



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

May/June 2022 | Vol. 27, Issue 6

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Living in a Historic District - Restrictions and Benefits

Within the past six weeks, all residents in Cal Heights and the other 17 historic districts in Long Beach were sent a post card from Development Services regarding the rules for remodeling and restoration in a historic district. These cards are sent out every year as a reminder to long-time residents and they provide detailed information for new residents.

Although it is noted in escrow instructions when a home is sold, not everyone is aware of the city-wide Historic District Design Guidelines and the specific guidelines for each district. All this information is available at www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/preservation/districts/guidelines. Along with a building permit for any work valued at more than \$600 on a home, homeowners are also required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for a project. All addresses in historic districts are flagged so city staff can direct residents to apply for a COA.

Many applications for small projects (roof replacement, new fences, exterior painting) can be handled remotely at www.longbeach.gov/lbds/ and many do not require a fee. For larger projects, a meeting with city staff may be required and additions require a review by the Cultural Heritage Commission at a public hearing. It is best that all residents review the guidelines before starting a project. Some changes are not allowed and the City can force the unapproved work to be removed. It is not worth the trouble and expense to go this route.

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote public knowledge and preservation of historic and architectural resources in California Heights, the largest historic district in Long Beach. CHNA projects, including Home Tours, Clean Streets, ReLeaf, and Curb Painting to name a few, enhance the ties that bind and preserve Cal Heights' truly community oriented nature.

The benefits of living in a historic district include celebrating unique architectural styles that are beautifully preserved and maintained, a heightened sense of community since most residents share the common goal of historic preservation, and several studies show historic districts enhance property values. A recent benefit includes protection from lot splitting and higher density with the passage of SB 9 and SB 10.

CHNA provides a lot of information on our website and specific questions can be directed to info@calheights.org. A CHNA Board member will get back to you with either an answer to your question or a referral to the right source. We are here to help and encourage the restoration and preservation of Cal Heights! ➡

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President's Message

As we're sliding towards summer here in the neighborhood, I'm trying to squeeze the last bit of vigor out of spring and catch up on some long overdue yard work. The better part of a decade of benign neglect served me pretty well, but this was the year it was time to clear the underbrush and get a new generation of plants coming in behind their more established brethren. Not only does it look a lot better, but in the process I've rediscovered a lot of the landscaping I'd put in earlier and lost under years of leaf-litter and sage overgrowth.

As usual with me, focusing on a task at our home has me paying more attention to the rest of the neighborhood as I'm out and about. Often looking for ideas to steal, or just to take inspiration from the creativity that seems to strike so often around us. It seems like every week, more and more yards are getting makeovers, and houses are freshening their paint and or stucco. It's...well, inspiring.

Looking good out there, folks, and I hope that this is the happier, healthier, care-free-er Summer we've all been waiting for since 2019.

Thanks,



Hugh Little
President, CHNA



Thank you, CHNA board member Tom Underhill for your tireless hours volunteering in Cal Heights and all of Uptown. Your endless supply of amazing photographs, your willingness to pitch in at any event (and to show up with homemade cookies), and your good humor will be greatly missed. Learn more about Tom moving out of the neighborhood on page 7.

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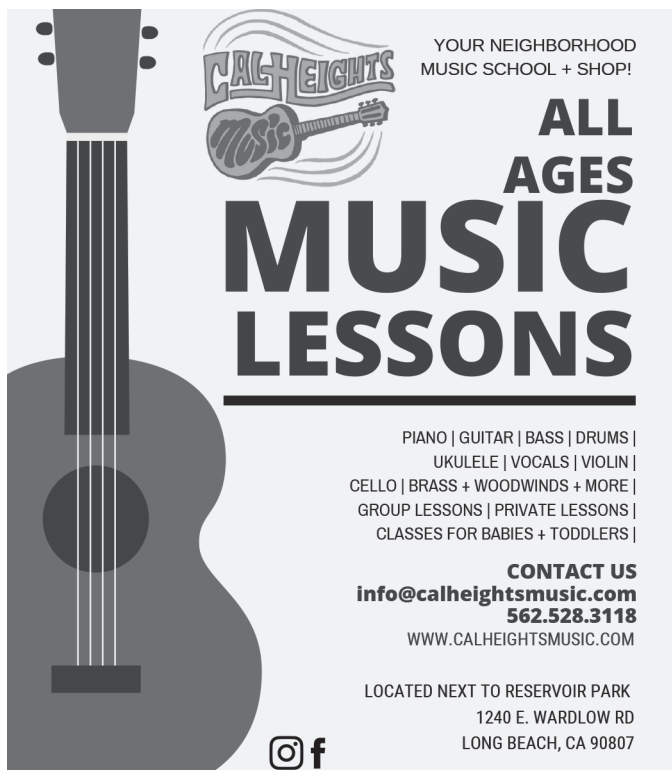
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
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Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

Aaaah, Kauai. Finally, after our vacation was cancelled two years ago, we are back in paradise. As we relaxed in one of our favorite beachside restaurants watching a magnificent sunset far from home, I glanced upwards where framed T-shirts from elite colleges and exotic locals act as décor... but wait, what? There amongst famous places around the world is a Joe Jost T-shirt! We have spotted Joe Jost T-shirts in many places, not just around town but all over Southern California and even Dublin, Ireland. Once while walking in Germany by the famous castle Neuschwanstein, we spotted two guys ahead of us both sporting the iconic dark blue shirt with the frothy schooner of beer and the big bold white letters; Joe Jost. What inspires people to carry their T-shirts to foreign lands and to declare their love for a local Long Beach dive bar?

Joe Jost was born in a small town in Hungary in 1890. At the age of 12 he apprenticed to become a barber. Always dreaming of America, he sailed to New York at 16 and began his career. He loved to travel and worked his way across the U.S. In Upland, CA he met his future wife, Edith McKean, but continued his wandering ways travelling to exotic locations like Hawaii and even Australia. He finally returned to marry Edith in 1917. He worked at various jobs, served in WWI and finally opened his first establishment in Newport Beach, selling various items including "Near-Beer," but still remained a barber. A back room provided sport for the men including pool and poker. Finally in 1924 he moved to the current location on Anaheim Street, where it has the distinction of being the oldest continually operated tavern west of the Mississippi. For years the bar was a men's only establishment where guys could hang out, drink frosty schooners of beer and eat pickled eggs. It wasn't until the 60's that women could finally get a beer for themselves. Many TV shows, commercials and even movies have used Joe Jost's for filming, but what about the T-shirts?

What started as wear for the staff morphed into a huge phenomenon, selling over 10,000 shirts a year. It has become a rite of passage for some families with the wee ones getting their first onesie with a frosty root beer on it. The Joe Jost's website has a "Wall of Fame" where customers post photos of themselves proudly wearing their T-shirts all over the world: the Great Wall of China, Sydney Opera House, Paris, even the Statue of Liberty. The little tavern that Joe started in 1924 launched a T-shirt seen around the world, so keep an eye out! 🍺



From the 5th

Over the past week, more than 5,000 Long Beach High School Seniors celebrated their graduation surrounded by friends, faculty, and family. These future leaders leave high school to pursue new and exciting opportunities. Whether they are attending a four-year university, a local community college, joining a branch of

the U.S Military, or heading into the workforce, these students have worked hard to get to this moment.

Over 700 Millikan High School graduates walked the stage during Wednesday's ceremony at Veterans Memorial Stadium. With equal cause to celebrate, students from McBride High School walked the graduation stage on campus. Many District 5 families also attend Lakewood High School and Long Beach Poly, where over 1,600 graduates were celebrated at Veterans Memorial Stadium; visit the Long Beach Post site to see the many ceremony photos captured during this special week.

Enduring a pandemic is hard enough but living through it while in high school came with many additional challenges. From managing homework, extracurriculars, and some juggling part-time jobs, I am proud of all our Long Beach students.

These seniors share the graduation spotlight with 5th and 8th graders around Long Beach who participated in promotional ceremonies. Like our high school seniors, these young students faced academic challenges and changes due to the pandemic. As learning transitioned to a virtual setting over two years ago, these students held themselves accountable to attend class and be ready to participate.

Congratulations to all the graduates; District 5 is proud of you! As always, I want to hear from you. My team and I are here to listen and help. Contact us at 562-570-5555 or district5@longbeach.gov with any questions or needs. 🐾

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Councilwoman
Stacy Mungo



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Long Beach Chorale & Chamber Orchestra

By Thelma Valenzuela

Singers from all over Long Beach, including some of our Cal Heights neighbors, share their love of music and singing as members of the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra (LBCCO). Called "our best local chorus" by the Long Beach Gazette newspapers and recently awarded Best Performance Group in Long Beach, the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra is in its fourth decade as a fixture of the Long Beach arts scene.

After being led by Eliza Rubenstein for 19 seasons, the LBCCO is excited to announce new leadership under Artistic Director Matthew Martinez. Prior to joining LBCCO as Guest Conductor in 2016 and starting his tenure as Interim Artistic Director in 2019 during Eliza Rubenstein's sabbatical, Matthew Martinez earned his master's degree from UC Irvine, studying voice and conducting. He was the Music Director at Mesa Verde United Methodist Church in Costa Mesa for 10 years and the Choir Director at Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot in Irvine.

The LBCCO has performed many of the great works of Western classical music, and has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Long Beach Museum of Art, Rancho Los Alamitos, and the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, as well as with the Long Beach Opera. The group's musical programming is drawn from around the world, and from the Middle Ages to the present day.

The LBCCO is Long Beach's only all-volunteer community masterworks chorus; all LBCCO members are volunteers motivated by their love of singing. Their motto - "great music, up close" - reflects the group's commitment to presenting masterworks at an accessible price, and pride themselves on working within the community to offer under-served music lovers the opportunity to experience live classical and culturally diverse music.

Under their new leadership, the Long Beach Chorale's 2022/2023 season, begins with a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria in December.

Auditions for new singers in all voice parts will be held in August. Schedule your audition by visiting longbeachchorale.org/audition.

Not a singer? Not a problem! The group appreciates your support by attending a concert, becoming a volunteer, or donating. For more information visit www.longbeachchorale.org.

Hello, I Must Be Going

By Tom Underhill

The best part of any community is its people. Whether it's people who collect trash on Thursdays, or people who want to preserve the historic nature of our homes and neighborhood, I consider California Heights people *my* people. It is with a heavy heart I bid my people a fond adieu.


For me it all started with a New Year's resolution to just say YES. Soon after, I noticed people with safety vests, trash bags, and litter pickers on neighborhood streets every Thursday morning. My better half, Ellen dug into this very newsletter, and figured out who they were. I joined Clean Streets, and suddenly I was picking up trash on Atlantic and other corridors, planting trees on Wardlow Road, and getting to know my community through these selfless people. Soon I was taking photos for this newsletter and volunteering for the Historic Home Tour. I was asked to join the CHNA board, where I met some very talented and dedicated community people.

I'd like to thank former president of the board, John Royce for teaching me tree care, and the joy of cleaning up. It fills my heart with joy to see those little trees we planted reaching high and providing beauty, shade, and clean air for Cal Heights' people. Big thanks to board member Stacey Morrison for being my partner in many projects, and joining me in the Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) in 2015. Many thanks to all the CHNA board members, and especially my fellow "trash weirdos." NLP taught me to end with a quote, so in that spirit, let me paraphrase one from Anthony Bourdain:

"Shop and eat local. Get the Dos Caballeros at Blackbird. Have a cold pint at 4pm at Dutch's. Go somewhere you've never been, and pick up trash. Listen to someone you think may have nothing in common with you, and plan a tree watering event with them. Order the double shot from Steelhead Coffee. Have two, you'll get a lot done. Eat a Bixby Burger with chili. Have a play date at Cal Heights Music. Eat slowly. Tip your server at least 20%. Check in on your friends and their pets. Check in on yourself and your cats. Enjoy the ride but please drive slowly down my street."

Adieu, my people, it's been beautiful. 🐾

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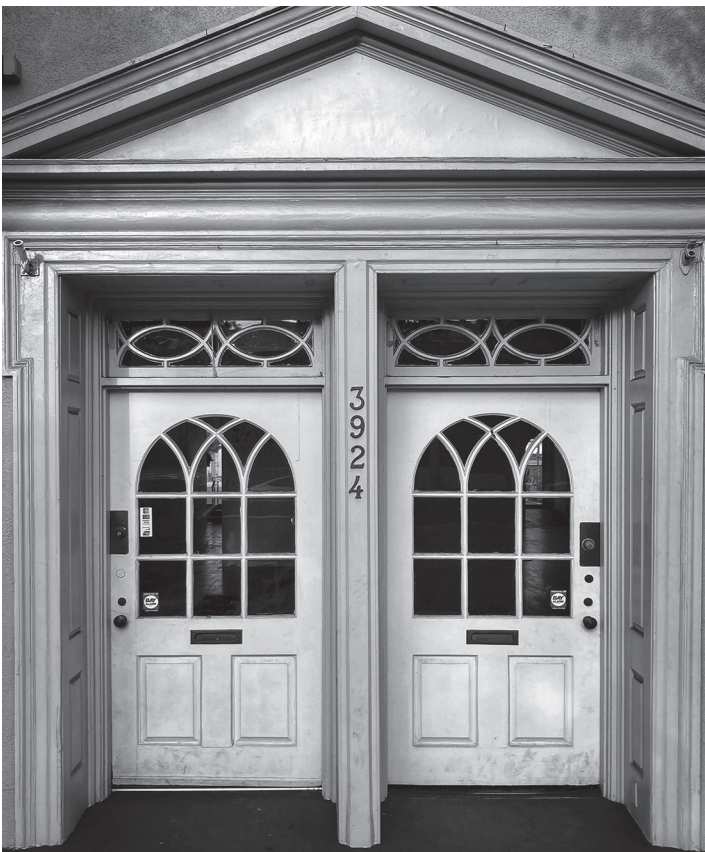
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Cal Heights In Pictures - Shop Local!

By Tom Underhill





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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

I hope your summer has been loaded with fun activities. We often catch the smell of the backyard barbeques as we walk or ride around on bikes and scooters. Better yet is the sound of people enjoying their pools, having friends over, and enjoying the tasty foods they bought from the neighborhood (of course). Have you traveled anywhere exciting? How many of you have had your Dole Whip fix?

This month I want to focus on C.S.I. Patrol Service. This Bixby Knolls business is owned by Dennis Cook, a local resident, who is dedicated to keeping our area as safe as possible. After all, it's his neighborhood, too! After a break-in incident to our former office space, we have had C.S.I. involved with the BKBIA ever since. They are our go-to for any incident or security issue in our business district. We contract with them for day and night-time patrols of every driveway, parking lot, alley, and corridor in our business district. We have security cars driving around on Halloween to make sure our trick-or-treaters are safe, and keep an eye on things during the special holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve.

From their website: "C.S.I. Patrol Service Inc. has been a security business leader since 1997. Our proven history of honesty, integrity and commitment to the highest level of professionalism are second to none. Serving Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange County areas in all areas of security, we pride ourselves by remaining on the cutting edge in this tough and ever-changing industry. The commitment to our craft is a contributing factor in the high retention rate of our clientele. We have been referred to as "The Problem Solvers." That is so true.

Each month at First Fridays you will see the team out keeping the event safe and even have escorted Santa around the event. Dennis Cook is the epitome of being "all in" when participating in his community. Dennis shaved his mustache off - twice - for us to dress up as George Washington and ride up and down Atlantic during First Fridays. Now THAT is dedication.

And let's not forget, the C.S.I. team spent a whole week out on the corridors after the civil unrest of May 30, 2020. There were no further incidents of break-ins or vandalized property with the team making sure things remained quiet that whole week. Business owners and residents set up meals and other refreshments for the staff while the team was out on patrol for all of us. That's a great sense of neighborhood pride when the businesses and residents are working side by side so closely. Thank you to Dennis and the entire C.S.I. team for all the hard work (and some fun, too) you give to the BKBIA.

Onto other news: Want to be a sponsor of something special in the district? You can support key programs in Bixby Knolls and help us continue to meet the expectations of residents, visitors, and businesses. We're offering one-time or monthly sponsorship packages that will help fund our Clean & Safe initiative, as well as First Fridays. Improvements to these key programs will bring more foot traffic to the district, benefiting our business community and residents by elevating the status of Bixby Knolls as a shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Sponsorships are available as a one-time donation, or on a month-to-month basis with the option to extend. You get some great perks as a donor. Please check out: www.bixbyknollsinfo.com for the details.

What we hope for is that you all continue to "love thy neighborhood as thyself." Support YOUR businesses.

Back to the swimming pool, cold drink, ice cream, Yacht Rock playlist, BBQ, concert in the park and parking lot, sun screen, friends, and family.

Always Stay Bixby Strong,
Blair 🐶

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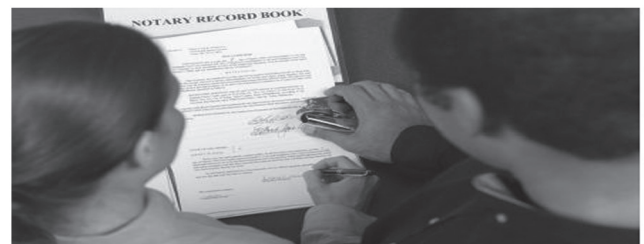
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First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

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