



# THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September/October 2023 | Vol.29, Issue 2

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

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## Long Beach Historical Society's Cemetery Tour – October 28

by Julie Bartolotto

The Historical Society of Long Beach holds its 27th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour on Saturday, October 28th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Join in the fun as costumed actors perform the stories of those buried at Sunnyside and Long Beach Municipal Cemeteries, located at 1095 and 1151 E. Willow Street, respectively. The event features eight graveside presentations with actors portraying the life of the person lying at rest. Stories feature those who had extraordinary lives, extraordinary deaths, and ordinary folks who helped the community grow.

The Harnett family and their pacific squab and poultry farm will be featured this year. Claudine Burnett has come out with a book about the early family and will be available to sign books. This year, Sharon Diggs-Jackson will share the history of early African American families. June Miyamoto Donovan will share the legacy of Japanese American Terminal Islanders through traditional dance.

Bring lunch and your own refreshments and take advantage of our rest area under the trees. Bring your water bottle for a free fill-up from Long Beach Utilities.

Performances last 10 minutes and are repeated every 20 minutes until 2:40 pm. Arrive by noon for the full experience. Carpooling is recommended and bicycle parking is available. Purchase your tickets today and save <https://hslb.ticketbud.com/2023-historical-cemetery-tour>.



Sunnyside Cemetery located at 1095 E. Willow Street



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## President's Message

It was another glorious summer in California Heights. I hope that you were able to relax, reconnect with family and friends, and recharge for the remainder of the year.

One of the many things on my mind (yes, it never seems to stop) is asking, how can we improve our already great Cal Heights? Followed by, how can we bring our neighbors together, and how can we best celebrate and honor the best neighborhood in Long Beach?

There never has to be a reason to celebrate, but we do have some great opportunities to do so. One future activity that is sure to bring fun to the neighborhood is Cal Height's first Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony! I want you to stay tuned to our next newsletter and social media to get more details. This event will bring together our Cal Heights Neighborhood Association, the business community and Cal Heights Biz, and the Councilwoman's office. If you would like to participate as well, let us know!

Another great opportunity that we should discuss occurs in 2024. If you have looked closely at our mural at Orange Avenue and Wardlow Road, you will see a "Since 1924" painted on it. That means we are about to celebrate 100 years! Let's do it in style and think of some ways to celebrate such an important milestone.

In case if you were wondering, the Cal Heights subdivisions were created throughout the 1920s, but our entire neighborhood was annexed into the City of Long Beach in 1924, hence the year. If you have ideas about how to celebrate this 100-year milestone, let us know.

See ya in the neighborhood.

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](mailto:info@calheights.org)!*



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### Cal Heights Looking Back

by Frances Stoner

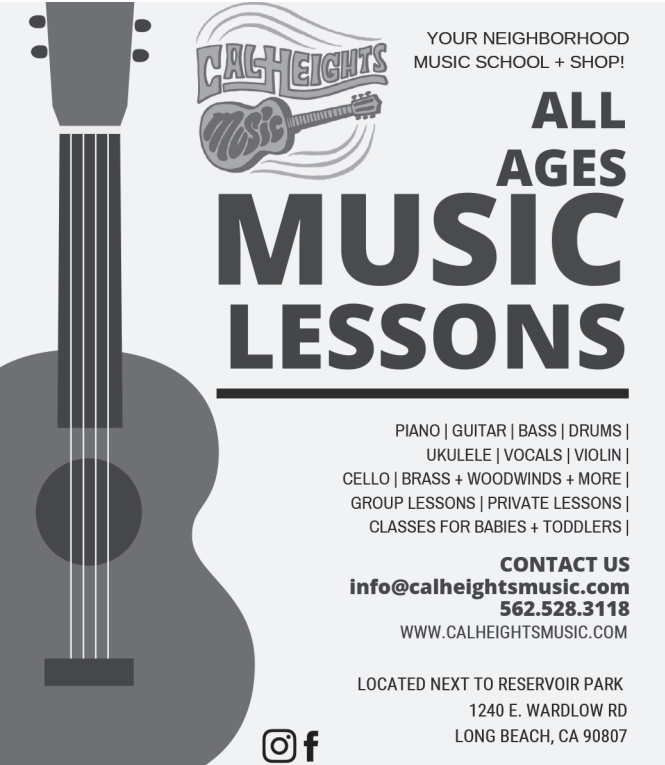
In his inaugural address in 1961, President John F. Kennedy spoke these immortal words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His intent was to galvanize young people into service, especially volunteerism. A key component of being a volunteer is the act of donating your time and energy to a greater cause and help change the lives of a community. For the last several years, Cal Heights has benefitted from the extraordinary efforts of two women dedicated to work for the benefit of our community.

Karen Highberger and her husband Lou Gaudio moved to Cal Heights in 1993. Karen is that rare woman who, despite having her own business, seems to be a part of everything from Long Beach Heritage to California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) to writing applications for grants funding several neighborhood projects. She has been invaluable in spearheading the Lamppost Restoration project and the Cal Heights Home Tour. Her encyclopedic knowledge of people, places, and policy is remarkable.

Stacey Morrison and her husband Andy moved to Cal Heights in 2003. Stacey has been intrigued by the neighborhood, especially after seeing the mural on the side of Nino's Restaurant. Wanting to place an ad for her graphic design business, she met John Royce, the former president of CHNA. Soon, Stacey was active on the board, becoming Vice President, editor of the newsletter, volunteering for Clean Streets, and helping to plant and care for trees through the ReLeaf program.

Sadly, for us in Cal Heights, these ladies have decided to step down from the CHNA board after years of service. They epitomize the volunteerism that President Kennedy hoped to inspire. Sitting with Karen and Stacey to discuss their many accomplishments, I had to smile as they began to brainstorm on new projects for the neighborhood. They both emphasized the importance of fostering strong community ties by getting out there and meeting their neighbors, as well as ways to encourage young people to get involved. I know they will never stop trying to make Cal Heights a better place. They are an inspiration and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

So don't just ask what your neighborhood can do for you, instead help in any way you can – pick up a piece a trash here and there, check on an elderly neighbor, have a street party and volunteer when you can. We have a wonderful neighborhood, and with a little help from everyone, it will continue to surround us with beauty, provide us with friendship and enrich our lives.



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## From the 5th District



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

As school resumes and we embrace the fall season, I hope you all are doing well. With nearly 75,000 students and staff returning city-wide, let's unite to ensure their safety. Please exercise caution at crosswalks, obey crossing guards, and follow traffic signals and signs, including stop and yield signs. Stay vigilant, watch out for pedestrians, cyclists, and plan for potential school-related traffic delays. Together, we can make this school year safe.

On Sept. 5th, my colleagues and I approved the FY 24 City Budget. This \$3.2 billion budget aligns with the City's Strategic Vision-2030. It addresses critical areas such as our urban forest and green space, continued investment in youth and neighborhoods, infrastructure and traffic enhancements, and the pressing concerns surrounding housing and homelessness. We also allocated \$100,000 to the Historical Society of Long Beach to support educational programs that will enlighten future generations about our City's rich history. There were also allocations to assist in neighborhood clean-up. This budget is forward-looking and I'm proud to have supported it. For more information visit [www.longbeach.gov/budget](http://www.longbeach.gov/budget).

Join us at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Cemetery Tour at Long Beach Municipal and Sunnyside Cemeteries, hosted by The Historical Society of Long Beach. This haunting tour, featuring graveside performances by actors in period-appropriate costumes, takes place on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Explore Japanese American History, a Día de Muertos installation, talks by historians, author book signings, and Long Beach history displays. For tickets and details, visit [hslb.org](http://hslb.org). See you there!

At the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, I requested the City Manager, Airport, and other departments report back to the Council with answers to general aviation questions from our community. This is the first step in understanding the interconnected dynamics involving the City, LGB, and the community. While we wait for the report, my office continues to be in communication with the Airport on this important issue.

Please stay connected to my office by subscribing to my newsletter at [www.longbeach.gov/district5](http://www.longbeach.gov/district5). Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office by emailing [District5@longbeach.gov](mailto:District5@longbeach.gov) or by calling 562-570-5555.

Warmly,  
Councilwoman Megan Kerr



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## Cal Heights Welcomes Little Blue Hummingbird

by Marion Saffery

I don't know about you, but this writer LOVES women-owned businesses. In this issue, we're bringing you Little Blue Hummingbird—a full-service florist that opened in California Heights in April of this year. We spoke to Annie Flores, owner and operator, who's been a floral designer for more than 10 years.

The walls of the light-filled space are lined with flower cases and shelves with various styles of pots and vases, some of which can be rented for weddings and events; others are for sale. A long table allows Flores to help customers visualize what their event will look like decorated with her arrangements.

*What do you offer to customers?*

We specialize in events, so we do 150 weddings and other events throughout the year. Now that we have the store, we're spreading our wings into retail, doing arrangements for birthdays, anniversaries, and things like that.

*Can you tell me about the beautiful houseplants I see here?*

We do everything in the floral industry, so we do offer orchids and other plants for the house and for businesses. We also do installations for corporations, where we provide decoration for lobbies and other areas. We come in with new arrangements once or twice a month, and it provides a nice, welcoming focal-point when customers come in.

*If I want to order an arrangement from you, what do I do?*

You can go online and place an order there, or you can place an order directly by calling or coming into the store. You can have your arrangement delivered locally or take it with you.

*What else would you like customers to know?*

We're a family-owned business. We take care of our customers and we form a bond with our clients to make sure they have a good experience when they come here.

Little Blue Hummingbird Flowers is located at 1150 E. Wardlow Road (at the southeast corner of Wardlow and Cerritos) in Cal Heights. It is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:00am to 7:00pm. To order via phone or online, call (562) 346-7944, or visit [www.littlebluehummingbird.com](http://www.littlebluehummingbird.com).



## Host a Block Party with Microgrants!

by Christa Stelzmuller

The California Heights Neighborhood Association is excited to extend a warm invitation to our neighbors in Long Beach. We're calling on you to consider hosting a memorable block party in your neighborhood, and the best part? The City of Long Beach is here to support you through the Neighborhood Microgrant Program! Fall is the perfect time to bring our community together, create lasting memories, and strengthen the bonds that make Cal Heights an exceptional place to live.

Why a block party? They bring neighbors closer together, foster a sense of community, and provide a safe and fun space for people of all ages to connect and have a great time. By hosting, you're not just throwing a celebration; you're building a stronger, more vibrant neighborhood.

We are fortunate to live in a city that supports community-building initiatives. The Neighborhood Microgrant program provides up to \$1500 to residents who want to organize neighborhood events that benefit the community as a whole. It's a fantastic opportunity to turn your block party dreams into reality without breaking the bank.

To learn more and apply for a grant, visit the program's website <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/hn/nmgp>. To help simplify the application process, the California Heights Neighborhood Association will sponsor your application. We're committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community, and what better way to do that than by helping our neighbors create fantastic block party experiences?

As your sponsor, we can assist you in navigating the grant application process, offer advice on planning your block party, and even provide tips for a successful gathering. We're here to support you every step of the way.

So, what are you waiting for? Let's come together, celebrate our unique community, and create unforgettable memories right here in Cal Heights. Apply, reach out to us at [info@calheights.org](mailto:info@calheights.org) for support, and let's make this fall's block parties in our neighborhood the best yet! 🐾



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- Saturdays: 10:00am–5:00pm

Weekly Programs:

- Thursdays: Teen Program 2:00pm–4:00pm
- Fridays: Toddlers' Storytime 10:30am
- Saturdays: Family Storytime 10:30am

Monthly Programs:

- Crochet Workshop
- Adult Book Club

Address: 3680 Atlantic Ave. Long Beach, CA 90807  
 For more information, please call the Dana Library at (562) 570-1042.



**Cal Heights in Pictures**



1. 'Doc,' a Boeing B-29 Superfortress, approaching Long Beach Airport. Doc was in service for the United States military from March 1945 to May 1955.
2. Little Blue Hummingbird owner, Annie Flores. Little Blue Hummingbird is located at 1150 E. Wardlow Road and is open from Tuesday through Sunday.
3. Volunteers maintaining trees and the parkway along Pacific Avenue.





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4. Mariachi Los Santaneros perform at the 'Nuestras Raíces' First Fridays event in Bixby Knolls.
5. The Cal Heights Clean Streets Team and their weekly trash collection. The Clean Streets Team meets every Saturday at 9:00am at the corner of Lime and Wardlow.
6. Councilmember Kerr, California Heights Neighborhood Association members, and neighbors participating in the annual National Night Out.

STAY LOCAL




**SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT!**

Your donations to the BK Community Foundation go directly to support the BK BIA's core services that benefit the district and neighborhood: Private security patrols, litter and weed abatement, landscaping maintenance..and First Fridays!

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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"I'm the cobwebbed stairs, the ancient bones,  
I'm the shadow rippling cobblestones,  
I'm the stagnant swamp, the black lagoon,  
I'm the branches scratching at the moon..."

Hey, neighbors:

October burns orange and fall is obvious. Soccer season is in full swing now and signs of ghouls, goblins, witches, and creatures of the night are making appearances. My inner child gets all geeked-out when I pass any serious Halloween decorations. You can ask my wife Alissa about how I sneak off in stores to buy another tombstone or skull for the house. And oh, how I miss the monster movie marathons leading up to Halloween. We would stay up as late as we could watching Dracula, Frankenstein, and The Mummy. I watched The Exorcist too late one night and waited for sunrise to go to bed because I was so scared. And the most terrifying of all, of course, was Abbott and Costello Meet the Invisible Man. But shout out to our annual tradition of watching The Ghost and Mr. Chicken.

When this time of year comes around, we know that people get deep into their routines with work, school schedules, sports schedules, and other hustle and bustle life stuff. It's important that we keep you reminded of all the activities happening in the neighborhood and to take the time to support YOUR local businesses. There's always time for a coffee, beer, haircut, spa day, car wash, oil change, or other service to keep you energized for the crazy schedule. We are also working to keep the area clean and safe while thinking of "what's next?"



SHOP LOCAL

Speaking of next—Mark your calendars for October 15: “Walktoberfest.” Join us as we celebrate this fun Brewery Knolls tradition with the Beer Bus and tour of the district. All the stops will be featuring a food/drink special for you to enjoy. It’s FREE to ride the big red bus from stop to stop. We encourage you to support your local breweries and restaurants by purchasing food and drinks. Dress up! Be festive. All ages are welcome. Enjoy live Music at Rasselbock, Dutch’s Brewhouse, and Steelcraft. Oktoberfest playlists are featured at the other participating businesses. We will have a Big Red Bus tracker link, so you know exactly where the bus is and estimate the next bus pick up time.

I’m a good eavesdropper and heard people saying this at Bixby Joe one day: “Things to check out in the area: Brunch at Nonna Mercato. Karaoke Night (Wednesdays) at Dutch’s Brewhouse. First Fridays. Steelcraft. KUBO. Epic Wings. Sala Coffee & Wine. Sushi Nikkei. 579 Tattoo. Lucy’s Boudoir.” I wrote all this down as fast as I could.

Now, from the BK BIA, the monthly Business Recommendation: Beauty in Bixby, 4130 Atlantic Ave. Suite 109. An Intimate Boutique Skin Spa in the heart of Bixby Knolls. “You deserve to GLOW! Great skin is a result of exceptional skincare and consistency. With simplicity in mind, we customize facial treatments and product recommendations to achieve the results our clients deserve. The products used at Beauty in Bixby have been curated through years of experience. Our products used in the treatment room and recommended for home care have been clinically formulated to reveal healthy, glowing skin. Our goal is to send you off feeling your best. This is your time to relax, let go of your day and focus on you in the personal intimate setting of Beauty in Bixby. Kindness, compassion, and a fine tuned eye for individual beauty inside and out is what we stand for here at Beauty in Bixby and we look forward to welcoming you into our treatment room.”

Remember to always support your local businesses (and have a pumpkin-spiced latte). What are your Halloween plans this year? I think we may have a Spiderman and Alex Morgan Zombie in our house. We were stuck indoors in 2022 and the kids trick or treated room to room. Back out to the haunted streets on a candy hunt sounds pretty good to me.

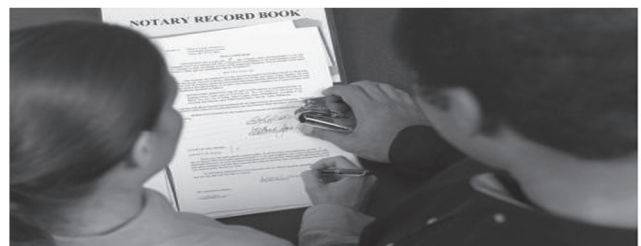
Quoth the Raven “Nevermore,”  
Blair

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**Saturdays:** Clean Streets Litter Abatement - 9:00am to 10:00am at the corner of Lime & Wardlow for neighborhood and freeway cleanup. The 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month Clean Streets meets at Bixby and Olive and joins the Longfellow Green Team for a cleanup around the school and neighborhood.

**First Friday of each Month:** First Fridays at Bixby Knolls.  
firstfridayslongbeach.com

**Every Second and Fourth Saturday:** Hazardous Waste Collection at EDCO, 9:00am to 2:00pm. longbeachrecycles.org



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**Gavin Newsom, Governor**  
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**Nanette Diaz Barragán, 44<sup>th</sup> House District**  
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