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13504 La Jolla Circle



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MAY@R'S CORNER

s we reflect on this year's Fourth of July, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who helped keep our city safe during one of the most challenging times of the year for fire danger.

Special thanks go to our dedicated Fire Watch volunteers, the La Habra Heights Fire Department, and City staff for their long hours and unwavering commitment during the holiday weekend. Their coordinated patrols and presence throughout the city helped deter illegal fireworks and enabled a rapid response to potential threats. Your efforts truly make a difference in protecting our hillsides and homes.

If you're looking for a way to get more involved in the community, I encourage you to consider joining the Fire Watch team. It's a meaningful way to serve and help



Iohn Pespisa

LHH Fire Watch is a member of the California FireSafe Council.

safeguard the city during high-risk fire periods.



In other good news, our new Pierce fire engine has arrived! This state-of-the-art vehicle will enhance our emergency response capabilities and is currently being outfitted with communication radios to ensure full integration with the Los Angeles County Fire Department system. Once complete, this engine will be ready to roll and serve our residents with advanced reliability and effectiveness.

On the infrastructure front, the long-awaited Avocado Crest Road traffic signal is nearly complete. The last major component—installing the large signal pole near high-voltage overhead lines—requires a scheduled power outage to ensure safety for the installation crew. That work is expected to be completed in August, barring any unforeseen delays. Thank you for your continued patience as we work to improve safety and traffic flow in that area.

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our beautiful city.

—John Pespisa



Gil Taylor

PRESIDENT'S PEN

The had an outstanding Music in The Park season thanks to the hard work of boardmember Monica Gunns and her team of dedicated volunteers. Our first concert, featuring *The Answer*, the classic rock band that has been appearing in the Heights since our concerts began in 1989, drew what many observers believe was our biggest audience ever (*see photos on page 4*).

At the beginning of each concert, Monica made a point of thanking our sponsors (*shown below*), all of which have supported our summer concerts in the past—in the case of Ray Fernandez, for over a decade! Each week Monica also thanked our *Friends of Music in The Park* group, which will receive special recognition in the September issue of *Heights Life*. We're grateful to you all!

If you've attended our summer concerts over the years, you've probably noticed that many folks bring along their dogs (on leashes, of course). While taking concert photos for the magazine, Barbara and Dan Stracner have snapped portraits of many of those beloved canines—and since August 26 is "National Dog Day," we thought you'd like to see some of those shots (*page 8*).

We're happy to report that we had an unusually large number of graduates this year, so we've extended our grad recognitions into August. You'll find our final three on page 6. We congratulate them along with all the other graduates who appeared in our June and July issues. Please join us in wishing bright futures and great success to our Heights Class of 2025!

It will be fall before we know it, so boardmembers Lynn Kelley and Angela Owen are making plans and seeking volunteers to transform the gym at The Park into "La Haunted Heights" for our *Halloween Haunt* on the evening of October 31. If you want to get spooky and help, you'll find their contact information on page 16.

Belated thanks: Due to an administrative mixup, Gold Members Keith and Mary Forster weren't listed in the recognition of Premium Members in our July issue. We apologize, and we thank them for their ongoing support of LHHIA.

—Gil Taylor

LHHIA sincerely thanks our 2025 *Music in The Park* sponsors:





e had a great time at The Park this summer! We're grateful to everyone who turned out to enjoy the music and community spirit—and also to help support LHHIA, which has been presenting these concerts since 1989.

La Habra Heights Improvement Association



Puente Hills community patrols & fireworks prevention on July 4

his past Independence Day, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) once again took action to protect our treasured hills and open spaces from illegal fireworks activity that could cause devastating wildfires.

For over 20 years, the Habitat Authority has organized a fireworks patrol on the evening of July 4 and partnered with local jurisdictions. Twenty volunteers—trained and coordinated by the Authority—were stationed at popular access points throughout the Preserve in La Habra Heights, Whittier and Hacienda Heights from 7 to 10 p.m., serving as extra eyes and ears to spot and report any illegal fireworks or suspicious activity, educate the public and discourage unauthorized access after dark.

This proactive presence has become a trusted tradition, helping to deter dangerous behavior and ensure a rapid response from emergency services if needed. Rangers from the Habitat Authority (contracted through the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority) actively patrolled the preserve in trucks equipped with water, with staff and other MRCA trained firefighters lending additional patrol support.

They worked together beyond midnight and collaborated with local fire and law enforcement agencies to keep a close watch over the hills. The City of La Habra Heights and its local Fire Watch group are also deeply committed to fire safety, and we greatly value the opportunity to collaborate with them in these important efforts.

Residents from all over were encouraged to join in, and all patrol members received guidance on how to safely observe

and report without putting themselves in harm's way. These combined efforts are part of a broader, multi-agency strategy that includes annual defensible-space clearance, coordinated emergency response planning and ongoing public education to keep both the Preserve and surrounding neighborhoods safe from wildfire threats.

The Habitat Authority is grateful to all volunteers and partners who helped make this year's Fourth of July celebration a safe and peaceful event for everyone.

When it's really hot.

igh heat warnings from county and state health agencies have been showing up with increasing frequency, and heat records are already being broken all around the state and USA yet again.

That's why it's really important to take precautions for the next few months to avoid heat-related sicknesses and to know what to do if you, your family members or neighbors fall prey to heat exhaustion or heat stroke (see chart at the right).

Young children, elderly people and those with compromised health are especially vulnerable to heat sickness, but it can strike anyone. In fact, over the past four years, extreme heat has caused the highest number of deaths among all weather-related emergencies—even more than tornadoes and hurricanes.

"Extreme heat" is defined as two or more successive days with heat of 90 degrees F or above.

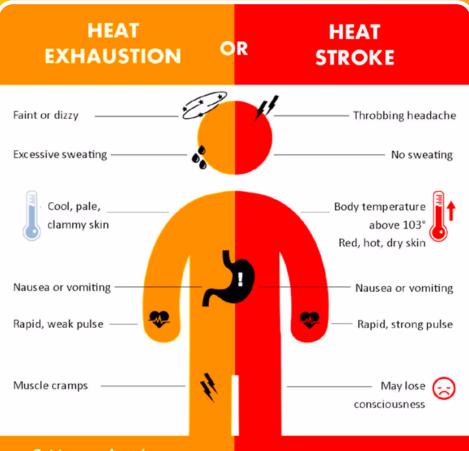
Extreme heat precautions:

- Avoid strenuous activities.
- Wear light-colored clothing.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Find shade or air conditioning.
- Check on family members and neighbors to make sure they're OK.
- Watch out for heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car!



- Identify places in your community where you can go to stay cool.
- Cover your windows with shades or drapes during daylight hours.
- Avoid being in the sun as much as possible, especially between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Use sunscreen—a sunburn can clog sweat pores, limiting your body's ability to cool down.
- Electric fans can provide comfort, but once the temperature hits the high 90s, they will not prevent heat-related illness and they can give you a false sense of security.

- If you use a fan, place a pan filled with ice in front of it. The fan's breeze will pick up the cold air from the melting ice and create a cooling mist.
- Run ceiling fans counter-clockwise to push cool air downward.
- If you have a swimming pool, take a plunge—or take a cooling shower.
- Avoid using your stove or oven. Use a microwave or outdoor grill.
 Watch local weather forecasts, and when extreme heat is predicted, be prepared to take all precautions shown here.



- Get to a cooler, air conditioned place
- Drink water if fully conscious
- Take a cool shower or use cold compresses

CALL 9-1-1

 Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives

Congratulations, Heights grads!

This completes our *Heights Life* graduation coverage for 2025. We're very proud of *all* our graduates!

Sean Fiori

Sean recently earned his law degree from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. A graduate of La Serna High School and the University of California, Riverside, Sean is currently studying for the California Bar Examination.



Noah Perumean

Noah just earned his bachelor of science degree in business management from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. As *Heights Life* went to press, he was considering various career possibilities in business.



Gabriel Garcia

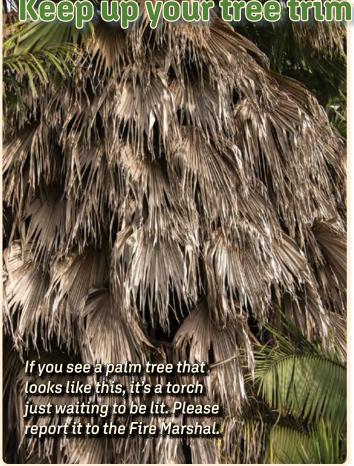
Gabriel graduated with honors from Whittier Christian High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. Gabe will be attending Biola University in La Mirada in the fall with the goal of becoming a psychologist.







Keep up your tree trimming & brush clearance!



alm trees are enduring symbols of Southern California, and we have plenty of them here in the Heights. But when they aren't maintained properly, they become deadly fire hazards. Dried-out, shaggy fronds are really dangerous. They

can explode into flames in just seconds and rain embers onto buildings and set other trees and vegetation blazing. The danger increases on hot summer days and especially when Santa Ana winds are blowing.

Don't hesitate to report any 'torches' that you see to LHH Fire Marshal Ryan Jorgensen at **562-694-8283**, extension 327. That also goes for any other overgrown trees or vegetation or dry brush that you spot in the Heights. You can also take photos of the problem areas and email them to **rjorgensen@lhhcity.org**.

The La Habra Heights Fire Department is in the midst of its annual inspections of every property in the city, and they always appreciate a heads-up from residents who see problems. Fire prevention is a year-round responsibility—and we're all in it together!

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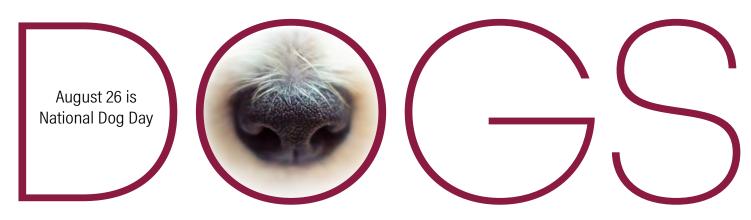
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La Habra Heights, CA 90631

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OF MUSIC IN THE PARK

e had a great time meeting all these music-loving dogs and their happy humans. Thanks for those smiles!

- Barbara & Dan Stracner







































When dogs are running loose in the Heights

t happens all too often. Dogs on a leash break free—and take off. Dogs confined in a fenced-in yard get out when a gate isn't closed or there's an opening in the fence. Or loose dogs from other places wander into the Heights and become both a nuisance and a menace, especially when they arrive in packs.

Whatever the reason, dogs are not supposed to run free in La Habra Heights, which abides by regulations set forth by Los Angeles County, specifically Leash Law 10.32.010 that "prohibits dogs from running at large on any public street, park or other public areas or upon private property other than that of the dog owner. A dog must be restrained by a substantial leash not exceeding six feet and be in the control of a competent person when off property."



The City of La Habra Heights contracts with Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control for services related to the care, protection and safety of animals. Animal control officers respond to violations for unleashed animals and unlicensed dogs and respond to emergency calls related to animals. Call the department at **562-940-6898**. Give the

dispatcher the exact location where you saw the dog, its appearance and its behavior.

If you encounter a dog running loose, don't approach or chase the animal, especially if it seems frightened or aggressive—think safety first! Chasing it could cause it to run into traffic or create other potentially dangerous situations. Call Animal Care and Control.

The same advice applies if you find an injured dog. Don't attempt to move the animal. You might get bitten! In a case like this, always use the phone, not online methods, to report the injury and get help for the dog more quickly.

Sometimes a loose dog will behave in a friendly way and approach you willingly when you call (especially if the dog knows you). If that's the case, you have the option to try and contain the dog temporarily, preferably with a leash or other restraint. This is strictly a judgment call, and you shouldn't take chances. If the dog begins resisting or shows any signs of fear or aggression, back off!

If the dog proves sufficiently docile, check if

it has an identification tag with owner contact information. If you decide to hold onto the dog, you should still report it as found to the Department of Animal Care and Control, which may be able to reunite the dog with its owner.

Department representatives may advise taking the dog to the Downey Animal Shelter. Bringing a lost dog to a shelter is often the best way to reunite it with its owner, since shelters can scan for microchips and are the first place many owners will usually look. (If your pets haven't been microchipped, seriously consider providing them this effective protection.)

LA County Animal Care and Control also offers information about pet adoptions and answers requests for other animal-related services from La Habra Heights residents.

We have another valuable resource when a pet is lost in La Habra Heights: *Fido Come Home*, a community-based group focused on reuniting lost pets with their owners in our city. They don't attempt physical rescues, but they use their database to send out alerts and photos of lost and found animals in the area. Call them at **562-694-8090**, and you can also find them on Facebook. See their ad on page 17. (We've been running their ad for free in *Heights Life* for many years, and we really appreciate the important service they provide for pet owners in the Heights.)

If a dog bites you or anyone else, seek medical attention immediately to avoid serious infections and to make sure that the dog isn't spreading rabies or other diseases.

Protect your pets from the summer heat!

Here are some vital guidelines from the U.S. Humane Society:

- Limit pet exercise on hot days to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and shortnosed pets, which typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass or use dog booties. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.
- Provide ample shade and plenty of fresh, cold water any time your pet is outside. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—it makes it worse.
- Watch for these signs of heatstroke: heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat,

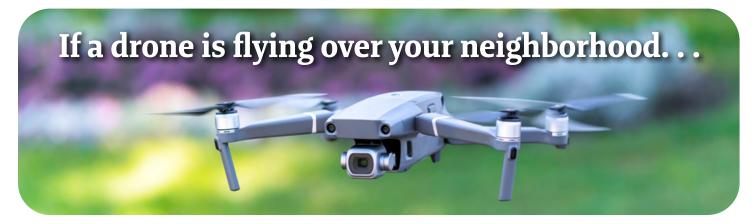


difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness. Animals at particular heatstroke risk are those that are very old, very young, overweight or have heart or respiratory problems. Dogs and cats with short muzzles will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat. If your pet

shows signs of heatstroke, move the animal into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.

• Never leave pets in a parked car—not even for a minute and not even with the car running and air conditioner on! On a warm day, temperatures inside a parked vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die.

Don't let excessive heat harm your pets!



lease don't assume that someone is spying on you! Southern California Edison has been conducting overhead inspections throughout the La Habra Heights area using drones (as well as helicopters). It's all part of SCE's fire prevention and mitigation program. The intention is to keep La Habra Heights safe by inspecting SCE electrical equipment on poles and towers and quickly identifying any damage or potential fire hazards that may need immediate repair. Using drones enables



inspection of equipment from many difficult angles, including top-down, 360-degree views. As you've probably noticed, SCE has installed a great deal of new equipment in our community in recent months, all of which needs periodic inspection. The amount of time it takes to conduct such inspections varies depending on how much equipment is involved and where it's located. The drones are also inspecting tree canopies to determine which ones need trimming to eliminate potential fire hazards in La Habra Heights.



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====IN MEMORIAM===

GEORGE ALAN NORSWORTHY

a resident of La Habra Heights since 1978 and a very active member of our community, passed away at home on May 8, 2025, at the age of 86.

He was born on June 16, 1938, at the Methodist Hospital of Southern California in Los Angeles.

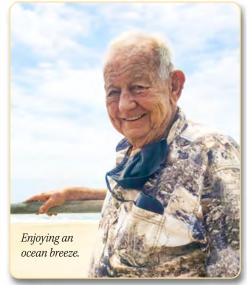
His family and many friends knew him as Alan, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren called him Papa.



In 1959, Alan married his high school sweetheart, Arlene J. Norsworthy (née Crawford), and the two remained devoted to each other for 66 years while building a beautiful life.

Alan enjoyed a long and successful career with The Dial Corporation, a manufacturer of personal care and household cleaning products (the company was acquired by Henkel North American Consumer Goods





in 2004). He made a significant and lasting contribution to operations at the company's manufacturing facility in Santa Fe Springs and ultimately retired as plant manager. His strong work ethic, leadership skills and commitment to his colleagues left a lasting impression on all who worked with him.

Both Alan and Arlene were active members of Highland Riders Equestrian Club, serving together on the board of directors for many years. Alan was the announcer at horse shows and helped build the bleachers at The Park. He also drove a tractor to drag the arena in preparation for each show.

A member of the LHH Parks and Recreation Committee, Alan also participated in Volunteers on Patrol, working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to protect his beloved Heights. A reservist in the U.S. Marine Corps, he was known for his patriotism, including flying an American flag on a lit pole in his family's front yard. He was a sports enthusiast and a umpire for youth softball.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Alan valued time spent in nature and around a campfire with friends. Whether on a quiet morning fishing, out in a duck blind or at the beach, he found great peace and joy in the outdoors. He also







Above, top: Alan, Arlene and their daughter Lynn. Above, middle: Alan and greatgrandson Deacon. Left: Arlene and Alan share one of so many smiles together.

enjoyed building and flying motorized model airplanes.

He is survived by his wife Arlene, his daughters Lynn McGrath and Lori Ragusa, his grandchildren Cody (Theresa) McGrath and Cassidy (Matthew) Russell and his four greatgrandchildren: Juliya, Caitlynn, Shelby and Deacon. He was predeceased by his brothers Gary and David Norsworthy.

In accordance with Alan's wishes, no formal service was held. The family asks that you keep them in your thoughts as they celebrate his life in their own private way.

A growing problem in the Heights

"IT HAS STEADILY GOTTEN WORSE,

usually in late afternoon and into the wee hours: very loud exhausts, burnouts and donuts—often being done in broad daylight, especially near West and Hacienda."

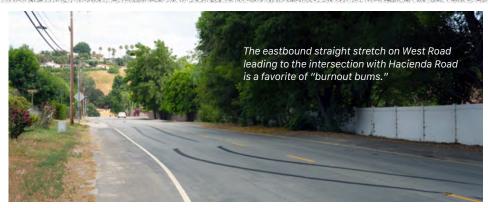
That's from an email written by Heights resident Stephanie Dodson Chang, who, along with her son Stephen, set out to document the growing Heights problem she described. Their photos of the ugly aftereffects are on this page.

Stephanie and her neighbors have spotted several vehicles that have repeatedly engaged in such illegal street "shenanigans" (Stephanie's word), including a grey pickup truck, a grey Mustang and a racing motorcycle. However, thus far nobody has gotten a good photo or video of the vehicles or license plates. But they're working on it...

Residents in the west Heights have become all too accustomed to hearing roaring engines and squealing tires in the early morning hours, especially on West Road. It's only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs.

Of course, what's happening in La Habra Heights isn't the only or the worst case of such irresponsible behavior in Los Angeles County. Cities that are closer to freeways are particularly vulnerable. For example, Paramount has been victimized for years by reckless drivers engaging in burnouts, donut-cutting, street racing and even intersection takeovers that have caused collisions.

The problem has gotten so bad that the LA County Board of Supervisors is considering doubling misdemeanor fines from \$500 to \$1,000 for such dangerous activities.







Paramount has already enacted its own ordinances mandating stiff fines, as well as impounding vehicles and, in some cases, requiring captured offenders to forfeit their vehicles altogether. The city also offers up to \$500 for information that facilitates an arrest, as well as an extra \$500 for providing court testimony that actually leads to a conviction.

Such efforts have been paying off, resulting in hundreds of citations and fines approaching a half-million dollars in a single year.





Other cities are using similar tactics. Since just about everyone is carrying a cellphone camera these days, it's becoming easier to take photos and videos of criminals in action, and such visual evidence is invaluable to law enforcement.

It's highly unlikely that the deputies who patrol the Heights will show up at just the right moment to arrest an offender. But if concerned citizens can capture some good images, maybe we can apprehend some of the idiots who are endangering the public.

Three generations of plumbers servicing La Habra Heights...

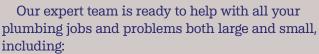


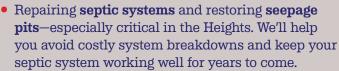


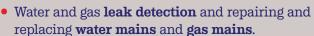




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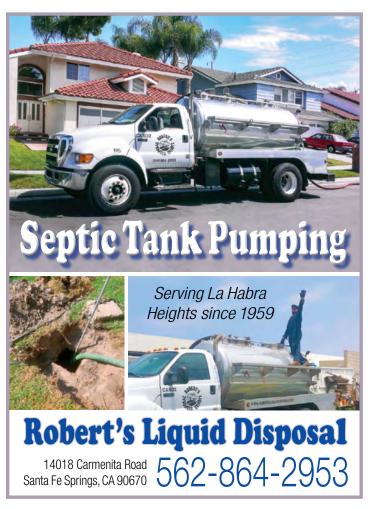


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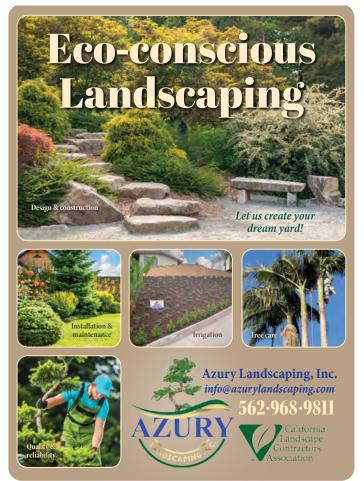
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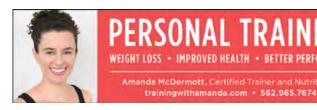
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Jan did an outstanding job selling my parents' house. She was there with us every step of the way. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome.

Jan was absolutely amazing to work with. She helped us navigate a complicated process with ease. I have worked with several realtors over the years, and Jan is top notch!

- D. Richert ****

Jan was instrumental in closing this transaction as the buyer's agent, providing invaluable support throughout the process. She demonstrated excellent communication skills and was always readily available when needed. I highly recommend her!

She skillfully facilitated negotiations and coordination to ensure mutual understanding between the buyer and seller.

Once again, I extend my sincere gratitude to her. I truly believe she is an exceptional buyer's agent, and I wholeheartedly recommend her to future buyers.

- David H.

- R. Abnev



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Community Events

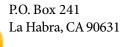
August 11 City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

August 21 Emergency Preparedness: 6 p.m. at City Hall.

August 20 World Mosquito Day (see page 6).

August 26 Planning Commission: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. *National Dog Day* (see page 8).

August 27 Road Advisory meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.



Emergency & City Numbers

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Sheriff's Department562-694-5923 o	or 626-330-3322
RANGER SERVICES	562-698-1446
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency)	562-694-8283
La Habra Heights County Water District	562-697-6769
Los Angeles County Animal Control	562-940-6898
FIDO COME HOME (report lost and found pets)	562-694-8090
Ware Disposal	877-714-9273

La Habra Heights City Council

Brian Bergman562-690-5047Briansbergman@hotmail.com
CAROL ENGELHARDT562-217-0983clengelhardt1@yahoo.com
Јони Резріsa562-694-1371Jmp100@roadrunner.com
Greg Stefflregregstefflre@gmail.com
Norm Zezula562-697-9914normzezulaLhh@gmail.com

Community Service Opportunities

BSA TROOP 1814 • 951-538-8377 or cookmaster251@yahoo.com BSA TROOP 793 (female troop) • Call Carl Diamond at 562-706-8279 or email Carl@cdiamond.org

CUB SCOUT РАСК 817 • 562-267-9022 • lahabrapack817@gmail.com • Facebook.com/pack817

Boys and Girls Club • 562-694-1805 • ourchildrensfuture.org
Habitat Authority • habitatauthority.org/waystohelp
Meals on Wheels • 562-451-9047 • LaHabraMealsonWheels.org
VCC: The Gary Center • 562-264-6000 • vccthegarycenter.org



Advanced life-support calls: 17 (9 in LHH, 8 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 17 (5 in LHH, 12 in LA County), Public assist: 0, Fire calls: 8 (5 in LHH, 3 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 4 (2 in LHH, 2 in LA County), Unincorporated LA County "island": 6, Automatic aid into LA County: 25. **Total calls: 52**



May 2025*

Residence burglary: 1, Hit & run: 4 (3 misdemeanors, 1 felony), Vehicle impounded: 2, Vehicle burglary: 1, Fire: 1, Relinquish weapon: 1, Petty theft: 2, Traffic accidents: 2, Grand theft vehicle: 1, Vehicle repossessed: 2. **Total incidents: 17**



La Habra Heights Improvement Association

BOARD of DIRECTORS • lhhia.com

Gil Taylor, President (LHHIAPresident@gmail.com)	562-322-3453	
Lynn Kelley, Vice President, Halloween Haunt & Yard Sale Co-Ch (lynnkelley91@gmail.com)	•	
Pam McVicar, Secretary & Membership Chairperson (Memberlhhia@gmail.com)	714-504-3415	
Diana Garcia Taylor, Treasurer & Morning With Santa Chairperson		
(Diana@myjesmar.com)	562-5//-4802	
Susan Brooks, Easter Egg Hunt Chairperson & Yard Sale Co-Chairperson		
(susanbrooks827@gmail.com)		
Angela Owen, Halloween Haunt Co-Chairperson & Yard Sale Co-Chairperson		
Angela Owen, Halloween Haunt Co-Chairperson & Yard Sale Co-	Chairperson	
Angela Owen, Halloween Haunt Co-Chairperson & Yard Sale Co- (arowen3@yahoo.com)	•	
	562-201-1119	
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(arowen3@yahoo.com)	562-201-1119 310-849-4582 714-412-2667	
(arowen3@yahoo.com)	562-201-1119 310-849-4582 714-412-2667 562-631-1208	
(arowen3@yahoo.com) Carolyn Boehringer, Advertising Co-Chairperson Monica Gunns, Advertising Co-Chairperson Amy Perez, Director (armacvean@yahoo.com)	562-201-1119 310-849-4582 714-412-2667 562-631-1208 626-824-7363	

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For information about advertising in Heights Life, visit lhhia.org o	r call:	
Advertising Co-Chairperson: Carolyn Boehringer310	-849-	4582

Advertising Co-Chairperson: Monica Gunns......714-412-2667

Welcome Wagon: welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com

Chairperson: Vicki Cooke 562-694-4949

= Become a member =

La Habra Heights Improvement Association is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization (Tax ID# 95-2455456) that receives no funding from the City of La Habra Heights—so we rely on your annual dues and other donations to pay for our many community events and projects. Annual membership dues are:

REGULAR	\$35
BRONZE	\$75
• SILVER	\$100
• GOLD	\$250
PLATINUM	\$500
DIAMOND	\$1,000+
SAPPHIRE	

Pay online at **www.lhhia.com** or mail your check (made payable to LHHIA) to: **LHHIA**, **P.O. Box 241**, **La Habra**, **CA 90631**.

^{*}Because the July 2025 City Council meeting was rescheduled to July 28, we did not receive new Fire and Sheriff reports before our press deadline.