



# Alamitos Heights Improvement Association



## Join Our Festive Holiday Tradition - Colorado Lagoon Tree Lighting Nov 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

It's time to ring in the holidays! AHIA will host our annual tree lighting ceremony at the beautiful Colorado Lagoon Beach. Bring your family and friends for holiday merriment including photos with Santa. We will once again welcome the amazing Wilson High School Choir who will fill the air with song as we enjoy cookies, hot cocoa, and our wonderful community of neighbors. Come to the Colorado Lagoon near the lifeguard station and bridge. You can't miss it. See you there!

### Celebrating 100 Years Upcoming AHIA 2023 Events

Look for new events throughout the year as we celebrate AHIA's 100 Years

- Feb./Mar.—Community Meeting
- April — AHIA Easter Egg Hunt
- May — AHIA Community Yard Sale
- June — AHIA Neighborhood Picnic and more
- Sept./Oct.— Community Meeting
- Nov.— Lagoon Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Dec.— Holiday Home Decorating Contest
- Throughout the year — Wine Down Fridays
- TBD — Shred-it/Toss-it
- TBD — Tree Planting
- TBD — Centennial celebration events

### Are You in the Loop?

Keep up with what's going on in our community and stay connected.

- Check out the website: [www.ahia.info](http://www.ahia.info)
- Read the weekly email blasts – emailed to AHIA members
- Read the Spring & Fall newsletter – delivered to all homes the community twice a year
- Participate AHIA events

Interested in keeping up with what's going on, join today or contact [membership@ahia.info](mailto:membership@ahia.info)

### Let's Turn 100 in Style

AHIA hits a major anniversary, and we want to celebrate and make it special for our community. Have some ideas? Want to be involved? Join the AHIA Centennial Committee and be a part of kicking off the next 100 years. Please contact us: [Communications@ahia.info](mailto:Communications@ahia.info) to learn more or get involved.

## President's Message



Hello Alamitos Heights Neighbors,

Next year, our Alamitos Heights Improvement Association (AHIA) will be celebrating 100 years of service to the community! In 1923, the focus of AHIA was to beautify our neighborhood. In those days oil wells dominated the landscape and by 1927 Alamitos Heights was open for oil drilling. Our neighborhood logo of an oil well turning into a Royal Palm symbolizes this focus on cleaning up the land and beautifying our community.

Over the years, the focus of AHIA has expanded, our current mission statement is, "Creating Community Together." As 2022 draws to a close I am very proud of the work AHIA has accomplished in creating community. After two years of COVID restrictions we successfully brought back our Easter Egg Hunt, Neighborhood Picnic, Toss-Shred-Recycle Event, and more than two dozen Wine Down Friday gatherings! We also hosted two Community Meetings at the Greek Orthodox Church so that neighbors could meet the candidates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Council Seat and for the office of Mayor of Long Beach.

In addition to these traditional events, our committee for neighborhood beautification organized events to help plant trees, restore the Manila Median, and clean our alleys. If you appreciated these efforts, please join! Being part of AHIA is a great way to meet your neighbors and ensures your voice is heard regarding concerns or ideas for improvement. We welcome new faces, different perspectives, and fresh ideas.

As we head into 2023, I hope you will share your ideas for what AHIA should focus on next. Change is constant and the challenges our neighborhood has faced in the past are not the same as the ones we will face tomorrow.

I also hope those of you who have lived in Alamitos Heights for several years will reach out to share some of your fondest memories of the neighborhood with us. We would love to publish your stories, photos, and anecdotes in our emails and flyers next year so we can all share them.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns and aren't sure who to reach out to, please send me an email at [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info). I promise to do my best to ensure all requests are reviewed in a timely manner and addressed appropriately. Thank you and once again, I look forward to serving as your president next year.

Sincerely, Richard Wherry



## Remembering Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas, former AHIA President and longtime resident passed away September 22, 2022. Bill had been on a river cruise on the Danube completing another bucket list item when he became ill. He was involved in local politics and his Alamitos Heights community. He joined the AHIA board in 2006 and held positions such as treasurer, vice-president, and president. He and Shirley were recipients of AHIA's Pioneer Award in 2012. He loved to garden and take care of his Koi fish (who were great listeners of his stories). He was an avid reader and a quite a writer. He documented and wrote about regional history, global politics, religion as well as his thoughts, life journeys and philosophies. He was a college athlete, Navy pilot, businessman, entrepreneur, world traveler, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and a terrific neighbor to many. He will be missed.



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## How Is Your Watering?

With all the talk of ongoing drought and climate change it seems like a good time to take a hard look at the landscapes in our neighborhood. There are some misconceptions about water usage in the landscape. There is a big difference between sprinklers watering lawns several times per week and deep watering trees and shrubs with a focused drip system once or twice per week. Shrinking our lawns or removing them all together and replacing with permeable surfaces, pathways and landscaping can save thousands of gallons of water per month. Often a non-turf surface can be more usable as a surface for outdoor furniture or play equipment. Another benefit of lawn free landscaping? A weekly 'mow and blow' service can be eliminated cutting down on noise and air pollution.



Watering our trees should be a priority, the tree canopy in Alamitos Heights is one of the features that makes our neighborhood so charming. Selecting the right tree for the right location is very important so you don't set yourself up for an expensive trimming habit to keep a large tree from outgrowing a small space. Do your research, or hire a pro, before planting to avoid this common mistake. AHIA will be sponsoring the planting of parkway trees this coming Fall and Winter. If you are missing a street tree, please contact us to see about planting a new Brisbane Box Tree or Arbutus 'Marina' in place of a Magnolia. You can see a nice example of the trees that we planted last year at the corner of 6th street and Los Altos.

By planting shrubs and perennials that are native to our climate you will be supporting wildlife, Birds, Butterflies and Bees, without battling to keep plants better suited to a wetter, cooler climate healthy. Plants native to Australia and South Africa do just as well, and sometimes better in the landscape as California Natives, some of which tend to go 'summer dormant' and look a little out of place in a more traditional style landscape. Many nurseries have sections devoted to these plants.

October-April is the best time to plant in Southern California. Take advantage of the expanded Lawn-to-Garden program offered by the Long Beach Water Department for incentives and ideas at <https://lblawntogarden.com>.



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## Alamitos Heights Improvement Association 2023 Membership Drive Starts Now Please Renew or Join Today!

For a century Alamitos Heights Improvement Association has been working to build and support our community. AHIA was created in 1923 to promote a stronger, safer and more beautiful neighborhood. And for the last 100 years neighbors have enjoyed the many activities and events that bring us together. We need everyone's help to make our centennial year's membership drive a success.

By joining AHIA today, you play an important part in continuing the tradition and supporting important community events and activities. AHIA activities are free to members so your \$35/household dues are incredibly important. It enables us to put on the many events that bring us together. With over 800 homes in Alamitos Heights, you can help us achieve the goal of counting as many of our neighbors as members as possible. Join today!

We welcome your participation and ideas for improving our wonderful neighborhood in 2023 and beyond. For questions about joining, contact: [membership@ahia.info](mailto:membership@ahia.info)

Thank you, Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Board

### AHIA 2023 Annual Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My contact information is the same as last year  My contact information has changed

Please select your Membership options:

**Basic** Family —\$35 (\$37 if using PayPal)

**Friend** of Alamitos Heights—\$50 (\$53 if using PayPal)

**Patron** of Alamitos Heights—\$100 (\$104 if using PayPal)

Please accept my additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Centennial Event Sponsor** — As an event sponsor, you can select the event(s) you would like to sponsor. You will be acknowledged as an event sponsor and it includes annual membership.

**Silver Event Sponsor** - \$250 (\$260 if using PayPal)—Event:

**Gold Event Sponsor** - \$500 (\$518 if using PayPal)—Event:

Check Payment Options

**Mail:** AHIA: 5318 East 2nd Street #263, Long Beach CA 90803

**Dropoff:** mail slot at 371 Winslow Ave

**PayPal Options:** Send in the membership form. Use payment link at [www.ahia.info/membership](http://www.ahia.info/membership). Send payment via [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info) (Please see payment details above to cover PayPal fees)

