



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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Centennial Block Party Returns on Saturday, September 19th

by Eniko Bolivar-Murphy

The California Heights Neighborhood Association is excited to invite neighbors to our Community Block Party on Saturday, September 19th. This year's celebration promises to be bigger and better than ever, as we also mark the centennial of homes built in 1926. Our event will honor a century of history, character, and community in California Heights, the largest historic district in Long Beach.

The annual block party will offer something for everyone, including booths focused on home preservation and historical education, children's activities, food available for purchase, a Model T car showcase, and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors.

We're also delighted to welcome back the Kelly Fitzgerald Trio, whose live music will provide an upbeat, all ages-friendly soundtrack for the day.

This year, we've also strengthened our opportunity drawing with an exciting collection of prizes. Neighbors will have the chance to win tickets to Southern California favorites such as the Aquarium of the Pacific, The Long Beach Symphony, The Broad Museum, brunch for two at the Queen Mary, and a grand prize: a one on one "Research Your Home" workshop with Maureen Neely, valued at \$250.

Since this is truly a community block party, we need the community's help to make it happen. If you have unused sports or event tickets to donate, pop-up tents and chairs we can borrow, or time to help with set up or tear down, your support will make a big difference. Please reach out to info@calheights.org to get involved.

We look forward to celebrating our neighborhood's past, present, and future, together. 🍷



Council Member Kerr and CHNA at the 2024 Cal Heights Block Party

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President's Message

Dear California Heights,

As we head into summer, I continue to be reminded how special our neighborhood truly is. California Heights is more than just a collection of beautiful historic homes. It's a community of neighbors who care deeply about where they live and who consistently show up for one another.

Over the past few months, we've seen residents come together for neighborhood cleanups, preservation efforts, community meetings, local events, and countless everyday moments that make this area feel like home. Whether it's helping a neighbor, volunteering at an event, planting trees, or simply taking pride in our streets, those small actions collectively shape the character of California Heights.

Our board continues to stay engaged on issues impacting the neighborhood, including infrastructure, public safety, preservation, and ongoing communication with city departments. As always, our goal is to ensure residents feel informed, heard, and connected.

I also want to thank everyone who continues to support CHNA through memberships, donations, volunteering, and attendance at our events. This organization exists because of the passion and dedication of our residents, and we are grateful for every person who contributes their time and energy to keeping California Heights thriving.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our Third Annual Centennial Block Party on September 19th! This event has quickly become one of our favorite neighborhood traditions and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the history, character, and community spirit that make California Heights so special. We hope to see neighbors of all ages out enjoying the afternoon together.

Looking ahead, we're excited for continued opportunities to bring our community together. Be sure to follow us on Instagram at @calheights and on Facebook for updates, announcements, and ways to get involved.

Thank you for continuing to make California Heights such a vibrant and welcoming place to call home.

Warmly,

Tara Riggi

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for:

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Small-Business Spotlight: Primary Care Animal Hospital

by Marion Saffery

For this issue, we spoke with Dr. Kate Raczak (aka "Dr. Kate"), one of the founders of Primary Care Animal Hospital in Cal Heights, which opened its doors in August 2020. Along with dogs and cats, Primary Care treats small mammals—like rabbits, rats, and guinea pigs—some small reptiles, and birds.

"We're primarily general practice, and in the veterinary field, that encompasses a lot," Dr. Kate said. "It includes vaccines, wellness appointments, routine blood screenings, imaging, dental services, and things that are a little more unique, like acupuncture and cold-laser therapy."

Primary Care's four doctors treat illnesses and provide hospitalization to patients who need it. An on-site laboratory helps doctors quickly diagnose sick pets, so they can get treatment as soon as is possible. Pet parents can also make "tech appointments" for existing patients who need nail-trims, have doctor-ordered blood draws, or who need vaccines, as long as they've been examined within the last year. "California recently changed its laws, and now animals who need vaccines must have an up-to-date exam within a 12-month period," Dr. Kate said.

If your pet is insured, the people at Primary Care are there to make the process as easy as it can be. They accept Trupanion Pet Insurance, and will help facilitate insurance claims through other carriers. "Veterinary insurance is different from insurance for people," Dr. Kate said. "In most cases, you pay for your services and then you submit a bill to the insurance carrier afterward. We'll fill out any paperwork needed for vet insurance outside of Trupanion."

When asked what she and her coworkers like about working in Cal Heights, Dr. Kate had some nice things to say. "We love the neighborhood and found it to be very inviting," she said. "When we first got here, we were invited to First Fridays, which was amazing, and Roxanne's reached out to us. When Meat & Vino opened, they came over and gave us coupons. A lot of our employees frequent Coffee Drunk. It's just a really nice, close-knit community."

Primary Care Animal Hospital is located at 920 E. Wardlow Road, at the southwest corner of California Avenue, and is open from 8:00am to 6:00pm every day but Sunday. To make an appointment or to learn more, call (562) 471-7711 or visit www.primaryvetcare.com.



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From the 5th District

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors,

I hope you all had a pleasant and meaningful Memorial Day, in honor and appreciation of those who gave their lives in service to our country. As the three-day weekend is often considered the symbolic start of summer, we can now look forward to another packed season of concerts in parks (and parking lots), community meetings, block parties, movie nights, and other great ways to connect with one another in our beautiful city. As a reminder, LBUSD students will celebrate their last day of the school year on Thursday, June 11th. While the schools quiet down, be aware of increased activity at parks, beaches, and other youth-serving locations all summer long.

As we hit the midpoint of 2026, I reflect on the actions and accomplishments of my office throughout this term. My team and I have handled more than 9,000 constituent cases, helping residents like you resolve problems and connect with resources. I have ushered in long-awaited projects like the dedication of Willow Springs Park as park space in perpetuity, and the forthcoming completion of Fire Station 9 that will create additional support for our entire emergency response system. I've supported economic development and advocated for the needs of small businesses in our communities. I pushed for investments into the betterment of our neighborhoods with funding for tree plantings and moving infrastructure projects forward. I authored or cosigned on several items aimed at addressing larger scale concerns being brought forth by residents, asking for the research needed to make informed policy decisions, and keeping residents informed along the way. There is still more work to do, and I will continue to do my best to meet the needs of the Fifth District as we strive for a stronger, safer city.

For more timely updates on council actions, initiatives, and community events, I encourage you to opt-in for my weekly digital newsletter at longbeach.gov/district5. 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.

Warmly,
Councilwoman Megan Kerr




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All images by Tom Underhill



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1. Interior of the recently opened Linden Club. The Linden Club is a wedding and event venue and is located at 3636 Linden Avenue.
2. Berries for sale at the Bixby Knolls Farmers' Market. The Farmers' market is located at 4580 Atlantic Avenue on Thursdays from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.
3. District 5 City Council Debate held at the Expo Arts Center on Wednesday, May 20th. Be sure to vote on Tuesday, June 2nd!





SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES



- 4. Volunteers at the Earth Day Cleanup Event on Friday, April 24th. Caltrans District 7 and Council District 5 hosted this event. Interested in keeping Cal Heights clean? Volunteer with the Clean Streets Team; they meet at 8:00am on Saturdays at the corner of Lime & Wardlow.
- 5. The Blasters at Fingerprints Music, located at 3811 Atlantic Avenue. For future events at this location, see www.fingerprintsmusic.com/events.
- 6. Artist Dave Van Patten painting at the Expo.

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Concerts in the Park

by Tara Riggi

Did you know that California Heights has lots of free family-friendly summer music options that can be found in our local parks and even parking lots?

Parking lots? Yes, parking lots! Hosted by the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association (BKBIA), Concerts in the Park(ing Lot) transforms local parking lots into vibrant gathering spaces. Each event features a rotating lineup of talented bands playing crowd-favorite hits that get everyone dancing, singing, and celebrating together. Grab dinner from your favorite Bixby Knolls or Cal Heights spot and remember to bring blankets and chairs. For more information about the bands and scheduled dates, visit www.bixbyknollsinfo.com.

At our local Los Cerritos Park, you can find the delightful sounds of the Long Beach Municipal Band every Wednesday from the end of June through the end of July. The Long Beach Municipal Band is celebrating its 117th season, and this year's theme, Picnics and Pops, celebrates Long Beach's iconic history, culture, and community through popular hits across the decades. Concerts begin at 6:30pm. Bring blankets, chairs, picnic-style dinners and snacks, and enjoy an evening of free live music in our local park.

Wednesdays at Los Cerritos Park:

- June 24th
- July 1st
- July 8th
- July 15th
- July 22nd
- July 29th

The summer music fun continues into August as the Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association hosts two additional Wednesday evening concerts at Los Cerritos Park beginning at 6:00pm.

- Wednesday, August 5th featuring The Emperors
- Wednesday, August 12th (band to be announced)

Whether you prefer big band classics, pop favorites, or dancing under the summer sky with neighbors and friends, there is no shortage of ways to enjoy live music right here in and around California Heights this summer. 🎶

Home Research Workshop was a Success!

by Kerrie Weaver

About 30 California Heights residents chose to spend part of their Saturday morning with the California Heights Neighborhood Association to take part in a workshop to learn how to research their homes. The workshop featured presenter Maureen Neeley, MLIS, House Historian. Maureen is a local reference librarian and the owner of HouStories. Maureen and her team have researched over 400 properties in Long Beach, including residential, commercial, and multi-family.

Over the course of the workshop, Maureen explained the various resources available to access information about your home's history. For example, city building permits may lead you to the original building permits with the owner's and builder's information and the Long Beach Utility Department will have the date an address was hooked up to the city's sewer system. Once you have the owners name, city directories may provide you with the owner's occupation and their spouses name, while local yearbooks may have photos of the previous owners.

Other valuable resources included county records like tax assessment records, deeds/grants, house number maps, tract maps, and old city maps. Publications like trade magazines often included the names of the owners, architects, and in some lucky cases, detailed information about the home itself. Newspapers often included information about building permits, social events, obituaries, accidents, and fires.

Many of these resources have been digitized and are available online while others require a trek to the Los Angeles County Assessor's office, the Kenneth Hall of Administration, the Historical Society of Long Beach, and/or the Long Beach Public Library.

For those who missed the workshop, Maureen offers a variety of services through her business including a custom house history book, assistance with the Mills Act or Historic Landmark Application, and one-on-one research and consulting. Visit her website at www.HouStories.net for more information.

CHNA would like to thank Maureen and all the residents who joined us. Let us know if there is an interest in having Maureen back for another workshop in the future by contacting us at info@calheights.org. 🐾

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

by Blair Cohn, Executive Director BKBIA

"It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside." — Maud Hart Lovelace

Hey, Neighbors:

And again, it's June. Father's Day. Graduation. Summer solstice. Juneteenth. Donut Day. Mark your calendars for National Egg Roll Day (June 10th), National Eat All of Your Vegetables Day (June 17th), International Sushi Day (June 18th), National Selfie Day (June 21st), National Onion Rings Day (June 22nd). Another year older, and Happy 12th Anniversary Alissa Cohn.

And the end is near. The end of the school year that is. The kids on the playgrounds get hyper and hearts beat faster with their countdown to the final bell. Then summertime. The noise and bodies scatter in all directions. Friends who sat next to each other all year or met each day to play during recess walk off into their own plans for vacation and summer camps. The next week is just the lonely sound of the tetherball chain clinking against the pole, saying "come play with me." The lone red sweater and one kickball not gathered up stay on the blacktop under the summer sun until the cycle starts all over again.

It's a big summer for us. Our daughter completes her elementary school chapter and moves onto middle school (Cue the song "Sunrise, Sunset"). Our son will join the ranks of kindergarten. Talks of two schools will seem odd come September.

But time marches on and we do welcome summer...and our Concert in the Park(ing Lot) series!

We welcome the return of the Yari More Latin Band. Yari More, accompanied by his talented group of musicians, has graced numerous prestigious events and venues, including Fiesta Broadway, Telemundo's Fiesta Del Sol, and the vibrant Festival Calle Ocho in Miami. His orchestra has audiences in major nightclubs across New York, Chicago, Mexico City, and even as far as, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii. Notable performances include appearances at the House of Blues, the Hollywood Bowl for the Playboy Jazz Festival, and the RMM 10th Show at Madison Square Garden. Yari's dynamic presence has also featured on popular shows like The Jay Leno Show and The Vibe with band, showcasing his incredible talent and passion for music. See you June 22nd in the Bixby Joe parking lot.

Business Profile: Patricia's Mexican Restaurant, 3626 Atlantic Avenue, (562) 426-7547. A Bixby Knolls favorite and staple. From their website: "We opened our doors in May of 2001 and the rest is history. We are proud to be the staple of Mexican cuisine for the Bixby Knolls and California Heights area of Long Beach. We are family owned and operated. Which means that we take great pride in our food and our service. We do our best to make our patrons feel as if they're part of the family. We have a vast and flexible menu. Our vast menu ensures that our customers return with regularity and it never becomes mundane because there are so many dishes to try. We have classic Mexican cuisine and authentic Mexican favorites from the homeland. That's what makes us popular with everyone." And they do amazing catering, too!

So, now I am waiting for the summer solstice and celebrating the longest day. It will give me more time to wax poetic about the kids growing older. And there's more time to think of the fun things like summer freedom, swimming pools, sunscreen, vacations, staycations, late nights with the smell of star jasmine. The school year will end, and the summer antics begin. Look for us taking walks in the neighborhood and counting how many kickballs and red sweaters we see on the school campuses.

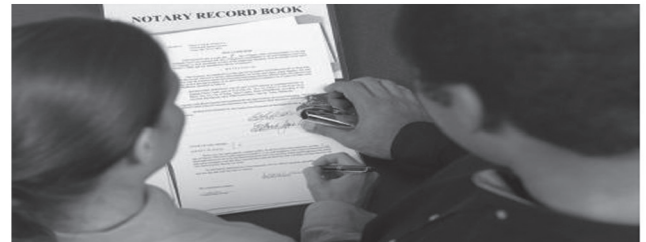
REMINDER: If you are not getting our email updates, I encourage you to sign up for the newsletters at www.bixbyknollsinfo.com. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @bixbyknolls [Facebook.com/BKBIA](https://www.facebook.com/BKBIA).

See you at the parking lot concerts.
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