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Photo: Underhill Photography

The 2019 Home & Garden Tour: It's About More Than Just a Pretty House!

By Marion Saffrey

Love your old Spanish style house in California Heights, but you're bummed the previous owners stripped the original sconces from your living room? Want to learn how high-tech wizardry could help you and your contractor figure out where those sconces were?

Or would you find it interesting to know how the owner of a 1929 house unearthed solid-brass window hardware hidden under nearly 100 years of grime? Or how a contractor working for another Cal Heights homeowner recreated an original faux fireplace destroyed in the 1933 earthquake, without photos or blueprints?

All you have to do is go to CalHeights.org and purchase your tickets to the 2019 California Heights Home & Garden Tour, taking place Sunday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Along with showcasing six of the neighborhood's stunning historic homes, our docent-led tour will provide information and resources for restoring and renovating our architecturally significant homes in a thoughtful and appropriate way.

To that end, selected tour homes that have been renovated by current and previous owners will have before-and-after photos on display, and docents familiar with the projects will describe the various processes involved. Designers, contractors, and specialists who are experienced with historic preservation — including some who have actually worked on the tour homes — will be on-hand to discuss their work and to answer questions from tour attendees.

What's more, tickets will include a coupon card redeemable at neighborhood businesses and restaurants, and local Irish sports bar, EJ's Pub - Bixby Knolls will be selling food for everyone to enjoy.

So what are you waiting for? Hop over to CalHeights.org now! 🐾

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President's Message

In welcoming you to our last issue of The Heights to be issued before our 2019 California Heights Home and Garden Tour, I hope I can be forgiven for taking this last opportunity to promote the October 6th event.

The Historic Home Tour is the Neighborhood Association's primary fundraising event, with the funds raised going to support our ongoing work with the Clean Streets team of volunteers, our ReLeaf program, neighborhood mural projects, and ongoing maintenance and costs associated with our historic lampposts.

This year we have six fantastic homes lined up, home related vendors on site, and lunch and dessert fare. But as always is the case with a project this size, we are still hustling to get everything tucked in before the big day.

We have more of a challenge this go-round than in the past with finding enough volunteers to meet our Docent needs. The Docents always play a large role in the success of our tours, and finding enough volunteers to adequately staff each house is vital to the experience. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket to the event, and we schedule everyone for one of two shifts, so that everyone has plenty of time to enjoy the tour for themselves in addition to helping make the tour enjoyable for all attendees. If you would like to volunteer, or would like to know more about volunteering to docent, please email hometour@calheights.org or call 562-250-4250 and leave a message.

Even if you can't be talked into joining us as a Home Tour Docent, don't wait until the last minute to purchase your tickets! Tickets can be purchased in advance (\$20) on our website at www.calheights.org/community-events/home-and-garden-tour/. For those of you who prefer to purchase by mail and check rather than online, instructions for pre-purchase are on our voicemail greeting when you call 562-250-4250. Tickets will also be available at check in on the day of for \$25. In any case, remember that tickets purchased in advance are not mailed, but can be picked up at the start of the event on October 6th.

We hope to see you on Sunday!



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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

We once had a cabin in the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains where every street seemed to have a magical name invoking the beauty of our surroundings - Tahquitz Trail, Sunrise Lane, Eagles' Nest - except ours, Wanda Way. Why, I complained, was our little street plain old Wanda Way when it could have a spectacular forest name? Much to my embarrassment, I later learned the residents of the street had voted to honor a very special lady who had lived there. Oops! So what about my own street here in Cal Heights, Myrtle Avenue? Was that another nice lady, someone famous or named for the tree. How did the streets in Long Beach get their names?

In 1784 a Spanish soldier, Manuel Nieto, was given a huge land grant stretching from the foothills to the ocean. His family further divided the land into 5 smaller parcels. Two of those Ranchos, Los Cerritos and Los Alamitos, were the beginnings of Long Beach. There is still a Nieto Street named in his honor. The prominent Bixby Family started naming streets in their land developments in 1886. They favored calling north-south thoroughfares avenues, and in alphabetical order - Alamitos, Bonito, Cerritos, Descanso. Our neighborhood still has some of those original names including Falcon and Gaviota. Later Descanso became Orange and the "I" street, Independencia, became Cherry.

As the city grew some streets were renamed to honor people, like Naranja Street becoming Temple Avenue. Don Juan Temple was an early settler who built Los Cerritos Rancho in 1844. Jotham Bixby has his own cute little cul-de-sac, now known for their terrific Christmas decorations. And of course the Bixby name is everywhere, on buildings, whole neighborhoods and the street at the end of my block.

Sometimes powerful people also created name changes. Many here remember shopping at Dooley's Hardware. It seems that businessman and councilman Charles Dooley wanted Long Beach Blvd. (called American Ave. south of Willow) to be called Long Beach Blvd. all the way to Ocean. Using his political clout, he apparently won that argument and the name was changed.

Here in our neighborhood we seem to have favored flowers (Rose and Gardenia), fruit (Lemon and Lime) and plenty of trees (Olive, Walnut, and Myrtle). So it looks like plain old Myrtle is not named for a famous person and most likely after the tree. In fact I have two beautiful crepe myrtle trees right in front of our home on one terrific street. 🌳

CERT Training

By Cal Heights Resident and Realtor, Andrea Testa

I took the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on August 23rd-25th with the Long Beach Fire Dept at the Captain David Rosa Regional Training Center. It is a free, approximately 26-hour program of both hands on training and lecture-based learning.

After hearing about CERT 10 years ago at a Neighborhood Watch Program, I finally signed up with a fellow Realtor. We were scared during our introductions, but by 10pm on Friday were completely excited and invigorated to share our experience with our communities. And we still didn't even know what was to come on Saturday and Sunday.

The goal is to empower participants with the knowledge and skills to make a difference in their community, at work, and at home. It's about doing the greatest good, for the greatest number of people, in the shortest amount of time.

We learned so much in a short amount of time, including:

- not to put ourselves in harms way, but to be prepared to help ourselves and others until professional resources arrive.
- there are only 124 Firefighters and Paramedics on at any one time in our city of nearly 500,000 people. The total amount of LB Firefighters including paramedics is about 360.
- how to use a fire extinguisher (PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep), and how to turn off the gas at the meter.
- how to build emergency kits for a house and a car, which included good fitting gloves, closed shoes, plenty of water, a first aid kit, flashlights, extra reading glasses, prescriptions, cash (\$1's and \$5's), food, pet food, etc.
- to always be aware of surroundings, especially exits.
- how to buddy up and to work on a team for search and rescue in a pitch black, charred building.
- how to give basic medical care and how to triage patients.
- how to lift and carry patients safely, both for ourselves and for them.
- how to lift a car to remove someone who is trapped underneath it.
- how to hold and use a fire hose (at half the weight of the 150 lb torque the firefighters use, and the instructor used his Warrior 2 stance from yoga to demonstrate!)

This training is really something that will benefit me, my family, and my community and I strongly recommend it. Contact CERT@longbeach.gov and tell Ana Jimenez and Jake Heflin 'hello' from me. 🐶



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This is Long Beach Radio

by Kevin Shin

Looking for something new to listen to? Check out "This is Long Beach" which launched a monthly radio program on the new KLBP 99.1 Long Beach Public Radio station. Through a combination of storytelling, interviews, conversations, and other spoken mediums, "This is Long Beach" seeks to bring a spotlight to different communities, cultures, cuisines, and curiosities of Long Beach that even many long time residents are not familiar with. We seek to celebrate Long Beach culture and inspire listeners to be more conscientious, actively engaged, and inclusive members of our city.

The team behind "This is Long Beach" is a group of dedicated Long Beach residents who were all part of the Leadership Long Beach Institute Class of 2019. Our team, which includes people from all over the city, believes strongly in helping to elevate the voices of the community as a way to share what we all love about our great city: its diversity, its uniqueness, and its amazing depth of culture.

In the premier episode, we highlighted the Zaferia neighborhood, speaking with local residents, business owners, and even members of the Cambodian community. Interviewees shared stories from their experiences living, eating, working, and playing in Long Beach. We even connected with a local historian to dig into the origins of the Zaferia name. Catch the episode along with others on SoundCloud at <http://www.soundcloud.com/thisislongbeachradio>.

For October, "This is Long Beach" is highlighting the Cal Heights neighborhood. We'll be interviewing community leaders, business owners, and local residents to share stories from the community with everyone. The episode will air on KLBP 99.1 on Saturday, October 5 at 10AM, right before the Cal Heights Home and Garden Tour. Listen live on the radio or stream us at <http://www.klbp.org>. ✿



Zaferia Neighborhood - Photo: Underhill Photography



From the 7th

By Roberto Uranga

On Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019 the City Council adopted our \$2.8 billion Fiscal Year 2020 budget. It is a balanced and responsible budget that will continue the improvements happening around Long Beach, with key investments in public safety, infrastructure repair and other critical services.

Below, I have detailed some of the items in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget that impact the 7th District:

\$30 Million Identified for Housing and Homeless Services

Long Beach is committed to leading in our coordinated approach to addressing homelessness, continuing existing services and strengthening the City's commitment to ending homelessness with more than \$30 million to combat our housing crisis.

\$7.7 Million Identified for Fire Station 9 - Station 9 was built in 1938 and was closed this summer due to active mold and other facility issues that rendered the current station inoperable. Of the \$7.7 million, approximately \$1.5 million will be used to secure a temporary replacement facility for Fire Station 9. In the interim, Fire Chief Espino has assured me that the engine is continuing daily operations within the service area.

\$153,000 Identified for Daisy Ave Tree Replacement Project

My office has worked closely with Wrigley residents and neighborhood stakeholders to identify \$153,000 to put trees back on the Daisy Avenue median. The project will include 24 trees and related electrical and infrastructure improvements.

\$150,000 Identified for Santa Fe Corridor Improvements - which may include façade improvements, street enhancements, street banners that will beautify the corridor.


\$100,000 Identified for Diseased Magnolia Trees - My office has received an uptick in requests regarding Tulip Tree Scale. To best serve our communities, The City Council has decided to allocate \$100,000 to develop a treatment program and for removal of trees when appropriate. Our office will provide updates as Public Works develops their plan to address this issue.

The 2020 Infrastructure Improvement Program - As a City, we are committed to repairing our aging streets and infrastructure. The Program totals more than \$110 million including almost \$20 million from Measure A funds.

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. ✱



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Cal Heights In Pictures-Business Edition

By Tom Underhill

Musicians, dancers, and dogs at Concerts in the Parking Lot!



1. Video wall at new City Hall
2. Cal Heights Spanish Style Home



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- 6/16 - Necktie Ride
- 7/21 - Pool Party Ride
- 8/18 - Iron Kid Awards
- 9/15 - School Spirit Ride
- 10/20 - Zombie Ride
- 11/17 - Canned Rood Ride
- 12/15 - Ugly Sweater Ride

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IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Here we are in fall and I can start to feel the momentum building for the long slide into "holiday season." Since this article is written a month ahead of time, I will take one last moment to reflect on the 7 trips to the OC Fair, the parking lot concerts, our trip to Michigan, the time in Oceanside, and all the other summer fun we had.

September is fine, but it always reminds me of back to school and another end to summer. And naturally I call October the orange month as we see the leaves change, everything turns into pumpkin spiced this-and-that, and the spooky movies come on in regular rotation. I'm still wired on the time line as if I was in school so October means football season is in full swing, Halloween plans begin (Marley has 3 or 4 costume ideas already), I dream about mom's caramel apples, and I make many failed attempts to slow time down. So, what's up?

We've been running our monthly Beer Trolley to tour the district to give you a chance to taste Brewery Knolls, and on October 20 we will bring back our fun Walktoberfest event. This takes the trolley experience to the next level. Check www.bixbyknollsinfo.com for up to the minute details.

One of our favorite things to do is our Kidical Mass Zombie Ride on Sunday, October 20. We hired a make-up artist to get the kids looking scary and zombie-fied before we tour the neighborhood. The ride is always free and begins at 1:00 pm from Georgie's Place, 3850 Atlantic, and we enjoy ice cream and treats from the Bag of Doom.

We are already looking ahead to Small Business Saturday on November 30. This is your early notification! Small Business Saturday is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. In the U.S., this holiday is considered to be the middle portion of a trifecta of three shopping holidays which includes this holiday, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. It is a day on which people are supposed to patronize small, brick and mortar businesses with their holiday shopping. However, while shopping is the main focus of this holiday, it is not a necessary component. People who want to acknowledge this day can do so promoting it on social media or by recommending your favorite small business to your friends and family. Even more so, it is about connecting and re-connecting our residential community to the business district. It's celebrating the fact that Bixby Knolls is extra special.

PUMA consultants – future of the BKBIA – Recently, the city hired consultants to come and hold roundtables with business owners, landlords, and residents to provide feedback about our business district and our community. We are eager to hear the result of their findings in how we can generate revenue to replace the sun-setting redevelopment funds that give us the tools for Clean and Safe programs, security, events (especially First Fridays), façade improvements, murals and other art projects. I don't think anyone wants to see these things come to an end. Do you?

We are thrilled that Laserfiche is sponsoring our Bixby Saturday Nights that we have been hosting. Once a month we book great jazz bands (and soon other genres, too) for a great night of free entertainment in the neighborhood. There are always dinner options on site from one of our restaurants. Get on our mailing list to hear about what's coming up: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com

Monthly business recommendation: The Merchant, 4121 Long Beach Boulevard, is owned by local couple, Mike & Andrea Gillespie. Mike & Andrea had always dreamed of opening up a coffee shop. Although it took some time, they finally opened The Merchant's doors in May of 2017 and provide the community with truly amazing pastries and coffee. Enjoy their new patio and soon they will be expanding their menu for even more delicious options.

See you in the neighborhood,
Blair

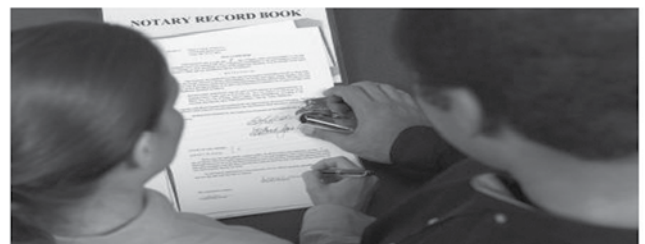
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