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PHOTOS BY TOM UNDERHILL

Mayor Garcia's State of the City

On Tuesday, January 8, 2018 Mayor Robert Garcia delivered his fourth State of the City address. Some of the achievements he discussed included:

- Millions of dollars in "critical" infrastructure and public safety investments under Measure A, a temporary sales tax increase approved by voters in 2016;
- 7.9 percent reduction in overall crime, including homicide and theft, as well as the lowest homicide rate recorded in 50 years;
- 2.3 percent reduction in the poverty rate from 2014 to 2016, or about 10,000 fewer Long Beach residents whose wages fall under the federal poverty line
- 4.4 percent unemployment rate in 2017 (a record low), similar to trends seen in major cities across California and the nation;
- Adoption of the Clean Air Action Plan, a joint agreement between the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports to achieve a zero emissions port complex by 2035;
- Long Beach Police Department began patrolling the problematic Blue Line stations.

For more information on the State of the City, visit longbeach.gov/mayor/news/state-of-the-city.

President's Message

By Hugh Little

Well, we have closed the circle on another year, just as we have started tracing the path of the next. Looking back, last year saw the completion of the new mural at the California Heights Market, another successful and fun historic home tour, and much more. While it is never too early to start finishing those projects that you've told yourself would have to be complete before you would consider opening your home to the tour, I think the owners who have come before you would probably agree that there will never be enough time, if only because there will always be another project. Ready or not, keep us in mind for 2019.

This year, we will be continuing with alley cleanups, and looking to bring back the Summer Block Party (possibly combined with a 'Summer Movie Night'.) We also hope to test a new model for increasing our neighborhood's tree density with ReLeaf. All of that is before we even start to get to the list of suggestions we have been receiving from folks; you guys know who you are, and I appreciate all the suggestions.

Much like that pre-tour project list, it would be easy to look at what we're hoping to accomplish in the coming year, and miss just how much we've benefited from what was already accomplished. This time of year is perfect to balance, however briefly, in the space between our history and our hopes for the year to come. Here's to a wonderful 2018. 🐾

Kindly,



Hugh Little, CHNA President

ALLEY CLEANUPS FOR 2018

APRIL 14 (date to be confirmed) - Meet at 9:00 am at Lewis and 36th. We will clean all the alleys between Atlantic and Orange depending on volunteer turn out. Please bring all items to be dumped to Lewis and 36th by 11:00 am.

NOVEMBER 3 - Meet at 9:00 am at Gundry and 36th. We will clean all the alleys between Orange and Cherry depending on volunteer turn out. Please bring all items to be dumped to Gundry and 36th by 11:00 am.

More details found at facebook.com/calheights or call Stacey at 562 274 3790.



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Cal Heights Looking Back

By Frances Stoner

When I graduated from nursing school in 1977 my instructors told me I had a career that would last forever, my future would be secure. "Think about the future" they always said, but what if your job really didn't have a future and only dealt with the past?

Mike Miner has a job that seems to have no future; he has no new clients, no prospect for sales and no one who really wants to take over his job. You see there is no future in it; you might even say it is a dead-end-job. Mike is the manager of the Sunnyside Cemetery where all the plots are sold and most of the clientele long ago buried. The cemetery began in 1906 and is the final resting place of more than 16,000 people from backgrounds as varied as Union soldiers, a Long Beach mayor and school teachers.

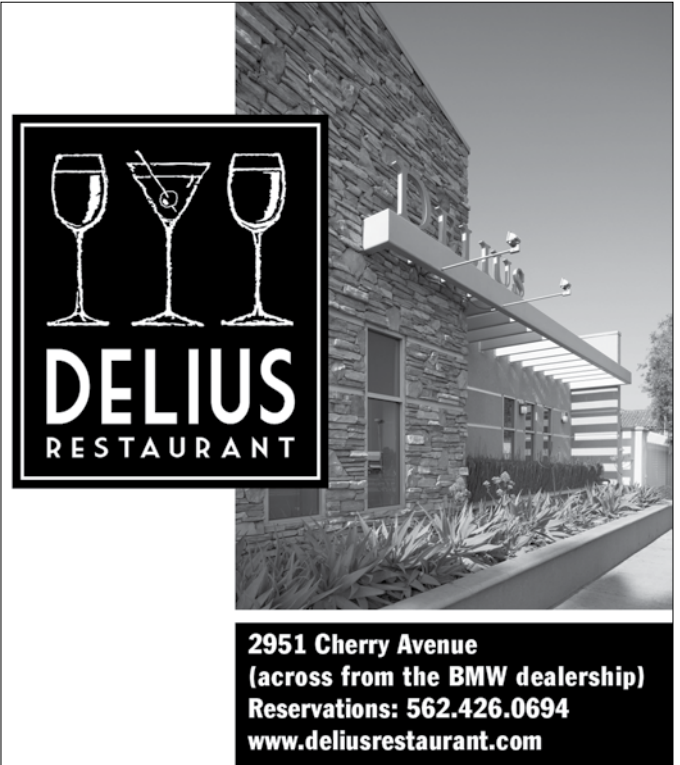
Mike was born at Long Beach Community Hospital, attended local schools, had a short stint in the Air Force and found his career in the electrical business, both as a salesman and in management. Many years later he became interested in the cemetery because his parents were buried there. He joined a non-profit group, "Friends of Sunnyside", where he became a board member and finally manager. The group hoped to operate the cemetery and make it a pleasant place where family members would visit and pay respects to their loved ones.

Sunnyside had a difficult past, a previous owner who absconded with a half million dollars of the endowment, staggering water bills, a dwindling revenue stream and general neglect. It doesn't help that it sits next to the Municipal Cemetery, which is often green while Sunnyside remains brown and barren.

So what does one do with a cemetery that no one seems to want? The answer for now is, get creative! The Historical Society of Long Beach stages an annual Halloween event where costumed actors re-create the lives of the people buried there. How about seeing a scary movie in the cemetery, they do that too. You can bring your blanket and commune with the permanent residents while watching cult favorites. They organize cleanup days, are on Facebook, and even have a Go Fund Me page.

Mike would like to retire, travel and see some of the world. He hopes the city of Long Beach will assume stewardship of Sunnyside but until then he and a dedicated group of volunteers will look towards the future and honor the past. 🍷

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Cal Heights In Pictures

By Tom Underhill

#1: Art Exchange Long Beach

#2 and #3: First Fridays

#4: Airport Commission Meeting




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Neighborhood Leadership Alumni Reception - Image Tom Underhill

Neighborhood Leadership Program

The Neighborhood Leadership Program is currently taking applications. This five month multilingual program assists grassroots residents and provides students with the skills, knowledge and resources needed to make a difference in the quality of life in our community. This program is free to participants and is partially funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

This program will help improve communication skills, recognize the benefits of diversity, create innovative solutions for improving neighborhoods, identify resources and partnership, apply for grants, plan and complete a community project, and gain confidence as a public speaker.

For more information, please contact the Neighborhood Services Bureau at (562) 570-1010 or via e-mail to Francisco.Rodriguez@longbeach.gov. 📧



Rest in Peace Jerry Caligiuri

Partial Eulogy by Val Lerch, Image by Tom Underhill

"There is a void in the politics of Long Beach and the State. There is a void in our neighborhoods. There is a void in my heart, my colleague, my friend Jerry Caligiuri has left this earth." Community activist, volunteer, and supporter of all things Cal Heights, Jerry Caligiuri passed away on November 2nd. He will be greatly missed. ♥



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Global Warming and Climate Change

By Nicole Weaver, Marshall Middle School Student

"Someday our children, and our children's children, will look at us in the eye and they'll ask us, did we do all we could do when we had the chance to deal with this problem and leave them a cleaner, safe, more stable world?" – Barack Obama.

Global warming is greatly reliant on the increasing levels of greenhouse gasses, such as carbon dioxide and methane being released into the air. The burning of fossil fuels can cause severe climate changes including a loss of sea ice, sea level rise, stronger storms, and more droughts. Global warming and climate change is a serious problem in our world and is going to continue to get worse if we don't act now, fortunately there are actions we can take today to help slow down climate change.


The best thing you can do is educate yourself and talk with people of the dangers of climate change and global warming. Next you can consider powering your home with renewable energy, and use energy like air conditioning and heating less often. These are the biggest uses of energy, so try to conserve. You can also seal drafts and make sure your house is adequately insulated. It is also a good idea to invest in energy-efficient appliances so while out shopping, look for the Energy Star label. Agriculture is one of the most energy consuming businesses, so you can help by actually eating the food you buy because nearly 40 percent of household food ends up in the landfill, and consider eating more meat-free meals since livestock products are the most resource intensive to produce. Consider buying LED light bulbs, drive fuel efficient vehicles, and if you keep your tires properly inflated we could save up to 1.2 billion gallons of gas each year. You can also, at time, rethink driving altogether and possibly walk or ride a bike.

If we work to spread the word of global warming and climate change around our community, and ways how we can help slow it down, we can help make our world cleaner and safer for future generations. 🐣


♥♥♥♥ Rancho Los Cerritos Romances ♥♥♥♥

In honor of Valentine's Day, Romances at the Rancho offers a site tour unlike any other. Stroll the grounds by candlelight while costumed interpreters, portray former Rancho residents. February 10th at 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tickets go on sale January 1st. Details at www.rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-event/romances-at-the-rancho. ♥

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At Your Local Library

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Happy New Year! We wish you a year filled with fun and relaxation and of course lots of books.

The New Year is a time for change and new endeavors. We are happy to share that we will be adding fun and engaging programming for patrons of all ages. We are introducing a new technology based program that will focus on helping patrons access online information such as Ancestry, Lynda learning, Mango languages, Overdrive and many more databases and websites.

We are also very excited to announce that our Hogwarts program will be returning Tuesday, February 20th from 4 pm to 6 pm in celebration of the library's annual Dictionary Days event. Get ready to use your words and your wits to learn potions from the most severe potions master to ever teach at Hogwarts. Craft your very own potions as well as play games to collect potion ingredients, prizes, and giveaways. This program will also feature a comedy magic show presented by Abbit the Average magician. Costumes are encouraged and there's something for the whole family!

We'll also be doing a fun valentines game at the check-out desk. Patrons will be able to take a book out on a "blind date" along with their checkouts for the month of February. The "dates" are yours to read and keep, pass along, or bring back if it wasn't a good fit. The catch is you won't know what you're taking home until after you leave!

In honor of Black History Month, we are featuring "Black History, a Celebration." Patrons will be able to enjoy poetry by the late Maya Angelou and Lucille Clifton as well as documentaries about prominent events and people relating to African American history on Saturday, February 24th from 11 am to 1 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Looking ahead, March will bring back programs such as the Pot o' Gold scavenger hunt for teens and tweens as well as a series of new technology programs during Teen Tech week. Please call us at 562 570 1042 or check our website at www.lbpl.org for more details on these events. We hope to see you often at Dana in 2018. We love seeing you here.

Josephine Caron, Senior Librarian,
DANA Neighborhood Library
3680 Atlantic Avenue ☺



From the 7th

By Roberto Uranga

Welcome to a New Year! I am excited for this year and ready to continue working with each one of you to improve the 7th! I would like to share with you the improvements we've made benefiting the 7th District from July 2014 to present:

- 31 street blocks were paved/slurry sealed. 3.46 center line miles of streets were paved and 3.48 center line miles of streets were slurry sealed
- 9,589 street and alley potholes were repaired
- 6,421 trees were trimmed and 701 new trees were planted
- 20,042 graffiti sites were abated and 181 removals of graffiti from traffic signs
- 1,192 sidewalks were patched/repared and sidewalks at 138 blocks of streets were replaced
- 886 traffic signs were repaired and 71 street markings were repainted
- 586 street sweeper signs were replaced
- 145 ADA ramps were installed
- Admiral Kidd Artificial Turf Field, field lighting, landscape and irrigation was just completed
- Dana Branch Library improvements will be done this month: lighting, rest room and circulation desk improvements for enhanced service. They are also looking into the possibility of installing hearing loops in the community room for the hearing impaired.
- Cherry Park playground also went through improvements and is currently under repair of the aging irrigation system.

I'm glad to represent the residents of California Heights, and I look forward to continuing to work together! 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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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

A Decade of Positivity

December 17th marked my ten years at the BKBIA. Technically I hit the ground running (or strolling) after January 1, 2008, but I have spent the last month or so thinking back on ten years. To say it's gone by fast is a cliché (but true). To say it's gone by "full" is a better statement.

Working out of our old dusty, patched-together office at 4313 Atlantic was ground zero for kick-starting some new energy into the district. Over the last decade we have tried anything and everything to raise the profile of Bixby Knolls citywide and beyond (and that's what it's taken.) Early efforts included:

- Community parties at the Petroleum Club
- Window activation program included putting posters or artwork in windows so the buildings didn't look abandoned
- Tree plantings and cleanup days
- Monthly events to activate the neighborhood
- Bixby Business Breakfasts for BKBIA members
- Concerts in the Park(ing lot)
- Cash mobs and flash events

When I came on board First Fridays was in its infancy and it has been incredible to watch its growth over the last decade. We used to run out and tie balloons at the participating businesses so people would know where to go. If we got 20 people coming through our office we considered it a success.

We secured a ten-year contract with the city (for redevelopment funds) for streetscape work to make the area more attractive. The "Bixby Knolls Next 2 Exits" signs on the 405 freeway are from our RDA money.

RDA also funds:

- Private security company (CSI Patrol Service here in BK) for district patrols
- Installing security lights
- Clean Team – litter abatement
- Façade improvements (paint and signage)
- Landscape projects
- Murals and utility boxes and our art alley (the "Allery") at Burlinghall and Atlantic

I am very proud of the longevity of Strollers, Literary Society, Supper Club, and Good Spirits Club which have created many friendships, connections, and collaborations. And our monthly Kidical Mass bike ride was only going to be a one-time event to be a part of the "bike friendly city" but is another monthly favorite event.

We worked with the 8th District Council Office to save the Expo Furniture building from being knocked down and a white fence installed around the property. The building has become a community center for children's theater, seniors activities, regular arts and culture events, and new home to our office and the 8th District Council's Field Office.

Energy begets energy and by doing as much as we could we caught the attention of the city. The more we did the more help and resources we received. I believe we are better off than ten years ago. Vacancies are low, more retail and restaurants have opened, and new businesses are moving in or getting make-overs.

The arrival of Steelcraft has definitely helped usher us into the new era. And we may soon be known as "Brewery Knolls." We've seen some of the last remaining icons close up and retire but have also seen the influx of new businesses and development. And there is plenty more on the near horizon.

I'm sure you are in love with Bixby Knolls as much as I am and please rest assured that the BKBIA is working hard every day so the district can reach its full potential and remain, as we say, the best neighborhood in the whole city! 🐾

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

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - 7:30 am at our local Atlantic
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First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

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