



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

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California Heights Celebrates Community at Centennial Block Party

by Eniko Bolivar-Murphy

Our neighborhood came alive once again on September 6 for the 2nd Annual Centennial Block Party, and what a joy it was to celebrate together! This year's event honored the more than 120 homes built in 1925 and it was heartwarming to see neighbors come together to celebrate that legacy.

There's something truly special about gathering as a community. Events like this give us the opportunity not only to enjoy music, food, and history, but also to strengthen the connections that make California Heights such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who made this celebration possible. We are grateful for the support of 5th District Councilwoman Megan Kerr, Tara Riggi Properties, the City of Long Beach Community Development, Cal Heights Music, f/8 Studios, the Long Beach Model T Club, the Long Beach Historical Society, and Rancho Los Cerritos. Your contributions and partnership enriched the day and helped create a memorable experience for all who attended.

Most importantly, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to the residents of California Avenue and 37th Street. Your generosity in opening up your blocks for the benefit of the entire neighborhood truly embodies the spirit of community.

On behalf of the California Heights Neighborhood Association, thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating our history and our community. We look forward to continuing this tradition together in the years ahead! 🍷



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President's Message

Dear California Heights Neighbors,

What an incredible celebration we shared at our Second Annual Centennial Block Party! From live music and classic cars to neighbors connecting on every corner, the day was filled with joy, laughter, and the kind of community spirit that makes Cal Heights truly special. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to my fellow CHNA board members and our dedicated volunteers. Your hard work behind the scenes brought this event to life, and I am deeply grateful for the time and energy you invested to make it a success.

We also wrapped up another strong campaign with Long Beach Gives, raising just over \$7,600 to support our neighborhood programs! I am so grateful to every neighbor and friend who contributed. Your generosity helps us keep Cal Heights thriving. A special thank you goes to Trina Rufo and Manny Valenzuela for their generous donations, and to all of our sponsors, whose support makes these efforts possible. We are truly appreciative of each and every one of you!

As always, thank you for your continued support of the California Heights Neighborhood Association. It's your involvement, generosity, and pride in our community that keep Cal Heights "the Best in the West."

With gratitude, Tara Riggi



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How California Heights Became a Historic District

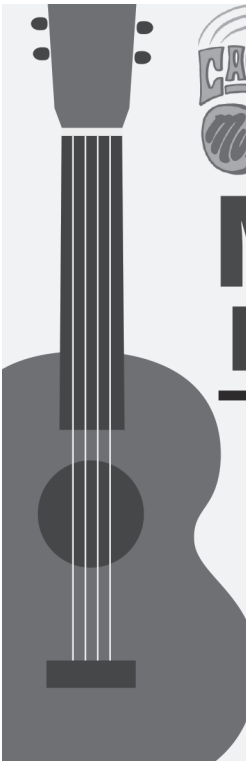
by Kerrie Weaver

A recommendation by the Cultural Heritage Commission to designate California Heights as a historic landmark district was brought to the City Council at their meeting on February 27, 1990. The ordinance was adopted by the City Council and went into effect on March 9, 1990. The boundaries at this time were the east side of Walnut Avenue, the west side of Lime Avenue, south of Bixby Road and north of Wardlow Road.

The ordinance states that, "California Heights is a typical subdivision of the 1920's, developed during a time of tremendous growth in the City, which has retained remarkable consistency of housing type and the integrity of its original "period" architecture. The neighborhood was subdivided between 1920-1929, moving from west to east. Most of the houses existing today were built between 1920-1950 and are predominately Spanish Colonial Revival single-family houses, intermixed with other period revival styles such as Tudor Revival, Norman Revival and Neo-Traditional (1938-1949). Earlier housing types, California Bungalows were moved into the area, relocated from other neighborhoods undergoing substantial redevelopment. War-time tract houses, Neo-Traditional in style, contribute to the district's architectural coherence, and represent continuity in residential development over three decades. Similarities in scale, setback, massing and materials relate the different architectural styles as a coherent, visually unified district. There has been relatively little physical alteration of the older houses, and relatively few noncontributing structures, so the neighborhood has a high degree of visual harmony and period charm."

On August 29, 2000, the City Council voted on a recommendation by the Cultural Heritage Commission to amend the ordinance to include Gaviota Avenue, Rose Avenue, and Gardenia Avenue as part of the designated historic landmark.

The passage of the amendment made California Heights the largest historic district in the City of Long Beach with nearly 1,500 homes. ↩



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
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From the 5th District

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

Let me begin by thanking you all for another great Summer Block Party for the Cal Heights community in early September. It is always nice to see residents come together in celebration of this community, and strengthen the neighborly bonds that make our city such a special place to live, work, and represent.

Early September also brought the annual budget cycle to an end, as the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget was adopted on Sept. 9th. I submitted five recommendations to the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC) for consideration, and I am happy to report that four were included in the final budget. These include further investments into Willow Springs Park, further study into skatepark feasibility at Heartwell Park, the continuation of local subsidy and reimbursement programs to encourage the transition to unleaded fuel at the Long Beach Airport, and the prioritization of CD5 neighborhoods near the airport – including Cal Heights – in the City's urban forestry program. Unfortunately, the fifth recommendation – regarding the feasibility of repairing streets in Cal Heights with concrete – is not being considered at this time, as the BOC had concerns with the disproportionate distribution of funds that would be necessary to cover the high-cost work. That said, I will continue to work in good faith with the Public Works Department and the Cal Heights Neighborhood Association to identify possible solutions.

As October begins so does the final phase of green bin distribution for the new State-mandated Organics Collection Service. Neighbors with Thursday and Friday trash pick-up days can expect service to begin on Oct. 9th and 10th, respectively. Please remember that this transition comes with growing pains for all parties involved, and we appreciate your patience and grace as routes are optimized, more trucks are brought online, and other wrinkles are ironed out moving forward. Visit longbeach.gov/LBOrganics for more details and tips, as well as info on reporting a missed collection or requesting a different size bin.

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.



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Salud Juice Bar Comes to Cal Heights in New Collab with Steelhead Coffee

by Marion Saffery

It's happened again, Cal Heights. Another longtime Long Beach favorite is opening a new location right here in our 'hood. And this time it's going to be a "twofer." Ready?

Salud Juice Bar owner Angela Keen is joining forces with John and Rany Aguirre of Steelhead Coffee, as Salud opens a new store in a soon-to-be shared space at Steelhead's newly expanded Wardlow location.

"We'll be there making a lot of noise," said Claire McCann, manager at the new location. "We're going to be putting a bar there — kind of like at our 2nd Street location — where you can go inside and hang out."

Our readers may already be familiar with Salud's other locations, including the one that recently opened at SteelCraft outdoor urban eatery on Long Beach Blvd. If you are, you know Salud serves fresh, healthy food and beverages.

"We are best known for our juices, and we have lots of smoothies, açai bowls, pitaya bowls, smoothie bowls, avocado toast, and our protein bites and banana berry toast," Claire said. "We have soup — we always carry our mineral broth — and the tomato bisque is a seasonal soup that will be coming back soon."

When asked if she's excited about a store in Cal Heights, Claire was more than enthusiastic.

"I'm SO excited," she said. "I'd never spent much time in Cal Heights before, and I love it now. It's been so cool

getting to know the clientele here, because it's neighborly and family-friendly. Everyone is so nice."

Salud's new space — located at 1204 E. Wardlow Road, next to Steelhead Coffee — is expected to open in November of this year. Hours will be weekdays from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Order online at saludjuice.com, or with the Salud Juice Bar app in your device's app store. 🐾

Bringing the Dead Back to Life: HSLB's 29th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour

by Mary Dixon

Each year, the Historical Society of Long Beach travels to the two oldest cemeteries in the city to bring the dead back to life.

We don't use magic or witchcraft to accomplish this. The Historical Cemetery Tour uses nothing more than old-fashioned research and storytelling to resurrect a handful of chosen "residents" at Sunnyside and Municipal Cemeteries and share their histories with more than 1,000 visitors every year on the last Saturday of October. 2025 marks our 29th annual visit to these historic cities of the dead.

Every year, we choose eight stories to tell—sometimes from well-known figures who helped shape Long Beach, sometimes from ordinary people who led ordinary lives. HSLB believes that everyone's story is worth remembering and telling. We research their lives and write short scripts that highlight what made that person's life significant. Actors in period costume portray these people, providing a new perspective on Long Beach history. Performances last 10 minutes and are repeated every 20 minutes.

In addition to the stories of those buried at Sunnyside and Municipal, there are historical talks, an ofrenda for Dia de los Muertos, book signings from local authors, and more. We try to share Long Beach's rich and diverse history in as many ways as possible. There's something for everyone.

HSLB's annual Historical Cemetery Tour is on October 25, 2025, from 9am to 3pm. Gates open at 8:30am. Arrive by noon if you want to see everything. You are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in a designated area under the trees. Parking is limited, so carpooling, rideshare, and public transportation are recommended. Tickets are \$25 presale, \$30 at the gate. You can purchase tickets now at hslb.org. Sunnyside and Municipal cemeteries are located at 1095 & 1151 East Willow St. in Long Beach. Contact Outreach Coordinator Mary Dixon at outreach@hslb.org or 562-424-2220 if you have any questions. 🐾

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Cal Heights in Pictures

All images by Tom Underhill





Images: left side First Friday Bixby Knolls

Above: Mayor Rex Richardson at Andres Car Wash, Cal Heights block party

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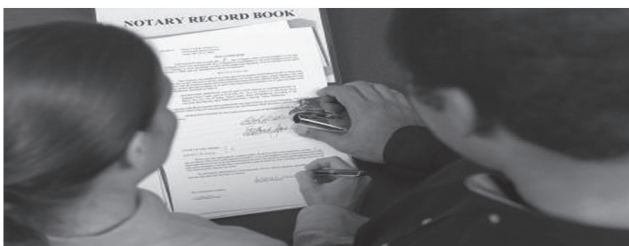
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IN THE KNOW'LLS What's New? What's Happening?

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

September Song

"Do you remember the 21st night of September?"
Earth, Wind, and Fire

Hey Neighbors,

The last twelve months have come and gone quickly as it seems I was just writing the note for last September only weeks ago. Though I am never quite ready to say so long to summer, we now must switch gears into the school routine and normal bedtime hours. The new school clothes have been washed and are ready to go as are the new shoes, new notebooks, new pencils, and new backpacks.

Though "the days grow short" in September, I am not feeling too sad about it this year. We have great summer memories of two vacations—one to our "nearest far away place" --and one was setting sail on the Atlantic Ocean like the Vikings looking for new lands. We got see cities and towns we have always wanted to explore, and our batteries were recharged on a well-deserved break.

This school year is a big one for us in that our kids get to have one year together at the same school. Three cheers for convenience!

We are back at the Coliseum for Trojan home games and working on our new passing plays for my daughter's Friday Night Lights flag football team.

September also seems like a reunion of sorts as we get to see all the neighbors returning from vacations. Those we didn't get to see at parking lot concerts are now sharing their stories of camping trips or times in Hawaii or Ireland. We know one wild family that drove across the country and back!

The BKBIA crew is getting psyched up for planning Walktoberfest, SantaCon, Kidical Mass Zombie Ride, our First Fridays Holiday Party, and all the new business showcases and features. We have lots of Strolling to do and Knights music sessions to enjoy. Small Business Saturday is closer than we realize, and we look to all of you for your ongoing support. And when all of this is set and good to go, we bounce around new ideas and "what-about-if-we-try-this" scenarios. You will be the first to hear of all the new things.

Monthly Business Recommendation: Radiance Sauna & Salt Lounge, 4512 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA, 90807, 562-286-1180, info@radianceinfrared.com. From their website: "At Radiance Infrared Sauna and Salt Lounge, we believe in helping you feel better in a real, lasting way. If you're searching for natural, effective solutions to improve your well-being, you've come to the right place. Our infrared sauna and salt therapy services are designed to provide relief, enhance your health, and elevate your quality of life—long after your session ends." And about the Salt Room Experience: "Visiting a salt room can be a unique and therapeutic experience designed to promote respiratory and skin health and overall well-being. Salt therapy is beneficial for people of all ages." Please take the time to treat yourself to this special spot. Mark and Mia are so kind and enthusiastic and just know you will come out refreshed from a spa treatment.

New things are coming to the neighborhood and with additional city support, we will continue to keep our district clean and safe, well-manicured, activated, connected, and all in a way you will be proud of.

So now it's onward and upward. Bring on the walks to school and Longfellow's 100 Mile Club. Bring on the homework, Friday night football games, the meaningful conversations at Strollers and Literary Society. Bring on the Music Mondays, Taco Tuesdays, Happy Hours, Yappy Hours, silly costumes and the animals at the Bixby Knolls National Park.

Wishing you all safe passage, a happy autumnal equinox, and your stars in alignment for your daily routines.

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