



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2018



Cedar Springs Apartments, David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and A Community of Friends are recipients of the 2017 La Verne Community Design Award in the Institutional category.

## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

There are many opportunities to be involved in the growth and vision of the future of La Verne. This issue includes an update on the January 11<sup>th</sup> Fiscal Sustainability Meeting and links to give your opinion on La Verne's General Plan. Also, you are invited to join us at Hillcrest on February 8<sup>th</sup> to view the State of the City Address given by Mayor Kendrick. Tickets are \$25.00 and are being offered through the La Verne Chamber of Commerce at <http://www.lavernechamber.org/>

Please enjoy the activities and development news provided in this issue.

*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 5 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

### February 8 – 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

State of the City Address  
*Hillcrest Meeting House*

### February 9 – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sweetheart Dance for People with  
Special Needs  
*Community Center*

### February 10 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Claremont Household Hazardous  
Waste and E-Waste Event  
*Claremont Corporate Yard, 1616  
Monte Vista Ave, Claremont*

### February 19

President's Day  
*City Hall, City Yard and  
Community Center closed*

### February 20 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

At the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council adjourned in memory of retired La Verne Fire Battalion Chief Edward Robert “Ed” Fenneman who passed away on Thursday, December 21, 2017. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 5, 1947. He served in the US Navy from 1964-1971. He joined the La Verne Fire Department in 1976 and retired in 2006. Ed was well known for his work on the City’s 4th of July Fireworks show. He attended Charter Oak High School, Chaffey College, and the University of La Verne. He and his wife Barbara enjoyed traveling throughout the United States in their RV. He loved woodworking. Ed dedicated his entire career to fire service in La Verne and remained connected to the City even in retirement.

## FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY MEETING



### La Verne Makes Plans to Meet Pension Obligations

In response to increases in payments that will be due to CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System) for the city retirements, on January 11<sup>th</sup> the La Verne City Council held a fiscal sustainability workshop to meet with City staff and employee group representatives and hear presentations regarding possible actions to fund these added costs. Based on revisions in the assumptions by CalPERS, La Verne’s pension costs are forecasted to grow to over \$11 million by fiscal year 2032-2033.

Following the fiscal sustainability meeting, the City Council directed staff to execute a multi-pronged multi-year plan to fund the debt. The strategies identified include lowering operating expenses and increasing revenues, as well as refinancing a portion of what is due at a lower interest rate by selling pension obligation bonds. By doing this, the City can pay a majority of its obligation to CalPERS all at once and then pay off the bond debt over 30 years at a more favorable interest than being offered under CalPERS’ 30 years payment plan. The result of this could save the city an estimated \$35 million in interest payments.

## GENERAL PLAN

### Your Opinion Wanted!

The City of La Verne is currently in the midst of a two-and-a-half-year process to update the General Plan, which was previously adopted in 1998. The General Plan is the City’s guiding document, or “blueprint,” for the development of the City and the overall vision for the community. The update process is an opportunity to shape the vision for the City’s future. Community participation and input is a critical part of the General Plan update process. We invite you to take a brief survey to share your ideas about the future of our community. Click on the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LaVerneGPU>. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing your vision for La Verne. To view information from the three visioning workshops, or to stay up-to-date on the ongoing General Plan update efforts, visit <https://laverne.generalplan.org/>

## CITY OF LA VERNE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



of our community. Click on the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LaVerneGPU>. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing your vision for La Verne. To view information from the three visioning workshops, or to stay up-to-date on the ongoing General Plan update efforts, visit <https://laverne.generalplan.org/>

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## New La Verne Police Captain

The La Verne City Council formally welcomed Captain Colleen Flores at the January 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and her badge was pinned on by her daughter in front of her family, friends, and colleagues from multiple agencies. Captain Colleen Flores joined the La Verne Police Department on January 8<sup>th</sup>, bringing extensive law enforcement experience to the position. Flores was born in Leesburg, Virginia before her family moved to California. She graduated from Upland High School and continued her education at Mt. San Antonio College, while volunteering as an explorer with the Upland Police Department.

In 1994, Flores was hired by the Chino Police Department as a Police Cadet. During her employment she attended the Rio Hondo Police Academy and was hired by the Arcadia Police Department where she served for the past 23



years. Flores has worked a variety of assignments in Arcadia including burglary and narcotics detective, SWAT operator and tactical flight observer for LA IMPACT, and also implemented programs benefiting the community. In 2005, Colleen was promoted to Sergeant and in 2009 she was promoted to Lieutenant. She has a Master of Arts in Organization Leadership from Woodbury University, a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Phoenix University and is currently attending the POST Command College. Her husband, Stan Flores, is a Sergeant with Arcadia Police Department. She has two stepsons, Brandon and Travis, and her daughter Kelly. Her stepson Brandon is currently in the U.S. Army and is deployed in Afghanistan.

We welcome Captain Flores and wish her a long and successful career in La Verne!

## National Burn Awareness Week

While thousands of scald burns occur annually, increased awareness of the dangers can prevent injuries. To help people be mindful of scald burns, the American Burn Association has declared the first week of February as National Burn Awareness Week.

Following a few simple precautions will help keep you and your little chef safe from potential burns:

- Cool a burn under cold running water for 10-15 minutes and call 9-1-1 for serious burns.
- Always supervise children in the kitchen and dining areas.
- Create a “No Child Zone” while preparing and serving hot foods and beverages.
- Don’t carry or hold a child while cooking on the stove. Instead, place the child into a high chair or other safe area while cooking.
- Children love to reach, so to prevent hot food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from its edge. Also, keep hot foods away from the edge of your counters.
- Keep clothing from coming in contact with flames or heating elements.
- A small adjustment to your water heater can give you one less thing to worry about. To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer’s recommended setting.
- Make a habit of placing matches, gasoline, and lighters in a safe place out of children’s reach and avoid novelty lighters as they may look like toys in a child’s eyes.
- When filling the bathtub, turn on cold water first then mix in warmer water carefully.

National Burn Awareness Week is the perfect time to share this information, develop a home fire drill, check your smoke alarms, and to make your kitchen safe for your little chef in training. And as always, call 9-1-1 for the La Verne Fire Department in case of emergencies.

## Sign up for La Verne CERT Basic Training Course

In August 2016, the City of La Verne Fire Department initiated the La Verne CERT Program. The first training classes began in early 2017, and so far we have approximately 69 trained members. These trained volunteers will play a significant role in our community's emergency response to disasters. In addition to being ready to assist the City during times of crisis, team members also provide support at City events. You do not have to be a member of the CERT team in order to participate in the free CERT trainings.

Class #0518 starts Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM. Sessions will be held at La Verne Fire Dept., 2061 Third St. La Verne (upstairs training room). If you'd like to sign up, go to <https://lavernecert.org/sign-up/>

## Passing of K-9 Maverick

On December 31, 2017, the La Verne Police Department sadly announced the passing of K-9 Maverick. Maverick was a 10-year-old Labrador Retriever who spent over 8 years as a Certified Narcotic Detection K9 for the La Verne Police Department, assigned to the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Crime Task Force (LA IMPACT) along with his handler, Corporal Wells.



During his career, Maverick was responsible for assisting narcotic detectives with seizing tens of thousands of pounds of illicit narcotics including marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin. Maverick also assisted in the seizure of over 9.4 million dollars in narcotic proceeds.

In addition, Maverick was a highlight at numerous community events such as National Night Out, the Public Safety Open House, Coffee With a Cop, and Citizen's Academy. He also made numerous appearances at our local schools for career days.

Maverick recently retired from service. He served the Department with dedication and valor. He will be greatly missed by our Department, our community, and his family who cared for him on and off duty. RIP Maverick, we have the watch from here.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Your Sponsorship is Needed for 2018 La Verne Concerts in the Park!

The La Verne Heritage Foundation along with the City of La Verne is proud to announce their 2018 Summer Concerts in the Park series. We are currently scheduling bands for the upcoming summer. These concerts have been one of their most popular local events for over 25 years.

To continue offering quality music, sponsors have an opportunity to donate towards these concerts. If you are a business owner, family, or know of someone who would like to help in continuing to offer these free events to La Verne residents and surrounding communities, please contact Chad Peterson at the City (596-8700) with your interest. To ensure your business or family name will be included in any time-sensitive advertising, it is important to express your interest ASAP. Benefits include a tax write-off, listing of your business in all concert advertising venues to reflect your support of community events, and your business's exposure at all the concerts.

Support your community with this great event! It is a pleasurable time for families to enjoy quality music, beautiful Heritage Park, and "Music Under the Stars."

## **Sweetheart Dance for People with Special Needs**

The annual Sweetheart Dance for People with Special Needs will be held at the Community Center on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Participants can enjoy photo ops, a DJ, refreshments, and a chance to party with their peers. Tickets are available for \$5 presale at the Community Services Office or \$7 at the door. If you are interested in volunteering at this great event, please call Max at (909) 596-8776.

## **PUBLIC WORKS/CONSERVATION**

### **Claremont Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Event**

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in Claremont on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at Claremont Corporate Yard, 1616 Monte Vista Ave, Claremont. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to this event, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com)

### **Adjust Your Sprinklers for Winter**

Winter brings colder and wetter weather that allows plants to better maintain moisture. La Verne residents should adjust sprinklers to water less during the season and continue our devotion to water conservation.

### **Keeping Urban Streams Clean**

Storm water is caused when rain hits hard surfaces, picks up pollutants, and flows into the storm drain. La Verne, like most cities in LA County, has impervious structures such as roofs, streets, or sidewalks on a large percentage of land. This means that when it rains, water can't naturally sink into the ground, but is instead blocked by these hard surfaces and flows into storm drains. This process causes more water to flow faster down city streets, increases stress on flood control systems, and allows water with higher concentrations of pollutants to flow into local water bodies. The water that enters storm drains is unlike water that enters a sanitary sewer, because it does not undergo treatment before it reaches local waterways. The City of La Verne is coordinating with public and private agencies on potential projects and best management practices (BMP's) that will either slow down or treat water. Both of these will help the quality of water as it moves into waters such as the Puddingstone Reservoir, the San Gabriel River, or the Pacific Ocean.

A simple practice that residents can adopt to improve water quality is good car washing practices. Water that runs off a car when it is washed in a driveway or street will contain substances that pollute the environment. This water contains soap, heavy metals, motor oils, and gasoline, which will flow to the nearest storm drain if unimpeded. The easiest way to prevent this is using a commercial car wash. Commercial car washes not only use less water, but also have systems that capture water before it leaves their property allowing it to be reused or safely sent to a treatment plant. Residents should use hose nozzles equipped with a shut off feature to minimize the amount of water. Another good practice is to wash vehicles in areas where the water (and accompanying chemicals) will not runoff the property and potentially into the storm drain. These simple car washing tips allow residents to make a big difference in storm water quality.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **FIREHOUSE SUBS "FULLY INVOLVED" IN LA VERNE**

Firehouse Subs recently signed a lease within the Vons Shopping Center at the space formerly occupied by GameStop. Firehouse Subs was first started in 1994 in Jacksonville, Florida by two former firefighting brothers, Robin and Chris Sorensen. Since the opening of their first



store, over 1,000 new restaurants have opened their doors throughout the United States and Canada. The owners of the restaurant chain take great pride in providing an exceptional quality product for their customer. Signage for the business was approved by the Development Review Committee on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the new restaurant is anticipated to open for business in April.

### **2017 La Verne Community Design Awards: Cedar Springs Apartments**

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services partnered with A Community of Friends to build Cedar Springs at 1319 – 1351 Palomares Avenue. Cedar Springs is a 36-unit apartment complex providing transitional housing for young adults aging out of foster care, as well as housing for low-income families and those with mental health diagnoses. The apartment complex incorporated environmentally friendly technologies including a gray water system, solar hot water heaters, solar panels and other elements to enhance the project's sustainability. In addition to the many amenities the building complex provides to residents, Cedar Springs also features a public art piece and integrates several preserved oak trees and pepper trees into the landscaping. For their work on Cedar Springs, the City recognizes David & Margaret Youth and Family Services and A Community of Friends as recipients of the 2017 La Verne Community Design Award in the Institutional category. Well done!



### **2017 La Verne Community Design Awards: Platinum Lashes**

Owner Jeremy Schainen opened his second Platinum Lashes location here in La Verne in 2016. Located at 1502 Foothill Boulevard in The Commons shopping center, the boutique eyelash extension salon has a unique retro-theme. The themed interior features vintage pin-up style artwork, chandeliers and decorative items that will make visitors feel as though they've been transported back in time. For their interior design work, Platinum Lashes is a recipient of the 2017 La Verne Community Design Award in the Interior Design category. Great work!

