

the willmore city enterprise



John and Michelle Molina, owners of the former Press-Telegram Lofts project property, are planning to renovate and rebrand the site as Millworks. The site temporarily serves as a community space for arts and cultural productions. Photograph by the Business Journal's Thomas McConville

Millworks Long Beach

By Kathleen Irvine

At the March meeting, Michelle Molina, who owns the company Millworks Long Beach with her husband, John, spoke about the planned restoration and repurposing of the Press Telegram and Meeker-Baker buildings. The WCHA membership was **delighted to see the Millworks' plans for an office building and courtyard** that will serve as workspace for 1,000 new jobs at a Fortune 1000 company.

May Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 15
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Drake Park

Join us as we enjoy !MOVIE NIGHT! WCHA will be presenting **"I Remember Long Beach", a film** of places that are no longer there. Delicious fresh popcorn, snacks and beverages will be served. Come revisit old memories or see how things used to be, visit with friends and share a few laughs.

NOTE: Due to budget cuts, the Code Enforcement Meeting is now scheduled for every **THREE MONTHS** (June, Sept and Dec), instead

Continuing the revitalization of Downtown Long Beach, this project will bring, not only new jobs to Pine Ave., and new customers to the restaurants and stores that are existing, but attract new businesses as well. A refreshed and restored block of Pine will contribute tremendously to the north end of the street.

Languishing in disarray for many years, the Press-Telegram and Meeker-Baker buildings will be significant examples of not only historic preservation, but also environmental sustainability – reusing valuable, often superior, materials, cutting back on the transportation and production of new materials, and lessening the addition of items to our landfills. An additional advantage to repurposing that makes all of us preservationists weep into our dental tools at times, is the amount of labor required to restore instead of destroy. Careful restoration requires time and expertise, meaning more and better construction jobs. In further support of environmental responsibility and community health, Ms. Molina is encouraging the use of more exercise and alternate forms of transportation for the new employees, through remote parking lots and by participating in the future Bikeshare program.

We look forward to this contemporary and responsible approach to developing Downtown Long Beach. With respect for the past and a careful eye on the future, Millworks Long Beach is a welcome addition to the 1st District.

The Meeker-Baker

Designated by the City Council as an historical



Building continued on page 5



Congrats and Moving forward

Congratulations to the Clean, Safe and Beautiful Streets Committee! The Downtown Long Beach Business Associates CIP Task Force has awarded a generous \$24,700 Grant to finish the Jergins Trust Pillar Repurpose and Restoration Project and add signage to the Willmore Heritage Garden.

The Grant funds will be used to either construct new, custom wrought iron, or to repurpose a historic piece, to finish the decorative entryway into the Drake-Chavez Greenbelt. They will also pay for the informational signage about the Jergins Trust Pillars and the plant material in the Garden.

The DLBA are responsible, not only for this and past grants for this project, but have the honor of being the first community partner to invest monies, and believe in, the vision that has become the Willmore Heritage Garden. Without their initial donation, it is distinctly possible that the Garden would never have gotten off the ground. We are proud that the DLBA saw the significance of this particular area and were willing to partner with the WCHA. We anticipate the Pillar Project and signage to be completed before September, so look forward to a festive ribbon cutting!

Meanwhile, we invite all the residents of the Willmore City Historic District and the City of Long Beach, to visit the Garden, pull a weed or two and enjoy the wonderful new green space.

Save the Date and donate!

The WCHA is looking for donations for the Annual Summer Potluck, Auction and Fundraiser that benefits the WCHA and supports our events and projects. Among them, Winter in Willmore, May Day and the Willmore Heritage Garden. We also support two youth soccer teams and various Downtown Long Beach events.

Last year's event was great fun and a big success—you can ask any of the attendees! This year the Fundraiser will be held on July 21st and adult

beverages will be served. The food is always delicious and the bidding fierce. Please donate to this great event—it's your chance to finally clean out your closets and organize your life! It will leave room for you to pick up a new and wonderful piece of furniture!

Contact a board member for drop off or pickup.



Sangria, music, antiques and Prada sunglasses—what more could you want?! Auctioneer, Jim Danno coaxed over \$3,000 out of a jolly crowd at the 2011 Auction.



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 Association is committed to the
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 Improvement, of the
 physical environment and quality of
 life in the
 Willmore City / Drake Park neighbor-
 hood.**

Calendar of events

Avalon Ball

PLACE: Casino Ballroom, Avalon
 DATE: May 12
 TIME: 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
 10th Annual journey into the past at the beautiful Art Deco Casino Ballroom on Catalina Island.
www.adsla.org

Long Beach Comic Con

PLACE: Long Beach Convention Center
 DATE: May 12
 TIME: various.
 All things comic book—new stars of the genre, vendors of historic, publishers of modern.
www.longbeachcomiccon.com

Grand Opening at Rancho Los

Cerritos

PLACE: 4600 Virginia Rd.
 DATE: May 12
 TIME: 12:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
 Enjoy the new Visitor Center and enhanced interpretive exhibits. Costumed docents, storytellers, music, children's activities and demonstrations of old-timey crafts.
www.rancholoscerritos.org

Long Beach Pride

PLACE: Rainbow Lagoon Park
 DATE: May 19-21
 TIME: various.
 29th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival and Parade. Parade is on Sunday morning, Ocean and Temple. All hail the Queen—Latifah will be taking the stage on Saturday!
www.longbeachpride.com

Great Homes of Long Beach

PLACE: various
 DATE: June 3
 TIME: 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
 Six Long Beach distinguished homes with docent led tours. Proceeds benefit the Bembridge House.
www.lbheritage.org

Great Gatsby Garden Party

PLACE: Bembridge House
 DATE: July 15
 TIME: TBA
 1920's elegance at the beautifully restored Bembridge House. Enjoy music, dining, and games of chance at the Speakeasy. Wear your favorite flapper costume!
www.lbheritage.org



Anderson Paint and Hardware

By Ernie Villa

What's unique about Anderson Paint and Hardware? Well, let's start at the beginning. "I'm the only surviving independent hardware store left in beautiful Downtown Long Beach and proud of it" says Gregg Anderson.

A long time ago, most businesses in Downtown Long Beach were independent and a few were national chains. Now, the opposite is true. I remember in the 60's going to Imperial Hardware when it was on Long Beach Blvd. But by the 70's, there were many changes and hard times and many businesses were closing.

That's when Jack Anderson bought Tibbits Paint, in 1972. In 1979, he changed the name from Tibbits to Anderson Paint and Hardware and moved it from 10th St. and Pine Ave. to the present location at 7th St. and Pine Ave. Jack even bought some of Imperial Hardware's inventory. There were no Big Box stores at the time to compete, especially in paint and hardware.

What makes this place unique is that it specializes in apartment and house supplies, where preservationists can find old hardware, plumbing, unique shaped shower rods, cabinet pulls, customized screens, and cut glass. Since 1979, the Anderson Family has shared in the growth of this family busi-

ness. Dolores Anderson has worked here from the beginning to the present time in many capacities. She is still working and presently is the bookkeeper for the store. Her sons, Gregg and Brent worked together at the store for years. In 2001, Gregg Anderson bought out his brother, Brent and celebrated the event with the first "Hooters Party". It is now owned solely by Gregg Anderson. His daughter, Brittany currently works behind the counter, bringing a third generation of Andersons into the fold.

Committed to the rebirth of Downtown Long Beach, Gregg and Anderson Paint and Hardware have participated in various events, such as the Twilight Walk and Bikes, Saturday Shop and Walk, and the Downtown Amazing Race. They are also a proud supporter of the WCHA – you can see their ad in our newsletter.

Because of their great personal service and customer loyalty, Anderson Paint and Hardware has survived the highs and lows that Downtown Long Beach has experienced. A family business that has succeeded through three generations deserves our continued support. Check out their website at www.andersonpaintandhardware.com, or drop by the store to say hello and thank you to Gregg and Brittany.



Jack, Brittany, Gregg, and Dolores Anderson

Message from the President

By Kathleen Irvine

I am honored to have been appointed as the next President of the WCHA, following in the footsteps of so many wonderful, committed people. Without the groundwork they have laid, this job would be much more difficult. Thanks as well to our outgoing President, Amy Peters for her hard work and devotion to all of our causes.

It does seem a little unreal to me though. Had you asked me a decade ago where my life path would lead, I would never have answered "to Long Beach", much less being involved in a preservation organization.

Although I spent many happy childhood times in Long Beach while growing up in nearby Lakewood, I left suburbia to attend Loyola-Marymount University at 18 and never looked back. In a moment of seren-

President continued on page 6

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The Meeker-Baker Building and the Mural Project

landmark, the Meeker Building is located at 650 Pine Avenue and 112 East 7th. Designed by local architects, Hugh R. Davies and Edwall D. Baume, it was constructed in 1924 at the eastern end of the main commercial street of Long Beach. The two-story structure occupies a prominent corner of the business district, contributing to its character and continuity. The building was designed in the Renaissance Revival style and still exhibits elements of that style, primarily on the second story. Elements of the original style still extant include decorative brick and tile work, arched openings, medallions, and a frieze with medallions. Some alterations on the corner have damaged the integrity of the building, but the structure remains a representative example of commercial architecture in downtown Long Beach from the 1920's period of development. The building entrance at 112 E. 7th Street retains its monumental architectural character in its original condition. It is a two-story Renaissance-styled doorway, flanked by paired columns. The two-story lobby contains an open staircase and original cage ele-

vator. The lobby walls are decorated with cast plaster ornamental floral designs in a frieze. The second story retains all its original interiors: mahogany woodwork, original glass and mahogany doors with transoms, original double-hung wood frame windows, high ceiling heights. The retention of all the original 1924 building fabric in the interiors is remarkable, and a special asset of the building. The aluminum storefront sign which obscures the facade is removable; original building material exists underneath.

Information taken from the Historic Resources Report: Press-Telegram and Meeker/Baker Buildings, Long Beach, CA 31 July 2006 rev 15 August 2006 Prepared for: Rincon Consultants 790 East Santa Clara Street Ventura CA 93001 Prepared by San Buenaventura Research Associates

It has been reported that, unfortunately, many of the architectural details listed in this report were damaged, or are missing.

Photos were taken from Millworks Long Beach Facebook Albums

If you are interested in more information about the repurposing history of the Meeker-Baker Building and Press-Telegram, check out: <http://longbeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1106120&GUID=49173E66-BCOA-4EAC-8B85->



Your New Officials

The WCHA Board has chosen Kathleen Irvine to serve as its new President, and Michelle Muniz, as Vice-President. Patty Lund continues to serve as Secretary, Jana Shields, Treasurer, Jim Danno, Community Outreach and Emily Tanaka as Web Communications. Newcomer, Hulean Tyler will play supporting member to the rest of the Board.

The WCHA Board Members are there to advocate for all the Willmore City Historic District, whether for historic preservation concerns or quality of life issues. Please support their efforts, they will appreciate the help!



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dipity, as I was going through a divorce over 30 years later, my brother was moving from his apartment in Long Beach. I told him I needed a temporary place to stay. I had spent no time in Long Beach since leaving, my only knowledge of it the tales of nightly Uzi fire from my brother and the bad press during the riots. Much to my surprise, I realized that Long Beach suited me far more than any place had since (has it been so long?!) Venice and Santa Monica in the 70's. It had lots of city stuff: art, liberals, colorful characters, late night hangouts, cool old buildings and sleek new ones.

And the beach was there!—better beach with breakwater than no beach! The crowds and high prices of current day Venice and Santa Monica were nowhere in sight and everyone was friendly and polite. Even the homeless guy down the street apologized for blocking my way with his shopping cart. Because I was self employed, I realized I **didn't have to leave and certainly never had to go back to the beachless Valley!** My new guy, Jim Danno, and I, drove through every single historic area in Long Beach, up and down every street from Ocean to Willow, from the 710 to the 605. One day I accidentally ended up on Park Circle, in front of the Bembridge House—and knew I wanted to live in **this area. It wasn't restored yet, nor were many of the homes in the area—so that's what I decided I would like to do.** Luckily, Jim agreed.

Life had a little more serendipity for me because we called a phone number on some abandoned house that was sitting in a parking lot and ended up speaking with Cheryl Perry, who persuaded me to come to a WCHA meeting, despite the fact that we lived in Alamitos Beach. For the next five years, I attended meetings, volunteered for events and made every effort to learn about my chosen historic district. And now Jim and I live in that abandoned house, and once again thanks to Cheryl Perry, I was somehow persuaded to be on the WCHA Board and become the Newsletter Editor. I love living here, my friends and neighbors are wonderful, and this city is amazing! You may not believe it, but I honestly would not trade our charming little bungalow (**"with two cats in the yard, life used to be so hard"**) for any other place in the City, or the world. There is no better weather, I don't need bigger or fancier, certainly not newer, and I enjoy the free-wheeling spirit and interesting folks found in our neighborhood. As a good friend of mine said to me in the beginning—**"They may be crazies, but they're OUR crazies!"**.

So thanks to whomever watches over us and led me here, thanks to the community and the City, and thanks most of all to Jim Danno who never questioned and always supported the direction that I led us in. I look forward to working with you all for a long time to come.

Helpful Phone Numbers

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Public Services	562-570-2700
Graffiti	562-570-2773
Pot Holes	562-570-3259
Storm Drains	562-570-2440
Alley Cleaning	562-570-2876
Bike Trails (Glass or Other Debris)	562-869-1176
Street Maintenance	562-570-3259
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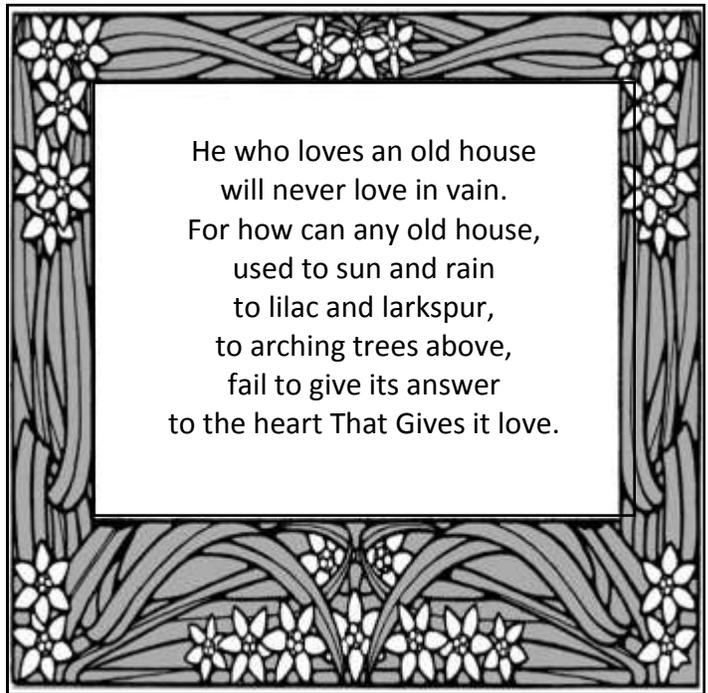
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May meeting

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The Code Enforcement meeting
WILL NOT MEET THIS MONTH!

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