



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

November/December 2021 | Vol. 27, Issue 3



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Redistricting Comes to Cal Heights

By Manny Valenzuela

You are witnessing history. On November 18, Long Beach's Independent Redistricting Commission approved a Final Map establishing new City Council district boundaries throughout the city, a first for this new Commission!

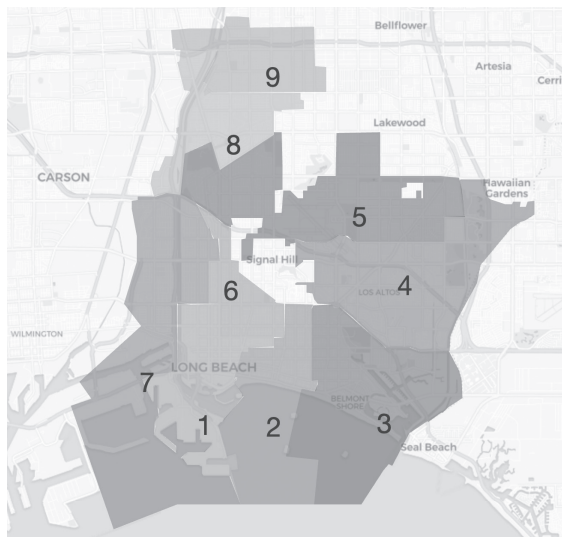
Redistricting occurs every 10 years, following each census. It is the process of redrawing district boundaries to ensure equal voter representation, and occurs at the federal, state, and local level.

At the local level, Long Beach residents voted in 2018 to establish a commission of independent citizens from each Council district to redraw the City Council boundaries, ensuring independence from the Mayor and City Council, which previously drew the boundaries.

California Heights will no longer reside in a westside Council district, instead joining a Council district that stretches east from California Heights to the western border of El Dorado Park. This district also includes Bixby Knolls, the Long Beach Airport, and Long Beach City College.

Some of the earlier draft maps split Cal Heights into two Council districts or made it an island adjacent to the airport. Our neighborhood association advocated to "keep Cal Heights whole" and also supported efforts to join with Bixby Knolls – Cal Heights and Bixby Knolls have not been in the same Council district for at least 50 years, until now.

More information can be found at: <https://longbeach.gov/redistricting>.



The new district boundaries approved by the Commission will take effect on December 18, 2021. 🗳️

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President's Message

2021 appears to be wrapping up. I would have said 'winding down', but that just doesn't feel right somehow. It seems like if it were winding down, I wouldn't be sitting at my desk writing this at 15 minutes to midnight waiting for the livestream of the city redistricting meeting to return from break. A brief update on that topic for those of you who may have missed it, but Long Beach revises its council district borders every ten years when new census data becomes available. By the time you are reading this, it will likely be over, but from my vantage point on November 10th, it looks like California Heights will not suffer some of the indignities that some of our sister neighborhoods did in the last go round. This time, it's baked into their charter that they prioritize keeping Neighborhoods whole (unlike what happened to Los Cerritos ten years ago), and then work to keep communities of interest as whole as it is feasible to do. Those goals are constrained by some specific requirements about allowable variation in population between the new districts, and the real devil is in the details of defining a community of interest. Then, if you settle on a definition, you get to try to see which communities' priorities will be given precedence. It is a particularly technical kind of sausage we've been watching be made, and at the end of the day, I think the commission is going to have just about everyone some degree of upset with them. I think they are legitimately doing the best they can within the parameters they've been given.

Fellow board member, and fellow Cal Heights resident Manny Valenzuela has really been our envoy to this process, and he has remained involved from the start and honestly been instrumental in lighting the signal fires when we needed more active involvement. Thank you, Manny.

Looking back over this year, I am at a loss to think of things we have accomplished. But you know what? We're here. And we're moving forward. I know things aren't quite to the point where it's time to try to resurrect caroling, or the block party potlucks, but we had Halloween and it was awesome. The board and its members, like a grumpy bear, tend to hibernate over December and January. Come February, though, we'll be getting back to business. If you have suggestions or if you'd like to participate more directly next year, let us know at info@calheights.org.

Thanks,



Hugh Little
President, CHNA

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Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

Did you ever dream of having it all? Wealth, prestige and even a chauffeur? Karla Flores had all this and more as a young girl living in Peru, and then it was gone, not lost but taken away on purpose. Her father saw the integrity of his beloved family being destroyed by wealth, so he gave it all up and moved to the U.S., eventually buying a home here in Cal Heights.

So now 10-year-old Karla was without wealth, did not speak English and certainly did not fit in with the other children, "I struggled with English, but math I knew well" recalled Karla. She threw herself into her school work, graduating high school at 15 and college at 18. She had an analytical mind and found her calling at California Maritime Academy and became a Marine Mechanical Engineer. "I learned from the men in my class how to be tough and succeed in a male-dominated business." Karla spent 9 years circumnavigating the globe on huge container ships, often the only woman on a 15-man crew. She loved visiting foreign countries and earning the respect of her fellow shipmates by hard work and perseverance. Knowing she wanted to settle down, she then pursued an Engineering degree, eventually working for Boeing. Finding working in an office difficult after the excitement of the high seas, she then obtained a Business and Finance Degree.

Despite all this academic success she still felt as if she was looking for something else. She had spent many happy hours with her mother in the kitchen learning how to cook traditional Peruvian foods. Might a culinary career fit the bill? With her analytical mind and penchant for math, she chose baking as her specialty. She worked in the catering business but the real turning point came in 2016 when her brother suggested a food truck might be a good idea. Deciding to specialize in the food from her homeland, she named her business Mikhuna Peruvian Cuisine. She struggled at first but eventually became successful, expanding into catering and even spends time as a personal chef.

The young girl who once thought she lost it all now felt blessed with her success. "I wanted to pay it forward" Karla stated, "and I saw a way food trucks could fill a need in our city." Through help from a friend in the city and the generosity of the Food Truck community she created "Trucksgiving", a yearly event where the food trucks congregate to distribute hundreds of meals to the needy. "I was thrilled at the response from my fellow truckers. Their compassion restored my faith in humanity." It seems Karla's father was right, that true prosperity does not come from wealth but the kindness of the human heart. 🍷



From the 7th

As we move into the holiday season, it is important to reflect on the importance of family and community, especially as we work toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to share details about some important news and events to look forward to in the coming weeks

and months. Please read on to learn more about the upcoming "Daisy Parade: Reimagined," City efforts to reduce port congestion, and updates to the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

The Annual Daisy Lane Parade will be returning for its 67th year. The "Daisy Lane Parade: Reimagined" will be a bit different this year, with a shortened parade line-up and a much longer parade route. The new parade will be inclusive of the original parade route, and the traditional decorations will be placed on the Daisy Median. The event will take place on Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 12 PM to 4 PM. Please visit longbeach.gov/district7/news/daisyave2021 for more details.

As you may be aware, there is currently a national emergency related to the supply and distribution of imported goods arriving in our nation's ports. Given this current national emergency and the Governor's Executive Order to take necessary steps to alleviate the impacts on the system, the City Manager will temporarily waive enforcement of current shipping container stacking and height limits for a period of 90 days from October 22, 2021. During this period, affected operations will be allowed to stack up to four shipping containers without being cited for a Code violation.

Recently, the City of Long Beach has taken two major steps in the fight against COVID-19: vaccines are now available for those 5 to 11 years old, and booster shots, for all three authorized COVID-19 vaccines, are now available at the City's free vaccination sites. With the Thanksgiving holiday just a few weeks away, I encourage you to get your booster shots, if you are eligible. For more information, please visit www.longbeach.gov/vaxLB.

As a reminder, my staff is always available to assist you. Please continue to reach out by calling 562-570-7777 or emailing district7@longbeach.gov. Stay healthy and help each other when you can. We are all in this together. 🍀



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Celebrate the Holidays Victorian-style at the Bembridge House

By Marion Saffery

Long Beach Heritage - a not-for-profit organization supporting historic preservation and advocacy - is ramping up its annual Heritage Holiday Tours at the historic Bembridge House, a Queen Anne Victorian house built in 1906.

Every holiday season, volunteers from a number of historic Long Beach neighborhoods decorate the home in traditional Victorian holiday fashion, both inside and out. This and every year since the tour's inception, California Heights volunteers, including CHNA board members, have decorated the "Front Parlor" of the home.

This year's theme is "The 12 Days of Christmas," and organizers plan to incorporate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa adornments as well. There are six daytime tours on the schedule, along with two adults-only nighttime tours.

Tickets for the daytime tours are \$15 per person; tickets for the two adults-only nighttime tours are \$25 per person. (Money raised from the tours goes toward maintaining the historic home.)

Those holding tickets for daytime tours can drop in to view the property any time between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., with the last entry at 3:30 p.m. Nighttime-tour ticket-holders are welcome to arrive any time between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and to stay on-property until 8 p.m. All tour-goers are invited to shop for holiday items, plants, and gifts at the annual Garden Boutique in the home's Carriage House.

Daytime Tours are: Tuesday - Nov. 30, Saturday - Dec. 4, Tuesday - Dec. 7, Saturday - Dec. 11, Tuesday - Dec. 14 and Saturday - Dec. 18. Nighttime Tours (for adults) are: Friday - Dec. 3 and Friday - Dec. 10.

Due to COVID restrictions, masks, worn correctly, are required by law while touring the inside areas of the property. Because wine will be served at the two adults-only nighttime tours, tour-goers will also need to show proof of COVID vaccination to go inside. Volunteers will provide COVID-friendly wrapped snacks to all tour-goers, and will offer wine to the adults on the nighttime tours.

Bembridge House is located at 953 Park Circle in the Willmore City neighborhood of Long Beach, 90813. To purchase tickets for the Heritage Holiday Tour, visit lbheritage.org.

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Did You Know?

California Heights and Bixby Knolls share a mutual development history. In 1929, the Deeble-Chapman Corporation, a prominent Southern California real estate development firm, subdivided the last portion of California Heights, from Walnut Avenue to Cherry Avenue, and built some of the first houses. It referred to this portion as "California Heights Terrace."

Later that year, this firm also acquired 120 acres east of Atlantic Avenue, between San Antonio Drive and Bixby Road, "...for the development of a residential area on the northern heights of this city that will be to Long Beach what the Wilshire section is to Los Angeles" according to an October 17, 1929 Long Beach Press Telegram article. The development was announced by Jotham W. Bixby, President of the Jotham Bixby Company, which owned almost 1,000 acres of land north of California Heights. ↻

BIXBY PLANS NEW RESIDENTIAL AREA
LANDSCAPE ARTISTS AND ENGINEERS
TO BEAUTIFY NORTH L.B. AREA

(Reprinted from Long Beach Press Telegram, Oct. 17, 1929)
 By H. F. BURMEISTER
 Press-Telegram Feature Editor

Plans for the development of a residential area on the northern heights of this city that will be to Long Beach what the Wilshire section is to Los Angeles were disclosed today by Jotham W. Bixby, president of the Jotham Bixby Co., owner of approximately 1,000 acres of land north of Bixby Rd. and east of the Virginia Country Club.

The plan for ultimately converting this vast tract into a high-class residential district was outlined by Mr. Bixby in connection with announcement of acquisition by the Deeble-Chapman Corp. of 120 acres lying east of Atlantic Ave. and between Bixby Rd. and San Antonio Dr. and which is to be placed on the market immediately as residential property. The remainder of the main tract will be held intact by the Jotham Bixby Co. and released for home building as rapidly as the growth of contiguous territory warrants.

The landscape artists and engineers already have been consulted with a view of beautifying the 1,000-acre tract preliminary to its release for development purposes was to prepare plans, although the release of this land for residential building will be gradual and extend over a period of years. The first unit is to be opened to the public soon by the Deeble-Chapman Corp. Development of the remainder will follow as rapidly as the demand for homes warrants.

Officers of the Jotham Bixby Co. are Jotham W. Bixby, president; Mrs. George Bixby, vice president; E. W. Rankin, secretary, and these three, together with Llewellyn Bixby and H. W. O'Melveny comprise the board of directors.

The land was acquired by the late Jotham Bixby in 1897 from Don Juan Temple, a Massachusetts man who came to California before the Mexican War and while Southern California was still a Mexican possession. Marriage with a California-born woman of south of San Antonio Dr. and north of the Virginia Country Club, the property was purchased by Jotham Bixby.

MUCH OF THE property is located upon high, gently rolling ground lying south of the Los Angeles River. It is north of the defined oil area and adjoins California Heights on its southern extension.

The Deeble-Chapman Corp. already has under development two sections of the Bixby Country Club Mexican possession. Marriage with a California-born woman of south of San Antonio Dr. and north of the Virginia Country Club, the property was purchased by Jotham Bixby.

Reprinted from Long Beach Press Telegram – October 17, 1929
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/13649962/deeblechapman-independent-november-5/>



Deeble-Chapman Co. Bixby Knolls Office (c. Unknown)

<https://calisphere.org/item/db1af0d15c9bda720d689f63b08c620c/>

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Cal Heights In Pictures - Shop Local!

By Tom Underhill



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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

I took a walk recently just before dinner time. Brisk night. Houses were decorated with holiday cheer and stockings were hung by the chimney with care. It was good medicine since I finally pulled myself away from the desk and my notebooks long enough to get some fresh air. Nice to feel the blanket of the neighborhood all around me.

The most important thing I could say this month is what you always hear from me: **Support YOUR local businesses** – it's a must. Stay off of Amazon a bit, take a walk around the district (I'll join you), do some discovering: Gift cards, unique gifts, stocking stuffers. 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.

Here are a few hot tips and suggestions for you (more to follow in our newsletters):

Buy someone cooking classes from Chef Tech Cooking School; Get your holiday cards printed in Bixby Knolls; Order t-shirts for your teams, co-workers, or family as gifts; buy décor items, accessories, clothes, jewelry from the boutiques; order dessert for your holiday tables from our bakeries or restaurants; Toys!; Get your car washed or buy a full treatment for someone else; treat someone to a "spa day" with gift cards for massage, nails, hair, eyebrows; take care of your-

self with some psych care at the Psych Lab; buy incredible snacks from Stateside Crafts in addition to some tasty beers; book a themes holiday party from Dream Come True Tea & Party Room. And there are many more hidden treasures to find. Gift cards, gift cards, gift cards!

You can also treat a friend or loved one to: Tomahawk Ribeye Steak at Wood & Salt Tavern; Bixby Burrito at Lola's Mexican Cuisine; Pervy Pep Pizza at Dutch's Brewhouse; Seared Ahi Sandwich with garlic fries at The Knolls; Devil's Chicken Pizza and a craft beer at Thunderbolt Pizza; Glass of Walt Pinot Noir and a pastrami sandwich at Willmore Wine Bar; Sake Bomb and Tonkotsu Ramen at Ramen Hub; Cookies and Cream Ah-Boong At SomiSomi; Chicken Kabob Wrap at Taboon Mediterranean; Shoyu Ramen at HiroNori Craft Ramen; Banana Caramel Crunch at Cold Stone Creamery; We Be Jammin' Burger with truffle and waffle fries at Hangry Bellyx (Steelcraft); Birria Quesatoco at La Taqueira Brand (Steelcraft); Panang Curry (medium spicy) at Aura Thai; Butter cake slice and a scoop of burnt caramel at Long Beach Creamery; Chicken Chow Mein at Panda Garden.

By the way, angels do exist. The BKBIA says a big THANK YOU to the "anonymous donors" in the neighborhood that have provided the BKBIA with significant funds over the last year that have gone directly to help our struggling business owners and help those that need it most.

Speaking of donations. We are always seeking donations for our Bixby Knolls Community Foundation (501c3 non-profit). The funds go directly to our Clean & Safe line items (private security, clean team efforts, power washing), and provide the funding we lost when the redevelopment funds ended. We are so very thankful to everyone who has already contributed to the Foundation. Lastly, sign up for our newsletters at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com!

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 2022. Until we see each other again, let your heart be light. From now on your troubles will be out of sight,

Always Stay Bixby Strong,
Blair 🐾

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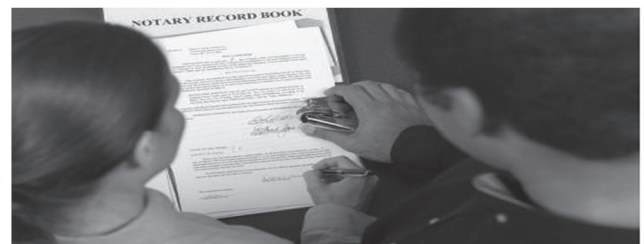

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Saturdays: Strollers Walking Group - still informally on - walk at your own pace and time. There will be no group gathering in the morning.

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