



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August/September 2020



CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

This month typically marks the end of summertime and the beginning of a new school year filled with anticipation and excitement. This year, however, is anything but normal and the wonder of the new school year is tempered by the reality of the COVID-19 public health requirements that are in effect. This includes the State's new "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" tiered framework.

As discouraging as the State and County's guidelines may be at times, they also present an opportunity for the La Verne community to come together and support one another. One of the key ways we can do this is by supporting our local businesses. To that end, we are excited to share that our Business Assistance Grant Program is now accepting applications from businesses with up to 75 employees and 27 out of 44 restaurants have been approved for outdoor dining.

For 114 years the City of La Verne has been committed to serving our community through good times and bad. Please know that we are still here to serve our community, businesses, and residents. We appreciate your community spirit, patience, and continued cooperation, as we face this challenge.

Thank you to everyone for your community spirit and perseverance during these challenging times. We're all in this together and your City government is here for you.

Bob Russi, City Manager

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CALENDAR

August 3 – City Council Meeting

View here:

<https://laverneca.new.swagit.com/videos/74267>

August 17 – City Council Meeting

View here:

<https://laverneca.new.swagit.com/videos/74742>

September 7 – Holiday Closure

City Hall, Community Center,
Library- **Closed**

September 8 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting via Live
Stream

City Website at cityoflaverne.org

September 21 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting via Live
Stream

City Website at cityoflaverne.org

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL

At the July meeting, the City Council:

- Extended recognition through 2021 for the current Jack Huntington, Jim Scranton, and Outstanding Older American Award winners.
- Authorized an agreement with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to develop and implement programs to prevent homelessness.
- Reaffirmed the ongoing need for the local emergency originally declared on March 16, 2020.
- Heard an appeal of Planning Commission's approval of an Amazon grocery store at 2229 Foothill Blvd.
- Authorized a temporary employment agreement with Dan Keeseey, to be Interim Director of Public Works upon his retirement at the end of July.
- Adopted Resolution 20-67, acknowledging the City's recognition of the Committee on Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion.

At the August meetings, the City Council:

- Heard a presentation on the Foothill Gold Line parking management plan.
- Directed staff to formally develop a childcare program for City employee dependents in consideration of the pandemic's continuing effect on available childcare services.
- Thanked outgoing Interim Fire Chief Devin Leonard for his service and authorized an employment agreement with new Interim Fire Chief David A. Segura.
- Replaced the position of Personnel Officer with Assistant to the City Manager.
- Extended the moratorium on short-term rentals through August 17, 2021.
- Appointed Council Members Davis and Lau to the Committee for Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion.
- Adjourned in memory of three long-time La Verne residents: Charles E. Davis, Elizabeth (Liz) Marie Hernandez, and Virgil W. Welch.

COVID-19

Coronavirus

COVID-19 has continued to alter the way we all do business and navigate our personal lives. We encourage you to protect yourself, continue to practice physical/social distancing, and wear a mask.



ADMINISTRATION

Fire Study Available

The City engaged the services of a third-party consultant to review the La Verne Fire Department's current service delivery model and future options, as well as information on possible annexation of the fire and emergency services provided by the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (Fire District). This completed report is on the City's website for review.

The report describes the current LVFD tasks (fire prevention and suppression, as well as emergency and medical services) and assesses the strain on already limited staffing and funding resources. The report explores two options for providing these essential services to the La Verne community: move to engage the Fire District for fire protection services, or continue to use the LVFD and commit to an effective reorganization plan.

City Council reviewed and discussed the report at a study session on August 25th. Public comments on the report will be accepted through September 28th and can be sent to: firestudycomments@cityoflaverne.org.

Bonelli Trail Reopens

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the restored availability of public access through the Bonelli Bluffs RV Resort & Campground (RV Resort). The RV Resort has agreed to temporarily allow restricted public access through their facility while planning and construction of a permanent trail re-route are underway. The permanent trail is tentatively anticipated to open in Spring 2021.

When using the access road within the RV Resort, the public is expected to abide by the following guidelines:

- Access will be permitted from 8 AM to sunset daily.
- Public use of the RV Resort amenities is strictly prohibited.
- No littering, loitering, or vandalism will be permitted.

The County reserves the right to discontinue access if guidelines are not observed. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Brenda Tovar at btovar@parks.lacounty.gov or Dave Campbell at dcampbell@parks.lacounty.gov. For detailed COVID-19 guidelines, please visit <https://trails.lacounty.gov/>.

Cultural Awareness & Inclusion Committee

The City of La Verne is proud to formally announce its participation in #DiverseLaVerne, our community's local Committee on Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion. Along with representatives from the City Manager's Office, the Police and Fire Departments, and Community Services, City Councilmembers Davis and Lau will also serve on this committee. Learn more about the Committee: diverselaverne.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Pre-School On-the-Go



Join us for our new Preschool On-the-Go! We are offering the Preschool Program from the comfort of your own home! La Verne residents, ages 3 to 5 years, will have a package delivered to them every month. Non-residents may pick-up their package when it becomes available. The package includes worksheets, crafts, and activities, which will introduce children to numbers, colors, shapes, and the alphabet! Teachers will have one 30-minute Zoom meeting where children can sing and have a story read each month!

For more information contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700. You may also register at www.cityoflaverne.org/recguide. The month of September has sold out, but registration for October has begun.



Gators Swim Team

The Community Services Department will offer a Fall Gators Swim Team program. The program will run one session in the morning and two in the late afternoon through September. For more information please contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.

New Lap Swim Session

The City is offering Lap Swim at the Aquatic Center Monday-Friday from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM. Lap Swim will run through October 2nd and the cost is \$5.00 per person. The program is set-up to follow LA County Health orders with a limited number of participants and social distancing enforced. For more information contact Community Services at 909-596-8700.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Greenlight for Amazon Grocery

Approvals are in place to move forward with the new Amazon Grocery store at 2229 Foothill Blvd., Ste. 200. The new grocery store will be moving into the western portion of the existing Kohl's Department Store building and will occupy approximately 38,000 sq. ft.

The store is part of a new national, full-service grocery store chain that will be separate from other Amazon owned brands, such as Whole Foods. The La Verne location will be one of the very first of these new grocery stores to open in California, and we cannot wait to see what they have in store for the La Verne community!

Taco Bell

Out with the old and in with the new! If you have not driven by Wheeler and Foothill recently, you won't even recognize it! The old Baker's Square building was demolished and Taco Bell has been built. The Taco Bell is now OPEN, so if you are craving crunch wraps, tacos, chalupas, or burritos you don't have to go very far. Although the drive-through line may be long, the service is superfast. They also serve BREAKFAST!

Beer, Wine, and of course Spirits!

The Planning Commission has recently approved Café Wang's request to upgrade their liquor license. So now, not only can you purchase beer and wine at Café Wang, you'll be able to purchase liquor too! Although we can't currently eat and drink indoors at the restaurant, you can always enjoy their delicious Asian cuisine while sipping on some distilled spirits at home! Come on down to Café Wang and get your drink on! It's 5 o'clock somewhere, right?

Community Design Award - Chase's



In 2018, Chase's restaurant, a long-time staple of the Old Town dining scene, expanded into a larger space at the newly renovated D Street Square building at 2079 Bonita Avenue. The approximately 4,700 square foot restaurant space and approximately 780 square foot patio space has been carefully designed and decorated to be an inviting environment. The restaurant has many custom and modern touches, including a copper bar top and unique glass bottle design feature, while also paying homage to the history of La Verne with several La Verne-inspired pieces of art and décor. For their interior design efforts, **Chase's** is a recipient of the **2019 La Verne Community Design Award** in the **Interior Design** category.

Greater LA Homeless Count

Each year in January the City participates in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) Point-in-Time count to better understand the number of homeless individuals living within the City and the wider region. LAHSA released the results of the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on July 30th, and the results showed La Verne had an unsheltered homeless population of 10, including individuals in cars, vans, tents, makeshift shelters and persons on the street.

This is a decrease from the City's 2019 count results, which found a total homeless population of 21. The City continues to make progress in addressing homelessness through the City's adopted Homeless Plan and the development of new programming and services to assist individuals facing homelessness.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Wildfires

As the weather heats up, we begin to prepare for the 2020 California wildfire season. The peak of the wildfire season usually occurs between **August and November** when hot, dry winds are most frequent.

LVFD continues to provide support to state and federal agencies to help contain the various wildland fires impacting our state. Be safe during this fire season and avoid unattended open flames and careless use of candles, don't leave your cooking unattended, and when outside be sure to keep your BBQ grill at least 10 feet away from a building or structure.



Business Watch Program

Business Watch is a crime prevention program designed for businesses in the City. The goal of the program is to bring neighboring businesses together in partnership with La Verne Police to continue preventing and reducing crime. The Business Watch philosophy is straightforward-Take control of what happens in your business community and lessen your chances of becoming a victim. Business Watch will offer many other benefits, including opportunities to:

- Network with other area businesses.
- Foster a good working rapport with area law enforcement.
- Offer employee training and education.
- Garner publicity and community goodwill for your establishment.

For more information about Business Watch, contact Community Service Officer, Hollie Savage at 909-596-1913 or at hsavage@lvpd.org.

Female Police Chief Designee



Captain Colleen Flores with unanimous support from the City Council was identified as La Verne's next and first female Police Chief designee. Council will formalize this announcement at their September 8th meeting where they will approve the agreement terms. Once appointed, Captain Flores will make history as the City's first female Chief of Police. "I am honored to have been selected to lead the La Verne Police Department after Chief Paz," said Captain Flores. "Chief Paz has worked hard to forge beneficial relationships between the Department and the La Verne community, and I hope to continue Chief Paz's vision and legacy as Chief in the future." [Press release](#)

PUBLIC WORKS

California Solid Waste Laws

As of July 1, 2012, all businesses and public entities that generate four or more cubic yards of solid waste per week and multifamily residential dwellings that have five or more units are required to recycle.

Here is a summary of some of the newer State of California solid waste laws.

- **AB 341** Requires some businesses to have organics recycling.
- **AB 1826** Requires some businesses to have organics recycling.
- **SB 1383** Comprehensive law with multiple requirements meant to lower organic waste in landfills.
- **AB 827** Requires some businesses to make recycling containers available to customers and clearly mark them with educational signage.



Free Energy Assessment

Take this opportunity to complete a **FREE** Energy Assessment. EASY provides an energy assessment which will help you identify opportunities to reduce your home energy usage and costs. For registration, please go to <https://www.sgvenergywise.org/easy>.

EASY is a program of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and home assessments will be conducted by members trained in building science. Participation is voluntary, and you **must** be a SoCalGas customer in the San Gabriel Valley in order to participate in this program.

A flyer for the EASY program. It features the EASY logo (a house with a sun and a leaf) and the text "Energy Assessment Screening for Your Home (EASY)". Logos for SGVCOG and SoCalGas are in the top right. The main text asks "What is the EASY Program?" and explains that it provides a free energy assessment to help reduce energy usage and costs, and includes a complimentary water efficiency starter kit for participants. The background shows a suburban neighborhood with houses and hills.

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/>.

