

Heights Life

Volume 7
Issue No. 8

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE • La Habra Heights Improvement Association • September 2020

Annual LHHIA Photo Contest
winners on page 10 & 11

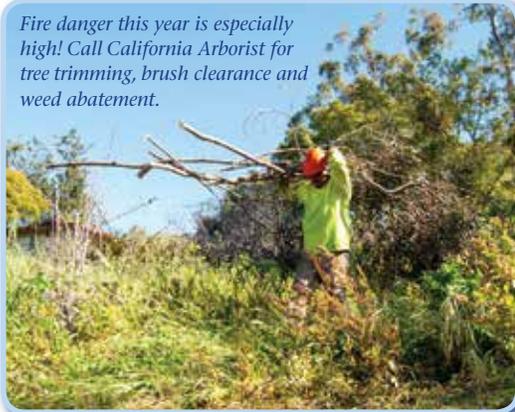
Next installment of
A History of the Heights
on page 6



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Congratulations to our Annual Photo Contest winners (see the cover and pages 10 and 11)! It is really inspiring that we again had a lot of really great entries even in these difficult times. Many of the photos will be displayed in future issues of *Heights Life*. All the entries were terrific, and all of you who participated are winners!

I missed you all at Music in The Park this summer, and I am sad to say that we are having to cancel more events due to COVID-19. Our Halloween Haunt has now been canceled, and we also had to cancel our Annual General Meeting of Members and Election that had been rescheduled for September 2. Unfortunately, due to government restrictions and guidelines, we are unable to hold a public meeting at this time. The main item on the agenda was election of the Board of Directors. Three directors were up for re-election: Rick Brooks, Monica Gunns and Michelle Saldivar. The Board voted to re-elect all three to another three-year term. Congratulations to Rick, Monica and Michelle.

Normally when we hold our Annual Election, we ask the membership if they have nominations from the floor for our Board of Directors. Since we are not able to do this in person, we would like to give our members the opportunity to nominate someone—including yourself—whom you think would be of benefit to our community. Please either email me at LHHIAPresident@gmail.com or call me at 562-690-1563 if you have a nomination or have any questions or concerns.

The Board also elected our current LHHIA officers to serve another one-year term: Pam McVicar, President; Rick Brooks, Vice President; Lynn Kelly, Secretary; and Romalyn Litchfield, Treasurer.

I really want to thank the entire Board for your hard work and willingness to serve. I am also very heartened by the response we received to our membership drive this year. I feel really blessed to live in this very special community with so many of you willing to help out and support LHHIA.

Stay safe! I hope we can all be together again soon.

—**Pam McVicar**

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On the cover: Warren Phuong's citrus-loving squirrel won our LHHIA Photo Contest this year. See pages 10 and 11 for our other winners.



Image: Skeeze (Pixabay)

Don't feed coyotes!

Judging from all the photos of local wildlife in this *Heights Life*, we could probably call this the “critter issue.” Many of us love being around these wild creatures—it’s all part of our unique rural lifestyle that makes the Heights so special.

But living in such close proximity to wildlife also means that we have a special responsibility to abide by important U.S. government guidelines about keeping wildlife *wild*.

Residents in both the east and west Heights have noted that our large population of coyotes seems to be getting bolder and less fearful of people and dogs. We have also received word that some residents may have been leaving food out for coyotes—a *big* mistake. As the Wildlife Services division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (usda.gov) makes abundantly clear, when humans feed coyotes or leave edible garbage where coyotes can get at it, the animals start associating people with an easy and dependable food source—and that source can quickly expand to include cats, small dogs, poultry and livestock, especially the young. Emboldened coyotes have even attacked young children. In short, you do *not* want coyotes to feel comfortable and welcome around your property! So please follow these USDA tips:

- Do not feed coyotes! Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it. Cover garbage containers securely.
- Put bird feeders where coyotes can't get to the feed. Coyotes are also attracted by birds and rodents that come to feeders.
- Feed pets indoors whenever possible. If you must feed outdoors, pick up all leftovers. Keep pet and livestock food inaccessible to wildlife.
- Fencing your yard can deter coyotes. For best results, the fence should be at least six feet high with the bottom extending at least six inches below ground level (because coyotes are good diggers).
- Don't leave small children unattended outside, especially if you've seen coyotes in your vicinity.
- Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Provide secure shelters for poultry, rabbits and other vulnerable animals.
- Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area. If you start seeing coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks.

MAYOR'S CORNER



We dodged another bullet

A beekeeper's catalytic converter is the suspected cause of the July 27 fire that flared up below Hacienda Road. The fire started way down in the bottom of the canyon below the Hacienda and West Skyline Drive intersection and was phoned in quickly. A huge fire personnel response (56 firefighters and a water-dropping helicopter) included LHH Fire Department, the L.A. County Fire Department and our Area E partners from Downey, Santa Fe Springs and Vernon fire departments.

La Habra Heights Fire Chief Doug Graft explained that because residents had done a great job with brush clearance on their properties on the sides of the ravine, the cleaned areas provided fire breaks that allowed firefighters to surround and contain the fire quickly. No structures were endangered, and the "Hacienda Fire" only burned two acres. There was a large amount of smoke, and Hacienda Road had to be closed. (We thank residents Don Phillips and Stephanie Dodson Chang for the images below.)

This is the third brush fire in the Heights this year, including the June 9 "Colima Fire" near the microwave tower and a small blaze near Vista Road, also in June. These fires serve as a warning to us all to be careful, especially during these hot months, and to get any fuel away from streets and structures.

Brush-clearance is a year-round responsibility. Under our brush clearance program, each parcel inspected is considered an active "case" by our prevention staff. When a parcel is deemed compliant by our Fire Marshal, the case is considered closed. Through July 2020, a total of 986 parcels had been deemed in compliance. However, all parcels are subject to inspection or re-inspection at any time, since fire is the largest threat to our community. (See the related article on page 5.)

Hacienda Road update

The La Habra Heights City Council has adopted the Roads Advisory Committee recommendation to extend the scope of work on Hacienda Road for the design of the proposed drainage repair down to 400 feet north of Canada Sombre Road.

The council also adopted the committee's recommendation that we authorize GTS, our traffic consultant and engineer, to apply for a grant to fund traffic safety mitigation measures at the Hacienda Road and Avocado Crest Road intersection, including possibly funding a round-about or traffic signal, guardrails, curve-shoulder widening, signs and other items. The federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) may provide up to 100 percent funding for traffic-related projects designed to reduce fatalities and injuries on public roads. The application will cost the City of La Habra Heights \$5,000 to prepare, but we would be requesting \$250,000. GTS feels very positive that our application would be granted based on the long history of traffic accidents at the curve on Hacienda Road north of LHH City Hall.

COVID-19 update

As of August 14, Los Angeles County Public Health indicates that while 31 La Habra Heights residents have tested positive for COVID-19, we have, thankfully, had no deaths. We are not provided with data about active cases or hospitalizations.

The Department of Homeland Security has appropriated \$24,248 as an *Assistance to Firefighters Grant-COVID-19 Supplemental (AFG-S)* for La Habra Heights.

Property values and public nuisance code enforcement

We are all concerned about individual rights, but when a condition exists that compromises the safety, security and property values of our neighbors and community, we need to find an acceptable and reasonable solution for everyone involved.

The La Habra Heights Planning Commission is in the process of discussing how best to handle and process complaints received from residents about conditions defined as public nuisances, such as dilapidated, unsafe, abandoned or defective structures, as well as improper storage of items such refuse, trash, scrap, building material and inoperable vehicles. We need citizen input on what the community wants going forward in terms of a balanced and legal method of resolving these issues.

—Brian Bergman



Image credits (clockwise from top): First two photos from Don Phillips; remaining images from a video by Stephanie Dodson Chang.

Save lives and property through advance planning

By Tim Peel, Assistant Fire Chief
La Habra Heights Fire Department

Heights resident Don Phillips took this photo of the July 27 "Hacienda Fire" (also see his other photos on page 4).

Fire season in the Heights is now a year-round reality. . .

Fire season is a year-round reality in our region, requiring firefighters and residents to be on heightened alert for the threat of wildland fires. With our numerous canyons, La Habra Heights has many linear miles of Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI). Each year, wildland fires in California consume hundreds of homes in the WUI. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of those homes could have been saved if their owners had followed a few simple safe practices. In addition, wildland-fire-related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

The La Habra Heights Fire Department takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildland fires. However, the reality is that in a major wildland fire event, there will simply not be enough resources or firefighters to defend every home.

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property. In this series of articles in *Heights Life*, we hope to provide tips and tools you need to prepare so that you'll know what to do when a fire starts—including evacuating quickly and efficiently if it becomes necessary.

Fires have always been a natural occurrence in Southern California. Our hills and canyons burned periodically long before we built homes here. Wildland fire, fueled by build-up of dry vegetation and driven by seasonal Santa Ana winds, are extremely dangerous and difficult to control.

Many homes in La Habra Heights were built and landscaped over the years without owners fully understanding what a wildland fire can do—and very few families are adequately prepared for quick evacuation.

It's not a question of *if*, but *when* the next major wildland fire will occur. Advance planning and preparation—in a word, *readiness*—is your best defense.

Get ready for a wildland fire

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include the evacuation of large animals, such as horses, in your plan.
- Have fire extinguishers on hand and teach your family members how to use them.
- Ensure that your family members know locations of your gas, electric and water main shut-off controls and how to use them (see details about this in past issues of *Heights Life*).
- Plan and practice several different evacuation routes.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit as recommended by the American Red Cross (see redcross.org for details). Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so that you can communicate with family members.
- Keep an up-to-date list of emergency contact numbers in your emergency supply kit.
- Sign up for the La Habra Heights Notification System by texting "AlertLHH" to 888777 so that you can stay updated on any fire and emergency announcements.



THE RANCHO ERA PART 2

A HISTORY of the HEIGHTS (fifth in a series) by Dan Stracner

The Yankee Ranchero

ABEL STEARNS, THE RICHEST MAN IN LOS ANGELES and possibly in all of California in the 19th century, became the owner of Rancho La Habra, which included La Habra Heights, in either 1860 or 1861 when he was at the apex of his remarkable career. Later we'll consider differing versions of how and when this acquisition took place, but first let's look at his extraordinary life that made him the largest private landowner in California history.

He was born in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, on February 9, 1798, to Levi and Elizabeth Stearns, who were farmers. Abel was orphaned at age 12, so he joined the crew of a merchant ship and went to sea. He must have been an intelligent and resourceful youth, because only a few years later, he became a supercargo, an onboard agent responsible for buying, selling and safeguarding transported goods. It was a position of great responsibility, second only to the captain of a ship.



In 1822, he made his first voyage to Mexico, where he acquired cowhides and beef tallow from local *rancheros* and sold or traded them imported manufactured products. Four years later, he left the seafaring life and set himself up as a merchant in Mexico City, becoming a Mexican citizen in 1828.

STEARNS MOVES TO CALIFORNIA

In 1829, Stearns moved his trading business northward to Alta California, which was then part of the Mexican Empire, founded in 1821 after Mexico won its independence from Spain. Settling in the village of Los Angeles (population 730), he opened a store and began trading with local *rancheros*, purchasing their beef tallow and hides and selling them a variety of goods. He soon began serving as an agent for his *Californio* customers in their dealings with merchant ships that bought and transported their products.

In 1831, Stearns erected a three-story flour mill on North Spring Street in Los Angeles. He then opened a warehouse and a new store at the harbor of San Pedro in 1834 and later established a stagecoach route connecting San Pedro and Los Angeles.

Abel Stearns was rapidly becoming a wealthy and influential man in the growing little community of Los Angeles. But then, in 1835, he suffered a severe trauma. He was arguing with a drunken sailor about the price of a keg of brandy when the man suddenly pulled a knife and began stabbing Stearns repeatedly. One stab struck Stearns in the mouth, badly injuring his lip and tongue and leaving him with a disfigured face and a speech impediment. Some idealized photos and engravings of Stearns eliminate or minimize signs of this brutal attack, but the recently rediscovered photo at the above right, taken when he was in middle age, clearly shows the disfigurement.



This man owned all of La Habra Heights—and a great deal more.

Image of Abel Stearns: Pasadena Museum of History. Image of sailing ship: Wikimedia.



Top: Abel Stearns' vaqueros nicknamed him "cara de caballo"—"horse face." He received severe facial scars from an assailant who attacked him with a knife in 1835.

Above (center): Cowhides and beef tallow (rendered suet) were primary products of Stearns' ranchos. Hides were used for leather goods, and tallow was used to make candles and soap, as well as for cooking. (Wikimedia image)



Left: Arcadia Bandini was only 14 years old when she married Abel Stearns, who was 43. Their 30-year marriage ended with his death in 1871. He left her a very wealthy woman. See the photo of her in later years on page 13. She died in 1912. (Wikimedia image)

When Stearns recovered from his injuries, he immediately plunged himself into another building project: his own home on North Main Street in Los Angeles. It took three years to build his “*El Palacio*,” a sprawling, single-story adobe structure that sat on a full city block and included a large courtyard. His home soon became the social center not only for the Los Angeles area, but also for visitors from San Diego and Santa Barbara.

Stearns had befriended Juan Bandini, (1800-1859) a prominent San Diego citizen who owned Rancho Jurupa in what is now San Bernardino County and Riverside County. The two became business and political associates.

MARRIAGE AND FIRST RANCHO

Bandini and his family were frequent guests at *El Palacio*, and it was there that Stearns got to know Bandini’s daughter, Arcadia, whom he married in 1841. The bride was 14 years old, and the groom was 43. Although it seemed an unlikely match, historical accounts indicate that it was a happy, albeit childless, marriage. Stearns lavished gifts on his bride, including luxurious new furnishings for their home. In fact, in 1842, when Stearns purchased his first rancho, the 28,000-acre Rancho Los Alamitos, he called it a gift for his wife.

The year 1842 was special for yet another reason: Stearns became the first California landowner to have gold discovered on his property. In Placerita Canyon, Francisco Lopez dug up some wild onions with his knife and spied a piece of gold in the dirt. He dug deeper and discovered even more pieces. Stearns’ initial shipment of California gold to the Philadelphia Mint weighed 1,843 ounces and was worth about \$35,000 at the time, which is equivalent to \$1,037,114 in today’s dollars.

Stearns worked diligently to become a successful *ranchero*. Longhorn cattle were the mainstay of the 19th-century California economy, and since Stearns was both a cattleman and a highly experienced trader and merchant, he made money not only selling tallow and hides from his own expanding herds, but also by selling merchandise to fellow *rancheros*.



Stearns' two cattle brands

As his wealth grew, Stearns also became an active money lender, establishing a new income stream from interest payments.

When the Mexican Empire went to war with the United States in 1846, Stearns remained neutral, but after the Americans won and California became part of the USA in 1848, Stearns once again became citizen of his native land.

THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

On January 24, 1848, only a few days before the Mexican-American War ended

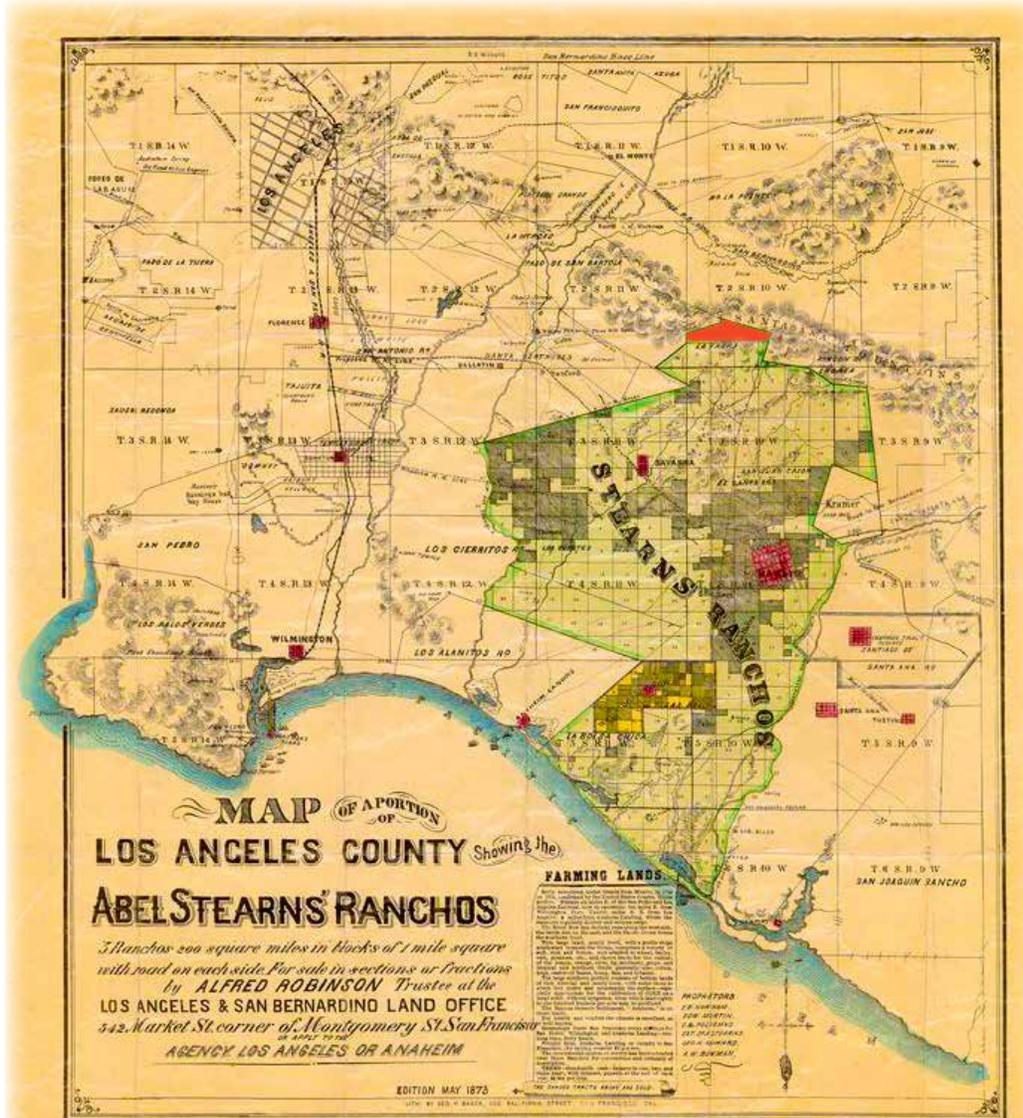
on February 2, an event occurred that greatly increased Stearns’ already sizable fortune: gold was discovered at Sutter’s Sawmill in northern California, and the fabled California Gold Rush was on.

Many thousands of miners descended on the area in 1849. Over the next seven years, the California population increased by more than 300,000. All those new people needed food, and the *rancheros* of Southern California benefited greatly from that need. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



Above: Exterior view of a portion of ‘El Palacio’, the sprawling Stearns adobe at North Main Street and Arcadia Street in Los Angeles, circa 1857. Completed in 1838, the building was demolished in 1877. The location is now covered by the Santa Ana Freeway.

Below: This 1873 map shows the full extent of Abel Stearns’ ranchos (the area outlined in green). La Habra Heights is the red area at the northernmost tip. Rancho La Habra, including the Heights, and the adjacent Rancho Los Coyotes were the last ranchos that Abel Stearns acquired. The map was used by the Robinson Trust to sell individual land parcels (see page 8). (Both Wikimedia images are from the Los Angeles Public Library.)



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Cattle that had been worth about \$5 a head for their hide and tallow were now worth upwards of \$75 apiece for their meat, and Stearns had huge herds on the hoof ready to drive northward to the gold fields.



By 1855, however, gold that individual miners could find by panning in rivers and streams had diminished greatly, so the population began to drop—and with it the demand for beef.

Moreover, because so many cattle had been driven overland from other states to California to satisfy demand during the glory days, there was now an oversupply of beef, and prices fell even further.

To stay in business, Southern California ranchers began borrowing money, often at exorbitant interest rates. Abel Stearns had plenty of ready cash available, and he was willing to lend it—and just as willing to sue those who could not pay him back and to take over their livestock and land, which he did frequently. In fact, that is precisely how Stearns became the owner of Rancho La Habra (including La Habra Heights)—through foreclosure.

RANCHO LA HABRA ACQUIRED

You may recall from our last Heights history installment (see the August 2020 issue of *Heights Life*) that Andrés Pico had purchased Rancho La Habra around 1843-44 (the exact date is in question); he and a business partner had also bought a portion of adjacent Rancho Los Coyotes. To do so, Pico had borrowed \$6,000 from Abel Stearns.

In 1860, when Pico could not pay his debt, Stearns foreclosed and took possession of Rancho La Habra. (Some sources indicate that this transaction was not finalized until 1861.) Stearns acquired Rancho Los Coyotes the same way.

Thus in 1861, what soon came to be called the “Stearns Empire” reached its zenith. By far the largest landowner in Southern California, Abel Stearns now possessed about 200,000 acres of contiguous rangeland in Los Angeles and San Bernardino countries, including Rancho Los Alamitos, Rancho La Habra, Rancho Los Coyotes, Rancho San Juan Cajón de Santa Ana, Rancho Laguna, Rancho Las Bolsas, Rancho La Bolsa Chica, Rancho Jurupa and Rancho La Sierra (Sepulveda).

He also owned a considerable amount of prime commercial real estate in and around Los Angeles, where he had become a major political figure.

DROUGHT AND DOWNFALL

In terms of material wealth, Stearns’ life had been on a steadily upward trajectory for more than four decades, but his good fortune ended abruptly because of a devastating change in the weather.

Called the “Great Drought,” it started in the fall of 1862, lasted through the winter of 1864-65 and utterly laid waste to Southern California, desiccating all open rangeland. Without food and water, cattle died by the thousands. “The plains were strewn with their carcasses. . . and the ground was covered with their skeletons. . . for years afterward” (Historical Society of Southern California, 1890).

The Stearns ranchos were especially hard hit. As his income dried up, Abel Stearns was unable to pay his bills and taxes and, in a dramatic reversal, the former money-lender was forced to borrow heavily in an attempt to keep his empire intact. But it was not to be.

As the drought worsened, Stearns kept piling up debt. In 1865, a financier named Michael Reese gave the money-lender a taste of his own medicine, forcing Stearns to sell his beloved Rancho Los Alamitos to settle a \$20,000 debt.

Over the next three years, Stearns continued to borrow heavily, using his vast land holdings as collateral, but it was rapidly becoming a losing battle.

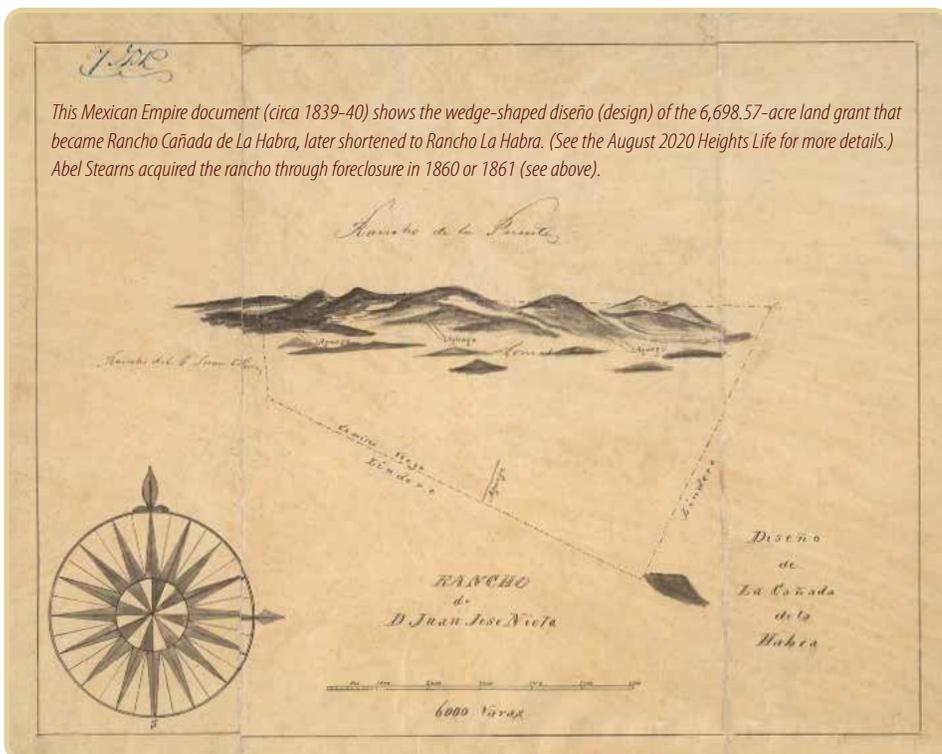
ROBINSON TO THE RESCUE

California businessman Albert Robinson had started his career on a trading ship just as Stearns had, and he and Stearns had been close friends and business associates for more than 30 years. Robinson had been the best man at Stearns’ wedding.

Robinson realized that the terrible drought was the death knell for the old Spanish-Mexican style pastoral economy. The days of vast herds of half-wild cattle wandering over miles of open ranges were numbered.

But Robinson also realized that Stearns’ ranchos were good for much more than cattle grazing. Each rancho could be subdivided and sold as parcels to farmers and to real estate developers. As development increased, he reasoned, so would property values.

This Mexican Empire document (circa 1839-40) shows the wedge-shaped *diseño* (design) of the 6,698.57-acre land grant that became Rancho Cañada de La Habra, later shortened to Rancho La Habra. (See the August 2020 *Heights Life* for more details.) Abel Stearns acquired the rancho through foreclosure in 1860 or 1861 (see above).



So Robinson organized a trust company funded by four wealthy San Francisco investors and approached Sterns with an offer. If Sterns would sell most of his land to them, they would pay him \$50,000 in cash (\$907,736 in today's dollars) to settle his debts, give him a one-eighth interest in the trust and pay him \$1.50 (\$27.23 today) per acre from their future land sales.

It was a generous offer, and Sterns knew it. On May 25, 1868, he deeded 177,796 acres to the Robinson Trust. The only thing he kept was Rancho Laguna in Los Angeles County—as a gift for his wife.

Robinson and his partners hired agents and began subdividing and aggressively marketing the land. In just a few months, they had sold 12,000 acres.

However, the trust also experienced a troubling impediment: Abel Stearns himself. Although the old empire-builder no longer owned the land, he kept behaving as if he did! He was still grazing livestock on portions of it, and he even attempted to sell land parcels at different prices than those advertised by the trust.

In 1870, Stearns also began renting and leasing large plots of land that he no longer owned to sheep herders at 10 cents per head. The former ranchos affected by this practice were La Habra, Los Coyotes, Las Bolsas and San Juan Cajón de Santa Ana. (We'll take up the story of these sheep ranchers in our next installment.) His trust partners pleaded with him to stop, especially since grazing sheep left land barren and less attractive to buyers. Stearns essentially ignored them.

The problem ended on August 23, 1871, when Abel Stearns died at the age of 73.

The trust resumed selling the former rancho lands apace. The map on page 11 shows the status of those sales as of 1873.

Abel Stearns died a rich man, passing his still-accumulating wealth from land sales to his wife Arcadia, who remarried in 1875 to Robert S. Baker and outlived Stearns by 41 years.



When she died in 1912 at the age of 85, her net worth was estimated at some \$15 million (about \$411 million in today's dollars).



Stearns' gravestone at Calvary Cemetery in Los Angeles. The marker also includes the names of Arcadia, Stearns' wife of 30 years, and her second husband, Robert S. Baker, whom she married in 1875.

NOTES & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Editor acknowledges the excellent article, *Drought, Debt, and Development: The Story of the Stearns Ranchos* by Phil Brigandi (Spring 2011 issue of *The Branding Iron*, a publication of the Los Angeles Corral of Westerners), which provided much information as well as useful bibliographical references for additional research. Visit lawesterners.org.

The Editor further acknowledges the Homestead Blog of the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, an educational and entertaining source of information about the history of greater Los Angeles (visit homesteadmuseum.wordpress.com). The museum is located at 15415 Don Julian Road, City of Industry, CA 91745. Plan to visit when the public health situation allows this wonderful museum to reopen.

Unless otherwise noted, images used in the article are from Wikimedia Commons.

2020 Census self-response deadline has been changed to September 30



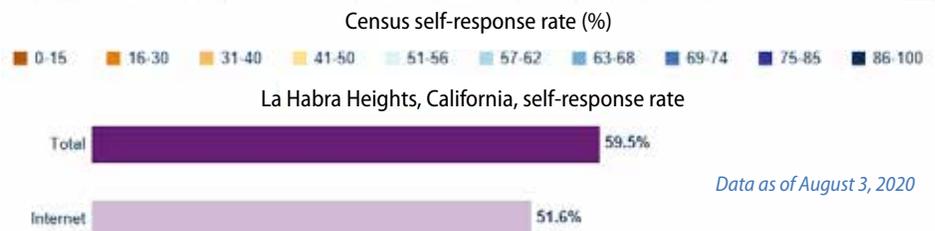
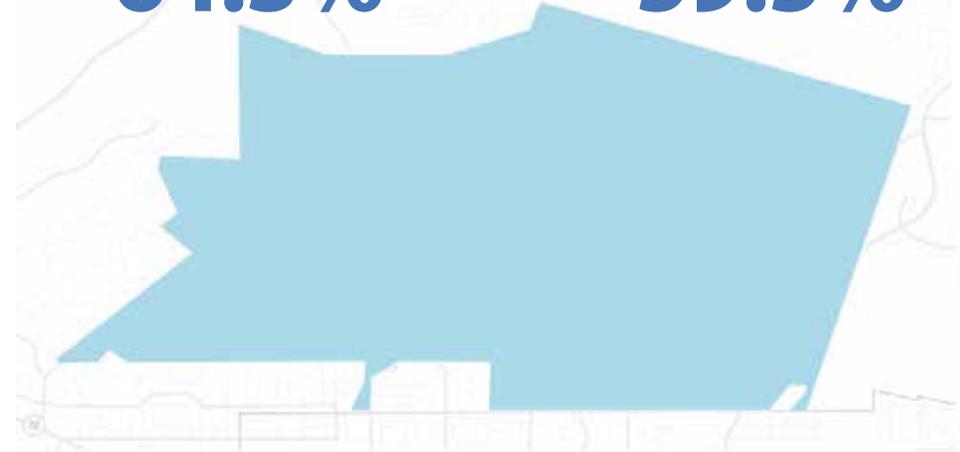
As of Monday, August 3, the La Habra Heights self-response rate to the U.S. 2020 Census was lagging behind the overall California response rate by 4.8% (see chart below).

It's very important that we get a full and accurate count since allocation of government funding and other resources for La Habra Heights will depend on census data.

If you have not yet self-responded, please do so online, by phone or by mail by September 30. If you have questions, please call the City of La Habra Heights staff at **562-694-6302** or visit **2020census.gov**.

California self-response:
64.3%

La Habra Heights self-response:
59.5%



Data as of August 3, 2020

LHHIA PHOTO CONTEST

We received a great group of entries for our 2020 LHHIA Photo Contest, and members of our Board of Directors, who judged the contest, thank all of you.

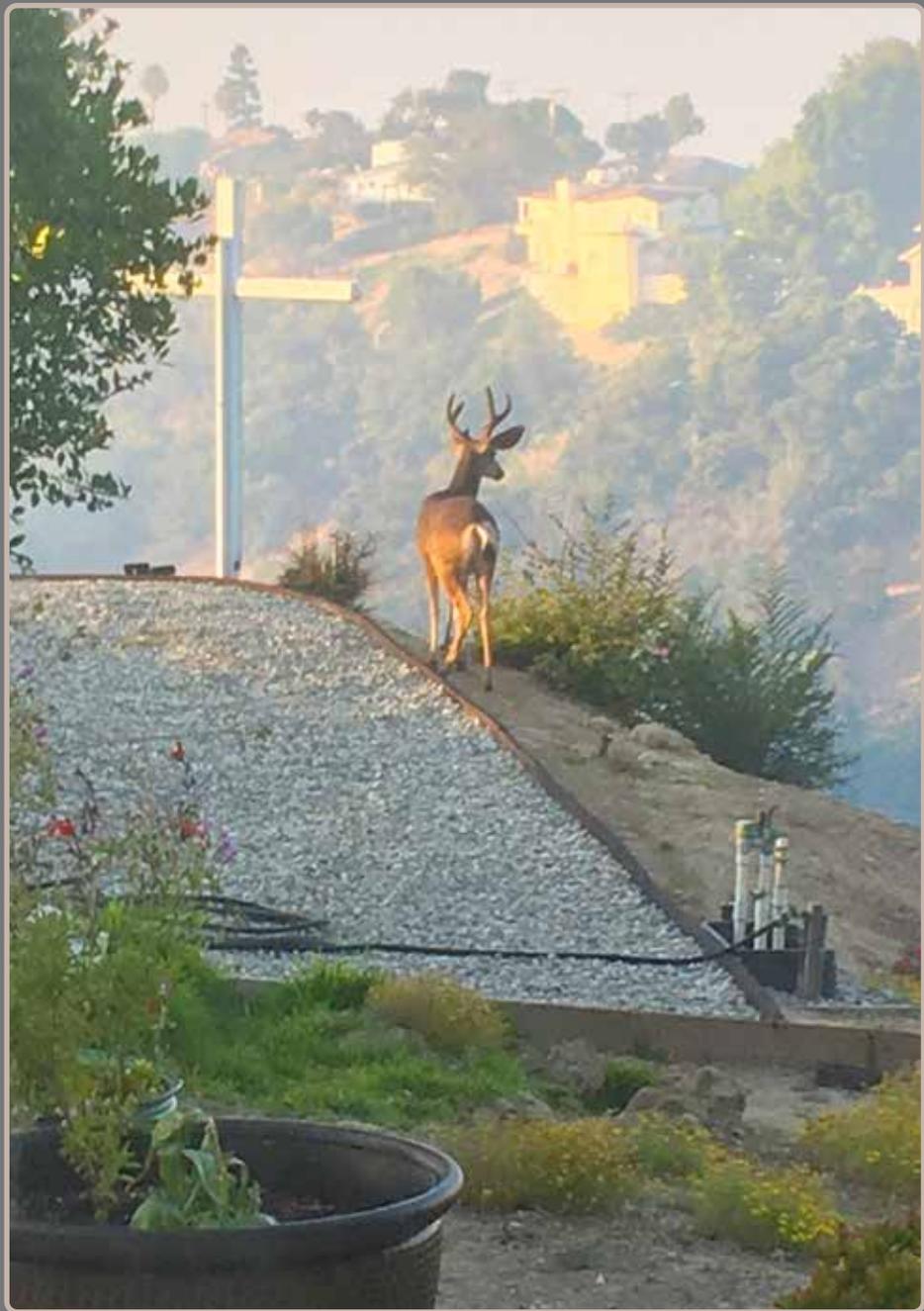
Our first-place winner, a citrus-loving squirrel by **Warren Phuong**, is shown on the front cover of this issue.

Second place (at right) went to **Harriet Kirk** for her shot of a visiting young male deer.

Third place went to another example of Heights wildlife, an inquisitive coyote (right, center) by **GinaRose Kimball**.

We had two fine honorable mentions: a Heights panorama (right) by **Autumn Ky** and **Asha Parikh's** rainbow (far right).

Keep your eyes on future *Heights Life* issues, because from time to time, we'll be publishing other contest photos that were entered this year.





We'd also like to remind you that we'd love to see original, high-resolution photographs from La Habra Heights residents throughout the year for possible publication in future issues of *Heights Life*. We'll credit you, of course. Just email your shots to: heightslifeeditor@gmail.com. Be sure to include names of all photographers.



CERTAINTY IN "UNCERTAIN" TIMES

Even in the times we're experiencing now, I know one thing is for CERTAIN, I am 100% committed to helping you with your situation. Lean on my experience.



PENDING

Land Sale | 1798 Tumin Rd, La Habra Heights | \$310,000



PENDING

105 Reposado Dr., La Habra Heights | \$999,888



LEASED

1620 El Travesia Dr, La Habra Heights | \$5,800/mo



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Land Property | 0 Reposado Dr, La Habra Heights | \$450,000

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Hacienda Golf Club



OPEN FOR OUR COMMUNITY

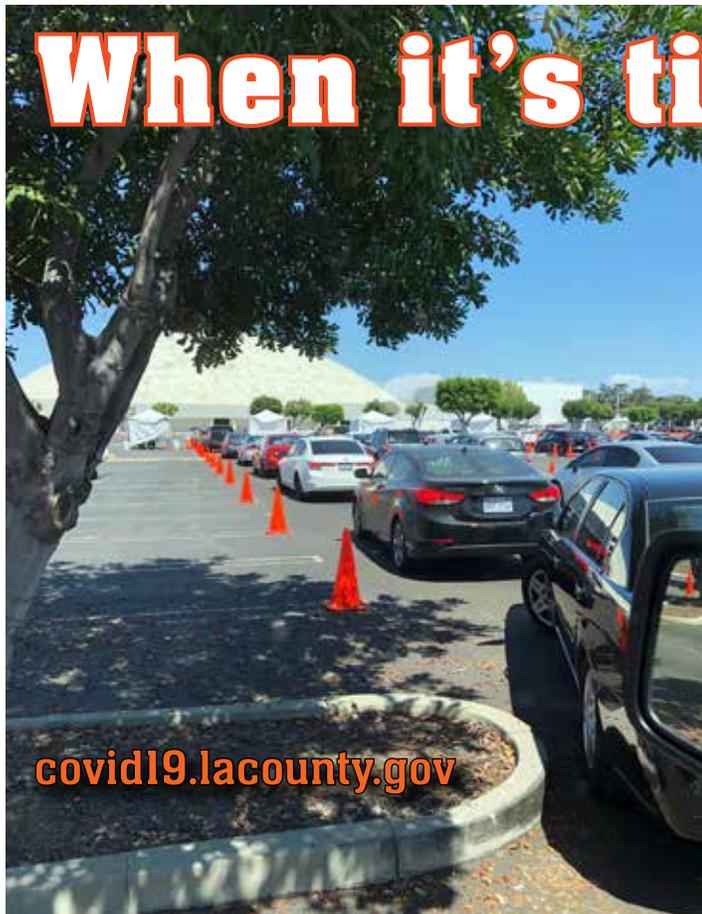
MARKETPLACE TO-GO: a pick-up food and beverage service providing ready-to-eat hot meals, prepackaged heat-and-eat family-style meals, handmade pizzas—and more. . .



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When it's time to test. . .



[covid19.lacounty.gov](https://www.covid19.lacounty.gov)

If you believe that you have been exposed to COVID-19 or if you are showing symptoms of the disease, call your health care provider as soon as possible. Your health care provider can talk with you about your concerns and help determine if and when you need to be tested. (If you don't have a doctor, call 211 to get a referral.) If your doctor recommends testing, visit [covid19.lacounty.gov](https://www.covid19.lacounty.gov) to find numerous walk-up and drive-through testing sites in Los Angeles County. You will need to schedule an appointment.



Garden Plot

Birch tree in autumn



Celosia



Candytuft



Leeks



Pressed flowers



By Beverley Lepak, Horticulturist & Landscape Consultant

On September 22, the Autumnal Equinox will occur at 6:30 a.m. PDT—and thus, fall will arrive in La Habra Heights. In other parts of the United States and in our California mountains, cooler temperatures will cause leaves to change colors. Not so much here in the Heights, where the coming of autumn can bring hot, dry weather and Santa Ana winds blowing in! That's why we all need to do our part and keep up brush clearance, including along roadsides, to help prevent wildland fires (see the related story on page 5).

Deeply water large trees and shrubs—but if you see a weather report that says a Santa Ana wind is predicted, wait until the wind event has passed before watering. Damp soil may not be able to hold large trees, and they could topple over if winds get strong enough. If your California native plants start to come out of their summer dormancy, water them.

Warm fall colors—Bring in warm tones of fall by planting some colorful annuals: celosia, yellow and orange cosmos, marigolds and some ornamental peppers for fun. Other fall bloomers can provide nectar for bees and butterflies: aster, candytuft, fall flowering sage, ornamental cabbage, pansies (later in September), stock and snapdragons—and you can still sow sunflower seeds.

Looking for colorful trees? Take a look at nurseries near the end of the month, and some trees may be starting to show fall foliage colors. Birch, ginkgo, Japanese maple and crape myrtle all produce rich color changes if temperatures become chilly enough. Do your research before you purchase, however, since some trees may grow too large or tall for your landscape and may block those beautiful views here in the Heights.

Fall vegetable gardening—Fall is for harvesting. Pick what's left and get those roly-poly pumpkins ready for Halloween and Thanksgiving! Clear out old and dead growth and either let the soil go fallow (left unplanted so that it can rest) or invigorate it by mixing in compost and amendments. Plant or sow beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chicory, endive, fava beans, garbanzo beans, kale, leeks, lettuce (try different varieties at two-week intervals for a long harvest season), mustard greens, parsnip, potatoes, radicchio, radish, shallots, Swiss chard and spinach.

Most summer annual herbs are just about done—except basil, which should last till mid-October if you keep clipping off its flower stalks and leaves. You can sow seed of cilantro, dill and fennel if the area has some shade. Get your kitchen herb garden ready for the holidays by lightly trimming back existing plants and refreshing the garden with new plants: oregano, rosemary, cooking sage and thyme.

Spring bulbs—Local nurseries should be getting spring bulbs in September. Many can be planted right away, and others—crocus, hyacinths and tulips—will need to “chill” (be kept refrigerated) about six weeks before they can be planted. Follow planting instructions.

You can still sow basil seeds, and they should last until October. You can also plant cilantro and dill in a partly shaded area. Trim back oregano, sage and thyme and dry their stems upside down in a cool, dry spot.

Schoolltime projects—Cut clear plastic water bottles in half, add potting soil and plant corn or bean seeds. Roots can be seen as the plant grows. Make plant markers with large Popsicle sticks. Press flowers and leaves in an old, very large book, using paper towels as a lining and pressing materials for about a month. It helps to pile some heavy objects on top of the book. Kids can also make accompanying cards and storyboards.

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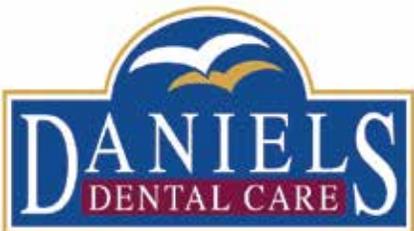
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Heights Life ADVERTISING RATES

For-profit business and private-party ads	6 issues	11 issues
1" line ad: black & white (3.75"W x 1"H)	\$ 93.50	\$ 165.00
1" line ad: color (3.75"W x 1"H)	\$ 100.00	\$ 175.00
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
1/4-page ad: color (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 880.00	\$1,512.50
1/2-page ad: color (7.5"W x 5"H)	\$ 1,210.00	\$2,200.00
Full-page ad: color (bleed: 8.625"W x 11.125"H)*	\$1,760.00	\$3,300.00
Full-page ad: color (non-bleed: 7.5"W x 10"H)	\$1,760.00	\$3,300.00
Paid non-profit 501(c)(3) ads (space guaranteed)		
1/4-page ad: black & white (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 330.00	\$ 550.00
1/4-page ad: color (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 440.00	\$ 770.00
1/2-page ad: color (7.5"W x 5"H)	\$ 660.00	\$1,100.00
Free non-profit 501(c)(3) ads	Based on space available.	
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 October issue are due September 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.

ADVERTISING POLICY: La Habra Heights Improvement Association (LHHIA) reserves the right to accept or reject advertising for *Heights Life* and to delete objectionable words and phrases. Submission of an advertisement to *Heights Life* does not constitute a commitment by LHHIA to publish the advertisement. Publication of an advertisement does not constitute an agreement for continued publication. *Heights Life* and LHHIA will not be liable for failure to publish an advertisement as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. *Heights Life* and LHHIA liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by any error, with maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the correct advertisement. Under no circumstances shall *Heights Life* or LHHIA be liable for consequential damage of any kind. The editors of *Heights Life* attempt to screen advertisers carefully, but we are neither responsible for nor liable for the performance or non-performance of advertisers. If you have compliments or complaints involving advertisers, please contact LHHIA. For more information, please call Monica Gunns at 714-412-2667.

Make checks payable to LHHIA and mail to: LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631. *Advertising Co-directors:* Monica Gunns and Carolyn Boehringer.



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Lindsey Potter (17) • 562-383-8668 – Babysitting and animal tending.

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

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LHH Community Events



Public meetings of the La Habra Heights City Council, the Planning Commission and the Roads Advisory Committee have been suspended until further notice due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. However, some meetings will be held remotely and may be viewed on the internet, and written and phone-in comments will be allowed. Visit lhcity.org for additional information and up-to-date schedules.

- SEPTEMBER 14** La Habra Heights City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 22** Planning Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 28** Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.

The LHHIA Annual Meeting and Election scheduled for September 2 has been canceled due to COVID-19 (see page 3 for details). The Halloween Haunt in the gym at The Park has also been canceled. Visit lhia.org for updates.

Emergency & City Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
CITY HALL: www.lhcity.org	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
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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
- MEALS ON WHEELS • 562-383-4221 • LaHabraMealsonWheels.org
- VCC: THE GARY CENTER • 562-264-6000 • vcthegarycenter.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**
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Welcome Wagon: welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com

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



SHERIFF REPORT

JULY 2020

Non-aggravated assault: 2, Burglary: 6, Grand theft: 3, Grand theft, vehicle: 3, Fraud: 2, Controlled substance possession: 2, Vehicle & boating laws: 2, Miscellaneous felonies: 1, Persons missing or found: 1, Suspected child abuse: 1, Suicide and attempt: 1 Traffic accidents: 3, Non-criminal: 7, Miscellaneous misdemeanors: 1.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 35



LHH FIRE REPORT

JULY 2020

Advanced life-support calls: 26 (6 in LHH, 20 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 13, Public assist: 5, Fire calls: 5, Traffic collisions: 3.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 52