



# THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July/August 2025 | Vol.31, Issue 1

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

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## Cal Heights Block Party Returns on September 6, 2025\*

by Eniko Bolivar-Murphy

California Heights is turning up the charm once again for its second annual Block Party and this year's event promises to be bigger and better.

Neighbors and friends are invited to gather at the intersection of California Avenue and 37th Street between 11am and 4pm on Saturday, September 6 for a day filled with food, fun, and connection all set against the backdrop of the stunning historic homes that make Cal Heights so unique.

This year's celebration shines a spotlight on the neighborhood's architectural legacy, especially the homes built in 1925, now proudly celebrating their 100th anniversary.

From live music and local food trucks to games and activities for all ages, this event is designed with Cal Heights in mind. This year's event will be made more special thanks to the Long Beach Model T Club which will showcase a lineup of vintage cars.

We'd like to recognize and thank our sponsors, Councilwoman Megan Kerr and Riggi Properties, for helping to make this event possible. We'd also like to recognize the many local businesses and non-profit organizations who will participate in making this year's event even better.

Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the neighborhood, the California Heights Block Party is a chance to celebrate everything that makes this community feel like home. It's about honoring the past, enjoying the present, and strengthening the bonds that make Cal Heights such a special place to live.

Don't miss this day of community, connection, and celebration... we'll see you on the block!

p.s., Your donation to the CHNA helps fund the Block Party and other events that bring our community together. Please consider contributing today. 🙌



\*Correction - in the May edition of The Heights the Block Party date was listed as September 9th. The correct date is September 6th.

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## President's Message

Dear California Heights Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the summer season! It's wonderful to see our community thriving, and I look forward to sharing many more memorable moments together.

One event we're especially excited about is our Second Annual Centennial Block Party on September 6th from 11 am to 4 pm. This gathering has quickly become a cherished tradition, offering a fantastic opportunity to connect with neighbors in our community and welcome new faces to our vibrant neighborhood. There will be plenty of good food, great music, and fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our neighbors on California Avenue and 37th Street for providing the necessary signatures regarding our block party permit application. Your support is greatly appreciated!

We are currently looking for sponsors to help make our block party even more memorable. If you or anyone you know is interested in sponsoring this special event, please reach out at [president@calheights.org](mailto:president@calheights.org).

Friendly reminder! Are you following us on social media? Stay connected and up to date on community events, news, and neighborhood happenings by following us on Instagram at @calheights and on Facebook at California Heights Neighborhood Association.

Please mark your calendars and join us on September 6th, 2025 as we celebrate the spirit of our neighborhood. Stay tuned for more details—we'll be sharing additional information soon!

Sincerely,

Tara Riggi



CHNA at the 2024 Cal Heights Block Party

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## Save the Date California Heights Cocktails & Mocktails at Roxanne's

Join your neighbors for an afternoon of community and connection at Roxanne's in Cal Heights!

Saturday, October 4, 2025

3:00–7:00 p.m.

Roxanne's, 1115 E Wardlow Rd, Long Beach, CA

This neighborhood social doubles as a fundraiser for the California Heights Neighborhood Association. Tickets are \$75 and include:

- Two handcrafted cocktails or mocktails from Roxanne's curated event menu
- A grab-and-go meal featuring one of Roxanne's signature dishes

\$13.57 of each ticket benefits the neighborhood association directly, with the remaining cost covering food, drinks, and venue expenses.

Expect live music, a relaxed patio atmosphere, and the chance to meet fellow Cal Heights residents while supporting local initiatives.

This is a 21+ event. Ticket details and more information available here: <https://tinyurl.com/CalHeights>

Whether you're new to the neighborhood or a long-time local, it's a great way to stay connected and give back. We hope to see you there! 🍹





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Pop up vintage car show on Wardlow near Roxanne's. View the menu and events at [www.rox.bar](http://www.rox.bar).

## From the 5<sup>th</sup> District

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

All summer long, my team and I have been busy with Concerts in the Parks, CD5-hosted Community meetings, neighbor-led events, and more, and it's been great to connect with so many of you. Let's keep the active community spirit strong as we continue into the rest of the year!

In Long Beach, August means budget season, as the City prepares to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget on September 9. We've heard the Mayor's recommendations and will continue to hear from City departments on their needs and priorities for the coming fiscal year at budget hearings throughout this month. You, too, can join the budget conversation and share your feedback and priorities by attending a Community Budget Meeting, like the one on Sat., August 16 at 10 am at the Wardlow Park Community Center, or by submitting a Digital Comment Card by August 21. Review the proposed budget and learn more at [longbeach.gov/fy26](https://longbeach.gov/fy26).

Though the end of summer seems near with LBUSD schools back in session on August 26, there are still plenty of ways to enjoy the sunshine in the company of neighbors and friends right here in District 5. I hope to see you at the Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association's sponsored Concert in the Park at Los Cerritos Park on Wed., August 13; at the CD5-led Discover LBCC Community Concert at LBCC on Fri., August 15; and the next of our monthly CD5 Community Meeting series at the Wardlow Park Community Center at 6 pm on Thurs., August 21, where we will be joined by speakers from Long Beach Utilities.

Lastly, keep an eye out for some upcoming construction work this fall! Two major infrastructure projects—Carson St. from Orange Ave. to the railroad tracks at the city limit east of Cherry Ave. and Clark Ave. from Conant St. to Spring St.—are scheduled to begin this September with completion anticipated in early 2026. Be aware of posted signage and traffic impacts as the work gets underway!

As always, I appreciate your continued engagement with me and my office. Please continue to share questions, concerns, and ideas with me by calling (562) 570-5555 or emailing [district5@longbeach.gov](mailto:district5@longbeach.gov). 📧



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## Small Business Spotlight: Fingerprints Music

by Marion Saffery

Psssssst. Have you heard? We've just scored the coolest record store in town! Fingerprints Music has moved to our 'hood, and we couldn't be more excited.

Fingerprints first opened its doors in Belmont Shore in the summer of 1992, and landed at its new digs in April of this year. Owner-operator Rand Foster is already loving it here.

"It's amazing how supportive the neighborhood's been," Foster said. "Literally from the minute we opened the door. It's been really nice."

When asked to describe Fingerprints Music to people who haven't been there, Foster said this:

"First and foremost, Fingerprints is a record store, and everything that means—records, cassettes, CDs," he said. "We're growing our book section, and we have a pretty rockin' DVD, Blu-ray, 4K section as well, which people get pretty excited about. We buy and sell, so we come across a lot of stuff people haven't seen in years."

In addition to being a really great record store, Fingerprints has become known as a venue for high-end entertainment, including Brian Wilson, Jack Johnson, Cold War Kids, Matt Maltese, and Foo Fighters.

"It's also nice to bring in young artists who've come to tell us after-the-fact that our support early on made a big difference for them," Foster said.

Foster says he plans to work in tandem with neighboring businesses at this new location.

"We're doing some collaborations with Salud Juice over at Steelcraft, and we've been talking to Beachwood [Brewing and Distilling] about possibly doing something with them," he said.

All of that good stuff aside, Foster said what matters most is creating a haven for the people who visit.

"As a kid, record stores were my safe place," he said. "We want people to be comfortable here and feel like it's their record store."

Fingerprints Music is located at 3811 Atlantic Avenue in Long Beach. It's open Sunday through Thursday from 11

a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For online shopping and for more information, including upcoming events, visit [fingerprintsmusic.com](http://fingerprintsmusic.com), @fingerprintsmusic on Instagram, or call (562) 433-4996. 🐾



## Kiwanis Club 28th Annual Student Awards Luncheon

by Tara Riggi

On June 3, I had the distinct honor of attending the 28th Annual Student Awards Luncheon hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls. It was an inspiring celebration designed to recognize outstanding students from local middle schools who consistently demonstrate exceptional citizenship, strong academic performance, and genuine community involvement.

The dedication and effort of the organizers, especially Secretary Roger Leue and Marco Marano, were evident throughout the event, underscoring our community's deep commitment to celebrating and fostering youth achievement.

A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the prestigious \$2,000 Key Club Scholarship Awards. President Tony Diaz presented these awards to three impressive students—Brenda Vazquez and Brandon Vazquez from Jordan High School, and Kristine Del Rosario from Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School. Each recipient showcased outstanding academic achievements and meaningful contributions to their schools and neighborhoods.

In addition to these scholarships, principals and assistant principals from various schools proudly introduced 42 exemplary middle school students recognized for their leadership and positive impact within their communities.

Events like these affirm our community's commitment to nurturing responsible, community-minded citizens. Congratulations again to all the remarkable students—I eagerly anticipate their continued growth and contributions. 🐾

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## Cal Heights in Pictures

All images by Tom Underhill




1. BKBIA Concerts in The Parking Lot are just what we need!
2. Dave's Burgers on Atlantic and Wardlow
3. Long Beach Clothing is located at 4218 Atlantic Avenue



4. Los Cerritos 4th of July parade
5. Bixby Highlands Clean Team
6. Cooling off at First Fridays in Bixby Knolls!

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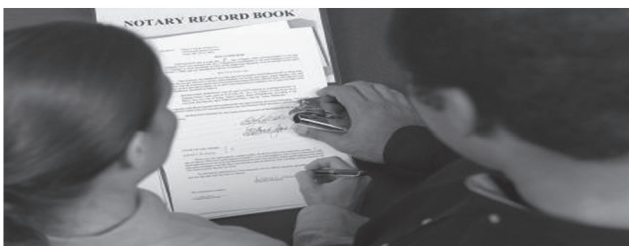
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## IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

Hey neighbors,

Ah, yes, deep into summer now. The good news is that at this point the family has taken a summer vacation to recharge our batteries. I'm ready to go back to my happy place at any given time (except winter). The better news is that we are gearing up to go on another grand adventure this month and where we can completely disconnect from all things electronic. As they say, "Don't call us, we'll call you. Off the grid."

I love August with its heat, and sunsets, and smelling like sunscreen. Our place has a constant pile of beach towels needing washing with the kids in and out of summer camp activities. These are the days of fresh watermelon and lots of white peaches. We love the parking lot concerts and Knights of the Round (Turn)Table gatherings.

But August is sneaky in that while we are lulled in the summer schedule of swimming, staying up late watching movies, and trekking all over, the orange month of September sends its signals that a new school year appears around the corner. Slow it down! Let's not rush it please. I want to savor all these days.

We certainly hope you all are having a great summer and doing all those things you meant to catch up on during the school year. Or not. Maybe it's better just to chill and let the season take you wherever feels best.

Shout Out: Dutch's BrewHouse, 4244 Atlantic. From Jason Van Fleet, owner: "Dutch's BrewHouse came about from sitting out at our backyard tiki bar entertaining friends. Over the years the Tiki bar became "Dutch's Tiki Bar." Jokingly I 'checked in' on Facebook to Dutch's Tiki Bar and it became our thing to do. Soon it was the social media joke amongst our friends to check in at 'Dutch's Tiki Bar' on Instagram and Facebook. For years, other friends came to me and said, "It always looks like you are having such a good time at Dutch's, where is it?" When I would say "That it was a bar in my backyard," they seemed a little deflated that it wasn't a local stomping ground open to everyone. This reaction got me thinking: "How can I bring that fun backyard bar feel to the masses?"

"A year or so went by and it hit me while trying to find a good place to get a craft beer with my brother in Bixby Knolls. I wanted to find a place that would be cool to hang out at that wasn't a big restaurant chain. This started me thinking that I should just open a brewpub, the kind I would hang out at. I thought, since I love craft beer and love brewing craft beer, why not open a place where people could brew beer and come and enjoy a good craft beer with great food while relaxing with friends and neighbors!" Dutch's is like "Cheers" for our neighborhood where people know your name and recognize you when hanging out. Dig the beer and pizza selection, the good music, and the good people.

Okay, so see you at the upcoming concerts! We have the "MOVE plays Beatles 1965" on August 1 (First Fridays); August 11 is our finale with Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra in the parking lot across from Steelcraft.

Where else but in Bixby Knolls can you find people dancing on Monday night in a parking lot?

Carpe Diem.

Every now and then we hear our song.  
We've been having fun all summer long,

Blair

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