



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September/October 2022 | Vol.28, Issue 2



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2022 LONG BEACH GIVES CAMPAIGN A BIG SUCCESS!

By Manny Valenzuela

On September 22, Long Beach residents participated in what has now become an annual tradition, Long Beach Gives, the citywide, online giving event that raises awareness and inspires residents to donate to local nonprofits. This year's event saw 8,551 donations to 232 organizations, for a total of \$1.97 million.

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) participated for the second time and, thanks to you, was very successful in raising money to support the neighborhood! More than 40 donors contributed over \$9,000! This funding will help keep our alleys, streets, and freeway ramps clean, as well as maintain our historic lampposts, produce informative newsletters, and host future community events like the Home Tour.

A special thank you to local realtor Andrea Testa for initiating a \$1,000 matching donation for the second year in a row. Local realtor Trina Rufo, who grew up in California Heights, kept the momentum going with a \$2,500 donation – thank you both!

A big thank you to everyone in the neighborhood for donating! Your support on Long Beach Gives day and throughout the year help protect the Cal Heights community and keep it the "Best in the West."

Gold Community Builder

Trina Rufo

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Andrea Testa

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Lewis Ebersole, Karen Highberger, and Brian Konie

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President's Message

This may actually represent my most overdue submission for the President's Letter to date. And the wait may have been worth it. Our delay this month gives me the opportunity to gush with gratitude. The CHNA participated in Long Beach Gives this year, and I am utterly overwhelmed with the response we got. Especially in light of where we are in a biannual financial cycle, the response we received more than met our operational cost needs in the near and medium term. I literally cannot thank you all enough.

I have nothing else in particular that I want to cover this time around. I'm coming out of an intensely busy (for me) period of work, and I've got until mid-spring before that cycle peaks again. I hope you are all doing well as the latest COVID peak appears to be beginning to break around us. And I hope you will continue to do well in the weeks and months to come. Let's all just try to keep an eye out for each other, shall we?

If there is anything you all need, reach out at info@calheights.org. We may or may not be able to address it ourselves, but we'll try to get it to the attention of someone who can.

Thanks,



Hugh Little
President, CHNA

Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

I married a baseball man. As a kid growing up in the Midwest, baseball was king. He played in the dirt lot behind his house, worshipped the Cleveland Indians and collected baseball cards of his favorite players with lesser-known players being regulated to the spokes of his bike to make whirring noises. He played Little League and then really never stopped - from adult hardball teams, softball and eventually to a tournament senior softball league that plays all over the U.S. - he just kept going. (Cont'd on page 4)



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Cal Heights Looking Back (cont'd)

On his April birthday, his Dad would take him to see the Indians play in Cleveland's Memorial Stadium, a behemoth structure on the shores of Lake Erie, thoughtlessly built so freezing wind could roar in. Living in California, he saw Dodgers games, and after we married even had season tickets to the Angels for years.

Then something started to happen. If his work required travel to a major league city, he would try to catch a game. Then if we vacationed near a stadium we would go. Then after retirement we would purposely travel to a city just to see a game. Until there was only one left, the Miami Marlins.

Long Beach doesn't have a major league stadium, but it does have a rich baseball history starting in 1910 with the Long Beach Clothiers of the Trolley League, so called because they could get to all the games by the trolley. In 1924 Recreation Park opened four fields that hosted spring training for the 1933 New York Giants and countless college, high school and little league games. Blair Field opened in 1956 hoping to lure a major league team, but it never happened. Several minor league teams - the Rockets, the Breakers and the Armada, all played here. In 1997 the city briefly joined the resurgence of Ladies Professional League with the Long Beach Aces! Our High Schools have produced many major leaguers including Ron Fairly, Bobby Grich and Tony Gwynn.

The great Yogi Berra once said "If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be." But once in awhile you might get lucky and have the perfect day. We had great seats right behind home, the beer was cold and the hotdogs hot, and while taking countless photos of Steve and telling everyone within earshot of his accomplishment. The fan in front of us arranged for a member of the Marlins' staff to present Steve with an autographed ball congratulating him on seeing all 30 major league stadiums! Perfect. 🍌




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From the 5th

On Sunday, October 16, from noon to 4:00 pm, I am proud to sponsor the inaugural Taste of Bixby Knolls. This event is about enjoying the afternoon discovering and supporting local businesses while spending time with friends and family. Enjoy tasty samples from twenty-nine restaurants, hear excellent music, ride the Big

Red Bus, try the breweries, visit the car show, and find out what makes Bixby Knolls special. Make your list of places to visit on event day by visiting bixbyknollsinfo.com/taste

Pre-order your tickets online or visit the Expo Arts Center on October 16 to buy tickets. No minimum purchase is required. Tasting tickets are \$1 each; most samples will be between 2 and 6 tickets. Redeem tickets by visiting participating businesses and purchasing from their "Taste of Bixby Knolls" menu.

Food & drink tastings will cost approximately 2-6 tickets. We recommend that each adult should buy 25-30 tickets to try various locations and 35-45 if they plan to buy drinks. Remember, you can buy more tickets at the event if needed. If you purchase tickets online, you must check in at the Expo Arts Center or one of the ticket stands on the day of the event. You will receive the tasting tickets, event map, and event bracelet to access exclusive specials at participating retailers!

We can't wait to see you there and hear about your favorite bites of the day. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association at info@bixbyknollsinfo.com.

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.

Sincerely,
Councilwoman Stacy Mungo Flanigan



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Police Community Meeting

by Stacey Morrison

Thank you to those who joined CHNA on September 22 at the Expo Art Center for a community meeting with North Division Patrol Resource Officer Abe Mercado, Officer Christopher Martinez, and Neighborhood Services Specialist Erika Moreno. They spent about one hour talking with residents and conveyed one common message - communication.

Communicate with the police department - Officer Mercado strongly recommended if you "See Something, Say Something." If you have any questions, concerns or would like to report a crime call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency dispatch at (562) 435-6711.

Communicate with neighbors - Getting to know your neighbors is a great way to not only build community but a way to build a safe community. Many blocks in Cal Heights have established Community Watch programs which brings residents together. Erika Moreno can help interested residents connect with officers for guidance.

Additionally they discussed solutions to some of our most common challenges including keeping windows and doors locked, not leaving any items in cars, and taking steps to prevent catalytic converter theft by investing in an anti-theft cable locking device or catalytic converter shield or getting catalytic converters etched with VIN numbers. There are challenges in the police department, which is currently 60 officers short, but with increased communication we can work toward making Cal Heights even safer.

For more information reach out to Erika Moreno at erika.moreno@longbeach.gov or 562.570.9825. 📧

Volunteers Needed for Clean Streets!

Clean Streets moved from Thursdays to Saturday last month and we would welcome more volunteers to help keep the neighborhood clean. If you are a high school student, we can sign for volunteer hours.

The team meets every Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

Clean streets schedule and meeting location is:

1st Saturday of each month - meet at Wardlow & Lime

Volunteers clean Atlantic from Wardlow north to Bixby

2nd Saturday of each month - meet at Wardlow & Lime

Volunteers clean Atlantic from Wardlow south to the 405 freeway. (This includes a freeway cleanup and any volunteers interested in cleaning the freeway must go through training)

3rd Saturday of each month - meet at Wardlow & Lime

Volunteers clean Wardlow from Atlantic west to the 405 freeway. (This includes a freeway cleanup and any volunteers interested in cleaning the freeway must go through training)

4th Saturday of each month - meet at Bixby & Olive

Volunteers partner with Long Fellow Clean Team and clean the area around Longfellow and Hughes Middle School.

5th Saturday of each month - meet at Wardlow & Lime

Volunteers will decide on a location to be cleaned.

Bags, gloves, and safety vests are provided. Follow us on [Instagram.com/cleanstreetscalheights](https://www.instagram.com/cleanstreetscalheights). 🐾

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Past Home Tour Features

By Karen Highberger



A remodeled kitchen in a 1935 Spanish Colonial Revival home that was featured on the 12th Home & Garden Tour in 2009. The kitchen features cherry cabinets, soapstone countertops and Malibu style tile, including accents on the plaster hood surround.



A kitchen in a 1928 Spanish Colonial Revival home that was featured on the 14th Home & Garden Tour in 2013. This kitchen was updated by the owner to recapture the period charm with up to date amenities. A vintage range is complemented by the Shaker style cabinets, soapstone countertops and linoleum flooring.

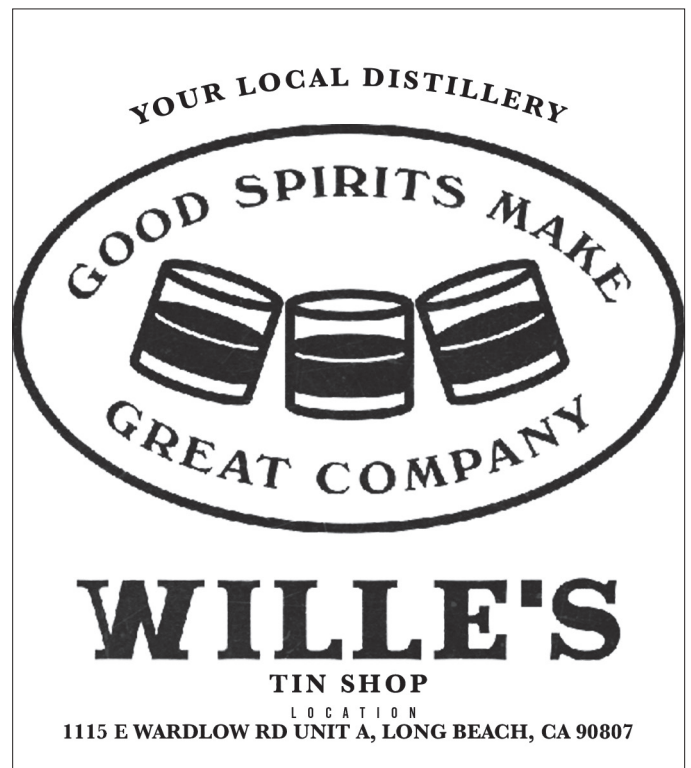


A primary bath that was featured on the 15th Home & Garden Tour in 2015. The home is a 1928 Colonial Revival style home that is quite rare in Cal Heights. The antique vanity has a sink with gold accents, marble countertop and marble mosaic backsplash that is repeated in the shower.



A bathroom in a 1931 Spanish Colonial Revival home that was featured on the 17th Home & Garden Tour in 2019. The owners restored this bathroom using the same yellow and black color scheme as the hex tile original floor. The foot print remained the same, but all new plumbing fixtures and tile were installed.

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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

October is the orange month. The way the sun looks and feels in the late afternoon makes me very nostalgic for this time of year. When I was growing up, my mom had a wonderful tradition of making caramel apples for the entire neighborhood. This started when my brother and sister were young and became the official kick-off to Halloween.

When I was old enough to help, I would sit in the kitchen on the day before Halloween and unwrap the hundreds and hundreds of individual caramels into the big cooking pot. My mom prepped the shiny red apples with sticks then dipped them into that sticky sea of caramel. Into the fridge they went on wax paper to be set for delivery and the excitement built.

So with the apples good to go, and the calendar saying October 31, I couldn't get out of school fast enough to get ready for the big night. The anticipation was too much to bear, and all the friends had spent weeks talking about costumes and the trick-or-treating route we would take. Over the years my arsenal of costumes included: a chef, with painted on mustache, a tiger, a knight in shining aluminum foil. And one year I saved up for a special kit to be a gruesome monster, with dripping latex makeup and fake blood that ultimately gooped onto my shirt and wig. But that's all part of the magic, isn't it? But before getting dressed, I sprinted from my house to the neighbors' houses delivering the caramel apples. The joyful looks on the faces was enough to validate the tradition.

After block after block and door after door saying, "trick or treat!" we would fill up pillowcases and push on to "just one more block" until it seemed we were

the last ones on the street. Tired and satisfied, we all walked home to evaluate our loot. But even with the stockpile of mini Snickers or Three Musketeer bars, it was the taste of that sickly caramel draped on those cold apples that was the ultimate prize. Oh, how I miss those.

Mark your calendars for October 16: "Taste of Bixby." This new event is sponsored by 5th District Councilmember Stacy Mungo Flanigan and the Long Beach Airport. This is a showcase for our restaurants and breweries, activating the district like our very successful First Fridays event. It will give great exposure and promotion to our local businesses that create the amazing food scene in Bixby Knolls. It is a free event and open to everyone. Attendees will be able to enjoy food and beverages from a featured menu at participating businesses.

The Big Red Bus will provide transportation on a continuous loop around the "venue" area of Atlantic Avenue from E San Antonio Drive to 36th Street. The event is designed to activate the business corridor and draw people out to support businesses on a Sunday which is typically slower than most days.

This event will also help bring promotion and awareness to those restaurants that are hidden or away from the busy pedestrian areas as they will have the opportunity to have a pop-up and offer their food at the main hub of the event which will be at the Expo Arts Center.

Entertainment will include the "best of the best" performers that have been a part of our events for years. The live music will be spread throughout the venue area—outside/inside restaurant locations so attendees can enjoy themselves as they eat. In addition, we will have activities throughout the "venue" such as a stilt walker, face painting, caricature drawings, and other characters.

Check out all the details on our website bixbyknollsinfo.com.

Remember to always support your local businesses (and have a pumpkin-spiced latte). What are your Halloween plans this year? I miss our parades.

See you in the neighborhood.

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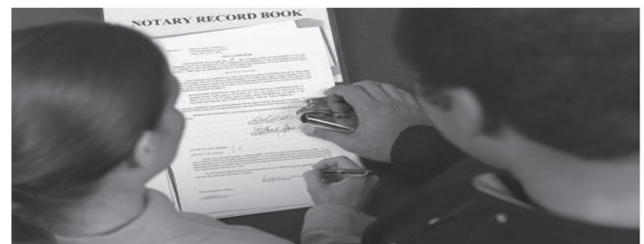


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First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every Second and Fourth Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at
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CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS | BIXBY KNOLLS DRIVE UP, DROP OFF, DONATE DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022 | 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
3636 LINDEN AVENUE, LONG BEACH (front of the Petroleum Club)

I am pleased to sponsor this community event to help our residents clear our closets and garages, obtain a potential tax write off, all the while helping those that are less fortunate. The Long Beach Rescue Mission and The Salvation Army will conveniently have trucks parked on Linden Avenue.

HERE ARE SOME GUIDELINES:

Items We Accept:

- Small furniture items gently used, no damage
- New toys & books
- Clothing & jewelry
- Cookware/kitchen items
- Tools
- Clean bedding
- Collectibles
- Small electronics

Items We DO NOT Accept:

- Toxic items
- Clothing with stains, tears or odors
- Old/used toys
- Construction items
- Furniture with stains, tears, odors, missing or broken pieces
- Leftover garage sale items
- Large furniture items



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