



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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NEW FRIENDS OF WILLOW SPRINGS PARK GROUP FORMS

By Manny Valenzuela

On October 15, 2022, Long Beach residents and representatives from local neighborhood associations and nonprofits, including the California Heights Neighborhood Association, met at Willow Springs Park to discuss how to activate and improve this wonderful, but sometimes forgotten, gem of a park. They came to the conclusion that a formal group was needed to do just that!

Modeled after similar 'Friends of' groups across the country that work with local governments to support parks and programming, the Friends of Willow Springs Park will work with the City of Long Beach to help create a grand, majestic park.

Activities include group meetings and hikes on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 a.m., volunteering for the monthly Willow Springs Park Restoration/Clean-Up on the 2nd Friday of each month at 3 p.m., and partnering with the City to co-host events in 2023 to celebrate the park's 10-year anniversary.

Efforts to bring awareness to this historically and culturally significant resource began earlier this year with local nonprofit Long Beach Heritage, a leader in historic preservation advocacy and education. Long Beach Heritage will remain an active partner in this endeavor.

To help Willow Springs Park realize its vast potential, contact willowspringsLB@gmail.com. 🐾

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President's Message

The holiday season is fast approaching and what passes for winter in California these days seems to have arrived. Spending time in the yard is more pleasant than it is for a lot of the year here and the cooler temperatures and more frequent rain is also a great opportunity to give new plants a leg up on establishing their roots before the hotter, drier days of summer. It's also a good time to remind everyone that as you begin your holiday shopping, money spent at local merchants gives so much more back to the neighborhood than the same amount spent online or at a giant retailer. We have so many wonderful shops and restaurants in our neighborhood that depend on us to make it rain in order for them to survive the rest of the year.

I don't know who it will be yet, but by the next edition of The Heights, a new CHNA President will be writing the President's letter. It's been a privilege to have a chance to hold your attention for a few minutes so many times over my years in this role. I'm sure whoever follows will bring renewed energy to their leadership of the CHNA, just as I'm sure they'll find the task as rewarding as I have during my tenure. You can look forward to making their acquaintance in this space next year.

Before I go, I'd like to ask you to consider helping us. The outpouring of donations we've received the last couple of years has been overwhelming and so many pitch in to help us succeed on home tour years. The Neighborhood Association, when it's healthy, is not only composed of board members, but many, many volunteers, and many active committees. Do you have an idea, or a project you'd like to see made real? Help us help you realize that by reaching out to info@calheights.org and forming a committee to work with us to get it done. We also periodically have vacancies on the board that it can be challenging to fill. Working with the current board members at the volunteer/committee level can also be a great way to see if you'd like to take a more active role in helping lead the CHNA. I'd love for one of my last acts as president to involve inspiring a fresh batch of energized volunteers to help us begin to rebuild and exceed what may have withered over the course of the pandemic.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Thanks,



Hugh Little
President, CHNA



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Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

They say the eyes are like the windows to the soul, and since the idea of losing both is frightening, it was time to visit the ophthalmologist to make sure all is well. In that slightly psychedelic phase when your eyes are dilating and everything seems kinda sparkly and unfocused, in those 15 minutes waiting alone your mind wanders thinking what if....Then Dr. Lars Hertzog M.D. walks in and says "Hi, I used to live on Myrtle Avenue, too." And in an instant we have a bond that comes from a shared experience that only being "neighbors" can bring. My columnist mind refocused and I asked him to tell his story about growing up on our street. The sixth of seven children, he grew up in a large family. "We were lucky enough to have the Vogelbacher family (Alsace-Lorraine Bakery) as neighbors and I say this because all the Vogelbacher girls were the prettiest babysitters and would bring us chocolate eclairs, Napoleons and goodies from their wonderful bakery."

He recalled walking with his buddies to Longfellow Elementary, school carnivals, his Boy Scout Troop 29 and seeing Surf Movies at the Dana Library. He remembered all the great restaurants he could walk to: Russell's Hamburgers, Nino's, El Patio and Babe's Kitchen...all gone now, but lucky for all of us Bake 'n Broil is still here. He seemed especially fond of a memory of Joey Roberts, "the prettiest girl in school, what a peach!"

Dr. Hertzog is a true legacy as he is a third-generation eye surgeon. "I grew up spending a lot of time working in my father's clinic, much of it unwillingly, but the exposure to science and medicine eventually rubbed off on me." He studied premed at Loyola-Marymount, played lacrosse and met his future wife Michelle, then attended Keck/USC School of Medicine and completed his fellowship at the University of Texas. He eventually came back to Long Beach where he opened his practice and raised his family.

"Joyful memories of Long Beach have never faded for me and I really never considered the idea of living anywhere else. The warm family-friendly vibes we felt as children growing up in the Knolls and the Heights made Long Beach seem a little smaller and the people closer than other places. I will still run into an old face now and then, someone who feels the same way, who never left, who will smile and share some laughs."

Dr. Hertzog, I am happy to say I see what you mean! 🍷



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From the 5th

The start of the new fiscal year brought some long-awaited street maintenance to the Fifth District. These projects have prompted questions to my office recently about street improvement projects, specifically, why a certain street in your neighborhood is addressed. This is a great question, and residents can

find the answer by understanding the City of Long Beach's approach to effectively managing the cost of street maintenance.

In 2014, I met with Public Works and wanted to ensure street prioritization had a formula that was easy to understand and based on fiscal responsibility. Public Works aims to maximize long-term benefits and reduce the long-term costs of maintaining the City's substantial roadway system. To accomplish this, they created the City's Pavement Management Plan (PMP). The most recent update was in 2021. This online feature helps residents navigate the street network to find details on each street segment, including its condition, pavement type, and last paving date going back to 2013. Public Works uses the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to determine the level of repair necessary for each street. I encourage you to use these tools on the Public Works website to determine the status of the streets around you.

While my term is winding down, the work on behalf of residents does not. I remain available to you until the end of my term and beyond. My team is working tirelessly to address your ongoing requests and ensure the new councilmember is aware of the status of each resident issue in Cal Heights. I want to thank all the residents who have reached out to my office during the last year and especially to your Neighborhood Association and their incredible leadership team. Your connection and engagement is what makes your community so special. Thank you for being such an important part of my last year representing the first district.

Sincerely, Councilwoman Stacy Mungo Flanigan



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Cal Heights Home Tour is Back!

by Christa Stelzmuller

After more than three years away, the California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) Home and Garden Tour is returning on May 14, 2023. The last time we held this event was in October of 2019. We unfortunately had to skip the planned 2021 home tour due to the pandemic, but are now thrilled to be able to bring this important community event and fundraiser back in 2023.

The home tour planning team has taken the opportunity to make a few changes this year. You'll notice the event is taking place on Mother's Day in May instead of a week-end in October. After some very hot home tours, the team decided to switch to a late spring event to allow for milder and more reliably good weather for everyone to enjoy while also creating a great option for those looking for something special to do on Mother's Day. To add even more fun, food and a beer garden are in the works!

Please save the date and come spend Mother's Day with us to learn about the history and careful restoration of five great homes in the neighborhood, enjoy food from our local restaurants, and to support our local volunteers who regularly donate their time to Clean Streets, Lamppost Restoration, Murals, Releaf, and so much more! The price of the tour will be \$35 per person for early purchase and \$40 per person for tickets purchased the day of the event. Details on early purchase will be made available as we get closer to the event.

If you are interested in volunteering as a docent on the tour, please reach out to info@calheights.org to let us know. Each tour volunteer receives a free ticket to the tour. Local restaurants interested in joining the food and drink portion of the event should also reach out to info@calheights.org to let us know. See you all on May 14, 2023! 🚗



2006 Home Tour exterior - This Storybook Tudor was featured on the first Home Tour in 1997 and made a return at the 10th Home Tour, Celebrating 10 Years.



This beautiful stairway with custom deco tile risers, oak treads and custom iron railing "may" be featured on the 2023 Home Tour.



2013 Home Tour - This bathroom was remodeled using a beautiful swan mural, deco liners and 1" hex flooring in shades of teal, lavender and yellow.

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Holiday Decór, Cal Heights Style

By Marion Saffery

If you're like me, you get a kick out of dressing up your historic Cal Heights home in classic holiday style. And with so many places to shop for vintage and "retro" holiday gear, the possibilities are practically endless. Here's a short list of some of my favorites:

For your house's exterior, a number of companies make large (C7/C9), opaque, multi-colored, ceramic light strings that look totally old-school. We framed the inside of the front window of our 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival house with a string we picked up at Ace Hardware.

Back in the day, people used natural elements like poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, pine cones, and greenery wreaths and garlands to decorate their homes. All of these goodies can be had at our local Trader Joe's. It's important to note that a number of winter plants like these are toxic to pets. Visit petmd.com for a full list.

If you enjoy actual vintage decór—I know I do—eBay and Etsy are great places to start, although most of my vintage things came from thrift stores, and garage and estate sales. I even have a few I grew up with, and I really love bringing them out each year.

Speaking of Etsy, which specializes in both vintage and hand-made goods, I've found a diverse selection of decorations for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa there. Many Etsy sellers are members of the Fair Trade Federation, and purchases from them help support vulnerable children and communities.

Every year Target offers an array of holiday trimmings, and many have a vintage, "retro" feel. They also have a huge selection of artificial trees that vary from realistic-looking to brightly colored and fanciful. My personal favorites are modern takes on mid-century "silver tinsel" aluminum trees. Target carries Hanukkah decorations, too.

Pottery Barn's Hanukkah Stoneware Dinnerware Collection is timeless and gorgeous. So there you have it. Happy decorating, Cal Heighters! 🎁

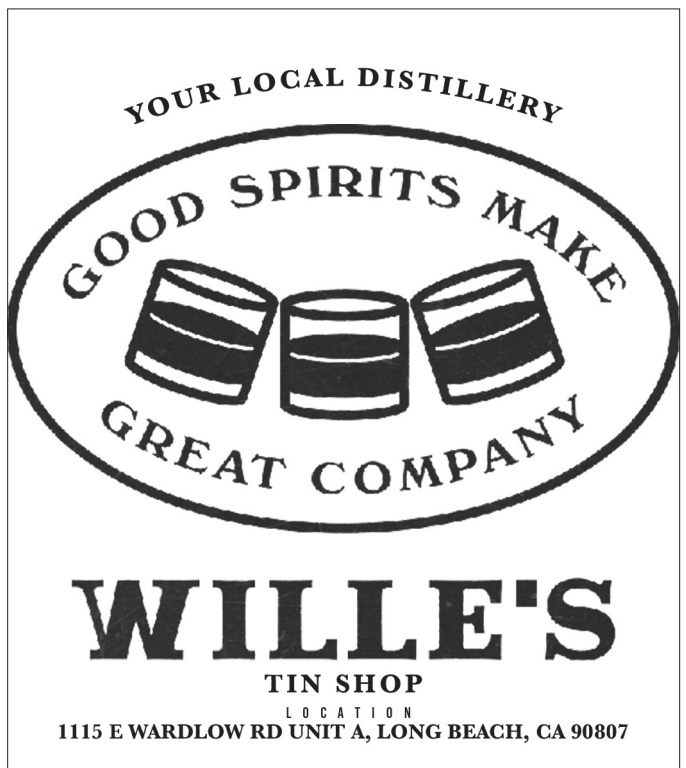
1. 1950s Santa planter from Napco, an American company that imported decorative goods from Japan after WWII. He's got a tiny Trader Joe's live pine tree in his sack.
2. Five-inch-tall glossy Santa planter from Lefton, an importer of porcelain decorative figurines and objects. He was probably produced in Japan in the 1950s or 1960s.
3. 1960s Danish-modern-style wood nativity from Marion Saffery's childhood home.



4. Santa cookie jar from Holt Howard, an American company that produced decorative ceramic pieces in Japan. This whimsical cookie jar is from the 1960s.

5. A wooden Christmas figurine, probably made in Germany in the 1960s. Turning the cap at the top reveals another tableau on the backside of the nativity scene shown here.

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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Oh, man, as time goes by. I have the tendency to function on super-hyper-overdrive each day, trying to meet all commitments to the BKBIA, family, all the other organizations I am involved with, and to seize the day with exploration and discoveries of all types. It's also a super-hyper-priority that I take time to hold my daughter's hand on the daily walk to school, to hug my son tightly as we relax on the couch, and to help keep the house in order to make some of Alissa's super-hyper-overdrive days less stressful. We have taken a few ditch days here and there to disconnect and recharge, but the red lights keep flashing Warp Speed. In doing so, the calendar pages turn faster and faster and here we are in holiday mode.

My crystal clear message 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)! 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: 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 some-

one else; treat someone to a "spa day" with gift cards for massage, nails, hair, eyebrows; take care of yourself with some psych care at the Psych Lab; buy incredible snack from Stateside Crafts in addition to some tasty beers; book at themed 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; Cheese & meat gift boxes from The Vintage LBC; Holiday parties at Dream come true (new location); Gothic gifts from Eclipsed emporium; Cool desserts at Koolberry; Fittings at Lucy's Boudoir; Class vouchers from Five Starr Pilates & Fitness; Holiday catering from Tony's Kitchen; Wine selection at Sala Coffee & Wine; Eco-friendly gifts at Rooted; Accessories for the ladies at AndyLiz (new location); pamper yourself at Red Beauty & Nails; Stocking stuffers from Stateside Crafts, And Then, Twig & Willow, Pixie Toys and The Better Half Boutique; Holiday dinners from Sals Gumbo Shack.

Ongoing Thank You to our anonymous donors, not-so-anonymous donors, and sponsors! Team Fashnacht, Trina Ruffo, Forest Lawn, all came up big this year and ongoing into 2023.

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! Get the listing of all the holiday events and what's planned for the upcoming months. 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 Hanukah, and I wish you only the best and "positive vibrations" for 2023. 🐉

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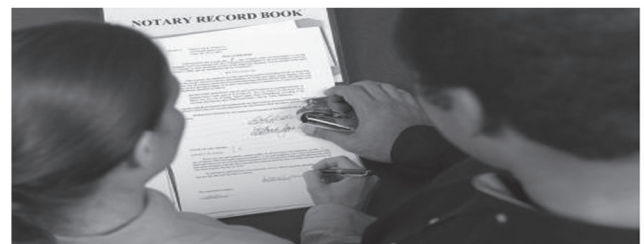

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