

Heights Life

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
La Habra Heights Improvement Association
Serving the Heights since 1939 • March 2026

A new
generation
of coyote pups
(see page 6)



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LOW PROPERTY TAXES USED TO TRAP YOU.

Not Anymore

PROP 19

Allows eligible homeowners to transfer their tax base when moving to a new home—often anywhere in California



Many California homeowners feel “stuck” in homes that are too large or no longer fit their lifestyle because they’re afraid of losing their low property tax rate. What most people don’t realize is that Proposition 19 changed the rules. If you’re 55 or older (or qualify due to disability or loss of a spouse), you may be able to sell your current home and transfer your existing property tax base to a new home—often anywhere in California. This can make downsizing, right-sizing, or even moving closer to family far more affordable than most homeowners expect. Understanding how Prop 19 applies to your specific situation could open up options you didn’t think were possible.

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Statistics pulled from CRMLS date range Jan 1, 2026



MAYOR'S CORNER

Brian Bergman



Hacienda Road night closures planned

Expect three non-consecutive night closures of Hacienda Road from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. between Canada Sombre and Reposado. To reduce fire risk, Southern California Edison is replacing bare wire lines with insulated, covered conductors and replacing poles. Complete closures are necessary due to safety and logistical concerns. Closure dates have not yet been released; watch message boards, traffic signage and Nixle alerts and mailers.

Your road tax dollars at work

Ongoing street improvements scheduled to be completed by the end of March include portions of Dorothea Road, Avocado Crest, East Road, Fullerton, Tumin, Skyline Drive, Canola, Peppertree, Encinas and Oleander. These upgrades are part of a \$1,575,000 contract awarded to Hardy & Harper Inc., which provided the lowest of six bids received in August 2025. Their bid came in below our engineering estimate. The work is subject to favorable weather.

We need your help to prevent cost increases and keep the work moving smoothly while these upgrades are being made. Please remember that it's your responsibility to clear all dirt and debris from the road in front of your property and three feet back from the edge of the pavement. The contractor will charge more if their workers must clear neglected accumulations that slow down paving work.



Although roads continually deteriorate and must be repaired and improved, it is tempting to delay necessary maintenance due to budget constraints. However, such delay only increases future costs.

We all use these roads, and a well-maintained system increases property values and improves the image of the city—which is why we should all contribute to these road upgrades.

90631 versus the IRS

As the result of the 14 disastrous wildfires in Los Angeles County in January 2025, FEMA declared the entire county a disaster area. Consequently, the IRS allowed LA County residents to defer until October 15, 2025, any tax liability, estimated taxes or filings.

Some local residents who used this extension were surprised when the IRS denied their exemption and assessed a penalty, apparently because IRS computers did not recognize that parts of 90631 are in LA County. I was told that Westlake Village residents experienced the same issue. If you have this problem, don't give up. Make your case by emailing TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov or by calling 877-777-4778 (ask for Accounts Management).

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

Gil Taylor



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Easter Egg Hunt on March 28

The Easter Bunny is getting ready for his annual visit to La Habra Heights, and he'll be the star of our ever-popular **LHHIA Easter Egg Hunt** at The Park on March 28.



The fun starts at 10 a.m., and the Easter Bunny will arrive at 10:15 a.m. in the LHH Fire Department's new engine—but you might want to get there a little early to make sure you get a good spot to greet the bunny and escort him down to the gazebo, where he'll be posing for your family photos until the event ends at noon. Be sure to bring your camera!

We'll have plenty of activities to keep things hopping, including three age-appropriate egg hunts, pony rides, a petting zoo, balloon twisting and face painting.

The event is free, but we ask that you donate one bag of individually wrapped candy per child. All that candy will be handed out to our young egg hunters (*see more on page 4*).

Photo Contest deadline is April 30

Don't forget to send us your three best shots to enter our annual **LHHIA Photo Contest** (*see details on page 4*). If you're entering a shot taken with your cellphone camera, be sure that it's the largest file size with the highest resolution so that it will enlarge well. Every year we receive shots that look nice on a cellphone screen but become too bit-mapped or poorly focused to use when they're blown up to publication size.

Community Yard Sale on May 30

Many of you have asked when we'll be holding our next **Community Yard Sale** (the last two were very successful). We're happy to announce that we'll once again gather at The Park for our Yard Sale on May 30 from 7:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The cost of a 10' x 20' space is only \$20 for Heights residents who sign up by March 15; after that date, spaces will cost \$25 for both residents and non-residents. Sales close on May 8 (*see page 5 for sign-up details*). Admission is free for shoppers—so save the date!

Thank you, John Dominguez!

We're very grateful to Heights resident John Dominguez, a dedicated member of the LHH Emergency Preparedness Committee, for spending many hours researching and producing the map of emergency evacuation routes on pages 8 and 9. Please keep the map handy in case you and your family need to leave the Heights in a hurry. You may also know John as a volunteer extraordinaire who has organized and managed other Heights events, including periodic, ongoing Hacienda Road clean-ups.

—Gil Taylor

La Habra Heights Improvement Association's Annual

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28

The Park in La Habra Heights

10 a.m. until noon

Photos with Easter Bunny

Pony Rides • Face Painting

Petting Zoo • Balloon Toys



Admission is free, but please donate one bag of individually wrapped candy per participating child.

Easter Bunny arrives at 10:15.

Egg hunts start at 10:45.

3 hunts: Infant to 3 years,

4-6 years & 7-10 years.

MAYOR'S CORNER *(continued)*



Start your weed-whackers!

Thanks to a fairly mild summer followed by a warm, wet winter, weeds—including mustard, cheeseweed, castor beans and many more—are already growing ferociously in the Heights. Since we're likely to have a hot, dry summer, we'll have an abundance of fuel and severe fire potential.

Please start cutting weeds and clearing brush on your property immediately! Starting early will not only reduce fire danger in our community, it will speed up the inspection process and allow our Brush Clearance Department to focus on recalcitrant property owners.

—**Brian Bergman**

Send us your three best shots!



Deadline for entries: April 30, 2026

First prize: \$100 Second prize: \$50 Third prize: \$25

- To enter, you must be a member of LHHIA (see page 16 to join).
- Enter up to three photos as *high-resolution* digital files (jpeg, PNG or PDF) and email them as attachments to heightslifeeditor@gmail.com.
- By entering, you agree to allow your images to be published or displayed, without any fee or other form of compensation, in *Heights Life*, on the LHHIA website and at La Habra Heights public events. Published photographs will include photo credits.
- See official *Photo Contest Rules* at lhhia.com. By entering the photo contest, you agree to abide by these rules. *Good shooting!*

La Habra Heights

Community YARD SALE

The Park
1885 Hacienda Rd.

May 30, 2026
7:30 - 1:00

FREE ADMISSION FOR SHOPPERS!

Registration Dates

Early Bird Discount (LHH Residents Only)
\$20 per space when application is submitted
by March 15. (Regular price after March 15: \$25)

Residents - Opens February 1
Early Bird: \$20
Standard: \$25

Non-Residents - Opens March 1
Standard: \$25

Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis and are due by Friday, May 8 or until capacity is reached. Each space is 10' x 20'. To participate, please email Lhhyardsale@gmail.com to request an application.

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- Colon issues
- Scars
- Cellulite reduction
- Allergies
- Sinus congestion
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If you've noticed more coyotes out and about in the Heights lately, it's because we're in the midst of their annual breeding season.

Those single coyotes roaming our community are likely out looking for mates. Once a couple pairs up, they generally remain monogamous.

The gestation period is about 60 days, so sometime between mid-March and May, a new generation of pups—usually three to seven per litter—will be born in well-kept dens throughout La Habra Heights.

Newborns remain in dens for about two months, and then they emerge and begin following their mothers and fathers to learn the unique ways of their species.

Let the concert begin!



One thing coyote pups learn early on is how to sing along when their family members start loudly vocalizing (above). In fact, coyotes are one of the most vocal mammals, which is why Native Americans called them "song dogs."

Coyote songs vary greatly, from high-pitched, staccato yips to full-throated, long-lasting howls that modulate as singers throw back their heads, move their jaws up and down and change the shapes of their lips and tongues to vary the tune. From time to time they'll add barks, hisses and snarls to their repertoire. Coyotes have an innate sense of pitch, and once an individual starts a song, others often join in the same key.



A coyote pup follows mom during a foraging expedition in Powder Canyon.

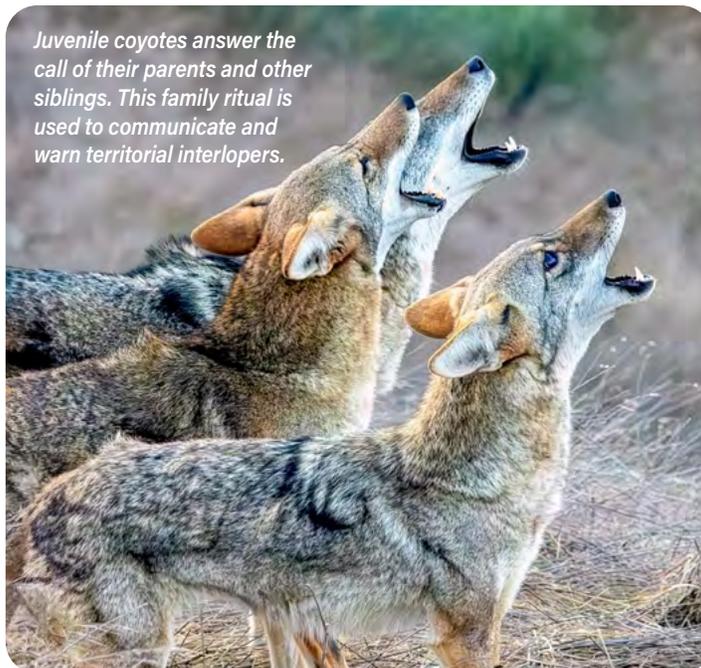
Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are highly territorial, so when a loud coyote concert cranks up in your Heights neighborhood, you're likely hearing a single family sing-along.

Family size depends mostly on how much food is available in a particular territory, but a typical highly structured family consists of a pair of parents and their offspring from one breeding season—usually five to nine individuals. On rare occasions, one or two juveniles from the previous year might still be part of the family unit that occupies and hunts in a single, closely guarded territory.

But when their complex, multi-voiced singing starts, it often sounds like a much larger group due to echoes and the so-called "beau geste effect."



When out hunting, patrolling and marking territory with scat and urine—both in daylight and at night—individual coyotes will sing solo, usually with brief barks and yips, but sometimes with more prolonged howls to communicate with their distant family members, especially when predators are spotted, and to warn off possible territorial interlopers.



Juvenile coyotes answer the call of their parents and other siblings. This family ritual is used to communicate and warn territorial interlopers.

When a coyote pair mates, they often stay together for life, sharing food, territory and shelter with partners and offspring but not outsiders. Both female and male are devoted parents and share the work of raising pups. When coyote mates become separated, they show clear signs of distress, crying and leaping with agitation until they're reunited.

Visit coyoteyipps.com

A great site for learning more about how and why coyotes vocalize and communicate is Janet Kessler's coyoteyipps.com. She has documented the lives of 20 different coyote families over the past two decades. Her videos and recordings of their individual and collective voices and activities are fascinating, providing important insights into the lives of these intelligent, highly adaptable wild animals that have lived in California far longer than we humans.

Coexisting with coyotes

Coyotes are naturally wary of people, and it's best to keep it that way. If a coyote approaches you, act big and scary—wave your arms and yell.

Don't feed them. Keep pet food indoors, secure trash cans and pick up fallen fruit. Let them remain independent wild hunters and foragers, not beggars dependent on humans for food.

Don't use poisons to kill rodents, because coyotes (as well as hawks, owls and other Heights wild predators) will eat them and become ill.

Supervise and secure your pets, especially small ones that could become coyote prey. Cats are especially vulnerable, so you might want to keep them indoors.

For additional information and advice, ProjectCoyote.org is a valuable resource.



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\$168,000 Cal Fire grant supports Habitat Authority ongoing fuel-reduction and fire-resilience efforts

Cal Fire recently awarded a \$168,000 grant to the Puente Hills Habitat Authority to support ongoing wildfire prevention work in the Puente Hills and surrounding communities.

The grant will be used to create defensible space in wildland-urban interface areas, to reduce fuel loads by removing dead, dying or hazardous trees and clearing brush along emergency access routes.

The Habitat Authority's efforts are intended to enhance local community efforts such as home hardening, brush clearance and emergency planning.

The funding was provide by the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

Roy Frances retires from HA Advisory Committee

Roy Frances, former mayor of La Habra Heights, recently ended his term on the Advisory Committee of the Puente Hills Habitat Authority after eight years of outstanding service representing the interests of La Habra Heights. He received recognition and thanks from the Habitat Authority Board.

RURAL LIVING

LHH license plate frames on sale at City Hall for \$10 each

Made in the USA of high-quality, die-cast metal, these attractive, sturdy frames are a great way to display your pride in our unique rural community.

LA HABRA HEIGHTS

2026 Los Compadres high school senior scholarships



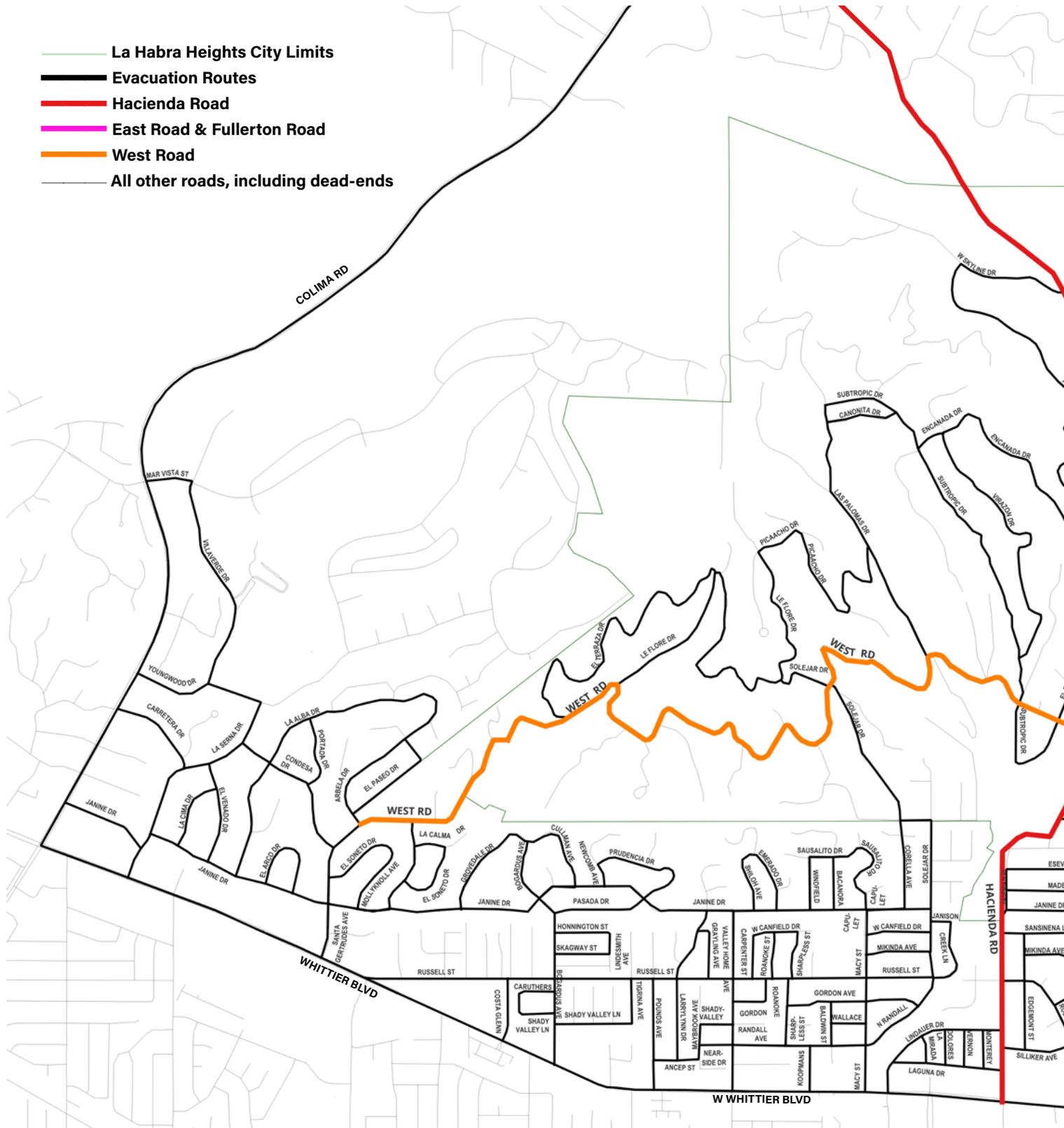
Each year, the Los Compadres Club of La Habra Heights awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors living in La Habra Heights. Students attend various local schools.

To be considered, students much have maintained a 3.5 GPA throughout their high school years and have actively participated in school and community activities.

Selected students will receive a scholarship cash grant and a Certificate of Excellence from Los Compadres and will be recognized in *Heights Life*. Qualified students may request a scholarship application by e-mailing brad@gbcookeinc.com.

Please complete and return applications by **March 13, 2026**.

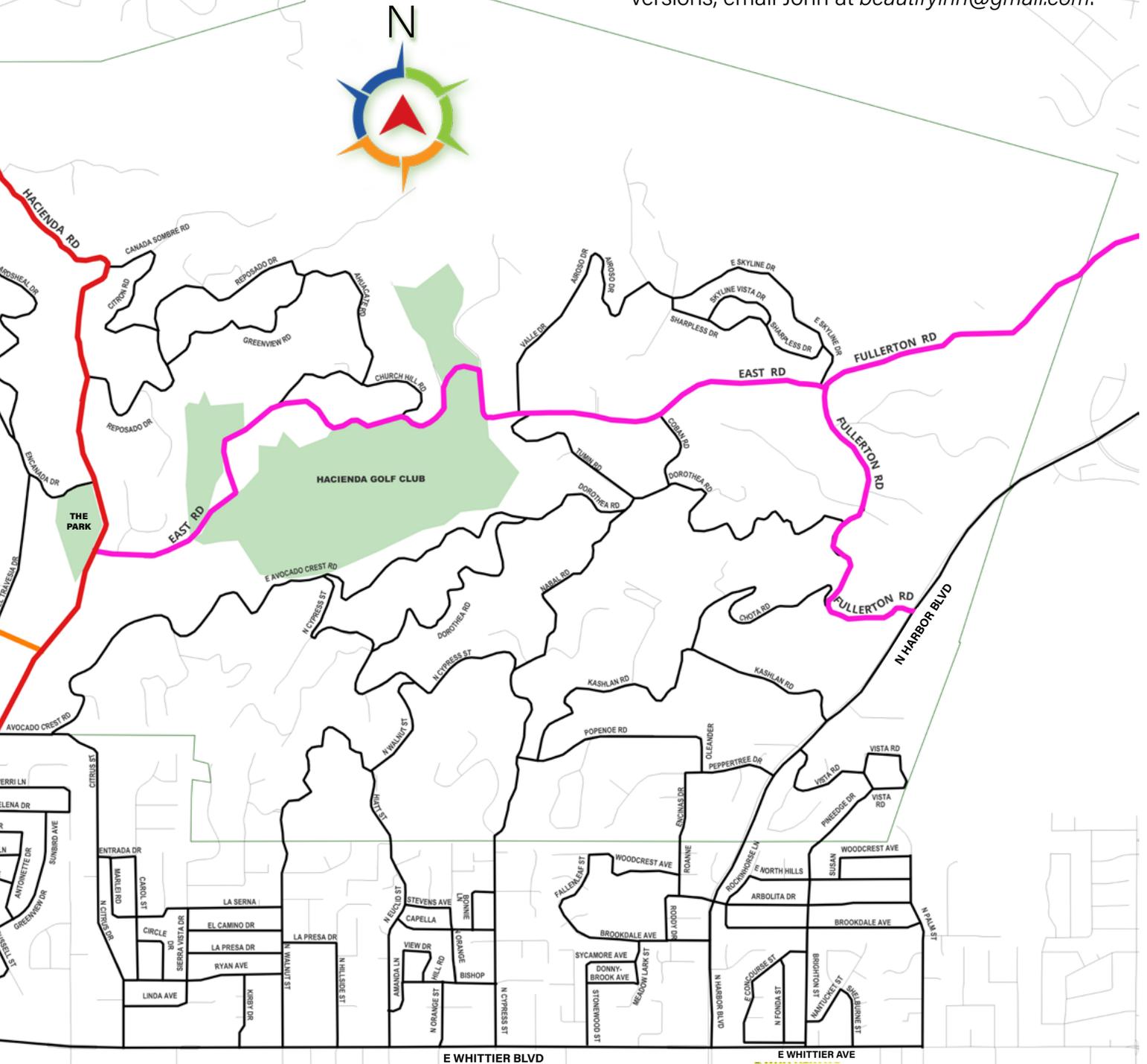
La Habra Heights Emergency



West Road, Hacienda Road, East Road and Fullerton Road are the primary routes (shown in color above) that traverse La Habra Heights and that can be taken to exit the area in an emergency. Roads and streets shown with thick black lines can be taken to reach primary routes or to exit the area. Thin black lines show roads and streets that should *not* be taken, including many that lead to dead ends.

Emergency Evacuation Routes

We thank La Habra Heights resident John Dominguez, who managed the creation of this map. To download a digital version of the map or to offer suggestions for future versions, email John at beautifylhh@gmail.com.



This map was produced by a volunteer group of La Habra Heights residents. Any corrections or recommendations for improvements are welcome (see the note above). Contributors included Emergency Preparedness Committee members, Fire Watch members and current and past residents of La Habra Heights. *Resources used:* QGIS 3.44.1 Open Street Maps.

Garden Plot

By Beverley Lepak

Planting Herbs

Spring arrives on March 20 at 7:46 a.m. PDT, followed by Easter Sunday on April 15 and Earth Day on April 22. Many of us in the Heights will be hosting gatherings with family and friends. As we plan menus and activities, it would be good to have fresh herbs on hand to prepare flavorful dishes.

It's great if you have space for an herb garden and time to maintain it—but if not, growing herbs in pots is a good, less time-consuming alternative, and so is setting aside some space in your vegetable garden for your favorite culinary herbs.

Culinary versus landscape herbs

Many flavorful, easy-to-grow herbs can last for years in your garden. Before planting, always check the size, height and width at maturity to prevent future issues.

It's important to know the difference between landscape herbs and culinary herbs, because even though some of them have the same or similar names, they're not identical. *Lavender*, *oregano*, *sage*, *rosemary* and *thyme* plants produced for landscape use are grown for their appearance—including flowers and form—and they do not have the same flavor as culinary herbs. For example, *Tuscan blue rosemary* for landscape use (right) is pungent and has a strong turpentine overtone, and many different sage and salvia plants are grown strictly as ornamentals and are not recommended for human consumption.

Buy your culinary herbs in the herb and vegetable section in a nursery or from catalogs. Some culinary herbs have thinner leaves and appear more sparse compared to

landscape herbs. While they may not be as pretty, their flavor and versatility are what you'll value in your kitchen.

Evergreen herbs for sunny areas

You won't have to plant evergreen herbs every year. Many can withstand hot and dry environments, and they're also water-wise. Plant *fennel*, *hyssop*, *lavender*, *marjoram*, *oregano*, *rosemary*, *winter savory*, *sage*, *thyme* and *tarragon*. Some herbs, including types of *oregano* and *tarragon*, may die back during

winter, but just leave them alone and they will start growing again when the weather warms up. Most herbs will only need a light trim after the morning dew has dried, and you can dry leaves and flowers, e.g., *lavender* (left), for future use.



Herbs for part-shade to full-shade areas

Many part-shade to full-shade herbs may die back in cooler weather, but you needn't do anything and most will regrow in warm weather. Herbs that prefer slightly more acidic soil may need amendment. Some are also biannual (e.g., *ginger*) and may not produce leaves or roots the first year. Full-shade herbs to plant include *angelica* (right), *ginger*, *horseradish* and *lovage*.



Herbs for part-shade include *Roman chamomile* (ground cover) and *sorrel*. Some shade-loving annuals are *cilantro/coriander*, *comfrey* (left), *German chamomile*, *chervil*, *summer savory* and *stevia*.

Mint plants (below) are very invasive and should be grown in containers on a solid surface. Some mints prefer more moisture. Although mints can grow in full sun, partial shade will make the leaves a bit more tender. Many mints will die back in winter, but just keep watering them and they will start growing in spring.



Mint



Sorrel



Lovage



Grow organic

When incorporating any food-source plants into your landscape, remember to keep pesticides or other potentially harmful chemicals well away from your edible plants. Use nothing that isn't safe for human consumption.

Happy Spring, Easter and Earth Day!



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La Habra Heights | 2026 Market Snapshot

When results matter, choose the agent setting the pace in today's market.

PENDING SALES IN JANUARY - 2

927 E Avocado Crest Rd	5 Bed	7 Bath	5600 sq ft	List Price	\$2,888,888
109 Canada Sombre Rd	4 Bed	3 Bath	1824 sq ft	List Price	\$999,888

CLOSED SALES IN JANUARY - 4

1230 Sunbird Ave	3 Bed	3 Bath	1,924 sq ft	Closed Price	\$1,250,000
1435 Hacienda Rd	3 Bed	3 Bath	1,920sq ft	Closed Price	\$1,425,000
607 West Rd	5 Bed	4 Bath	3,646 sq ft	Closed Price	\$2,020,000
1620 El Travesia Dr	5 Bed	5 Bath	4,050 sq ft	Closed Price	\$2,265,000

NEW LISTINGS IN JANUARY - 5

1707 Nabal Rd	3 Bed	2 Bath	2,304 sq ft	List Price	\$1,150,000
1231 Sunbird Ave	3 Bed	2 Bath	2,229 sq ft	List Price	\$1,295,000
1918 Chandos Ln	3 Bed	3 Bath	2,762 sq ft	List Price	\$1,598,000
1586 Cloister Dr	4 Bed	4 Bath	3,848 sq ft	List Price	\$2,188,888
860 Reposado Dr	5 Bed	5 Bath	5,224 sq ft	List Price	\$2,950,000

ACTIVE LISTINGS - 13

1707 Nabal Rd	3 Bed	2 Bath	2,304 sq ft	List Price	\$1,150,000
1231 Sunbird Ave	3 Bed	2 Bath	2,229 sq ft	List Price	\$1,295,000
2034 Virazon Dr	4 Bed	5 Bath	3,204 sq ft	List Price	\$1,388,888
171 Canada Sombre Rd	5 Bed	4 Bath	2,833 sq ft	List Price	\$1,395,000
105 Reposado Dr	4 Bed	5 Bath	3,677 sq ft	List Price	\$1,400,000
2480 Ardsheal Dr	5 Bed	5 Bath	3,221 sq ft	List Price	\$1,449,900
1918 Chandos Ln	3 Bed	3 Bath	2,762 sq ft	List Price	\$1,598,000
1525 Bonnie Jean Ln	5 Bed	4 Bath	3,214 sq ft	List Price	\$1,848,000
1586 Cloister Dr	4 Bed	4 Bath	3,848 sq ft	List Price	\$2,188,888
1436 La Riata Dr	5 Bed	3 Bath	5,595 sq ft	List Price	\$2,283,800
860 Reposado Dr	5 Bed	5 Bath	5,224 sq ft	List Price	\$2,950,000
1573 Nabal Rd	7 Bed	8 Bath	6,844 sq ft	List Price	\$3,780,000
1782 Chota Rd	5 Bed	7 Bath	9.000 sq ft	List Price	\$4,100,000

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DIAMOND

1772 Hacienda Rd.
La Habra Heights, CA 90631

Community Events

- March 9** City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
March 17 *Happy Saint Patrick's Day!*
March 19 Emergency Preparedness: 6 p.m. at City Hall.
March 24 Planning Commission: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
March 25 Roads Advisory meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
March 28 *Easter Egg Hunt*: 10 a.m. at The Park (see page 4).
April 30 Deadline for LHHIA Photo Contest (see page 4).
May 30 Community Yard Sale at The Park (see page 5).



P.O. Box 241
 La Habra, CA 90631

Emergency & City Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
CITY HALL: <i>lhhcity.org</i>	562-694-6302
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.....	562-694-5923 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 BERGMAN.....	562-690-5047.....	Briansbergman@hotmail.com
CAROL ENGELHARDT.....	562-217-0983.....	clengelhardt1@yahoo.com
JOHN PESPISA.....	562-694-1371.....	Jmp100@roadrunner.com
GREG STEFFLRE.....	213-324-0809.....	gregstefflre@gmail.com
NORM ZEZULA.....	562-697-9914.....	normzezulaLhh@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 PACK 817 • 562-267-9022 • lahbrapack817@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



LHH Fire Report

JANUARY 2026

Advanced life-support calls: 15 (10 in LHH, 5 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 24 (11 in LHH, 13 in LA County), Public assist: 3 (0 in LHH, 3 in LA County), Fire calls: 7 (6 in LHH, 1 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 11 (8 in LHH, 3 in LA County), "LHH Island": 0, Automatic aid into LA County: 25.

Total calls: 60



Sheriff's Report

JANUARY 2026

Residence burglary: 1, Fraud: 1, Vehicle burglary: 3, Petty theft: 3, Persons dead (natural causes): 2, Injury to county employee: 1, Vehicle impounded: 1, Traffic accidents: 4 (1 fatal).

Total incidents: 16



BOARD of DIRECTORS • *lhhia.com*

Gil Taylor , President (LHHIAPresident@gmail.com).....	562-322-3453
Lynn Kelley , Vice President, <i>Halloween Haunt & Yard Sale</i> Co-Chairperson (lynnkelley91@gmail.com).....	562-371-4603
Pam McVicar , Secretary & Membership Chairperson (Memberlhhia@gmail.com).....	714-504-3415
Diana Garcia Taylor , Treasurer & <i>Morning With Santa</i> Chairperson (Diana@myjesmar.com).....	562-577-4802
Susan Brooks , <i>Easter Egg Hunt</i> Chairperson & <i>Yard Sale</i> Co-Chairperson (susanbrooks827@gmail.com).....	714-222-5091
Angela Owen , <i>Halloween Haunt</i> Co-Chairperson & <i>Yard Sale</i> Co-Chairperson (arowen3@yahoo.com).....	562-201-1119
Carolyn Boehringer , Advertising Co-Chairperson.....	310-849-4582
Monica Gunns , Advertising Co-Chairperson.....	714-412-2667
Amy Perez , Director (armacvean@yahoo.com).....	562-631-1208
Rita Donato , Director (rwdonato@gmail.com).....	626-824-7363

Heights Life: heightslifeeditor@gmail.com

Editors: **Dan & Barbara Stracner**..... 562-632-0691

For information about advertising in *Heights Life*, visit *lhhia.org* or call:

Advertising Co-Chairperson: **Carolyn Boehringer**..... 310-849-4582

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.....	\$5,000+

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