

# *Heights Life*

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
La Habra Heights Improvement Association  
Volume 73 • Issue Number 7 • August 2021

Eucalyptus tree removal begins at The Park (page 4)  
Music in The Park summer concerts continue (page 7)  
As drought worsens, brush clearance is critical (page 8)





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## P R E S I D E N T ' S   P E N



After all the months without LHHIA events because of pandemic restrictions, it was really great to see all the happy faces at Music in The Park in July—and we have two more great bands that will be performing on August 4 and August 11 (see page 7).

The August 11 concert will feature The Answer, a band that has been playing at The Park for more than 30 years. Their performance this year will be dedicated to the memory of Claire Spothelfer. Claire and Paul Spothelfer founded Music in The Park in 1989, and the Answer was the very first band to play at this event. This evening will be a very special moment for us and for The Answer, who were close with the Spothelfers. LHHIA will hold a special ceremony in remembrance of Claire and her many contributions to our community, including serving as Mayor of La Habra Heights and President of LHHIA.

### Annual General Meeting will be held September 1

La Habra Heights Improvement Association will hold its Annual General Meeting of the Membership and Election of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at La Habra Heights City Hall at 7 p.m.

A reception will be held starting at 6 p.m., followed by the general election of board members and officers at 7 p.m.

All LHHIA members are invited.

### Please join LHHIA or renew your membership!

It's the time of year when we invite you to become a member of LHHIA or to renew your membership. LHHIA is a volunteer, independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all dues and donations are tax-deductible! LHHIA is not part of the City of La Habra Heights and receives no city funding. Please support our community by becoming a member and "Friend of Music in The Park."

In addition to Music in The Park, we rely solely on the support of our members and sponsors to help pay for *Heights Life* magazine, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Halloween Haunt, Morning With Santa, the annual Photo Contest, Welcome Wagon sponsorship and funding a variety of improvements at The Park and in our community. For details about membership levels, please see "Become a Member" on page 16.

—Pam McVicar

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Cover photo: *Morning Glory Stages* by Dan Stracner (see more about morning glories in *Garden Plot* on page 10)

## A message from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



## Wear a mask indoors in all public places

Circulation of the highly-transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant has been rapidly increasing locally. (La Habra Heights had a recent increase in cases after weeks of remaining stable.) Consequently, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health now requires (as of July 15) that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, *wear masks indoors in public places* such as grocery or retail stores, theaters, family entertainment centers and workplaces when you don't know everyone's vaccination status.

Until we better understand how and to whom the Delta variant is spreading, everyone should focus on maximum protection with minimum interruption.

Fully-vaccinated people appear to be well-protected from infections from the Delta variant, and the small numbers of COVID-19 infections identified in people who are fully vaccinated have been mild illnesses. However, people with only one dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are not as well-protected, and people who are not vaccinated are at much higher risk of becoming ill, potentially seriously.

### Get fully vaccinated as soon as possible

The best protection against COVID-19 is getting vaccinated. Los Angeles County Public Health encourages all those who are not vaccinated and who are eligible to receive vaccines to get vaccinated without delay because of increased public intermingling and increased circulation of the Delta variant.

If you are not vaccinated and you are around people outside your household, a mask offers the next best protection against the virus. With distancing requirements and capacity limits lifted in almost all settings, wearing a mask is critically important for those not yet vaccinated, including children between the ages of 2 and 12.

### Wear your mask properly

Remember, your mask needs to completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose. Do not allow your mask to slip below your nose! (We've all seen masked people walking around with their noses or mouths partially exposed—which *doesn't* work!)

*Editor's note:* There is no "Mayor's Corner" this month because LHH Mayor Dennis Laherty was out of town on family business; his column will resume next month.



*30 highly flammable eucalyptus trees are being removed on the west side of the lower parking lot at The Park.*

# Eucalyptus tree removal begins at The Park

Based on fire-danger warnings from the La Habra Heights Fire Department and the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee, the City of La Habra Heights began the process of removing 30 eucalyptus trees from The Park on June 28.

City Manager Fabiola Huerta offered this comment: “Earlier this year, the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee began a campaign to inform residents of the fire danger posed by eucalyptus trees. At the same time, the city hired a new landscape maintenance contractor, and staff worked with the contractor to identify needed tree maintenance at The Park. Trimming and removal of the eucalyptus trees in the lower parking lot was identified as priority work. The LHH City Council and the Emergency Preparedness Committee saw this as an opportunity for the city to set an example for the community. The high oil content in eucalyptus trees makes them extremely flammable, and removing 30 eucalyptus trees at The Park will reduce the fuel load and the fire danger in the area.”

Trees being removed are located on the west side of the lower parking lot. The

removal is being done in phases. Treeco Arborist completed the first phase from June 28 through 30, removing several trees near the entrance to the parking lot. The city will announce dates for remaining work.

Many of the trees being removed were planted many years ago as a windbreak and as part of beautification projects. Back then, inherent fire dangers posed by eucalyptus trees were not widely understood.

For more on this subject, see *Eucalyptus: ‘the gasoline tree’* in the May 2021 *Heights Life*; the article includes information about the history of eucalyptus trees in California and the deadly Hacienda Fire in 1955 in which six firefighters died when a grove of eucalyptus trees literally exploded into flame in La Habra Heights. Also see comments by Mayor Dennis Laherty in his “Mayor’s Corner” column in the April 2021 *Heights Life*.



*These photos show the entrance to the parking lot before (left) and after trees were removed.*





No city permit is required to voluntarily remove eucalyptus trees from your La Habra Heights property. Although LHH Fire Department recommends such removal, it is not required, and the city will not pay for it or provide financial assistance. If you choose to keep eucalyptus trees on your property, it is essential that you trim them regularly and frequently remove flammable bark and leaf accumulations from around tree bases (see photo below).



Photo credits: Tree-felling sequence (center) by Steve Williams; all other photos by Dan Stracner.



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# Music in The Park is back!

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It was great to see everyone at our concerts in July, and we'll also have great music in August! Remember, *no food will be served at these concerts*, so bring your picnic baskets, chairs and blankets. No BBQ grills, please, and no smoking. All dogs must be on leashes. If you'd like to join LHHIA or renew your membership, you can do so at the LHHIA booth. Please consider becoming a 'Friend of Music in The Park' with a special donation. We thank our generous sponsors (shown above)!

## August 4: **Country Nation**



Contemporary and classic country music hits done just right! You'll be toe-tapping and singing along with all your favorites.



## August 11: **The Answer**



*They've been rockin' at The Park for more than 30 years!*

The greatest classic rock 'n' roll from La Habra Heights' all-time favorite band!



The Answer will be dedicating this concert to the late Claire Spothelfer, our Music in The Park founder with whom the band enjoyed a friendship for more than three decades. La Habra Heights Improvement Association will also be presenting a special dedication in Claire's memory.



# As the Heights drought worsens... clearing brush is even *more* critical!

**F**ire Marshal Robert Montaghami made this timely appeal to *Heights Life* readers: “I would like to emphasize to our residents that this year is much hotter and drier than previous years, so please ensure that you do your share to minimize the threat of wildfires to our community by clearing brush.”

On a positive note, Robert reported that La Habra Heights Fire Department annual inspection program is going well. “The program is running on time, and we are meeting our incremental goals for the 2021 season,” he said. “We should have our first round of inspections for all 2,238 parcels in the city completed by October 31. We are also current with our re-inspection and enforcement and abatement schedule.”

Based on tree-ring evidence from long-lived sequoias, climate experts are saying that the current drought in the western USA is already the worst in 1,200 years. Past “megadroughts” have sometimes lasted more than 50 years—this one is in its 21st year. So constant attention to fire-prevention measures in La Habra Heights remains absolutely crucial.

The LHH Pubic Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and *Heights Life* recently published stories about “hardening” your home and being prepared in case of a wildland fire. You can find those articles at [lhhia.com](http://lhhia.com). Another valuable information source is Cal Fire ([fire.ca.gov](http://fire.ca.gov)).

## Conserve water!

Water conservation is also a necessity during this critical time. Reservoirs that



*Large Boeing CH47 Chinook helitankers are now part of the new Quick Reaction Force available to help fight wildfires in La Habra Heights.*

serve our state are now at an all-time low and getting worse by the day. Citing the ongoing “regional drought state of emergency,” on July 8, Governor Gavin Newsom called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their daily water usage by at least 15 percent.

## Quick Reaction Force created

In response to the extreme fire danger, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority and Ventura County Fire Department launched their new, cooperative Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on June 15. QRF includes the use of Boeing CH47 Chinook helitankers (see above), the world’s largest fire-suppression, retardant-dropping helicopters that can carry 3,000 gallons and fly both day and night—such nighttime operations are a historic first. These giant helicopters will be available for use in La Habra Heights and other local areas that are prone to wildfires.



In addition to Chinooks, the QRF fleet includes five Sikorsky S70 Firehawk and five Bell 412 Huey helicopters and a 90-day lease of two CL-415 SuperScooper airplanes scheduled to arrive in early September.

Hovering firefighting helicopters will have access to mobile, strategically-placed tanks for quick refilling (like the one shown above).

Southern California Edison contributed \$18 million to help fund the QRF program.



# Highland Riders plans to resume horse shows at The Park on Oct. 14 & Nov. 7

After a highly successful show season in 2019 and 58 straight years of holding horse shows in La Habra Heights, Highland Riders was forced to cancel its 2020 show season and awards banquet because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, thanks to the ongoing vaccination program and eased restrictions on public gatherings, Highland Riders is happy to announce that it will hold two horse shows this year on Oct. 14 and Nov. 7. Both shows will be held outdoors at The Park.

The shows will feature Western and English classes for various age groups in 11 different divisions. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place winner in every class, and ribbons will be awarded through fifth place.



Highland Riders will abide by any remaining pandemic-related guidelines from the City of La Habra Heights and from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Although the Highland Riders will not hold an awards banquet this year, special prizes will still be awarded to year-end high-point winners in all divisions, and winners will be featured on the Highland Riders website and Facebook site.

Highland Riders hopes to resume its full, four-show season in 2022. For details about the upcoming shows, visit [Highlandriderslhh.com](http://Highlandriderslhh.com) or the club's Facebook site, or call show manager Barbara Stracner at 310-614-6878.

Photo credit: Jodee Morgan.



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# Garden Plot

By Beverley Lepak  
Horticulturist & Landscape  
Consultant



Dried herbs

August can get “sticky,” bringing humid monsoon conditions and even a stray thunderstorm, including “dry” thunderstorms that produce thunder and lightning but little or no precipitation that actually reaches the ground. Dry lightning from such storms is a



particular concern in California this time of year, because it's a major cause of wildfires. That's one reason we all need to keep up with brush clearance (see page 8). With such a serious drought going on, we also need to reduce our water usage.

## Late-summer vegetables & herbs

Remove old vegetable plants and reduce your growing area to conserve water. You can let soil go fallow by not planting and letting soil rest for a season. You can reserve a smaller area to plant beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, bush beans, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, corn, eggplant, kale, late-season peppers and tomatoes, lima beans and radishes.



Pumpkins

Prep pumpkins and other cucurbits (cucumbers and melons). If vines appear wilted, cover the area with shade cloth to retain soil moisture. Apply a good layer of mulch to the rest of your vegetable garden to help reduce evaporation and weeds.

The herb garden could use a light trim, which will help reduce water needs, and you can dry those trimmings for later use. Hang bunched herb trimmings upside down in a cool, dry place (see photo above). Dry your basil, lavender, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme. Sow seeds of basil and cilantro.

## Late-summer blooms



Sunflower

Who doesn't love sunflowers? Kids (and adults) can still sow seeds! These big, beautiful flowers grow quickly and provide nectar for pollinators and seeds for birds—and people! Invite beneficial insects and pollinators to your garden by planting these

other cheery flowers: ageratum, asters, black-eyed-Susans, celosia, coreopsis, cosmos, gaillardia, lobelia, marigolds, petunias and zinnias.



Asters



Celosia



Zinnia

## Morning glories

This old-fashioned annual vine has been a long-time favorite in regions like ours that can grow it with ease—and easy it is! Morning glories are sometimes considered a bit of a pest because they're hardy,



Twisted blooms

they reseed every year and they can pop up just about anywhere in your garden or yard. But if controlled, their prolific blooms can be quite lovely. Flowers grow into a twisted bloom that unfurls in the morning and closes near noon—hence their name. “Glory” also refers to the

fact that the center of the funnel-shaped bloom sometimes looks as if light is shining from within (just see the cover of this *Heights Life*).

Morning glory flowers come in light blue, dark blue, red, pink, purple and white varieties, and some have stripes. Most species (genus *Ipomoea*) are native to Mexico and South America (the sweet potato vine is related). Most commonly known is the “heavenly blue” annual morning glory vine that grows best on a trellis or fence or in a pot with a support structure to which climbing tendrils attach.



Morning glories come in many colors.

Morning glory seeds are toxic, so if you gather seeds from an existing vine, store them away from children! Times for sowing morning glory seeds vary, but in the Heights, most can be sown from late March to late June or July—or even all year long, depending on the variety. Soak seeds overnight in water; nicking thick seed coats before sowing will cause quicker germination.

## Late-summer jobs

Trim trees and large shrubs and deeply water once a month. Cut back on irrigating summer-dormant California native plants, and lightly water cacti and succulents. Check irrigation lines for leaks, and remove all dried-out brush. *Then find some shade and relax!*



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Heights residents Graciela & Steven invite you to visit Vida Del Sol Health Foods in La Habra to see these state-of-the-art Enagic devices and learn all the ways that they can improve your family's life.



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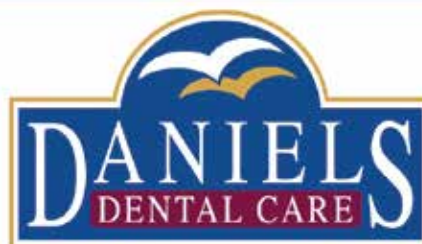
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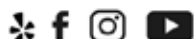


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2" business card ad: black & white (3.75"W x 2"H)	\$ 396.00	\$ 660.00
2" business card ad: color (3.75"W x 2"H)	\$ 506.00	\$ 770.00
1/4-page ad: black & white (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 660.00	\$1,100.00
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## One-time ad

1/4-page ad: color (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 165.00
1/2-page ad: color (7.5"W x 5"H)	\$ 220.00

Digital ad artwork must be in JPEG, TIFF or PDF format at 300 DPI resolution or higher in actual ad size. For bleed ads, see measurements above. Do not send ad files embedded in Microsoft Word or Excel documents. *Heights Life* is not responsible for poor-quality reproduction from low-resolution or out-of-focus files or for incorrectly-sized bleed ads.\*

• Although we prefer digital files, we can scan good-quality camera-ready art. All typography and line art should be clean and sharp. If the ad includes photographs or pictures of half-toned images, they should be sharply focused and properly exposed. *Heights Life* is not responsible for the quality of photographic reproduction.

• Payment for each ad or ad cancellation must be received by the deadline date for ad artwork, which is the 10th of the month prior to the issue date (e.g., ad artwork and payment for the September issue are due August 10).

\* Text or photos that you do not want cut off must be within the 8.25"W x 10.75"H "live" area. For bleed ads, include at least 1/8-inch (.125-inch) bleed areas and trim marks.

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## Youth Employment Roster

Pam McVicar: 562-690-1563, [youthlhhia@gmail.com](mailto:youthlhhia@gmail.com)

**Jessica Coburn (16)** • 562-447-3486 – Babysitting and dog walking.

**Lauren Krynen (17)** • 562-245-7630 – Tutoring services for middle and high school level students in math (up to calculus), English, and AP prep.

*Members of the La Habra Heights Improvement Association may run notices in the Youth Employment Roster for free.*





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930 Picaacho Dr, LHH



1693 Benik, LHH



11939 Lesser St, Norwalk



4182 Isabella, Lake Elsinore



232 Serena, Palm Desert



2273 Canonita Dr, LHH



59 Camisa Ln, Palm Desert



1705 Hacienda Rd, LHH



1633 Coban Rd, LHH



115 Reposado Dr, LHH



13006 Ocaso, La Mirada



1631 Coban Rd, LHH



2020 Canyon Ct, LHH



1506 Angola Ave, LHH



1545 Le Flore Dr, LHH



486 Santa Paula, Pasadena



1235 El Paseo, LHH



51495 Obregon, La Quinta



540 West Rd, LHH



2070 Ardsheal Dr, LHH



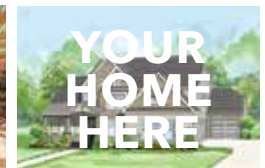
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## LHH Community Events



Public meetings of the La Habra Heights City Council, the Planning Commission, the Roads Advisory Committee and the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee have now resumed at City Hall now that the State of California has lifted some pandemic restrictions. However, all events will be held in compliance with the latest public health guidelines. Please see [lhhcity.org](http://lhhcity.org) for the latest updates and details.

**August 4** Music in The Park: **Country Nation** (see page 7 for details)

**August 9** La Habra Heights City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m.

**August 11** Music in The Park: **The Answer**. This concert will include a special memorial tribute to Claire Spothelfer (see page 7 for details).

**August 19** Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness meeting: 6 p.m.

**August 24** Planning Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m.

**August 25** Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.

## Emergency & City Numbers

<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	<b>911</b>
CITY HALL: <a href="http://lhhcity.org">lhhcity.org</a> .....	562-694-6302
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (INDUSTRY STATION).....	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
REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES.....	800-700-8610

## La Habra Heights City Council

BRIAN BERGMAN.....	562-690-5047	Briansbergman@hotmail.com
CAREY KLINGFUS.....	562-697-2561	carey@AELInspector.com
DENNIS LAHERTY.....	714-401-0873	Dennis.laherty@gmail.com
JANE WILLIAMS.....	562-697-5473	jwilliams90631@gmail.com
NORM ZEZULA.....	562-697-9914	normzezulaLhh@gmail.com

## Community Service Opportunities

BOY SCOUT TROOP 883 • Call Brian Freeman at 562-743-1973  
 BOY SCOUT TROOP 1814 • 951-538-8377 or cookmaster251@yahoo.com  
 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB • 562-694-1805 • ourchildrensfuture.org  
 HABITAT AUTHORITY • [habitatauthority.org/waystohelp](http://habitatauthority.org/waystohelp)  
 MEALS ON WHEELS • 562-383-4221 • [LaHabraMealsonWheels.org](http://LaHabraMealsonWheels.org)  
 VCC: THE GARY CENTER • 562-264-6000 • [vccthegarycenter.org](http://vccthegarycenter.org)

## = 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+**

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

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 La Habra, CA 90631

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[lhhia.org](http://lhhia.org)

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**Welcome Wagon**: [welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com](mailto:welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com)

Chairperson: **Vicki Cooke**.....562-694-4949



## Sheriff's Report

JUNE 2021

Aggravated assault: 1, Offenses against family: 2, Petty theft: 2, Vehicle & boating laws: 4, Miscellaneous felonies: 1, Miscellaneous misdemeanors: 1, Persons mentally ill: 1, Traffic accidents: 2, Non-criminal: 1.

**TOTAL INCIDENTS: 15**



## LHH Fire Report

JUNE 2021

Advanced life-support calls: 12 (6 in LHH, 6 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 10, Public assist: 6, Fire calls: 4, Traffic collisions: 4, Automatic aid into Los Angeles County: 8.

**TOTAL INCIDENTS: 36**

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