

## BUSINESS BEAT: People You Can Bank On Breakfast

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—Photo by Ashleigh Oldland

HONORED. Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank Henry Walker, Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association Executive Director Blair Cohn and F&M Bixby Knolls Branch Manager Alex Bikov smile as they hold Cohn's People You Can Bank On Award.



community activist; and Kevin McDonald; chief executive officer of The Arc.

People You Can Bank On organizers said they hope to host the event annually, honoring influential members of the Long Beach community and sharing stories about the awardees to uplift and inspire others.

For details about F&M, visit [www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com).

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By Ashleigh Oldland  
Editor | 0 comments

### Bank On It

Farmers & Merchants Bank, a community bank that is celebrating its 104th year, hosted an inaugural breakfast and awards ceremony, People You Can Bank On, Thursday morning at the Virginia Country Club to honor nine Long Beach area residents.

Awardees were chosen for their community service, professionalism and leadership and included: Mark Schneider, owner of Dave Schneider Jewelry; Thomas J. Rhoads, a professor at California State University, Long Beach; Rod Wilson, president of the East Anaheim Business Alliance and owner of a public relations agency Pacific Research and Strategies, Inc.; Dr. Myrvin Ellestad, the former chief of cardiology at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center; Cindy Atkinson, owner of Coffee Cup Café and co-founder of the nonprofit Cranium Crusaders; Blair Cohn, executive director of the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association; Wayne Piercy, Rotarian, community volunteer, former mayor of Lakewood and former principal at Poly High School; George M. Murchison, former Port of Long Beach harbor commissioner and