

The HEIGHTS

your neighborhood newsletter



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Farewell to a Historic Train Depot

by Katie Rispoli, Executive Director of We Are The Next

The Southern Pacific Depot wasn't our city's grandest train depot - it only served its original purpose for about twenty-five years. Somehow though, this beautiful relic stood for more than eighty years after its retirement.

The depot was built in 1907 as California prepared for massive growth. Ads nationwide touted year-round sunshine and the exotic California missions as reasons to travel via train to the west. By the 1930s, many residents owned cars and no longer relied upon railroads for transit, which quickly lowered the number of active depots. At the turn of the 1930s, the City made use of their vacant depot to house workers, which was ideal as the building was located on Broadway between Pacific and Magnolia, with City Hall right next door. After the 1933 earthquake, the City found room to house overflow workers in the newly-reconstructed City Hall and decided to move the then thirty-year-old depot to an empty yard on San Francisco Avenue where it was a laboratory and then later a storage facility.

In 2015, knowing that Willow Springs Park needed a facility as an anchor to draw in the public, the City embraced an idea to relocate the historical Southern Pacific depot so it could serve this purpose. JR van Dijs, Inc. was hired to carry out the relocation, and as a then-employee I was assigned to oversee the project. As I transitioned to run the newly-founded We Are the Next, the project transitioned with me.

When we brought the depot to Willow Springs Park it was a milestone. It wasn't just a milestone for the project team, it was a milestone for the entire city. When we placed the building in Willow Springs Park, it was placed along a former railroad line, and near the Sunnyside Cemetery grave of C.J. Walker, founder of F&M Bank, who personally oversaw the transportation of gold and goods for the bank daily through its doors, as well as the grave of one of the depot's longest-serving Station Masters. Most importantly, we placed it adjacent to neighborhoods who could come to love it as their own.

On behalf of We Are the Next, I would like to sincerely thank all of the members of the Cal Heights community who have extended their gratitude and condolences to the relocation project team since the depot was destroyed by a fire on September 16th. It's true that Long Beach's Southern Pacific Depot, its last depot, is a substantial thing to have lost. However, today I don't see it as a loss, I see this as yet another purpose the depot will have served. In one way or another, I hope its story can still be told at Willow Springs Park, and that this building will inspire Long Beach residents at least for another 109 years in spirit. 🌻

President's Message

A MESSAGE FROM HUGH LITTLE

Given how busy it seems lately, this may be recorded as one of my shortest President's messages yet. It feels like we're entering the long slide into the holiday season, and while I don't have a lot to report on, we continue to have many pumpkins in the air at once.

If we're lucky, Fall means the beginning of what will pass for our wet season. That means planting season is just around the corner. We've been discussing ways to improve our model for ReLeaf plantings in the neighborhood in a way that we hope will accelerate the rate of tree planting, while being more sustainable for owners and volunteers on after care. If all goes well, we may have some information by our next issue, but at this stage, if you have any ideas or concerns, please let me know at hughlittle@gmail.com.

We're partnering with the Seventh District Office to host a neighborhood-wide community meeting where the Long Beach Public Works Department can answer questions about the cost, method and timing of the Orange Avenue resurfacing work. Many of you responded already – but if you're interested and have questions or concerns for Public Works to address (that may require research), consider this our last call for input for the meeting. At least, this would be the last call for input that may require preparation prior to the meeting.

And finally, we are looking for an additional board member. If you are a 'doer' (or want to be), and if you or someone you know is interested in serving, protecting and improving our neighborhood, please let us know!

Kindly,



Hugh Little, CHNA President



Enjoy periodic updates on local happenings, resident alerts, and lost/found pets! Just sign up at calheights.org/contact.htm

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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner


Do you love to read to your children? Or maybe you were lucky enough to have parents who read to you. Were they stories of brave adventurers, exotic locations or maybe even a love story about a handsome prince and a beautiful princess? But what if the stories you read to your children really happened? A story about your family, each chapter created from a special place in your heart. While few of us will ever write our autobiography, Pat Leue of Cerritos Avenue did!

Pat's story includes many wonderful chapters about life in Long Beach. Her maternal grandfather came from Holland in 1924 and helped with the construction of the original breakwater in Long Beach. Her other grandfather once owned ranches in Peru and Mexico, which he had to flee in the middle of the night to escape a notorious gang. He finally made his way to Long Beach, where he established the Long Beach Tuna Canning Company in 1914. These exciting adventures could include beautiful illustrations by her grandmother, who was an artist and architect. One of her mosaics was featured at the old Long Beach Auditorium.



The chapter about the handsome prince would take place in 1958, when she met her future husband Roger in piano class at Cal State Long Beach. They would both become teachers, and later Pat would become a principal.

As their family began to grow, they moved to a lovely Spanish Revival on Cerritos Avenue in 1964. Pat recalled how her children would make Valentine's and May Day Baskets for the retired people on the block. In 1973, a long time resident across the street decided to retire and relocate, but not before encouraging the Leues to purchase their large traditional home, where there was room for the growing family. After 52 years on Cerritos Avenue, memories of the children playing in the pool, having birthday parties and enjoying family sing-a-longs could fill many chapters. 🐾





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Clean Streets Celebrates 7 Years

by Stacey Morrison

In August, the Cal Heights Clean Streets team celebrated picking up trash in the Wardlow, Atlantic area for a solid seven years. The effort started modestly but grew to include alley cleanups (our next one is October 1st) and getting a conditional use permit with Cal Trans to clean the Long Beach Boulevard and Atlantic 405 freeway access areas.

Our efforts inspired the Wrigley Clean Team to begin a weekly cleaning program and they have been cleaning Pacific, Willow, PCH and other corridors surrounding their Wrigley neighborhood for over a year.

During the September 13th, City Council meeting both groups were given certificates of appreciation from 7th District Councilmember Roberto Uranga and Mayor Garcia. Thank you to all who volunteer their time to keep our community cleaner, and thanks to Councilmember Roberto Uranga for recognizing this important ongoing effort. 🐶

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On September 2nd, 12 sailors from the USS America helped water trees on Wardlow. We had a great time and appreciated the help. After watering 25 trees Roberto Uranga's office bought us all lunch at the Blackbird Cafe who was kind enough to seat this large group at a very busy lunch time and give us a deep discount as well. 🐶

Historic District Leaders Meeting

By Karen Highberger

On Saturday August 20th, Long Beach Heritage, in conjunction with Development Services Staff, held their quarterly meeting at the Bembridge House. We had 7 of the 17 Historic Districts represented and many topics were covered. A big point of discussion was how to do better outreach to realtors and their clients. We had discussed this in the past and we are working on an information sheet that can be provided to Real Estate Agents so they can be aware of properties that are located in Historic Districts and the benefits and limitations that go along with it.

Christopher Koontz, Advance Planning Officer with Development Services, updated the group on the Mills Act and the accomplishments of the Department and the Cultural Heritage Commission this past year. There is a change to the Mills Act that now allows owners of contributing properties located in Historic Districts to apply for the Mills Act without the need for landmarking their building.

An ongoing battle in all the Districts is when unpermitted work is done. With the advent of the Saturday Code Enforcement number (562-570-0000), things are slowly improving. Another point of discussion was how the City handles property owners who do not follow their Certificates of Appropriateness. The City has the ability to fine offenders and is stepping up enforcement.

A stated goal of the meeting was to gather information for a referral list of contractors, trades people and sources for restoration that can be listed on the Long Beach Heritage website and shared with the various Districts. We expect this list to be completed within the next few weeks.

Another point of discussion was the proposed black top on concrete streets. Up to 30% of our streets are concrete and most are located in the older parts of the City. Consensus at the meeting was that none of the Historic Districts want the blacktop. Historic Districts that have had the blacktop applied over their concrete streets include Belmont Heights and they have not been maintained to the resident's satisfaction. Many residents are opposed to more of the same. This is an upcoming topic for Orange Avenue in Cal Heights, so please be aware and attend the outreach meeting when it is scheduled.

If you have any items you would like discussed at the next quarterly meeting, please let us know. Be sure to follow Long Beach Heritage on Facebook to see what is happening in our Historic Districts. 🐾

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Urban Pioneer Roasting Company: A Cal Heights Business

By Julianna Robbins

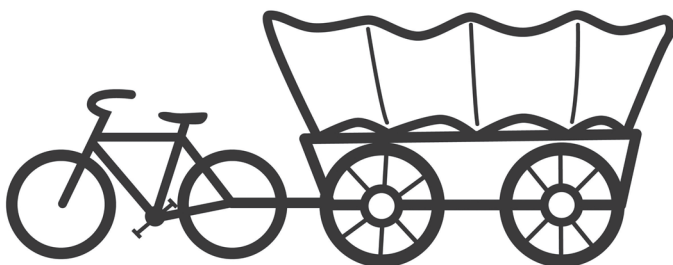
Cal Heights is now home to a cottage industry coffee roaster. I first heard about Urban Pioneer Roasting Company on Nextdoor and asked owner, Colin Stringfellow, to share a bit more about his business. We sat down at Steelhead Coffee in late June and talked about how Urban Pioneer came to be.

Colin first started working with coffee when he was eighteen. He worked with several big name and independent coffee shops, and always wanted to learn more about the process and how to make a better cup of coffee. He got into roasting research and experimenting on his own more than three years ago. Friends and family were soon requesting freshly roasted beans, and he decided to make it official with a business license two years ago. Urban Pioneer Coffee Roasting is now a Cottage Food Operator, licensed to sell to individuals and nonprofit organizations.

In addition to running a one-man business, Colin works part-time as a high school pastor at a local church and is completing his Master's in Religious Studies at Cal State Long Beach. He grew up in Lakewood and moved to Cal Heights with his wife about a year ago. They like the "small town in a big city" feel, walkability, and the vintage lamp-post right in front of their home. He works out of his Cal Heights home, where the smaller roasting machine makes it easier to control quantity. He makes a conscious effort to keep his pricing and offerings simple with a focus on quality and craftsmanship.

Urban Pioneer offers local delivery with options for single purchase or monthly subscriptions. If you're not sure what to order, Colin can make a personalized suggestion for you. The option to buy online is coming soon (and may be active by the time of this newsletter printing), but you can also email Colin through the Contact option at <http://urbanpioneerroasting.com>.

Happy roasting and welcome to Cal Heights! ☕



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Help Save long Beach Bees!

By Camille Lindsay, Sophia McRae, and Aurora Gray,
Girl Scout Troop 5133

How would you feel if you didn't have any honey, fruits or veggies? Well, if we keep treating bees the way we are we might not have any left. Bees are so important to our, and other animals survival. Not only are they in the food chain but they also help produce food. Honey bees alone pollinate \$15 billion dollars' worth of crops a year, according to the National Resources Defense Council. But unfortunately, bees are dying and they need our help.

You may be asking, "What is killing our bees?" Well, multiple things. A primary reason they are dying, according to the National Resources Defense Council, is pesticides. They are affected by inorganic chemicals placed in gardens to help plants or flowers grow. Although this is supposed to protect your plant and kill pests, bees also are killed. Bees are pollinators; without them plants wouldn't survive. Another factor that is threatening native bees in particular is the fact that their favorite crops are not as common as they were a hundred years ago. Also, habitat loss is an issue as more and more houses are built. There are several things you can do to help.

You can plant some CA friendly flowers that bloom all year and are diverse. You'll have a community of pollinators in no time! But please, when making a garden, use California or Long Beach native plants, which the native bees prefer. On-line resources and some nurseries can help you find plants that are quick and easy to plant. Flowers that smell good and are bright and colorful can attract many pollinators. Also, plant flowers that bloom at different times through the year, so bees have food the entire year. And be sure to plant your flowers in clumps as this will attract more bees.

What else can you do to help bees to not become endangered species? Another option is a bee motel, which is similar to a birdhouse and provides a place for solitary native bees to nest. If you want to build one there are many good sources out there to help you make one. Just by doing small things like this can make a big difference to many living things, both bees and plants!

One of the most important things to do is NOT to use pesticides. Plants are nature. They don't need poison to survive. Just let the plant be. It'll grow, especially with the help of bees. These things are important to do if you want a family of pollinators. 🐝



From the 7th

The Long Beach City Council recently approved the 2017 Budget. After a lengthy budget season, the City Council was able to pass a balanced budget, and fund key projects in the Seventh District. Take a look at the highlights for the Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

The Fiscal Year 2017 budget includes \$13 Million Citywide to accelerate street and sidewalk repairs citywide. It also establishes a slurry seal street improvement program and creates an Alley Management Plan citywide that will allow us to select the alleys citywide most in need of infrastructure improvements. Another priority is fixing our streets with standing water issues, and we will begin the design and engineering for those street improvements.

As a City, we also realized the need to fund additional resources for homeless outreach and services and allocated an additional \$880,000 in funding to address homelessness. This next year, the City will establish a pilot Homeless Rapid Response Team that will respond to homeless individuals; connecting them with wrap-around services in order to bring more people off of the street while also directing Fire and Police resources to the places where they are needed most.

Additionally, as a part of the budget, we approved the 2017 Capital Improvement Program Budget which included Projects for Measure A. Measure A Year One projects in the Seventh District include Fire Station improvements, Harte Branch Library, Dana Branch Library, Smart Street Light Technology. Also, Silverado Park Improvements, Silverado Field Improvements, Community Center Restroom Upgrades, and Los Cerritos Park Playground Upgrade. Citywide funding will also focus on residential street improvements, an alley management plan, park irrigation upgrades, tree trimming, and street signage.

At a recent Council meeting, I also had the opportunity to honor the California Heights Clean Streets crew. Thank you for the work you do to keep our community clean every week. Lastly, we will be hosting a community meeting and participatory vote to discuss street improvements on Orange Avenue in the coming weeks. Please sign up for my newsletter by sending an email to district7@longbeach.gov to stay informed about community news and upcoming events. (562) 570-7777

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At Your Local Library

There have been so many changes here at Dana over the summer that I really do not know where to start. So first let me introduce myself. I am Silke Kinoshita and I have been working for the library for over 16 years. I started out my career as a clerk at Main Library and Bret Harte Branch Library. Once I received my MLS, I became the children's librarian at the Brewitt Branch. Then I was transferred to Alamitos Branch Library where I worked for over 10 years before being transferred to Dana.

But enough about me, as some of you already know, there are more new faces at Dana besides me. Well, not "New" new, we all have been working for Long Beach Public Library for many years. Our newest team member is our Library Assistant who has many exciting programs planned for Dana, including crafts, film viewings, computer classes, and much more. We also still offer preschool storytime Fridays @ 10:30-11 am, and the Imagineer Club Saturdays @ 2-4 pm. Check out the offerings online or come visit us.

Oh, and if you are into puzzles, and even if you are not, "check-out" a puzzle on the honor system. There are puzzles for young and old and in-between. And yes, you do not need a library card to take one home.

So come on in, meet the new staff if you have not already, and see what is going on. Happy Fall Reading!

Sikle Kinoshita - Branch Librarian
DANA Neighborhood Library
3680 Atlantic Ave., (562) 570-1042 📞

LET'S WALK!

The Cal Heights Pavement Pounders have been walking since April 6th. We will now start walking three miles in all different directions around our neighborhood. Join us every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Lemon and Wardlow.

Details will be on our facebook page: facebook.com/calheightspavementpounders

Plastic Pollution

By Nicole Weaver (13-year-old Cal Heights resident & member of Girl Scout Troop 2003)

Plastic pollution is a very big problem. It is composed of harmful toxins that have potential to cause great harm to our world. Simply put, plastic pollution occurs when plastic gathers in an area and has begun to negatively affect the surrounding environments.

Our world is filled with plastics. Plastic packaging like plastic bags, food containers, drink and water bottles are thrown away every day. It not only ends up in trash dumps, but in forests, creeks, rivers, lakes and oceans everywhere around the world. Most of the plastic that has been created still exists because plastic never fully decomposes, it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces and makes its way into all parts of our environment. It is even eaten by animals and becomes part of the food chain. Some plastics contain dangerous toxins like BPA and fire retardants, and when it breaks down it can absorb many more dangerous toxins like damaging pesticides, DDT, PCB, and PAH. Those chemicals are released into the air when plastic is burned which can result in harmful atmospheric conditions and deadly illnesses. Most plastic is made from petrochemicals, and its extraction and production also poses a threat to our environment.

Even though plastic will never completely go away, there are some simple ways we can reduce plastic pollution. Use reusable items like canvas totes, steel or glass water bottles, and glass storage containers. To promote the use of reusable items, speak to local restaurants or businesses about the most eco-friendly options, like only giving customers straws if they ask, or using bamboo utensils, paper-based to-go containers or biodegradable plastics made from starch or other natural materials. Choose restaurants that don't use disposable plastics and shop for products packaged with little or no plastics. When oil prices rise again, it could even turn out being more cost efficient for the businesses as well as safer for the environment. You can also talk to lawmakers at any level to propose alternatives to plastic and encourage the development of more reusable items.

Please remember to take the 4R's pledge: **REFUSE** disposable plastic whenever possible; **REUSE** durable, non-toxic straws, utensils, containers and other everyday items; **REDUCE** your consumption of plastic products; and **RECYCLE** what you can't refuse, reduce, or reuse.

Together we can all reduce the harmful impact plastics have on our environment. 🌱



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Long Beach in Pictures

by Cal Heights Photographer Tom Underhill

- Old Lincoln on 37th
- 3rd Meeting on the C-17 Boeing Facility
- Blackbird Cafe turns 5
- Historic lamppost on 36th
- Bee and Sage
- Tour of USS America
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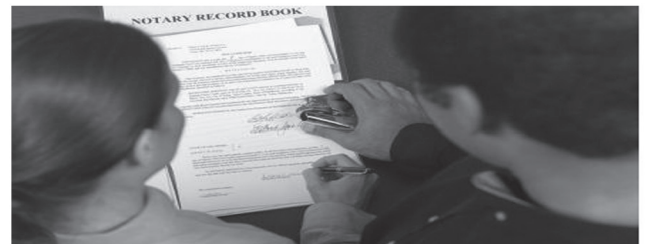
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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hi, Neighbors!

October is Arts Month, so you can bet that First Fridays will be showcasing the best of the best. On October 7th, you can experience the best in local music, art, and dance all while enjoying the hospitality of our businesses. And our very own The Kids Theatre Company will give a special sneak preview of its West Side Story production in our "allery" at Burlinghall and Atlantic.

Supper Club will be at a long-time favorite, Georgie's, on October 3rd. Kidical Mass on October 16th will be our annual "Zombie Ride" that includes a make up artist to get the kids to look gruesome before the bike ride. We invite you to join the Bixby Knolls Good Spirits Club at the new Rasselbock restaurant October 27th, 6:30 pm.

Since I wrote you last, have you been out and "discovered" something new in Bixby Knolls? Let us know what you find and make sure to post it to your social media using #discoveredinbixby. In the meantime, have you discovered all the goodness inside of **Healthway Foods**? Taken a look into the renovated **Liquorland**? Or ordered a sandwich from **Handy's Smoke House Meats**? We suggest you start with these and move on to your own exploration and discoveries. You will not be disappointed.

And as always, the message and mission remain the same: Remember to support YOUR local businesses and Fight On!

New in the District... And there's plenty of it:

- **Edgar & James**, a curated retail store from Goodwill, has signed the lease for the former Trader Joe's space. Representatives have been out at First Fridays to meet and greet the public. They will continue to do this until they open.
- **Island Pacific Supermarket** – Now open. **Steelcraft** – Containers are in place and underground utilities are going in. The tenants have ordered all of their equipment and will receive their keys on October 1. They will open a few weeks after that.
- **Rasselbock**, new tenant in the former Factory space, has passed all inspections and now the build-out is going strong. They will be open very soon.
- **Dutch's Brewhouse**, a brew your own beer spot, has passed final inspections, got a new façade paint job, and will open in the next few weeks.
- **EJ Malloy's** is planning to expand into the books store space to create a party room that can be rented for meetings, birthdays, or special events.
- **Pixie Toys** has expanded and now has opened a Pixie Toys Baby Store a few doors down in the 3900 block of Atlantic.
- **Post Office** There is work being done in the space. Drywall went up last week, and it appears that it is finally taking shape to become the post office.
- **Mod Pizza & Verizon** will soon open their doors in The Knolls, which will complete the tenant list for the center.
- **The Merchant**, a new bakery and sandwich place located near Carson and Long Beach Boulevard, is deep into its build-out and will be open in a few more months.

Find us and follow us:

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We also encourage you to sign up for our newsletters at: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com

Also visit: Firstfridayslongbeach.com and Expoartscenter.org

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4 Great Locations To Serve You!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesdays: Cal Heights Pavement Pounders Walking Group
6:30 to 7:30 pm Wardlow & Lemon

Thursdays: Clean Streets Litter pickup - 8 am at Wardlow & Lime

Fridays: Preschool Story Time (3 to 5 yrs of age) at the Dana Branch Library 10:30 am

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic Avenue Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every third Sunday: Kidical Mass Bike Ride, bixbyknollsinfo.com

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO,
9 am to 1 pm longbeachrecycles.org

Saturday, October 1 - Alley Cleanup - 9 am to 11 am 3600 Gundry

Saturday, October 1 and November 5 from 1 pm to 4 pm: Creation Station at Rancho Los Cerritos. Old-fashioned historically-themed crafts and activities. rancholoscerritos.org

Wednesday, November 9 at 6 pm, Seventh District Aquarium Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific. For further details and reservations, contact Councilman Roberto Uranga's office - district7@longbeach.gov

The Heights is a bimonthly publication of the California Heights Neighborhood Association. All residents are invited to contribute articles and opinions. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all residents nor the editor. Our goal is to provide a voice to our community and keep residents informed of issues affecting California Heights. For more information or a submission, email newsletter@calheights.org

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Robert Garcia, Mayor
570-6801

Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council
570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

Al Austin, 8th District Council
570-1326 email: district8@longbeach.gov

Patrick O'Donnell, 70th Assembly District
562-495-2915

Ricardo Lara, State Senate 33rd District
562-256-7921

Animal Control
570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise
570-2665 / 570-2600

Building Department
570-6651

California Heights ReLeaf
997-9094

Code Enforcement
Monday thru Friday: 570-2633
Saturday: 570-0000
www.lbcode.org

Community Watch North Division
570-9825 or 570-9827

Dana Branch Library
570-1042

Fire Department
570-2500

Graffiti Paint-Out
570-2773

Garage Sale Hotline
570-YARD (9273)

Neighborhood Preservation Information
570-6194

Parkway Tree Trimming
570-2700

Police Department Dispatch
435-6711 or Emergency 911

Police North Substation Information
570-9800

Senior Check-In
570-7212

Special Garbage Pickup (2 free per year)
570-2876

Street Potholes
570-3259