



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January/February 2021



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

In this issue you will find information on the upcoming Blood Drives at the Community Center, virtual events for Seniors, and a virtual dance for the special needs community on February 10th. Also, learn more about important COVID vaccine appointment information and the recent opening of outdoor dining for restaurants.

Let's do what we can to keep our businesses open and infection transmissions down by practicing social distancing and masking.

I hope this newsletter is helpful in keeping you up to date with City news, activities and programs.

Bob Russi, City Manager

To receive this newsletter automatically every month, please sign up for e subscribe by clicking here:

<http://cityoflaverne.org/index.php/documents/newsletters/city-manager-s-monthly-newsletter>

CALENDAR

February 10 – 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Sweetheart Dance for People with Special Needs

Virtually over Zoom

February 15 – All Day

President's Day

City Hall, City Yard and

Community Center closed

February 16 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting via Live Stream

City Website at cityoflaverne.org

February 23 – 6:30 PM

Youth & Family Action Committee

Meeting via the City's YouTube

channel at

www.cityoflaverne.org/stream.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

December meetings:

- Screened the City's virtual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.
- Recognized Community Services Director Bill Aguirre on his upcoming retirement after 37 years of service.
- Approved additional concrete improvements on D Street along high school.
- Approved a grant application for the Teen Center.
- Authorized an agreement with City of Covina for supplemental police dispatching services.
- Reaffirmed the ongoing need for the local emergency initially declared on March 16, 2020.
- Adjourned in memory of Brian McNerney, past CEO of the La Verne Chamber of Commerce.

January meeting:

- Received an update from Waste Management regarding reduced services due to COVID-related staffing shortages.
- Heard a presentation from De Novo Planning Group on the City's Housing Element Update.
- Designated 2433 Third Street (Rager House) as a local landmark and approved the Historical Property agreement.
- Adjourned in memory of La Verne resident and Police RSVP Jack Swank and in memory of La Verne resident Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian.

RECENT CHANGES

Waste Management Service Update

Beginning Monday, February 1, Waste Management resumed weekly collection of recycling and green waste. Residents should leave all carts out until 6 PM on collection days as service times may vary.

Outdoor Dining Open

The State and County stay at home order has been lifted, allowing outdoor dining to reopen, which is good news for all our local restaurants. While supporting our local La Verne businesses, please remember to keep our community safe by social distancing and wearing a face covering except when eating outdoors.

D Street Closure

D Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Bonita and Third Street to allow restaurants on D Street to expand their outdoor dining operations beginning Friday, January 29th.

La Verne Youth are One Step Closer to Benefiting from New Teen Center

After unveiling initial plans over four years ago, the City of La Verne is excited to pursue next steps in moving the City's Teen Center project forward. The City held a virtual workshop in December to provide an overview of the project, share its progress and next steps, and take comments from community stakeholders. The concept, ideation and planning for the Teen Center, however, has been an ongoing process for many years.

Teen centers around the country and in the San Gabriel Valley with similar programs are linked to positive community outcomes such as higher community engagement, improved educational developments and reduced negative behavior.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Tenderloin is Mo-o-o-ving

The Tenderloin Restaurant is relocating! Don't worry, they aren't going far—the new location is in the same shopping center next to Stater Bros. This hometown favorite is now open. Check it out if you're in the mood for a good steak, burger, or maybe one of their delicious appetizers!!

Housing Element Update

Since first beginning the Housing Element Update, the City has completed most of the initial analysis and is currently focused on evaluating existing housing conditions, engaging the public with its virtual workshop and using that information to prepare a draft of the Housing Element Update. Once the draft is completed, the City plans to conduct public hearings with its Planning Commission and City Council between July and September 2021 to further engage the public. In October 2021, the City will submit its update for State review and certification. For questions about the City's Housing Element Update, please contact the City's Community Development department by calling 909- 596-8706.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

COVID Vaccines for those 65+

LA County residents aged 65 or older are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. To register, seniors can make an appointment online at vaccinatelacounty.com or they can call 833-540-0473 for assistance between 8:00 AM and 8:30 PM. Please **do not** make an appointment if you are not 65 or older or a health care worker. If you do not meet this criteria you will be turned away upon arrival, regardless of your appointment. Making an appointment when you do not meet this criteria, only causes problems and slows down the vaccination distribution process. The local vaccine distribution site is the Pomona Fairplex located at 2352 Arrow Hwy, Pomona, with entry through Gate 15.



Residents are highly encouraged to speak with their doctor about the vaccine and to continue wearing face coverings, physical distancing and avoiding any gatherings. For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



Virtual Special Needs Dance!

On February 10th from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM., the Community Services Department is hosting a Virtual Valentine's Dance for those with Special Needs. The dance will be held virtually over Zoom. Those interested can register in-person at the Community Services Office or online at www.cityoflaverne.org/recguide. Contact the Community Services Department for more information at 909-596-8700.

Community Supporting Seniors

While the coronavirus pandemic has challenged every community's resilience, the City of La Verne is especially attuned to the unique difficulties faced by the La Verne senior community. The City's Community Services Department is planning virtual events for seniors, such as Bingo and Senior Coffee Hour & Conversation, to help combat feelings of loneliness and isolation which can lead to serious health problems according to the [National Institute on Aging](https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/national-institute-on-aging). More detailed information on these new virtual events, food programs, general health updates and more can be found in the City's [monthly Senior Newsletter](#).

Curbside Senior Lunch Program

Calling all La Verne seniors 60 years or older! Sign up now for the City's curbside Senior Lunch Program by calling the YWCA at 626-214-9465 to begin the application process. Since the beginning of COVID-19, the City has provided a variety of frozen meals, boxed lunches, fruits, bread and milk at the La Verne Community Center, 3680 D Street, every Thursday from 10 AM to 12 PM. Share this post with someone you know that may need meal assistance.

Red Cross Blood Drives



The American Red Cross reports a critical need for blood and urges you to “be a hero” and donate, especially if you have recovered from COVID-19. To support their mission, while the Community Center is unable to hold in-person classes and events, we are hosting a series of blood drives. Blood drives are open to the public, but walk-in donations are no longer permitted—all donors must have an appointment. To sign up, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and use code lvcc. Available dates are March 15th, April 5th, and May 3rd.

La Verne Volunteers Make Spirits Bright Year-Round

The coronavirus pandemic may have limited the City's volunteering opportunities in 2020, but it has not diminished the unwavering commitment of La Verne's Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. The City and community eagerly await the return of their smiling faces and good work around town as soon as 2021 will allow!

“Our RSVP and CERT volunteers are the very embodiment of what makes the La Verne community so special and we are eternally grateful for their generosity with their time and passion to serve our residents,” said La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn. “We look forward to being able to ramp up volunteer opportunities in the future so we can reconnect with our ‘regulars’ and hopefully welcome new volunteers as well!”

Although both the [RSVP](#) and [CERT](#) programs have been disrupted due to COVID-19, La Verne residents are encouraged to learn more about and participate in these volunteer programs

PUBLIC SAFETY

Free Sandbags Available



Rain is in the forecast, so don't forget that La Verne Fire offers free sandbags to residents and businesses to assist with flooding concerns. Sand and sand bags are provided free of charge at Fire Station 1, with shovels available for resident use.

It is important to note that filling sand bags is a two-person job, so bring someone to assist you. Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full and tie at the top so the bag will lay flat when put in place. A properly filled sand bag should weigh between 35-40 lbs. For more information, call 909-596-5991 during normal business hours.

Wildlife Safety

With the winter season upon us, you may see increased wildlife activity in La Verne as they search for food and warmth. If you see wildlife, please:

- Give the animal space; no photo is worth the risk
- Don't leave food unattended in your yard
- Secure your trash as to not attract animals to your home
- Don't leave your pets unattended outdoors

For animal control services and to learn more about our local wildlife, please contact the Inland Valley Humane Society at 909-623-9777 or visit their [website](#). You may also contact the Community Services Department for coyote whistles at City Hall. Learn more about the City's [Coyote Management Plan](#).

PUBLIC WORKS/CONSERVATION

Recent City Sidewalk Improvements

Have you noticed something different about the sidewalks on D Street from Durward Way to 10th Street? The City's Public Works Department rehabilitated the concrete sidewalks to beautify the area in front of Bonita High School and improve safety along pedestrian and students' pathways. This project saved the City nearly \$25,000 in future mobilization costs!

Household Hazardous Waste on Hold

The City of La Verne has received notice that the upcoming Hazardous Waste Collection Events across Los Angeles County hosted by County Sanitation Districts will be cancelled through March 6th, due to COVID-19. Please check the website at lacsd.org/hhw for updates.

LA VERNE BRANCH - LA COUNTY LIBRARY

All LA County Library locations are closed until further notice. To get more information on available library resources and assistance for those affected by the COVID-19, click here: <https://lacountylibrary.org/coronavirus/>.

