



Spring 2022

Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

It's Back! Join the Fun at Our Annual AHIA Community Picnic—June 12@12pm



We Can't Wait to See You. Our annual AHIA picnic, for all of our 800+ Alamitos Heights residents, is just around the corner and more fun than ever. The AHIA Picnic is a long-standing tradition bringing the community together for some old fashion fun. The picnic will be at Alamitos Heights Park by the Colorado Lagoon between Colorado and Vermont on Orlena Street from 12:00 -4:00pm on June 12th.



All food and activities are **FREE to AHIA members** who have paid their 2022 dues. You will be able to pay your \$35 dues at the picnic check-in booth. For non-members and guests, the cost is \$15/person.

There will be a delicious lunch, soft drinks, dessert, shaved ice, music, contests, and games for kids and adults. And, lots of raffles with a chance to win gift cards and other great prizes. Each family receives a free raffle ticket. Join us for an energy-filled afternoon with family, friends, and neighbors, old and new. We're also bringing back the Art & Craft Sale.



AHIA Art & Craft Fair

Once again, we are having an art fair at our June picnic. This is an opportunity for our local artists and crafters to share and sell their arts and crafts. To participate, you need to be an AHIA resident or family of an AHIA resident. There is no charge. Non-resident fee will be \$40. If you're interested in participating, please email rihbany@hotmail.com with your name, address, email, and your art/craft. Include AHIA in the subject line. Space will be limited.



AHIA Community Yard Sale – May 21

AHIA is happy to bring back our community yard sale. A great time for spring cleaning, meeting your neighbors, and discovering some new treasures. AHIA takes care of the advertising. Remember to get your city permit (www.longbeach.gov/finance/services-and-permits/garage-sales/). AHIA does not monitor permits but uses permit data to advertise homes participating in the yard sale. Details will be posted on NextDoor.com and through AHIA email Blasts. AHIA will also have a dumpster available day as part of the Shred It Event.

President's Message

Hello Alamitos Heights Neighbors, I am excited to be serving as your Alamitos Heights Improvement Association President this year. Along with the Board, our goal is to continue finding ways to enhance a sense of community here in Alamitos Heights.

After two years of COVID restrictions we are excited to be bringing back our Annual Neighborhood Picnic! We are also excited to be able to start having in-person Wine Down Fridays in the neighborhood.

In addition to these traditional events, we have standing committees for continuous improvement, and various community events throughout the year. Please consider joining us when you can, as it's not only a great way to meet your neighbors, it also ensures your voice is heard regarding concerns or ideas for improvement. New faces are always welcomed to provide a new perspective and fresh ideas.

I have enjoyed serving on the Alamitos Heights Improvement Association board since 2017. You may see my wife Celeste and I walking the neighborhood frequently with our dog Milo, so please stop and say hello when the opportunity arises.

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. 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 this year. Sincerely, Richard Wherry

Open Channel Project Update



An important change to our area is the open channel project. It is underway and here is a brief update on where the project stands. The city has selected Reyes construction to build the open channel project. Reyes recently completed the second phase of Naples Seawall replacement, and finished on schedule and on budget, a good sign.

Construction costs for the project have risen since the project was initially funded 3 years ago, and the city is negotiating with the Port of Long Beach to help cover the shortfall. Assuming the additional funding is secured, the contract would go next to city council for approval (May-June?) and construction would begin in the Fall. Duration is still believed to be 12-24 months. Deep your eyes out for progress over the coming months.



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Your AHIA Membership Makes a Difference



AHIA just completed the 1st Quarter of our 2022 fiscal year. We are grateful for our members who have joined and some who have generously contributed above and beyond the membership dues.

As of 4/12/2022 our **membership total is 144 households -- 16% of the 880 households** in Alamitos Heights. We have a large gap. You can make a difference by joining today. Every membership helps us accomplish more for our community.

AHIA’s events are unique among Long Beach’s neighborhood associations. Your membership dues fund the AHIA Annual Community Picnic, Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration, Toss-Shred-Recycle Event, Concerts in the Park, Easter Egg Hunt, and Wine Down Friday gatherings. Membership funds have also been used to replace street trees and plants at the entrances to our neighborhood and streets.

Please join and help make a difference in your community.

Join AHIA — Membership Form 2022

Enclosed is my check (\$35) or sent via PayPal (\$36.54)

Please accept an additional donation of \$ _____

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

*Email: _____

Email address is used only for AHIA communication.

Mail this form and check to: AHIA, 6216 E. Pacific Coast Hwy - #372, Long Beach, CA

90803 OR drop it at 505 Flint Ave. Or, pay by PayPal.com - QR code or account:

president@ahia.info (Note: Dues are \$36.54 to include service fee)



2022 AHIA EVENTS

- May 21 Shred—Toss– Recycle Event
- May 21 Community Yard Sale
- June 12 AHIA Community Picnic
- Summer AHIA Harbor Tour (TBD)
- October Community Meeting
- Nov 25 Lagoon Tree Lighting
- Monthly Wine Down Fridays



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The Founding of Marina Vista Park



During the late 1970's, oil operations occupying what is now Marina Vista Park were consolidated into the small oil pump operation adjacent to Marine Stadium. In addition, soil dredged during the creation of the Spinnaker Bay Channel was added to the land that would become the park. But the soil had a high salt content making it poor for planting and the city lacked funds to build the park.

It was at that time, Jan Hall Zolin, Former 3rd District Council Woman, reached out to the AHIA Board President Virginia Benedict to see if they could mobilize Alamitos Heights neighbors to make the park a reality. After some negotiations, the City agreed to put in the irrigation if Jan and Virginia could raise the money to get all the grass and to have it planted! And that is just what they did.

Park Nursery (now Armstrong Garden) agreed to provide all the grass and to chip in half the cost themselves. Alamitos Heights Improvement Association raised the other half of the funds. But because the soil was poor, regular grass seed could not be used!

Instead, Park Nursery recommended the park be planted with stolons, an above-the-ground stem that creeps along the surface of the soil and growing a clone of the original plant on the end. These had to be hand planted one at a time no more than 6 inches apart from each other so they could form a root colony to survive.

Jan and Virginia solved the grass issue, now find a way to plant this grass all over Marina Vista Park! They organized a group of more than 100 volunteers from Alamitos Heights neighborhood, along with neighboring

communities Belmont Heights, Belmont Park, and Belmont Shore, to hand plant all of Marina Vista Park. Jan also worked with the Long Beach Firefighters Association Local 372 to donate the baseball diamond and backstop for the park!

The progress continues. In March, Council Woman Suzie Price unveiled the new Colorado Lagoon Playground. She has championed opening the channel between the Colorado Lagoon and Alamitos Bay's Marine Stadium to improve the lagoon's water quality.

It's a great reminder the Alamitos Heights community, with other neighborhood organizations, have made lasting contributions to everyone's quality of life. Today the work to be good stewards of Marina Vista Park, the Colorado Lagoon, and all our precious inter coastal



waterways continues. Central to these efforts are neighborhoods with a shared sense of community coupled with strong local representation.

Richard Wherry



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Enjoy Connecting and Conversations at Wine Down Fridays

Alamitos Heights Improvement Association (AHIA) main focus is to bring our community together. So, it launched Wine Down Friday several years ago to bring neighbors together in an easy and casual way. It was



a huge hit. And after a hiatus, it's back and going strong. We would love to see you at a future event.

What's it about? A home offers to host the event in their front yard starting at 6pm. The hosts provide light snacks (with an AHIA stipend), and

guests bring their beverages of choice. AHIA shares the event to the Alamitos Heights community, and the rest is kicking back and enjoying the company. If you would like to join in, just drop by and the enjoy the good company of your neighbors.

The goal is to have the event on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Are you interested in hosting? Reach out for more information. You can also schedule a date. Contact: president@ahia.info



National Night Out August 2nd

Connect with neighbors. For 34 years, National Night Out (NNO) focused on increasing community safety and building a true sense of connection among neighborhoods. How does it work? It's easy. On August 2nd, let your neighbors know you'll be sitting outside, or go for a walk and meet neighbors. But no need to wait for NNO, with the beautiful weather, start the ball rolling and host a gathering —build community, increase safety, and have fun too. Plan on joining in and growing your connections.



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AHIA
6216 E. Pacific Coast Hwy - #372
Long Beach, CA 90803

Website: www.AHIA.info

Email: president@ahia.info

Building Community Together

AHIA Board Members

- ◆ Richard Wherry, President
- ◆ Kirsten Larsen, Secretary
- ◆ Melissa Mihalik-Sipowicz, Treasurer
- ◆ Kim Garvey
- ◆ Leslie Grenier
- ◆ Maria Kisska
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- ◆ Gary Morrison
- ◆ Yesmean Rihbany
- ◆ Leslie Stonick

AHIA is Helping You Clean Up: Toss - Shred - Recycle Event - May 21

Need a place to take all those things you've been meaning to get rid of? We've got you covered. Alamitos Heights Improvement Association (AHIA) continuously look to find ways to make our neighborhood better and serve the



needs of Alamitos Heights residents. That's why we're bringing back Toss-Shred-Recycle Event free to all current AHIA members. Nonmembers are welcome to take advantage for a small fee.

Get it Shred: A shredding truck will be available from 9

AM to Noon. The 1st 10 Standard Boxes are free to current members. And \$1 per box starting with #11. Bring those old tax returns and personal papers for safe destruction. Nonmembers fee will be \$5 per box. There is no limit to the number of boxes you can bring.

Dump it: AHIA provided a 40-yard dumpster to collect refuse too large for city waste bins such as such as old mattresses, wood, old furniture, appliances. It will be available from 9am until it is full or noon. When it's full, it will be closed. Use of the dumpster is for AHIA members only.

Recycle: Bring your metal, household batteries, electronic waste, cardboard, car tires – this is free to all residents. We were fortunate to have the Long Beach Conservation Corps participate with us in the event.

AHIA \$35 dues may be paid on the day of event by cash or check, or PayPal . If you're not an AHIA member, please join to support events like this.

Interested in advertising in the AHIA Newsletter? Reach over 850 homes

Contact president@ahia.info