



THE HEIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July/August 2026 | Vol.32, Issue 1

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

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562 250 4250
info@calheights.org

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Christa Stelmüller
treasurer@calheights.org

Newsletter Editor

John Moreland
newsletter@calheights.org

Newsletter Volunteer Coordinator

Alfredo Valenzuela

Photographer

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Newsletter Idea Submission

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Join Us Saturday, September 19th from 11:00am to 4:00pm for the California Heights Block Party!

by Eniko Bolivar-Murphy

The California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) invites neighbors to our 3rd Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 19th, as we celebrate the centennial of the homes built in 1926 and the people that make California Heights so special.

Building on the past two years, this year's event promises to be our biggest and best yet. This year's Block Party will take place on California Avenue, between Bixby Road and 35th Street, and 37th Street, between Myrtle and Lewis Avenues. We are grateful to these residents for allowing the neighborhood to gather on their street for the third consecutive year.

The Block Party will once again feature many of the favorites neighbors have come to love, including:

- Live music from California Heights' own Kelly Fitzgerald Trio
- Fun and engaging activities for children
- A showcase of historic Model T automobiles
- Educational and home preservation booths
- Food and soft drinks available for purchase

This year's Opportunity Drawing features an outstanding lineup of prizes donated by community partners and sponsors, including:

- Research Your Home experience with local historian Maureen Neely of HouStory – a prize valued at more than \$250
- A vintage California Heights mural print
- Tickets to the Broad Museum
- Brunch for two aboard the Queen Mary
- Tickets to the Aquarium of the Pacific
- Tickets to the Long Beach Symphony
- And many additional prizes are still being added!

How You Can Support the Block Party

As a volunteer-led event, we welcome donations of time, talent and treasure from neighbors and local businesses. Ways to help include:

- Donate sports or concert tickets, museum passes, or other experiences for the Opportunity Drawing
- Lend pop-up tents or chairs for the day
- Volunteer for setup, tear-down, activities or cleanup
- Make a monetary contribution to offset event expenses at calheights.org

Please contact us at info@calheights.org to contribute. Join us as we celebrate 100 years of California Heights homes, honor our neighborhood's history, and enjoy an afternoon of music, fun and community spirit. We look forward to celebrating with you! 🎉

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President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

We are in the heart of summer, and there is so much to look forward to in our community! As we continue celebrating our Centennial year, I'm especially excited for one of our favorite neighborhood traditions, the California Heights Centennial Block Party on Saturday, September 19th. There is something special about neighbors coming together to share a meal, enjoy live music, meet new friends, and celebrate the community we all call home. Whether you've lived here for decades or just moved into the neighborhood, I hope you'll join us!

As we celebrate our Centennial, I'd love to hear from you. What does community mean to you? Whether it's knowing your neighbors, lending a helping hand, preserving our historic homes, supporting local businesses, or simply waving hello during an evening walk, we'd love to feature your thoughts in an upcoming newsletter and on social media. Please send a few sentences to president@calheights.org.

We're also beginning to plan our 2027 California Heights Home & Garden Tour and are looking for homeowners interested in opening their homes or gardens. Whether your home features a thoughtful restoration, unique architectural details, or a beautiful garden, we'd love to hear from you. Please email president@calheights.org if you'd like to learn more.

A Special Thank You

On behalf of the California Heights Neighborhood Association, I'd like to thank Alfredo Valenzuela as he concludes his service on the CHNA Board. Since joining in 2015, Alfredo has faithfully served our neighborhood, most notably as Newsletter Coordinator, helping keep our community informed and connected. His dedication and years of volunteer service have made a lasting impact on California Heights. Alfredo, thank you for everything you've done. We wish you all the best!

Finally, be sure to follow the California Heights Neighborhood Association on Facebook (facebook.com/calheights) and Instagram (@calheights) for neighborhood events, preservation projects, volunteer opportunities, local business spotlights, and community updates.

Thank you for helping make California Heights such an incredible place to call home. I look forward to celebrating with all of you on September 19th!

Warmly,
Tara Riggi

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for:

- **Webmaster**
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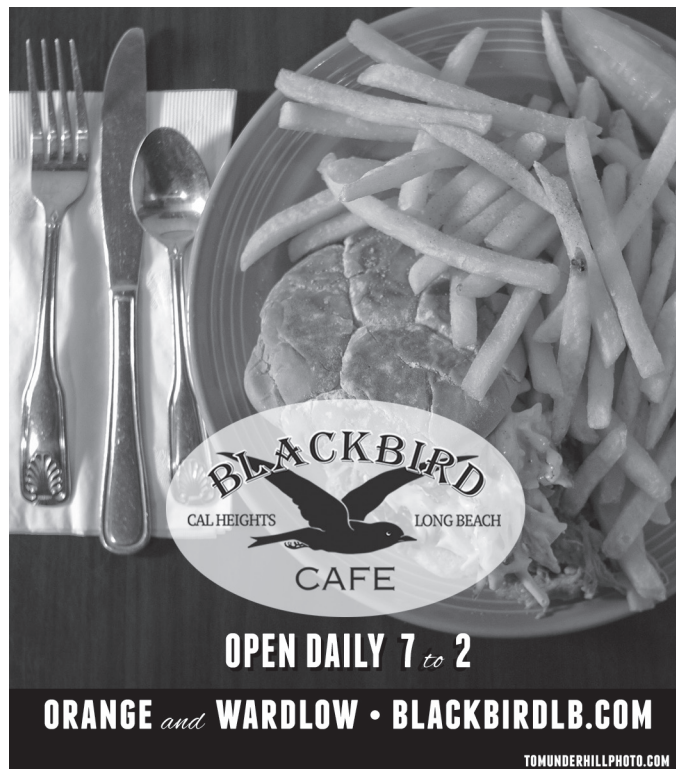
If you are looking to help the neighborhood, reach out at info@calheights.org!

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Students Honored at Kiwanis Awards Luncheon

by Marion Saffery

Last June, the Bixby Knolls/North Long Beach chapter of the Kiwanis Club recognized 42 outstanding junior high school students and three high school seniors at its annual Student Awards Luncheon at The Grand Long Beach.

The local chapter is part of a global network of clubs and members who work together and with other organizations to benefit people, especially children. Each year, it honors six students—one boy and one girl from each of three grades—attending seven Long Beach junior high schools. The students are chosen for demonstrating model citizenship, resilience, and outstanding service to their schools.

"Having taught myself for 40 years, we spend so much time with the kids who don't behave," said Myra Kremen, retired teacher and chapter president. "This is an excellent way to acknowledge students who volunteer, who do behave, and who make a positive impact at school."

During the event, an audience of parents, teachers, and Kiwanis members watched as a teacher from each of the seven schools spoke about the awardees individually, and then presented plaques and certificates to each one.

In addition, Kiwanis awarded each of three students from two Long Beach high schools Key Club college scholarships in the amount of \$2,000. Kiwanis recognized the students for their outstanding leadership and service as members of their schools' Key Clubs.

"We encourage the Key Clubbers to do volunteer work and to get involved," Kremen said. "They have projects where they serve others at their schools and in their communities. They have their own governing bodies, and conventions where they interact with kids from other areas."

Kiwanis Club is a global volunteer organization dedicated to improving communities and the lives of children. Our local chapter meets at Taboon Mediterranean restaurant in Cal Heights every third Tuesday at 6:00pm. The public is encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, visit kiwanisbixbyknolls.com. 🐾



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From the 5th District

Councilwoman Megan Kerr



Hello Cal Heights Neighbors, I hope you all enjoyed a safe and celebratory Fourth of July! Though the holiday has passed, summer fun continues, and I hope to see you at upcoming community events like outdoor concerts, block parties, park activations, and more.

As you may know, CA Senate Bill 707 (SB707) went into effect on July 1st, requiring that public meetings of legislative bodies adopt a hybrid meeting format. The public now has the option to view, listen, and speak during City Council meetings via Zoom. Links will be available on the agenda and on the City Clerk's webpage, longbeach.gov/cityclerk. To help residents understand the new participation options, we have invited the City Clerk Team to attend our next CD5 Community Meeting, being held on Thursday, July 30th at 6:00pm at the Wardlow Park Community Center to share the latest updates on SB707 implementation and answer questions. At that same meeting, we'll be joined by the City Manager's Team to discuss updates related to the LA28 Olympics. We hope to see you there!

As we enter August, the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget Adoption Cycle will begin! The Mayor is expected to release the proposed FY27 Budget on Thursday, July 30th, and the City Manager will formally present it at the first Budget Hearing on Tuesday, August 4th, at 5:00pm. Budget Hearings and Budget Oversight Committee meetings will continue throughout August, until the final Budget Adoption Hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, at 5:00pm. Community members will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed budget by attending any of five Community Budget meetings. The first of these will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 5th, and the last will be at LBCC on Thursday, August 13th. Learn more and RSVP at longbeach.gov/fy27.

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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Long Beach Gives Returns on September 24th, 2026

by Kerrie Weaver

Long Beach Gives is a citywide, online fundraising campaign to raise awareness and inspire community giving for Long Beach nonprofits that make Long Beach a stronger, more vibrant place to live. The California Heights Neighborhood Association is proud to be counted as one of those participating nonprofits again this year.

For decades, the California Heights Neighborhood Association has worked to preserve the character, history, and beauty of our neighborhood while fostering a strong sense of community. Through neighborhood events, beautification projects, advocacy, and programs that connect residents, the California Heights Neighborhood Association has worked toward making California Heights a welcoming place for everyone.

This year our focus is on continuing to fund one of our newest and favorite traditions, the California Heights Block Party, which transforms our neighborhood into a celebration of community, featuring live music, local vendors, family activities, food, and opportunities for neighbors to connect. When you give to the California Heights Neighborhood Association through Long Beach Gives, you're investing in a stronger, more connected community and your donation—large or small—helps to continue building a neighborhood where neighbors know one another, take pride in their surroundings, and work together to make a lasting difference.

Visit www.longbeachgives.org on September 24th to donate. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting California Heights during Long Beach Gives 2026. Every gift makes an impact!

LONG BEACH
Gives

Cal Heights in Pictures

All images by Tom Underhill



1. Junior high and high school students receive awards at the annual Kiwanis Awards Luncheon. The local chapter meets at Taboon Mediterranean restaurant every third Tuesday at 6:00pm.
2. Kiwanis members (from left to right) Roger Leue, Myra Kreman, and Hailes Soto at the Kiwanis Awards Luncheon.
3. Touching up the mural at George's 50's Diner. George's 50's Diner is located at the southeast corner of Atlantic Avenue and San Antonio Drive in Bixby Knolls.
4. Volunteers from the Cal Heights Clean Streets Team, showing their collection. 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. Revelers in the Los Cerritos 4th of July Parade. The parade traveled down Country Club Drive to Los Cerritos Park.
6. Live music at the 2025 Cal Heights Block Party. We hope to see you at the 2026 Block Party on Saturday, September 19th!

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Community Meetings are Coming to California Heights

by Tara Riggi

One of the goals we've heard from many residents is the desire for more opportunities to connect, share ideas, and stay informed about what's happening in California Heights. We're excited to share that the California Heights Neighborhood Association (CHNA) plans to begin hosting regular community meetings in the near future.

First, I'd like to thank our neighbors for your patience. Over the past two years, we have been working hard behind the scenes, but one challenge we faced was not having a permanent location to host our Board meetings or larger community gatherings. Thankfully, we've recently secured a meeting space, allowing us to begin planning regular meetings where residents can come together, ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about the projects and initiatives happening throughout the neighborhood. Our mission has always been "Educating the Present, Preserving the Past," and these community meetings are another way we hope to bring that mission to life. Our focus has always been, and always will be, community-driven. We believe California Heights is strongest when neighbors have a seat at the table and an opportunity to help shape the future of our historic neighborhood. As details are finalized, we'll announce meeting dates, times, and locations on our Facebook and Instagram pages, so be sure to follow us and keep an eye out for upcoming announcements.

We also want to hear from you. What programs, events, educational opportunities, or neighborhood initiatives would you like to see CHNA offer? How can we better serve our residents? Your feedback helps guide our priorities and ensures we're focusing on what matters most to our community. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, or comments by emailing president@calheights.org.

Finally, none of what CHNA accomplishes would be possible without the support of volunteers. Whether you'd like to help at one of our neighborhood events, assist with a specific project, or are interested in becoming more involved by serving on the CHNA Board of Directors, we'd love to hear from you. New ideas, fresh perspectives, and dedicated volunteers are what keep our organization strong and our neighborhood thriving.

California Heights has always been a neighborhood built by neighbors. We invite you to get involved, share your voice, and help us continue educating the present, preserving the past, and building an even stronger community for generations to come. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming community meetings! 🐾

Orange Avenue and Bixby Zone-In Updates

by John Moreland

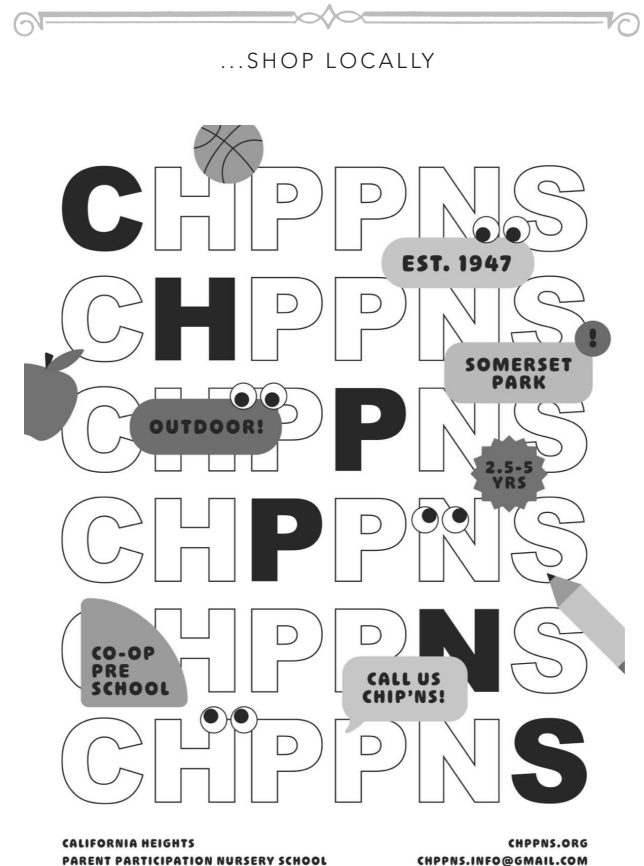
In issues of this newsletter earlier this year, I provided a summary of the Orange Avenue bike lanes and the Bixby Knolls Zone-In update. Here's a brief summary of what's happened since the last articles and what to expect in the future.

Orange Avenue Bike Lanes

Alternative 2, which includes removal of the center turn lane in lieu of two striped bike lanes, one on each side of the street, was approved to move forward. On June 9th, the City awarded the construction contract to Excel Paving Company. Work is expected to begin in the fall. Within Cal Heights, the plans include a new mid-block pedestrian crossing across Orange Avenue between 36th Street and Wardlow Road, an enhanced pedestrian crossing at 37th Street, and a new bus stop in front of California Heights United Methodist Church (relocated from the north side of Bixby Road). Also, for enhanced visibility and safety, about 23 parking spaces along Orange Avenue will be removed. The project is expected to take two years to complete. The City has identified they will reach out to the community prior to construction starting.

Bixby Zone-In Update

Also on June 9th, the City of Long Beach formally approved the Bixby Zone-In project. This project had no changes to California Heights, but areas surrounding Cal Heights were rezoned to be consistent with the Land Use and Urban Design Elements of the General Plan, which were adopted by the City in December 2019. For information about the final plan that was approved, please see: <https://www.longbeach.gov/lbcd/planning/initiatives--programs/zonein/zone-in-bixby>.



STAY LOCAL




SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT!

Your donations to the BK Community Foundation go directly to support the BKBIA'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

"August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year. It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms." – Victoria Erickson

Hey, neighbors:

Ah, yes, the radiating heat of summertime. The family all looks sun-kissed, and I am still just pink...or more like lobster-red.

We have been swimming, had a full dose of the World Cup (I sported my Team Jamaica jersey for the spirit of Bob Marley), been bike riding, did a drive-in movie, celebrated 250 years, went to Chicago to see the Rush concert, enjoyed Knott's Summer Nights and the OC Fair, and the kids are staying up late each night unless they are burned out by summer camp.

June was a trickster because the first half focused on the school year end and the second half focused on prepping for summer camps. The summer solstice gets huge praise in our house for the long days and then July sneaks right up begging fun plans to be made each day. I do 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. Summer dinners at Dutch's Brewhouse are a treat, too.

I am staying hyper focused on summer and all the tasks that are coming with the BKBIA and the BK Community Foundation. We have a lot of grant funds to share with our business members thanks to Senator Lena Gonzalez,

so we hope you will start to see the new things and improvements happening around the district.

Shout Out: Sunshine Rabbit Center! 4202 Atlantic Avenue Suite 201, is a 501(c)(3). "Our mission is to help domestic rabbits and to support the families who love them. We partner with municipal shelters and fellow rescue organizations to save bunnies that have been abandoned or relinquished, or who have lost their homes. We work to match them with caring adopters who can provide a safe, loving environment where they will thrive. Learn more about adopting or viewing our current adoptable rabbits.

"We believe in collaboration and education, and we strive to foster a diverse rabbit community. We host educational and social events and provide free information for new and experienced bunny owners. You can view and sign up for our upcoming events on our website: sunshinerabbit.org. We also offer helpful services that support the ongoing success of our rabbit families, like boarding, grooming, matchmaking, and bonding. In addition, we run a shop with rabbit supplies, gifts, and fresh hay. All shop proceeds go directly to supporting our rescue mission.

"We are proud to be building a welcoming environment for bunny owners of all backgrounds and experience levels. The pricing for our services and supplies is designed to be accessible for families across income levels. Our grooming and nail trim services are donation-based and available on a sliding scale. Many of our staff and volunteers are bilingual Spanish speakers and we proudly serve community members who prefer Spanish-language communication."

Follow them on Instagram (@sunshine_rabbit_center) for daily updates, new adoptable bunnies, and event announcements!

Okay, so see you at the next concert! August 10th is our finale with the tradition of 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?

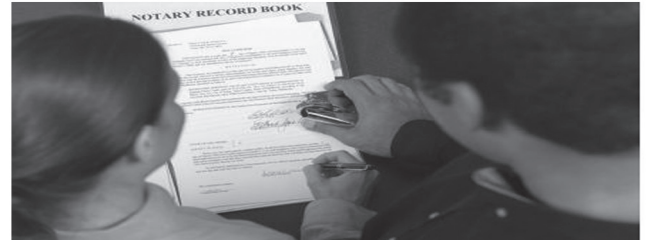
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"Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August."
– Denise Levertov (and Blair Cohn)

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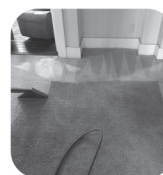


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First Friday of each Month: First Fridays in Bixby Knolls.
firstfridayslongbeach.com

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



**Thank you to all the volunteers who make
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Josh Lowenthal, 69th Assembly District
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Lena Gonzalez, State Senate 33rd District
562-256-7921

Gavin Newsom, Governor
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Nanette Diaz Barragán, 44th House District
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Adam Schiff, Senator
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Saturday: 562-570-0000 www.lbcode.org

Community Watch North Division
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Dana Branch Library
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Fire Department
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Garage Sale Hotline
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