a red curb, driveway and cross walk means no stopping or dropping off at any time.
2. Do not drop children off in the alley.
3. Do not let children out on the driver's side.
4. Do not double park and allow children to exit your vehicle.

Remember, public safety is everyone's business. ✧



Let's Talk About Public Art

Many of you noticed on February 25th a large blue metal sculpture was installed on the corner of Wardlow and Orange. The Cal Heights facebook page was instantly booming with questions and reactions. The frustrating part of this art installation was that neither the 7th District Council Office nor the CHNA knew anything about it.

The project was part of a grant called "Urban Forestry" issued by the Arts Council and was installed by LB Transit. Normally these types of installations go off without a hitch, but not this one. At issue was the placement of the sculpture, which obscured the Cal Heights mural, and a lack of communication. Immediately the 7th District Council office was in touch with LB Transit and by March 15th the piece was removed.

Public art can be a wonderful addition to any neighborhood. Let's hope in the future we can celebrate it with clear planning and community involvement. ✧

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Thursdays: 8:30 am litter pick up - see 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

April 1: Radio Disney & the Easter Bunny at LB Towne Center

The Radio Disney Road Crew and DJ will be hosting an event including an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, bunny dances and contests and Easter arts and crafts as well as prizes and giveaways for families. longbeachtownecenter.net

April 1: Friends of Music present Prelude to Holy Week

The Cal Heights Methodist Church choirs present a concert of inspirational music to lead us into Holy Week and prepare us for the Easter Season. 4PM calheightssumc.org

April 6: First Friday - firstfridayslb.org

April 7: First Saturday Creation Station for Kids at the Rancho

Explore the adobe ranch house and gardens as you nurture your imagination through engaging crafts and activities! 1-5pm RanchoLosCerritos.org

April 21: Clean Streets - Alley Clean Up 10 am to Noon

A clean alley is a safe alley. The Clean Streets team invites everyone out as we clean the Gardenia and Rose alleys. We will meet at the corner of Gardenia and Bixby. More details to follow at facebook.com/calheights.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

7th District Council - James Johnson
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

8th District Council - Rae Gabelich
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal
495-2915 web: 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
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