



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July/August 2023 | Vol.29, Issue 1

Promoting Public Knowledge and Preservation of Historic and Architectural Resources in the California Heights Historic District

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Cal Heights Fundraising for Neighborhood Signs on September 21

by Manuel Valenzuela

September 21st will mark our third fundraising campaign with Long Beach Gives to help beautify our neighborhood. Our previous fundraisers helped our neighborhood association survive the pandemic, so that we could keep our streets and alleys clean, as well as host our new neighborhood mixers. This next fundraiser will be even bigger and better!

To help us beautify, highlight, and inspire pride in our special neighborhood, we have ambitiously set our sights on California Heights signage as you enter the historic district boundaries and overall neighborhood. The more money we raise at Long Beach Gives, the more signs we can purchase. Additionally, we also want to install special historic district street signs at the 36th Street and Orange Avenue intersection.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible donation to California Heights during this year's Long Beach Gives event on September 21? Your contribution will help us proudly display our California Heights name for neighbors and visitors to see. Stay tuned for more information at www.calheights.org.



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President's Message

A few quick notes as we all enjoy a productive and fun summer in Cal Heights, the best neighborhood in the West.

Cal Heights Block Party Was A Success! On June 24th, you came out to our Block Party in the Cal Heights Market parking lot. It was great to see returning and new faces, and it reminded me of how friendly our little corner of the LBC is. Coupled with our first event of the year at f/8 Studios, we are starting to get into the habit of hosting events and bringing each other together. On that note, let's do it again! My wife and neighbors are planning a block party for 'Play Music On The Porch Day' on Saturday, August 26th, starting at 5 p.m. Feel free to bring a dish or a musical instrument and get to know us on the 3700 block of Rose Avenue.

We Will Miss You Stacey. Stacey Morrison has bid adieu after 17 years on the Board. She provided a comforting and positive presence on our Board, and was instrumental in making our Clean Streets program and alley clean-ups the envy of the city. Stacey, thank you for guiding me when I first joined the Board, and we are all so lucky to have you in the neighborhood.

A Call For Board Members & Volunteers. Those neighborhood gems we are so fond of, such as the Cal Heights Murals on Orange Avenue and our restored lampposts, not to mention alley cleanups, informative newsletters, and civic advocacy, are all a product of our collective effort to make our neighborhood a better place to live. Would you like to help make an impact in Cal Heights? Consider joining us as a volunteer or Board member. For more information, contact us at info@calheights.org.

Fundraising For Neighborhood Signs. I am excited that we are raising money to install neighborhood signs. Not only will they identify and beautify our neighborhood, but they fulfill our mission to promote awareness and preservation of our historic district.

Manuel "Manny" Valenzuela
President, CHNA

Interested in Joining the Cal Heights Board, or Just Looking for an Opportunity to Volunteer in Your Neighborhood? Please Reach Out to Us at info@calheights.org!



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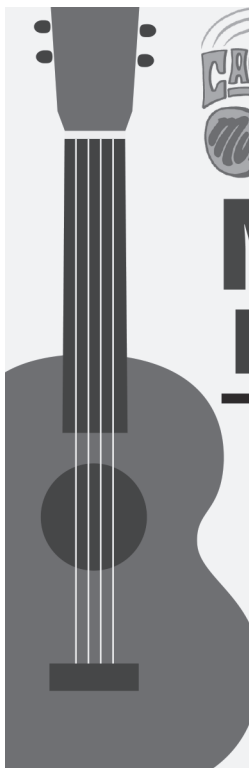
Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

I found it! Hidden in the dark recesses of the garage was the plaque I received from the Lions Club for a speech I gave to the club when I was a freshman in High School: "The Hopes and Fears of Today's Youth." I was so proud to receive it – I have kept it for over 50 years. What brought on this wave of nostalgia was an invitation to attend the 2023 Student Awards Program presented by the Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach.

Roger Leue, long-time Cal Heights resident, has been active in the Kiwanis Club since 1996. As a retired schoolteacher and administrator, he is well-qualified to carry out the mission of the club "Serving the Children of the World." He explained the many activities of the local chapter including supporting a women's shelter, tree planting, sponsoring High School Key Clubs, and honoring students (including scholarships). Once a fraternal organization, they now promote the inclusion of women and seek out diversity in their ranks. When I asked Roger why he enjoys being in the Kiwanis, he replied, "It is a great opportunity to be involved in a social activity that does something for the community."

I was lucky enough to sit at a table honoring students from Hughes Middle School where I met sixth grader Lucy Sourn, seventh grader Ruby Summer, eighth grader Mekiah Twal, their parents, and the principal of the school. Forty-two students from seven schools were honored. Chosen by their teachers for being outstanding citizens I found out they were so much more. Excellent in academics, admired by their peers, and positive role models – they were courteous, respectful, and fun! We talked about what makes a good citizen, the challenges of the classroom, favorite foods, and looking forward to summer. I was impressed by their candor and optimism and made me think about what I had spoken about to the Lions Club so long ago. Did I have more hope or fear for my future? I feel pretty confident that hope for the future is encouraging with outstanding students like these.



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From the 5th District



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

Summer is here and is in full swing! I've made it through my first 6 months as your Councilwoman, and I am genuinely grateful for the trust you have placed in me. In my first 6 months, my office has had over 2,200 service interactions, 65 community engagements, I have had 20 Council Meetings, 110 city department briefings, 4 committee meetings, 1 legislative trip, supported 14 non-profits, strolled 95 miles within our district, and attended 3 mobility events. These interactions were only possible with your support, engagement, and feedback.

We had to say goodbye to my amazing Senior Advisor, former interim chief-of-staff, superstar constituent services representative, Holly Unruh. Her last day with my office was July 30th. Holly began her tenure with the former Councilwoman in December of 2021. She quickly mastered all things in the new District 5 and became an invaluable resource. She will be greatly missed, and thankfully, she will not be far. She is heading to the Long Beach Health Department to support the incredible work and important initiatives that impact our entire community. We are grateful for her service and wish her all the best.

Since my last entry, our city refuse is improving. There was a city-wide one-day hiring event on July 22, 2023. We are hopeful that this event garnered more Refuse Operators to assist our refuse dilemma. If your refuse is not collected on your regularly scheduled day, the city advises you to leave your refuse carts/bins out and every effort will be made to collect on the following service day; if collection does not occur on the following day, please call (562) 570-2876, and a collection will be scheduled.

I hope to see some Cal Heights neighbors at our first quarterly Community Meeting on Friday, August 25 at 5pm, at our Field Office at Wardlow Park. I encourage you to RSVP via our website.

Please continue to share your ideas, concerns, and aspirations with me. Stay connected to my office by subscribing to my newsletter at www.longbeach.gov/district5. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office by emailing District5@longbeach.gov or by calling 562-570-5555.

Warmly,
Councilwoman Megan Kerr



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Small-Business Spotlight: Mac's Barber Shop

by Marion Saffery

This issue's small-business Q&A is with Greg "Mac" McCormack of Mac's Barber Shop on Wardlow Road in Cal Heights. Greg is the owner and sole practitioner at this old-school shop, which has a unique look with an apple green-and-black color scheme.

How long have you owned this business?

I've been here 25 years, but I've worked in the neighborhood going on 27-and-a-half years.

What's your client-base like?

I get a mixture of young clients and older clients. I've got clients who've been with me the entire time.

If I asked your regular clients why they come to you, what do you think they'd say?

Most of my customers are return customers, and I think they come back because I give a good haircut for a fair price.

How has the neighborhood changed over these years?

It's changed a lot over the years, and it's changed for the better. Twenty-seven years ago the neighborhood was pretty sleepy. There weren't a lot of businesses that were open to the public back then.

Do you prefer customers make an appointment?

I'm appointment-only. It just works out better. People don't have to wait and they don't have to guess when I'm going to be here.

I love the look of this place. Did you choose this cool décor yourself?

I did! Barber shops started looking a lot alike, and I thought I'd do something different. I always change it up, but it's been like this for a little while.

Is there anything I haven't asked that you want your customers to know?

I just want to say "thank you" to my customers for all the years they've been coming in.

Mac's Barber Shop is located at 915 E. Wardlow Road in Cal Heights. The shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To make an appointment, call (562) 427-7547. 📞

Living in a Historic District

by John Moreland

What is a historic district? It's a lot more than just homes that have unique charm and character. According to the City of Long Beach, "Historic districts are designated neighborhoods that contain groups of older, unaltered houses that preserve the visual qualities and ambience of the past." California Heights is the City of Long Beach's largest historic district with just under 1,500 homes. A number of homes in our neighborhood are over 100 years old. Preserving the past involves more than typical home maintenance – there are rules that govern the design within the neighborhood. 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 guidelines applicable to California Heights. This information is available at www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/preservation/districts/guidelines. Homeowners looking to improve their house require what is called a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for any addition or major work within the front yard. Typical improvements that require a COA can include:

- Any addition onto the house
- Painting the house a new color
- Adding a new fence or wall in the front yard
- Driveway or concrete walkways in the front yard
- Roof replacement
- Window replacement
- Demolition of any structure

The City of Long Beach reviews and issues COAs and some of the smaller tasks such as painting and roof replacement can be handled relatively quickly, provided the color and materials are appropriate for the home. Questions about the COA process should be directed to the Historic Preservation team at the City at 562.570.6194 or via email at historicpreservation@longbeach.gov. Work that has been completed without a COA may face fines, penalties, and even possibly legal action to remove unapproved elements. It is not worth the trouble and expense to go this route.

Before starting an improvement to the home, owners should review these guidelines. Many contractors that do not work in the City regularly may not know these regulations. Questions should be directed to the City of Long Beach. The benefits of living in a historic district include celebrating unique architectural styles that are beautifully preserved and maintained, a heightened sense of community, and several studies show historic districts enhance property values. Let's ensure that our neighborhood is enjoyed for future residents over the next 100 years. 🐾

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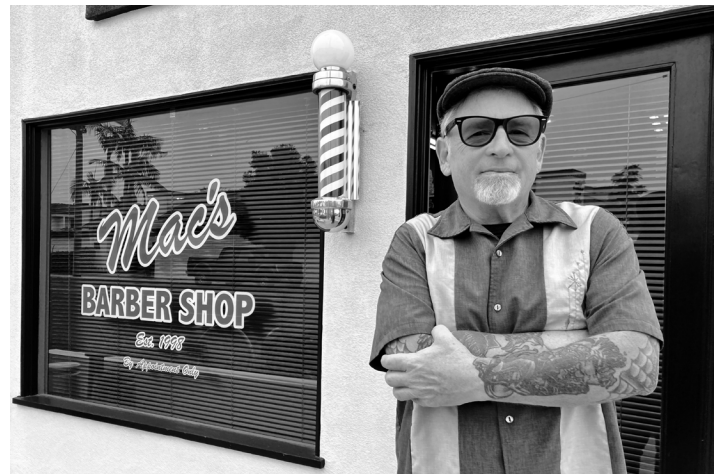


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Cal Heights in Pictures



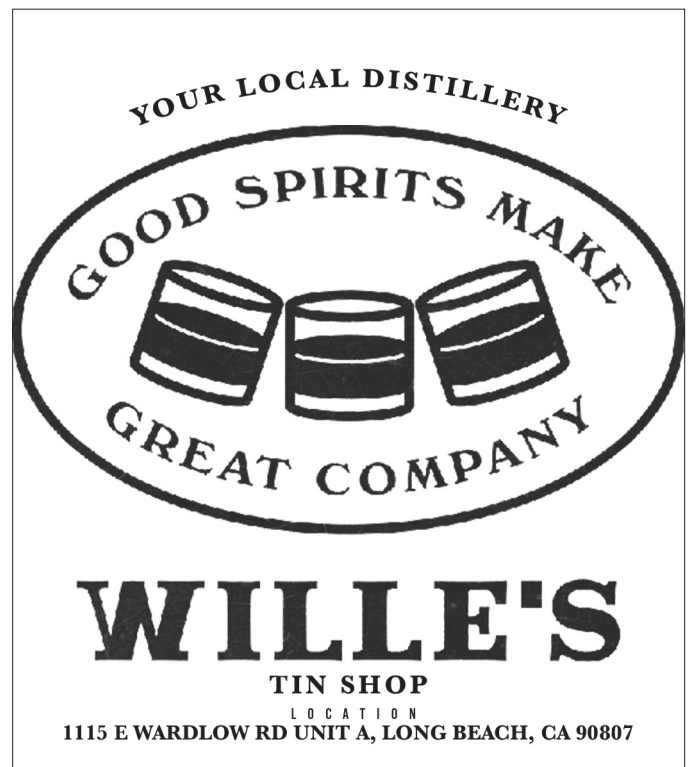
1. Hughes Middle School students receiving honors from the Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach.
2. Greg "Mac" McCormack of Mac's Barber Shop. Mac's Barber Shop is located at 915 E. Wardlow Road in Cal Heights.
3. Interior decor of Mac's Barber Shop.



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4. Virginia Country Club's Block Party & 4th of July parade. The parade, held every 4th of July, has been occurring for about 30 years.
5. Friends – humans and animals alike – enjoying Concerts in the Park(ing Lot). Visit <https://bixbyknollsinfo.com/concerts-in-the-parking-lot/> for upcoming schedule.
6. Cal Heights drought tolerant garden. For information converting your lawn into a drought-tolerant garden, visit www.lblawntogarden.com.



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IN THE KNOW'LLS

What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hey, neighbors:

June arrives like an old friend but seems to leave us too quickly. It's like the feeling of anticipation you have when you get the house cleaned just in time for the relatives to arrive, or when school is about to end. June sneaks up on you with the gloomy mornings and the sun finally coming out at 4:00 P.M. It hints that summer is just about here and then is gone too quickly. July arrives sunny and bright, smiling on the swimming pools, lawns and gardens, bike seats, patios for brunch, and those empty playgrounds. July is patriotic and filled with music.

Now August arrives feeling hot and familiar. Our summer mindset and lifestyles are in full swing, with all the pool toys scattered around the back yard, random red cups found in the bushes, towels and sand inside and out, wet bathing suits, and the smell of sunscreen are all standard fare. August has the cacophony of sound and lights echoing into the night as we walk back to our cars from the OC Fair. The careful doses of Vitamin D keep me energized during this season and my internal drive wants to maximize every moment of sunlight. My FOMO (fear of missing out) rages on as I know there's so much to see and do out there. I try hard to avoid any single mention or sighting of the "Back-to-School" sales and displays. How dare they!

As I write this, we are in no way even close to being ready for a change of this mindset. There are still plenty of concerts, more visits to the OC Fair, back yard parties, summer camps, friends to see, staying up late to watch movies, and night strolls by the ocean for

aroma therapy. August burns red for me. Don't bring us the orange months of September and October just yet.

And we have First Fridays, Literary Society, Strollers, Knights of the Round (Turn)Table, Kidical Mass, and parking lot concerts to take care of, so, August, there's no rush to speed by.

August business recommendation: The Vintage LBC at 4236 Atlantic Avenue. The Vintage offers wine, beer, small cheese-focused plates, and the largest gourmet cheese selection in Long Beach. They are a one-stop shop for cheese and wine lovers; buy a pound of your favorite aged Gouda and a bottle of wine to take home or enjoy some triple-creme and a glass of wine on their pretty patio. They are also kid and dog-friendly (sorry, dogs are only allowed on the patio).

The name "The Vintage" has two meanings; a wine's Vintage (the year the grapes were picked) and Vanessa's (owner) obsession with everything vintage. The Vintage's tagline is "Libations, Bites, and Cheese," or "LBC." Libations, bites, and cheese are the three things Vanessa offers at The Vintage, and the LBC is the city we're located in (again, with the double meaning). A libation is often defined as a "liquid offering to a deity," but let's go with the simpler definition of a drink. Bites are small plates to accompany your libation, and cheese is self-explanatory. So, stop by and enjoy a little L, B, & C in the LBC. Did you know you can rent The Vintage LBC for private parties and events? The space is perfect for mix-and-mingle type parties. Contact them at info@thevintagelbc.com to start the conversation.

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

Back to the swimming pool, cold drinks, and ice cream. The Yacht Rock playlist, BBQ, and all things that make your summers so special.

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Blair

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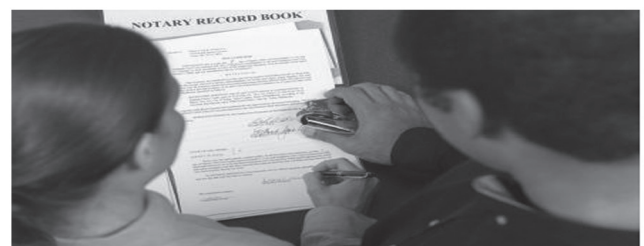


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First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every Second and Fourth Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at
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**Thank you to all the volunteers who make Cal
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