



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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2023 Cal Heights Home Tour Postponed

by Christa Stelzmuller

In the last newsletter, I announced the happy news that we were finally able to bring the bi-annual California Heights Neighborhood Association Home Tour back to the community. Since then much has happened, and unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances, we have made the decision to postpone the upcoming Home Tour which was scheduled for May 14, 2023. Our goal has always been to host a fun, informative, and engaging tour, and many different circumstances conspired this year to prevent that from coming together, so we'll be giving ourselves the time we need to make it great and will be hosting it next May (in 2024) instead. We will look forward to welcoming you back to the Home Tour then.

While we understand this news may be disappointing, and we'll be so sorry to miss you on Mother's Day – we still have plenty to do! We are full steam ahead on the preparation and planning for the Home Tour next year. We'll also be turning some of our attention to other ways we can benefit the community this year. To that end, we wanted to solicit your feedback on what you'd like us to focus on. We have created an online poll that we hope you will take the time to participate in to give us your feedback on what you'd like to see next. You can find the poll at the following url:

<https://tinyurl.com/chna-2023>

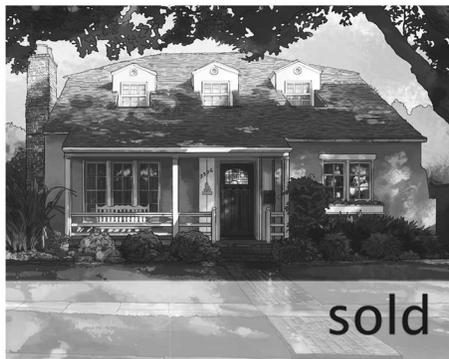
If you don't want to type that into your browser, we'll be posting the link on [facebook.com/calheights](https://www.facebook.com/calheights) and on www.calheights.org. Also, feel free to send your suggestions to info@calheights.org. We'll be collecting responses over the next month to help inform how best we can help serve you, our valued neighbors. As always, thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to hearing from you! 🐾



CHNA Board Members and CHNA's Vintage Prop Model A Display Truck at an Earlier Home Tour.

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President's Message

I hope that 2023 is treating you well. As you just read, we are postponing our beloved Cal Heights Home Tour until next year. We were eager to host a great home tour, to put the pandemic fully behind us, but we realized while planning it that we were too eager, too optimistic, and not ready to host the type of home tour you have come to expect (and rightfully so!). So, we will step back, plan accordingly, and host a wonderful home tour next May.

Did you get a chance to visit our mixer at f/8 Studios in February? It was a great success! We met new neighbors and long-time residents. Our new Councilmember provided awards to two Board members who have been positive contributors to the neighborhood. Building on this success, let's host more mixers so that we can all get to know each other.

Cal Heights is a very special place. I am reminded of this whenever I walk to work along 37th Street and see our beautiful historic homes, when sharing a wave and smile with long-time neighbors and friends, and when meeting Long Beach residents from other neighborhoods who beam when I say, "I live in Cal Heights."

This may sound ironic, but I believe our strength as a neighborhood is due to our forward-thinking nature. Yes, we reside in historic homes, located in a recognized City historic district, but you do not hear residents say "it was much better before" or base their lives on past greatness. Instead, we talk about now, and ask how can we improve, how can we help others?

You enjoy your neighborhood, your neighbors, the friends, the experiences, and perhaps you have an idea on how to improve upon Cal Heights. Does your idea make you smile, does it motivate you in a positive way? Is it something you would work hard to implement? We would love to hear it. Email us at info@calheights.org and let's chat.

Manuel "Manny" Valenzuela
President, CHNA



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Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

Did you ever imagine yourself as the hero of one of your favorite novels? Perhaps you saw yourself in a Tom Clancy book full of intrigue, danger, and finally nabbing the bad guy. Or maybe a quieter approach like the heroine in Elizabeth Spann Craig’s novels about a sharp-minded do-gooder who creates masterpiece quilts while solving the town’s problems. If you combine the two, add a vintage '57 T-Bird, lots of family, and a 165-pound St. Bernard named Jellybean, you just met Cal Heights neighbors Lynn and Linda Williams.

Lynn, a graduate of Arizona State, was a hard-working teacher when a show about the “Secret Service” intrigued him enough to apply to become an agent. While waiting for a job to open up, he instead switched to the U.S. Customs Service. Talking with Lynn was like getting a real-life history lesson. I was amazed to learn that the first U.S. Customs Administration was created in 1789 by Congress to provide revenue to the new nation by collecting duties and tariffs. In the time right after the Revolutionary War the nation was deeply in debt and had no way to collect domestic taxes yet. For the next 122 years revenue collected by U.S. Customs was responsible for building Washington D.C., making both the Louisiana Purchase and Alaska Purchase, and the construction of the transcontinental railroad. Criminal activity to avoid customs also began, and as a Special Agent, Lynn was involved with catching the culprits. “I found it challenging,” Lynn said. Narcotic violators used burn phones, false names, and unique ways to smuggle contraband into the country.

Lynn proudly told me of his wife Linda’s accomplishments as well, including the incredible quilts displayed in the home. Linda’s quilts have won many ribbons in competition but she also donates many to neighbors, friends, and the VA Hospital. Along with several other members of the Cal Heights Methodist Church, Linda helped open one of the first preschools in the area in 1973. “We wanted a place where children could develop physically, socially, and prepare for Kindergarten.” The church still offers preschool, but also offers after-school programs and more!

The Williams moved to Cal Heights in 1972 and shortly after began to buy homes in the area, eventually helping all three of their children move nearby, two on the same street and the other right behind them. “It’s wonderful to have all the family so close,” Linda said. Lynn heartily agreed “Cal Heights is like an ‘Island Unto Itself’.” You know that might make a great title for a novel! 🏠



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From the 5th District



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

Happy Spring! As always, I am grateful to the CHNA leadership for including me in this newsletter to share items of interest in District 5.

Long Beach Airport continues to undergo major improvements. One of those improvements includes electrical upgrades designed to improve the safety of the Airport's primary runway and improve Airport sustainability. These electrical updates require temporary runway closures through July. The Cal Heights neighborhood may experience additional commercial air traffic during daytime hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from approximately April 18 to May 24 as a result of Runway 12-30 closures repositioning operations to Runway 8L-26R. For more information and to view a map, please visit: www.longbeach.gov/lgb/latest-news/.

As some of you may have heard, the city will operate an RV Sanitation and Water-filling site on 32nd Street east of Cherry Avenue. Set to open in early April, this site will offer supervised services by appointment during scheduled hours. Once confirmed, I will share details with your neighborhood via my Community Newsletter. Sign up by visiting: <https://www.longbeach.gov/district5/>.

We have brought on a Chief of Staff, Robert Allarte. Robert has served the Long Beach community in multiple capacities and brings a wealth of regional expertise to this new role in running the D5 office. Robert was Vice Chair of the Long Beach Airport Advisory Commission and, most recently, Chief of Communications and Public Affairs to LA County Assessor, Jeff Prang. Robert also served as Assistant Deputy to former LA County Supervisor, Don Knabe.

As a reminder, the District 5 Field Office at Wardlow Park is open however, hours may vary. Please send questions, concerns, and comments to District5@longbeach.gov or call us at 562-570-5555.

It is an honor to serve as your Councilwoman and I look forward to seeing you around the district. Hope to see you soon!

Warmly,

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



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Local Business Spotlight: Lindsay Shaver of DeadRockers

by Marion Saffery

Lindsay Shaver is the owner of DeadRockers, a punk-rock record and clothing store right here in California Heights. Lindsay moved her store here in October after a successful 10-year stint on 4th Street in downtown Long Beach. I met Lindsay, and her "shop dog" Lemmy, at her store on a rainy afternoon in March.

I hear you started out by selling punk-rock merchandise at events.

That's true. I used to do Derby Dolls—a lot of roller derby events—car shows, punk shows. Pretty much anywhere that was sub-culture-based. There weren't a lot of people doing it back then, which is why I started it in the first place—because I couldn't find what I wanted to buy for myself.

What sorts of vinyl do you sell at DeadRockers?

Mostly all realms of punk rock, but we have a little bit of metal; we have a little bit of ska. Lately, we've been getting soundtracks that punk bands are featured on. We just got in the "Repo Man" reissue, and we've got "The Shining" soundtrack.

What about your clothing?

We have punk-rock clothing, shoes and accessories for men and women. We have classic Doc Martins; T.U.K., with the Creepers. Fred Perry we're carrying, too, which is pretty hard to find. I started doing my own women's clothing line in 2019, which is all completely cruelty-free.

How does your new Cal Heights location compare to your previous spot downtown?

The ample parking is huge for us. We are a bit of a destination, because we're so niche, so we have people coming from all over. This larger space allows us to have in-store events, too. We had the band Fear here in December, doing an in-store autograph signing.

Where can people go to learn about your upcoming events?

Instagram is the best way. We also do email blasts and text alerts, and there's a place on our website where people can sign up for those. People on those lists can get early access to sales, and get to shop usually two days early.

DeadRockers is located at 1090 E. Wardlow Road in Long Beach. Store hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Look for DeadRockers on Instagram (@deadrockers), and shop online at deadrockers.net. For more information, call or text (424) 777-3228. 🐕



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Cal Heights Truck Needs A Place to Live

by Kerrie Weaver

It's funny the things that you become attached to, in my case one of those things happens to be a Model A prop truck with real parts and props. So how did I get so attached to such an unusual item?

Well, around 2003 former Cal Heights president, Albert Guerra, mentioned to our Board, which included me, that he had an interest in a prop Model A display truck that he thought we could use to promote the association and its community projects. I'm sure I probably thought, "what the heck are we going to do with that?" But Albert always had a plan in mind.

Not much later, the truck was acquired and donated to the CHNA – but where would it live? We were holding our meetings at Jan's Antique Mall (at Cerritos and Wardlow) and the owners offered a space for her there. We rolled her in and parked her at the entrance. People entering Jan's Antique Mall would get the information they needed about the CHNA and the neighborhood while browsing for antiques. The antique mall was also our check-in station for home tours and hundreds of people stopped to read information on this funky little truck. She has come out for every home tour since.

For a summer or two, she was outfitted by Albert with a custom candy rack and rolled out for community movie nights where we educated and fundraised by selling popcorn and candy. In 2004, she famously had her picture taken with the Board and appeared in Sunset Magazine when our neighborhood was voted the Best in the West.

Why am I telling you all of this? Our little truck has had issues finding long-term housing. When Jan's Antique Mall closed, she lived covered in the parking lot until a resident stepped up to house her in an empty garage. That lasted a few years and then another generous resident offered to give us a space in his auto storage building. That lasted for several years but then the building was sold, and she needed to be moved again. Our wonderful BKBIA director, Blair Cohn, stepped up at that time to house her at the EXPO on a temporary basis which has bled into a couple of years. But the EXPO is busier these days and she needs to be moved around quite often for events. It's time to find a new place for her to live once again.

We'd love to keep her in the neighborhood, if possible, and are reaching out to all you wonderful residents to see if someone has an empty garage, a section of a warehouse, a contact to a storage facility or some ideas that we haven't thought of yet. Email us at info@calheights.org.

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Cal Heights in Pictures



1. Lindsay Shaver, owner of DeadRockers. DeadRockers has punk-rock clothing, shoes, and accessories for men and women and is located at 1090 E. Wardlow Road.
2. Lindsay Shaver and her "shop dog" Lemmy, inside of DeadRockers.
3. Vinyl selection at DeadRockers, which includes punk rock, some metal and ska.



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4. Neighborhood Mixer at f/8 Studios on February 12th. f/8 Studios is located at 3764 Orange Avenue.
5. Musician at First Fridays in Bixby Knolls.
6. St. "Pawdy" Day Parade at Los Cerritos Park on March 11th.

STAY LOCAL




SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT!

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IN THE KNOW'LLS
What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hey Neighbors,

Spring is here and showed up with tears in its eyes. Or is that just the rain on my face walking my daughter to Longfellow? But in between the rain drops, have you spent any time yet on the patio of Nonna Mercato? We can't wait for their expansion to open. How about a delicious order from Rad Coffee? The business just won an Orchid Award from the BKBIA for transforming their space from the drab white walls into their full personality—punk rock, nonetheless!

We want to say thank you to those who came out for our "Almost St. Patrick's Day" event on March 12th. We had 500+ walking up and down the corridor (and riding the Big Red Bus) on a nice Sunday enjoying the event activities that day.

Please mark your calendars for First Fridays April 7 which is our annual "Long Beach County Fair" theme. You get to enjoy all types of "fair food" and music, art, activities for kids, "oddities," country line dancing in the Allery (Burlinghall & Atlantic), the Easter Bunny, and a whole lot of surprises when you show up. This is one of the most popular First Fridays of the year and we hope to see you out there.

SHOP LOCAL

Business Stuff: We welcome Philz Coffee to Bixby Knolls. Now open at 3850 Atlantic Avenue. There is no doubt that the district is highly caffeinated. From there we are looking across the street – we promise you that Chicken University is thiiiiiii close to opening. Epic Wings will soon open in the Bixby Knolls Shopping Center. Have you been to KUBO yet? It's the Filipino collective at Marshall and Atlantic Avenue. They had their official grand opening at the March First Fridays. Take a look inside and you'll find the mini bookstore, plant store, and other small businesses working together to create a truly unique spot in the district. Book a tea party at Dream Come True Tea & Party Room. Talk all things grapes with Ernie at Willmore Wine Bar. Stop into "Donut Rock" (Angel Food Donuts) for your official National Park Souvenir "Bixby Bear Claw." Order the lasagna from Tony's Kitchen!

And: Join Kidical Mass bike ride one month. Walk with the Strollers on a Saturday morning. Join the in-depth book discussion with the Literary Society. Enjoy some music with the Knights of the Round (Turn)Table.

Other bits: This is a friendly reminder for a few things that you may need to be reminded about (did that make sense?). Take a few hours for a tour or walk-around of Rancho Los Cerritos. Take the family to George's 50s Diner. Have a drink at the bar at Phil Trani's. Take a pilates or spin class at Five Starr Pilates. Go talk to Mike and Andrea about the Dodgers over at The Merchant. Head to Hangry Belly and Koolberry at Steelcraft for an incredible burger and dessert combo.

In the words of Chris Martin "We live in a beautiful neighborhood. Yes, we do, yes, we do." Okay, so I paraphrased it.

See you out there,

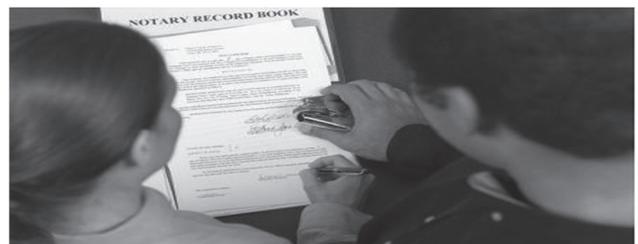
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Saturdays: Clean Streets Litter Abatement - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 am at the corner of Lime & Wardlow. The 4th Saturday of every month Clean Streets meets at Bixby and Olive and joins the Hughes Clean Team for a campus cleanup.

First Friday of each Month: firstfridayslongbeach.com

Every Second and Fourth Saturday: Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. longbeachrecycles.org



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