



Alamitos Heights Improvement Association

Your AHIA Membership Makes a Difference 2020 Membership Drive Kick Off

The Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Membership drive is on! We look forward to you joining us for 2020. Almost all of AHIA events are free, so your \$35 dues are incredibly important and key to our neighborhood event. And, your additional donations are deeply appreciated and help us meet our goal of building community together.

The membership form is in this newsletter and on-line with a payment link on our website at www.ahia.info/membership.



Festive Holiday Tradition- Colorado Lagoon Tree Lighting Ceremony

Another successful night for this AHIA neighborhood tradition. As we set-up we wondered if we would get rained out. It happens we just got rained on for a little bit. This annual day after Thanksgiving event is held at a decked-out Colorado Lagoon lifeguard station. It's a great time to celebrate with friends and neighbors, while welcoming in the season with the tree lighting.

This year, Fire Station 14 took Santa's delivery up a notch by bringing an EMT Truck, a big Suburban support vehicle, along with the Fire Engine carrying Santa Claus. The youngster's got a double dose of fun by scrambling into the fire engine and sitting on Santa's lap. Everyone was bathed in a sea of red flashing lights.

Polly's Gourmet Coffee again donated hot chocolate and Leslie Stonick made 999 chocolate chip cookies all of which disappeared in short order. The LBFD provided lifeguard Devyn Beebe to open and close the station for us and she was an amazing help. Wilson Choir did a fantastic job of singing holiday songs. Our lighting and sound contractor Gary Frantz does amazing work. And a special thank you to the Port of Long Beach who supported our event with a monetary donation.

Great Big Thank You to Our Supporters: Belmont Height Community Association, Gary Frantz, Joel Stone, Mel Lindsey, Lee Ostendorf, Leslie Stonick, LBFD Station 14, Port of Long Beach, Polly's Gourmet Coffee, Ray Echlin, Wilson High School Choir & Director Curtis Heard.

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

Thank you for your support,
Alamitos Heights Improvement Association Board

Visit us at:

www.ahia.info

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 (the extra \$1.35 covers the PayPal fees)
- Use our membership form and payment link at www.ahia.info/membership – don't forget the extra \$1.35

Name _____ Address _____

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____ Enclosed is my check for \$35. ____ Please accept my additional donation of \$ _____

I would like my AHIA Bi-Annual Newsletter sent to me via:

____ 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!

President's Message



I am still smiling from the scenes at the Colorado Lagoon at our annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. For over 20 years our neighborhood has gathered to count down the tree lighting and welcome Santa on our Station 14

Fire Engine. This kind of event is one of the things that makes our neighborhood special. AHIA has added new ways to get together this year including our Wine Down Friday gatherings. If you have not attended one yet you should...or better yet- host one!

We are also looking for other ways that AHIA can engage in the needs and concerns of the neighborhood. By focusing on local issues my hope is that we can achieve more by working together to tackle some of our ongoing challenges. Using our collective voice to bring the attention needed to our neighborhood we can team with the city to address safety and make improvements.

Please help us to spread the word among our neighbors that we need everyone to join Alamitos Heights Improvement Association; our 2020 membership drive starts now. We use those membership dues to hold events and make improvements to our community. If you have specific projects that you are interested in getting involved with, please go to the contact us tab on our website or email us at board@ahia.info. We are always looking for interest from our community to help us to understand how we can keep our goals relevant to neighborhood needs. — Leslie Grenier



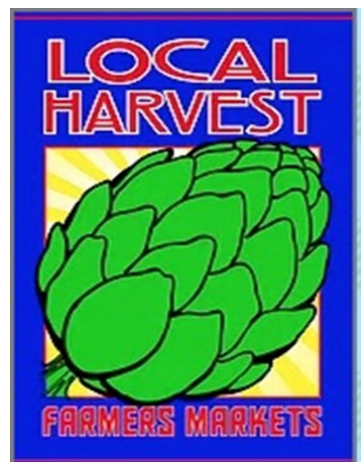
Circles & Medians & Trees... Oh My!

AHIA is teaming with Public Works and the City Council to address several ongoing projects in the neighborhood. By now I think we are all aware of the Tuliptree Scale that is infecting many of our Magnolia Trees. We have more information on our website www.ahia.info/magnolia-trees but know that this is a citywide problem that is going to take time and resources to deal with. Our goal is to come up with a comprehensive plan to treat trees that are mildly infected and replace those that are too compromised to save. The Magnolias are coming to the end of their natural lives and with the added stress of drought, disease, and root pruning it seems prudent to look for a replacement more suitable to our climate and the environment where they are planted. Two options that we are considering are *Tristania conferta* (Brisbane Box Tree) and *Arbutus 'Marina'*. Both are evergreen, well-mannered and visually compatible with the Magnolias that remain. By replacing the lost Magnolias, we can continue to improve our urban canopy and beautify our neighborhood.

We are also working on improvements to the planting in the median between Manila and Bellflower. Our goal is to improve the visual screening and appearance of the entrance to our neighborhood, while not creating an attractive nuisance that invites encampments. Look for updates on this project in our future e-blasts. We will likely be planning a 'planting party' soon to take advantage of the cooler weather.

Finally, the Agaves that were planted in the 6th street traffic circles are not the plants that were selected during the planning process and are not appropriate to that location. We are pushing to get them replaced with plants that are lower and less dangerous.

These are some of the ways that we are planning to use the funds raised in our membership drive. So please join if you have not, and renew if you have, to help us further our goals to improve the neighborhood.



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Conversation with Your Councilwoman Suzie Price



It is good to get an update on what the city council is doing for our community. I had the opportunity to talk with our city council representative, Suzie Price. We discussed issues directly impacting Alamitos height

residents such as the homeless, the status of our diseased Magnolia trees and Colorado Lagoon, to name a few. As a resident of Alamitos Heights herself, Suzie Price takes great interest in our community.

One of the concerns residents face is health and security issues with the homeless population in our neighborhood. I asked Suzie about the initiatives the city council are working on to help the homeless, while providing peace of mind to our residents.

Price brought forward a proposal to the City Council for a program to give the homeless an opportunity to get jobs, and to earn an equitable daily wage. It is an opportunity for employment instead of panhandling. "The program mirrors a program in [Albuquerque](#), New Mexico called 'There's a Better Way'." Price says.

The "There's a Better Way" program has been very successful in Albuquerque. According to the city of Albuquerque's website, the program has provided individuals with 6,666 jobs since it started in September of 2015. The Long Beach plan is to form community partnerships and use city resources to get the program running. According to Price, "The timeline for the program is to start within the next couple of months."

Another issue facing our neighborhood is the water quality in the Colorado Lagoon. According to Price, the plan of stewardship is to create an open channel to circulate water between the Colorado Lagoon and Marine Stadium waters. The Pacific Ocean supplies fresh seawater to Marine Stadium, so it has a continuous supply of fresh seawater to improve the quality of the water in the Colorado Lagoon, by lowering the salinity of the lagoon.

"The Twenty-Four-Million-dollar contract has gone to bid, and the city council is considering contract applicants to get the channel built. The program is (a

part of) and funded through The Coastal Mitigation Bank Remediation, and "the only one (program) like it in the country right now." Price says. The plan is to start work on the project in October of 2020.

I asked Suzie about the function of her field office. She says it gives the residents an outlet to bring a face to her office when she cannot be there. The face is that of Gabby Yates, the manager of the field office. The office also serves to provide an outlet for resident concerns about the community, such as potholes, or environmental issues, etc.

Many of our Magnolia trees in Alamitos Heights have a disease called Tuliptree Scale. A recent survey conducted by the public works department determined around 90 of our 820 our Magnolia trees have the disease. The plan is to remove and replace the trees, as the viable solutions to the problem such as pesticides will also kill our bee population. Bees are an essential element to our local ecosystem, and for the success of all of our pollenating plants. For more information see: https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/worldwide_importance_of_honey_bees_for_natural_habitats_captured_in_new_rep

When asked about our community of Alamitos Heights, Price says there is no better place in the country to live. Not only do we have a strong sense of community, we live in an optimal area, with the ease of access to our local beaches, highways, and retail establishments. All this with a suburban neighborhood feel. It is "The best type of neighborhood, and the best place to live in our country" Price says. Thank you for all you do and continue to do, for our community Suzie.

George Pens



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COMPASS

A Day of Recycling with Our Neighbors

For all of us on the board of your Alamitos Heights Improvement Association (AHIA), our main focus is to bring our community together. We also look to find ways to make our neighborhood better, while serving the needs of our Alamitos Heights residents. One such occasion was Saturday, October 12th, for our Toss it - Recycle it - Shred it event.

First and foremost, the best part of that day was the opportunity for us, AHIA board members, to meet our neighbors and provide an opportunity to renew or start their AHIA membership.

We were fortunate to have the Long Beach Conservation Corps participate with us in the event. Long Beach Conservation Corps brought two flatbed trucks with along with bins for recyclable metal, car tires, batteries, and electronic waste. The Conservation Corps information booth handed out free boat oil recycling kits, while giving information on what the Conservation Corps does for our residents, and our environment.

AHIA provided a 20- foot dumpster to collect refuse too large for city waste bins such as such as old mattresses, wood, old furniture.

A document shredding service was on site to shred sensitive documents. It was one of our more popular services offered that day.

One future initiative we see as a board is to glean more participation in future refuse events. We will strive to ensure everyone in the neighborhood has knowledge of the event for maximum participation. We want to make sure everyone is able to get rid of say, that old patio set.

George Pens



Consistent with AHIA's slogan of *Creating Community Together*, Wine Down Friday, is the most recent activity to connect

with our neighbors. The first event, held in the Triangle, hosted by Paul (our St. Nick) St. Bernard and Dr. Silene St. Bernard. It was a great success, as all the following Wine Down Friday's gatherings have been. With half a dozen or so successful events, it looks like we might have a new Alamitos Heights tradition.

How does it work? Held on the second and fourth Friday's of each month, neighbors gather in a host's front yard. You can host providing glasses, napkins and some light appetizers. Or, grab a bottle of wine/beverage and stroll over to enjoy some music and the good company of your neighbors. AHIA advertises the events in our e-newsletter, AHIA Blast.



If you would be interested in hosting an event, please email events@ahia.info with your contact information or contact the web-site:

www.ahia.info/contact/us

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Janet Darrow Knows the Value of a Brassiere

Imagine walking down a dirt road in [Mozambique](#), Africa. Imagine along the way meeting a man with an umbrella. From that umbrella hangs a woman's brassiere. The man tells you how very rare and valued bras are to the local women. This inspires you to collect women's bras to bring underprivileged local women a source of pride, and the opportunity to start a business.

This story is not fiction. The person walking down that road and meeting the man with the umbrella is Janet Darrow, an Alamitos Heights neighbor, and a local realtor with a noble cause. The man she met on the road was a local pastor helping women in need.

Darrow lived overseas in various places including Dubai, UAE, Vienna and Mozambique to name a few. Her travels lead her to finding a way to make women's life better on an international scale.

Janet's program had humble beginnings. She says the first drive in Ohio only produced around 40 bras. She says she took that first 40 bras by hand to Indiana for sorting. Now she measures her annual bra drive in terms of pounds instead of individual bras. She gathers over 77 pounds of bras annually, sending them to Indiana to be sorted and sent overseas through an organization called FAUSA, the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Alumni USA. It is an American branch of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO).

According to the FAUSA website the organization is: "A network of expatriates and returnees to keep their connection to their clubs, maintain overseas friendships, and continue to participate in world affairs through the FAWCO Global Issues Teams and UN activities.

Members from FAWCO and FAUSA are a voice for women's issues to the United Nations. According to the FAWCO website, their mission is also to help expatriates' transition when returning to the United States after living abroad.

"Many of the recipients of the bras I collect are women emancipated from sex trafficking rings." Darrow said. The rarity of bras in third world countries provide the women not only with something to wear, but a source of income in selling the bras for profit.



"The first package of bras (around 100) are free to recipients. It is a nice way for them to start a business." Darrow said. Her cause serves women in Mozambique as well as El Salvador. Imagine, as light as a bra is in weight, just how many women 77 pounds of bras will supply.

Janet Darrow is a local realtor for Keller Williams Coastal Properties. She said she would love help with her cause in collecting bras for underprivileged women. You can find more information at www.freethegirls.org. If you'd like to donate bras, or learn more about how you can help her with her bra drive, please contact her at JanetLDarrow@gmail.com.

George Pens

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Scary Santiago Signal



It is old news, and yet terribly troubling for our Alamitos Heights neighbors who live on, near and north of 7th ST. The area north of 7th ST is commonly known as The Triangle. The Triangle parents typically choose to walk with their kids to school for safety's sake or drive them to school. The intersection is very dangerous, yet the number of children crossing for school isn't sufficient to qualify for a crossing guard.


Councilwoman Price spearheaded the installation of a protected left-hand turn traffic signal which is a good and productive measure. Yet the traffic accidents keep on coming. And the traffic accidents are varied, motorcycles, cars, and vans, they hit each other or a house, or a light stanchion or a fire hydrant. The Recreation Park sign was even destroyed, and reportedly parents instructed their kids to stand behind that sign until the traffic stopped and it was safe to cross. So, it is no surprise parents are extremely leery of letting their kids walk to school unsupervised.

The Triangle neighbors have a Traffic Safety Committee with a text chain of accident alerts dating back to April of 2016 if not earlier. And it isn't surprising the Triangle neighbors met again with a City Traffic Engineer to look for solutions. And while multiple ideas were discussed the first action took place in early November to increase the all red time for every red light by 1 second, going from 1.5 seconds to 2.5 seconds.

Data from the CHP collisions database for 2012-2019 (11/8/2019) for this intersection shows there were 84 reported collisions at 7th & Santiago. The data reflects one incident of alcohol or drug involvement. None involved pedestrians. Oddly enough the data show a decrease in collisions in 2018 from 2016. Having said that 2018 figures are still higher than the lowest 2015 accident count. Most of the collisions were broadsides, followed by unsafe speeds and then an unknown/not stated category. The peak collision time is between 8-10 AM as kids walk to school. During this 7 year time period there was 1 recorded fatality and 22 injuries reported.


The next step is to replace a "No Truck" sign on the NE signal pole that is badly faded. Then we will wait and see what the next steps might look like. As only time will tell how effective the extra 1 second of time on the red lights will be at reducing traffic accidents and improving safety.

Alamitos Heights Resident



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Creating Community Together

There's More on the AHIA website www.ahia.info

- ◆ Details on the Santiago Signal
- ◆ Winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest
- ◆ Home tab - Upcoming Events
- ◆ Our Events tab - Event Photos
- ◆ Membership tab- Membership forms & Payment Portal
- ◆ Resources tab- 3rd District, LBPD East, Magnolia Tree, helpful apps, public notices

AHIA EVENTS —2020

- Jan./Feb.—AHIA Community Meeting
- April 11— AHIA Easter Egg Hunt
- May 16— AHIA Yard Sale
- June 14— AHIA Neighborhood Picnic
- Aug. 4— National Night Out
- Summer— Port of Long Beach Boat Tour
- Sept./Oct.— Community Meeting
- Nov. 27— Lagoon Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Dec.— Holiday Home Decorating Contest

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