

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Remembering the Awaidas	1
President's Message	3
Cal Heights Looking Back	4
Measure A Repairs	5
CHNA Receives Grant	6
From the 7 th District	7
Cal Heights in Pictures	8
In the Know'lls	10
Calendar & Important #s	12

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Photo: Underhill Photography

Remembering the Awaida Family

By Megan Kerr

On November 12, 2019 we remembered Joey, Raihan Dakhil Awaida and their three year-old son Omar. This beautiful family was tragically run down on Halloween night just a block from their home in the Los Cerritos Neighborhood.

This family has deep roots in our Long Beach community. Joey's mom Vera, was born and raised in North Long Beach and attended Jordan High School. Vera and her husband Yousef own and run Joe's Auto Center on Wardlow Road in Cal Heights. Longtime residents of Bixby Knolls, their four sons all attended local public schools including Longfellow, Hughes, Marshall, and Poly High. Their son Omar died tragically in 2013 while he was a student at Marshall middle school and our neighborhood and school communities rallied in strong support of this family.

A proud Jackrabbit, Joey graduated from Poly High, attended UC Irvine and came back to Long Beach where he helped to manage the family business. His wife Raihan Dakhil, just completed her Masters in Social Work from CSULB and was an intern in Long Beach Unified last year. Omar, a joyful young boy who loved to sing, attended school at Isabel Patterson CDC at CSULB. He considered Los Cerritos park, his park. They were deeply committed to their family, their faith, and their community.

This young family embodied goodness, generosity, and joy. They spent time volunteering in Long Beach and in their faith community, including volunteering at For The Child, working with their child abuse response team, supporting families and children experiencing trauma. A Principal from LBUSD shared his last interaction with Joey saying that Joey, who was working on a former student's car at the shop, informed him that his family would pay for the car repairs, because this person was now experiencing homelessness.

Their lives had a ripple effect of generosity and love that spread throughout the greater Long Beach community. We ask that you hold their families, especially their mom Vera, father Yousef, brothers Masoud and Adam, and Raihan's family and extended family in your hearts and prayers. They will be deeply missed.

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President's Message

Happy Holidays!

I hope this finds you winding down from a prosperous 2019, and charging up for a better 2020. I'd like to offer a personal and heart-felt thanks to everyone who attended this years' Home Tour, and even more so to everyone who contributed to our success throughout the year.

Speaking of contributing to our success, I'd like to suggest something I've been doing for a while, but that I may not have mentioned here before. Any of you who shop on Amazon can bring some of that money back into our neighborhood through the Amazon Smile program. If you're unfamiliar with it, you can visit smile.amazon.com, log in to your account, and set it up to donate a percentage of your purchase to benefit a nonprofit of your choice. The California Heights Neighborhood Association is one such nonprofit organization and we would be delighted to be counted among the organizations you consider for your charitable giving.

Along those same lines, but without any intermediary, we are also able to directly receive your tax-deductible donation of any amount at calheights.org, click on the donate button on the bottom of each page of our website.

A final way to contribute, and to ease in the identification and location of your house, is to purchase an official California Heights branded curb-address painting. We don't solicit door to door on this, so if you want it done right, and for the money to support neighborhood projects, please go to calheights.org/curb-painting today.

That's probably enough hawking for now. Again, enjoy the upcoming holidays, and have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Hugh Little President, CHNA

Food Finders Donations

Please consider contributing something from the list found at foodfinders.org/event/holiday-food-drive/ and make a difference for many homes this holiday season. Food can be dropped off at any LB Library.



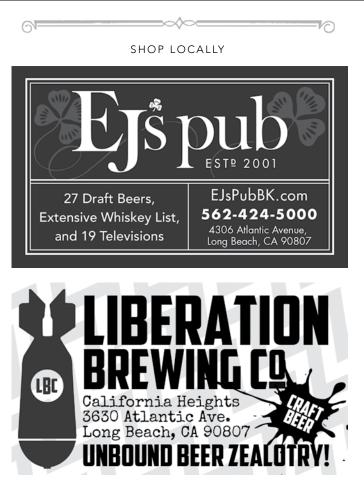


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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

Serendipity is the occurrence of an unplanned but fortunate event. Post-it notes, Velcro, and even Silly Putty were not meant to be invented but became happy by products while searching for something else. My moment of serendipity, a kind of happy accident, came when my husband found a lost object in front of our house. I was able to track down the owner through the Nextdoor app and arrange to meet. In a very gracious gesture, Rosemary gave me a CD her husband Mike Vaccaro recorded and serendipitously, I found a great story about a very talented Cal Heights neighbor.

Mike started out playing the clarinet in 5th grade, then moved on to the sax, flute, and oboe. When Mike was in the 10th grade he saw the Count Basie Orchestra at Disneyland and thought to himself, I can do that, and music became his life.

Mike is truly a Renaissance man of music. He seems to have done just about everything and then some. He travelled with some of the most famous bands in America, touring with Stan Kenton and Woody Herman. He was once on the road for 364 days traveling from town to town. "Not in one of those fancy buses," he lamented, "but a really old one with uncomfortable seats. If the towns were far apart, we had to sleep on the bus." Playing with famous jazz bands was just a part of Mike's talents. He also played classical music with the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra as well as in the show bands in Vegas productions like the Follies Bergere. Mike's versatility is apparent in the many different places he has played: The Pantages, Long Beach Grand Opera, and even movies like Star Trek and Mission Impossible III. Seemingly not content with just playing music, Mike is also a contractor (hires and manages the musicians) for Cerritos Center, Westwood Theatre, Bellagio Productions, and many more. He handcrafts custom parts for instruments, teaches, and runs his own website, MikeVaccaro.com.

When I met with Mike he mentioned he is now retired. "I've been lucky" he said. "I was in the union and made good money in my time. Life in a traveling band was difficult and 12 shows a week can get boring, so now I have time for myself." So what does Mike do with his extra time? Produces and performs, often in conjunction with other musician friends, and creates a CD a year. When I asked Mike for some parting words he said "just keep practicing." Wise words indeed. After all, you can't just rely on serendipity!



Photo: Underhill Photography

Measure A Repairs Come to Cal Heights

By John Moreland

Have you noticed the construction along Walnut Avenue and 36th Street? These street and sidewalk improvements are funded by Measure A, the 2016-voter initiative which raised the sales tax for 10 years to fund public infrastructure and public safety services. Some minor alley improvements have already occurred throughout Cal Heights, but the improvements on Walnut Avenue and 36th Street represent the first major improvements within Cal Heights thanks to this initiative. Specific improvements to Walnut Avenue (between Wardlow Road and 36th Street) and 36th Street (between Wardlow Road and Cherry Avenue) include repairs to curbs and sidewalks, improved ADA accessibility and pedestrian safety, and slurry sealing (which means to remove some asphalt and add a smooth layer of asphalt on top of the existing street).

Originally, improvements were planned for the entire stretch of 36th Street between Cherry Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. CHNA had concerns about the City applying asphalt onto the concrete portion of 36th Street, as well as updating intersections that received new ADA ramps within the past decade, both of which are west of Walnut. As a result, the City decided that improvements for 36th Street would not go west of Walnut Avenue and decided to add a portion of Walnut Avenue into the project area.

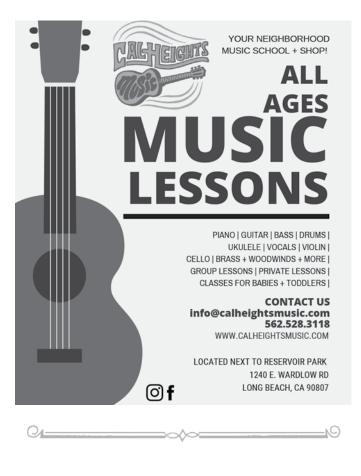
Construction activities are currently anticipated to be completed by mid-January 2020. However, it seems like we might have one or more storms coming our way that might delay the construction. As always within a construction zone, drive slowly and keep an eye out for pedestrians and bicyclists that may be in the street.

Remember Your Discount Cards

For those of you who attended the home tour, and still have your Discount Cards we would like to remind you that they are valid through the end of December.









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Cal Heights Receives Grant from the Long Beach Community Foundation by Ellen Rooney

The Long Beach Community Foundation awarded the California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) \$1,070 from its Bixby Knolls Charitable/California Heights Giving Fund. The fund consists of fines paid by airlines who have violated noise limits by landing or taking off during restricted times at the Long Beach Airport. This grant is made available to any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school or government institution that serves residents in the affected flight path area.

CHNA applied for the grant to support its Clean Streets litter removal and ReLeaf tree care projects. The grant money will allow CHNA to augment tools and supplies used during its weekly Thursday morning litter patrols, biannual Saturday morning alley cleanups, and the several tree care and tree planting events in and around the historic district. Additional tools and resources will enhance these efforts, and allow CHNA to increase the scope of the two projects, resulting in a healthier and more attractive environment for residents, visitors, and local businesses. Among planned purchases are light power tools, brooms, rakes, trash pickers, and heavy-duty water buckets.

CHNA is honored to receive the grant, and will ensure the funds are put to good use. Truly clean streets and healthier trees will be the mark of success. To participate in Clean Streets, ReLeaf, or other Cal Heights projects, please see the back of this newsletter, or our website, CalHeights.org under Community Projects for details.



Clean Streets Crew - Photo Underhill Photography

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From the 7th By Roberto Uranga

There is much to be grateful for in the Seventh District. I am grateful to represent a community that is engaged and cares about the neighborhood and the members of their community. I appreciate hearing from all our residents as they have allowed us to better address the issues important to

our community.

As the new year approaches, I would like to take a moment to speak with you about the importance of the 2020 Census. Every 10 years, the federal government is required to count every person residing in the U.S. through a national Census. Census data are used to distribute over \$675 billion in federal funds to states and local governments for vital community services, including but not limited to public safety, housing and community development, workforce development, health and human services, education, transportation and environmental protection.

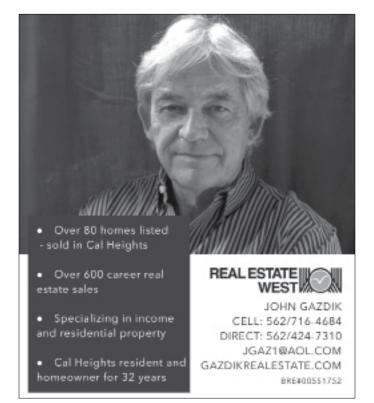
It is estimated that California and local communities could lose \$1,950 per year for 10 years for each person not counted in the Census. A complete and accurate 2020 Census count is, therefore, critical for ensuring that California gets a fair share of Congressional representation and federal resources. If you would like to learn more about the Census, please visit: www. longbeach.gov/census.

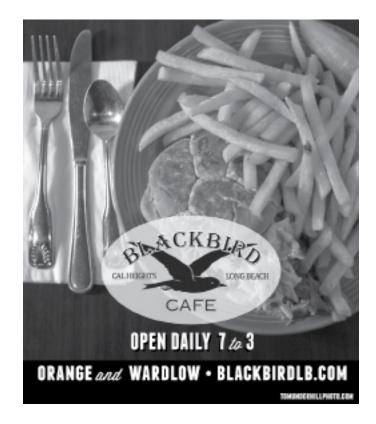
I am excited to invite you to the 66th Annual Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane Parade which will be taking place on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane Parade legacy call my office at 562-570-7777 or visit http:// www.longbeach.gov/district7 to download a parade application. Participation in the parade is completely free! Completed applications can be sent to sean.bernhoft@longbeach.gov.

As always, it is a pleasure to represent the California Heights community, and I look forward to continuing to work together. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can contact me at district7@longbeach.gov or by phone at 562-570-7777.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

61







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Cal Heights In Pictures

By Tom Underhill

Cal Heights resident, Susan Erikson during the Open Studio Tour; October Fest; Road repairs on Walnut.

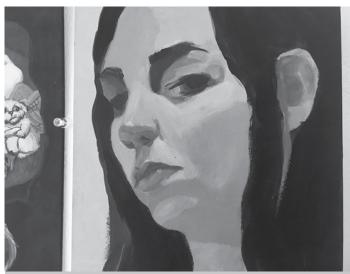






Candle light vigil for Joey, Raihan Dakhil Awaida, and their three year old son Omar.





Remembering Katie Phillips

The above photo is a self-portrait painted by Katie Phillips. Katie passed away on October 19th. The following is part of Blair Cohn's tribute to her.

"Two years ago, Katie came to work for the BKBIA and I got to know "The Mighty Katie Phillips." A genius graphic designer and artist who took creativity to the next level. I would say: "Katie, I need a this or a that" and 15 minutes later she'd have a perfect concept.

Katie filled our office with positivity. She played music and sang all day long. We spent a lot of time talking about life, music, travel, work. I liked making her laugh because she would turn around as to share the laugh with an imaginary audience. She put up with my song requests and we listened to The Jam on repeat.

The Cohn Family and the BKBIA are heartbroken at her passing."



Hello new neighbors,

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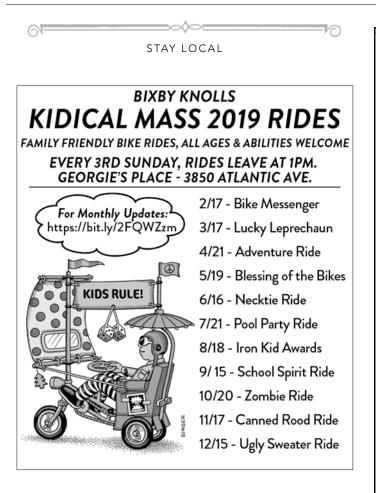
We just moved in the neighborhood and can't be more thrilled. After 28 years on Long Beach Blvd. by Memorial hospital, we've moved to California Heights. Feel free to stop with any of your car needs or even just to introduce yourself.

-The Joe's Auto Center Family



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BIXBY STROLLERS WALK WITH US EVERY SATURDAY (RAIN OR SHINE)

COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF 4105 ATLANTIC AVE. 7:15AM MEET UP 7:30AM STROLL BEGINS

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Hey, Neighbors:

Here we are in December and I swear to you I can't get past April in my head. There are still so many things I want to do and see before we mark the passing of another year (always a tough thing for me to accept). Now we surround ourselves with holiday music, holiday TV specials, mixers, parties, wrapping paper, shopping lists and mailing holiday cards. Bring me the winter solstice when the days start staying lighter longer again! Every so often I check the temperature and webcams in St. Joseph, Michigan (our favorite place) to see what winter looks like. It looks cold and brutal to me! But's it's always sunny in Bixby Knolls and that's how we like it.

So, I'm off to start my secret shopping for Alissa and Marley, and some friends, too, but wanted to give you the scoop:

This is the time when the BKBIA reminds you of how important it is to support the businesses in your district. As an economic development commissioner, I read about the national stats and trends about the wavering state of retail, the "mom & pop" versus ecommerce, and about how the "new malls" are updated and fancy and we all should go park in the large lots and experience these new developments.... (exhale). Well, I say that you cannot replace the soul of a Main Street USA village-feel that we have in our neighborhood. In fact, we have an exceptional sense of that, more so than other parts of town. But the challenge is this: to keep the village healthy and thriving YOU all need to help. That means you make the concerted effort to shop, dine, and use the services that are just blocks away from your house. Translation: Spend money in Bixby Knolls/California Heights.

Discovering items in our boutiques, restaurants, and service businesses make for a win-win scenario. You are supporting those pursuing the American Dream of owning a small business while making your neighborhood healthy and vibrant. Better to support and celebrate our entrepreneurs while we have them than mourn the loss or complain about vacancies, right? It "takes a village to build a village." Try it. You'll feel good for doing so.

Although you are receiving this after Thanksgiving, the BKBIA would like to give a huge THANK YOU to the Cal Heights Clean Streets crew for not only cleaning up the corridors week after week after week after week...but we want to thank them all for the extra tree care and maintenance over the past year. Our trees and parkways on Atlantic just north of San Antonio were in need of watering/trimming/mulching and the team came through to give the care they all needed. We are thankful for all volunteers and neighborhood champions who help to make a positive difference for the whole community.

And looking a little farther ahead to February for our Annual "State of the District" meeting where you will hear more about the current state of the BKBIA and its programs as well as the continued discussion about the sunsetting of our redevelopment funds. These funds have given us the tool over the last eight years to have a private security company patrol the district, have a Clean Team, paint building facades, install security lighting, and invest in events like First Fridays that promote our business district to the community. When these funds run out there will be significant changes in what we can and cannot do. The city's Economic Development Department recently hired consultants to study the BKBIA and help make recommendations to the city for new funding sources and programming ideas. We will be sharing all findings and solutions with all of you.

I hope I do see you around the neighborhood but in case I don't, have yourself a merry little Christmas, have a very festive and Happy Hanukkah, and I wish you only the best and "positive vibrations" for 2020. SHOP LOCAL



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JOIN US - ALL ARE INVITED!

Wednesdays: Cal Heights Pavement Pounders Walking Group meet at 6:30 pm at Wardlow & Lemon

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

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 Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO,

9 am to 1 pm longbeachrecycles.org





1456 E. 33rd Street Signal Hill, CA 90755 LOU GAUDIO Cell (714) 315-3150 omniman2@gmail.com



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Roberto Uranga, 7th District Council 562-570-7777 email: district7@longbeach.gov

Robert Garcia, Mayor 562-570-6801

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

Lena Gonzalez, State Senate 33rd District 562-256-7921

Gavin Newsom, Governor 916-445-2841

Alan Lowenthal, 47th Congressional District 562-436-3828

Kamala D. Harris, Senator 916-448-2787

Diane Feinstein, Senator 310-914-7300

Animal Control 570-PETS (7387)

Airport Noise 570-2665 / 570-2600

Building Department 570-6651

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

Garage Sale Hotline 570-YARD (9273)

Neighborhood Preservation Information 570-6194

Parkway Tree Trimming 570-2700

Police Department Dispatch 435-6711 or Emergency 911

Senior Check-In 570-7212

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

Street Potholes 570-3259