



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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City Makes Big Changes to Recycling Program

By Marion Saffery

The City of Long Beach has made sweeping changes to its curbside recycling program that will significantly limit the types of items residents can throw in their purple recycling bins. As of right now, the program will no longer accept plastic items including milk cartons, produce bags, squeezable condiment bottles, and most takeout containers, along with any other plastics labeled with the recycling codes 3, 4, 6, or 7.

"The City updated the accepted-items list earlier this year, and is now rolling out an education campaign to notify and educate the public about those updates," said Carmen Quezada, recycling specialist with the City of Long Beach. According to Quezada, the City had initially planned a number of live community outreach events to bring awareness to the new changes, but those had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In their place, Quezada said, the City created a more virtual campaign that will include social-media messaging, virtual workshops, and more.

It's not that Long Beach doesn't want these now non-conforming items to be recycled. It does. But a number of situations have made doing so challenging. First, few items labeled with recycling codes are actually recycled. In fact, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, only about 9 percent of plastics are. Second, China now bans most paper and plastic imports, including our trash. Prior to the 2018 ban, California sent about 60 percent of its recyclables to China. But the ban has left the state with a recycling industry in crisis and trash with nowhere to go. What's more, Quezada said, many recycling facilities are relatively specialized and process some recyclable items, but not others. That makes finding new markets to accept the City's recyclable waste a difficult task.

Purple bin or gray bin?

Generally speaking, plastics labeled with recycling codes 1 and 2 - like soda and water bottles, shampoo containers, milk jugs, and detergent bottles - should go in purple recycling bins. Thinner plastics labeled 3 through 7 - like plastic bags and bubble wrap, clam-shell containers, yogurt cups, foam packaging, and squeezable condiment bottles - should go in a gray bin. "Mixed-paper" items - meaning those made with paper lined in plastic - such as cereal boxes, milk cartons, to-go cups, soup cartons, and juice boxes, should be pitched in a gray bin. Corrugated cardboard, newspaper, printer paper, cardboard tubes from toilet paper and paper towels, and aluminum cans go in a purple bin. Glass bottles and jars, which are recycled domestically, continue to go in a purple bin. Anything that goes in a purple recycling bin should be empty, clean, and dry.

How to learn more

The City's website features easy-to-navigate information about its new curbside recycling updates in the Long Beach Recycles section. There, residents can register for virtual workshops - both in English and in Spanish - designed to help them "recycle right." The City has also created an Instagram account, link below, dedicated to providing recycling-program updates. (Links to all of the above will be provided on the CHNA Facebook page.) And residents will soon see new labeling on purple bins and informational billboards and decals on both refuse and recycling trucks. (cont'd page 3)

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New Recycling Program (cont'd)

Whether these new changes to Long Beach's curbside recycling program will remain static is hard to say. The City intends to pursue new markets to accept our recyclable discards, and, if a suitable candidate comes through, the City may tweak its recycling program to accept additional items. For now, Long Beach will keep residents updated through the various methods described above.

Links

New recycling guidelines: <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles/recycling/recycling-guidelines/>

Workshops: <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbrecycles/waste-reduction/reduce-waste-at-home/workshops/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/lbrecycles/> 

President's Message

It doesn't really feel like fall as I write this. The sky is kind of sickly green, my car is covered with white ash, and I'm coming off of one of the hottest holiday weekends I can remember. Still, I guess it doesn't tend to feel like fall here in southern California until closer to winter, but I for one hope the wet season doesn't keep us waiting too long this year. Even with those accursed new mosquitoes, I'm ready to otherwise feel comfortable outdoors in the evening and have a yard with soil ready to receive some new plants.

I hope everyone is hanging in there well enough. We're all still in this together, and the longer things drag on, and the less assistance available to people from outside sources, I just want to remind everyone to keep an eye out for each other. Never use it for something time-dependent, but you can always leave us a message, and one of us on the board will help as best we're able. You can also email info@calheights.org as well if you prefer.

Try to remember our local and hyperlocal merchants, eateries and drinkeries as often as you can, too. I've managed to really knock back my Amazon habit over this, and I'd like to think the local economy will thank me.

See you again soon, and keep in touch.



Hugh Little
President, CHNA



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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

I am not really a dog person, but for the last few months I feel like a judge at the Westminster Kennel Club looking for "Best in Show". Sitting in my comfy recliner, reading a book, doing puzzles, or simply gazing out the window I am rewarded with a constant stream of dogs and their humans parading by. After a while I have come to know them well, although they seldom see me.

You can almost tell time by the young teen who solemnly walks by with her little fox terrier. Ear buds firmly in place, she looks like she drew the short straw for doggy-walking duty. I am always amazed by the fellow who walks his three huge Great Danes. He must be some kind of dog whisperer. The dogs walk perfectly by his side, never lunging ahead or barking even when tiny dogs lunge at them. Mornings bring a trio of beautiful Dalmatians walking together. Suddenly for a few days there were only two. I must admit I got so worried next time they came by I ran out of the house to ask. Thankfully it was only the senior dog that declined to join in the morning jaunts. For some reason I always get a giggle by the many young athletic men who seem to own a variety of little white puffball dogs. They are usually gazing at their cell phones, only stopping to dutifully pick up any droppings their canine pals leave behind.

That brings us to Fergus, the Goldendoodle, all 120 lbs. of him, that lives across the street. I call him the neighborhood dog. Although Diana and Clive are his doggie parents, Fergus has developed a very devoted following by several of the neighbors. They join together to take him on long walks. He comes to their backyards where they present him with endless squeaking rubber toys, shaped like beer bottles, which he loves to play with and soon destroys. While my husband and I are friends with Fergus, he shows much greater affinity for his Uncles and Aunt who shower him with love and affection. I admit I might be a tad jealous.

Many years ago a common name for a dog was Fido, taken from the word fidelis, faithful, and isn't that just what we need in these uncertain times, a friend who will always be there. 🐾

PICTURE OF FERGUS



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From the 7th

The City of Long Beach is working diligently to bring awareness to the importance of participating in the 2020 Census. Your response is important as it helps to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services. Last month, my team participated in a canvassing event focused in the Seventh District community. Currently, the Seventh District has a 69.4% self-reporting rate. This is encouraging but we must be sure our family, friends, and neighbors participate in the Census before the deadline on September 30th, 2020. Census responses can be submitted safely, securely, and easily by visiting <https://my2020census.gov/>.

During the general election, all registered voters will be mailed a vote by mail ballot to ensure they have safe access to voting option during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sixteen drop box locations, all available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, will be distributed throughout Long Beach. Completed ballots can be returned by mail (no postage required) or in-person at any Vote Center. Vote by Mail drop box locations will be available beginning October 5th and will close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3. For a current list of LA County 24-Hour Vote by Mail drop boxes, to check your registration information or request a ballot in a different language, visit lavote.net. Some convenient drop-box locations for residents of California Heights are:

- Bixby Park Community Center (130 Cherry Ave.)
- Dana Neighborhood Library (3680 Atlantic Ave.)
- Veterans Park (101 E. 28th St.)

With regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are getting better at wearing our face coverings and making better decisions about who we see and how we distance around other people. This has led to a decline in positivity rates, which is at 4.6%, as of September 3rd. We are making progress, but the COVID-19 pandemic is not behind us. Long Beach, like 87 percent of the State, is in the Purple Tier, which is the most restrictive of the tiers announced by the State. Please continue to exercise caution: practice social distancing, use a face covering when in public, frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and stay home when possible. We are all in this together.

Please continue to reach out to my office by calling 562-570-7777 or emailing district7@longbeach.gov
Roberto Uranga, Councilmember, Seventh District 🐶



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Local Spotlight

During the month of October, photography studio f/8 Studios at 3764 Orange Ave presents Cal Frights, an outdoor neighborhood pumpkin patch and artisanal marketplace.

"The goal of Cal Frights is to create a memorable, nostalgic pumpkin patch experience, and bring a sense of holiday normalcy to Long Beach families this year, all within an outdoor, COVID-safe environment," said studio director Marni Farmer.

Guests can book a private 1/2 hour appointment in the f/8 Studios back lot, where a professional photographer will take memorable photos of each group in a styled pumpkin patch. Costumes are encouraged. While visiting, guests will have the opportunity to pick up high-quality carving and specialty pumpkins, in addition to other fall decor in an artisanal marketplace. Complimentary Cal Frights activity booklets will be available for kids.

COVID safety measures: no touch, contactless payment, enough time in-between appointments to avoid overlap, shoot from at least six feet away, photographer and staff wear masks, sanitizer stations. To make an appointment, guests can visit www.fatestudioslongbeach.com/calfrights.



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PHOTO: TOM UNDERHILL

Owners of Derrick's on Atlantic Velika Turner and Aaron Blackburn at 3502 Atlantic Ave are open for take out and socially distant outdoor patio and parking lot eating. Call (562) 337-8131 or visit www.derricksonatlantic.com

2nd Annual Alley Cleanup

Mark your calendar for 11/14 for the 2nd Annual alley cleanup. We'll meet at Gundry and 36th at 9:30 am. More details to follow at facebook.com/calheights

Local Spotlight



In August of this year, Blackbird Cafe celebrated it's 9th year cooking up breakfast and lunch on the corner of Orange and Wardlow. Place your to-go order from 7 am - 2 pm. Visit blackbirdlb.com to see the menu or call (562) 490-2473.




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Cal Heights In Pictures

By Tom Underhill



Long Beach Suffrage 100 helped celebrate 100 years of Women's right to vote by staging a demonstration on Ocean Ave in Downtown Long Beach.



Bjoern Risse owner of the new Wood & Salt Tavern, 4262 Atlantic Ave (562) 349-0111.



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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"October, and the leaves are stripped bare of all they wear, what do I care? October, and kingdoms rise, and kingdoms fall, but you go on and on." – U2, October

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Was Charles Dickens referring to 2020? Even this late in the year I stopped for a second and realized that I wasn't even done mourning the death of Kobe Bryant on January 26. And you all know what we have been going through since then. What a total blur of a year this has been, but we have certainly tried to make lemonade out of all the lemons.

Selfishly speaking, I cannot let Halloween pass for my daughter without any pomp and circumstance, or without witches, ghosts or goblins for that matter. For months she has talked about the three different costumes she wanted to wear. There has got to be something we can all do, right? How about you all keep your ears and eyes open around noon on October 31 for a special treat. How about a funky Halloween parade? Get your costumes on, make the caramel apples, maybe put some small bags of candy together to give to your neighbors, then plan on watching the fun-scary movies that night. We will try to add something fun to your Halloween agenda.

And for months we have been so optimistic about our 3rd Annual Walktoberfest (Brewery Knolls celebration) but as of the time of this writing, it doesn't seem likely in the same event format. I mean, let's be honest, doesn't a trolley ride around the district, stopping in for some beer and food treats on a nice fall day sound good to you about now? We may have to come up with a fun socially-distanced pub crawl or visit, or a

Business Bingo game to play, so you can at least wet your whistle, get some fresh air, put on your team colors and pretend to be watching some football. Hey, maybe we can even pump in some crowd noise along the district to make it more realistic?

Business recommendation: Rori's Artisanal Ice Cream, at Steelcraft, 3768 Long Beach Blvd. The secret to Rori's Artisanal Creamery's success is simple, "Organic dairy, local produce, no B.S.!" The only way to make it pure is to make it pure." Rori Trovato founded Rori's Artisanal Creamery in October 2011, but originally began making ice cream over twenty years ago. She fell in love with the craft as a little girl, churning ice cream every Sunday for family dinner with her grandmother. Nothing ever compared to that fresh, creamy texture and flavor. Every ice cream flavor, including its ingredients, are made from scratch with organic and locally sourced ingredients. Try the Root Beer Float one! And there are vegan options, too. All are absolutely delicious all the time, all year round.

As we start the "slide into the holidays" mode and see that December 31 will be here sooner than we know, we are now facing the bigger issue at the BKBIA. With the announcement in August of the city's projected deficit for the new fiscal year and the realization that with our redevelopment funds will be sunsetting next September, our golden era may be gearing up for our "last dance." We will continue our conversations with city hall for support to be had. And due to COVID-19 we have not been able to pursue all other funding options that may have helped. However we are soliciting the tax deductible donations to our nonprofit, Bixby Knolls Community Foundation 501(c)(3). You will hear plenty more about this again in the following months.

By the way, are you getting our newsletters? If not, PLEASE go to www.bixbyknollsinfo.com, click on the About page and choose Newsletter to get "in the Know'lls" with us.

Hang in there as we head into the dark month--but look forward to the smell of chimney smoke, hot chocolate, cider, the lights on house, and especially the big bags of candy that you bought but couldn't hand out to kids. My daughter will be thrilled.

See you in the neighborhood, Blair

P.S. By the way, we made it to St. Joe, Michigan after all.

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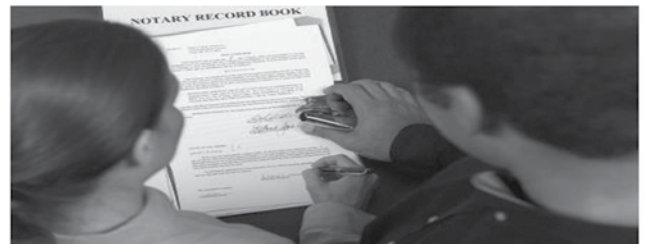



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