



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2020

July 

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The summer is heating up, and so are California's efforts to control the spread of coronavirus. La Verne's emergency operations management team continues to meet throughout this health crisis so that we can respond to this changing situation, including the State's recent re-opening rollback.

We continue serving La Verne residents and communicating updates to COVID-19 guidelines and practices. New protocols can be found on the City's website at Reopening Guidelines and also at the La Verne Chamber of Commerce website.

As you know, small businesses are being hit hard by this crisis and need community support. We encourage everyone to shop and eat in La Verne while following safety measures, and we are excited to have outdoor dining on D Street and throughout the city.

We appreciate your patience, cooperation, and community spirit as La Verne faces this challenge together. We encourage everyone to wear a mask and follow current protocols to bend the curve and protect each other. I hope this newsletter is helpful and that 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](#)

CALENDAR

July 2 - Holiday Closure
*City Hall, Community Center,
Library- Closed*

July 20 - 5:00 PM
*Public Hearing via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org*

July 20 - 6:30 PM
*City Council Meeting via Live
Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org*

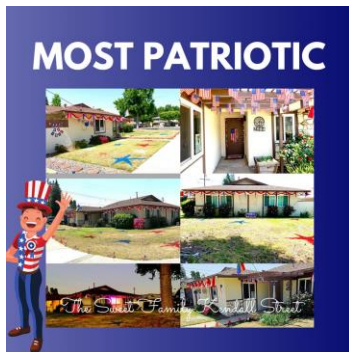
HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL

At the June meetings, the City Council:

- Approved the purchase of 4 police vehicles and 4 pickup trucks
- Authorized a lease agreement with KPJV to locate their Gold Line project construction office on a portion of the City's "sweepings" site
- Directed staff to temporarily loosen restrictions for outdoor dining until November 30, 2020 or until indoor restaurant occupancy is permitted at 100%
- Expanded eligibility for the Business Assistance Grant program
- Held a budget study session on the 2020-21 appropriations
- Heard Chief Paz report on LVPD's "use of force" policy
- Reappointed George Borst and appointed Jenny Jolly to the Senior Advisory Committee
- Approved the purchase and 5-year contract for digital in-car video and body-worn camera systems for LVPD
- Approved 2020-21 partnership agreement with the La Verne Chamber of Commerce

CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of the Patriotic Home Decorating Contest have been announced and the winners are: the Sweet Family on Kendall Street for Most Patriotic, the Potts Family on Harper Court for Most Creative, and the Ruppert Family on 5th Street was the Community Favorite. Congratulations to all the winners!



COVID UPDATE

Reopening our Community

As we begin the slow journey of reopening our community, the City has created a chart that makes it easy to understand what is open and what protocols need to be followed. You can view reopening guidelines on the City website [here](#).

WILDERNESS AREA

Weed Abatement

The Wilderness Area is 358 acres of open space. Since acquisition of the land in 2006, the City has performed weed abatement (100-200' from structures) in the approximately 4 acres immediately adjacent to homes. The City also uses goats in the Wilderness Area for weed abatement as they reduce the amount of accumulated plant material present within the area and reduce fire fuel loads. A Grazing Management Plan was recently developed and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue the ongoing practice of using goats. Additional information and facts can be found on the City's website using the button Know the Facts or by clicking [here](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Curbside Senior Lunch Program

As of March 26th, the La Verne Community Center has been hosting our Senior Lunch Program by way of curbside pick-up every Thursday. The program started with an average of about 50 seniors receiving five meals weekly but has since then grown to an average of 145 seniors served. That is currently an average of 725 meals distributed each week! If you know of any local seniors in need, please refer them to the YWCA by calling 626-214-9456 so they can be added to the waitlist.

Summer Crafts in a Box

The City is now offering "Summer Crafts in a Box"! Craft boxes include crafting kits, painting supplies, and so much more! Children ages 4 to 10 years can enjoy painting rocks, planting flowers, making yarn bracelets, and dream catchers just to name a few!! We are currently registering for our 2nd and 3rd boxes. Boxes will be delivered to La Verne residents by Thursday, July 9th and Thursday, July 30th. Non-La Verne residents may pick up their boxes during City Hall hours (Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 5:00 PM) on Monday July 13th and Monday, August 3rd. Don't miss out on this exciting crafting adventure! All materials are included. For more information contact our office at 909-596-8700. Registration available in our office or online.



Adult Lap Swim - Returns Monday 7/6/20!

The City will be offering Adult Lap Swim for ages 16 and over at the Aquatic Center starting on Monday, July 6th. Lap swim will be available Monday – Friday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. There are only a limited number of lanes available as it is one swimmer per lane to meet the social distancing requirements. The cost is \$3.00 per person and swimmers must arrive in their swimwear and leave in their swimwear. Locker rooms and restrooms will not be available. Any person that enters the pool deck must wear a mask at all times unless in the water.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Coronavirus

As we navigate the reopening phases in LA County, we encourage everyone to continue practicing the CDC recommended guidelines to protect yourself and others:

1. Wear face coverings as required.
2. Clean your hands often:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Social Distance:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Wildfire Prevention

Is your property defensible against wildfire? Successfully preparing for a wildfire requires you to take personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family, and your property. The La Verne Fire Department has prepared the “Ready, Set, Go!” action plan to help you prepare. You will learn about the tips and tools you need to prepare, the importance of having defensible space around your home and the preparations you need to make so you can leave early, evacuating well ahead of a fast-approaching fire. Download the action plan [here](#).

Wildland Burn Training



LVFD hosted a control burn in preparation for fire season on June 16, 2020. In an effort to prepare firefighters for the upcoming fire season, over forty firefighters from surrounding cities and counties attended the training in La Verne where everyone present learned proper techniques, effective communication and safe coordination when putting out brush fires.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Business Assistance Grant Program – Deadline Extended

The La Verne City Council recently approved/amended a new Business Assistance Grant Program funded through Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG). The Business Assistance Grant Program offers one-time \$2,500 grants to eligible businesses to help them re-open, create jobs, retain jobs, and offer quality services to the residents of La Verne. As we have had a limited response, the program has been further enhanced by allowing more time for businesses to apply and the City Council has approved additional tiers with modified eligibility requirements to open the program up to more businesses.

Tier 1 included all non-essential businesses that did not receive any funding with fewer than 15 employees (one lower-income employee), and in operation at least a year in La Verne with a valid business license. Tier 2

recently started and opens up the program to non-essential businesses that may have received funding from another source. If all of the available funding is not spent on the first two tiers, tier 3 will allow restaurants to apply. If you know a business that might qualify, let them know to complete the application with supporting documents and submit it to businessassistance@cityoflaverne.org or contact Candice in Planning!



A Step Towards Normalcy

The City Council has temporarily loosened restrictions on outdoor dining so that restaurants can accommodate for the loss of occupancy that is required in the current stage of the County's order. These loosened restrictions on outdoor dining will remain in place until the County's order has been lifted. The Community Development Department staff has created an Outdoor Restaurant Dining checklist application for business owners to apply so that they can take advantage of these loosened restrictions.

New Planning Commissioner

On June 9th, the City Council held a special meeting to fill Councilmember Wendy Lau's former position on the Planning Commission. The Council voted unanimously to appoint resident Thomas Allison to the position. Thomas D. Allison, Esq. is a licensed attorney and has been an adjunct/assistant professor at the University of La Verne since 2013. He owned and operated a law firm called T.D. Allison & Associates, APC until accepting a full-time teaching position last year at ULV. Thomas is the president and founder of a nonprofit organization called the Social Justice Advocacy Project, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides community-based empowerment programs to marginalized communities. Thomas has been a student at ULV since 2003, where he has studied business administration, law, and public administration through the master's and doctoral degree programs. He participated on the City's homeless committee as well as the most recent general plan advisory committee. Welcome to the Planning Commission, Thomas!

Community Design Awards: D Street Square

Owner Ed Leonard purchased and renovated the commercial building at 2079 Bonita Ave., transforming it from the former University of La Verne Bookstore into a thriving restaurant, retail and executive office space now known as D Street Square. Located in Old Town La Verne at the corner of D Street and Bonita Ave., the building is home to Chase's Restaurant, Zubiata Beauchamp, LLP and an upcoming new breakfast spot – Eggsactly. The building modifications that occurred as part of the renovations, including the addition of new outdoor patio areas and several new windows, have made the space into an inviting and integral part of Old Town La Verne. For his efforts, Ed Leonard is a recipient of the **2019 La Verne Community Design Award** in the **Commercial** category for **D Street Square**. Congrats!



PUBLIC WORKS

Replace Your Ride

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board recently approved \$15.4 million in funds from the California Air Resources Board for the “Replace Your Ride” program.

Residents living in the district (most of Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) can receive up to \$9,500 to purchase a newer and more fuel-efficient (including electric) vehicle at reduced cost in exchange for retiring their older gas or diesel vehicle. Applicants can also choose to scrap their older vehicle in exchange for a voucher that can be used for public transportation, Uber, Lyft, ridesharing, and carpooling.



To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- Meet household income requirements at or below 400% of the federal poverty level
- Own the vehicle for at least 12 months prior to the date of application submittal
- Clear any liens from the title
- Turn in an older gas or diesel car for scrapping

If interested, please call 844-797-2223 or visit replaceyourride.com

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/>

