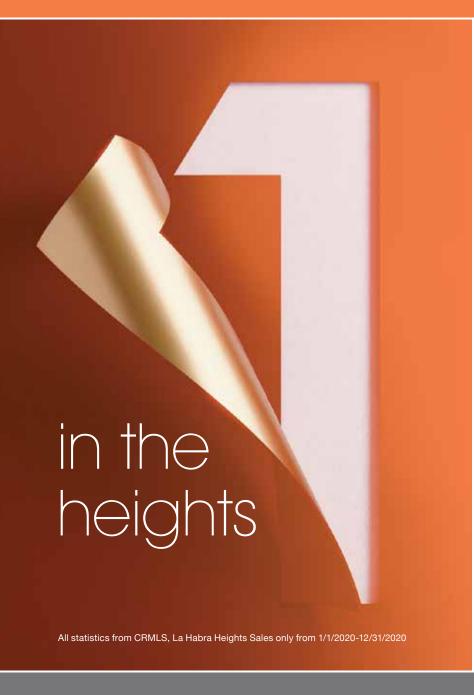


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MAY@R'S CORNER

was selected by the La Habra Heights City Council at its December 14 meeting to serve as your mayor. That means this is the first time I've written in this

capacity for *Heights Life*. I want to thank the publishers and editorial staff for granting me the opportunity to have a column each month. I realize I'm following a long-standing tradition in our community for the mayor to inform the community of current goings on from the mayor's perspective. The opportunity is certainly in keeping with the La Habra Heights Improvement Association's commitment to serve the needs of the community. LHHIA publishes *Heights Life*.

Fire Department receives grants for essential equipment

Fire protection is an obvious priority in the Heights, and La Habra Heights Fire Department continues to fulfill its work with professionalism and expertise. I continue to be amazed how a relatively small fire department can have the staff that it does to accommodate the needs of our community. With its relationship with other departments in the area through mutual aid agreements, LHHFD can interface with other departments without hesitation. In the past several months, the department has been fortunate to have received various government grants, previously applied for, that have presented the opportunity to purchase and update essential equipment. I am, for one, thankful to Chief Doug Graft and the firefighters of the department for their work and their commitment to the safety of our community.

City services continue unabated during pandemic

The Covid 19 pandemic has raised havoc with surrounding communities, upending their city budgets and creating a situation where many employees have had to be laid off. The Heights has laid off no one. At its January 6 quarterly review of the budget, the council witnessed again how excellent management by the city staff has made it a reality to work within the adopted budget and continue to provide the same city services of previous years. In fact, since the pandemic began, there has been additional outreach by the staff to make certain that senior residents of the Heights have had regular contact with people and various needs met. This has been made possible even during quarantine. I can't think of a better example of a city staff showing such care for the people they serve.

SoCal Gas and Heights equestrians continue discussion

SoCal Gas raised a fence to protect their property and in the process blocked access to a trail used for many years by equestrians in the Heights. Although there has been helpful discussion with the gas company regarding the fence and the lack of access for horses, the discussion continues with the hope that the issue will be remedied to everyone's satisfaction.

Staying on top of proposed land-use laws

The state legislature continues to propose new laws regarding the use of land within cities in the state. Of approximately 16 laws proposed in the last session regarding property usage, only a few continue to be considered. A couple of these laws could be in disagreement with the General Plan of La Habra Heights. Our city attorney, Mike Maurer, has been and will continue to monitor these remaining proposed laws. Our area within the League of California Cities is also monitoring these laws. Where it is appropriate and helpful, the city council will respond, along with other cities of the league, to state our dissatisfaction with various proposals. I realize that land use has been an ongoing concern for the Heights since before its incorporation. I simply want to assure you that the council is

staying on top of this issue on your behalf. Rural we are, and rural we will remain.

Road Assessment 7 update

Road Assessment 7 has been well underway for over a year now. As I travel over different roads in the Heights, it's easy to identify those that have been repaired under the auspices of this assessment. The project will continue for four more years under the current program. I share with many of you the impatience of having to await repairs on my street—but as I see refinements occurring in other areas, it's encouraging to know that in the end, all roads in the Heights will be raised to a higher standard of function and repair.

Let's keep in touch

Although we can see the end of the pandemic in sight with the availability of vaccines, it will still be awhile until we can meet in groups. I invite you to feel free to be in touch with me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas for the good of the city. I'm both willing and interested to hear what you, as a resident of the Heights, have to say. My telephone number is 714-401-0873, and my email is <code>dennislaherty@gmail.com</code>. Feel free to be in touch between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. any day. If you misplace my contact information, it is also available on the back page of each <code>Heights Life</code> and also on the city website at <code>lhhcity.org</code>.

—Dennis Laherty





PRESIDENT'S PEN

his is our first issue of 2021, so please let me wish you a Happy New Year on behalf of the La Habra Heights Improvement Association Board. Unfortunately, we have to start off with sad news since we have had to cancel our Easter Egg Hunt because of ongoing Los Angeles County restrictions related to the pandemic. We'll miss watching the Easter Bunny arriving in a city fire truck almost as much as the kids will!

We hope to start getting back to normal this summer with our popular Music in The Park concerts—watch *Heights Life* and our website (lhhia.com) for updates.

Our "History of the Heights" series will return in the March issue. Dan Stracner, our editor, is working on a story about Edwin Giles Hart, the man who first began developing the Heights during the 1920s. Mr. Hart was also one of the founders of LHHIA in 1939. As we begin our 82nd year, we invite you to join our venerable volunteer organization and get involved in our numeorus community-building activities (please see page 16 of this issue for details).

—Pam McVicar

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e've all been cooped up for quite a long time, and with spring just around the corner, most of us feel the need to get outside and enjoy outdoor activities. Some early winter rain gave the weeds a head start! Adding a good layer of mulch will inhibit their growth and help keep those little muddy footprints from appearing on your floors. A boot scraper and door mats are good investments this time of year—if we get more rain. But if rain is scarce, then you'll want to irrigate large trees and shrubs so they can start growing for spring.

Happy Valentine's Day!—Celebrate the holiday by planting red, pink, and white flowers: cyclamen, pansies and primrose all do well in cool season. The kids can have some fun by painting small clay pots with their handprints, heart stamps or free-form designs and then potting flowers, herbs or succulents for Valentine's Day gifts for family and friends.

Orchids—Orchids are a nice gift to give and receive, and most do well inside if you place them in a northeast window (west or south exposure can get too hot for them). Watering and fertilizing orchids can be tricky. Here are some helpful hints to keep them happy: Use room temperature water—cold tap water can shock them. Fill a watering can and let it sit overnight so that the water temperature warms up. You can also use distilled water; many professional orchid growers *only* use distilled water for their crops. Follow fertilizer instructions, and don't be tempted to add more—it could damage orchids.

Camillias—Camellias are traditional shrubs beloved by many gardeners. They grow best as an understory shrub or in east exposure. Planting camellias is fairly easy if you follow instructions. First, they do require an azalea/camellia soil mix since our heavy clay soil is not acidic enough for them. Second, don't plant the bottom of the trunk below the soil level; plant just shy of an inch above the soil level so that water can filter down to the roots. Third, keep the area underneath clear of all leaf litter to reduce the possibility of bacterial infections. Camellias grow best with a regular watering schedule.

Spring flowers—Drop by our local garden centers, which should now be well stocked with annual flowers. Plant alyssum, calendula, dianthus, Johnny jump ups, larkspur, lobelia, marigold, pansies, primrose, snapdragons, and stock. Roses, fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs could use a boost to prepare for new spring growth, so apply appropriate fertilizer while following instructions. Aphids love new rose leaves, so check roses for insects. Treat your roses with a method you're comfortable with.

Spring vegetables and herbs—Get your vegetable garden ready for spring! Mix compost or amendment into the soil and plant beets, carrots, cauliflower, collards, fava beans, green beans, lettuce, mustard greens, peas, potatoes, radish, rutabaga, Swiss chard and spinach.

Bare roots and bulbs—Spring bulbs could use some light fertilizer so they'll produce showy blooms! Plant bare roots soon, since they need to grow roots for spring growth; these include asparagus, roses, rhubarb, and deciduous trees, shrubs and vines.









Photos (top to bottom) by Randa Alhaddad, MrGajowy3, PMAnguita, Iggrz (all from Pixaba

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- Daily bathing, grooming and dressing help.
- Daily medication assistance and management—we take this *very* seriously.
- Care for victims of Alzheimer's, dementia and strokes.
- Daily physical activity.
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- Transportation can be arranged on request.
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INMEN

RICHARD TRAVIS JEROME (1934-2020)

Richard Travis Jerome, 86, passed away at his home in La Habra Heights on November 2, 2020, after fighting his way back from serious health issues numerous times.

A self-made man, Richard found joy in his large family and many friends, in the successful company he founded and grew and in his many hobbies, including quarter-scale trains (his Heights neighbors loved catching rides on the *Jerome Express*, the tracks for which encircle the Jerome property).

Richard was born in Downey, California, on May 16, 1934. His family—Josephine, Howard Sr. and Howard Jr.—owned a feed store. Richard could often be seen riding around the neighborhood astride his mule, with his dog and pet spider monkey along for the ride.

At 15, he started working after school and on weekends for his uncles' company, Baker Commodities, and continued all through his high school days.

In 1953 when he was 19, two major events occurred: his father died in January, and in October, he married Donna, the red-headed girl who lived across the street.

In 1963, Richard began building what became Southwest Processors/Southwest Treatment in Vernon, California. The company specialized in transporting and treating non-hazardous liquid waste. From then on, he was a proud business owner. His responsibilities took him to the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, the Marshall Islands, Mazatlan, Australia and up and down the California coast behind the wheel of a truck.

He and Donna had three children, Jeff, Sue and Jonna. In 1965, the family moved to La Habra Heights. Their 1920s ranch house needed serious renovations. Over the years, their homestead hosted eight dogs, five horses, two ponies, two turtles, three goats, 25 guinea fowl, countless chickens and at one point at least 30 cats. Wilder visitors included hawks, raccoons, possums, rabbits, bobcats, coyotes, snakes and deer. Richard was always rescuing orphaned or injured animals. One of the oddest was an old turkey named "The Colonel," which followed him around like a









Left to right: Pete Schabarum, Donna Jerome and Chief Richard Jerome pose with the first La Habra Heights Volunteer Fire Department rescue vehicle.

puppy. Donna drew the line when he tried to bring home a baby elephant.

Beginning in 1969, Richard served in



the La Habra Heights Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter, maintenance officer and assistant chief. In

1973, he took on the role of fire chief and served his beloved community for 10 years. He renovated and donated several vehicles used for emergency response. Richard and Donna created the first rescue squad in the Heights, and they were named Man & Woman of the Year by the California Highway Patrol in 2006. Son Jeff became a firefighter, and daughter Sue served in the women's auxiliary.

The Jerome home had a fire engine in the front yard and a dispatch radio and red fire phone for emergency calls in the living room.

Richard also dabbled in many spin-off ventures and partnerships, including being part-owner of a salt mine and manufacturing campers. He possessed a generous and entrepreneurial spirit, and he was quick to lend a hand, tools, equipment or finances to help others.

Richard was innately curious, wanting to understand how things worked, and he thrived on finding new or better ways to do things or solve problems.

He was passionate about creating things with his own hands, especially woodworking. He built furniture and even clocks. After he attended a boat-building school in Canada and learned to craft canoes and kayaks, he was asked to go to Belize, where he helped a team build a new racing canoe for an annual competition.

Richard and Donna traveled to England and took road trips all over the West. They especially enjoyed spending time at their cabin in Wrightwood.

Richard is survived by his wife Donna; his children: Jeff Jerome (wife Carla), Susan (husband Armando Alfonso) and Jonna (husband Andrew Spilsbury); nine grandchildren; and seven greatgrandchildren.

ORIAM

ROBERT CARTER WILSON (1939-2020)

Robert Carter (Bob) Wilson, who served as fire chief in Santa Fe Springs, interim fire chief in La Habra Heights and also spent 20 years on the La Habra Heights County Water District board of directors, passed away at the age of 81 on December 13, 2020.

Born on April 2, 1939, in Danville, Illinois, he was the son of Sterling and Betty Wilson. The family moved to Southern California when Bob was a child. Bob went to school in Pico Rivera and graduated from El Rancho High School. His mother helped to create the City of Santa Fe Springs, becoming its first mayor as well as the first woman mayor in Los Angeles County. She served on the city council for 40 years.

Bob joined the Air Force in 1957 and specialized in air-to-air refueling. After his military service, he joined the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department in 1960. He also became a partner in a local landscaping business at which he worked on his days off from the fire department.

In 1974, Bob married his wife Cheryl, and the couple moved to La Habra Heights in 1981 and became active in the community.

Bob moved up in the fire department ranks from engineer to captain and battalion



chief and became fire chief in 1985—but he had to participate in a unique contest to get the top job. The city manager of Santa Fe Springs at the time had Bob and another department officer each serve as acting chief for four months, and he then picked Bob.

Bob was instrumental in significantly modernizing and expanding the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department during his tenure as chief. He founded the department's Environmental Protection Division and started a HazMat Response Team that still exists today as a Type-I resource for handling hazardous material situations in California.

Bob retired from the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department in 1993—but he wasn't retired long. The following year, he accepted the position of interim chief for the La Habra Heights Fire Department, a job he held for three years.

In 1999, he was elected to the board of the La Habra Heights County Water District, a position he held until February 2020. He served as board vice president for two years and represented the district in various state organizations.

He also worked for the Disneyland Fire Department from 2000 until 2015. He loved Disneyland and would find reasons to go there even when he wasn't working.

Bob enjoyed being with his family and traveling with his wife Cheryl and their many friends. He was an excellent photographer and was seldom seen without a camera.

He was also a long-time member of the Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights.

Bob was very likable and personable, and he made friends easily. He had a dry sense of humor that sometimes made it difficult to know when he was joking, and he was known for bringing a room full of family or friends to tears of laughter with his timing and wit.

He loved Apple computers (and any other products made by that company); in fact, he installed Macintosh computers at the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department.

Bob collected guns and enjoyed shooting them with Cheryl and his son John. He also loved driving his Ford Mustang through the hills of La Habra Heights.

He and Cheryl traveled all over the world, and several times a year, they would travel with friends on vacation and photo expeditions.

He loved spoiling his grandchildren, with whom he had close relationships.

Bob lived an active, full life and had a very positive influence on a great many people.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl, son John (wife Annalys), daughter Karen (husband Shawn Larsen), grandchildren Chris Larsen, Scott Larsen, Anneliese (husband Bryson Higgins) and Alex Wilson (wife Kalise), as well as four great-grandchildren.



From the LHH Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (fifth & final in a series):



onitor the local fire situation closely. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave. *Go!*

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion, enabling firefighters to move more freely and do their job in a safer environment.

When to leave—Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home or evacuation route. Leave early enough to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. If you are ordered to leave by local authorities, do not hesitate! Go!

What to wear—Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt (100% cotton is preferable), sturdy shoes or boots, cap, bandanna or other face covering, goggles or glasses.

Where to go—Go to a predetermined, lowrisk location such as a well-prepared house of a neighbor or relative, a Red Cross shelter, a designated evacuation center (check online for locations) or a motel. **How to get there**—Have several travel routes planned in case one route is blocked by the fire or by emergency vehicles. Choose the safest route away from the fire.

What to take— Take your emergency supply kit containing necessary items for family and pets.

Emergency supply kit—The American Red Cross recommends that every family have an emergency supply kit assembled long before a wildland fire or other emergency occurs. Use the checklist below to help assemble yours. For more information on emergency supplies, please visit redcross.org/get-help.

- Three-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day) and a three-day supply of non-perishable food for your family.
- First aid kit and sanitation supplies.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.
- Extra set of car keys, as well as credit cards and cash.
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescriptions and medications.

- Important contact numbers and family documents, including insurance documents.
- Map marked with evacuation routes.
- Easily-carried valuables and irreplaceable items.
- Personal electronic devices and chargers.
- Keep a pair of sturdy shoes and a flashlight handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

Additional precautions

If you have sufficient time, consider taking these additional precautions:

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks and move propane appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running; they can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in smoke or darkness of night.
- Place a ladder at the corner of your house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Check on neighbors, especially any who need help, and make sure they're preparing to leave.
- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave interior lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off air conditioning.
- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Have a plan for evacuating horses and other large animals — think about moving them to a safe location early.

Return home only when authorities say it's safe to do so. Take photographs of damage-you may need them later to substantiate insurance claims.



Our thanks to La Habra Heights Assistant Fire Chief Tim Peel for his help with this series of articles.



hen Evan Taylor, Heights resident and a member of Boy Scout Troop 883, would walk to and from The Park, he noticed that the the area around the memorial monument was looking rather run down. So when it came time to undertake his Eagle Scout project, he knew what to do.

First he cleaned up and enlarged the pathway. "I put decomposed granite on the pathway to keep it intact longer, and I also repaired and refinished the benches around the monument. I then beautified the monument by putting porcelain tile and rocks around it," Evan said. The project took about a month, and the improvement is most impressive.

Evan offered thanks to the LHH city staff—especially Grace Andres and Jeff Moore—for their suggestions and guidance. He also expressed his gratitude to Brian Freeman, his scoutmaster and project coach who helped him get into scouting. "My fellow scouts in Troop 883, and my brothers, uncle and cousins were there to help me as well," he said.

When you see Evan at The Park, be sure to thank him.





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- 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 March issue are due February 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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- HVAC Services
- · Water Heaters
- · Home Inspections
- Sewer Stoppages
- Re-piping

Commercial and Residential



562-868-7777

laplumber.com

Youth Employment Roster

Pam McVicar: 562-690-1563, youthIhhia@gmail.com

Jessica Coburn (14) • 562-447-3486 — Babysitting and dog walking.

Maclane Valentine (18) • 714-514-6973 — House-sitting and pet-sitting and general yard clearnup. Mac also is available to play bagpipes for various occasions.

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

RURAL LIVING

LHH license plate frames on sale at City Hall for \$10 each

Made in the USA of high-quality, die-cast metal, these attractive, sturdy frames are a great way to display your pride in our unique rural community.

LA HABRA HEIGHTS

JAN FIORE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST



#1 IN LA HABRA HEIGHTS IN 2020

#1 in total transactions in La Habra Heights per MLS data for the year 2020.

NEARLY 60 TOTAL TRANSACTIONS LAST YEAR! HOW CAN I HELP YOU IN 2021?

Questions about your situation? lets talk It's Free!





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LHH Community Events

P.O. Box 241 La Habra, CA 90631

PRESORTED STD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID**

Santa Ana, CA Permit No. 4849

ublic meetings of the La Habra Heights City Council, the Planning Commission, the Roads Advisory Committee and the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness 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 with written and phone-in comments allowed. See *lhhcity.org* for more information and updates to dates shown below.

FEBRUARY 8 La Habra Heights City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 14 Happy Valentine's Day

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Committee meeting: 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23 Planning Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 24 Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Emergency & City Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
CITY HALL: lhhcity.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
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
Meals on Wheels • 562-383-4221 • LaHabraMealsonWheels.org
VCC: The Gary Center • 562-264-6000 • 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.Ihhia.com** or mail your check (made payable to LHHIA) to: **LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631**.



LHHIA Board of Directors

Ihhia.org

Angela Owen, Director (arowen3@yahoo.com)......562-201-1119 **Heights Life*: heightslifeeditor@gmail.com

Stan Carroll, Director (gw1763@gmail.com).....562-697-1187

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Advertising Co-chairperson: Monica Gunns, Director	714-412-2667

Welcome Wagon: welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com

Chairperson: Vicki Cooke 562-694-4949



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2020

Non-aggravated assault: 1, Burglary, residence: 1, Forgery: 1, Grand theft: 1, Grand theft vehicle: 1, Vehicle burglary: 2, Vehicle & boating laws: 6, Persons dead: 1, Persons missing or found: 1, Petty theft: 1, Sex felonies: 1, Traffic accidents: 7, Misdemeanors: 1, Non-criminal: 3.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 28



Advanced life-support calls: 55 (34 in LHH, 21 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 27, Public assist: 16, Fire calls: 15, Traffic collisions: 9, Automatic aid into LA County: 44.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 122

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