



# Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

Creating Community Together

[www.ahia.info](http://www.ahia.info)

## 2020 Toss It-Recycle It-Shred It

Saturday August 15, 2020—9 am to Noon



October 15, 2019 was our first Toss It-Recycle It-Shred It event. It was very successful and popular. Also, in our AHIA winter survey the results told us you wanted us to sponsor this event again. At this 3-hour event

recycling of metals, electronics and batteries are free to all Alamitos Heights residents. This year we have a simple request. If you are not a member or have not renewed your dues, please join or renew.

it is surprising how many items are tossed, recycled and shredded. Who knew there were so many household batteries in Alamitos Heights?

The recycling of metals, electronics and batteries are free to all Alamitos Heights residents.

If our dues are too much for what you want to toss or shred, please make a cash donation commensurate with your use of the dumpster or document shredding truck. The dumpster and shredding are available until full or noon whichever happens first.

We are grateful for the support of the Port of Long Beach, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District office, and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

We have our preliminary City permits. But all permits are subject to state and local regulations pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please watch our website and e-newsletters for any updates.

## Looking Ahead with AHIA

We are moving forward, focusing on the positives as we all shift our lives to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic. AHIA made some big adjustments by cancelling and postponing some of our long-standing signature activities. We cancelled our Easter Egg Hunt, the Neighborhood Yard Sale, the Annual Neighborhood Picnic, plus all of our Wine Down Fridays. AHIA continues to serve our neighbors as a resource to help where we can. The traffic

circle re-planting shifted from a neighborhood event to a very successful family event.

We look for ways to bring our community together as we support each other through an uncertain summer. Keep up to date with us on our website at [www.ahia.info](http://www.ahia.info) to find all the latest information about our activities.

Take a minute to check out all our webpages for information like how to register your bike or how to download the Alert Long

Beach app. There is also information about the LYPD East Division who patrol our neighborhood as well as information on Councilwoman Price and her 3<sup>rd</sup> District team.

You may find information on the Tuliptree Scale and magnolia trees and much more.

Email AHIA Pres. Leslie Grenier at [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info) or [board@ahia.info](mailto:board@ahia.info) for the entire board of directors.

# AHIA Winter 2019 Survey Results

We asked, you shared, and we listened. Based on your input, we are moving forward with those items in bold. More to come. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.



When asked to check a maximum of two Events you would like AHIA to consider sponsoring the results are:

- **33.15% selected Toss It-Shred It-Recycle It (dumpster provided)**
- 14.92% selected Alley Clean Up
- 13.26 selected Octoberfest Block Party
- 12.71% selected 4<sup>th</sup> of July Block Parties
- 9.94% selected Community Outreach Event (i.e. POLB Tour)
- 8.29% selected Lawn and Home tour
- 7.73% selected Ice Cream Social



When asked to check a maximum of two Projects you would like AHIA to consider sponsoring the results are:

- **41.67% selected Magnolia Tree Campaign-Save or Replant diseased trees**
- **17.95% selected Roundabout Landscape Re-Planting**
- 17.31% selected Neighborhood Signs at entrances to Alamitos Heights
- 14.10% selected Manila Median Irrigation and Beautification Project
- 8.97% selected Painting/Decorating Utility Electrical boxes



When asked would you recommend joining AHIA to a friend or neighbor? (On a scale of 1-low to 10-high) The results are:

- 10-- 57.14%
- 9 -- 12.24%
- 8 -- 13.27%
- 7 -- 1.02%
- 6 -- 3.06%
- 5 -- 8.16%
- 4 -- 2.04%
- 3 -- 3.06%
- 2 -- 0.00%
- 1 -- 0.00%

When asked to share any thoughts or recommendations for AHIA: (more comments found at [www.ahia.info](http://www.ahia.info))

- Great work by committed, involved neighbors. Their efforts make Alamitos Heights a better place!
- The Magnolia tree issue is significant. The damaged trees look bad and drip onto vehicles ...
- Keep traffic from rerouting from 7<sup>th</sup> St into our neighborhood ...
- The Manila median project has issues for those of us who live close to the PCH/Bellflower. ...
- Would like to monitor and weed the lagoon on Monrovia. ...
- There are several empty lots that I think would help bring the community together by turning them into a (local) community garden? ...
- ... Keeping our neighborhood safe is a high priority.
- Some of our neighbors receive flyers about events and others don't. Better communication to all members would be nice.



**A Special Thank You**

To our Health Care Workers,  
Truck Drivers,  
Grocery Store Clerks,  
Heroes and Helpers,  
And everyone staying at home right now - Thank You.

Stay positive, stay healthy and please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Leslie Stonick  
Real Estate Agent  
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**Stonick Group**




**Alamitos Heights is Great!  
Wish you were here.  
Call now!**

**Janet Darrow (562)243-5317**  
**REALTOR®**  
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## Spotlight on a Neighbor: Elizabeth Lucas



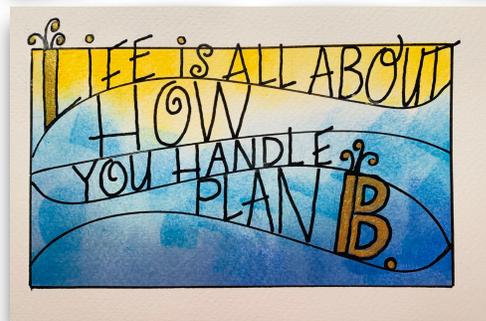
One thing the quarantine has brought out is our creative and generous sides. There is no better example than our very own Elizabeth (Liz) Lucas who has turned her quarantine into something beautiful.

Starting in February, every day Liz sits down with her journal, paints, and calligraphy pens to create beautiful works of art. She shares them with the community each day through Nextdoor.com. Inspired by all around her, she approaches her journal with no preconceived ideas. She simply starts putting paint and ink to paper, then the picture emerges. She enjoys the process and doesn't worry about how it will come out because there are no mistakes on this journey. Every page is an experiment.



In fact, she was working on her journal entry as we were talking, artfully managing a conversation while her hands let the art flow.

Liz didn't begin her career as an artist, but as a teacher of biology and physiology where she would draw to help students.



An accomplished calligrapher, she cultivated her artistic skills to enhance her work, creating memorable pieces that sometimes includes her own poetry. Some years passed and she took a calligraphy class in the evening where her talent flourished. Liz was later asked to teach the class. She went on to teach

calligraphy for over 14 years at CSULB heading the certificate program.

Exhibits at the Long Beach Museum of Art became an early venue for her greeting cards and the start of her company, Elizabeth Lucas Designs. Her line of cards and gift products could be found in every state, as well as internationally.

Today, she creates art to share with others doing what she can to spread joy.

"It's wonderful to live in Alamitos Heights. I've lived here since 1962." said the long time Alamitos Heights resident. In fact, Liz's husband Campbell (Sandy) Lucas, a former AHIA President, found their home as a boy in 1940 urging his mother to buy the house. At the time, the golf course was a pasture for grazing sheep. In 1962, she and Campbell purchased the home and it has been her home ever since. Thank you Liz for creating many beautiful moments for us.



Leslie Grenier — Pres.  
Kirsten Larsen — Secy.  
Kim Garvey — Treas.  
Gary Morrison  
George Pens

Josh Nugent  
Leslie Stonick  
Paul St. Bernard  
Richard Wherry  
Roberta Smith

# AHIA Families Replant the 6th ST Bike Circles

The large Agave plants in the 6<sup>th</sup> street traffic circles have been replaced by AHIA neighborhood family volunteers. AHIA purchased the new plants and we expect them to grow in and provide color and interest. They will not become too large or dangerous like the Agave's they replaced. Thank you to the Grenier, Price, Hockett, Sipowicz and Pirazzi's families for preparing or replanting a circle. And an ongoing thank you to the surrounding neighbors who volunteer for ongoing weeding of the circles and watering of the plants.



SIPOWICZ FAMILY WORKING THE FLINT CIRCLE



DAVE PIRAZZI PREPARING THE ULTIMO CIRCLE



PRICE FAMILY PLANTING THE HAVANA CIRCLE



SANTIAGO CIRCLE COMPLETE

## Find Out if Your AHIA Membership is Current

Are your dues current? Go to [www.ahia.info/membership](http://www.ahia.info/membership) and scroll down the page, find the pdf file titled 2020 Membership Roster click on the file and download it and see if you're current.

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## AHIA Events — 2020

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Aug. 15-AHIA Toss It-Recycle It-Shred It

Fall -AHIA Manila Median Planting

Nov. 27-AHIA Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec.- AHIA Holiday Decorating Contest

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## Join or Renew Your Membership Today!



AHIA is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to creating community and sponsoring improvements within Alamitos Heights. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel and adjust important parts of our schedule.

In spite of the pandemic we have accomplished several of our neighborhood improvement goals. We purchased new plants and replanted the 6th street traffic circles.

In doing this project we initiated requests and cooperated with the City of LB Public Works Department to remove the previously installed Agave plants and double check and repair the irrigation system as needed.

We haven't gotten to upgrading and replanting the Manila "median" (the strip of land between Manilla and Bellflower) yet. However, we did cause Public Works to inspect and repair the irrigation system, reset the automatic sprinkler timers, and remove and stump grind some plants in preparation for replanting, refreshing and updating the landscaping.

As a result of our efforts, Public Works is working closer with the

City's subcontractor on cleaning up and maintaining the median.

As the pandemic restrictions ease, we are looking forward to more activity in our summer and fall programs including our Toss It-Recycle It-Shred It day and our annual Lagoon Tree Lighting Ceremony. There is likely room for additional safer outdoor activities. We whole-heartedly welcome your ideas and suggestions! If you have a creative idea for safely engaging the neighborhood, or are interested in leading an idea, event, or improvement initiative, please let us know.

We depend on your generous support to fund our neighborhood activities and improvement projects. And we encourage you to join or renew your membership today. Your membership matters and our neighborhood matters!

Thank for your support!

## Parkway and Yard Landscaping Tips



As residents replace their grass lawns with drought tolerant plantings, there are some common problems to avoid. Remember, drought tolerant plants need some irrigation and street trees need regular and deep watering. One planting concern are the dangerous sharp thorns on many popular Agaves. The Agaves are not appropriate for

planting adjacent to sidewalks. As they mature the thorns are a danger to pedestrians. Consider other Succulents and Aloe's, with similar traits minus the vicious thorns.

'Sticks on Fire' (Euphorbia tirucalli) is another popular plant encroaching on sidewalks. This plant emits a poisonous milky sap that painfully burns the skin and eyes and may cause blindness. These are really dangerous and probably should be sold with a warning label. Never plant this in areas where people or pets could brush up against them. 'Sticks on Fire' grow to be very large and are difficult to maintain. Every time they are cut toxic sap pours out.

Sometimes a pretty plant is more than a pretty plant. Learning more about plants before installing them will make your landscaping a beautiful, long lasting, and rewarding improvement to your property. Plus it will be it safer for children, pets and adults.



Sticks on Fire

# In Memory of a Neighbor

In April, Alamitos Heights lost a treasured resident – Cynthia (Cindy) Desatoff. She was a long-time active Alamitos Heights resident, instrumental in the restoration of Colorado Lagoon, and beloved by neighborhood kids. We reprint this excellent article about Cindy as published in the Grunion Gazette and written by Harry Saltzgaver.

Cynthia Desatoff, 67, who helped found the Friends of the Colorado Lagoon and successfully fought Los Angeles County over water quality there, died April 27 at her home.

Desatoff was born Cynthia Lynn Zinszer in Kansas, husband Paul Desatoff said. She moved to California with her parents in the mid-1950s and was raised in Topanga Canyon with two younger sisters, Pamela and Debra, and younger brother Ron.

Cynthia became a model and actor in her teens and early 20s and toured the country for Disney Studios as Cinderella. She was working in film and television production when she met and married director/cameraman Paul Desatoff. They raised two daughters, Jennifer and Margaret, together.

The couple moved to a home on Monrovia, overlooking the

Colorado Lagoon, in 1995. The next year, public meetings began about the Termino Avenue Storm Drain, which ends at the lagoon.



"There was a meeting at Jefferson Middle School," Desatoff said. "It was evident from the beginning it (the project) was a disaster. We met Michael Paul and Ray Thorn there... We met with people in the neighborhood, and she said 'come over to my house and we'll talk. That's when FoCl (Friends of Colorado Lagoon) began."

Cynthia continued to lead the charge, speaking at City Council meetings and participating in the lawsuit against Los Angeles County that FoCL ultimately won — a victory critical to the lagoon's restoration.

"She would sit quietly at FOCL meetings, taking in everything being said," friend Tina Pirazzi said, "and when she had absorbed everything, only then would she make thoughtful, yet poignant comments, letting everyone know in her quiet way, that she had listened carefully to everything that had just been said."

"Cindy was just an old Topanga Canyon hippie," Desatoff said. "(FOCL) will live on as an example of her dedication to making, not just Long Beach but the world, a viable and more beautiful environment."

In addition to her siblings, daughters and husband, Cynthia leaves behind granddaughter Charlotte Lynn Taylor and many nieces, nephews and cousins. A memorial is tentatively planned for July 3, pending COVID19 restrictions.

In lieu of flowers, Desatoff said contributions may be made to Friends of the Colorado Lagoon at [www.coloradolagoon.org](http://www.coloradolagoon.org)

**Craig & Karey**  
TEAM

The Alamitos Heights Experts

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Craig Wallace Realtor / Appraiser DRE#01930723  
Karey Hannegan Realtor DRE# 01499216  
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# A Tree in Every Parkway

In April and May, West Coast Arborists, Inc. moved efficiently through our neighborhood trimming trees. Paying special attention to the Tuliptree Scale affected Magnolias. When they left 32 of the most severely infested trees were removed, plus their stumps ground out.

Replacing those trees will take planning and planting effort. It will require growing time and regular watering of new trees. AHIA's goal is to fill every parkway with a tree.

We've begun this project by contacting City departments and officials. And we are looking at suppliers for best in class product and pricing. We are reviewing the AHIA budget for funds to invest in trees. Plus we are looking for home-owners who might step up

and purchase trees so we can help with spotting the planting location and help with digging holes for new trees.

The urge is to replant right now. Yet the fall is the best time to plant to maximize tree survival. Fall is when the weather is cooler and the freshly planted tree doesn't have to fight the hot summer heat and can acclimate to its new home.

AHIA's Tree Committee recommends two trees. Both are visually compatible with our Magnolias. They are drought resistant with a manageable root system. And they are Tuliptree Scale resistant. Each option is cleaner, dropping fewer leaves and neither drops cones that are tripping hazards like the magnolias. Our recommended

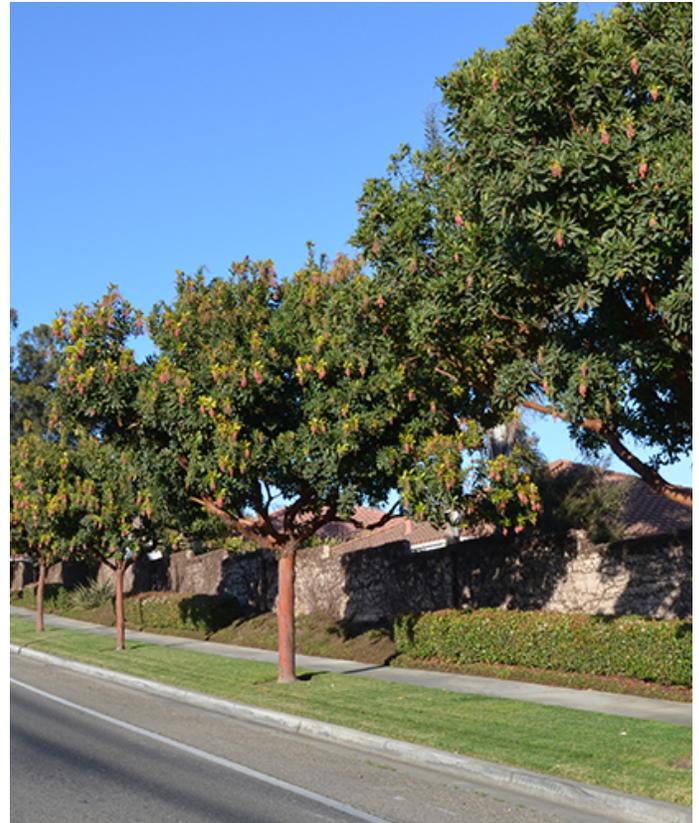
trees will create a legacy urban forest with an eye catching and cooling shade canopy to rival what we have today.

We recommend either the Brisbane Box Tree - *Tristania (Lophostemon) conferta*. This is a moderate to fast growing vertical evergreen tree with a well-mannered root system and interesting bark. Or the slow to moderate growing evergreen Marina Strawberry Tree - *Arbutus 'Marina'* with its broad canopy and beautiful flowers and red peeling bark. This tree is planted in our 6<sup>th</sup> Street traffic circles.

Contact us to be a part of AHIA's Tree Planting Project. Email us at [board@ahia.info](mailto:board@ahia.info), or [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info).



**BRISBANE BOX TREE — TRISTANIA (LOPHOSTEMOM) CONFERTA**



**MARINA STRAWBERRY TREE — ARBUTUS 'MARINA'**

# Alamitos Heights Improvement Association 2020 Membership Drive

*Please renew or join now!*



## Your Membership Supports Our Community Events

- ♦ Easter Egg Hunt – March
- ♦ Alamitos Heights Community Yard Sale – May
- ♦ Annual Neighborhood Picnic– June
- ♦ Port of Long Beach Harbor Tour – Summer
- ♦ Colorado Lagoon Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony – November
- ♦ Colorado Lagoon Holiday Trees – Nov./ Dec./ Jan.
- ♦ Holiday House Decorating Contest – December
- ♦ Newsletter and Email Updates
- ♦ Community Meetings
- ♦ Community Watch Meetings and Alerts
- ♦ Special Events

Alamitos Heights Improvement Association was created in 1923 to build a stronger and safer community. You are important to continuing the tradition by joining or renewing your membership today.

We welcome your participation and ideas for improving our wonderful neighborhood in 2020 and beyond. For questions about joining, contact: [membership@ahia.info](mailto:membership@ahia.info)

Thank you for your support,  
Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Board

### Visit us at:

[www.ahia.info](http://www.ahia.info)

[www.facebook.com/AlamitosHeightsImprovementAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/AlamitosHeightsImprovementAssociation)

## AHIA 2020 Membership Form

### Payment Options:

- ♦ Mail a \$35 check to AHIA 6216 E. Pacific Coast Hwy #372, Long Beach CA, 90803
- ♦ Place a \$35 check in the mail slot at 505 Flint Avenue
- ♦ Send \$36.35 via  **PayPal** to [president@ahia.info](mailto:president@ahia.info) (the extra \$1.35 covers the PayPal fees)
- ♦ Use our membership form and payment link at [www.ahia.info/membership](http://www.ahia.info/membership) – don't forget the extra \$1.35

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e-mail my AHIA Newsletter and  Postal Mail a printed copy

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

**Please Renew or Join The Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Now!**