

THE HEIGHTS

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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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.



A Time for Thanks

As we head into Thanksgiving and the busy holiday season before us, CHNA thanks all who have donated time and or money during 2012. Some of you adopted lampposts or donated to our Neighborhoods, USA effort, volunteered for weekly Clean Streets and alley cleanups, ReLeaf events, even delivered this newsletter, purchased an ad or joined us in assisting other area groups in their efforts as well. Beyond Cal Heights Neighborhood Association projects, a myriad of other local, national and international organizations and programs depend upon volunteers and donations to carry out their missions.

As budgets continue to constrict, generous funding from community donations and work that volunteers provide becomes ever more vital to the health and vitality of the communities we share. Whether you donate \$5 or \$500, contribute five hours or fifty, individual efforts collectively impact a virtually unlimited array of needs and ideals from sea to shining sea and beyond.

As the holiday rush descends upon so many of us, we hope you take opportunities to recognize those who deserve thanks, and if you have not taken an opportunity to give back, there's no better time than today to get started. The rewards are many and often multiply beyond expectations, opening new avenues and offering personal fulfillment beyond compare.

We thank you and wish you a happy holiday season & a healthy and prosperous 2013! ✨

president's message

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROYCE

2012 turned out to be quite a productive year for CHNA, and while an off year for the Home and Garden Tour, the proceeds provided by the successful 2011 tour propelled us through a year full of opportunities seized.

The accolades bestowed by our Neighborhoods, USA 2012 Neighborhood of the Year First Place and Grand Prize awards highlighted our success and presented a whole new perspective for our own realization and appreciation. NUSA also blessed us with an opportunity to witness the challenges and successes of other community groups across the country.

The Heights is no easy task, the next issue always nipping at our heels, yet six more landed on 1750 Cal Heights' doorsteps, presenting opportunities to inform, celebrate and participate. Ad sales generate the income to pay for production costs, and a growing wait list speaks to the quality of our product. In fact, CHNA will submit *The Heights* for NUSA's Newsletter of the Year competition at the 2013 conference in Minneapolis!

Clean Streets logged 1025 volunteer hours so far this year, removing over 7181 pounds of trash and debris from our regular routes along local commercial corridors, and beginning this spring from Cal Heights alleyways each month, moving west across the neighborhood. Clean Streets volunteers pitched in with other local communities too, and finally secured official Adopt-A-Highway status for sections of the 405 Freeway, the first neighborhood association in California to do so, following over a year of talks initially facilitated by our 7th District Council Office.

Cal Heights ReLeaf concentrated efforts to care for over 100 younger area trees over the long, dry summer, and assisted several other local groups with their plantings, and laid the groundwork for the just completed first phase of plantings along Wardlow Road. (see page 4)

The latest round of lamppost restorations should be completed this month, with eighty vintage style replicate cages, globes and finials, our largest installation to date. Placement of the new tops was determined by the concentration of private adoptions. We're also excited that painting has begun as well, approved by Public Works in recognition of our \$120,000 investment.

Councilmember Johnson further rewarded our efforts when he invited CHNA to work with Public Works to identify a suitable signal to grace the only controlled intersection within Cal Heights at Orange Avenue and E. 36th Street.

As we prepare to move into another year, planning begins in February for the 2013 Home and Garden Tour, the vital funding tool for most of what we do, starting the cycle anew. Of course, we'll keep you posted! Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.*

John Royce
CHNA President



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Shop Local for the Holidays!

Yah, yah, yah, we say it every year. But it's worth repeating. Just like September's Cash Mob in support of Pixie Toys, local businesses benefit from your collective purchases. And since many small, locally owned shops in our city make it or break it during the holidays, please consider dedicating at least a portion of your holiday spending to our local shops and restaurants. Heck, why not ditch the mall traffic and frenzy to drop a dime or two where it means the most – close to home!

So grab that pie from Jongewaard's Bake'n Broil instead of the big box, get expert advice on your new camera from Tuttle's rather than the all-in-one, and find that unique little gift from Vintage Emporium or Bella Cosa instead of the mall shop with "vintage style" imports. You're bound to have more time to meet a friend at It's a Grind for a leisurely cup o' Joe or a spot of tea at Elise's to boot. And don't forget gift certificates for local spa, yoga, massage and beauty services make great alternative gifts. Happy shopping! *

Orozco's Community Partnership Offer!

Need an oil change, tune-up, new muffler?
Mention you're a Cal Heights resident when taking your car in for service at Orozco's through the end of the year and they'll donate 5% of your receipt to CHNA in support of our community projects.

Building Permits and Windows

Just like re-roofing, re-piping and room additions, building permits are required for window replacement in the City of Long Beach, whether or not a home is in an historic district.

If a home is in an historic district, exterior changes require a Certificate of Appropriateness before a permit will be issued. Window styles and composition are considered within the context of the home's architectural style and original windows, since windows offer a key architectural design element to most structures. Permit fees are typically based on a percentage of the total value of the project. For more information on City of Long Beach Historic District guidelines, visit calheights.org/guidelines.htm or call 570-6194. *

**Join us for this month's Alley Clean Up
Saturday 11- 17 -- 9:30 am - 11:30 am**

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Wardlow Road Greening Begins!



By the time you read this, volunteers will have gathered for the first of four phases of tree plantings to create a more welcoming environment along Wardlow Road. Thirty one new trees grace the corridor from California to Orange avenues and adjacent streets. The young Muskogee crape myrtle trees become drought tolerant as they mature to provide summer color and shade. The crape myrtles turn stunning fall colors, even in our mild climate.

Cal Heights ReLeaf thanks our community partners: Funding for the trees came from a \$500 Water Replenishment District grant in recognition of our NUSA award, \$500 from CHNA president and Cal Heights ReLeaf Chairperson, John Royce, in memory of his parents, \$105 each from Surrender Salon, Roxanne's Lounge and Long Beach Ballet and several smaller donations.

Tree People generously provided all tools needed on planting day and the City of Long Beach Public Works donated stakes and ties. Roxanne's Lounge donated morning breakfast and Surrender Salon greeted our volunteers with refreshments during the warm fall day. A special treat, local Cal Heights resident and massage therapist, Maria Weston, offered free chair massages; now that's a way to end a tree planting!

CHNA also thanks the 7th District Council Office for working with Public Works to approve this project as part of the Wardlow Road reconstruction project. For photos of the event, please see our California Heights Neighborhood Association Facebook Page albums. ✨



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CHNA Hosts Job Corps Students

CHNA's Clean Streets and ReLeaf projects provided service hours for seventy Job Corps students on October 24th and 25th. Forty students joined our volunteers to weed and mulch the Lot 33 Community Partnership Public Easement Improvement Project at the corner of Atlantic and 33rd Street, maintained by CHNA volunteers since its installation a few years ago. The mulch beautifies, retards weeds and prevents soil erosion during winter rains. The combined effort allowed us to complete a month long task in one morning!

Another thirty students joined us for Thursday morning Clean Streets activities, allowing us to clean all four regular routes in one morning, collecting 100 pounds of litter. Instead of simply instructing the students, our volunteers worked alongside them, giving us the opportunity to share why we do what we do and answer their questions. ✿

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Cal Heights Truck Needs a Home!

For the past several years, our Cal Heights Model T panel truck replica had a home at the Will Reed Boy Scout Camp. With the sale of the property earlier this year, we had to remove the truck from the camp's barn. If anyone has a local space to donate to store the truck, we'd love to hear from you! It does need protection from the elements. 562.997.9094, or info@calheights.org. ✨

Eco Efficiencies - Let's Learn Together

by Hugh Little

Whether it was the dog days of our last So Cal summer, or looking ahead to the changing seasons, many of us find ourselves scrutinizing utility bills more closely than ever. You may be motivated solely by saving money, or perhaps, reducing your family's carbon foot print and water consumption. Regardless of motivations, a variety of programs and businesses can help accomplish these goals.

With the complexities of living in a historical district, and having so many companies/programs wanting your business, the choices can become bewildering. Solar? Insulation? Cool Roofing? Low-water yards? Focus your changes on efficiency, or focus on renewable production of energy?

My partners and I recently completed a solar panel installation by Solar City. Before we began our research, I was firmly convinced that 'going solar' was well beyond our financial reach. We were delighted to discover plans that met our needs and literally required no up-front payment.

After our very positive 'going solar' experience, I thought about forming a sort of clearing house and support group within the California Heights Neighborhood Association where residents could find information and share experiences. We will start by partnering with Solar City, Energy Upgrade LA, and various city offices. I hope that over time we will develop an ever-growing collection of information and experience with an evolving market of alternative energy, efficiency, and landscaping options. Not every option works for every resident in a neighborhood like ours, but we should soon realize the surprising array of options available to those interested in pursuing these types of improvements.

Watch for more from me on this topic, but in the meantime, I'd love to hear from you if you have questions about my experience, or if you have experiences of your own you'd like to share with the neighborhood. I can be contacted at hughlittle@me.com. ✨

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From the 7th District
 James Johnson Councilmember

It's been a busy few months and it will only get busier as we head into the holiday season. As most of you have seen, the Wardlow Road repaving is nearly complete. The finished product is a major improvement for Cal Heights. In addition to a brand new street and repaired sidewalks, we will also be adding dozens of new trees on the corridor. I want to

thank John Royce for helping us identify good spots for the new trees, coordinating the planting, and raising money for them. This improvement will help us attract new businesses to Wardlow Road and add a beautiful entrance to both Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls.

The City Council also recently approved the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which designated Orange Avenue for repair. As you know, these repairs can take time, but Orange will be the next arterial street in the area repaired. Additionally, we are keeping the historic quality of the street and will be replacing it in durable concrete, just as it was installed in 1923. Hopefully this repave lasts 89 years like the last one!

Recently, we were awarded a grant from the Port of Long Beach to plant 6000 new trees in areas affected most by pollution from goods movement. A large portion of Cal Heights fits in this boundary. If you don't have a tree in your parkway and are interested in getting one, please contact my office at 570.7777 to find out if you're eligible. These new trees are chosen for their air quality benefits and for their ability to fit in our parkways without damaging sidewalks (unlike some that are there now).

CHNA has raised tens of thousands of dollars over the past several years to restore our historic lampposts. This effort has earned them well-deserved praise for showing the initiative to preserve and improve public property. This year, I will be working with CHNA to re-initiate a lamppost maintenance program. By investing in maintenance, in this case painting the posts to prevent weather damage, not only will we improve the neighborhood, but we will preserve the lampposts as opposed to replacing them at many times the costs. Just like my street maintenance plan from last year (which saved \$2.4 million in 2012 alone), a small investment now can save us a lot of money in the future.

I look forward to seeing you in the community - perhaps at the newly opened Willow Springs Park (2745 Orange Ave). ✿



OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS: SLOW IT, SPREAD IT, SINK IT

As the rainy season is upon us, we need to be thinking about urban runoff. It's time for property owners to ditch old school designs that get water off their property as quickly as possible. This runoff ends up contaminating the ocean. At the Spring Street Farm Project rainwater from the roof of the chicken coop is funneled down a series of drain-pipes and collected in a 650 gallon tank. We use the collected runoff to water our citrus trees and other native plants in the garden.

Design principles for an Ocean Friendly Garden are: **SLOW IT:** Increase the time runoff water is on your landscape for maximum infiltration. **SPREAD IT:** Reduce runoff volumes that make it to the storm drain by spreading stormwater across gravel, swales or permeable surface. **SINK IT:** Increase detention and retention of water on your property. Store it in tanks or let it sink in to the ground.

The Hughes Middle School Green Team students are designing a new garden using principals developed by the Surfrider Foundation. The garden will reduce and clean water runoff from rain and irrigation. Water runoff carries pollutants from fertilizers, pesticides, oil, and aluminum to name a few. These runoff pollutants affect the quality of the ocean by decreasing the water clarity; increasing algae populations, toxic red tides, and bacteria growth; and poisoning the fish we eat.

The Ocean Friendly Garden goal is to provide "Ocean CPR" – Conservation, Permeability, and Retention. An Ocean Friendly Garden conserves water and habitat by featuring drought tolerant and native plants, it increases the number of water permeable surfaces in the landscape, and it retains water on site so that it can soak into the water table rather than runoff to the storm drains and into the ocean.

Watch the kids' award winning video at Youtube.com. (type "S2S Hughes Goes Green") You may view the Spring Street Farm Project's cistern and rain garden on Tuesdays and Fridays by appointment or by chance!

Kelli Johnson is Project Manager of Spring Street Farm and can be reached at 562.528.6259.

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From the North Division

Commander Galen Carroll

Holiday Season Safety Tips

While the holidays are a season for celebration, they are also a time for distractions, late nights away from home and altered routines. Have fun, but remain aware of some simple precautions

that could help you avoid being victimized.

While shopping:

- Place all gifts and packages in your trunk or out of sight.
- Always be aware of your surroundings; avoid distractions.
- Park in well lighted areas.
- Avoid shopping alone; there is safety in numbers.
- Use credit or debit cards to avoid carrying too much cash.
- Keep car doors locked and windows closed.
- If you carry a purse or bag, carry it close to your body.

In and around your home:

- Keep gifts away from windows and close blinds to keep peering eyes off expensive electronics.
- Lock doors and windows - half of local burglaries involve unsecured entry points.
- Use motion sensor lighting and lights on timers.
- If traveling, suspend mail and newspapers so your home doesn't look deserted and let trusted neighbors know your plans.
- Do not store gifts in vehicles or unsecured areas.
- If you have an alarm system, use it and ensure that security decals are visible.
- Break down electronics boxes so they fit in recycle bins and wait until trash day to put trash and recyclable bins in the alley or street. *

Farewell to a Good Friend

Those of you familiar with local community and safety meetings and events, or who are involved with Community Watch know Marlene Arrona as the friendly and helpful face of LBPD's North Division Police Services Specialist, offering crime prevention and community liaison services for the past twenty years. Budget cuts have eliminated her position. We will miss Marlene and thank her for her service to our community. *

Interested in delivering *The Heights*?
Sign up to be a newsletter volunteer at
calheights.org/newsletter.htm

Volunteer Spotlight



There are few people as generous with their time, efforts and resources as Tim Price, our CHNA treasurer. Despite a severe stroke that promised to leave him paralyzed and unable to speak, his perseverance and determination led him to triumph over impossible odds. Tim disregards his physical limitations to join our strenuous alley cleanups, tree plantings and care events, Home Tour and other activities, contributing just as

much as other volunteers with a positive can-do attitude at every turn. He generously paid his own way to the NUSA Convention in Indianapolis and takes excellent care of our association finances. Thank you, Tim, for all you do! *



Many residents have voiced concerns over the rough blacktop strips left as a result of Long Beach Water Dept. work in the neighborhood. Once all repairs are completed, these temporary patches will be replaced with permanent concrete to match the street surface. Work will continue through Jan 2013.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

- **Dec 1** Belmont Shore Christmas Parade with Misty May Treanor belmontshore.org/events.html
- **Dec 2** Bembridge House Holiday Open House www.lbheritage.org
- **Dec 7** First Fridays Menorah & Christmas Tree Lighting firstfridayslongbeach.com
- **Dec 8** Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane Parade
- **Dec 9** Rancho Los Cerritos Old Time Christmas Festival rancholoscerritos.org/calendar.html
- **Dec 9** Long Beach Symphony Christmas Fantasy lbso.org/pages/holiday-celebration
- **Dec 15-16, 22-23** The Nutcracker longbeachnutcracker.com
- **Dec 16** Kidical Mass Ugly Sweater Ride
- **Dec 15-16** Rancho Los Cerritos Candlelight Tours rancholoscerritos.org/calendar.html
- **Dec 20** BKBIA Holiday Party

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

8th District Council - Al Austin
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

54th District Assembly member- Bonnie Lowenthal
495-2915 web: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a54

Airport Noise
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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
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