



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2021



## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, California aims to fully open, allowing everyday activities and businesses to open with common-sense risk reduction measures. This is good news as we head into the Fourth of July holiday, and La Verne will celebrate with our annual parade and fireworks show. These events will have some limitations, so see the article inside for more details.

We are continuing with the D Street outdoor dining until August, so please visit your favorite old town restaurants this summer and enjoy La Verne al fresco.

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

*Bob Russi, City Manager*

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## CALENDAR

**June 7 – 6:30 PM**  
City Council Meeting via Live Stream  
*City Website at [cityoflaverne.org](http://cityoflaverne.org)*

**June 21 – 6:30 PM**  
City Council Meeting via Live Stream  
*City Website at [cityoflaverne.org](http://cityoflaverne.org)*

**June 22 – 6:30 PM**  
Youth & Family Action Committee Meeting via the City's YouTube channel at [www.cityoflaverne.org/stream](http://www.cityoflaverne.org/stream).

# HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the May meetings, the City Council:

- Authorized an employment agreement with Interim Fire Chief Lawrence Waterhouse and thanked outgoing Interim Fire Chief David A. Segura for his service
- Held a study session for the preliminary 2021-22 fiscal year operating budget
- Honored Ryan M. Torres (Navy) under the Military Recognition Program
- Heard a presentation on new state refuse regulations SB1383 and AB1594
- Adjourned in memory of longtime resident Jefferson Hill, Senior

## ADMINISTRATION

### Fourth of July Committee

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee announced that La Verne will hold Independence Day festivities this year! This year the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday, so as per tradition, the parade will be held on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Applications to participate in the parade are available on the City's website at [www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org). A fireworks show will also be held on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>! Ticket sales will be limited to La Verne residents only, with a maximum of 6 tickets per household. Details will follow as the Health Order continues to be updated. The Committee, with the help of the City of La Verne, will provide official updates as they become available on the City's social media platforms. The committee looks forward to celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with this amazing community!



### 16 Fully Funded Capital Improvement Projects Anticipated in Fiscal Year 2021-22

In the coming 2021-22 Fiscal Year, the City of La Verne plans to allocate \$6.9 million, pending grant approvals, toward 16 fully funded capital improvement projects. This includes a variety of street and sidewalk repair projects, water and sewer upgrades, public building and facilities improvements and public safety enhancements.

Since its inception in 2013, the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has delivered nearly \$28 million in projects and improvements to the La Verne community, with plans to continue this momentum into future years by leveraging grants and other funding sources.

### Council Sets Direction for the 2021-22 Budget Priorities

At a recent study session, City Council met to discuss and provide direction on the City's preliminary Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget. Based on the feedback received, staff prepared detailed budget documents which were presented to Council at their June 7<sup>th</sup> adjourned meeting. At the meeting Council heard presentations from each of the operational areas and gave authorization to finalize the budget with \$63.7 million in appropriations and a \$600,000 deficit. The proposed budget can be viewed online at [cityoflaverne.org](http://cityoflaverne.org), click on documents, then finance, then annual budget.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## New Regulations for Short-term Rentals

The City Council will soon be approving a new ordinance that will regulate short-term rentals in La Verne. The new ordinance will include a number of regulations, such as establishing a permitting and renewal process, and establishing a way for residents to express concerns about a short-term rental being hosted in their neighborhood. The ordinance also defines what constitutes a short-term rental and describes the process of appealing staff denials. Keep a lookout for the new ordinance when it comes into effect in August!

## I.V. Juice Bar Coming Soon!

Ready for a healthy meal option? Look no further, because this summer I.V. Juice Bar will be offering refreshing and healthy acai bowls, smoothies, and juices. They will be located at 2320 Foothill Boulevard, Ste. A (next to Staples). Welcome to La Verne, I.V. Juice Bar!

## La Verne Landing: Residential and Public Art

The La Verne Landing by WF Construction is one of seven local projects that have been awarded a 2021 La Verne Community Design Award (LVCA). The project was awarded in the Residential and Public Art category. The La Verne Landing is a 38-unit apartment building with units ranging in size and partial underground parking.

The project was approved by the Planning Department in 2017 and completed by the summer of 2019. The project is notable for being the first large-scale development project to be completed within the Old Town La Verne Specific Plan area, which was drafted to accommodate future development adjacent to the forthcoming Gold Line Station.

The Public Art piece for the project was designed by Victor Lockett, an architect and designer for WF Construction. The abstract art piece represents three significant aspects of La Verne, including the foothills, citrus groves and railways.

Great Job!



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Blood Drive

Every summer, blood donations plummet, creating a seasonal shortage. Fight back by donating at one of two upcoming blood drives:

- Monday, June 21 (10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Community Center)
- Tuesday, July 27 (9:00 AM -3:00 PM, Council Chamber)

Online scheduling is available at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. To find our blood drives, enter sponsor code lvcc or citylv and select an appointment time. You'll need to log in with your Red Cross account or create a new account. Your blood can help our community when the need is greatest!

## New Recreation Registration Portal

The City has redesigned its registration portal to make online registration even easier! To sign up for the City's upcoming classes and activities, visit the new portal here: [Recreationportal](#).

## Park Shelter Reservations



The Community Services Department is now accepting reservations for park shelters. There are four parks to choose from, and reservations can be made for Saturdays and Sundays starting June 5<sup>th</sup>. Current COVID-19 safety protocols are in place, and renters must agree to follow Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Informal Social Gatherings.

## Summer Preschool

Summer playschool will begin at Veterans Hall on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 AM Tuesday and Thursday morning and afternoon classes will be available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.



## Aquatic Classes now available!

You can now register for group aquatic classes online here: [CityofLaVerneCommunityServices](#). Private swim lessons are available, but must be reserved in-person. Please call the Community Services Department at (909) 596-8700 for more information.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Defensible Space Saves Homes

Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it. Maintaining 100 feet of defensible space can protect you and your family, and make the difference in the safety of your home when threatened by wildfire.

- Maintain a defensible space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation for a minimum of 30 feet around the structure. Remove all dead leaves and branches. This area should only contain irrigated fire resistive

plants. Leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees. Consideration should be given to the removal of hazardous ornamentals such as acacia, bamboo, bougainvillea, cedar, cypress, eucalyptus, pine and junipers, all of which will readily transmit fire to a structure.

- Thin out or remove all hazardous native brush, trees, grasses and weeds for an additional 70 feet for a total of 100 feet (200 feet in high hazard areas). Larger trees should be limbed up at least six feet from the ground. Trees less than 18 feet tall should be limbed up one third of their height. Grasses up to 18" (3" within 30 feet of structures) and native shrubs may be retained on slopes to stabilize the soil and help prevent erosion. They should be spaced approximately three times their diameter from other shrubs. You are required to maintain the vegetation only up to your property line. The adjacent property owner is responsible for maintaining the remaining land to achieve the 100 or 200 foot clearances from structures on your property. Reciprocally, you are responsible to maintain vegetation on your property within the 100 or 200 foot distances from your neighbor's structures. Some La Verne homeowner associations have 300-foot clearance requirements.

- Clean all needles and leaves from your roof, eaves and rain gutters.

- Remove tree limbs within ten feet of your chimney and remove all dead limbs hanging over your house or garage.

- Install a spark arrestor with no larger than 1/2" mesh on your chimney outlet.

- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the street for easy identification in an emergency.

- Stack woodpiles at least thirty feet from buildings, fences and other combustible materials.

- Use care when using power equipment. One small spark can start a fire. Keep a shovel and extinguisher or water hose nearby.



For more information on how to protect your home and family in case of a wildfire, review the La Verne Fire Department Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Action Guide: <http://www.lavernefire.org/ready-set-go-wildfire-emergency-preparedness/>

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Free Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Drive-Thru Collection Event

On Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM, the County of Los Angeles will be hosting a FREE household hazardous and electronic waste drive-thru collection event at Citrus College, in the stadium parking lot, on Barranca Avenue just north of Alostia Avenue.



### White Avenue Undergrounding Project

Southern California Edison began construction of the White Avenue Underground Project that will shift overhead power lines underground to help make La Verne's power lines less susceptible to environmental risks. The project is expected to be completed by August 31, 2021.

### State Legislation on Organic Waste and the impact on Refuse Rates

Similar to many other cities throughout California, the City of La Verne is considering a refuse service rate increase to cover the increased costs of organics and green waste disposal brought about by recent State legislation, as well as a 3.49% increase based on the Consumer Price Index. The La Verne City Council heard a presentation on this matter at their regular city council meeting on Monday, May 17th. There will be a formal public hearing on **Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM** via livestream at [CityofLaVerne.org/livestream](http://CityofLaVerne.org/livestream).

All cities in the State, including La Verne, face the most stringent solid waste legislation in California history. For the City, its residents and businesses to remain in compliance with State Law, new services are necessary, none of which are funded by the State. Therefore, these services must be funded through solid waste rates.

## LA VERNE BRANCH - LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY

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>

The La Verne Library has reopened for select in-person services including book checkout, public computer usage for up to 1 hour and free Wi-Fi. The Library is open on:

- Tuesdays from 1 PM to 8 PM
- Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 AM to 6 PM
- Closed Sunday and Monday



For more information, please visit [LACountyLibrary.org/La-Verne-Library](http://LACountyLibrary.org/La-Verne-Library)