

*It's time for spring planting!
See Garden Plot on page 8.*

Heights Life

Vol. 74 • No. 2 • March 2022

La Habra Heights Improvement Association

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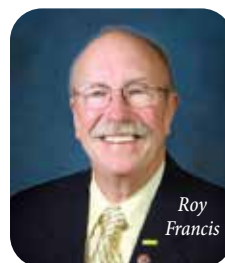
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On February 16, the La Habra Heights City Council voted unanimously to select Roy Francis to fill the vacant council position left by the retirement of Jane Williams on January 10.



A career firefighter, former Mayor of La Habra Heights and former longtime council member, Roy will be able to hit the ground running, as the saying goes. He brings many proven gifts and will be a significant addition to the council in the time between now and the November election.

At the February 14 regular city council meeting—when the council had originally been scheduled to choose its new member—I experienced public embarrassment like never before. Twelve members of the La Habra Heights community had stepped forward and applied for the vacant council seat. Each had completed a rather extensive form and turned it in to City Hall. All applicants had made themselves available at the February 14 meeting either in person or via zoom to witness the four-person council make its selection to fill the seat. But that selection did not occur.

Repeatedly, individuals were nominated and seconded—and then, one after another, six consecutive people received a deadlocked 2-to-2 vote. As the frustrating process wore on, the council then decided not even to vote on the remaining half of the applicants and to reconvene and try again at a later date. Personally, I found this council decision irresolute and embarrassing, as well as disrespectful toward all those who had applied.

All 12 applicants have abilities and experiences that would have helped the council carry out its duties, and the rejection of the applicants was in no way a reflection on the applicants themselves or their qualifications. Rather, it was totally a reflection on two opposing council factions made up of two members each—hence the repeatedly deadlocked votes. These two factions seriously mistrust each other—a fact that has been obvious for some time—and that mistrust made what occurred at the meeting not only embarrassing for the council but also insulting to the residents who had come forward to serve their community.

I hope that in the coming weeks the evident mistrust on the council can be addressed and resolved in a positive way. Presently, it is a destructive impediment to progress in La Habra Heights and a misuse of the time and goodwill of residents who wish to serve our city.

As a member of one of the factions, I am in no way proud of what happened. I do hope for improvement and a better working environment on the council when Roy Francis joins us and deadlocked votes are no longer an issue. We must work to make sure that the debacle we experienced on February 14 never again happens in the Heights.

—Dennis Laherty

Our next LHHIA event is the annual Easter Egg Hunt at The Park on April 9, beginning at 10 a.m. (see page 11). But you might want to come a little earlier to make sure you greet the Easter Bunny when he arrives in a big, red LHHFD fire engine! Our firefighters will also let kids sit in the engine—a great photo op for parents and grandparents.

LHHIA installs new gym doors at The Park

If you've attended any of our LHHIA events at the gym at The Park (e.g., our *Halloween Haunt* and, most recently, *Morning With Santa*), you may have noticed that the entryway doors were in rather bad shape, mostly because of water damage.

In keeping with our LHHIA policy of paying for improvements at The Park, in late January we installed not only three new entry doors, but also three additional doors in other parts of the gym building. The “before and after” photos below show the difference. We also painted the new doors a new color: “shamrock green” (which seems rather appropriate this month). More improvements are being planned!



Enter your best shots in LHHIA Photo Contest

Be sure to send us your photos of life in the Heights for our annual LHHIA Photo Contest (see details on page 5). The deadline for entries is April 30, 2022. You can enter up to three photos, preferably in high resolution—that's because plenty of the entered pictures end up being published in *Heights Life*, and we really need good-quality images for the best reproduction. First prize wins \$100, second prize \$50 and third prize \$25.

Email your digital entries to heightslifeeditor@gmail.com. You can also enter prints up to 8.5" x 11" by mailing them to LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631. Remember, you must be an LHHIA member to enter (see page 16).

—Lynn Kelley

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More about 'Our Owls'

The editors thank all of you who sent emails and photos in response to the story "Our Owls" in the February issue of *Heights Life*. (Photo credits are on the pictures.)

Of all our wildlife stories, that one drew the biggest response thus far, so it's obvious that we aren't the only ones who are fond of our resident Great Horned Owls. That's particularly appropriate since we're currently in the midst of owl nesting season, so lately we've been hearing plenty of nightly owl serenades!



Dan Diaz



Mike Gallagher



Laura Holbrook



Mike Gallagher



A letter of appreciation

Photo: Christine Blaisdel



Photos: Carey David

I lost my beloved home of 25 years on Virazon Drive to a fire on the evening of January 4. Several days of rain had just passed, and the winds were calm that evening. Through the professional actions of firefighters from both the La Habra Heights Fire Department and surrounding fire agencies, the fire did not spread to other homes. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

I want to extend sincere appreciation to my friends and neighbors, fire department personnel, Mayor Dennis Laherty, and to city council members for the outpouring of support on both the evening of the fire and in the days since. As the shock wears off and I begin working on a path forward, I am humbled and thankful to reflect on the caring and concern of everyone with whom I've had contact.

La Habra Heights is an amazing community, and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else due both to its people and the beautiful area itself. It is like a hidden oasis in an increasingly urbanized area. Returning home from a day at work, I feel my tension ease and my blood pressure drop when I turn onto West Road. Stresses continue to decrease as I reach home.

With plans to rebuild the house as it was, if at all possible, I am starting the process of working with my insurance company and contractors. In advance, I want to apologize to my neighbors for the inconvenience this will cause and promise to do everything I can to minimize the rebuild time.

In appreciation,
Carey E. David

Freak hailstorm briefly whitens the Heights on February 15

Heights residents were surprised by a loud racket on their rooftops on the evening of February 15 when a strong winter storm gave us a lightning show and pelted us with pea-sized hail that covered roads, decks and driveways with ice. It also created rare "thundersnow" storms in our local mountains.



Ice on West Road



Photos by Barbara and Dan Stracner

Annual LHHIA Photo Contest

Deadline for entries:

April 30, 2022

- To enter, you must be a member of La Habra Heights Improvement Association.
- Enter up to three photos as either high-resolution digital files or prints.
- Email high-resolution digital entries to heightslifeeditor@gmail.com.
- Mail prints up to 8.5 x 11 inches to LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631.

Save the date!

First prize: \$100

Second prize: \$50

Third prize: \$25

- By entering, you agree to allow your images to be published or displayed, without any fee or other form of compensation, in *Heights Life*, on the LHHIA website and at La Habra Heights public events. Published photographs will include a photo credit.
- See *Official Rules* at lhhia.com. By entering, you agree to abide by these rules.



2022 Los Compadres High School Senior Awards

Each year, the Los Compadres Club of La Habra Heights awards scholarships to graduating seniors living in La Habra Heights.

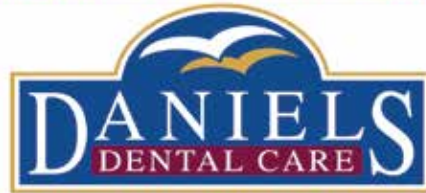
To be considered, students must have maintained a 3.5 GPA throughout their high school years and participated in school and community activities.

Selected students will receive a scholarship cash grant of at least \$500 and a Certificate of Excellence.

Qualified students may request an application from Los Compadres by calling Brad Cooke at 562-694-4949 or e-mailing brad@gbcookeinc.com.

Applications must be completed and returned by March 13, 2022.

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Garden Plot

**Spring
planting
time!**

By Beverley Lepak
Horticulturist & Landscape Consultant



*Trifolium clover,
aka Irish shamrock*



*Painted lady
butterfly*



Dianthus



Ageratum



Phlox

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY is on March 17, and the vernal equinox arrives on March 22 at 8:33 a.m. Equinox is Latin for "equal night," and it refers to the time twice each year when the earth has equal hours of sunlight and darkness—12 hours each. In our Northern Hemisphere, the vernal equinox marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Our gardens are ready for the growing season, and planting cheery flowers will attract beneficial insects and hummingbirds. To create a pleasing cottage effect, plant an assortment of ageratum, cosmos and marigolds for a variety of colors and blossom heights.

Santa Ana winds

We had very low rainfall in January and February, so we'll need to do some thoughtful watering to keep trees and shrubs healthy. Deeply water large trees and shrubs. But check weather reports, and if a drying Santa Ana wind is predicted, don't water trees until *after* the event—because when soil is too damp, a strong Santa Ana wind can cause roots of large trees to lift and can even topple trees! And watch out for large limbs snapping off and falling.



Santa Ana winds also dry out vegetation and greatly increase the threat of wildfires—which is why it's so critical to keep up with your weed abatement and brush clearance in our lovely but fire-endangered community.

About 'shamrocks'

Although no single plant is identified as a true Irish shamrock, the most popular candidate is a

three-leaf (trifolium) clover—*not four-leaf!* Legend has it that while Saint Patrick was trying to convert the Irish to Christianity, he used the three leaves of a shamrock to explain the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Three leaves are also said to represent faith, hope and love. So, if you see people wearing four-leaf clover symbols on March 17, politely point out to them that they aren't really wearing an authentic Irish shamrock. A four-leaf clover, by the way, is a mutant that occasionally shows up in a three-leaf clover patch; because it's so rare, you're considered lucky if you find one, but it isn't the correct symbol for the quintessential Irish holiday.

Moreover, most potted, large-leaved "shamrocks" sold in stores for Saint Patrick's Day in the USA are not genuine trifolium clover like that grown in Ireland. They're actually a type of oxalis related to a noxious, pesky weed that can be difficult to get rid of—bear that in mind before you plant these seasonal "shamrocks" in your garden! Besides, they'll do much better if kept in pots. Because they're bulbs, oxalis go dormant for part of the year. When the leaves die back, set the pot in a cool, dark place and stop watering. When new leaf sprouts emerge, move the pot to a partly sunny area and resume watering. Divide bulbs every two or three years.



*Oxalis, which isn't a
real shamrock*



Eggplant



Tomatoes



Summer squash

Clover, on the other hand, is often used as ground cover that not only looks attractive, but also adds beneficial nitrogen to soil—which is why it's often planted as a between-crops soil enhancement.

Spring flowers

Beautiful, colorful, wonderfully scented spring flowers bring gardens to life! Planting flowers not only adds color and fragrance, it also attracts butterflies, bees and other essential, helpful insects that pollinate fruit trees and vegetables. In addition to those mentioned earlier, some easy-to-grow annual flowers to plant are dianthus, lobelia, petunia, phlox, snapdragons and stock. Drop by our local nurseries, where you'll find a huge inventory from which to choose right now. Also consider adding perennial plants that bloom year after year.

Spring bulbs should have begun blooming—or will soon. If some have already bloomed and leaves have started to yellow, let old flower stalks and leaves remain until they completely dry up. It may not look pretty for a while, but it will allow bulbs to absorb more nutrients and store enough energy for next year's bloom.

Spring vegetables & herbs

Rip out the old and bring in the new—it's time to get those veggies in the ground! Plant arugula, beans, beets, bell peppers, carrots, celery, early-season corn, cucumbers, eggplant, late-season lettuce (plant in partial shade), okra, peas, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash and early tomatoes. Now is the time to sow basil seeds in two-week intervals for a long

growing season. Also sow seeds of cilantro, chamomile, dill and fennel.

Spring birdies & critters

Spring is a really active time in our gardens. While trees and plants are producing leaves, flowers and fruits, other living creatures are growing new generations. Birds are nesting, and they sometimes choose rather peculiar places to raise their families, including hanging plants, lighting sconces, eaves, decks and old sheds. However, most of the time they find a nice tree or large shrub in which to nest.



If you're planning to prune, trim or remove trees, please be aware that there may be active bird nests.

Listen for little "peeps" or watch for a bird acting agitated near where you're working. Mockingbirds might even swoop down and attack if you get too close to their nests.

Birds do like their baths! If you don't have a bird bath, you can place a large ceramic saucer on a flat surface (an old tree stump or a patio wall will do fine). Keep the bath clean and filled with water and place it high enough so that your dogs won't start using it as a water bowl.

Gophers, moles, rabbits, squirrels, rats, raccoons, opossums, mice and other critters will find your garden an inviting place to raid, and they'll happily dig up and eat your plants and fruits! Use a critter control you are most comfortable with—but avoid using

poison in the Heights, because it can sicken or kill predators such as coyotes, owls and hawks, as well as endanger kids and pets.

Control slimy snails and slugs with safe commercial snail baits—or make your own. Place an old pie tin in the soil so that the upper lip of the pan is level to the ground, and then fill it with beer. Snails and slugs love the brew, and they'll drown in the pan (at least they'll die happy). Snails are a delicacy for chickens, ducks and geese, so turn them loose in the garden to snap up those pests. Or be brave, put on latex gloves, collect a bunch of snails, put them in the coop and let the feeding frenzy begin!

Aphids will damage your tender new leaves and flower buds. A strong spray of water may get rid of the pests. But, if stronger solutions are needed, you'll find safe, effective products at garden centers.

The Heights is an oasis for wildlife, but be on the lookout for some critters that are annoying or even dangerous—like rattlesnakes, poisonous spiders (especially black widows and brown widows), coyotes, bobcats and even the occasional mountain lion. They're all a natural part of Heights life, too—except maybe for pesky gophers and moles (that's only this writer's opinion!).



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alkaline Kangen Water has a pH of 8.5 to 9.5. Unlike tap water, Kangen Water has no unpleasant odor, has a pleasantly sweet flavor and feels light and more refreshing in your mouth. It's also much better for you than expensive bottled water—and better for the planet as well because you won't need to deal with plastic bottles that clutter the environment and harm the ecosystem.

When you prepare food and beverages with Kangen Water, you'll be pleased and surprised by how much it enhances flavors.

Heights residents Graciela & Steven at **Vital Ascensions** invite you to try these state-of-the-art Enagic devices and learn how they can improve your family's life.



Graciela
& Steven

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Saturday, April 9 • 10 a.m. to noon at The Park

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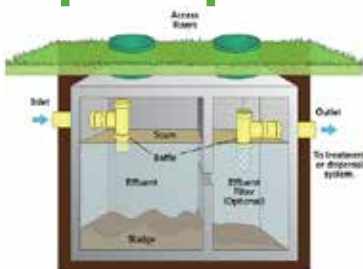


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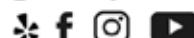


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2" business card ad: black & white (3.75"W x 2"H)	\$ 396.00	\$ 660.00
2" business card ad: color (3.75"W x 2"H)	\$ 506.00	\$ 770.00
1/4-page ad: black & white (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 660.00	\$1,100.00
1/4-page ad: color (3.75"W x 5"H)	\$ 880.00	\$1,512.50
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

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

- We prefer digital files, but we can scan high-quality camera-ready art. Typography and line art should be clean and sharp and photographs and half-toned images 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 April issue are due March 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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Members of the La Habra Heights Improvement Association may run notices in the Youth Employment Roster for free.

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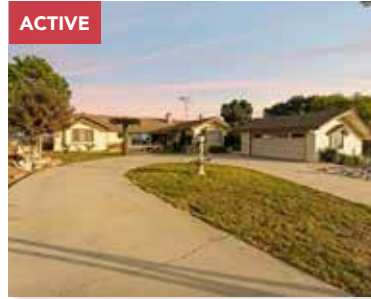
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LAND | 231,922 SQ FT
\$1,099,000



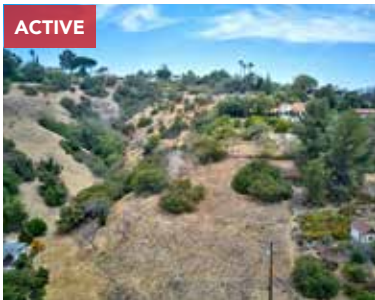
1508 COBAN RD, LH HEIGHTS
7 BED | 7 BATH | 5,452 SQ FT
\$1,400,000



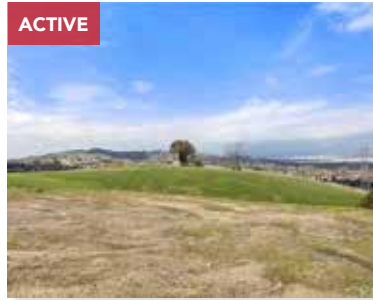
858 REPOSADO DR, LH HEIGHTS
3 BED | 3 BATH | 2,063 SQ FT
\$1,200,000



0 ARDSHEAL, LH HEIGHTS
LAND | 88,859 SQ FT
\$150,000



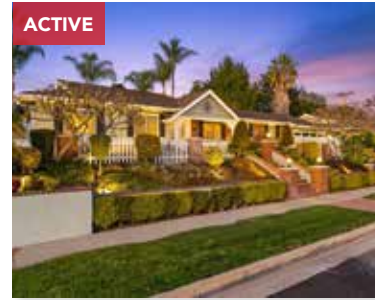
0 EAST, LH HEIGHTS
LAND | 40,325 SQ FT
\$349,000



0 CASALERO, LH HEIGHTS
LAND | 50,467 SQ FT
\$650,000



0 AVOCADO CREST, LH HEIGHTS
LAND | 9,958 SQ FT
\$400,000



185 MADELENA DR, LA HABRA
3 BED | 3 BATH | 1,954 SQ FT
\$1,130,000



1444 DOROTHEA RD, LH HEIGHTS
5 BED | 6 BATH | 5,881 SQ FT
\$2,300,000



2112 E SKYLINE DR, LH HEIGHTS
3 BED | 2 BATH | 1,906 SQ FT
\$965,000



0 CARRIE HILLS LN, LH HEIGHTS
LAND | 41,933 SQ FT
\$325,000



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1772 Hacienda Rd
La Habra Heights, CA 90631



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LHH Community Events

Public meetings of the La Habra Heights City Council, the Planning Commission, the Roads Advisory Committee and the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee have now resumed at City Hall. All public events in La Habra Heights will be held in compliance with the latest public health guidelines from Los Angeles County.



March 14 La Habra Heights City Council meeting: 6:30 p.m.

March 17 *Happy Saint Patrick's Day!*

March 17 Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness meeting: 6 p.m.

March 20 Highland Riders horse show at The Park: 8:30 a.m.

March 23 Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.

SAVE THESE DATES:

April 9 Easter Egg Hunt at the Park: 10 a.m. until noon

April 30 Quarterly Clean-up at The Park: 8 a.m.

May 8 Highland Riders horse show at The Park: 8:30 a.m.

Emergency & City Numbers

EMERGENCY	911
CITY HALL: 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
ROY FRANCIS.....	562-697-0944	royfrancis73@yahoo.com
CAREY KLINGFUS.....	562-697-2561	carey@AELinspector.com
DENNIS LAHERTY.....	714-401-0873	Dennis.laherty@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.lhhia.com or mail your check (made payable to LHHIA) to: LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631.

P.O. Box 241
 La Habra, CA 90631

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BOARD of DIRECTORS

lhhia.org

Lynn Kelley , President (LHHIPresident@gmail.com) and 'Halloween Haunt' Co-Chairperson (lynnkelley91@gmail.com).....	562-371-4603
Rick Brooks , Vice President & Webmaster (plumeriafarmer@gmail.com).....	
Romalyn Litchfield , Treasurer (romalynl@hotmail.com).....	562-697-6264
Susan Brooks , Secretary & 'Easter Egg Hunt' Chairperson (susanbrooks827@gmail.com).....	714-222-5091
Pam McVicar , Membership Chairperson (Memberlhhia@gmail.com) and Youth Employment Roster (youthlhhia@gmail.com).....	714-504-3415
Catherine Richert , 'Morning With Santa' Chairperson (catherinerichert@aol.com).....	562-697-0962
Carolyn Boehringer , Advertising Co-Chairperson.....	310-849-4582
Monica Gunns , Advertising Co-Chairperson.....	714-412-2667
Angela Owen , 'Halloween Haunt' Co-Chairperson (arowen3@yahoo.com).....	562-201-1119
Stan Carroll , Director (gw1763@gmail.com).....	562-697-1187

Heights Life: heightslifeeditor@gmail.com

Editors: Dan and Barbara Stracner	562-632-0691
Advertising Co-Chairperson: Carolyn Boehringer	310-849-4582
Advertising Co-Chairperson: Monica Gunns	714-412-2667

Welcome Wagon: welcomewagonLHHIA@gmail.com

Chairperson: Vicki Cooke	562-694-4949
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Sheriff's Report

JANUARY 2022

Residence burglary: 5, Other structure burglary: 2, Vehicle burglary: 1, Fraud: 2, Grand theft: 2, Miscellaneous felonies: 1, Vehicle & boating laws: 2, Traffic accidents: 5, Non-criminal: 7, Miscellaneous: 2.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 29



LHH Fire Report

JANUARY 2022

Advanced life-support calls: 28 (16 in LHH, 12 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 22, Public assist: 2, Fire calls: 6, Traffic collisions: 7, Automatic aid into Los Angeles County: 16.

TOTAL INCIDENTS: 65