



# THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

March/April 2026 | Vol.31, Issue 5

Promoting Public Knowledge and Preservation of Historic and Architectural Resources in the California Heights Historic District

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

California Heights 3rd Annual Block Party Returns	1
President's Message	3
Small-Business Spotlight	4
From the 5th District	5
Cal Heights in Pictures	6
Workshop: Research the History of Your Home	8
Zone-In: Bixby Update	9
In the Know'lls	10
Calendar & Important #s	12

### CHNA - BOARD MEMBERS

562 250 4250  
info@calheights.org

#### President

Tara Riggi

#### Secretary

Kerrie Weaver

#### Treasurer

Christa Stelmuller  
treasurer@calheights.org

#### Newsletter Editor

John Moreland  
newsletter@calheights.org

#### Newsletter Volunteer Coordinator

Alfredo Valenzuela

#### Photographer

Tom Underhill

#### Board Members

Eniko Bolivar-Murphy, Ilana Brackett,  
Tim Price, Keifer Scovell-Williams

#### Follow us

calheights.org  
facebook.com/California Heights  
Neighborhood Association  
instagram.com/CalHeights

#### Newsletter Idea Submission

newsletter@calheights.org

## California Heights 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Block Party Returns This September

by Eniko Bolivar-Murphy

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) is excited to announce that our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Block Party will take place on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 4:00pm. This year's event also marks a centennial celebration of homes built in 1926, making it a special milestone for those residents residing in homes from that year.

The block party will be held on California Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Street and will feature live music from the Kelly Fitzgerald Trio. There will also be food available for purchase, games, kids' activities, and more. It's a relaxed, family-friendly afternoon designed to bring neighbors together, meet new faces, and appreciate the history and character of California Heights.

### Resident Signatures Needed

Residents living on:

- California Avenue between Bixby and 36<sup>th</sup> Street, and
- 37<sup>th</sup> Street between Myrtle and Lewis

Please complete the enclosed block party signature form as soon as possible. These signatures are required to move forward with the event.

### Want to Help?

If you're interested in volunteering or lending a hand to make this year's event a success, please reach out to us at [info@californiaheights.org](mailto:info@californiaheights.org). We hope you'll join us for a fun afternoon and a chance to connect with neighbors while celebrating our historic community. 🐾



Booth at the 2024 Cal Heights Block Party

# no one sells more homes in California Heights



artwork by Ellen Kirk

HousePortraitByEllen.com

562.708.4508

# LEWIS EBERSOLE

Top 1% of all agents in the United States

## 562.858.0607

lewisebersole@gmail.com

DRE License #01161135

# RE/MAX®

Real Estate Specialists



## President's Message

Dear California Heights,

Spring is bringing some meaningful opportunities for neighbors to connect, learn, and celebrate together here in California Heights.

This time of year is also special to my family as we celebrate **Nowruz**, the Persian New Year, which marks the first day of spring and a time of renewal, reflection, and gathering with loved ones. Growing up, Nowruz was always a reminder that a new season brings fresh beginnings. It is a time centered around family, community, and gratitude, values that feel very aligned with the spirit of our neighborhood. As I look around California Heights and see neighbors supporting one another, taking pride in where we live, it reminds me of those same traditions of connection and care.

I also hope you will join us for our **Home Research Workshop** on **April 25<sup>th</sup>** at the **Expo Arts Center**. One of the most unique parts of living in a historic district is the story behind each home. This workshop will guide residents through researching the history of their property, from original owners to architectural details and historic records. Whether you are new to the neighborhood or have lived here for years, it is a fascinating way to deepen your connection to your home and our community.

Looking ahead, please also mark your calendars for our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Centennial Block Party** on **September 19, 2026**. This event has quickly become one of our favorite neighborhood traditions, bringing together neighbors of all ages to celebrate the community spirit that makes California Heights such a special place to live.

Thank you for continuing to support the California Heights Neighborhood Association and for helping make this neighborhood such a wonderful place to call home.

Sincerely,

Tara Riggi

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for:

- **Webmaster**
- **Home Tour Coordinator**
- **Social Media Guru**

If you are looking to help the neighborhood, reach out at [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org)!

562-290-8132 • [karenhighberger.com](http://karenhighberger.com)



**Karen Highberger**  
INTERIOR DESIGN INC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER IIDA, CID #628



**BLACKBIRD**  
CAL HEIGHTS LONG BEACH  
CAFE

OPEN DAILY 7 to 2

ORANGE and WARDLOW • [BLACKBIRDLB.COM](http://BLACKBIRDLB.COM)

TOMUNDERHILLPHOTO.COM

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

# Have we met?!



We are Team Fasnacht Realty Group and we are here to help you buy/sell your home. With over 45 years of experience we are the best choice to help you! Give us a call today!

## 562.243.5948



w: [tfregroup.com](http://tfregroup.com)  
e: [team.fasnacht@gmail.com](mailto:team.fasnacht@gmail.com)  
p: 562-243-5948

DRE#: 02051365

## Small-Business Spotlight: Goods on Orange

by Marion Saffery

Right off the bat, Goods on Orange has two really good things going for it: Elena Buenrostro and Lauren Vizzini. They're the two women who co-own this curated vintage store at the corner of Orange and Wardlow in Cal Heights. They established the business in 2021.

Buenrostro describes Goods on Orange as a multi-vendor vintage collective with a focus on goods from the 1960s and 1970s. The space has about 30 vendors selling vintage decorative goods and art, clothing, and a large selection of vinyl records. It also features a wide array of artisan-made goodies. "We have hand-made jewelry, candles, stickers, greeting cards, art, and leather goods," she said. "And 90-percent of our vendors are women."

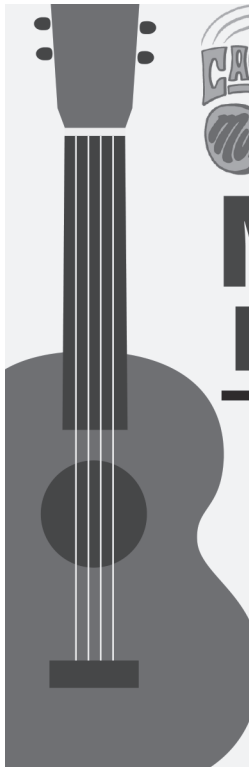
The space is colorful and carefully curated, with lots of warm colors and textures. The items for sale are tastefully displayed, and there's always good vintage music on the turntable.

Buenrostro and Vizzini are currently reconfiguring the space, and soon two new clothing vendors will be added to the mix. "One does '90s/2000s-ish, skater-vibe clothing and the other one has more of a cowboy, '70s style," she said.

Goods on Orange even has an outdoor space in back, with small outdoor furnishings, plants, planters, and pots for sale. Soon, Buenrostro said, a new vendor will offer fresh-cut flowers every day.

When asked what she'd like people to know about the store, Buenrostro said she wants people to understand that the store is much bigger than it appears from the outside. "New shoppers are surprised when they walk in, because they don't know how large our store is," she said. "We have three rooms, and a garden in the back."

Goods on Orange is located at 3414 Orange Avenue. For more information, visit [www.goodsonorange.com](http://www.goodsonorange.com), or follow them on Instagram at @goodsonorange. 📷



**CAL HEIGHTS**  
MUSIC


YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
MUSIC SCHOOL + SHOP!

# ALL AGES MUSIC LESSONS

PIANO | GUITAR | BASS | DRUMS |  
UKULELE | VOCALS | VIOLIN |  
CELLO | BRASS + WOODWINDS + MORE |  
GROUP LESSONS | PRIVATE LESSONS |  
CLASSES FOR BABIES + TODDLERS |

**CONTACT US**  
[info@calheightsmusic.com](mailto:info@calheightsmusic.com)  
**562.528.3118**  
[WWW.CALHEIGHTSMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.CALHEIGHTSMUSIC.COM)

LOCATED NEXT TO RESERVOIR PARK  
1240 E. WARDLOW RD  
LONG BEACH, CA 90807




## From the 5<sup>th</sup> District

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

I hope you're all enjoying the warmer weather and longer days as we enter into spring. As the season is marked by themes of growth, greenery, and fresh air, it's the perfect time to consider participating in the City's free Tree Planting Program! Per my request in last year's budget cycle, the

program is prioritizing neighborhoods most impacted by air pollution, particularly in 90807 and 90808. Residents can request a free tree be planted to beautify the parkway in front of their home and support the citywide benefits of a robust urban forest. All you have to do is select a species from the approved tree list and agree to water the tree to support its success after planting; the Tree Planting Team will do the rest! Please reach out to my office if you are interested in this program or if you have any questions.

In recent weeks, residents have been reporting increasing safety concerns to my office regarding traffic infrastructure, streetlights, and unauthorized painting of house numbers on curbs. In response, my colleagues and I directed staff to provide us with comprehensive reports on the current practices and areas for improvement in the ways we handle these concerns as a city. If you have more questions about any of these upcoming reports, please reach out to my office, or keep an eye out in our weekly e-newsletters for more details as they arise.

As we look ahead, I invite you to my office's monthly community meetings where we invite City leaders and partner organizations to share information about their work and answer questions. Most recently, we had Public Works join us at Wardlow Park to speak on traffic safety and infrastructure. Next, on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm, City Manager Tom Modica will join us at the Expo Arts Center to discuss his role and topics of local interest.

As always, I appreciate your continued engagement with me and my office. Please continue to share questions, concerns, and ideas with me by calling (562) 570-5555 or emailing [district5@longbeach.gov](mailto:district5@longbeach.gov).

Warmly,  
Councilwoman Megan Kerr




SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



**PHOTOGRAPHY · VIDEOGRAPHY  
LIFESTYLE · COMMERCIAL · EVENTS**

**FATESTUDIOSLONGBEACH.COM**



**RIGGI**  
**PROPERTIES**  
BUY. SELL. INVEST & DESIGN

**TARA RIGGI**  
**562-235-6420**  
**TARARIGGI@GMAIL.COM**  
DRE# 01986173

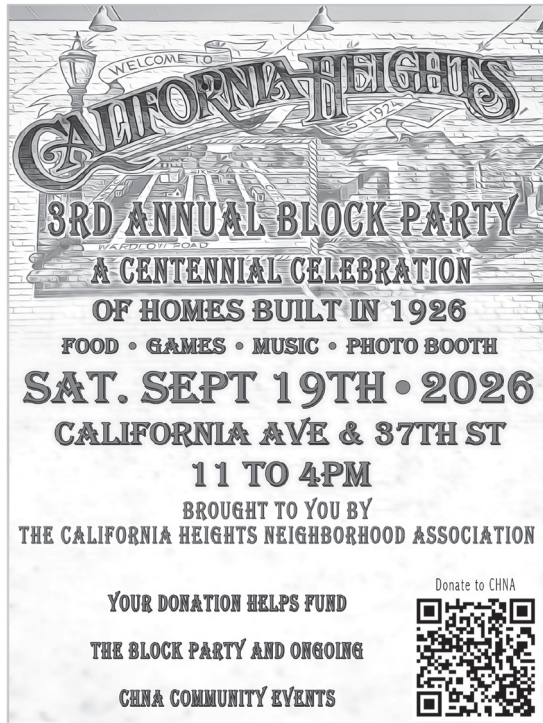
**BROKER  
Y REALTY**





## Cal Heights in Pictures

All images by Tom Underhill



### Come Visit the Dana Neighborhood Library!

Dana Neighborhood Library Hours:

- Tuesdays: 12:00pm–7:00pm
- Wednesdays: 12:00pm–6:00pm
- Thursdays: 12:00pm–7:00pm
- Fridays: 10:00am–5:00pm
- Saturdays: 10:00am–5:00pm

Weekly Programs:

- Thursdays: Teen Program @ 2:30pm
- Fridays: Toddlers' Storytime @ 10:30am

Monthly Programs:

- Crochet Workshop
- Adult Book Club
- Other Events

Address: 3680 Atlantic Ave. Long Beach, CA 90807  
 For more information, please call the Dana Library at (562) 570-1042.

1. Elena Buenrostro behind the counter at Goods on Orange. Goods on Orange is located at 3414 Orange Avenue, just north of Wardlow Road.
2. Paintings, art, and other goods that could be found at Goods on Orange.
3. Bixby Knolls Kidical Mass from February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Upcoming Kidical Mass events can be found at: <https://bixbyknollsinfo.com/events>.





SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



- 4. Volunteers watering newly planted trees on Bixby Road.
- 5. Spinning tunes at the Expo Arts Center in celebration of Women's History Month at the most recent First Fridays.
- 6. Some of the Clean Streets Team during a neighborhood clean-up. The Clean Streets Team meets at 8:00am on Saturdays at the corner of Lime & Wardlow.

## Own What Feeds You, Long Beach!

Join the first community-owned grocery co-op  
and help guide priorities, pricing, and impact.

**Become an Owner**

**Shape the Future!**

Fresh Food, Fair Practices, People First  
[www.longbeachgrocery.coop](http://www.longbeachgrocery.coop)



CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS  
PARENT PARTICIPATION NURSERY SCHOOL

CHPPNS.ORG  
CHPPNS.INFO@GMAIL.COM



SAVE GAS, SAVE TIME...



**window & repair**  
**RESTORATION**

(562) 493-1590 [www.WindowRnR.com](http://www.WindowRnR.com)

**Don't replace... Repair!**

**Repairing Windows Is All We Do** Lic # 987212



**PATRICIA'S** mexican food

\*dine in  
\*take out  
\*catering

**426-7547**  
**3626 Atlantic Ave**  
[patricias-restaurant.com](http://patricias-restaurant.com)



**Kiwanis** BIXBY KNOLLS / NORTH LONG BEACH

**JOIN US!** MONTHLY, 6PM  
EVERY 3RD TUESDAY

Contact **TABOON RESTAURANT**  
Myra Kremen 539 E. BIXBY ROAD  
(562) 426-2222 LONG BEACH, CA 90807

[kiwanisbixbyknolls.com](http://kiwanisbixbyknolls.com)



**Your Ad Here!**  
**Advertise with us!** Contact us  
**at [newsletter@calheights.org](mailto:newsletter@calheights.org)**

## Workshop: Research the History of Your Home

by Kerrie Weaver

### You live in an older home—Are you curious about its past?

Long Beach is fortunate to have many older homes and neighborhoods steeped in history and tradition. Today's owners often look forward to restoring, preserving, and enjoying the unique touches these houses offer.

Besides the ambiance of a house, though, it is also interesting to discover its biography. Who built it? Who lived here? Why was it built in this fashion? What has changed and when? What was the neighborhood like? There are many clues to a house's history if you are willing to do a bit of detective work.

Join Maureen Neeley, local librarian and owner of "HouStories," along with the California Heights Neighborhood Association for a workshop to learn how to research your home. Through her HouStories business, Maureen has researched over 450 properties in Long Beach. She also writes freelance for various publications about neighborhood histories and local lore. She is a long-time advocate of Long Beach Heritage, past recipient of the Preservationist of the Year award, and serves on the Executive Board for the Historical Society, and is a trustee for the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

She is more than happy to share with others her methodology in researching the history of homes in Long Beach. In this presentation, she will walk participants through the myriad of records, photographs, and maps available to those wishing to research local architectural and biographical history.

Handouts will be provided that detail the locations and costs of these records, along with samples and tips on navigating the information found in these forms.

Join us on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Expo Arts Center to learn how to research your home and find out it's hidden past. Space is limited so be sure to RSVP at [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org) to ensure your spot. 🐾



...SHOP LOCALLY

## Zone-In: Bixby Update

by John Moreland

On February 19, 2026, the City of Long Beach Planning Commission recommended approval of the "Zone-In: Bixby" to the City Council. This effort updates the City's Zoning Code to match the Land Use and Urban Design Elements of the General Plan, which were adopted by the City in December 2019.

The City of Long Beach has two main documents the govern how and where buildings are constructed and what the buildings and land can be used for. These documents are the General Plan and the Zoning Code. The General Plan is a high-level document that describes the intent varios districts in broad terms, such as retail or residential. The only specifics included in the General Plan are how many stories a building could be.

The Zoning Code includes more specifics, such as what type of retail can be located on a property (grocery store as opposed to a drive-thru restaurant, for example), as well as other details such as how far a building needs to be built from a street or the neighboring property.

Since the General Plan was updated in 2019, the Zoning Code has not matched the General Plan. This effort by the City is to ensure that they are aligned. Within Cal Heights, there are no changes to the Zoning Code that would affect the Cal Heights Historic District. However, an earlier draft of the Zone-In: Bixby map showed zoning changes to two properties within the Historic District that did not match the 2019 General Plan Update (including the rear property of the potential future housing site at Cerritos and Wardlow). With the community's support and your communication about these properties, the maps that went to the Planning Commission matched the 2019 Update and did not include these two properties.

Outside of our Historic District, zoning changes were made to maintain the "main street" corridor along Atlantic Avenue through the heart of Bixby Knolls. Other changes and details can be found on the City's website at <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbcd/planning/initiatives--programs/zonein/zone-in-bixby>.

The next and final opprtunity for input on the Bixby Zoning Code update will be coming up soon at a future City Council hearing. Be sure to check upcoming City Council notices and agendas if you want to comment on this item!

**Brian Dines**  
Owner

**Free Estimates**  
Quality Service  
CA Lic. # 712184

**Phone: (562) 682-9027**  
BrianTRCRoofing@gmail.com  
Fax: (562) 595-4795

**THE RIGHT CHOICE**  
www.trcroofing.net




DOG DAY & OVERNIGHT CARE, TRAINING, GROOMING, and WALKING



STAFFED 24/7  
LOBBY HOURS MON-FRI:  
7-9AM, 11-2PM, & 4-7PM  
SAT & SUN: 8AM-5PM

3434 ATLANTIC AVE  
562-621-6215  
GOFETCHLB.COM



**Trina Rufo**  
HOMES

Realtor @ #01874549  
First Team Real Estate

562.896.9716  
RufoHomes@gmail.com

*Where your heart lives*  
California Heights Native - Est. 1967



STAY LOCAL




**SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT!**

Your donations to the BK Community Foundation go directly to support the BKBIA's core services that benefit the district and neighborhood: Private security patrols, litter and weed abatement, landscaping maintenance..and First Fridays!

**MAKE YOUR DONATION HERE:**  
BIXBYKNOLLSINFO.COM

@BKBIA   
@BIXBYKNOLLS 





**IN THE KNOW'LLS**  
**What's New? What's Happening?**

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"And it's something quite peculiar  
Something shimmering and white  
It leads you here, despite your destination  
Under the Milky Way tonight."

Hey, neighbors:

April is here and it's always an interesting one for me. I get motivated to clean out the garden and do more planting so we will have great color all summer long. In April, it's like we collectively shed our winter blanket and get energized by the sun shining longer and hearing of events and energy everywhere. And this month there are special birthdays in the family to celebrate, including Hendrix who will turn five. I spend my time with him staring deep into his face to remember him in the moment, at this age. "Even children get older" sang Stevie Nicks, so I'm holding on as much as I can to these kids before they fly away. But speaking of time being so fleeting, I hear a lot of parents already on a countdown to the end of the school year. I can't understand why. Why are you rushing and where are you rushing to? When the school year is over, and your kids get older, and the vacations come and go, you'll soon be buying back-to-school clothes and yearning for the holidays to arrive already. But what's the real rush and inconvenience? As Horace the poet said: "Carpe Diem."

And springtime is also when we schedule our Concerts in the Park(ing Lot) for summer. We host the annual "Long Beach County Fair" at First Fridays. We also plot new things to spring on the community, too.

Hey—quick notes from our Annual Meeting (a State of the Business District if you will) earlier this year. We

gave out some special awards to businesses and individuals who helped us all year long. The "Orchid Awards" were presented to businesses that invested in their space to be more attractive and thus adding to the vibrancy of the entire area. Kudos to Ancestros and Lima, for transforming their spaces and creating welcoming environments for you, your family, and friends to enjoy. Jack-in-the-Box received an Orchid Award for keeping their interior spotless but making sure their perimeter is always swept and picked up. More shout-outs: Sponsor of the Year award went to Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. "Hosts of Highest Distinction" included Lola's Mexican Cuisine, Beachwood Brewing and Distillery, Tony's Kitchen, A Dream Come True Tea & Party Room, and Wood and Salt Tavern.

And how about a springtime shout out to Team Fasnacht who is sponsoring First Fridays, Santacon, and Almost St. Patrick's Day once again this year. Their generosity helps to maintain the energy and fun each month, as well on our special occasions, too. Thank you, Team Fasnacht, for sharing your vision and support for the Bixby Knolls Community Foundation.

Business Spotlight: Pacific Side Insurance, 4340 Atlantic Avenue, (562) 595-5500, represents over 20 property and casualty companies, multiple bonding firms, and life, accident and health companies. "Your options are extensive; our representatives will be sure to provide you with coverage that meets your exact needs and goals. We specialize in providing personalized insurance coverage that meets the needs of our individual clients. Whether you need Homeowner's Insurance, Health Insurance, or Auto Insurance, Pacific Side Insurance has a plan for everyone. Custom and upgrade insurance plans are also available." They are quick and can even get you one-day event insurance easily. Most of the events at the Expo Arts Center work directly with Pacific Side. Go say hi to "Jersey" and Maria.

Lastly, we are very eager to get started on new projects, improvements, events, and enhancements thanks to the state grant from Senator Gonzalez. You all will be the first to know the list of what's happening when it happens.

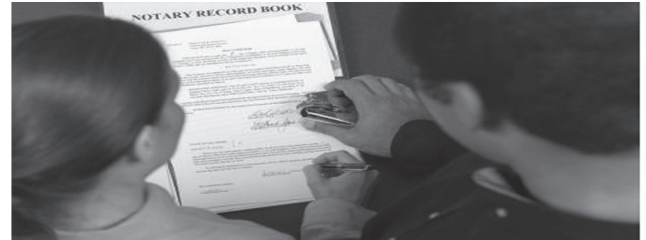
*Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero,*

Blair



# Notary Service

#1 Notary Service in Long Beach



No Appointment Necessary | 6 Notary on Staff


Our licensed professional Notary Public services are just another way we make life easier.

Plus, we offer a full range of document services from shredding, color printing, and copying to binding and laminating. Ask us for details.

3553 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach CA 90807

562.981.6245



 Proud to be Awarded Best of Long Beach, Nextdoor Neighborhood Favorite & Best of Yelp.

We clean, restore and replace!

Yes we offer carpet & flooring options too.

Call, Text or Book Online:



 [www.rugitcleaning.com](http://www.rugitcleaning.com)

 562-606-2560



**JOIN US - ALL ARE INVITED!**

**Saturdays:** Clean Streets Litter Abatement - 8:00am to 9:00am  
Meet at the corner of Lime & Wardlow for neighborhood and freeway cleanup.

**First Friday of each Month:** First Fridays in Bixby Knolls.  
firstfridayslongbeach.com

**Every Second and Fourth Saturday:** Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, 9:00am to 2:00pm. longbeachrecycles.org



**Thank you to all the volunteers who make Cal Heights the best in the west!**

*California Heights*  
**Connie WILDASINN**  
 REAL ESTATE BROKER  
 (562) 824-4846  
 Connie@WGroupRealtors.com  
*House a little too tight?  
 "I've got the keys to  
 # Your new  
 destination"*  
**ListItSold.com**  
 Selling @ Top Dollar  
 in the '07 and Surrounding  
 Cities Since '97  
 DRE #01221986  
 Broker\* Agent, GRI, ABS, SRS, Relocation Specialist

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

**Megan Kerr, 5<sup>th</sup> District Council**  
562-570-5555 email: district5@longbeach.gov

**Rex Richardson, Mayor**  
562-570-6801

**Josh Lowenthal, 69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**  
562-429-0470

**Lena Gonzalez, State Senate 33<sup>rd</sup> District**  
562-256-7921

**Gavin Newsom, Governor**  
916-445-2841

**Nanette Diaz Barragán, 44<sup>th</sup> House District**  
310-831-1799

**Alex Padilla, Senator**  
916-448-2787

**Adam Schiff, Senator**  
[schiff.senate.gov/contact](http://schiff.senate.gov/contact)

**Animal Control**  
562-570-PETS (7387)

**Airport Noise**  
562-570-2665 / 570-2600

**Building Department**  
562-570-6651

**Code Enforcement**  
Monday thru Friday: 562-570-2633  
Saturday: 562-570-0000 [www.lbcode.org](http://www.lbcode.org)

**Community Watch North Division**  
562-570-9825 or 562-570-9827

**Dana Branch Library**  
562-570-1042

**Fire Department**  
562-570-2500

**Garage Sale Hotline**  
562-570-YARD (9273)

**Neighborhood Preservation Information**  
562-570-6194

**Parkway Tree Trimming**  
562-570-2700

**Police Department Dispatch**  
562-435-6711 or Emergency 911

**Senior Check-In**  
562-570-7212

**Special Garbage Pickup (2 free per year)**  
562-570-2876

**Street Potholes**  
562-570-3259