



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2019



## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to our residents and business owners!

This time of year is spent in the company of family and friends. There are many holiday-inspired activities in La Verne such as the annual Christmas tree lighting at City Hall and Winter Wonderland at Heritage Park. Please enjoy the festivities throughout the City in the month of December.

The holiday season brings shopping, traveling and delicious baked treats! This issue provides helpful tips to use during this busy season. We hope your holiday is joyous and safe.

All the best,

*Bob Russi, City Manager*

To receive this newsletter automatically every month, please sign up for e-subscribe by clicking [here](#)

## CALENDAR

**December 7 - 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
Old Town Holiday Stroll  
*Downtown La Verne*

**December 14 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
Winter Wonderland Event  
*Heritage Park*

**December 16 - 6:30 PM**  
City Council Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

**December 21 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
Household Hazardous Waste  
Roundup at Bracket Field

**December 24 - All Day**  
Christmas Eve Observed  
*City Yard closed*

**December 25 - All Day**  
Christmas Day  
*City Hall, City Yard and  
Community Center closed*

**January 1 - All Day**  
New Year's Day  
*City Hall, City Yard and  
Community Center closed*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL

At the November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> meetings, the City Council:

- Heard a presentation on the County's new voting system
- Authorized an MOU with the cities of Claremont and Pomona to share Homeless Plan grant funds
- Authorized an MOU with the cities of Claremont, Pomona, and San Dimas to extend a coordinated storm water program
- Placed the proposed tax measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot
- Adjourned in memory of Dorothy Brandt Davis



### 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Morning Program

Did you happen to hear we celebrate Christmas Morning in La Verne? Every year we have a few new residents who wake up to sirens on their street not knowing about this yearly event. If you have a new neighbor, please let them know!

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *Can you tell me what time you will be on our street Christmas morning?*

Unfortunately, no! Approximately 100 city staff, and volunteers work to deliver bags to the 500+ streets in La Verne. The city is divided into seven separate routes with Santa and his crew working to complete the deliveries on each route by 2:00 p.m. (6 hours). Each year adjustments are made to the routes to make the delivery process more efficient. This means that you could see Santa early in the morning one year, and not until noon the next. The only way to know for sure is to **listen** for the sirens on your street! If you want to track where the team is you can follow the progress of the trucks on our Santa Tracker by clicking the following link on Christmas morning.

<http://www.cityoflaverne.org/santatracker>

2. *How did the tradition of the fire department bringing Santa to every child in La Verne begin?*

In 1925, this long-time La Verne tradition began. Initially, the volunteer fire team distributed food to needy families on Christmas morning. It has grown to a citywide event where bags of candy, peanuts, and fruit are delivered throughout the city on Christmas morning.

3. *Do you buy the candy, nuts, and fruit? How many do you deliver on Christmas?*

The fire department buys the fruit, nuts, and candy. We purchase from La Verne companies when possible. The cost is budgeted by the fire department and we also receive donations every year from members of the community which go towards the items. This year we will fill 12,000 bags with a total of 2,150 pounds of peanuts, 865 pounds of candy, and one apple each.

## La Verne Funding Measure

The La Verne City Council will be asking La Verne voters to consider a 0.75% sales tax during the March 2020 election. The new tax is initially expected to generate \$3.1 million. If passed, all revenue will be directed to services in La Verne. This revenue will be used to support existing services, and provide an additional amount of new services that are needed to maintain the quality of life the City is known for. The City Council unanimously supports this measure and believes it is vitally important for the community's future. They are encouraging La Verne voters to educate themselves on the proposed tax and the reason it is needed. Further information regarding the proposed sales tax is available on the City's website at [www.CityofLaVerne.org/LVFundingMeasure](http://www.CityofLaVerne.org/LVFundingMeasure) which includes a fact sheet, frequently asked questions and other pertinent information.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### "Let it Snow" Winter Wonderland, Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

The annual Winter Wonderland event will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Heritage Park. Children ages 1-12 can enjoy three snow runs, two snow play lands (with real snow!), arts and crafts, a cup of hot cocoa and a special treat at "Mrs. Claus' Cozy Kitchen," and of course, visit Santa at the gazebo! Parents, be sure to bring your cameras for this wonderful photo opportunity. Kids should dress for snow: mittens, gloves, boots, and jackets. Sliding saucers will be provided. There will also be food and refreshments for purchase and craft vendors for early Christmas shopping. Tickets are \$12 per child presale at the Community Services Office and \$15 per child at the event (cash only). Presale ends Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. Ticket includes snow play, snack, crafts, and visit with Santa.

### THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

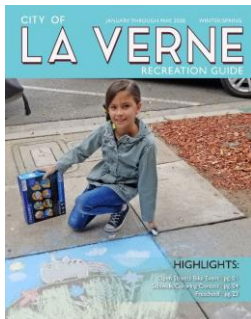
Casa Colina  
Fairplex  
Foothill Gold Line  
La Verne Construction  
La Verne Landing, LLC  
La Verne Police Officers Association  
Law Office of Howard R. Hawkins  
McLay Services Inc.  
Tim and Patty Hepburn  
Waste Management



### Senior Holiday Luncheon

The City of La Verne and the La Verne Rotary Club invite you to our Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, at the La Verne Community Center! Take pictures with Santa, enjoy a FREE delicious meal, a raffle, and entertainment by the Bonita High School Chamber Singers. **You must be 60 years or older and registered with the nutrition program to attend.** To register, please call (909) 596-8776. Seating is limited.

## Registration for City Recreation Classes and Activities

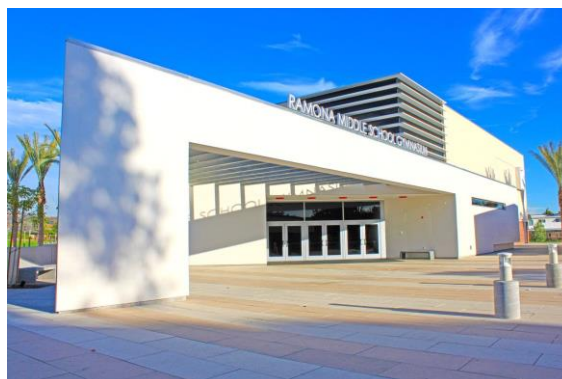


On Thursday, December 5, the Winter/Spring Recreation Guide was posted on the City's website at [www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org), and Facebook page. On Monday, December 9, online and mail-in registration begins for classes, excursions and programs the department offers. Walk-in registration begins the following week. For further information, please contact the Community Services Department at (909) 596-8700.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### City of La Verne Community Design Awards 2019: Ramona Middle School Gymnasium

The new 15,445 square foot gymnasium at Ramona Middle School, located at 3490 Ramona Avenue, was completed in 2017. The modern and contemporary new facility was designed by Culver City-based Rachlin Partners Architects, and features a distinct triangular entryway along with sleek louvered windows. For the wonderful work completed at Ramona Middle School, **Bonita Unified School District** is the recipient of the **2019 La Verne Community Design Award** in the **Community Enhancement – Public Facility** category. Congrats!



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Spark of Love Toy Drive



The La Verne Fire Department is again participating in ABC7 News' Spark of Love Toy Drive this year. The drive began in November, and we will continue accepting toys through Christmas Day. New, unwrapped toys, board games, or sports equipment for any ages, toddler to teenager, can be dropped off for donation at any of the three LVFD stations, City Hall or the Community Center. The donated toys are distributed to the children of La Verne families who might otherwise go without any gifts this holiday season, as well as La Verne non-profit youth organizations such as David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, the LeRoy Haynes Center, Sowing Seeds for Life, and local church preschools. Last year, the La Verne Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive collected roughly 1,500 toys to help provide holiday cheer to the children of 50 La Verne families in need, as well as the local youth non-profits mentioned above.

If you are a La Verne family in need of assistance with toys for your child(ren) for the holiday, please call the La Verne Fire Department at (909)596-5991, or stop by at 2061 Third Street to apply for toy donations.



### **Pink Patch Project is over**

This year's Pink Patch Project is over. Originally started by Laguna Beach for the purpose of collecting funds for the fight against breast cancer, the project has expanded to over 300 law enforcement agencies participating across the United States and an unknown number overseas. This year the Pink Patch was able to present the City of Hope with a check for \$400,000 from various L.A. County Agencies, including \$5,214 from La Verne. Nationally over one million dollars was collected and donated to various cancer research facilities.

### **Operation Yule Push**

This holiday season, the La Verne Police Department will once again roll out Operation Yule Push. Yule Push is a program that provides additional officers in the City's commercial business parks during the evening hours on weekdays and all day and night on the weekends. Officers may be seen in patrol cars, on bicycles, or on foot. These extra patrols are meant to help deter criminal activity and ensure the residents of La Verne have a happy holiday season. However, we want to encourage you to report suspicious activity. If you see something, say something.



### **Holiday Safety Tips from La Verne Police Department**

La Verne Police Department wants to protect you during the holidays! Here are several tips.

1. *The holidays are a great time to get to know your neighbors.*

Neighbors watching out for neighbors and reporting suspicious activity to the police help make our community safer. If planning to travel during the holiday season, inform a trusted neighbor about your plans, including where you will be and when you might be expected back to your residence. Ask a neighbor or other dependable persons to watch your house and retrieve your newspapers and mail if possible, or place those services on hold. The La Verne Police Department offers "Vacation House Checks" while you are out of town. More information on this service as well as the Vacation House Check form may be found on our website at [www.lvpd.org](http://www.lvpd.org) or obtained at the Public Safety Building located at 2061 Third Street. The completed form must be returned to the Public Safety Building.

2. *When you're out shopping for the holidays, stay alert to surroundings.*

Take a moment to glance around for possible suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity. There is safety in numbers; arrange to shop with friends and relatives. The holiday season is notorious for con artists who may attempt to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. Don't overload yourself with packages. Avoid wearing expensive, flashy jewelry and carrying large amounts of cash. Never leave personal belongings, including your purse, unattended. Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a secure place at home. Park and walk in well-lit areas and carry keys in your hand. Always lock your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight.

3. *Know that shopping online is not risk-free.*

The National Cyber Security Alliance recommends that you make sure you have a security suite (firewall, anti-virus and anti-spyware) installed and updated before shopping online. Keeping your operating system and Web browser up-to-date is also recommended. Before you enter your personal and financial information for an online

transaction, look for signs that the site is secure. This includes a closed padlock on your Web browser's address bar or a URL address that begins with `https`. This indicates that the purchase is encrypted or secured. Never use unsecured wireless networks to make an online purchase. Before providing personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy. Make sure you understand how your information will be stored and used. When possible shop at known, trusted websites. Print and save records of your online transactions. Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately. Don't leave packages on your porch or in visible areas. Arrange to have packages delivered to work or a friend's house.

Below is a link to a video that gives a few tips that can be used to prevent becoming a victim of package theft. The holiday season is upon us and many of us will be making online purchases. We suggest that when possible, schedule delivery for a day when you expect to be home. Have your packages delivered to work, a neighbor, or a friend's house. Request that packages be placed at a side or back door, instead of the front porch.



<https://lumen5.com/v/jin8/>

#### 4. *Keep your home safe throughout the holidays.*

Lock and secure all windows and doors, including sliding glass or French doors when leaving for any length of time. We suggest keeping the entrance points into your house secured while you're at home as well. Set indoor and outdoor lights on timers and think about doing the same with a television to make it appear as if someone is home. Never keep gifts or valuable objects in plain view from any window. Deter potential burglars by closing blinds, shutters, drapes, and curtains. If a person knocks at your door and you don't recognize them, don't feel obligated to open your door. Do not ignore the knock, though-make it known that you are home, but unavailable to open the door. Teach your children that by no means will they open the door to anyone prior to your knowledge and authorization.



#### 5. *When celebrating the holidays, celebrate responsibly.*

Many people celebrate the season by attending holiday parties with family and friends. Enjoy these gatherings responsibly so this time of joy does not become a time of tragedy. Watch how much you drink. Never drink and then drive. Assign a designated driver, or call a taxi or ride share service. The Police Department recommends you plan ahead if you plan on consuming alcoholic beverages.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Roundup**

There will be a FREE collection event in La Verne on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Bracket Field Airport. Roundup is sponsored jointly by the Sanitation Districts and the [Department of Public Works](#). The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program gives Los Angeles County residents a legal and cost-free way to dispose of unwanted household chemicals that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash.

### THINGS WE WANT YOU TO BRING...

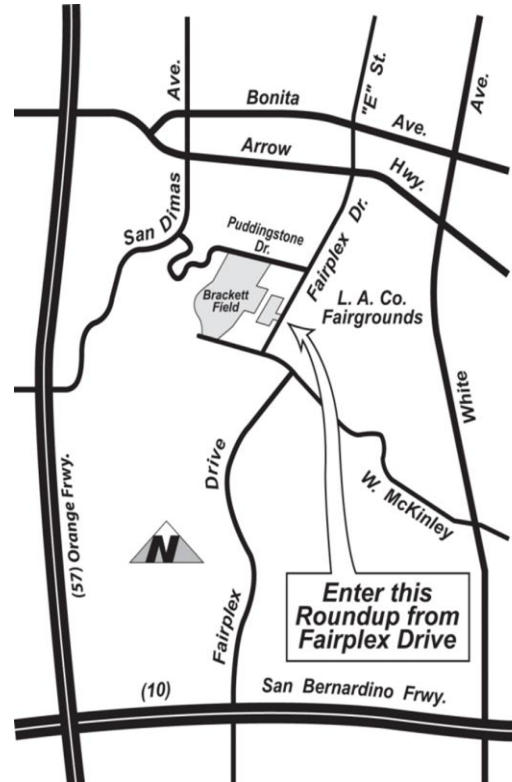
- Motor oil, antifreeze, paint, paint thinner
- Turpentine, cleaners with acids or lye
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Household and car batteries
- Old computers and television sets
- Sharps or used needles
- Expired pharmaceuticals and mercury thermometers

### THINGS WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BRING...

- Explosives, ammunition or radioactive materials
- Waste from businesses will NOT be accepted
- Trash or old tires
- White goods such as washers, stoves, refrigerators or air conditioners

### HOW TO PREPARE...

- In general, there is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 lbs. per vehicle
- Bring items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers
- Be prepared to leave your containers
- Do not mix products together



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

La Verne City Hall at (909) 596-8726 or the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County at (800) 238-0172

### Christmas Tree Recycling

It's that time of year again...carols and lights, tinsel and hot chocolate. Along with the bright joys of the season, comes a darker side...a lot of extra materials in our landfills. From the millions of holiday cards to the packaging and wrapping paper from gifts, we will see tremendous amounts of trash in our carts.



To prevent some of this from ending up in landfills, the City in conjunction with Waste Management once again offers Christmas Tree Recycling. Please remove the stand, water container, and other decorations before placing your tree curbside on December 30<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup> or January 13<sup>th</sup>. Trees can be picked up on later dates when requested as a large item pickup from Waste Management at 909-599-1274. If your tree is over six feet, we kindly request that you cut it in half. Flocked trees are accepted, but **CANNOT** be recycled due to the chemicals in the flocking material.

# LA VERNE BRANCH - LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY

**LA County Registrar Voting Machine Demonstration**, Monday - Friday, December 2-20, during business hours\*. LA County Registrar will be in the lobby to answer any questions regarding the new electronic voting machines. They will have a new voting machine to provide first-hand experience before the next election. For ages 18+ \* No demonstration on December 13.

## December Events - Children:

**Smarty Pants Storytime**, Wednesday, December 11, and 18 (11:30 am -12:00 pm). Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun! Attendance is limited and advanced registration is required. Storytime is for ages 2 - 5 with adult caregiver.

**After School Adventures**, Tuesday, December 10, and 17 (3:00 pm - 4:00 pm). Join us for after-school games, crafts, and STEAM activities. You never know what adventures will be waiting. For ages 7 -12.

## December Events - Teens:

**Teen Advisory Board**, Monday, December 16 (3:00-4:00 pm). Earn volunteer hours and make an impact in your community! Join the Teen Advisory Board and help improve library services for teens. For ages 12-17.

## December Events - Adults:

**Greeting Card Craft**, Friday, December 13 (3:00 - 4:00 pm). Your friends and family will love these 3-D pop-out holiday cards. You'll receive an introduction to basic electrical concepts as you create a functional circuit on paper. For ages 18+.

**Holiday Gift Wrapping**, Wednesday, December 11 (6:00 -7:30 pm) and Saturday, December 21 (10:00 am -12:00 pm). Need to get out of the house to wrap your holiday presents? Learn a little history about gift giving while you enjoy holiday music, hot cocoa and cookies, and wrap your presents! The library will provide paper, bows and wrapping supplies while they last. All you need to do is bring in your gifts and be ready to wrap. Refreshments will be served, a list of ingredients will be made available. For ages 18+.

## Library Hours:

Monday -Tuesday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Wednesday -Thursday: 11 am - 8 pm  
Friday - Saturday: 9 am - 5 pm  
Sunday: Closed



The library will be closed on the following dates:

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25  
New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1, 2020

For more information visit the library's website: <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/laverne/index.php>

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

### Walking Tour of “Things that aren’t there anymore”

Join the La Verne Historical Society on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> for a walking tour of “**Things that aren’t there anymore**”; a guided tour of changes on the ULV campus. Meet in front of the Hanawalt House, 2058 Second Street, at 12:00 pm. The tour leaves at 12:15 pm.

The tour will explore the following buildings re-purposed by ULV, The TG&Y Store, Ned’s Barber Shop, and Tastee Freez. The former TG&Y and Ned’s Barber Shop now house the College of Business and Public Management; the Tastee Freez building is now the Music Annex. The guided tour will be conducted by Ben Jenkins and Anne Collier.

### Vintage Gifts & Music

Join the LVHS for a holiday gathering on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Third & G Street. Select a vintage keepsake or stocking stuffer at the treasure tables. Refresh yourself with some hot spiced cider and a cookie or two, then purchase a holiday sweet treat at the baked goods table. The Bonita HS Band will perform at 4:30 pm. Join the fun and support the band.

*Happy Holidays from the  
City of La Verne!*

