

# Heights Life

A COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
La Habra Heights Improvement Association  
Volume No. 75 • Issue No. 7 • August 2023



*Living with coyotes (page 6)*

*(Photo by Heights resident Patty Kraikittikun-Phuong)*



# For Sale by Ray Fernandez

## LA HABRA HEIGHTS LOCAL MARKET UPDATE

JUNE	2022	2023	% Change
New Listings	11	6	-45.5%
Pending Sales	7	0	+100.00%
Closed Sales	6	5	-16.7%
Days on Market	15	71	+373.3%
Median Sales Price*	\$1,410,389	\$1,400,000	-0.7%
Average Sales Price*	\$1,628,463	\$1,476,000	-9.4%

Based on statistics pulled from PWR market reports | July 2023

\*Does not account for seller concessions and/or down payment assistance.  
Activity for one month can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

These statistics reflect all agents and not just Ray's sales for the date range specified

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## P R E S I D E N T ' S   P E N

Lynn Kelley



On behalf of the LHHIA Board of Directors, I'd like to thank all of you who have joined LHHIA or renewed your membership during our annual membership drive.

If you haven't yet joined or renewed, we cordially invite you to do so. It's a great way to support your unique rural community and to make sure that our 84-year-old, all-volunteer organization continues to work for the well-being of all Heights residents. LHHIA is not part of the City of La Habra Heights and receives no city funding. We rely solely on the support of our members and sponsors to publish *Heights Life* magazine and hold our annual Music in The Park concerts, Halloween Haunt, Easter Egg Hunt, Morning With Santa and Photo Contest, as well as sponsor Welcome Wagon and fund city improvements every year.

You may join, renew or upgrade your membership by paying online at [lhhia.com](http://lhhia.com) or by mailing your check (made payable to LHHIA) to: LHHIA, P.O. Box 241, La Habra, CA 90631. Please see page 16 for a description of our different membership levels.

Many of you have made additional donations to LHHIA—such as our special group of Friends of Music in The Park. We're very grateful for all contributions.

### Upcoming LHHIA seasonal events

As the end of summer approaches (it went by so fast!), we're gearing up for our annual LHHIA events this fall and winter.

On the evening of October 31, we'll once again transform the gym at The Park into "La Haunted Heights" for our ever-popular Halloween Haunt.

Come December, it will be time for Morning With Santa, our Christmas season celebration, complete with games, prizes, treats, music and, of course, that jolly old fellow dressed in red. Watch *Heights Life* for the event date.

—Lynn Kelley

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Our cover photo was taken by Heights resident Patty Kraikittikun-Phuong.

## MAYOR'S CORNER

Norm Zezula



Fortunately, we had a "safe and sane" 4th of July in La Habra Heights. Unfortunately, due to the current

heat wave rapidly drying out abundant brush and weeds that have yet to be cleared, we are experiencing increased fire hazards. I urge those who have yet to complete their brush clearance to do so as soon as possible. I also urge those who completed their brush clearance by the May 1st deadline to re-inspect their property on their own—even if they have already passed the City's inspection—because regrowth must be regularly controlled.

Last month, when I thanked our fire and sheriff departments and our resident Fire Watch volunteers for their 4th of July patrols, I neglected to thank the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority for their efforts. Not only did they conduct their own patrols, they reached out to coordinate their efforts with our fire department and with Fire Watch. In particular, I wish to thank Ranger Kenn Hughes—not only for his patrols during the holiday weekend, but also for his professional public safety work throughout the year.

Longtime residents may remember the important role the Habitat Authority has played in helping us to preserve our rural environment. Indeed, back in the day of the Powder Canyon controversy, most Heights residents felt that there was a symbiotic relationship between the Habitat Authority and the City. Unfortunately, over the years, we (and they) have tended to take each other for granted. This has resulted in some avoidable misunderstandings and disagreements. We all need to remember that fire safety in and near the wildlife corridor is in the Habitat Authority's best interest and that preserving a viable open-space habitat area with its "plant and animal communities in their natural state" is vital to preserving our City's unique community character.

The Habitat Authority and the City of La Habra Heights are working to improve our relationship in order to better achieve our twin goals. The Habitat Authority has allowed the City to build a helihydrant in the wildlife corridor to help fight fires and has taken steps to improve communications and to work cooperatively with the City and its representatives. For example, during the last two months, I have met twice with Habitat Authority officials, and I expect to meet with them again soon.

—Norm Zezula



Concert starts  
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# MUSIC IN THE PARK

Join us at The Park in La Habra Heights! Concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

## August 2 *Linda & Friends*



A loving tribute to the music of Linda Rondstadt and her many famous musical collaborators, including her backup band that became The Eagles, CS&N, Jackson Browne, James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Carole King, Steely Dan, Alice Cooper and so many other hit-makers.



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*A big Chinook CH-47 helitanker fills up from a helihydrant similar to the one now available in La Habra Heights.*

## Firefighting helitankers ready to suppress wildfires

A live demonstration of major aerial firefighting technology took place on July 10 when specially-equipped Coulson CH-47 Chinook helitankers showed their impressive capabilities at the Sante Fe Dam in Irwindale.

Under a new contract with Southern California Edison (SCE), three of these giant helicopters will be on the job protecting Southern California during this especially hazardous fire season. The aircraft will be deployed by the SCE-sponsored Quick Reaction Force (QRF) that was founded in 2021.

SCE nearly doubled its contribution this year and provided nearly \$35 million to local fire agency partners to fund the QRF program's standby costs.

These helitankers, the world's largest, are operated by Coulson Aviation and managed and leased by three fire departments: Los Angeles County Fire



*Three helitankers are available to fight SoCal wildfires.*

Department (LACoFD), Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD). The three fire agencies provide operational control and staffing.

Made by Boeing, each helitanker can carry 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in a unique system designed and installed by Coulson (*see the cutaway illustration above, right*).

Using retractable snorkels, each helitanker can "hover fill" 3,000 gallons in 90 seconds from lakes, reservoirs and helihydrants like the one now available

*Each helitanker has a 3,000-gallon tank.*  
(Coulson illustration)



in La Habra Heights, as well as in other Southern California locations.

The helitankers can operate in daytime and at night when supported by a Sikorsky S-76 reconnaissance helicopter used by QRF. Also on the job will be a mobile retardant base (MRB) with tanks that can be filled while the helitankers are hovering and can mix up to 18,000 gallons of retardant per hour.

If needed, all three helitankers, the recon helicopter and the MRB will be assigned to a wildfire to provide overwhelming suppression power.



# LIVING WITH Coyotes

By Dan Stracner



AshleyStock

Heights residents often hear their shrill serenade in the middle of the night: high-pitched, quavering songs that can vary from a solitary howl to a loud chorus of yips and shrieks when several singers join in. It can be annoying, chilling—and strangely beautiful. If you shine a light in the direction of the cacophony, you'll likely see glowing golden eyes staring back at you.

They're coyotes, and they've been living in our La Habra Heights hills and valleys much longer than humans. If you've been serenaded more often over the past few

weeks, that's because breeding season was in early spring, and we now have a new population of pups like the one shown above—the sopranos in the coyote chorus.

Southern California inhabitants for centuries, coyotes are usually gray, white and reddish tan with black-tipped tails. Their large, pointed ears and narrow muzzles make them look fox-like, but they're larger than foxes and smaller than gray wolves, their closest canine cousins.

Male and female coyotes look similar, but females are usually smaller. An adult male

is about 44 to 52 inches long, including a tale that can reach 15 inches in length, and weighs between 25 and 50 pounds, depending on diet. When food is abundant, coyotes can occasionally reach 75 pounds, but it's unusual to see one that well-fed in our area.

The scientific name for this medium-sized wild dog is *Canis latrans*. They're intelligent, skillful hunters that prey on field mice, rats, rabbits, moles, gophers and ground squirrels, and they play an important role in the ecosystem of La Habra Heights by reducing populations of these animals. They also eat





wild birds, reptiles, insects, eggs, carrion, fruits and vegetables.

Unfortunately, coyotes also prey on chickens, geese and small domestic pets, especially cats and dogs. Many Heights families have lost beloved companions over the years.

Naturally shy, coyotes prefer to hunt at night, but when they're hungry enough or when domesticated prey is readily available, they also hunt in daytime—and they can be quite brazen. They've been known to leap over fences, seize small animals and disappear in a flash, even when people are standing nearby. Unattended human babies and toddlers can also be targets, although such attacks are extremely rare.

If you spot a coyote on the move, it will probably be doing a gentle “dog trot.” But when chasing prey or running from danger, a coyote can sprint up to 40 miles per hour and even sustain a speed of 25 miles per hour for a moderate distance.

Coyotes have excellent senses of smell and keen eyesight and hearing. Their average lifespan in the wild is five to eight years, although in captivity, coyotes have lived as long as 18 years.

They live in dens either freshly dug or made by enlarging an existing burrow of another animal. The entrance to a typical den, which is often in the side of a hill or under a rock outcropping or stump, is usually about a foot in diameter. Most dens have at least two entrance tunnels leading three or four feet underground to a yard-diameter den. Tunnels can be up to 25 feet long. Unlike foxes, coyotes maintain very tidy dens, routinely removing debris from their living area and entrances.



These sociable animals frequently play with each other, as shown in the above photo by Heights resident Patty Kraikittikun-Phuong (who also took our cover photo). Adult coyotes often tumble about and “play fight” with their pups and each other. They hunt together in packs, although solitary hunters are fairly common.

Coyotes can breed when they're a year old, and they sometimes mate for several years or even for life.

Coyotes are opportunistic predators that have been known to hunt in partnership with crows and other scavengers. They also sometimes “partner” with people who either feed them intentionally or leave food outside for domestic animals. Unfortunately, coyotes that find such easy meals can quickly lose their instinctive fear of humans—which could explain why so many Heights residents have commented that they've seen more coyotes loping about, even during the day. So *don't feed them!* Keep them *wild* and don't try to turn them into pets!

Heights residents have occasionally reported sick coyotes that have been suffering from mange and dehydration. A likely reason is that these animals have eaten

rodents that have been poisoned by humans. If you use poison, you're endangering coyotes, owls, crows and other beneficial predators in the Heights. Please use non-poisonous ways to control rodents!

Here are important tips from the Wildlife Services Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture ([usda.gov](http://usda.gov)) for living in harmony with our wild canine neighbors:

- Don't leave food, including edible garbage and fallen fruit, where coyotes can get to it. Cover garbage containers securely.
- Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed outdoors, pick up leftovers. Keep pet and livestock food inaccessible to wildlife.
- Put bird feeders where coyotes can't get to the feed. Coyotes are also attracted by birds and rodents that come to feeders.
- 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—coyotes are really good diggers.
- Never 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 them secure nighttime housing. Provide secure shelters for all your poultry, rabbits and other vulnerable animals.
- Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area. If you see coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks. At night, shine bright lights on them.
- Clear away weeds and undergrowth near your property that may attract small mammals on which coyotes feed.
- Coyotes are susceptible to the same diseases as dogs, including parvo virus and rabies. If you see a coyote exhibiting symptoms of rabies (e.g., staggering and foaming at the mouth), stay away from it! Call 911 immediately and report the location of the animal.

Think of our coyotes as part of wildlife that makes our rural Heights lifestyle so special. But living in such close proximity to wild creatures means that we have a unique responsibility to abide by guidelines to *keep our wildlife wild*.





# 'Keep the saw in the log!'

**THAT'S STAN QUADE'S MOTTO.**

At age 92, he has sawed *plenty* of logs—and he's still at it in his workshop at his home in La Habra Heights, where he's lived for 47 years.

On June 8 of this year, club members from the Woodworkers of Whittier met at Stan's home to see some of his handiwork. What they saw was not only the output of a highly skilled woodworker, but also creations of a consummate artist and craftsman.

Standing around a beautiful pavilion that Stan built in the middle of his orange grove (*see center photo on the next page*), club members listened as he revealed the secret to his longevity and energy: his motto at the top of this page. "I just keep at it!" he said. "I always have the next project to work on!"

For example, he showed them his decorative new "rural mural" privacy fence that he recently completed (*top photo on the next page*).

An earlier project of which he is particularly proud is his "wooden quilt" headboard that won both a blue ribbon and the "best of show" award at the 2001 Los Angeles County Fair (*see next page*).

Quilts have been Stan's inspiration for a number of colorful projects, which isn't surprising since his wife Elaine, also 92, is a longtime member of the local Friendship Square Quilt Guild.

Stan and Elaine were born two weeks and two blocks apart in Huntington Park, California, in 1931—but they didn't meet until 18 years later. They married in 1953 right after Stan finished his hitch in the U.S. Air Force. The couple then headed for Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, where Stan earned his degree in physical education—which is another clue to his long life and high energy: he really believes in staying in good shape. He



*At 92, Stan Quade still uses his talent and his scroll saw to create enduring wooden works of art.*

can still fit quite comfortably into his Air Force uniform that he wore when he was 21.

His favorite form of exercise is playing tennis, so when he and Elaine moved to La Habra Heights in 1977, he was determined to build his own tennis court, which he completed in 1980.

The Quade family has enjoyed many hours playing tennis with friends. Stan and his son Eric have competed as a highly successful team in Super Senior National Father-Son doubles.

Stan completely redesigned and built the new pavilion overlooking his tennis court just last year—when he was 91 (*see next page*).

Perhaps Stan's best-known work in the Heights is his intricately-carved podium that has been used at our city meetings and events for many years.



*ABOVE: Elaine and Stan pose in 2006 with his detailed "birdhouse" headboard.*



*LEFT: A younger Stan with a sample of his scroll saw artistry.*



*BELOW: A whimsical wooden composition inspired by a quilt sewn by Tina Curran.*





Stan's new "rural mural" privacy fence.



LEFT: Stan made an avocado tree trophy in 2019 for GinaRose Kimball, chairperson of the La Habra Heights Avocado Festival.

BELOW: One of the best-known examples of Stan's work is the unique podium that he created for the City of La Habra Heights.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're very grateful to Stan's and Elaine's daughter Renee Carlson, who provided photos and information for this article.



Stan rebuilt his tennis court pavilion when he was 91.



Woodworkers' meeting in June.



Stan's prize-winning "wooden quilt" headboard.



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## Protect your pets from the summer heat!

Here are some vital guidelines from the U.S. Humane Society:

- **Limit pet exercise on hot days** to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.

- **Provide ample shade and plenty of fresh, cold water** any time your pet is outside. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—it makes it worse.

- **Watch for signs of heatstroke:** heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat,



difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness. Animals at particular heatstroke risk are those that are very old, very young, overweight or have heart or respiratory problems. Dogs and cats with short muzzles will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat. If your pet

shows signs of heatstroke, move the animal into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.

- **Never leave pets in a parked car**—not even for a minute and not even with the car running and air conditioner on! On a warm day, temperatures inside a parked vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die.

*Keep your pets safe from heat this summer!*



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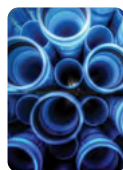
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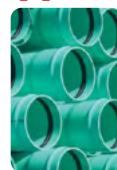
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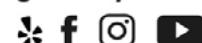


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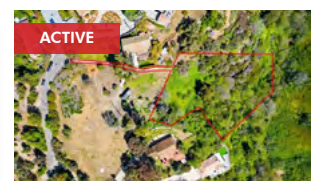
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**2300 Le Flore Drive**  
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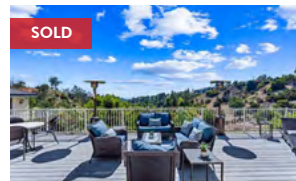
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\$1,350,000  
Represented Seller



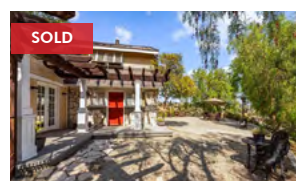
**172 Leucadia Road**  
La Habra Heights  
\$1,525,000  
Represented Seller



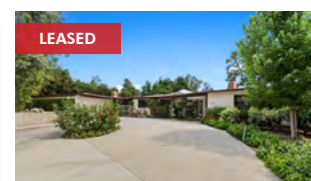
**1136 E Avocado Crest Road**  
La Habra Heights  
\$1,100,000  
Represented Buyer & Seller



**1500 N. Harbor Boulevard**  
La Habra Heights  
\$2,250,000



**605 Picaacho Drive**  
La Habra Heights  
\$1,255,000  
Represented Seller



**2243 Sharpless Court**  
La Habra Heights  
\$2,800  
Represented Owner

If you are looking for a knowledgeable, honest, very hard-working agent, Jan is the obvious choice. Go elsewhere with someone who will over promise and under deliver and then wish you went with Jan and her team.

- Craig and Diane H. of La Habra Heights

TESTIMONIAL



# JAN FIORE

Realtor® | DRE #01262942



562.522.9620

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DIAMOND**

1772 Hacienda Rd.  
La Habra Heights, CA 90631



## Heights Community Events

**Aug. 2** **MUSIC IN THE PARK:** Linda & Friends: 6:30 p.m.

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

**Aug. 17** Public safety & Emergency Preparedness: 6 p.m.

**Aug. 22** Planning Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 23** Roads Advisory Committee meeting: 6:30 p.m.



## Emergency & City Numbers

<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	<b>911</b>
CITY HALL: <a href="http://lhhcity.org">lhhcity.org</a> .....	562-694-6302
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (INDUSTRY STATION).....	626-330-3322
RANGER SERVICES.....	562-698-1446
FIRE DEPARTMENT (non-emergency).....	562-694-8283
LA HABRA HEIGHTS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT.....	562-697-6769
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL.....	562-940-6898
FIDO COME HOME (report lost and found pets).....	562-694-8090
REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES.....	800-700-8610

## La Habra Heights City Council

BRIAN BERGMAN.....	562-690-5047.....	Briansbergman@hotmail.com
CAROL ENGELHARDT.....	562-217-0983.....	clengelhardt1@yahoo.com
DENNIS LAHERTY.....	714-401-0873.....	Dennis.laherty@gmail.com
JOHN PESPIA.....	562-694-1371.....	Jmp100@roadrunner.com
NORM ZEZULA.....	562-697-9914.....	normzezulaLhh@gmail.com

## Community Service Opportunities

BOY SCOUT TROOP 883 • Call Brian Freeman at 562-743-1973  
 BOY SCOUT TROOP 1814 • 951-538-8377 or cookmaster251@yahoo.com  
 BOY SCOUT TROOP 793 (female troop) • Call Carl Diamond at 562-706-8279  
 or email [Carl@cdiamond.org](mailto:Carl@cdiamond.org)  
 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB • 562-694-1805 • [ourchildrensfuture.org](http://ourchildrensfuture.org)  
 HABITAT AUTHORITY • [habitatauthority.org/waystohelp](http://habitatauthority.org/waystohelp)  
 MEALS ON WHEELS • 562-383-4221 • [LaHabraMealsonWheels.org](http://LaHabraMealsonWheels.org)  
 VCC: THE GARY CENTER • 562-264-6000 • [vccthegarycenter.org](http://vccthegarycenter.org)

## Youth Employment Roster

JESSICA COBURN (17) • 562-447-3486 • Babysitter, dog walker, plant care.

## = Become a member =

La Habra Heights Improvement Association is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization (Tax ID# 95-2455456) that receives no funding from the City of La Habra Heights—so we rely on your annual dues and other donations to pay for our many community events and projects. Annual membership dues are:

- Regular.....**\$35**
- Bronze.....**\$75**
- Silver.....**\$100**
- Gold.....**\$250**
- Platinum.....**\$500**
- Diamond.....**\$1,000+**

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

P.O. Box 241  
 La Habra, CA 90631



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<b>Pam McVicar</b> , Membership Chairperson ( <a href="mailto:Memberlhhia@gmail.com">Memberlhhia@gmail.com</a> ) and Youth Employment Roster ( <a href="mailto:youthlhhia@gmail.com">youthlhhia@gmail.com</a> ).....	714-504-3415
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<b>Angela Owen</b> , 'Halloween Haunt' Co-Chairperson ( <a href="mailto:arowen3@yahoo.com">arowen3@yahoo.com</a> ).....	562-201-1119
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<b>Linda Letizia</b> , Director ( <a href="mailto:lindarletizia@gmail.com">lindarletizia@gmail.com</a> ).....	562-303-8801

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

Editors: **Dan and Barbara Stracner**.....562-632-0691

For information about advertising in *Heights Life*, visit [lhhia.org](http://lhhia.org) or call:

Advertising Co-Chairperson: **Carolyn Boehringer**.....310-849-4582

Advertising Co-Chairperson: **Monica Gunns**.....714-412-2667

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

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



## LHH Fire Report

**JUNE 2023**

Advanced life-support calls: 41 (26 in LHH, 15 in LA County), Basic life-support calls: 7 (4 in LHH, 3 in LA County), Public assist: 5 (4 in LHH, 1 in LA County), Fire calls: 9 (5 in LHH, 4 in LA County), Traffic collisions: 5 (5 in LHH, 0 in LA County), Automatic aid into LA County: 23.

**TOTAL CALLS: 67**



## Sheriff's Report

**JUNE 2023**

Residence burglary: 2, Sex felony: 1, Disorderly conduct via telephone: 2, Traffic accidents: 4, Elder abuse: 2, Forgery: 1, ID theft: 3, Non-aggravated assault: 1, Hit and run: 1, Non-criminal: 2, Miscellaneous: 22.

**TOTAL INCIDENTS: 16**