

# Heights Life

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
La Habra Heights Improvement Association  
Volume No. 76 • Issue Number 5 • June 2024

We thank our sponsors (see page 5)  
and our *Friends of Music in The Park*

## Music in The Park

BEGINS JUNE 26

*Concerts start at 6:30 p.m.*

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# MAYOR'S CORNER

## Traffic signal update

The city council approved a bid of \$946,487 from Crosstown Electrical & Data to install a new traffic signal at Avocado Crest and to stripe Hacienda Road. Completion is tentatively scheduled for this November. Although a grant covers a large portion of the total, some costs will have to come out of the general fund, including engineering and inspection fees and a 15 percent contingency.

If you've noticed flashing red lights on East Road, it may be because rodents have been burrowing under pull boxes and diligently chewing on signal wires. Rewiring and preventive upgrades are underway.



Carol Engelhardt

## February storm damage reimbursement

Our staff has been assessing hillside conditions and long-term damage to our community from the devastating February storms. On May 7, staff members attended a briefing by the State Office of Emergency Services concerning potential reimbursement to our city for storm damage. Paperwork for this, as well as for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is daunting.

The city spent several hundred thousand dollars during and immediately after the storms to deal with mud, street closures and cleanup. At its May 13 meeting, the city council approved an initial \$90,000 project for repairing damaged infrastructure after receiving bids for grind-and-overlay and berm replacement on sections of East Road, Fullerton Road, West Road and Le Flore Drive. This is only a small portion of initial estimates of at least \$3.4 million needed to repair roads and public facilities.

## Firewise workshop and storm video

Visit the city's website ([lhhcity.org](http://lhhcity.org)), click on *Agendas and Minutes* and go down the table on the left column to the entry for the *May 4 Firewise meeting*. Click on *Video* in the right column. In addition to interesting Firewise content, about 15 minutes into the presentation you'll see a large collection of resident videos and photos documenting the unprecedented storms that inundated the Heights in early February (stay for the credits to find out how many of your neighbors contributed). You'll see some harrowing scenes, including a truck almost getting hit by a falling tree!

You'll also learn about the current fire insurance situation from Kwan Lee, our Emergency Preparedness Committee chairperson, and receive a Fire Department update from Deputy Chief Ed Martin. These Firewise workshops are extremely interesting and helpful, and you should make a point of attending the next one in about 60 days.



Deputy Fire Chief Ed Martin addresses the Firewise workshop on May 4.

## House fire on Vista Road



LHH Fire Department photos



Fire severely damaged a house on Vista Road on May 5. LHH Fire Department arrived first on the scene at 6:20 a.m. and found half of the home fully engulfed in flames. LA County Fire Department units soon arrived to assist with extinguishing the fire, which took 33 minutes. The other half of the house, which is divided by a breezeway, was saved. Cleanup by firefighters required five hours. Residents of the home had safely evacuated before fire units arrived, and no one was injured. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## Multi-agency brushfire training held in LHH

If you noticed numerous helicopters in action above the Heights in late May, it's because firefighters from La Habra Heights, Brea, Fullerton, Santa Fe Springs, Downey and Los Angeles County Fire Department were all taking part on May 21, 22 and 24 in a major training exercise on fighting wildfires in hills like ours. Ground participants were in the Lupin Hill area to practice managing fires in brushy terrain 24 hours a day, and air-support crews put our recently dedicated Heli-Hydrant to good use.

## Better than Prevagen®

To you talented retired folks and Heights residents with extra time, please consider contributing your skills, expertise and time to help *your* city. You'll experience plenty of interesting twists and turns to stimulate your brain cells! We'll soon let you know about various volunteer opportunities, and I hope you'll join in.

## No fireworks on July 4th!

Just a reminder that fireworks are *strictly illegal* in La Habra Heights! The LHH Fire Department and resident volunteers will be patrolling on July 4th. Violators can be fined up to \$3,000. Please report any violations to the Fire Department at **562-694-8283**.

—Carol Engelhardt



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



We invite all members of La Habra Heights Improvement Association to our **2024 Annual General Meeting of the Membership and Election of the Board of Directors** on June 5 at City Hall starting with a reception at 6 p.m. Please join us!

### PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

We thank all of you who entered your Heights-themed photos in our annual **LHHIA Photo Contest**. Our board of directors judged the entries—there were plenty of really good ones—and you can see the winners on page 6.

### CONGRATULATIONS, 2024 GRADUATES!

On page 8, you'll find our first installment of photos of our Heights graduates this year—there will be more in our July issue of *Heights Life*. LHHIA offers sincere congratulations to them all and to their proud families!

### MY FINAL MESSAGE

This is my last “President’s Pen.” I’ve had the distinct pleasure of serving as LHHIA president for the past three years, and I sincerely thank my fellow board members and all my Heights neighbors for their help and support. I plan to remain on the LHHIA board, and I look forward to passing the gavel to our next president, who will be announced after our annual meeting on June 5 (*see above*).

—*Lynn Kelley*

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## Building a La Habra Heights CERT one volunteer at a time

Albert Villagomez is a 10-year La Habra Heights resident. After witnessing a small fire near Hacienda Road, he began wondering about getting prepared for future emergency situations in the Heights. “Who will help us evacuate?” he asked himself. “How can residents help the fire department?”

“It dawned on me that I needed to get involved,” Albert said. Today, as a member of the city’s Emergency Planning Committee (EPC), he is working with Fire Marshal Al Alcalde to re-establish a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for La Habra Heights—and they’re currently seeking volunteers.



Certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), CERT training is offered free of charge by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. It includes training for disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations and light search and rescue. The training provides residents with skills and tools necessary to take care of themselves, their families, neighbors and coworkers until emergency responders can reach them during an emergency.

Albert received his CERT Training at the Los Angeles County Fire Department Training Center in the city of Pomona. He is now partnering with the city of La Mirada, which has a robust CERT program, to learn how La Habra Heights can build a similar volunteer team.



LA County Fire Department

According to Albert, CERT training enables volunteers “to help assess people’s need for assistance and to learn basic first aid and evacuation skills.” Well-trained CERT volunteers can also provide valuable, accurate information for first responders, increasing the speed and effectiveness of their response.

La Habra Heights is looking for 12 to 15 volunteers to take the 20-hour training course, which will consist of weekly classes offered in late summer. The goal is to have a trained CERT cohort ready before the fall fire season. It’s a great way to help make our community safer while getting to know your neighbors better.

To learn more and to sign up for CERT training, please visit the EPC page on the city of La Habra Heights website at [lhhcity.org](http://lhhcity.org) > Government > Emergency Planning Committee, or contact Albert Villagomez at [avillagomez@msn.com](mailto:avillagomez@msn.com).

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# Music in The Park

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## June 26



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## July 24



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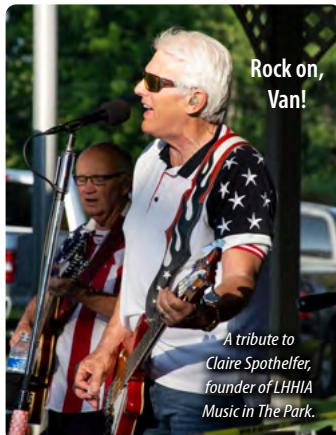
## July 10



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## July 31



### JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

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## July 17



### KELLY BOYZ BAND

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## August 7



### The Traveling Wilburys Revue

A tribute to the music of Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Roy Orbison, Jeff Lynne, Tom Petty—and more!



# Photo Contest Winners 2024



**FIRST PLACE**—Janeen Parminter: *Monarch Caterpillar Dining*

We received an excellent group of entries, and the LHHIA Board of Directors, who judged the contest, sincerely thank everyone who participated. Note that our voting process is “blind”—judges saw only randomly numbered photos and did not know names of photographers.

Photos entered in the contest will appear from time to time in future issues of *Heights Life* along with credits to photographers.

We welcome your photos all year long! Published photos will still be eligible for that year's LHHIA Photo Contest. Send your photos to: [heightslifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:heightslifeeditor@gmail.com).



**HONORABLE MENTION:**  
Patty Kraikittikun-Phuong



**SECOND PLACE**—Kimberly Cleveland: *Rainy Day Hawk*



**THIRD PLACE**—Jodee Morgan: *Screeching Hawk*

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# Congratulations, Class of '24!

We'll run more grad photos in our July issue. Send your photo and details about your grad to [heightslifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:heightslifeeditor@gmail.com) by June 10.



## Lana Baroldi

Lana graduated with high honors from Sonora High School. She competed on the track and soccer teams and was a Scholar Athlete all four years, earning four Academic Achievement Awards. She served in JROTC and was a member of National Honors Society and National Society of High School Scholars. She will major in business and political science at Cal State Long Beach.



## Emma Mason

Emma graduated from Troy High School, earning a Troy Tech Magnet Program certificate and a scholarship from the Fullerton Secondary Teachers Organization. Named a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, she also won a community service award for her volunteer work at the La Habra Children's Museum. She will major in communications science at the University of Pittsburgh.



## Ileina Hatori

Ileina graduated with high honors from Sunny Hills High School. She was an Academic All American and Scholar Athlete all four years and water polo team captain for two years, leading her team to CIF finals both years. An Academic Commissioner for her Link Crew Class, she was a Junior Olympics bronze medalist. She will study psychology at Cal State Fullerton and play water polo.



## Jason Sirota

Jason graduated with honors from 8th grade at Rancho Starbuck School. He was a member of the Science Olympiad Team and National Junior Honor Society, and he earned a California Music Teachers' Certificate of Merit in piano. He will attend Sonora High School, and he has been accepted into their International Baccalaureate Program.



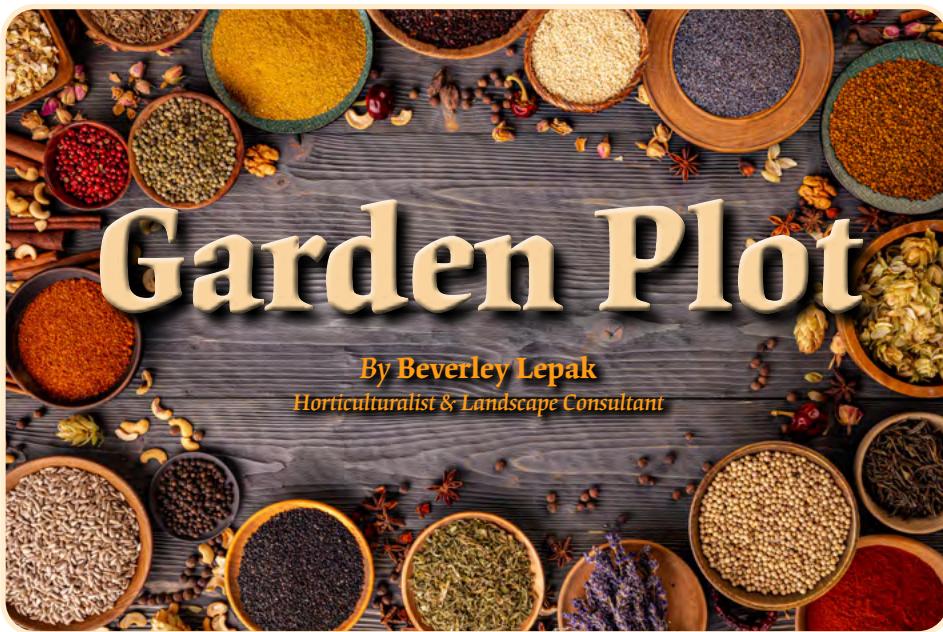
## Elyse Hess

Elyse graduated with honors from Sonora High School, where she won an award for excelling in science classes for five straight years. She received her state certification for being bilingual in Spanish after four years of study. She will major in biology at the University of Oregon, from which she received the "Minds Move Mountains" scholarship.



## Amanda Yepiz

Amanda earned her M.A. degree in geography and the environment from Cal State Fullerton, where she had completed her B.A. in the same subject. She was secretary of the Geography Club and a graduate student assistant. She played clarinet in the University Band. She served on the La Habra Heights Historical Committee. She hopes to teach geography at the college level.



# Garden Plot

By Beverley Lepak  
Horticulturalist & Landscape Consultant

## Fresh Ingredients from Your Own Cuisine Gardens

Heights residents are fortunate to have such great weather to grow our own healthy, delicious vegetables and herbs that are used in numerous worldwide cuisines.

Although most vegetables and herbs require full sunlight for most of the day, some need protection from blazing heat and bright light. Cover heat-sensitive plants with shade cloth when summer temperatures rise.

Calculate how much growing space you have, and bear in mind that some plants will spread and take over your garden if you don't confine them, especially cucurbits (cucumbers, pumpkins and watermelons). Learn about plant growth characteristics on seed packs or description tags.

Prepare soil by loosening and incorporating amendments and compost. Some plants need more acidic soil. For higher yields, use organic nutrients or slow-release fertilizers. Choose a method of irrigation—furrow, sprinkler, subsurface or drip—or just water by hand. Water early in the day to reduce evaporation.

Most vegetables can be grown in straight rows for easy access. If you want a more formal-looking garden, you can plant according to a geometric design or custom layout.

Position tall-growing plants in places where their shadows won't affect lower-growing plants. Many herbs grow well in pots. Trellises, tomato cages and bean poles save space and provide support and optimal growing conditions for vining plants.

Most vegetables and some herbs are annuals that only live for one growing season. After they die, they can be replaced with other plants. Vegetable gardens change with the seasons, and they can be combined with specific cuisine plants for almost continual yields.



### Chutney & Curry Garden

Chutney is a savory condiment made from slow-cooked fruits or vegetables, vinegar and spices. Originating in India, chutney recipes have traveled around the world, and every country has developed its own versions of this versatile condiment.

Curry is a dish with a sauce seasoned with flavorful spices. There are many curry varieties, mostly originating in India and South Asia.

Herbs to plant for chutneys and curries: asafetida, coriander, cumin, fenugreek, ginger, mint, mirchi (chili pepper), nigella and sesame. You'll also need tomatoes—smaller varieties like plum and cherry tomatoes are traditionally used in chutneys, but any type will work fine.

Dried curry leaf is also a key ingredient in many curries and chutneys, and you can grow your own by planting a curry leaf plant (*Murraya koenigii*), a small tree from India with highly pungent leaves. It starts out as an easy-to-care-for house plant, and when planted outside, it can grow into a tree six to 20 feet tall. Give it partial shade in summer and full sun in winter.



**Italian Cuisine Garden**  
So many easy-to-grow vegetables and herbs are part of Italian cuisine! Basil—whether Genovese, large leaf, or many other varieties—is a must for pesto, a versatile sauce traditionally made by blending fresh basil, pine nuts, extra-virgin olive oil and Parmesan cheese. Chopping the ingredients by hand is the traditional way preferred by purists, but you can save time by using a food processor.

Other herbs to grow for Italian dishes include chicory, fennel, oregano, parsley, rosemary and thyme. Also plant these vegetables: arugula, banana and bell peppers, carrots, cucumbers, eggplants, endive, escarole, onions, radicchio, spinach, sweet peppers and, of course, plenty of tomatoes—especially Roma, San Marzano (at right), Rosa Sicilian, ciliegini (cherry), datterini (plum), costoluto fiorentino (heirloom beefsteak), cuore di bue (oxheart), canestrino (little basket) and numerous other delicious Italian varieties.



### Salsa Garden

Guacamole could use some spice! A salsa garden is just what you need to complement avocados grown in the Heights. Plant cilantro, cumin, garlic, red and yellow onions, tomatoes and tomatillos.



Peppers! You'll need lots, and there are so many from which to choose, ranging in heat from mild to murderous! Plant (listed mild to hot) poblano, güero, jalapeño, serrano, cayenne, and habanero peppers. If you're brave, you can also plant extremely hot ones: (listed hot to hottest): Ghost, Naga Viper, Trinidad Scorpion, Komodo Dragon, Carolina Reaper (above) and Pepper X (currently the world's hottest, rated at 2,693,000 Scoville Heat Units; for comparison, the hottest jalapeño is 8,000 SHUs).

### Fall Harvest Garden

This is the time to plant certain vegetables to be ready to harvest in the fall: pumpkins and squashes (acorn, butternut, buttercup, spaghetti and others); root vegetables (parsnips, potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips and rutabagas); and alliums (leeks, garlic, onions and shallots).

**Happy summer gardening!**

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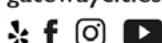


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**Saturday • July 20 • 6-10 p.m. • Italian cuisine & music**

**Silent auction • Raffle prizes**

**For info & reservations, call:**

**562-451-9047**

# The Fact Is No One Has Sold More Properties In La Habra Heights Than Jan. Why Would You List With Anyone Else?



**2034 Virazon Drive, La Habra Heights**  
4 Bed | 5 Bath | 3,204 Approx. SqFt  
\$1,448,000



**501 Dorothea Road, La Habra Heights**  
4 Bed | 4 Bath | 3,230 Approx. SqFt  
\$1,850,000



**0 AVOCADO CREST**  
La Habra Heights | \$380,000



**1310 Rincon Drive | La Habra Heights**  
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,624 Approx. SqFt  
\$1,155,000



**1460 Recado Road | La Habra Heights**  
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,031 Approx. SqFt  
\$1,025,000

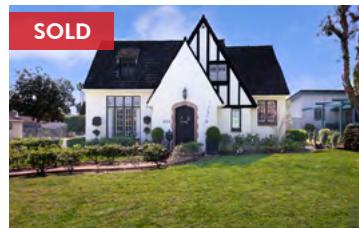


**1425 East Road | La Habra Heights**  
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,151 Approx. SqFt  
\$1,100,00



**81850 Fiori Del Deserto | La Quinta**  
3 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,001 SqFt  
\$852,500

\*Represented Buyer



**600 W Valley View Drive | Fullerton**  
5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 4,047 Approx. SqFt  
\$2,375,000

Local Experience In **YOUR** Neighborhood & Beyond

25 Year Licensed Realtor | 28 Year Resident of La Habra Heights

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The only real estate office in La Habra Heights, since 1946 . . . it a piece of our community's history.



**JAN FIORE**  
Realtor® | DRE #01262942



**562.522.9620**

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**COLDWELL BANKER**  
DIAMOND

1772 Hacienda Rd. | La Habra Heights, CA 90631

Based on information from California Regional Multiple Listing Service, Inc. as of May 21, 2024 and /or other sources. All data, including all measurements and calculations of area, is obtained from various sources and has not been, and will not be, verified by Broker or MLS. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy. Properties may or may not be listed by the office/agent presenting the information. Coldwell Banker Diamond DRE #01953240

## Heights Community Events

**June 10** City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m. at LHH City Hall  
**June 16** *Happy Father's Day!*  
**June 20** Emergency Preparedness Committee: 6 p.m.  
**June 25** Planning Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m.  
**June 26** Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.  
**June 26** Music in The Park: **AbSOULte**: 6:30 p.m. (see page 5 for full schedule)  
**July 20** **Meals on Wheels Annual Fundraiser** (see page 14, save the date!)



## 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
CAROL ENGELHARDT.....	562-217-0983.....	clengelhardt1@yahoo.com
DENNIS LAHERTY.....	714-401-0873.....	Dennis.laherty@gmail.com
JOHN PESPIA.....	562-694-1371.....	Jmp100@roadrunner.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 • lahabrapack817@gmail.com • Facebook.com/pack817
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB • 562-694-1805 • ourchildrensfuture.org
HABITAT AUTHORITY • habitatauthority.org/waystohelp
MEALS ON WHEELS • 562-383-4221 • LaHabraMealsonWheels.org
VCC: THE GARY CENTER • 562-264-6000 • vccthegarycenter.org



## LHH Fire Report

APRIL 2024

Advanced life-support calls: 22 (16 in LHH, 6 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 14 (4 in LHH, 10 in LA County), Public assist: 2 (0 in LHH, 2 in LA County), Fire calls: 12 (10 in LHH, 2 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 5 (2 in LHH, 3 in LA County), Automatic aid into LA County: 23.

**TOTAL CALLS: 55**



## Sheriff's Report

APRIL 2024

Aggravated assault: 1, Residence burglary: 1, Grand theft vehicle: 2, Traffic accidents: 3, Injury to LA County employee: 1, Elder abuse: 4, Fraud: 1, Stolen license plate: 1, Hit and run: 1, Petty theft: 2.

**TOTAL INCIDENTS: 17**

P.O. Box 241  
La Habra, CA 90631



## BOARD of DIRECTORS • [lhhia.org](http://lhhia.org)

Lynn Kelley, President (LHHIAPresident@gmail.com) and 'Halloween Haunt' Co-Chairperson (lynnkelley91@gmail.com).....	562-371-4603
Rick Brooks, Vice President & Webmaster (plumeriafarmer@gmail.com)	
Gil Taylor, Treasurer (excel@pristineprop.com).....	562-322-3453
Pam McVicar, Membership Chairperson (Memberlhhia@gmail.com) and Youth Employment Roster (youthlhhia@gmail.com).....	714-504-3415
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Monica Gunns, Advertising Co-Chairperson.....	714-412-2667
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Linda Letizia, Director (lindarletizia@gmail.com).....	562-303-8801

**Heights Life:** [heightslifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:heightslifeeditor@gmail.com)

<i>Editors: Dan and Barbara Stracner</i> .....	562-632-0691
For information about advertising in <i>Heights Life</i> , visit <a href="http://lhhia.org">lhhia.org</a> or call:	
<i>Advertising Co-Chairperson: Carolyn Boehringer</i> .....	310-849-4582
<i>Advertising Co-Chairperson: Monica Gunns</i> .....	714-412-2667

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

<i>Chairperson: Vicki Cooke</i> .....	562-694-4949
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## = 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+

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**.