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Lace up your sneakers, loosen up your belts and wet your lips. There’s a new Barbecue joint in town that’s making people talk and stomachs growl. Bigmista’s Barbecue and Sammich Shop opened up in November in the heart of 90808 at Palo Verde and Wardlow Rd (Next to Ferraro’s Italian Restaurant). It’s been slow-smoking meat ever since.

Long Beach residents Neil and Phyllis Strawder—also known as Bigmista and Mrsmista—have finally created the brand and shop they’ve always envisioned…one that daughter – Li’lmista—can be proud of too!

The atmosphere says smoked meat. All of the barbecue served is slow-cooked.

The smokers (barbecues) themselves are outside the shop. They have nicknames too, just like the owners and all employees. “Butch” is bright red and sits on the front patio, shooting its smoky aroma up into the air night and day. Most of Bigmista’s meat is cooked in Butch because this barbeque is air-tight, insulated, and cultivates the smokiest flavor.

Sometimes the restaurant also bring in “Big Red,” which is usually parked along Los Coyotes Diagonal. Big Red, unsurprisingly, is also bright red. It can also hold a lot more meat.

Neil and Phyllis stand behind the counter with their employees, cooking meat and cracking jokes to each other as customers line up out the door. Soul music rings out over the speakers. It’s refreshing to see owners at a sandwich shop clearly enjoying the occupation they have chosen. The shop itself has only a few tables and indoor counter; but a nice patio adds five tables outside with a chance to sit down next to “Butch” the smoker.

As friendly as the atmosphere is however, it has nothing to do with why any locals have begun making a weekly pilgrimage to the joint. The employee shirts explain the phenomenon simply, “Real. Good. Meat.”

The meat is real good.

The tenderness, the smokiness, the sauce, the baked buns… Flavor is everything! Neil worked hard to perfect his recipes before opening a sandwich shop. In fact, his process of opening up a shop was gradual just like his cooking method.

In 2004 Neil was an investment banker. Sitting on the couch watching Good Eats with Alton Brown, Neil said to himself, “I could be doing that.” So he went out and bought a smoker and gave it a shot.

“The first meat I cooked tasted hor-

By John Grossi
rile,” says Neil. But that didn’t stop his passion. He went online and found different cooking methods, and eventually formed his own tasty style through what can only be described as a lot of practice!

In 2006, Bigmista entered a barbeque competition at the Autry Museum, where Neil won an award his first time out. That started a trend which continued for the better part of a decade. Neil entered and won competitions all over Southern California including venues at the Queen Mary and Santa Anita Race Tracks.

Phyllis told him he’d better start catering his barbecued meats to offset the costs of entering all of those competitions. Catering led to more catering which led to appearances on TV shows such as Pit Masters and Good Day LA. From there the business just took off. For a while Neil was a barbecue spokesperson for Fresh and Easy Markets.

In 2008 Neil’s dream of marketing his meats via Farmer’s Markets was realized. At that point, Neil the investment banker officially quit his job and became full time Bigmista, the Barbecue master. After four years of steadily growing business, in 2012 Bigmista and MrsMista began looking for a place to open up a sandwich shop.

After a few years of painful negotiations, dropped deals, and frustration, the couple finally found a spot that felt right. East Long Beach, for the mista’s, was an easygoing, friendly neighborhood, with a desire to support local restaurants. Compared to locations in Downtown LA, East Long Beach was just a lot less drama.

From the day Bigmista’s opened their doors, our community of East Long Beach has welcomed them! One customer offered to spruce up the whole restaurant -- for free -- with new floors, paint, and a counter. Why? Just because she wanted to see the sammich shop prosper!

The business is simple—brisket, pulled pork, pulled chicken, and pastrami—but the mista’s are great at what they do. You can either get a sandwich on fresh baked bread or a B.A.P.O.M (Big A** Pile of Meat). Every single piece of meat is slow smoked and tender. There are no meat slicers at Bigmistas, everything is hand sliced.

Sides include baked beans, pineapple slaw, and the occasional mac n’cheese. Try ordering the perfect sandwich and get pineapple slaw on your sandwich. The price range is around $10 and you can eat at the shop or get your sandwich to go!

If there is one thing Neil and Phyllis Strawder want you to know about them, it’s that they are all about food, family, and fun. Check out the shop and you’ll get the sense of that real quick. When I asked Neil why his nickname was Bigmista he told me the story of when he moved back to SoCal after spending a few years in Texas.

“My greeting to everyone was, ‘Hey what’s on your mind mista?’” said Neil with a smile on his face. “People started calling me mista back… and the ‘big’ part kind of explains itself,” laughs Neil. Their daughter (L’il Mist) will start at Cubberley K-8 next year, further cementing the family’s place in the community.

I feel no qualms in writing in this article that Bigmista’s has the best pastrami sandwich I’ve ever tasted, and I strongly recommend a visit. If you’re like me, you’re a sucker for seeing a family-owned restaurant grow and prosper. Don’t feel bad if you start attending the shop once a week, that’s the normal reaction. Just don’t expect to spend too much time around the Strawders without them tossing you a nickname…it’s tough for them to associate you with food and fun, without also making you a part of the family!
By Jennifer Newton

You have probably passed St. Luke’s Christian Preschool on the corner of Wardlow and San Anseline numerous times. You may have noticed children happily playing on the playground or exploring the natural world around them. But did you know that as a resident of East Long Beach, you and your children are already considered family at St. Luke’s?

“We were created to be and still are a church and preschool of the community,” says Candice M. Pearson, Director of St. Luke’s Christian Preschool. Pearson’s passion for early childhood development is tangible as she proudly shows off the school she manages.

“Here our goal is to create a love of learning, a foundation for positive problem solving and an environment that develops critical thinkers,” said Pearson. “We believe our teachers are more than teachers, they are facilitators, leaders and guides for the children. This approach allows children to have a more hands-on experience with learning, through exploration and curiosity.”

St. Luke’s Preschool opened in 1984 as the church’s primary mission outreach program to the community. Their motto – “A culturally inclusive learning center built on the foundation of God’s word and dedicated to the care, education and development of children and families through a positive, Christian environment” – contains the key principles upon which St. Luke’s Christian Preschool was founded. The Preschool is here for the community, anyone in the community. The school supports not only the children, but also the families. And its teachers are dedicated to creating a positive, Christian environment.

St. Luke’s prides itself on being “another family member” to each of the families it serves. Whether that is being an ear to listen, a positive support system or a network for prayer and spiritual encouragement, St. Luke’s provides a second home with open doors to anyone in the community.

With 5-star ratings on Great Schools and Yelp, St. Luke’s is enjoying the praises of the community it was created to support. So the next time you pass St. Luke’s, Pearson invites you to come and say hi. After all, at St. Luke’s, you are not only a neighbor; you are family.

Registration for the preschool is now open for the summer and fall. Summer programs include weekly themes for kids ages two to six. Call for details on themes and field trips, and ask about signing up for the whole summer or just a few days or weeks at a time!

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Bellflower Smog #3

By John Grossi

Getting a smog check notice from the DMV probably isn’t your favorite occurrence, but it’s not the worst thing that agency could send you either. At least there is a local trying to smooth your way through this pesky procedure.

His name is George Paoli and his business is one we’ve all seen. Bellflower Smog #3. It’s located on Clark and Willow (not Bellflower!) right next to Awesome Sushi, near the airport. As far as getting your smog checked goes, Bellflower Smog #3 is spacious, easy, and fast.

George’s lot has ample parking, and his garage is big enough to accommodate large trucks, motorhomes, and anything else. Most importantly, the average smog check takes about 20 minutes. Go grab a bite to eat, or sit in the garage’s lobby, and your car will be ready in no time.

George has lived in Long Beach for over 30 years and is a Cal State Long Beach grad. He bought Bellflower Smog #3 in 2012 and has updated the machinery with the latest (fastest) technology. He also has made—or is making—numerous remodels to further improve overall comfort for customers.

Probably the number one advantage to getting your smog checked at Bellflower Smog #3 is that the garage is a test-only center. George and his technicians are not licensed to repair your car upon failing a smog test, which means they want you to pass! Roughly 90% of the cars George sees each week pass the test. And as soon as you pass, the certificate for your car is automatically sent to the DMV -- eliminating any extra trips down to Willow and Grand!

Since 2013 the center has been awarded the STAR Station certification from the state of California, which means that everything the center does is highly regulated and approved by the state.

Basically, this business is legit!

The average smog check is $60 for a car and $70 for a truck. George and his crew can handle any size or type of motor vehicle and will quote the price for any exotic models up front. Bellflower Smog #3 has all of the equipment, both manual to check the older cars and computerized as required for newer cars. Keeping your wait time short, the crew usually works on three cars at the same time.

Hours are 8 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday and 8 am-4 pm on Saturday.

It’s not always the most exciting mail to receive, but living in LA, smog checks are a fact of life – and our joint contribution to cleaner air. So anyone with a new out-of-state car, an older used car, or who just got that every-other-year notice from the DMV, at least there is a glimmer of satisfaction. There is a nice man living right here in East Long Beach who has made it his day job to streamline a process we can’t avoid. #3 on the sign, #1 in our hearts… Bellflower Smog Check on Clark!
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Troop 74's Jacob Armstrong cherished his time in elementary school at Prisk. He loved its garden; therefore, when it came time for his Eagle Scout project, Armstrong rebuilt the garden benches that were falling apart. He also rebuilt the garden’s footbridge, which had nails sticking out of it. He re-stained the benches and bridge and all of the teachers and students really liked it. Armstrong graduated from Wilson in 2012 and is currently studying criminal justice at Golden West college. He says the goal for any Eagle Scout project is giving back to a place that his given something to you.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jacob’s brother Mitchell Armstrong refurbished a metal shed in the garden of Prisk Elementary School. The shed was previously very rusty and an eyesore to the neighbors. Mitchell sanded, primed, and painted the shed a sage green color, repaired the door and lock, and replaced the floor with a new sheet of plywood. He also built a wooden shelf to reduce the clutter inside. His goal was to make the shed functional again and preserve it so that future generations could enjoy the garden, just like he did when he attended Prisk. Armstrong is currently a senior at Wilson High School.

Dustin Starr decided to improve Stanford Middle School, where he had once been a student. While walking through the campus he spotted a need. In the lunch area sat two dilapidated planter boxes. Dustin made a plan, rebuilt the planter boxes, and built a 6-foot bench between the two boxes. The kids now use the bench as a place to hang out and eat lunch. Dustin completed his project in 2009. Said Dustin, “It was a big project, but in the end, it was cool to see the kids sitting on it.” Dustin is now living in San Francisco and is looking forward to attending San Francisco State University.

Everytime Bradley Dean walked through Grace First Presbyterian Church to get to his scout meetings, he noticed a cluster of rotting benches. He built two benches in a 4-foot square formation with a planter box in the center. The church members now have an inviting place to sit and relax before or after church. “This project taught me that nothing comes easy,” said Bradley. “There were times when I wanted to quit and situations that really tested me. However, at the end of the project I was really proud that I finished.” Bradley now works at Ace Hardware and attends LBCC.

Just over a year ago, Connor Cartledge and his family moved to Long Beach from South Carolina. He began attending school at Our Lady of Refuge and was thankful for the warm welcome. For his project, he wanted to do something for his new school to thank them for embracing him and his family. Connor found that the transitional kindergarten teacher loved to garden, but didn’t have planter boxes. He decided to fix that! “It’s been so fun to go back and watch the kids digging in the dirt,” said Connor.
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Tyler Dunlop and Family

Troop 65’s Bryan Gerhart spent his childhood at the Ruth Bach Library. He enjoyed checking out books and listening to his favorite librarian, Candice Powell, read stories. When it came time for his Eagle Scout project years later, Gerhart knew he wanted to give back to that library. Ms. Powell needed a large cabinet built to store all of the big pre-school books she used for story time. She also needed a place to store her puppetry and felt boards. To meet these needs, Gerhart then a student at Long Beach Poly, built a cabinet equipped with doors and drawers. Gerhart went on to graduate from University of California Berkeley in 2011. He now works for the State Department in Washington D.C.

Ruth Bach Library - Built Shelves for books and other storage

Matthew Guillory decided his project would benefit Lakewood Village Church, where his troop held their weekly meetings. The church had wanted to make some improvements to the playground for several years, but they weren’t sure where they would get the money, so Matthew took on the challenge. He filled the sandbox with high-quality playground mulch, and built a new foundation and shed. The playground was reinstalled, and the kids had a cleaner, safer place to play. “I was really happy to see the kids playing on the fresh playground,” said Matthew. Matthew is a senior in the Quest program at Millikan High School and looking forward to graduation this June.

Lakewood Village Community Church - Improved and upgraded playground

East Long Beach Eagle Scout Projects!

Mark Twain Elementary School - Spruced up playground area for kids

Walking across the playground at his old school, Mark Twain Elementary, gave Tyler Dunlop an idea for his Eagle Scout project. Tyler designed and built two benches under a shady tree for the kids to sit on. He also repainted a handball court, which had faded to a dull red, and installed a new pegboard in the sports shed. Tyler said that the principal liked the benches so much he had them bolted to the ground. “I feel like I’ve created something permanent for future generations to enjoy,” said Tyler. “The project was difficult at times, but I gained communication skills and learned how to manage a group of people.” Tyler is now studying civil engineering at California State University Long Beach.

St. Cyprian K-8 School - Built specialized canopy to cover gardens

Frederico attended Boy Scout meetings, church, and school at St. Cyprian in East Long Beach. When it came time for his Eagle Scout in 2014 project he knew exactly where to begin. Each grade at St. Cyprian has its own garden box, but the location of the garden was too sunny for the plants to grow, so Freddy made some shade. He installed a canopy out of a specialized mesh that provides just the right amount of sunlight for plants to grow. The gardens at St. Cyprian are now greener than ever! “I learned that people are nicer than you think,” says Freddy, all you have to do is ask for help.” Freddy is now studying communications and studio art at the University of Puget Sound in Washington.

Tyler Dunlop and Family

Frederico Alvarado and Dad
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Jared Roy’s project was a joint effort with Brian Damp, who built garden boxes at the Association for Retarded Citizens. Jared designed and poured a concrete pad for the garden boxes so that ARC members could garden as they sit. The project was completed in 2008 when Jared was 17. Learning how to get donations was the biggest challenge and best learning experience. United Rentals and some other companies were generous and even the cement was donated. After Lakewood High, Jared went to Cal Poly Pomona and is now a superintendent for an underground utilities company.

Sean Gray turned an unkept gardening area on the north side of the parking lot at the Health Department into a break area for employees and visitors. He had to clear out many bushes to make an opening for the area, then built two benches and a maple wood arbor. Sean says the hardest part was all the behind-the-scenes stuff like getting donations and approvals from the Health Department and scouting organization. “I learned leadership, delegating, and how to rely on other project workers to carry out and finish a task,” says Sean. He now attends CSULB majoring in communications, and works at Disneyland.

Robert Fitzsimmons began Scouts as a first grader, in a cub scout troop that included Sean Gray and Brad Hill. Interacting with nature during Boy Scouts trips led him to pursue environmental studies as a college student at University of California Santa Barbara. While at Millikan, Fitzsimmons completed his Eagle Scout project, providing an outdoor break area to the Long Beach Public Health Department. He had been to the building several times and noticed a corner of the parking lot with a few shrubs that needed sprucing up. He created a border around the area and put in a walkway and wooden tables.

Clarissa Manuel worked for the City of Long Beach for more than 30 years before she passed away in 2009. Brad Hill wanted to find a way to honor her service. He and his team installed a memorial bench and garden in front of the Health Department. He built the 8-foot bench out of wood and dug out an area in which he planted a tree and some low-maintenance plants. He also placed a plaque honoring Clarissa in the garden. “This process taught me that even a small project requires quite a bit of work,” said Brad. “I had to learn how to network with people to find the help I needed to get the job done.” Brad is now studying finance at CSULB.
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Joshua Hauptmann completed his Eagle Scout project at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in 2006. He pulled out a big patch of English ivy that was about 20x40 ft. and turned the ugly space into a nice beautiful space. “I think that my time in Boy Scouts and the commitment and ambition that led me to getting my Eagle was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I see in Eagle Scouts a level of character that seems to be unmatched. I don’t know of any other organization that instills those values in young men any more. One day if I have a son, he will be a scout.”

Steven Hauptmann, Joshua’s brother, knew he wanted his Eagle Scout project to benefit his family’s church. He noticed a rotting wooden bench and rusted awning where preschoolers and churchgoers gathered. It was an eyesore and a safety issue. Over the course of a year, Steven repaired a 30-foot awning and bench. He replaced wood and shingles to create an attractive, weatherproof awning and repaired the rotted wood on the bench with redwood, providing a place for the congregation to sit for years to come. Steven completed his project in 2010. “Working on my Eagle Scout project taught me to be a leader,” said Steven. Steven is now studying communications at the University of North Texas.

At St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Long Beach, DJ Koenen built a cabinet to organize a hallway for his Eagle Scout project. The church loved the cabinet so much that they went out and bought another cabinet to place alongside of it. Koenen still gets compliments on his work that has helped the church with storage. Currently, Koenen works at Stater Bros. and goes to school at Golden West College. He is studying biology and hopes to one day become a forensic scientist. Koenen says he will always use the skills he learned in Boy Scouts during his future endeavors, primarily his acquired aptitude for leadership.

Nathan Wolfe sums up project benefits quite well: “Scouting as a whole instilled leadership in me, specifically that project, the responsibility, the type of communication that was taking place, the organization, the culmination of the project as a whole, made me a better, stronger leader, and ultimately just a better professional as a whole.” The children didn’t have a place outside to eat snacks so Nathan designed and built an aesthetically pleasing bench encircling a tree. A grad of Prisk, Stanford, Wilson, Florida College and Azusa Pacific, Nathan now teaches high school English in Temecula. He is married with a 9 month-old son.

Seeing the homeless women with children at the Precious Life Shelter in Los Alamitos, the condition they were in and what got them to the shelter was a huge wake-up call for the 17-year-old Tom Dixon. It gave him a good feeling to be able to do something that would genuinely help. At the thrift shop that raises money to help run the shelter, a lot of donations were being damaged as they were stored outside in the back. Tom organized a group that built four large storage boxes mounted on wheels. He finished his project in 2005 when at Wilson HS. Dixon is currently a fireman in Los Angeles.
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From the fundraising to the project itself, Benjamin Brimley’s project focused on conservation and reducing pollution. He fundraised by selling bags made from used Capri Sun packages. He then purchased recycled plastic planters and filled them with plants to create a gardening experience for the kindergarteners. He also purchased recycled plastic lumber to build a worm bin for the middle schoolers. The middle schoolers now throw the biodegradable trash from their lunches into the bin and the worms turn it into fertilizer for the plants. Benjamin will graduate from the MIT program at Millikan High School this June and plans on studying aerospace engineering in college.

Last summer, the 17-year-old Kenny Cruz started a project to clear and level an area at the Los Altos Methodist Church, constructing benches and providing a space for small outdoor meetings. The project took about a month of hard work, 720 man-hours and 94 bags of cement! At the beginning Kenny had limited help. But after staring at a large stump about 4 ft. around and 4 ft. deep that had to be dug up, and 14 small trees and bushes that had to be removed, he realized this project was going to take more than just his muscle. As he started gaining help from others, Kenny’s confidence and workforce grew. The project was bigger than he had first realized, but Kenny did what was needed to get the job done.

Dolan Kay said he enjoyed learning all the skills attached to camping and merit badges, but what really stuck with him is the morals and ethics of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. They are always with you. There is a commitment to try and be a better person every day of your life; to be kind and passionate and helpful to others. For his project, Dolan had the responsibility to use and monitor a large group of volunteers as they renewed the little league field at St. Maria Goretti School. Project volunteers cleared the field of weeds, and laid new dirt over the field and mound, improved the dugouts and readied everything for a new season. Dolan loved his Eagle Scout project because of his huge passion for baseball.

Bryan Lozano wanted to focus on emergency safety for his Eagle Scout project, so he looked around his neighborhood and decided the faded yellow fire hydrants needed his attention. After some convincing, the city allowed Bryan to paint more than 20 hydrants with a fresh coat of yellow paint, increasing visibility for firefighters and neighbors. “Working with the city was difficult,” Bryan said. “I learned how our city government works and how to make things happen. It was really satisfying when it all came together.” After high school, Bryan pursued missionary work in San Antonio, Texas, and is now studying chemical engineering at California State University Long Beach.
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East Long Beach Eagle Scout Projects!

Cubberley K-8 School- Constructed wooden benches

Peter Jarzomb’s Eagle Scout project was a sign of things to come—he constructed wooden benches at Cubberley Elementary School and now is a structural engineer for Boeing. When working on his Eagle Scout project, Jarzomb replaced and fixed up the worn-down benches at his elementary school. He bought the wood, concrete and tools; primed and painted the benches and before he knew it, the kids at Cubberley were enjoying sitting and relaxing on his creations. Then an 8th grader, Peter would go on to study at Millikan and UC San Diego. Currently he is pursuing his Master’s degree in structural engineering at USC.

Cubberley K-8 School- Refurbished wooden benches

Jeff Jarzomb picked up where his brother left off. He too refurbished Cubberley Elementary School benches for his Eagle Scout project. He bought new wood, replaced the rotted bench pieces, and sanded the corners. He and his brother both went to Cubberley and were proud to give back to the school that gave so much to them. On weekends, the Jarzomb brothers would play Frisbee and football on the school’s campus. After graduating from Millikan in 2010, Jeff studied German in college. He intends to go back to Long Beach State to receive a Master’s degree in German literature in the Fall and plans on becoming a teacher.

Kettering Elementary School- Painted inspirational handball wall

Charles Kettering said, “Our imagination is the only limit to what we can hope to have in the future.” That was Alex Fest’s inspiration for his Eagle Scout project. The quote is written on the new handball court he built for his beloved Elementary School. The handball courts had been at the school for 25 years. The court’s walls were fading, Fest tore the walls down, bought plywood, and rebuilt the handball courts. He painted the walls a beautiful blue that you can even see when flying over Long Beach. He had his artist friends help with decorating the walls. The kids can now read inspirational quotes on the walls while playing handball.

Alpert Jewish Community Center- Fixed up homework room

David Rosen grew up as a member of the Jewish Community Center in Long Beach. He attended preschool classes, after-school activities, camps, and eventually worked as a counselor at the center. David’s Eagle Scout project brought the old JCC homework room up-to-date. He painted the room yellow, which he found during his research process would be likely to enhance cognitive abilities. He also added bookshelves to store books, games and supplies. The room is now a bright and fresh environment for kids to learn. David recently graduated from California State University Fullerton with a degree in business and is now working for Toyota.

Alpert Jewish Community Center- Constructed garden boxes

From the student-athlete center at Northeastern University, where he currently attends, Sam Kahn fondly remembers planning for his Eagle Scout project. Kahn constructed four garden boxes for the Long Beach Jewish Community Center for the Early Childhood Education program. He went to preschool there and wanted to give back to an establishment that he really loved as a kid. Now children of a new generation are enjoying planting vegetables like carrots and watching the roots grow from a tiny “peek-a-boo” window installed in the garden boxes. Kahn studies civil engineering at his college in Boston.
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Caleb Cousins was always passionate about the military, so he decided to do something to honor the veterans at Millikan where he attended school. Caleb created a wall display featuring the five service flags of the military surrounding an American flag. He built a sturdy backing to hold the flags and it was mounted at the front of the school near the office. It is now admired by many students and visitors. “My project showed that high school kids do care about our country and its past,” says Caleb. He enlisted in the Army right after graduation from high school. He is about to graduate from his combat medic course and will be serving his country in the 101st Airborne in Fort Campbell, Ky.

At Millikan High School, Robert Kovacs revamped the garden between the baseball field and one of the science buildings. He built three planter boxes for students with disabilities to enjoy. The low maintenance garden stands about two feet high so that students in wheelchairs can easily navigate around the garden. Kovacs built a pathway between the planter beds so the students could maneuver around the garden. The garden now provides the students with a place to learn about agriculture and native plants. Currently, Kovacs is studying communications and political science at University of California, Santa Barbara.

Matthew Simpson wanted to focus his Eagle Scout project on something to benefit the Wilson marching band, of which he was a member. Matthew and a team of volunteers set out to make shields spelling out “Wilson” to be carried in parades. It took several prototypes before he and his team figured out that an acrylic glass was the best material for the parade shields. They shaped, painted and finished the seven shields. “During the process, I learned how to manage a group of people,” said Matthew. “I’m really proud of the project. They still use the shields and they’ve held up really well.” Matthew is now studying aerospace engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Zachary Nyquist made emergency supply packs for Precious Lamb Preschool in Long Beach. He put together between 30-40 emergency earthquake kits with water, a first aid kit, and dried food stuff that can be saved forever. “To raise money to do that I held a separate carwash at Los Altos Grace Brethren Church on Stearns St. in Long Beach.” Zachary completed the project in 2011 and is now a junior majoring in Marine Science at Cal State Monterey Bay. He went to Valley Christian High School and Los Altos Grace Brethren Elementary School. “I’ve taken on a lot of leadership roles in college. Being forced into those leadership positions in Scouts has been helpful.”
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In 2011, the honey bee population in America was threatened by a virus spreading among the nation’s bee colonies, and the onslaught of the Africanized “killer” bees. Cary Feldman organized a project to counter this threat to plant pollination by building and hanging bee boxes that would stimulate growth of the Orchard Mason bee population, a docile bee preferred in urban areas. The problem-solving abilities, organization, and management skills he developed during the project will come in handy when he attends St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California next year. Cary attended Lowell Elementary and Rogers Middle School and currently is a student at the California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS).

Maxwell Bradney’s Troop 212 always practiced canoeing at Leeway and there was always a shortage of storage space for the scout’s, sailor’s and science camper’s gear. Maxwell built a larger, more sturdy cubby on wheels that could accommodate the needs of everybody using Leeway. No longer would someone put their belongings in one space and find them later on the pier. Maxwell learned a lot about taking leadership during the project. He would like to thank Dan Bass and Bob Zauner for all their help. When taking the above picture for this magazine, Max arranged to go back and fix a couple of wheels on the cubbies, showing his true dedication to the community - seven years later!

Steve Schwartz always visited Rancho Los Alamitos as a kid. When it was time to pick his Eagle Scout project he knew where he wanted to help. The rabbit and birdcage was rusted and torn, and animals were escaping. In 2005, when Steve was a senior in high school, he rebuilt and repaired. “We had to move all the equipment from the cages, dig up all the chicken wire that was bad and replace it, then cover it back up with soil,” recalls Steve. Now a mechanical engineer working in Irvine and living in Long Beach, Steve says Scouts definitely makes you more successful. It helps you develop people skills, learn responsibilities, and learn to organize tasks. Steve went to Minnie Gant, Stanford, Poly and USC.

“In school you’ll learn and discuss things, but in scouts you actually do things that help you out with your life.” Michael Stephens’ project was at Rancho Los Alamitos on the Bixby Hill Ranch in 2010. He chose to help there because they could accommodate a big project and he was able to supply many volunteers. Michael organized and coordinated a group of 55 volunteers. They built a 10-foot fence over a big ledge, cleared 300 feet of wheat and plants that were covering the drainage system, and cleared another 100 feet of hedges. The group removed 2,000 lbs of scrap metal and about 1000 lbs of wood. After taking two years off to do a service mission for his church, Michael is a sophomore at BYU.

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OFFER EXPIRES 6/1/15
Scouting together has forged a bond among the Peterson brothers, providing the family with a special shared experience. Nolan Peterson installed a school-wide Public Announcement (PA) system at St. Cornelius as part of the school’s internal security updates. Nolan collaborated with a communications company to install a speaker system that serves the entire school. Teachers can now page anyone in the school from anywhere in case of an emergency. The school also uses the new speaker system for morning announcements.

For his Eagle Scout project, Spencer Peterson installed 12 security cameras and a viewing monitor in the principal’s office at St. Cornelius. Spencer says it has really strengthened the security of the school. After nine years at St. Cornelius, Spencer graduated from Wilson in 2014. He is currently a Kansas University student. Spencer says his Eagle Scout project has helped the principal keep track of the school’s happenings on one monitor. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, tightening St. Cornelius’ security system became a priority for the school.

Mitchell Peterson applied a reflective paint to the roof of the convent at St. Cornelius Church. The paint reflects the sun and makes the building cooler, saving the church money on energy costs. Mitchell attended St. Cornelius from kindergarten through 8th grade and decided he wanted to help the church save money through a green initiative. He was able to get funding for his Eagle Scout project in part from a roofing contractor. Mitchell says his Eagle Scout project has not only kept the building cool, but in good shape all together.

The East Village Arts District gained aesthetic value from Ryan Peterson’s project. He delivered 55-gallon tree pots to local businesses in the area as part of an operation to beautify downtown Long Beach. The business owners selected the plants they wanted and Scouts planted them. Ryan felt a real sense of pride as he helped bring more warmth and character to his hometown. Now, 15 years later, he works for the Grand Prix. Driving by the East Village Arts District, he still feels proud that he contributed to his city as a Scout.

William Argus made improvements to the organic learning garden at St. Cornelius. With help from volunteers, William built a 10-foot long shed to house the gardening supplies. The garden is used both by students at the school and for gardening classes. Having a location close to the garden to store supplies made it much easier for the teachers. The shed also became the place where the electrical panels for the lights and security cameras could be stored. William completed his project in 2014. “My project required teamwork and problem solving skills,” said William. “Not everything went as planned, but at the end I learned how to motivate a group and complete a project.” William is graduating from the California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS) in June and is looking forward to attending college in the Fall.
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Growing up practicing archery with his father at El Dorado Park, Alexander “AJ” Moy noticed that class participants and spectators would have to bring their own chairs and blankets to avoid sitting on the wet grass. So, in 2012, Moy chose to construct two benches for the El Dorado Archery Center, providing a more comfortable recreational experience. Moy’s Troop 212 boasts almost double the national average of scouts that achieve the Eagle Scout honor, which AJ attributes to the high-adventure and supportive nature of the troop. AJ continues to mentor aspiring Eagle Scouts, while keeping busy as a full-time student at CSULB. He loves seeing people enjoy his benches as he drives past the park.

Like AJ, Tyler Moy spent a lot of time at the Archery Center which hadn’t changed much since it was initially built for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. In 2013 Tyler chose as his Eagle Scout project to help revive the facility by replacing the bow racks. Decades of sitting in the sun and elements left the old racks brittle and fragile to the touch. Moy’s project replaced two of the old racks with new ones built to withstand the outdoor elements, and constructed on wheels for mobility. Moy will graduate from Millikan this spring. He was recently accepted into UC Berkeley.

Jordan Taibi decided to join Troop 140 because its members were so welcoming. He enjoys going to Tahquitz during the summer. While at Tahquitz, Jordan had the opportunity to join the Tribe of Tahquitz. After initiation he officially became a member. Jordan is currently playing Varsity lacrosse for Los Alamitos High School. He also enjoys playing basketball and golf and is involved in Long Beach Search and Rescue as well as his high school youth group at Bethany Church. For his Eagle Project last year, Jordan built much needed benches at the El Dorado Dog Park. He plans to attend a 4-year university next year.

Lee began taking martial arts classes at just 4 years old and by 11 he was a black belt. He went on to win several national titles and earn a second black belt in Hapkido. When it was time to choose an Eagle Scout project, he drew on what he knew and loved. Lee created a self-defense video for seniors. He developed easy maneuvers, preventative tips, and a few cane techniques. The free videos were distributed at the El Dorado Senior Center. “Seniors are often overlooked- I wanted to help them feel empowered,” said Lee. Lee is now studying chemical engineering at Cornell University and is a member of the men’s lightweight rowing team.

Peter spent eleven summers of his life at a Campfire day camp called the Backyard Bunch. During the years leading up to his Eagle Scout project he and the director of the camp came up with a plan. Peter built a shed to house outdoor supplies and play equipment for Campfire. They had been using an E-Z up to store the equipment, but it didn’t provide adequate protection from the elements. Building the shed took many months and countless hours of hard work. He completed his project in 2014 as a junior at Millikan. “The project was more stressful than I anticipated,” said Peter. “I saw how a team could work together to get things done.”
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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St. Joseph’s - created earthquake safety program
Dave Gath created an earthquake program at St. Joseph’s Elementary School in 1988. He reinforced a garage, lined the floors with pallets for flooding and supplied the garage with earthquake supplies. He learned organizational and managerial skills from the Scouts. He is now the creative director for Kaenon Sunglasses.

Rancho Los Alamitos - planters and sprinkler system
In looking back on his project, Greg Gath realizes just how much work is involved in Eagle projects. With help from friends, Greg was able to build planter boxes and install a sprinkler system at the Rancho. His son is now a Scout learning the values of Scout oath and law—leadership, responsibility and character. Greg is now a scout master... and a master of insurance!

562-498-6701
Ryan King’s Eagle project was for his old elementary school, Minnie Gant. He thought of a useful upgrade for the staff and students. Ryan constructed portable backpack racks which are used to this day; during recess, lunch and in the after school programs. These racks keep the hallways and playgrounds clear for foot traffic. They have been so useful at Minnie Gant that the school has built a number of other racks just like them! Ryan King graduated from Wilson High School and now attends Cypress Community College. He works for Freeconferencing Corporation. His mom is a third grade teacher at Minnie Gant, and Ryan loves going back to visit and see all the students using his creations!

The Scout Motto is: BE PREPARED. Vicente Rodriguez is a true scout. His project was to improve the emergency supply bungalow at Minnie Gant. He inspected their supplies for earthquake preparedness and found that many were outdated and food expired. There was no inventory list to keep track of supplies. Rodriguez was able to get new food donated from local companies. He created excel spreadsheets to list and keep track of supplies in the bungalow. “My project is not flashy or visible but something that could serve a behind the scenes necessary purpose. I definitely was fine with not flashy, just being prepared.” Vicente is currently a flight attendant based in New York City.

For his Eagle Scout project, Alexander Crook provided new benches for the St. Joseph Elementary School courtyard. He wanted to build a place where kids at his old school would be able to sit and rest their bags while waiting to line up before school starts. He is excited to know that the benches are still there in the courtyard and continue to stand sturdy. While he was working on his Eagle Scout project, Crook was a student in Poly High School’s CIC magnet program. Crook went on to study environmental science at the University of San Francisco. Currently, he lives in Seattle and hopes to pursue a career in architectural and commercial photography.

Joey Szabatura grew up right across the street from Whaley Park and played Pony baseball there. For Szabatura’s Eagle Scout project, he constructed a new announcers’ booth for the Whaley Park baseball field. The old announcers’ booth could only fit one or two little kids—it was small and cramped. He tore the old one down and constructed from the ground up. Szabatura said constructing the announcers’ booth was like building a small home. At the time, Szabatura was in high school at Wilson, where he played on the baseball team that practiced at Whaley Park. It was satisfying for Szabatura to not only provide a service to the community baseball field, but also for his high school team as well.
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Montana and his family often spent time strolling through the SPCA animal shelter on Spring Street. Unfortunately, the cats were always hidden in baskets where visitors couldn’t view them. For his Eagle Scout project, Montana built six cat towers. The towers provided platforms where the cats could relax, but still be seen by potential adopters. His project helped to increase cat visibility, which led to more adoptions. “The project was a tangible way to see that I had made something in our community better.” Montana graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2013 and is now a graphic designer in Austin, Texas.

Like his older brother Montana, Dylan Sparkman’s Eagle Scout project focused on the animals at the SPCA. When Dylan asked what the shelter really needed the answer was simple—cat blankets. Each kitty gets its own blanket, and when adopted, the blanket goes home with them to provide a little comfort. Dylan and his team of volunteers made 72 fleece blankets for the feline friends. “The most difficult part of the project was the fundraising,” said Dylan. He now attends Long Beach City College and hopes to transfer to a university sometime next year to study archaeology and history.

Matthew Alkire organized a donation drive and oversaw the building of three tables and a donation box for the animal shelter. He thanks Randy Simon, his good friend’s dad for quality woodwork. Borrowing a technique from the Salvation Army can food drives, Matthew dropped 300 grocery bags soliciting donations from his El Dorado Park Estates neighbors. Over half of the bags were returned to fill the donation box. Scouts really shaped Matthew’s future. He taught an environmental class at a Boy Scout camp and found that teaching inspired his interest in the environment. He now majors in Environmental Science at UC Irvine.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Long Beach gained a revamped surgical room thanks to Nathan Wiggins’s Eagle Scout project. Wiggins put together stainless steel countertops and brand new shelving units for the surgical suite, where animals are given inoculations and have medical procedures. Wiggins even provided a fridge and installed concrete screws into the building for extra earthquake safety. Wiggins accomplished all this while a senior at Poly High School. Currently, Wiggins is pursuing acting and studying theatre at Long Beach City College, while working background on television shows.

In 2013, Benjamin Koch looked around his church, Christ Lutheran on Stearns St. The entrance to the church wasn’t as warm and welcoming as it should’ve been, so he decided to beautify it. A plan was made, concrete footings were poured, and an arbor was built at the entrance to the church on Stearns Street. The arbor, with roses climbing up the lattice, is now an inviting entrance to Christ Lutheran. “Working on this project helped me to build my communication and problem solving skills,” said Benjamin. Benjamin is a junior in the Quest Academy at Millikan High School and a member of the water polo and swim teams.
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On January 29th, 2015, East Long Beach lost a true pioneer and local legend. John Albertson, owner of Soccer City and Embroidery on Woodruff, passed away unexpectedly and much too soon. I only knew John for the last three years of his life, but would consider him a good friend. He taught me so much about running a business and a family without actually ever saying a word. Here are a few things that will stick with me:

1. **Hardwork** - Few people worked harder that John Albertson. Throughout his whole life before opening Soccer City, John worked two jobs to support his family. He did what had to be done. He worked all day. Went home, took a nap, and then worked a night shift somewhere else.

Once he started Soccer City it was like having two jobs. He rarely worked less than 10 hours a day (usually much more), and often still worked a day shift and a night shift. John literally worked up until the day he died. His work ethic was tangible to his clients. In his best (and only) marketing ploy, John placed his embroidery machines at the front of his store so that clients could understand how much attention and how many hours he personally gave to each job.

John was gruff and tough. He never put on a salesman’s facade. Yet, anyone who gave him a job to do would soon realize that, through his commitment and work ethic, return-business was a no-brainer. If a client is buying your work, not your word, then both parties win.

2. **Family** - it was everything to John. He didn’t shy away from having his family rely on him and he also didn’t shy away from relying on his family.

Besides supporting his family from the day he got married until the day he passed away, he just plain loved being around them. His favorite time of year was Christmas when everyone was around the house. He also had just about everyone who was related to him work or help out at his shop at some point. It went without saying that the Albertson family leaned on each other for help because that’s what family does. It’s important to have a reason for your hard work.

3. **Never complain** - John had to overcome more obstacles than most. Or as John saw it- he had to overcome obstacles just like everyone else. Besides business obstacles, he dealt with the early passing of his wife and one of his daughters. I never heard him complain, he just worked harder and drew his family closer. Don’t be defined by your problems.

4. **Make time for little ones** - John’s original vision was for Soccer City to become a mecca in Long Beach for youth soccer. When his business was forced to shift more towards embroidery in the early 2000’s due to the internet and big box store competition, he never forgot about the reason he opened Soccer City in the first place. Even when he stopped making money selling soccer gear, he always made sure that if a young kid came in for cleats, shinguards, and a ball, someone in the shop would drop what they were doing and lace the tike up with a smile and a word of encouragement.

Kids playing LBYSO, AYSO, and club soccer now don’t realize it, but for decades, John made it his priority to turn Long Beach from a city without youth soccer into a place we can now truly call, Soccer City. Never forget your priorities.

To read more about John Albertson’s amazing and important life in Long Beach, please go to www.lb908.com
Formed in 1999, the **Long Beach Water Ambassadors** are a valuable part of the education and outreach efforts of the department. The Ambassadors are the front line, representing the department at many different community and civic events, as well as in the classroom.

If you are 55+, can volunteer a few hours a month (or more if you choose) and are interested in learning and talking about water, please contact us. We are always looking for new people to join this fun and outgoing group of community leaders.

Our volunteers are screened and fingerprinted through the Long Beach Police Department and are covered under the insurance program through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

_We have a great group of people...come join us!_
Contact Jean Hartman at WA-WaterAmbassadors@lbwater.org.
Bixby Knolls is a throwback to a different era. It is often considered “old” Long Beach or “uptown” Long Beach. It is a neighborhood filled with historic charm, large lots and a community vibe.

Bixby Knolls, which includes the prestigious Virginia Country Club, is tucked between Orange Avenue and the Long Beach (710) Freeway. This hidden Long Beach gem was originally part of Rancho Los Cerritos, which was home to Jotham Bixby, also known as “the father of Long Beach.”

Development of the 120-acre neighborhood began in 1929. According to the Long Beach Historian, it was intended to be the “most attractive residential section of Long Beach,” with the most prestigious community leaders as its residents. It took several years, but by the middle of the 1930s, that’s exactly what it was.

Homes in Bixby Knolls are set on overs-sized lots and full of historical character. There are no cookie-cutter homes. Each home has its own architect, who brought unique features and tons of charm to every house. The majority of current residents maintain their homes and the character of the neighborhood.

Bixby Knolls has also retained a community feeling. “There is a wonderfully unusual neighborliness of people that gives the area its own Norman Rockwell-ish village identity within the city,” said Elizabeth Hernandez, a long-time resident and docent at Rancho Los Cerritos.

The neighborhood calendar is chock full of community events. The first Friday of each month is “First Friday” on Atlantic Avenue, where merchants stay open late, bands play and residents enjoy art and each other. On the Fourth of July, a grass-roots parade and picnic draws the kids and community together. And during the first week of December, the commercial strip on Atlantic Avenue is closed off for the annual “snow” (generated by snow machines), which brings a little magic to the holiday season.

Bixby Knolls is also known as one of the most walkable—and bikeable—neighborhoods in the city.

The neighborhood has so much to offer. There is excellent access to transportation, including several freeways and the Blue Line; a safe park with tennis courts and free summer concerts; the Dominguez Gap Wetlands, which features a lovely walk and birdwatching; the Long Beach Shakespeare Theater; and even a horse-boarding and training stable, offering group and private riding lessons. Bixby Knolls also boasts a wide array of grocery stores, coffee shops and restaurants.

Homes in the area can range anywhere from $600,000 for a two-bedroom home to more than $3 million for a grand estate on a sprawling lot.
An amazing home nestled on a quiet street in the middle of Bixby Knolls is currently listed for $2.3 million.

The 5,500 square-foot estate was built in 2007, after removal of the four-plex that once stood in its place. It is situat-ed on an oversized lot, which measures 16,673 square feet.

The house features four master bed-rooms, each with its own ensuite, two laundry rooms, a gourmet kitchen, and a bonus casita. No expense was spared on this luxurious home.

Marble tiles and a sweeping staircase grace the entryway. A roomy living room, complete with a fireplace, and a full-size dining room are made for entertaining. The kitchen is perfect for any chef—featuring professional-grade Viking appliances, two dishwashers, a wine refrigerator, and a 73-gallon ice machine.

Upstairs, the expansive master bed-room promises sweet dreams with its double walk-in closets, wet bar, and full bathroom, including a steam shower.

The home is not only magnificent to look at, but also smartly designed. There are four electrical panels, a three-zone HVAC system, and an enhanced nine-camera security system.

“The original builder of this home thought of everything,” said realtor Brenda Trigo of VB Realty. “The owner had impeccable taste as well and enhanced it greatly settling for nothing but the best.”

Brenda Trigo and her partner Vivan Ainis listed the house at the end of March, and a special open house was held to show off its charm.

“We called the open house our Sunset Soiree,” said Brenda.

Identity Home Staging, a local Long Beach company with an eye for design, staged the house for the soiree. Harp-ist Jillian Risigari-Gai entertained the guests, while Pedro Inocensio, execu-tive chef at The Palms, Beverly Hills, provided a demonstration and hors d’oeuvres in the gourmet kitchen.

“This is a special home, so we wanted to make sure we treated it that way,” said Vivan. “Our goal as realtors is to understand what our clients and their homes need and make sure we do everything we can to deliver.”

Brenda’s and Vivan’s first priority as realtors is to help families find roots in this great community. However, when owners are ready to move on, they also take pride in showcasing each home beautifully to attract buyers. This home is just one example of the exceptional homes Bixby Knolls has to offer.

“We recently moved our office to Bix-
by Knolls, and I’ve fallen in love with the area,” said Brenda. “If you’re look-ing for an established neighborhood in Long Beach with large lots, historic homes and an amazing community atmosphere, Bixby Knolls is it!”
Hi Eric, can you briefly describe the vision behind your business and tell us what you offer?

One of my main things is building relationships with customers. Long-time relationships with customers, their families, and their friends. We take the utmost pride in our work. We are trying to build good products and continue to build a good reputation. We cover all aspects of the pool business from retail to building pools, remodeling pools, repairing pools, removing pools, and servicing pools and equipment. We stay up with all the cutting edge technology. Which is insane. It's changing by the minute.

You have supported our East Long Beach magazine since our third issue and we want to thank you for that. Why did you choose to start your business in East Long Beach in the first place and how else have you incorporated your businesses into the community?

The first reason is that I've lived in East Long Beach since before I started the business. It seemed like a great market to expand in since I was already doing work in the area. Over the years I've hired a lot of local kids. I hire kids from Millikan and Lakewood High every summer. Support local softball and soccer teams and local high schools.

I know you first got into the business through your dad. What did he teach you? What did your job entail?

At 8 years old I started working for my dad digging ditches and cleaning the back of his store [Cerritos Pool Supply in Lakewood]. I worked with him every summer and after school. When I began driving I started my own route cleaning pools, still working for my dad and his friends. Soon after though, I started my own business cleaning pools. Then I realized I wanted to build and do construction.

My dad taught me integrity. It's the most important thing in business. Safety, safety, safety. He always made safety first. He had the utmost knowledge. Everything from chemicals to electrical to gas, to hydraulics and how to read engineering drawings—he taught me. Pool codes, engineering and plumbing is all entirely different than house plumbing. Everything for pools is just a specialty technique. There's all sorts of things you have to remember. The electrical is different too. We deal with a lot of 220 voltage and have to keep in mind safety because water and electricity don't mix.
Since the day you opened, how has your business grown, expanded, and changed from what you first envisioned?
I always knew what I would do eventually- it was just a matter of getting there. I remember walking to school with this guy in high school and he was always saying I don’t know what I’m gonna do when I grow up. I said I’m gonna build pools. I thought I’d build one pool a month and that would earn me a living. We do almost 10-fold that now.

What does your daily work-day look like? What is everything that you do personally?
I get up early, I get my jobs lined up. I project manage everything. Pool guys, the store, pool remodeling, custom pool design on our computer programs. One thing I started this year that I love, is I take my kids to school every morning. They go to McBride and Bancroft. I then get my work day started, check the shop, materials, and get the guys going.

What is your favorite type of job?
Structural. Remodeling a pool. Cutting a pool and turning it the other way. Adding spas, remodeling a pool that was built in 1960, taking out a wall and putting in something new. It’s so challenging. I love getting a picture message in the evening of clients and their family enjoying their new pool, saying, “This is so cool, thank you.” I love that.

What is the best part about owning your own business?
You control your own destiny. You’re in control, yet at the same time you’re never in control. I like all the responsibility.

What is the hardest part about owning your own business?
The responsibility. I’m responsible for my employees. I need to make sure I have business, so they can pay for their families, and eat. I’m responsible for all the work we do in people’s backyards, making sure to close their gate and not to let their dog out. That responsibility is like this giant list of stuff. It’s easy to make money. It’s hard to make enough money for people to rely on you for their own livelihood. You can be a one-man show, but you can only go so far.

What would you like to say to your customers in East Long Beach?
Thank you. and please keep coming back. That answer is so easy, almost too easy. I appreciate it. Anything else we can do for you, we’re on it. Anything we can do for you, or any feedback please let us know.

Thank you so much for your time and for being such an outstanding business in East Long Beach!
We looked around the world and said to ourselves, “Selves, why are there so many people struggling each and every day? Isn’t there something we can do to help make their lives a little better?” As it turns out, there is something we can do.
Thank you Michele K for being thorough, detail oriented and a true professional. Michele sold our home quickly and for top dollar. We highly recommend using Michele K for all your real-estate needs.

Thank you Sonny Davila We have financed with him 5 or 6 times. Always very responsive and helpful. Sonny is very friendly and just a great person to work with.

Thank you Davis Zellmer for being very professional. You really listened to what we needed and went the extra mile!

Thank you Victoria Sciarra - For over five years now I have benefited from the meditations both in classes and using the meditation techniques outside of classes in my daily life.

Thank you Bolt Computer Training - I’ve never been very good with technology but Susan has really helped me with the highly technical things I need to do for my work. It’s been really helpful to have her!

Thank you Oriana Shea and Co. Oriana devoted many hours to helping us find what we were looking for. We moved into our new home just a couple months later. I didn’t think it would happen that fast!
COUPONS!!  CUT OUT AND SAVE.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS IN THE 908’!

BUY 1 SANDWICH GET 1 FREE
BUY 3 CUPCAKES GET 3 FREE
Miss Priss Cupcakes
See our advertisement on page 21

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$10 OFF SMOG CHECK
Bellflower Smog #3
See our advertisement on page 12

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Not valid on re-test.
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Tax not included.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

Free Beach Hat
East Long Beach Pool and Spa
See our advertisement on page 39

Bring in a picture of your pool equipment and we’ll see if anything needs to be updated plus give you a FREE BEACH HAT!
First 50 customers only.
Offer expires 5/20/15.

10% OFF ENTIRE BILL
Cafe Lorel
See our advertisement on page 29

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
One per table or Take-out order.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

20% OFF ANY SINGLE ITEM
Flags with a Flair
See our advertisement on page 27

With this coupon only.
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Offer expires 5/2/15.

$2 Watch Battery
J&L Jewelry
See our advertisement on page 11

With this coupon only.
One watch battery per person.
Not valid with any other discount.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

10% OFF MEN’S NEW BALANCE
20% OFF ALL OTHER MEN’S SHOES
Tenni-Moc’s Shoe Store
See our advertisement on page 31

In-stock products only.
With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 5/21/15.

$5 OFF ORDER OF $25 OR MORE
Naples Rib Company
See our advertisement on page 33

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special (including happy hour).
One per table or Take-out order.
Offer expires 5/8/15.

$2 OFF ANY X-LARGE PIZZA
Deli News Pizza
See our advertisement on page 31

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
One per dine-in or take-out order.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

40% OFF FASHION BOOTS
Tenni-Moc’s Shoe Store
See our advertisement on page 31

In-stock products only.
With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 5/21/15.
The best way to support this magazine is to support our advertisers!

**BUY 1 ENTREE, GET 1 ENTREE FREE!!!**

*The Crooked Duck*

See our advertisement on page 46

*Buy 1 breakfast or lunch entree, get 1 breakfast or lunch entree of equal or lesser value FREE! MONDAYS ONLY!*

One coupon per table (expires 6/1/15; not valid 5/25/15)

**1 FREE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

(teatime, storytime, or happy hour)

*Dream Come True*

See our advertisement on page 45

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

**2 FOR 1 PUBLIC SKATING SESSION**

*The RINKS-Lakewood Ice*

See our advertisement on page 46

Good for one free public skate session and skate rental at *The RINKS-Lakewood Ice* with paid admission of equal or greater value.
This coupon has no cash value.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

**$11.99 LARGE 1-TOPPING PIZZA**

*Straw Hat Pizza*

See our advertisement on page 39

Web Code LP1199
With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer.
Tax not included.
One coupon per person.
Offer expires 6/30/15.

**20% OFF ANY FOOD ORDER**

*EJ Malloy’s - Los Altos*

See our advertisement on page 33

Valid at Los Altos location only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
Coupons not valid for drinks.
One coupon per table.
Due in only. Expires 6/30/15.

**20% OFF ANY SINGLE ITEM**

*Miyamo*

See our advertisement on page 46

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
Offer expires 5/2/15.

**20% OFF ANY SINGLE ITEM**

*The Denim Bar*

See our advertisement on page 27

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
Offer expires 5/2/15.

**$5 OFF ORDER OF $25 OR MORE**

*El Burrito Grill*

See our advertisement on page 31

With this coupon only.
Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or price special.
One per table or Take-out order.
Offer expires 7/31/15.
Thank you Family Floors - They were very attentive, showed us a million different samples, and took care of us. We took samples home. They do professional work, quality work and in a timely manner. Very affordable!

Family Floors- See our advertisement on page 5

Thank you Interior Style Designs - the window coverings look great from the inside and the outside. You treated the job like you were working on your own house and I really appreciate the professional job!

Interior Style Designs- See our advertisement on page 37

Thank you Don Gath Insurance Agency - My family has been going to the Gath’s for over 30 years. They are honest, truthful, alway there when you need them, never a no, always a yes and resolve all issues for us at all times.

Don Gath Insurance- See our advertisement on page 35

Thank you Dr. Bill Walton, DDS - Dr. Walton is the best dentist I’ve ever been to. I look forward to going to the office every time. His staff is highly professional and personable. I actually enjoy going to the dentist.

Dr. Bill Walton, DDS - See our advertisement on page 6

Thank you White Realty - The whole company displays good integrity and advice. They brought in good customers, we had multiple offers, and they had the insight to steer us away from potential problems.

White Realty- See our advertisement on page 29

Thank you Mary-Kaye Antonelli - For giving us great service as our family’s needs have changed throughout the years. She recommended that we sign up for AARP and we can not thank her enough. It has really helped us out recently.

Mary-Kaye Antonelli- See our advertisement on page 13

Thank you New Light Electric - Jose and his crew were excellent. He saves me a lot of money and is always available to take a call if I have an emergency electrical problem.

-Donnie Nabor

New Light Electric- See our advertisement on page 3
OUR RECENT SUCCESS STORIES...

2401 Ocana Ave.
6845 E. Monlaco Rd.
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3644 Nipomo Ave.

Real People, Real Reviews, Real Results...

I had been researching realtors in the Long Beach area for several years. My husband and I are very picky. One day, Oriana knocked on my door. I was familiar with who she was through my research. After talking with her for a few minutes, her knowledge and professionalism struck me in a good way. Then I started researching her specifically. After a few months, I told my husband when we were ready to buy and sell, I have the realtor he would want to work with. That day eventually came and we set a meeting. I was right, my no nonsense husband liked her from the start!

We started the process of seriously looking for a home in August. Oriana devoted many hours to helping us find what we were looking for. We moved into our new home just a couple months later. I didn’t think it would happen that fast. She listened and found us exactly what we wanted. She was with us every step of the way. A couple months later, we decided to sell our other home. Not only did she make some wonderful suggestions on small improvements, but she also got personally involved in helping make it happen. We received 2 offers in less than 14 days. We credit her marketing and expertise for that. She’s top notch and has put together a wonderful team. Oriana is our realtor for life!

-The Quevedo Family

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