

Heights Life

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



*First prize photo by **Janeen Parminter** (see page 4)*

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MAYOR'S CORNER

Brian Bergman



Fire Watch needs your help on July 4!

We all look forward to celebrating the July 4th holiday together, but we also need to protect our community from illegal fireworks. LHH Fire Watch, in coordination with the LHH Fire Department, is asking for volunteers to assist with their annual July 4th evening patrols, a Heights tradition since 2008.

No special training or official Fire Watch status is needed. By simply driving, you would effectively double the number of patrols we can run, each connected by radio to our Emergency Operation Center at City Hall, which will be coordinating with local Sheriff's deputies, fire departments and Powder Canyon rangers.



If you are willing to drive an evening route in your vehicle, you will be paired with a Fire Watch member carrying a portable radio. You'll be keeping an eye out for any dangerous activity and for parked vehicles that could impede first-responders in an emergency.

You can reach the LHH Fire Watch team by leaving a message through the online LHH City Volunteer Form at lhcity.org/481/Volunteer-Opportunities, or you can email beautifylhh@gmail.com.

Help protect our Heights—and meet some dedicated volunteers.

New La Habra Museum to include the Heights

Heights resident Kent Roberts, past president of the La Habra Old Settlers Historical Society, is working with our Historical Committee chairperson, Arlene Norsworthy, to assemble photographs, artifacts and informational displays about the Heights that will be included in the new Historical Museum located at the corner of First and Euclid just north of the Children's Museum. Dan Stracner, *Heights Life* editor, is also assisting with this project. Subjects will include early history, growing avocados, our Volunteer Fire Department, oil production, Hacienda Golf Club, equestrian activities and historic homes.

Watch for the opening, scheduled for July 16, 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with our neighboring city, explore our mutual interests and provide a new place for your friends and relatives to learn more about La Habra Heights and this area.

The Historical Committee welcomes new members. Sign up at lhcity.org. Click on "Resident Information" and scroll down the left side for the "Volunteer Application Form."

LHH exempt from countywide special fire tax

Cities that provide their own fire protection are not subject to the Los Angeles County-wide Measure E special tax. The fact that La Habra Heights residents fund their own Fire Department exempts our city from this tax (calculated at \$0.0612 per square foot or approximately \$244.80 annually for a 4,000-square-foot home.) Voters passed the tax measure in November 2024 to provide support for Los Angeles County Fire Department. The tax applies to all non-exempt properties within the consolidated fire district of Los Angeles County, including unincorporated areas and contract cities.

Fire Service Day

Fire Service Day on May 9 gave residents the chance to view our fire engines close up, watch high-pressure hose demonstrations, examine lifesaving equipment—and have some family fun. Event sponsors La



Habra Heights Improvement Association, Matrix Oil, Jan Fiore Real Estate and Martplan Insurance Agency provided swag and giveaways. The La Habra Children's Museum had a booth for kids, and other kid-friendly activities included face painting. One energetic firefighter served as official DJ for the morning. Our thanks to LHHFD and the city staff for putting on this community event.

—Brian Bergman

Gil Taylor



P R E S I D E N T ' S P E N

Results are in for our **Annual LHHIA Photo Contest**, and you'll find the winners on our cover and on page 4. We're grateful to all Heights residents who entered!

Here's how the judging was done: *Heights Life* Editor Dan Stracner received emails containing numerous digital images. He made individual 8.5 x 11-inch photo prints (the size of a *Heights Life* page) of all images, numbered each print, placed prints in random order and delivered them to the judges, who did not know identities of photographers while voting on their choices. A discussion and process of elimination led to the final consensus.

Even if you didn't win, your photos may end up being published in future issues of *Heights Life*. Incidentally, you can send us photos throughout the year, and they will still be eligible to be entered in the next photo contest.

Congratulations to our Heights graduates!

On pages 8 and 9 you'll find photos of our first group of La Habra Heights high school and college graduates from the Class of 2026. Included are all those who won Los Compadres scholarships this year, and we thank Vicki Cooke for once again providing photos and information about those winners.

We'll continue honoring graduates in our July issue, so be sure to send photos and information to heightslifeeditor@gmail.com (see page 9 for more details).

Music in the Park starts June 17

The Answer, the outstanding classic rock band that has been entertaining the Heights since our very first concert in 1989, will kick off this year's **Music in the Park** concert series on June 17. That concert will also be a memorial tribute to Claire Spothelfer, who founded *Music in the Park*. We thank Monica Gunns for once again managing this popular event (see the band lineup on page 6).

LHHIA Annual Meeting on June 3

Just a final reminder that our La Habra Heights Improvement Association *Annual General Meeting of the Membership and Election of the Board of Directors* will be held on June 3 at La Habra Heights City Hall, starting with a reception at 6 p.m. and followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All LHHIA members are cordially invited.

—Gil Taylor



LHHIA Photo Contest Winners



Janeen Parminter won both first and second prize in this year's contest. Her first-place winner, a spectacular Heights sunset, appears on this month's cover, and her second-place winner, a close-up shot of the full moon, is shown above. Although it's rare for one photographer to win multiple prizes in a single contest, it occasionally occurs since our judges view randomly numbered images and don't know the identities of individual photographers, who can submit three entries each. *Congratulations, Janeen!*



Jodee Morgan
won third prize
with her shot of
a “curious deer”
(above).



Doug Johnson’s
photo of a
double rainbow
received an
honorable
mention (left).

La Habra Heights Improvement Association presents

Music in the Park 2026



Summer concerts since 1989

Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. Food trucks will be serving—or bring your own picnic! Our June 17 concert will be a memorial tribute to LHHIA Music in the Park founder Claire Spothelfer.

June 17

The Answer To Classic Rock

This wonderful band was the opening act for our very first *Music in the Park* concert back in 1989—and they've been entertaining the Heights ever since!



July 15

ACME Time Machine

The ultimate mid-century Rock 'n' Roll revival band, featuring timeless hits of the '50s, '60s and beyond by such pioneering artists as Elvis, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Sam Cooke and Roy Orbison.



June 24

The Kelly Boyz Band specializes in high-energy country/rock with an occasional twist of modern pop. Be prepared to sing along, and make sure to wear your dancin' boots!



July 22

LA Sheriff's Department's 17-piece SWING BAND

Big band hits!



July 8

With Stratocasters raging, Woodie & the Longboards deliver a surf-vibe tribute, as well as Eagles favorites and great oldies classic rock.

Woodie & the Longboards

Surf's up!



See you at the Park!



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Congratulations, Heights grads!

We'll continue honoring La Habra Heights grads in our July issue of *Heights Life*. Please see details on page 9.

Kaitlyn Brooks

Kaitlyn graduated from La Habra High School. She was a four-year member of the Heritage Program, dance production and varsity cheer. She led her cheer team to two CIF wins and was named All-CIF this past year. A four-time scholar-athlete, she was president of the Best Buddies Club and a member of National Honor Society and LinkCrew. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, she will attend Cal State Fullerton this fall, majoring in child and adolescent studies.



Ryan Doan Li

Graduating with high honors from Troy High School, Ryan took AP classes and was a member of CSF and the varsity and junior varsity championship tennis teams. He was heavily involved in video production, writing scripts and producing podcasts. He is a Black Belt medalist in Karate and a member of the American Martial Arts Academy. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, Ryan will study film at the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University.



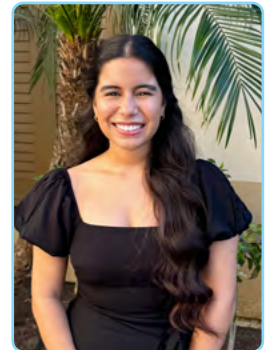
Sophia Cabral

A graduate of La Habra High School, Sophia was ASB executive vice president, junior president and secretary. A scholar-athlete and varsity athlete in softball, flag football and track, she was Most Valuable Runner in track and Defensive Player of the Year in flag football. She was also Foster Love vice president. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, she will study business finance at Cal State Fullerton for two years before transferring to USC.



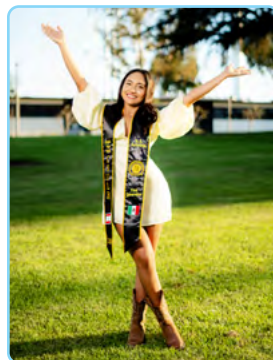
Arianna Machado

Arianna graduated with high honors and an Academic Achievement Award from Sonora High School. She earned the Advanced Placement Scholar Award, California Seal of Biliteracy and California Seal of Civic Engagement. She served as ASB executive president and captain of the varsity volleyball team. A member of National Honor Society and a *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, she will major in business administration but is still deciding which college to attend.



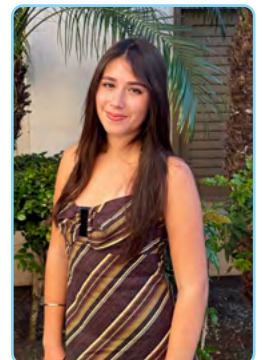
Aliyah Hindi

Aliyah graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in sociology and made the Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA. She already held an associate's degree from Mt. San Antonio College in the same subject and her diploma from Los Altos High School. While in college, she worked at a pediatrics office and became a certified dental assistant and a notary public. She plans to take additional classes in dental hygiene.



Elise Moreno

Elise graduated from La Habra High School with high honors. She participated in the AP Heritage Humanities Magnet Program, the California Scholarship Federation, the National Honor Society, was voted MVP of her tennis team and was a scholar-athlete for four years. She is a member of the La Societe Honoraire de Francais. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, Elise will attend New York University to study marketing, photography and graphic design.



Adam Siapin

Adam graduated from Sonora High School with high honors. A four-time scholar-athlete in CIF, he received the Soccer Coaches Award, was part of a USYS Far West Regional Championship Team and was named First Team All-League in the North High Soccer League. He made the Top 100 students list for four years. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, Adam will play varsity soccer at Vanguard University, where he will major in marketing.



Duke Tanabe

Duke graduated from Sonora High School with high honors. He was an AP Scholar with Distinction, won the Academic All-American USA Water Polo award from 2023 to 2025 and won a bronze medal at the 2024 USA Water Polo Junior Olympics. He served as captain of both the boys varsity swim team and water polo team. A *Los Compadres Scholarship* winner, Duke will attend the University of California, Berkeley, and major in chemical engineering.



Malena Velasco

Malena graduated from La Habra High School, where she was a member of the varsity softball and tennis teams. While a student, Malena worked at De Luca's Italian Restaurant in Whittier and also as a service team member at In-N-Out Burger. In the fall, Malena will be attending Northwestern Lineman College to begin a career in the electrical transmission industry.



Our July issue of *Heights Life* will continue celebrating our La Habra Heights graduates (8th grade, high school, college and advanced degrees). Please send the following information to HeightsLifeEditor@gmail.com: name of graduate and school name; high-resolution photo of graduate; honors, memberships and achievements; next school to be attended; career plans and aspirations. Deadline for submission: **June 10**.

Drones can be **dangerous** to firefighting aircraft



Flying unauthorized drones within 15 miles of a wildfire can cause critical aerial firefighting operations to be shut down to prevent collisions.

During the deadly Palisades Fire in January 2025, an unauthorized drone flown by a civilian collided with a "Super Scooper" aircraft that was fighting the fire, damaging the airplane's wing.

That valuable airplane, which had been repeatedly scooping 1,600 gallons of ocean water to dump on the rapidly expanding fire, was out of service for several crucial days while being repaired.

The man who had flown the drone was convicted of unsafe operation of an unmanned aircraft, a federal crime that potentially carries a term of up to one year in prison and fines up to \$300,000. While the man was only sentenced to 14 days in jail (plus home detention and community service), he had to pay \$156,000 in restitution and fines, including \$65,169 for repairing the aircraft.

In response to the incident, Cal Fire released this statement: "Flying a drone near a wildfire is not just reckless—it's dangerous, illegal and life-threatening. Firefighting aircraft fly low, heavy and fast. *If we fly, you can't!*" Firefighting aircraft, including fixed-wing planes and helicopters, fly at low altitudes, sometimes just a couple of hundred feet off the ground, where drones also operate, creating a high risk of collision.

Civilians drones flying near wildfires can cause all aerial firefighting operations to be temporarily halted. Spotting even a single unauthorized drone can force pilots to land, stopping critical water and fire retardant drops and allowing wildfires more time to spread, threatening homes and increasing risks for firefighters on the ground

Note that some firefighting agencies legally use drones for their own operations. These authorized drones are operated by trained personnel under strict safety protocols for purposes such as real-time fire mapping and monitoring, identifying heat sources with thermal imaging and conducting search and rescue.

Civilian drones are prohibited within 15 miles of a wildfire. If you see someone flying a drone in or near a wildfire, report it immediately to local law enforcement.

The Summer Solstice (the first day of summer and the longest day of the year) will arrive on Sunday, June 21, at 12:24 a.m. PDT. Summer brings outdoor activities and celebrations: Father's Day, graduations, family reunions, weddings, BBQs with family and friends and the Fourth of July (but please remember that fireworks are illegal in La Habra

Heights!). Now's the time to clean up outdoor spaces and get ready to welcome guests.

Hot days are coming. If you don't have large trees or a patio cover, try big umbrellas, sun sails or pop-up canopies to provide shade. Clean your outdoor seating, BBQ grill and any surfaces that will be in contact with food. Plant colorful, welcoming flowers along pathways and near entrances or place flowers in pots in strategic spots. If you need lighting for evening events, solar lights will save electricity.

Fun Outdoor Projects

It's challenging to keep kids entertained without their phones, video games and TV, but some fun garden activities is a good way to get them outside and away from screens for a while. But avoid too much time in the midday sun.

A birdbath is a great way to attract birds to your garden, and you don't have to buy an expensive one. Just place a twelve-inch-wide (or larger) glazed pot saucer on an old stump or a wall, or help the kids build a simple base with wood or bricks. Place the birdbath near a window so you can watch the lively bathers—but not so close that you'll scare them. Also make a landing pad for butterflies by placing a small flat rock inside your saucer just above the waterline. Make sure to keep clean water in the saucer.

Plant milkweed for our beloved Monarch butterflies, as well as some easy-to-grow, eye-catching flowers to attract butterflies and bees, including lovely borage, cosmos, marigolds, petunias and zinnias.

Install a bird feeder! Many types are available: hummingbird feeders, seed feeders and even some for orioles that hold jelly (they seem to like grape jelly best). Clean feeders regularly to prevent mold and bacteria. Your feeder may attract squirrels, rats, mice, rabbits and other critters, so you



might need to set some traps to thwart those uninvited rodents.

Kids can sow seeds or transplant beans, corn, melons and sunflowers, all of which are easy to grow. Teach them how to make bean poles or teepees for climbing beans, and plant corn and sunflowers in patterns to make mazes that will provide plenty of fall fun.



Plant basil, cilantro, chives and other small herbs in clay pots. Get your young artists to decorate large Popsicle sticks as name markers for pots and paint small flat rocks as markers for vegetable rows.

Indoor Gardening

When it's too hot outside, you can still do some indoor gardening with your houseplants by cleaning dusty leaves, getting rid of stale soil and replanting plants in new pots with fresh soil.

Do a bit of research and make sure to use the correct soil or medium formulated for your plants.

For example, plant some orchids and African violets, popular indoor plants that have quite different growing requirements. Many types of orchids prefer bark or wood-chip mediums, whereas African violets require a light, porous and slightly acidic mix—ideally a pH of 5.8 to 6.5—that provides excellent drainage while remaining evenly moist; common ingredients include sphagnum peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, often mixed in a 50/50 ratio with commercial African violet potting soil to prevent compaction. Don't wash your African violet leaves with water—gently brush them off.

Even if an indoor plant doesn't need a new pot, it could still probably use a good "soil leaching." Fill the pot with water four or five times in a row and let the water drain each time to leach out accumulated salts. If you see an accumulated salt crust along the soil line on the pot, wipe it off before you leach out the soil.

Congratulations to all our La Habra Heights graduates (see page 8), June brides and grooms, and Heights fathers on their special day on June 21.





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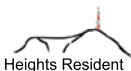
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Community Events

- June 3** LHHIA Annual Meeting: 6 p.m. at City Hall
- June 8** City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 13** Meals on Wheels Annual Fundraiser (page 14)
- June 17** Music in the Park: *The Answer*, 6:30 p.m.
- June 18** Emergency Preparedness: 6 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 21** **Happy Father's Day!**
- June 23** Planning Commission: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 24** Roads Advisory meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 24** Music in the Park: *Kelly Boyz Band*, 6:30 p.m. (page 6)
- July 4** **Happy Independence Day!** No fireworks in LHH!
- July 8** Music in the Park: *Woodie & the Longboards*, 6:30 p.m.



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La Habra Heights City Council

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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 • lahabrpack817@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



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



LHH Fire Report

APRIL 2026

Advanced life-support calls: 22 (17 in LHH, 5 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 18 (10 in LHH, 8 in LA County), Public assist: 4 (4 in LHH, 0 in LA County), Fire calls: 17 (9 in LHH, 8 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 2 (1 in LHH, 1 in LA County), "LHH Island": 0, Automatic aid into LA County: 22.

Total calls: 63



Sheriff's Report

APRIL 2026

Grand theft vehicle: 1, ID theft: 1, Felony vandalism: 1, Fraud: 2, Arson: 2, Vehicle repossessed: 3, Residence burglary: 1, Person dead (natural causes): 1 Traffic accidents: 1, Property lost or found: 1, Fire (non-criminal): 1, Vehicle impounded: 1.

Total incidents: 16

== 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.