news from the California Heights Neighborhood Association

July/August 2021 | Vol. 27, Issue 1

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I ♥ Cal Heights Fundraising Campaign - What do you love about Cal Heights?

By Manny Valenzuela

These last 16 months have been challenging, haven't they? It makes you appreciate what you have, whether it was the parent by your side, your life partner helping you fight through the darkness, a neighbor checking in on you, or the fur-baby reminding you to smile.

In these challenging times, we all rediscovered home in Cal Heights. Beyond the historic architecture and mature trees, we witnessed the inherent goodness of our Cal Heights friends and neighbors, selfless and with purpose. From grocery runs for the elderly to messages of hope on sidewalks and windows across our neighborhood, Cal Heights residents stood tall.

COVID-19 may have delayed our iconic Home Tour, and impacted planned events and volunteer opportunities, but it did not rob us of our resolve, to remain the best neighborhood in the West! With your support, we can bring back the beloved Home Tour, continue to beautify our neighborhood and clean our streets. I love Cal Heights!

I ♥ Cal Heights Fundraising Campaign Event: Long Beach Gives

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD ON SEPTEMBER 23

The Cal Heights Neighborhood Association will be participating in Long Beach's biggest giving day, Long Beach Gives. By supporting this 24-hour online fundraiser, you can help beloved programs like Clean Streets, tree plantings, the Home Tour, and this newsletter, and much more!

Support Cal Heights by:

- Donating to the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association on September 23 at www.calheights.org
- Becoming a Peer Fundraiser. You help raise funds on behalf of Cal Heights, on a customizable webpage!
- Sponsoring the Event. Advertise Your Business!

Ready to help? Contact Stacey Morrison or Manny Valenzuela at info@calheights.org for more information.

Details will be posted on our website and social media channels.

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President's Message

At the risk of sounding completely obsessed, I'm pretty much going to be talking about the same thing I've been covering since at least the beginning of the year - after much deliberation, we've settled on a plan for the next Home Tour. We will not be having it this October. There were simply too many unknowns to plan for, and as we've seen recently, even when we think things are going one way, we're not sure they will remain. Rather than trying a completely new paradigm this time, we settled instead on what we are calling a 'hybrid' model. Our next Historic Home Tour, which we will be having in the Spring of 2022 (precise date to be determined soon – but it looks like April or May) is going to consist of homes open to 'physical' tours, as we have done in the past, but also homes and gardens that may want to only participate in a 'virtual' tour format. Of course, homes amenable to both options will be more than welcome as well.

For the CHNA board, now, the hardest part of the process needs to begin in earnest - finding the homes and gardens to showcase on the tour. If you've considered participating in the past, but were held back by that one project that wasn't done, or that one room that you just couldn't bear for people to see until you get it just right, well, we may be able to work something out this time. If you're interested, please reach out to info@calheights.org. Also, you may see us working up the nerve to introduce ourselves unannounced to see if we can interest you in participating. For me at least, that's up there with asking a stranger to dance in the social anxiety department, so be gentle with me. It's been a long time since we've endured the agony of having more willing homes than we have room on the tour, but I'm hopeful with the expansion in ways people can participate, we might get to suffer from that excess this year.

Please stay safe out there, and please join me in continuing to do what we can for our friends and neighbors who own the wonderful ring of local businesses that surrounds our neighborhood. Especially now as we begin another advertising year for The Heights, please take a moment to get to know the advertisers on these pages.

Thanks,

Regards, Hugh Little President, CHNA









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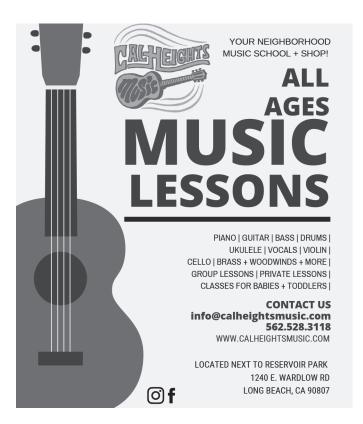
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SHOP LOCALLY





Cal Heights - Looking Back

By Frances Stoner



Lately our neighborhood has been awash butterflies, not just the occasional white or yellow ones floating by but huge, beautiful Monarchs. This regal butterfly was even named after King William of England. They seem to be everywhere, flitting over garden, sometimes tumbling, soaring

engaging in mock battles rising up in the sky, finally coming down to delicately land on a flower where they show their beautiful orange and black wings. This explosion of a seldom seen butterfly is because my neighbor Diana has become a Monarch Mom.

The once plentiful Monarch population has declined about 80%, primarily because of loss of habitat, especially the type of milkweed they need to feed on. Monarchs have one of the longest migrations in the insect world, traveling thousands of miles from the west coast to their wintering grounds in Mexico. It takes three complete generations to make the trip. To help the Monarchs survive many people now raise them in captivity to protect the caterpillars from predatory insects and allow them time to metaphorize into butterflies ready to join the migration.

Diana has educated herself on raising Monarch's responsibly. Marsha, a friend and fellow Monarch Mom, advised Diana on how to begin. They share information on best practices to insure they are helping to release butterflies that will survive the migration and help replenish the species. They begin by planting the correct type of common milkweed and then carefully look for the tiny eggs on the underside of the leaves. The leaves go into a terrarium where the eggs hatch into voracious caterpillars munching on fresh leaves every day. The caterpillars then find a suitable place to attach and spin a silk pad, finally becoming a chrysalis. Two weeks later a butterfly emerges.

Diana and her partner Clive have created a front garden so beautiful and whimsical that people constantly stop to admire it. Children delight in finding the many gnomes, fairy houses and funny frogs set amongst the colorful flowers. In this wonderland Diana sets the newly hatched butterflies and watches while their still-wet wings slowly reach out to catch the warmth of the sun, finally floating upwards ready to catch the wind.



From the 7th

Dear neighbor,

The Long Beach Health Department discovered that the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is present in our city, leading to the reimplementation of an indoor mask mandate in LA County. The new variant is believed to be more transmissible and more

likely to cause severe disease, especially to unvaccinated people. With these details in mind, I want to urge residents to remain informed, exercise caution at indoor social events, and most of all take care of each other. We are all in this together!

The City has reopened additional City facilities to the public, effective immediately. Representatives at City Hall (411 W. Ocean Blvd.) are now available Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM to assist with utility services, parking citations, payments, payment plans and general billing and collections. The Water Department (1800 E. Wardlow Rd.) are now open Monday - Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Additionally, the Housing Authority (1500 Hughes Way, #A-150) is open for appointments only, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 AM to 5 PM and Fridays from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

In addition, the Long Beach Public Library (LBPL) has resumed in-person services at six more library locations, two of which are located within the Seventh District - the Bret Harte Neighborhood Library and the Dana Neighborhood Library.

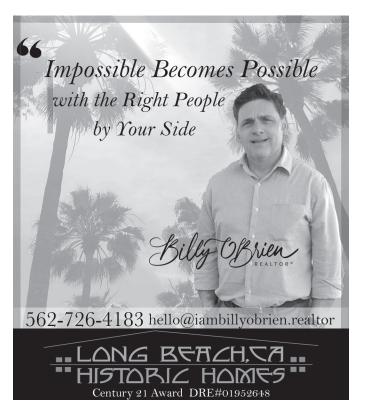
To close, I would like to invite you visit the new Cherry Park Playground, which had its Grand Opening on July 24th, and was made possible by Measure A funds. It is my hope that the new playground will provide joy to children and families for years to come. I would also like to invite you to join the Seventh District office and donate blood at this year's Summer Full of Life Blood Drive. The blood drive will be held on August 7, 2021, from 9 AM to 3 PM at Silverado Park, in partnership with the American Red Cross. If you haven't scheduled your appointment yet, you can do so by visiting RedCrossBlood. org and entering sponsor code: District 7. All participating donors will also be entered into a raffle for a chance to win 2 Knott's Berry Farm Tickets!

As a reminder, the District 7 office is practicing social distancing. Please continue to reach out to my office by calling 562-570-7777 or emailing district?@longbeach.gov. A member of my staff will connect with you as soon as possible.













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Water Efficiency Matters Now More Than Ever

By Marion Saffery

Neighbors, we're in trouble. Big trouble. Because we're descending into a drought the likes of which we haven't seen since the mid-1970s. Anyone who was around then will tell you: It was BAD. So what can we do? A lot, it turns out.

First off, the City makes it easy and cost-effective to replace water-hogging lawns with drought-tolerant landscapes. Through its Lawn-to-Garden (LG2) program, the Long Beach Water Department (LBWD) actually pays residents to replace their lawns with approved drought-tolerant landscaping and water-efficient irrigation systems. There is even an additional incentive of up to \$1,500 to work with a verified designer! Terms and conditions apply, and there are design requirements. Most importantly, you must have your design approved and an inspection completed BEFORE removing your lawn. All in all, the process is straightforward and simple. Visit LBlawntogarden.com for more information, including a list of verified designers.

Secondly, many residents aren't aware that Long Beach always has Water Use Restrictions and Allowed Water Usage guidelines in place, which are listed on the LBWD website at LBwater.org under the "Save Water" tab. It's important we familiarize ourselves with them, especially now. Here's a small sampling:

- From April 1 through September 30, landscape watering is allowed ONLY on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.
- During the remainder of the year, watering is allowed only on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Landscape should only be watered before 9 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

The City encourages residents to anonymously report violations by calling (562) 570-2455, or by visiting LBwater.org/save-water, clicking on the "Make Long Beach More Water Efficient" tab, and then submitting the form found there. The City sees these reports as opportunities to educate residents about how to save water, not as a means to punish them. Awareness is key. Residents can also report running water (such as a beach shower or a leaking pipe) using the free GOLongBeach app.

For more water hacks, visit liveh2olb.com. Speaking of which, in the next issue of The Heights, we'll talk about our new "smart" water meters and the WaterSmart Program Portal. They're really cool!

Water Rules

Landscape

Water landscape during summer months on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from April 1 — September 30. Two-day per week landscape irrigation (Tuesdays and Saturdays) will begin in the Winter on October 1 — March 31.

3

5 Runoff

Maintenance

Pool & Spa Cover pools and spas when not in use. 9

Efficiency
Water landscape 10
minutes per station per
watering day, or 20
minutes if using water
efficient rotating nozzle

Weather

6

No washing landscape (driveways, sidewalks, parking areas, patios, other outdoor impermeable surface areas) with a hose, unless using a pressurized cleaning device. A simple spray nozzle does not qualify as a water-conserving pressurized cleaning device.

8 Supplies

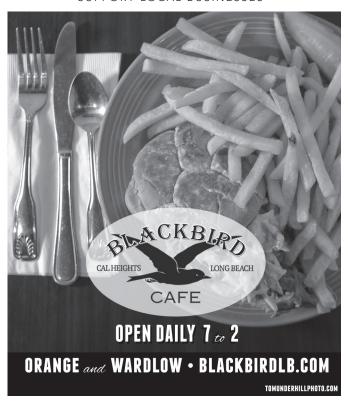
Wash a vehicle with a hose that has a water shut-off nozzle or device attached to the hose that prevents water from running continuously while washing.

Fountains

No operating a fountain or other water feature that does not re-circulate the water.



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Cal Heights In Pictures

By Tom Underhill



First Fridays at Liberation Brewing, Co. Don't think dogs like IPAs.



Concert in the Park-ing Lot sponsored by BKBIA.

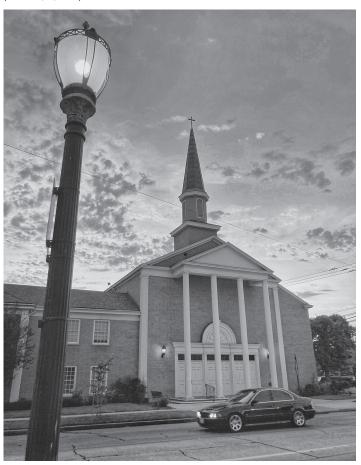


The Friends Of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) are back and have completed their annual Great LA River Clean. Between June 25 and July 24, FOLAR cleaned 12 areas of the Los Angeles River from Van Nuys to Long Beach, including the Willow Street Estuary. This year's cleanup was staged differently than in past years, with volunteers doing a pre-signup and selecting a time slot to clean each section of the River in small, Covid-safer groups. Turnout was great, despite the change, and a huge amount of trash was collected and hau-

led away. The Willow Street Estuary area of the LA River in Long Beach is a more natural area at the end of a long concrete span of the river. This less-paved area acts as a natural catch basin, and collects all manner of tossed, lost, or stolen items - from shopping carts to automotive parts. While some concentrated on these larger pieces, many of the Long Beach volunteers spent their whole time in one small area collecting the tiny fragments of plastic that pose a hazard to this waterway. For more info on Friends Of The LA River please visit FOLAR.org.

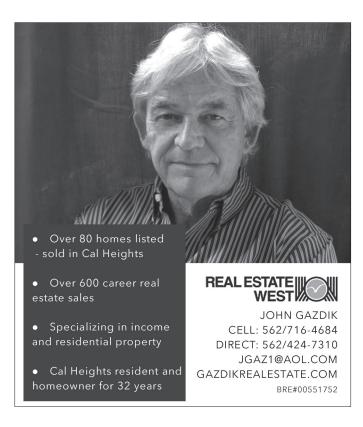


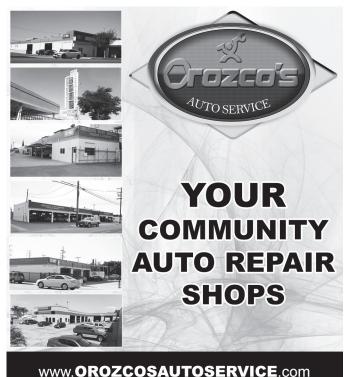
Ridgewood Triangle area Clean Team is our newest litter picking group in our area.





...SHOP LOCALLY

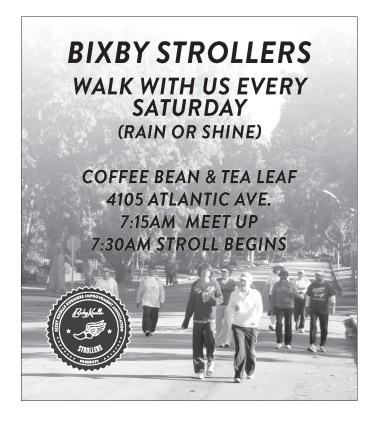




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IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"For everything (turn, turn, turn),
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)..."

Remember the last episode of M*A*S*H? Or Cheers? Or Seinfeld? Do you remember Johnny Carson's last show sign off? Well, I'm not trying to be as dramatic here as all those examples, but consider this a "wind down" note from the BKBIA. (Well, I might get a little melodramatic so bear with me.)

We've talked to you about this for a while, "and now the end is near, and so we face the final curtain." Our contract with the redevelopment funds has drawn to a close. These funds gave us the muscle to acquire staff, have increased security patrols, a Clean Team for litter and graffiti abatement, create marketing programs, and subsidize events--especially First Fridays.

We are working on our budgets, scaling back some programming, and pursuing some options to help fill the gap in funding. Not sure if or when we can ever quite be like it was, but we will do as much as we can for as long as we can until they shut the door on us. Keeping the district clean and safe will always remain our number one priority but we just may not have more frosting on the cake. That's Blairspeak for: There won't be as many bells and whistles around the district. In normal-speak: The BKBIA will scale down and focus on its core mission to promote the business members and provide best resources, be an advocate for its membership, and stay connected with the community. But expect fewer concerts; First Fridays to look different; sporadic events; lots of online content. Worst case scenario would be major changes to personnel at the association.

Let's think of all the fun things—the Levitated Mass Rock Party, Flash Events, Cash Mobs, cleanup days, tree lighting ceremonies, bike rides, books read, miles walked, the growth of First Fridays, dancing in parking lots, murals and street art, the Trolley, Knolls Ranger & Bixby Belle, Bixby Panther, Expo Arts Center, dances at the Petroleum Club, drinks at the Petroleum Club, suppers together and then those special Bear Hunts and chalk messages. And there's a trunk full of other successes.

So, what before then? We have a few "lasts" we want to take care of - events, meetings, streetscape projects. The work is never done - it can never be. We know where the cracks in the sidewalks are, where the weeds grow, what the patterns are of the street, who needs a sign, what windows need washing, and what the personalities are. We think things are in pretty good shape given all circumstances.

Sooooo....once, again, if you are still so inclined, and we hope you are, you can always make a donation to the Bixby Knolls Community Foundation 501c3, either through our website at www.bixbyknollsinfo. com or directly to our office at 4321 Atlantic Avenue. We thank those who have already made generous donations to the foundation.

What we hope for is that you all continue to "love thy neighborhood as thyself." Support the businesses. What is very satisfying is that when I first started here 13 years ago, the realtors at open houses would talk about the house and the nearby schools. Now the realtors talk about how great it is to walk to the shops, the breweries, to First Fridays, and brag about the business district. That always puts a smile on my face.

Cue the orchestra and let the music swirl for this soliloquy--"No complaints and no regrets, I still believe in chasing dreams and placing bets, But I had learned that all you give is all you get, so give it all you got. I had my share, I drank my fill, and even though I'm satisfied, I'm hungry still, to see what's down another road beyond the hill, and do it all again. So here's to life, and every joy it brings, so here's to life, to dreamers and their dreams. May all your storms be weathered, and all that's good get better, here's to life, here's to love, here's to you."

Always Stay Bixby Strong, Blair

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JOIN US - ALL ARE INVITED!

Thursdays: Clean Streets Litter Abatement - 8:00 am at the corner of Lime & Wardlow. Masks are required.

Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - still informally on - walk at your own pace and time. There will be no group gathering in the morning.

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every Second Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO,

9 am to 1 pm longbeachrecycles.org







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

Alex Padilla, 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