

Heights Life

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

La Habra Heights Improvement Association

Serving the Heights since 1939 • August 2026



In August 1814, a Baltimore flag-maker named Mary Pickersgill delivered this enormous, 30 x 42-foot, handmade flag to Major George Armistead, the new commander of Fort McHenry that protected the strategic port city of Baltimore. The following month, the British Navy attacked the fort, and a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key witnessed that battle and wrote a poem about seeing this flag still flying after the intensive bombardment. Set to music, his words became a song we now all know well: "The Star-Spangled Banner." As we continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country, learn more in the story on page 8 about the flag and events that inspired our National Anthem.

Celebrating 27 Years Serving The Community



Good Thing She Listed with Jan

The Story of 2034 Virazon Drive, La Habra Heights

It began in 2005–2006 when a local resident, Ed, came into my office. He told me about the new home he and his wife, Eleanor, had just finished building and how much they loved the area. Ed explained the details of being an owner-builder and shared his extensive knowledge. He also mentioned that he was a military veteran and asked if I would place an American flag at his home whenever I distributed them throughout the neighborhood. I later visited Ed and Eleanor, and they gave me a tour of their beautiful home. They had traveled the world, collecting many memories and unique treasures along the way. Ed was also a talented photographer and shared some of his amazing photographs with me.

Over the years, we continued our friendly visits at community events and casual meetings. Eventually, Ed asked me to come to the house to provide a market valuation. As much as they loved their home, they felt it was time to start thinking about retirement and downsizing. We put the home on the market in 2014. Unfortunately, it did not sell at that time.

In 2024, we relisted the home. After hundreds of showings, more than 20 open houses, and 810 days on the market, the home sold. The buyers were the perfect fit—a wonderful family with three children who brought fresh energy to the property. They even helped through the packing and purging process. Although the home took longer than expected to sell, it was important that it sold when the time was right. I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of this journey. After 27 years in real estate, I have learned that buying and selling a home is about much more than the transaction. It is about building relationships, earning trust, and helping people through some of life's biggest transitions.

Stories like Ed and Eleanor's are why I love what I do.



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MAYOR'S CORNER

City seeking to purchase 31 acres

The City of La Habra Heights is seeking to purchase from Los Angeles County 31 acres on the east side of Harbor Boulevard to comply with the California-mandated housing requirements. Acquisition of the property would represent an important step toward implementing LHH's adopted housing policies and meeting its regional housing needs allocation obligations.

The city has been working collaboratively with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Supervisor Janice Hahn's office concerning the proposed purchase.

The site provides good access to four-lane Harbor for future residents, is located close to retail and medical resources and is a straight shot away from the Los Angeles County-manned fire station on Harbor in La Habra.

Any development will be designed as "fire-hardened" and create a much-needed fire break from the large open brush property that extends from our eastern boundary all the way to Yorba Linda. Residents remember previous Yorba Linda fires that dropped ashes on our town. Any future fire would threaten La Habra Heights if prevailing winds carry embers westward.

One of the objectives of the state housing program is to make information available to the public about housing assistance. Visit lhhcity.org and go to the *Community Development* section, *Housing Element*, for information about referrals to these programs.

Our new fire engine took part in July 4th parade



Senator Bob Archuleta was aboard when our new LHHFD fire engine number 771 took part in the Independence Day parade in Hacienda Heights (*above*). La Habra Heights again thanks the senator for obtaining the \$1 million+ grant that was used to purchase our new front-line engine.

Join the LHH Large Animal Rescue Team

The La Habra Heights Large Animal Rescue Team is developing a plan to help coordinate safe evacuation procedures for large animals.

Patty Kelley, a member of the LHH Emergency Preparedness Committee, is coordinating the team with input and assistance from local residents and Heights large-animal owners who have experience with animal rescue, as well as members of Fire Watch, CERT and emergency medical response teams.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.]

Brian Bergman



Gil Taylor



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Music in the Park has concluded for another year, and we hope that all of you who turned out enjoyed the music and the good company. We thank LHHIA board member Monica Gunns for managing this ever-popular event once again.

However, we must end our comments about our summer concerts on a sad note. We learned on June 15 that Paul Spothelfer, who along with his wife Claire played such an important role in founding and managing Music in the Park, had passed away at the age of 93. Please see his *In Memoriam* on page 6. We lost Claire back in 2020. Both had been long-time members of the LHHIA Board of Directors.

Claire came up with the idea of putting on summer concerts and proposed it to LHHIA in 1988. Approval was swift, but there was no stage on which musicians could perform. So Paul, who had enjoyed a long career in construction, set to work and built the gazebo that we're still using as a bandstand. The first concert was in 1989, and it featured *The Answer*, the classic rock band that has now been entertaining the Heights for 37 years! Claire and Paul managed Music in the Park for more than two decades, including during the time when Claire was a member of the LHH City Council and our mayor. We offer our condolences to the Spothelfer family and our most sincere thanks for all that Claire and Paul did for LHHIA and our community.

Sadly, I must note that Paul was not the only long-time La Habra Heights resident we recently lost. On June 1, Colleen White (née Kruse) peacefully passed away at home soon after her 91st birthday. A vibrant and active lady, she and her husband Wellington moved to the Heights in 1960 and raised four children here. Wellington passed in 2018. Please see Colleen's *In Memoriam* on page 10. We offer our condolences to the White family and our gratitude for Colleen's and Wellington's numerous contributions to our life in the Heights.

Thanks for keeping the Heights safe on July 4th!

On behalf of the La Habra Heights Improvement Association board and membership, I'd like to thank all those who volunteered and made such an extra effort to keep our Heights safe during the Independence Day holiday, which is always a precarious time in our fire-vulnerable community. We tried to do our part by prominently publishing holiday-related fire safety reminders in *Heights Life*.

Special gratitude goes to members of LHH Fire Watch and all the resident volunteers—including a number of LHHIA members—who joined them in patrolling our winding roads and byways to watch for fireworks, which are strictly illegal in the Heights, as well as to report blocked roadways that could impede evacuations in an emergency.

Of course, the LHH Fire Department, LA County Fire Department and Sheriff's Department and LHH city staff were also out in force and deserve our thanks.

The Habitat Authority closed Powder Canyon on July 4th, and its rangers and staff members conducted their own patrols of our hills and open spaces. Residents from La Habra Heights and surrounding communities volunteered to help, and we thank them all.

Because of these extraordinary efforts, the city assessed this year's 250th anniversary holiday as "exceptionally quiet."

—Gil Taylor

Bill and Fran Klovstad, former Highland Riders who own El Rodeo Equestrian Center in Brea, have offered their facility to prepare, train and certify members. Bill serves as the director of the newly formed Orange County Animal Response Team, a 250-member volunteer group of large-animal owners.

Bill came to our June council meeting and offered to assist in training and certification, which would allow the LHH and Orange County teams to coordinate when helping to move animals safely during emergencies in Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

To join or learn more about the LHH team, please call Patty Kelley at 562-640-5460 or email her at kelley3@roadrunner.com.

La Habra Heights Community Foundation

Save tax dollars and help our Fire Department by donating your mandatory retirement withdrawal to the La Habra Heights Community Foundation, our newly formed 501(c)3 non-profit headed up by former mayors Stan Carroll, Roy Francis and Fred Klein. It's a good way to reduce your total taxable income and provide needed resources to purchase firefighting equipment to protect our city and your home.

For more information or to make your taxable income reduction contribution, contact Assistant City Manager Angie Martinez at City Hall. Any donations should be payable to the La Habra Heights Community Foundation. If you prefer, you can remain anonymous.

—**Brian Bergman**

Dinners for our Heights firefighters



Lisa and Dave Hansen have been major supporters of our Fire Department throughout the 33 years they've lived in La Habra Heights, and they often help obtain items on the department's ongoing "wish list."

Three years ago, Lisa began organizing dinners for our firefighters, and she reached out to other residents to provide food and amenities. The latest dinner (*shown above*) took place on June 30. Among those who contributed food and other items were Ana Krich, Glenn and Floretta Sheppard, John Dominguez, Connie Johnson, Susie Eagle, Albert Villagomez, John Pespisa, Sarah Conroy and Liz McDonald. If you'd like to participate in this worthy effort, please contact Lisa at cabo53@yahoo.com.



Caroline Chang

Caroline graduated from Chapman University with her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. She plans a career in broadcast journalism and documentary film.



Quilt Show

FRIENDSHIP SQUARE QUILT GUILD will present *Kaleidoscope of Quilts* on Saturday, September 19 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and Sunday, September 20 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), at the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd. Admission is \$10.

More than 100 handcrafted quilts made by guild members will be showcased, including traditional and contemporary designs. The show will also feature vendors, a silent auction and a boutique featuring quilts and other hand-crafted items for sale.

Special raffles will be held, with proceeds providing breast cancer treatment for local women in need of assistance. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Drawings will be held Sunday at 3:30 p.m.; winners need not be present.

Drawings for two beautiful, handcrafted "Opportunity Quilts," *'Tis the Season* and *Midnight Jewels*, will also be held Sunday, September 20, at 3:30 p.m. To buy tickets, contact a guild member or purchase tickets at the show for \$1 each or six for \$5.

Each year Friendship Square Quilt Guild donates hundreds of quilts to at-risk children and wounded veterans and gives quilts and financial support to local non-profits. The Guild raises funds for worthwhile causes at all its shows.

WATCH OUT FOR Rattlesnakes!

Heights resident Tony Perez was hiking in Powder Canyon this spring when he saw an unusual sight: two rattlesnakes appeared to be “dancing” in the path. He took several quick shots from a safe distance with his phone camera (*right*).

What Tony witnessed was a mating season “combat dance” between two young male Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes who had both hastened to the area after detecting enticing pheromones from a female snake.

In the ensuing non-lethal competition, the two males raised about a third of their bodies above the ground, coiled together for a brief while, and then toppled over. After repeating this dance several times, one combatant—likely the smaller one—gave up and departed, leaving his rival to find and court the female.

We’re now in the rattlesnake birthing season, and between now and the end of October, baby snakes will be crawling. An adult snake has a rattle at the end of its tale that warns you not to get too close lest you suffer a potentially lethal bite. But baby snakes haven’t yet grown their rattles, which makes them less detectable but no less dangerous. A bite from a six-inch baby rattler can still deliver enough venom to send you to the

emergency room. It’s also easy to mistake baby rattlers for harmless smaller snakes, especially since their coloration can vary considerably. Be cautious!

In addition to Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes, Red Diamondback Rattlesnakes are native to this area. Both are large pit vipers with powerful venom. While five other species live in Southern California, they are less likely to show up in the Heights.

All rattlesnakes are dangerous! Thus far this year, three Californians have died from bites, which is very unusual since the state average is one death per year. The victims were in Irvine, Ventura County and Mendocino County.

Rattlesnakes are cold-blooded and most active when the temperature is between 70 and 90 degrees F.

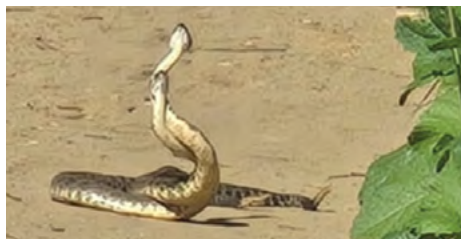
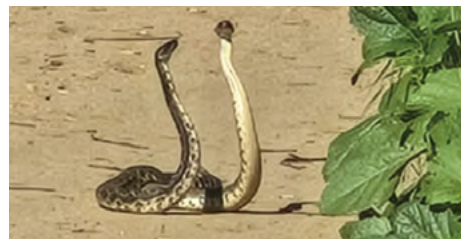
How to avoid being bitten

When you’re out walking in our hills, avoid tall grass and dense brush where snakes are hard to see. If possible, stay on well-traveled paths and trails. Carry your cellphone.

Never walk through wild areas in sandals or open-toed shoes and shorts. Wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.

Don’t step over logs or large rocks without looking—snakes might be hiding underneath. Check under areas where you plan to sit down or place your hands.

If you hear that telltale rattle, freeze, locate the sound and slowly back away!



What to do if you are bitten

Call 911 immediately! The sooner you get to an ambulance or emergency room, the better your chances of survival and recovery with fewer complications.

Don’t panic. Try to slow your heart rate, which will slow down the spread of venom.

Take off watches, rings, bracelets and tight clothing before swelling starts. Immobilize the bitten limb.

Do not cut the wound or try to suck out the venom.

Do not apply a tourniquet.

Do not apply ice or submerge the wounded limb in ice water.

Do not take medications or consume alcohol or caffeinated drinks.

Call the National Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 for real-time guidance while waiting for help to arrive.



Baby Southern Pacific Rattlesnake



Adult Southern Pacific Rattlesnake



Adult Red Diamondback Rattlesnake

PAUL SPOTHELFER (1932-2026)

PAUL HERMAN SPOTHELFER, a resident of La Habra Heights since 1982 and an exceptionally active and productive member of our community, passed away on June 15, 2026, at the age of 93.

He was born October 18, 1932, in Willowbrook, California, the son of Karl and Frida Spothelfer, who had immigrated to the United States from Germany.



From 1950 to 1952, Paul served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Stationed at Moffet Field, California, he worked in airplane maintenance.

After returning home, Paul attended Compton College, where he began shaping the path that would lead to his long and successful career in the construction business.

In 1958, Paul went on a blind date with Claire Davis, and both were surprised to learn that they had been raised only two blocks apart in Willowbrook but had never met. In 1962, they were married in a Hollywood church that Paul had helped build. The Spothelfers moved to Downey in 1967 and lived there for 12 years.

In 1982, Paul, Claire and their children Heidi and Darren came to La Habra Heights after finding property that could accommodate their two horses. More horses, as well as dogs and goats, soon joined the family at their hilltop home.

Paul and Claire quickly became involved in their new rural community, joining the La Habra Heights Improvement Association and volunteering at numerous events. Both became longtime board members and officers of LHHIA, and Paul also became a member of the LHH Planning Commission.



While living in Downey, the Spothelfers had enjoyed the summer concerts held by that city, so in 1988, Claire suggested that LHHIA establish a summer concert series in La Habra Heights at The Park. However, there was no stage for the musicians. So Paul designed and built the gazebo that served as the grandstand for bands who played at the first LHH "Music in The Park" season in 1989. Claire and Paul are shown wielding shovels in the gazebo groundbreaking in the photo above. They jointly managed the popular concerts for more than two decades.



Paul and his beloved wife Claire, who passed away in 2020.

In 1996, Claire decided to run for city council, and Paul enthusiastically supported her campaign every step of the way, including applying posters to the 1935 Ford pickup he had lovingly restored (below). She won and subsequently served as the Heights' "Millennium Mayor" from 1999 to 2000.



After officially retiring, Paul consulted on job sites in La Habra Heights and then joined forces with his brother Carl to build spec homes. He also kept busy with remodels.

A gifted artist and painter, as his father had been, Paul's artwork showed the same precision, creativity and attention to detail that had characterized his construction career.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife Claire and brother, Carl. He is survived by his daughter Heidi, his son Darren, his daughter-in-law Christine and his sister Gladys.



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“I DESIRE A GARRISON FLAG SO LARGE that the British will be able to see it from miles away!” So said Major George Armistead to Mary Young Pickersgill on a blazing July day in 1813. He was the new, 33-year-old commander of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, and she was a 37-year-old widow who owned a busy flag-making shop in the city.

The War of 1812 between the USA and England was in full sway, and it was not going so well for Americans. Armistead had only recently arrived from Canada to take command of Fort McHenry, and he was sure that it was only a matter of time before the British tried to capture the star-shaped fort and the strategic port city it guarded.

Born in 1776 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mary Pickersgill had made numerous flags for the U.S. Army and Navy, but she was staggered when Armistead told her the dimensions of the flag he wanted: 30 feet high and 42 feet wide when flown horizontally, much bigger than any flag flying at the time! It was to have 15 white stars on its dark blue canton and 15 alternating red and white stripes, because there were 15 states in the USA in 1813 (Vermont had joined the original 13 states in 1791, and Kentucky had been added in 1792). Armistead also ordered a 17 x 25-foot “storm flag” to be flown in inclement weather—this too was considerably larger than similar flags Mary had made.

The garrison flag was much too large for Mary’s workshop, so she made an agreement with Claggett’s Brewery in east Baltimore to use their floor in the evenings. Mary, her daughter Caroline and her nieces Eliza and Margaret Young hauled 300 yards of English wool bunting to the brewery and set to work, assisted by Mary’s mother Rebecca Young (who had taught her the art of flag making)

and an indentured African American apprentice named Grace Wisher, as well as three other seamstresses hastily hired to help with the challenging task. They labored steadily night after night, cutting and hand stitching for more than six straight weeks. When it was finally time to apply the 15 five-pointed stars, Mary fashioned them from white cotton; each star measured nearly two feet across.

Mary delivered the two flags in mid-August, and Major Armistead was pleased



Mary Pickersgill in later life. She died in 1857 at age 81.

with them. He gladly paid \$405.90 for the larger flag and \$168.54 for the smaller one (that’s equivalent to \$12,031.75 in today’s money).

The giant, unwieldy garrison flag weighed more than 50 pounds. Armistead gathered his troops the next morning and ordered the flag ceremoniously raised. It took 11 soldiers sweating mightily in the August heat to hoist it to the top of the 90-foot pole.



The “Star-Spangled Banner” dwarfs the Smithsonian team that spent a decade (1998-2008) restoring and preserving what was left of the flag, which is now on public display at the National Museum of American History on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It’s an awe-inspiring sight!

The giant flag sustained much damage over the years not only from normal effects of age, but also from souvenir seekers who snipped off bits of it when it was often placed on public display during Independence Day celebrations and other occasions.



BY THE DAWN’S EARLY LIGHT

Major Armistead’s prediction came true on September 13, 1814, when a large flotilla of British warships attacked Fort McHenry. The month before, the British had sacked Washington, D.C., burning the Capitol and the Presidential Mansion (which didn’t become “the White House” until 1901). Next they took aim at nearby Baltimore.

The huge garrison flag was probably defiantly flying when the British ships began raining bombs and rockets on the fort (above) just before dawn, but at 2 p.m., a massive thunderstorm broke out, and it’s likely that the big flag was replaced by the smaller “storm flag.”

The fort was armed with large, long-range cannons and mortars that kept the ships from approaching too closely, and although the Americans kept up a steady barrage of return fire, most shots fell short since the British cautiously stayed out of range and relied on aerial bombs and rockets to assault the fort.

Armistead realized that the fort’s gunpowder magazine was vulnerable to such an aerial attack when a bomb crashed through the roof of the magazine—but fortunately failed to explode—and he immediately ordered all powder kegs removed and placed under the rear walls of the fort, a dangerous task while under such heavy fire.

The constant bombardment lasted nearly 25 hours, as the British rained some 1,800 bombs and 700 rockets down on the Americans. Remarkably, only four U.S. soldiers were killed and 24 were wounded.

When the sun rose on September 14, the British saw that the fort's formidable defenses were still intact. Realizing that additional salvos would be useless, the British commander decided to end the attack and withdraw.

As sailors raised their sails and turned to leave, they spied the giant American garrison flag triumphantly flying once more above the battered ramparts of Fort McHenry, and one later commented admiringly about beholding such a "magnificent ensign."

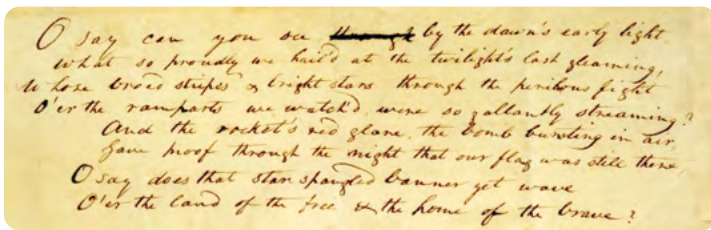


Francis Scott Key

Another person who saw that stirring sight "by the dawn's early light" was Francis Scott Key, a young American lawyer and poet who had watched the battle from a British ship, which he had boarded under a truce to negotiate the release of a prisoner.

In "the rocket's red glare" during the night, Key observed the American flag still flying—although it was probably the smaller storm flag that he glimpsed intermittently since the large garrison flag was not likely raised again until just before dawn when the British were starting to withdraw.

On the back of a letter from his pocket, Key hastily began writing a poem describing the bombardment (*below*). When he returned to Baltimore two days later, he finished his four-stanza composition while staying at the Indian Queen Hotel. He submitted his poem, titled "Defense of Fort M'Henry," to *The Analectic Magazine*, which published it forthwith.



Key's work was largely based on one of his earlier poems called "When the Warrior Returns," a tribute to American naval heroes Stephen Decatur and Charles Stewart for their gallantry during the First Barbary War (1801-1805). Key had purposely set those verses to the music of a popular, boisterous English drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven," and he did the same with his new poem, which had been rapidly picked up and reprinted by 17 newspapers during the fall of 1814.

In November of that year, sheet music appeared with the title "The Star-Spangled Banner: A Patriotic Song," and the celebratory tune quickly caught on and garnered even more attention when the War of 1812 ended on February 17, 1815.

The popularity of the song never waned, and in 1931, Key's creation officially became the U.S. National Anthem. Although he wrote four verses, only the first is customarily played and sung.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIANT FLAG?

Soon after leading the defense of Fort McHenry, Major Armistead was promoted to lieutenant colonel. However, he developed apparent cardiac problems and died in 1818 at the age of 38. Soon afterward, the big flag that had flown over Fort McHenry was given to his widow, Louisa Hughes Armistead. She allowed the flag to be

Below is the first photograph, taken in 1873, of the actual Star-Spangled Banner that flew over Fort McHenry. The flag was exhibited at the Boston Navy Yard. By this time, about 9 feet of the flag's original 42-foot width was missing, and someone had even cut out one of its 15 stars. The fragile flag had been sewn onto a canvas sail so that it could be hung and displayed.



displayed occasionally at civic and patriotic events, and when she died in 1861, the flag passed to her daughter, Georgiana Armistead Appleton. She loaned the flag to naval officer and flag historian George Henry Preble in 1873, and he had the deteriorating flag quilted to a canvas sail and displayed at the Boston Navy Yard, where it was photographed for the first time (*above*). The flag was again exhibited in 1877 at the Old South Church in Boston for the nation's first Flag Day celebration.

Mrs. Appleton died in 1878 and left the flag to her son, Eben Appleton, who only allowed it to be displayed once, at the sesquicentennial celebration of the City of Baltimore in 1880. In 1907, he loaned the flag to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., which put it on public display. The Appleton family permanently donated the flag to the Smithsonian in 1912. Two years later, the flag underwent its first restoration and preservation when Amelia Fowler and 10 assistants spent two months attaching what she called "the frail piece of bunting" to a backing of Irish linen. Her meticulous work, for which she charged \$1,243, lasted 84 years until 1998, when the Smithsonian spent \$18.2 million and 10 years extensively restoring the flag, which was returned to public display in 2008 at the National Museum of American History, where it remains.

If you have never seen the actual Star-Spangled Banner, it is definitely worth your while to visit the Smithsonian. The writer of this article first saw the flag in 1968 when he was a young Army officer; at that time, the flag appeared as it does in the photograph on the front cover. It was an awe-inspiring sight. This flag continues to be an American icon and a reminder of the many times that our nation has endured great challenges.

COLLEEN LEE WHITE (1935-2026)

COLLEEN LEE WHITE (née Kruse) a resident of La Habra Heights since 1960, died peacefully at home on June 1, 2026, with two of her children by her side.

A fourth-generation Californian, she was born in Wilmar (now Rosemead) on May 24, 1935, to Otto and Helen Kruse.

The eldest of three children, she was a natural leader who often chaperoned her younger brothers Ronald and Richard, occasionally leading them into mischief. She came of age with real responsibilities, rising before dawn to milk cows and tend to the work that rural California life required in that era. On weekends and in summer she joined her family on fishing, hunting and camping expeditions throughout California, the Mountain States and Western Canada, which kindled an appetite for adventure that would define her life.



She grew up in El Monte, graduated from El Monte High School in 1953, attended Brigham Young University briefly and started a career as a travel agent in Los Angeles. It was through that work and a circle of close friends that she

met the love of her life, Wellington White. They married in 1960 and spent the rest of their lives



in La Habra Heights, raising four active children and building a home characterized by warmth, generosity and open doors.

Colleen was a consummate home-maker, managing her household, hosting a stream of gatherings for family and friends, organizing family adventures and maintaining a bountiful vegetable garden that provided a constant flow of homegrown food on the table. Her eye for design was evident in the beautiful spaces she kept and her well-tended grounds.

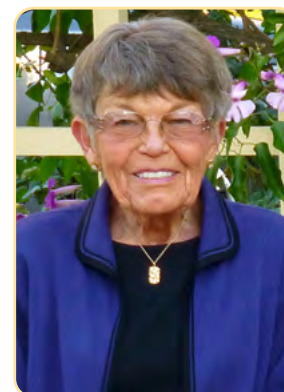
She was also a maverick in many ways. In the early 1950s, she traveled by boat to Germany as a teenager to visit relatives, when crossing the Atlantic still meant weeks at sea. As a young woman she was equally at home schussing the slopes of Sun Valley or exploring



ocean depths with newly invented SCUBA technology. She loved finely engineered automobiles—her first was a Porsche purchased in Germany and shipped back to California. That early wanderlust became a lifelong passion. She planned and organized trips for herself, family and friends, visited every continent on Earth and was especially fond of the South Pacific, a beloved and frequent destination.



Steady and strong, Colleen knew herself well and moved through the world with confidence. She was a devoted wife, a loving and present mother and grandmother, and she was warm and welcoming to all who joined the family. To her many friends she was a witty, loyal and cherished companion who connected quickly and nurtured bonds faithfully across decades, miles and generations.



Wellington preceded her in death in 2018 after nearly six decades of marriage. Their partnership was, to all who knew them, a model of enduring devotion.

She is survived by her son Dr. Jeffrey White (Julie Van Sickle) and grandsons Nicolas and Anthony; her son Bryan White (Christine) and granddaughter Alexandra; her daughter Dr. Lesley White; her son Paul White; and her brothers Ronald (Linda) Kruse and Richard (Cecile) Kruse, along with many beloved extended family members.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Colleen's memory may be made to The Nature Conservancy at [nature.org](https://www.nature.org).



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14th Annual
LHCC



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Please visit lahabrachristianchurch.com/carshow

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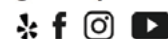


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RAY'S CURRENT SALES



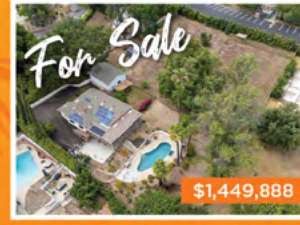
1911 Tumin Road
La Habra Heights



1450 N Walnut Street
La Habra Heights



2047 Angelcrest Drive
Hacienda Heights



2231 Vista Road
La Habra Heights



1246 Meadowland Drive
La Habra Heights



1320 Roanoke Street
Whittier



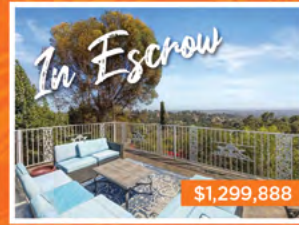
919 Glenclyff Street
La Habra



524 Church Hill Road
La Habra Heights



1030 La Mirada Street
La Habra



628 Reposado Drive
La Habra Heights



222 Kensington Lane
La Habra



7512 Kengard Avenue
Whittier



1001 Vernon Street
La Habra



1782 E. Skyline Drive
La Habra Heights



11861 Shadycrest Lane
La Habra

DON'T WAIT TOO LONG AND MISS THE SUMMER SELLING SEASON!

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Community Events

August 10 City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
August 15 Annual LHCC Car Show (see page 14).
August 20 Emergency Preparedness: 6 p.m. at City Hall.
August 25 Planning Commission: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
August 26 Roads Advisory meeting: 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.



National Dog Day August 26th
 Give 'em a hug!



Emergency & City Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
CITY HALL: lhcity.org	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/waystoehelp
 MEALS ON WHEELS • 562-451-9047 • LaHabraMealsonWheels.org
 VCC: THE GARY CENTER • 562-264-6000 • vccthegarycenter.org



LHH Fire Report

JUNE 2026

Advanced life-support calls: 21 (11 in LHH, 10 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 18 (5 in LHH, 13 in LA County), Public assist: 2 (2 in LHH, 0 in LA County), Fire calls: 11 (10 in LHH, 1 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 2 (1 in LHH, 1 in LA County), "LHH Island": 1, Automatic aid into LA County: 25.

Total calls: 55



Sheriff's Report

JUNE 2026

Residence burglary: 4, Person dead: 1, Grand theft: 1, Fraud: 1, Elder abuse: 1, Vehicle impounded: 2, Miscellaneous felonies: 1.

Total incidents: 11

P.O. Box 241
 La Habra, CA 90631



BOARD of DIRECTORS • lhia.com

Gil Taylor, President (LHHIAPresident@gmail.com).....	562-322-3453
Lynn Kelley, Vice President, Halloween Haunt & Yard Sale Co-Chairperson (lynnkelley91@gmail.com).....	562-371-4603
Pam McVicar, Secretary & Membership Chairperson (Memberlhia@gmail.com).....	714-504-3415
Diana Garcia Taylor, Treasurer & Morning With Santa Chairperson (Diana@myjesmar.com).....	562-577-4802
Susan Brooks, Easter Egg Hunt Chairperson & Yard Sale Co-Chairperson (susanbrooks827@gmail.com).....	714-222-5091
Angela Owen, Halloween Haunt Co-Chairperson & Yard Sale 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 lhia.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+

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