



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2021



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We are excited to see some restrictions changed as Los Angeles County officially enters the orange tier of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. This will allow movie theaters, restaurants, churches, museums, zoos and aquariums to go from 25% to 50% of capacity, while gyms are increased from 10% to 25%. Family entertainment centers can resume indoor operations at 25% of capacity.

Californians age 50 and older recently became eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations, and soon to be moved to anyone 16+ older. We can all do our part to keep each other safe by following the rules and getting vaccinated when it is our turn.

With the beautiful weather, the spring holidays ... and baseball season starting, there are plenty of reasons to get together with friends. While enjoying yourself, avoid taking unnecessary risks such as large gatherings. Be sure to wear your mask when you're in public and around others and continue washing your hands.

We encourage everyone to continue to show care for your neighbors and support our local businesses. I hope you find this newsletter helpful and you are safe and well.

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

April 5 – 6:30 PM
City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

April 19 – 6:30 PM
City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

April 27 – 6:30 PM
Youth & Family Action Committee Meeting via the City's YouTube channel at www.cityoflaverne.org/stream.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the March meetings, the City Council:

- Presented the La Verne Community Design Awards winners
- Voted to refer the matter of traffic on Bowdoin Street and Williams Avenue to the Active Transportation Committee
- Discussed ways to allow the public to be included on video during Council meetings
- Approved budget amendments from the 2020-21 midyear budget update, aligning expectations of the current fiscal year based on COVID's local economic effects

ADMINISTRATION

Orange Tier

Los Angeles County has entered the "Orange Tier" of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. As a result, many business and sector protocols were updated over the weekend, including bars, breweries, wineries and distilleries, family entertainment centers, gyms, movie theatres, restaurants, retail establishments, grocery stores, and outdoor live events. It is important that businesses follow the safety measures laid out in these protocols. As seen in the past, re-openings and increasing capacity limits often lead to an increase in COVID cases. It is critical that businesses take every precaution necessary to protect employees and customers. Public Health inspectors are out in the community and will provide any clarity or technical assistance should businesses need it. Additional information can be found at [LA County Public Health](#).

Reformat of Virtual Council Meetings

While the public has been able to participate and stream the Council Meetings virtually, the necessary precautions taken as a result of the coronavirus pandemic has left many people feeling disconnected from each other and from local decision makers. In an effort to bring the La Verne community together, the City of La Verne has updated its virtual Council Meeting format, adding the ability for residents to also make public comments via the Zoom line with video.

As of Monday, April 5, residents wishing to participate via Zoom must register before 5 PM on the day of the council meeting. Links will be unique for each meeting, and interested residents must register for each meeting. Once registered, residents will receive directions via email on how to log on and participate during the meeting.

Similar to other methods for public comment, residents will have a 3-minute time limit and may only speak once per agenda item. As a registered attendee, participants will be able to watch the meeting in real time and will be able to "raise their hand" if interested in providing public comment on an item. Once let into the meeting to provide their public comment, participants will be able to turn on their video and microphone so Council Members can see and hear them.

In addition to the new Zoom video participation option, residents will still have the option to email their comments or submit their phone number to the Assistant City Clerk to be contacted during the City Council Meetings, allowing residents to provide comments live over the phone. City Council Meetings will also continue to be streamed live on the City's website in addition to Zoom.

National Donate Life Month-April

Looking for an act of kindness you can do from home? By registering your decision to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor online, you can give hope to more than 100,000 people currently on the organ donation waiting list. La Verne has proclaimed the month of April 2021 as “DMV/Donate Life California Month” and in doing so we encourage all Californians to check “Yes” when applying for or renewing their driver’s license or I.D. card, or by signing up at

www.donateLIFecalifornia.org.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Online Permitting System

This month we began the trial phase of our new online permitting system. Applicants will be able to submit Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, and Building Permits (Re-Roof Only) and conveniently pay via credit card directly on the permit website. If the applicant prefers to apply in-person, no problem! A tablet will be available in the Building Department for their use.

Short-Term Rental Laws

The Planning Commission reviewed an ordinance to regulate short-term rentals based on City Council input. The drafted and recommended ordinance proposes a meticulous permitting process as well as host obligations to mitigate noise and other nuisances including lighting. The proposed process also required notification of surrounding property owners and outlines procedures and justifications for approvals, denials, and revocations of local short-term rental applications and permits.

Homeowners’ Exemption

LA County Homeowners may still qualify for up to 80% of the Homeowners Exemption if filed by December 10th. By claiming your home as your primary place of residence, the Homeowners’ Exemption reduces your assessed value by \$7,000 which translates to property tax-savings, annually. For more information, please visit

<https://assessor.lacounty.gov/homeowners-exemption/>

Rapid Rehousing Program

Are you or someone you know experiencing homelessness and struggling to pay rent due to losing your job? Through its partnership with Union Station Homeless Services, the City of La Verne may be able to help you get back on your feet. If you have lost your home and are trying to find new housing, the City's rapid rehousing program can cover move-in costs such as security deposits and first month's rent. For more information, please contact Nicole Flores at NFlores@UnionStationHS.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vaccination Event – 1 Day

The City of La Verne Community Services Department in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, will host a one day mobile vaccination site on Friday, April 16th from 9AM-5PM at the La Verne Community Center, 3680 D Street. This vaccination site is open to those 18 and older and who currently meet the County’s eligibility list. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by visiting the City’s website at

www.cityoflaverne.org

Teen Center Plans Modified

In response to the community's desire to preserve the Redwood trees in Las Flores Park, the Teen Center design is in the process of being modified. After several surveys conducted at nearly all of the City's high schools and middle schools, the plan is to provide programming that will include sports and chess tournaments, opportunities for creative expression such as painting, dance and photography as well as organized physical fitness classes. The Teen Center will also provide recreation activities like ping pong and pool tables.

AARP Tax Preparation Program

This year, the AARP Tax Preparation Program has been modified to ensure the safety of our volunteer tax preparers and those interested in getting their taxes done. The Community Services Department has established a pick-up/drop-off system just outside of the La Verne Community Center. In order to sign up for this program, those interested must have a cell phone and wear a mask when briefly interacting outside with the tax preparers. The tax preparers will complete taxes inside the Center, while individuals in the program will wait outside or in their cars.



The program is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will run through May 12th. For more information on this safe and free program, please contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.

Blood Drive Update



Until the Community Center is able to reopen for classes, we continue to host monthly blood drives. These events began in January, and since then our blood donations have helped patients at area hospitals including Inland Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical, Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, and HCA Riverside Community Hospital. Thank you again to all our blood donors!

If you are interested in donating blood at an upcoming Community Center event, see the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter sponsor code lvcc to schedule—no walk-in donations are permitted.

Preschool On-the-Go

Register for the Preschool On-the-Go program to enjoy the City's preschool program in the comfort of your own home. Parents may purchase boxes for \$35 that will include worksheets, craft and other materials. This month the program will include crafts such as growing your own sunflower and making handprint firemen. La Verne residents will have their package delivered to their home. Non-La Verne residents must pick up their package at City Hall.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Special Needs Registry

The La Verne Police Department has introduced a Special Needs Registry for all La Verne Residents. The Special Needs Registry is designed to assist police personnel during contact with community members with disabilities such as Autism, Schizophrenia, Dementia, deafness, or any other mental/developmental disabilities. The registry promotes communication between police and community members wishing to provide first responders access to critical information about the special needs of an individual. The registry will provide first responders with emergency contact information, detailed physical descriptions, photo identification, known routines, favorite attractions, or particular registered individual needs. This information may assist officers in communicating with, locating a residence for, or handling an emergency involving an individual with special needs.



The Special Needs Registry is voluntary, free of charge, and developed to serve all members of our community who may find their communication abilities challenged or ineffective when interacting with public safety personnel. Individuals may self-register or have a parent or caretaker register them online via www.lvpd.org/#Special_Needs_Registry. The registration will be updated annually or in the event of any changes in the initial information provided.

The information provided within the Special Needs Registry is available only to authorized La Verne Police Department personnel for use in the event of an emergency. Registrations will be removed and destroyed if not updated after two years.

Please visit www.lvpd.org/#Special_Needs_Registry if you would like further information. If you have questions regarding the program, you may contact Community Services Officer Hollie Savage (909)596-1913 or hsavage@lvpd.org.

Did you know that April is National Earthquake Preparedness Month?



It is important to think about what you will do to protect yourself, wherever you are, when the earth begins to shake. Taking the proper actions, such as **"Drop, Cover, and Hold On,"** can save lives and reduce the risk of injury. Everyone should learn and practice what to do during an earthquake wherever they may be, including home, work, school, or traveling.

In most situations, you will reduce your chance of injury if you:

DROP where you are onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter.

COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand.

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter.
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows).
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.

HOLD ON until shaking stops.

- Under shelter: hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts.
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

Ways to prepare for an earthquake:

Emergency Plan Summary & Self Help Guide: <http://www.cpp.edu/~em/EMERGENCY-PLAN-SUMMARY-AND-SELF-HELP-GUIDE.pdf> Additional emergency preparedness information can also be found on the [Emergency Management](#) webpage. For inquiries and information, contact the Department of Emergency Management at em@cpp.edu or 909-869-4697.

PUBLIC WORKS

Used Oil Filter Exchange Event

On Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 AM -1:00 PM, the City will host a used oil filter exchange event at Auto Zone in La Verne (1410 Foothill Blvd). Bring up to 2 used oil filters to receive FREE DIY oil changing supplies and new oil filters. The community is also encouraged to bring in used oil, in approved containers (5 gallon limit).

Household Hazardous Waste Events

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events hosted by the County of Los Angeles have resumed. There will be a mobile event on April 24th in Azusa from 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM, at West 3rd and Padilla Avenue, Azusa. For more information on dates and locations, see www.888cleanla.com.

LA VERNE BRANCH - LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY

We're almost back! We are excited to announce that we will start reopening designated libraries for select in-person services on **Monday, April 19, 2021**. Please call your local library with questions. The following services are available for customers:

- Browse the collection and checkout items
- Public computer (up to 1 hour per customer)
- Printing
- Holds Pickup
- Brief reference interactions to assist in finding materials or information
- Free Wi-Fi



We are committed to keeping our customers and staff safe during our in-person service hours. We ask that all customers follow the following guidelines: <https://lacountylibrary.org/customer-expectations>