



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2021

MAY

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Los Angeles County communities have officially entered the Yellow Tier which means we have reached the next-to-last stage before fully reopening. Schools are opening with four days of in-person instruction - another welcome sign we are moving toward a safe and healthy new normal. Now it's up to all of us to keep up the good work. It's never been easier to get vaccinated, and that is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Over 50% of La Verne residents are now vaccinated. Continuing to make smart choices now moves us closer to fully enjoying all the wonderful things that La Verne has to offer.

We encourage everyone to continue to show care for your neighbors and support our local businesses. I hope you find this newsletter helpful and 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: <http://cityoflaverne.org/index.php/documents/newsletters/city-manager-s-monthly-newsletter>

CALENDAR

May 3 – 6:30 PM
City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

May 17 – 6:30 PM
City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

May 25 – 6:30 PM
Youth & Family Action Committee Meeting via the City's YouTube channel at www.cityoflaverne.org/stream.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the April meetings, the City Council:

- Appointed Muir Davis as Mayor Pro Tem
- Heard a presentation on the merger of the Haynes Family of Programs with David & Margaret Home
- Welcomed Public Works Director Shawn Igoe
- Reaffirmed the ongoing need for the local emergency initially declared on March 16, 2020
- Approved a class specification and salary for the Senior Equipment Mechanic position
- Approved the Amherst development project
- Adjourned in memory of Fleet Manager Bob Crawford

ADMINISTRATION

Reformat of Virtual Council Meetings

While the public has been able to participate and stream the Council Meetings virtually, the necessary precautions taken as a result of the coronavirus pandemic has left many people feeling disconnected from each other and from local decision makers. In an effort to bring the La Verne community together, the City of La Verne has updated its virtual Council Meeting format, adding the ability for residents to also make public comments via the Zoom line with video.

Residents wishing to participate via Zoom must register before 5 PM on the day of the council meeting. Links will be unique for each meeting, and interested residents must register for each meeting. Once registered, residents will receive directions via email on how to log on and participate during the meeting.

Similar to other methods for public comment, residents will have a 3-minute time limit and may only speak once per agenda item. As a registered attendee, participants will be able to watch the meeting in real time and will be able to “raise their hand” if interested in providing public comment on an item. Once let into the meeting to provide their public comment, participants will be able to turn on their video and microphone so Council Members can see and hear them.

In addition to the new Zoom video participation option, residents will still have the option to email their comments or submit their phone number to the Assistant City Clerk to be contacted during the City Council Meetings, allowing residents to provide comments live over the phone. City Council Meetings will also continue to be streamed live on the City’s website in addition to Zoom.



Fourth of July Committee

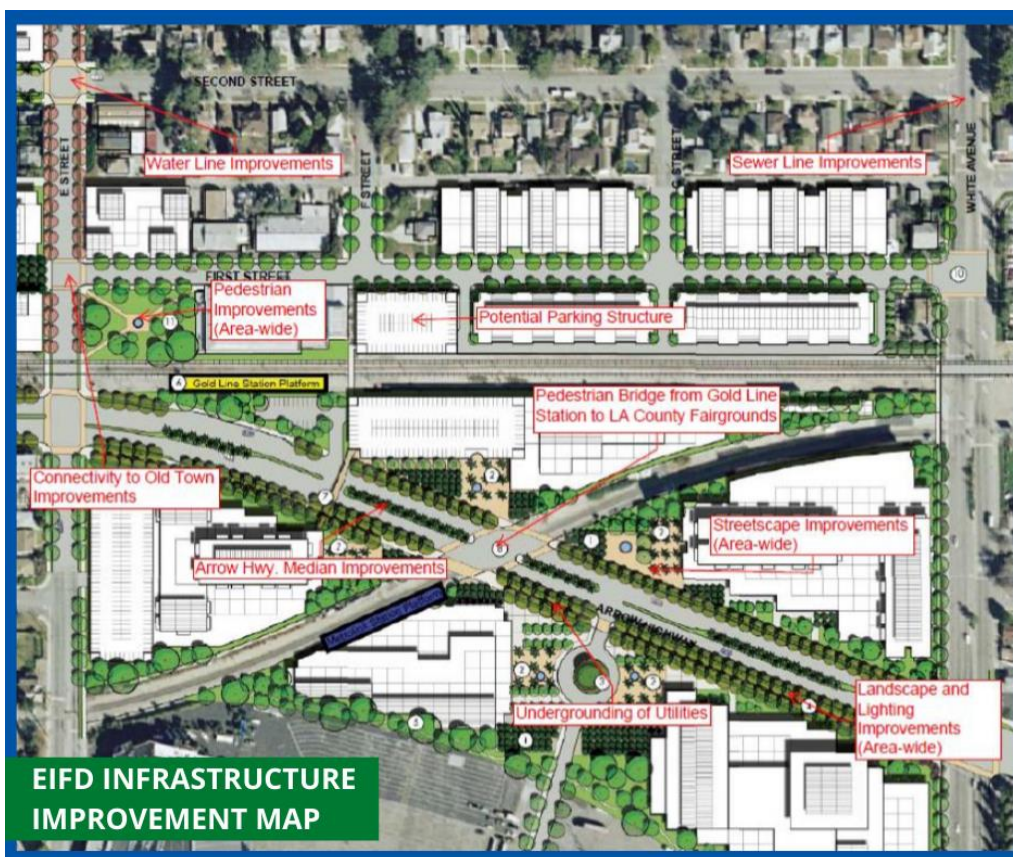
The Friends of the 4th of July Committee have been meeting to discuss the options for the 2021 4th of July festivities in the City of La Verne. At this time the Committee is weighing all the options as far as the traditional festivities, while acting in accordance with the most current Los Angeles County Public Health Order. We are also looking at alternatives in the event that our normal events do not comply with the Health Order. 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.

Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion Committee

Our mission is to provide understanding that every inhabitant is entitled to equal accommodations within the City. This includes economic, political, and educational opportunities, and public services. Follow us on social media. Residents are welcome to submit questions or ideas for the Committee through [email](#) or [Facebook](#). Any questions regarding the committee and its activities can be directed to CASI Vice-Chair Julia Wheeler at JWheeler@LaVerne.edu. Information may also be obtained on the Committee's website at DiverseLaVerne.org.

Taking Steps to Usher in a Growing Future

To accelerate funding for the public improvements needed to accommodate and attract the development that is envisioned in the Old Town La Verne Specific Plan, the City of La Verne Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District #1 (District) was established. The District is generally bounded by the southern city limits, White Avenue to the east, the alley north of First Street to the north and E Street to the west.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Got Data?



Great news for AT&T customers! The Planning Commission recently approved AT&T's proposal to add a new wireless communications facility at the University of La Verne's parking structure. After extensive research by AT&T, they determined that this location would best fill the gap in coverage for the surrounding areas. The new facility will be providing La Verne residents and businesses better phone connectivity and internet connection speeds which will be a great benefit to those who are currently lacking service.

A Safe Place for Teens

With the detrimental effects that COVID-19 has had on La Verne teens' social, physical, and mental wellbeing, teens have been in need of a dedicated space where they can socialize safely for years to come. Fortunately, Development Review Committee was able to approve the Community Service Department's proposal for a Teen Center at Las Flores Park.



After several community meetings where residents provided input, the Teen Center design was adjusted in order to preserve the Evelyn Hollinger Memorial Redwood Grove that is also located at Las Flores Park. This new Teen Center will feature a basketball court, barbecue area, and center which will feature various recreational activities for teens. The Teen Center could begin construction within 12-16 months, depending on the potential grant funding received for the project, so keep a lookout for its completion!

Design Award-Residential Design

The Pieroth House has been honored as one of the 2021 La Verne Community Design Award recipients (LVCD). The award honors outstanding projects within the City that were completed over the last two years. The project was nominated and ultimately awarded in the category of Residential Design. The home is owned by longtime La Verne residents Paul and Jessica Pieroth who first proposed the project back in 2017.

Several protected oak trees on the undeveloped lot presented a unique challenge to the Pieroths, their architect and landscape architect. Working together they designed a home that not only protected the oak trees but also made them a focal point of the property. The single-story, farmhouse-inspired home was custom-built to meet the needs of their family that include a swimming pool, spa and sports court. The project was completed in June 2020. Congratulations!



COMMUNITY SERVICES

Blood Drive Update



May 17th will be the next donation event at the Community Center. If you are interested in donating blood see the Red Cross website at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter sponsor code lvcc to schedule—no walk-in donations are permitted.

AARP Tax Preparation Program-through May 12th

This year, the AARP Tax Preparation Program has been modified to ensure the safety of our volunteer tax preparers and those interested in getting their taxes done. The Community Services Department has established a pick-up/drop-off system just outside of the La Verne Community Center. In order to sign up for this program, those interested must have a cell phone and wear a mask when briefly interacting outside with the tax preparers. The tax preparers will complete taxes inside the Center, while individuals in the program will wait outside or in their cars.

The program is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will run through May 12th. For more information on this safe and free program, please contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



New Roles!

With the recent retirement of Bill Aguirre, the City Council approved a reorganization of the Community Services Department which included adding a Community Services Manager and Community Services Supervisor position. After completing the recruitment processes, Yvonne Duran was promoted to the Community Services Manager.

Yvonne's promotion comes after being with the City for 8 years overseeing the Community Center operations and coming out on top of nearly 130 applicants. She has been successful in bringing new programs to residents both young and old as well as being especially creative during the last year providing alternative programs meeting COVID-19 restrictions. Yvonne was key in securing grant funding for improvements for Vet's Hall and for the new Inclusion Playground at Las Flores Park. We look forward to her continuing to expand her role as she will now oversee all aspects of the City's Community Services operations.

Associated to Yvonne's promotion, Chad will now become the Community Services Supervisor. A lifelong resident of the City, Chad has also been a La Verne employee for over 24 years, most recently overseeing a number of the City's recreation programs including aquatics, sports (both youth & adult), Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park, Memorial/Veterans Day, and the City's 4th of July festivities.

Congratulations Yvonne and Chad on your accomplishments and contributions to the City of La Verne!

Register for T-Ball

Have you signed your child up for T-Ball yet? Children aged 4, 5 or 6 can join in on the fun! Registration ends May 13th or until slots fill up! To register online [click here](#) or come into the Community Services office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 1 PM or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 5 PM. For more information, please call 909-596-8700.

Community Center Vaccine Clinic



The Community Services Department, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health and Remedial Care, hosted a successful vaccination clinic on Friday, April 16th. There were 180 Pfizer vaccinations administered to people ages 16+ at the Community Center. Second dose vaccinations are scheduled for Friday, May 7th at the Center.

PUBLIC SAFETY

International Firefighters' Day

May 4th is International Firefighters' Day. This is the day when we invite you to remember the past firefighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all.



COVID-19 Vaccine Update

With the COVID vaccine being widely disseminated, there are a few key things you should know.

- COVID-19 vaccines are [safe and effective](#).
- You may have [side effects](#) after vaccination, but these are normal.
- It typically takes two weeks after you are fully vaccinated for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- People [who have been fully vaccinated](#) can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

Vaccine Comparison

Pfizer vs Moderna

Key difference and similarities between the two COVID-19 vaccines

12/21/2020



PFIZER	MODERNA
mRNA	mRNA
2 doses, 21 days apart	2 doses, 28 days apart
Requires ultra-cold storage	Requires routine cold storage
\$19.50 per dose	\$27-37 per dose
95% effective	94.1% effective
Approved for individuals 16 years of age or older	Approved for individuals 18 years of age or older

<https://nurse.org/articles/pfizer-vs-moderna-covid-19-vaccines/>

What is still be learned about the vaccine:

- We are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to others, even if you do not have symptoms.
- We're also still learning how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people.
- We are still learning how many people have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before most people can be considered protected (population immunity).
- We are still learning how effective the vaccines are against new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

If you are fully Vaccinated

You can....

- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness
- Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test
- Travel domestically without quarantining after travel
- Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination
- Travel internationally without quarantining after travel

You should avoid...

- Visiting indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Attending medium or large gatherings

PUBLIC WORKS



Welcome, Shawn!

Shawn Igoe began his role as La Verne's next Director of Public Works on April 19th. He comes to La Verne from the city of Manhattan Beach where he most recently held the position of Maintenance Division Manager.

Shawn has nearly 20 years of experience in local government and has managed varied and complex assignments including experience working on the original Gold Line extension through Monrovia as well as the completion of a \$32 million water reservoir project with associated facilities in Manhattan Beach.

Some of the areas Shawn has overseen during his career include managing public works field operations consisting of streets, urban forestry, facilities, fleet, and utilities. Additionally, he has an extensive educational background with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration as well as Water Use Efficiency Practitioner, Distribution Grade 4, and Treatment Grade 3 water certifications. Prior to working for the City of Manhattan Beach, Shawn spent 13 years with the City of Monrovia where he served in various capacities under the utilities division.

Welcome Shawn to the City of La Verne!

Notice of Public Hearing – Increase in Refuse Rates

A Public Hearing to Consider Changes to Rates for Refuse Services will be held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM via livestream at CityofLaVerne.org/livestream.

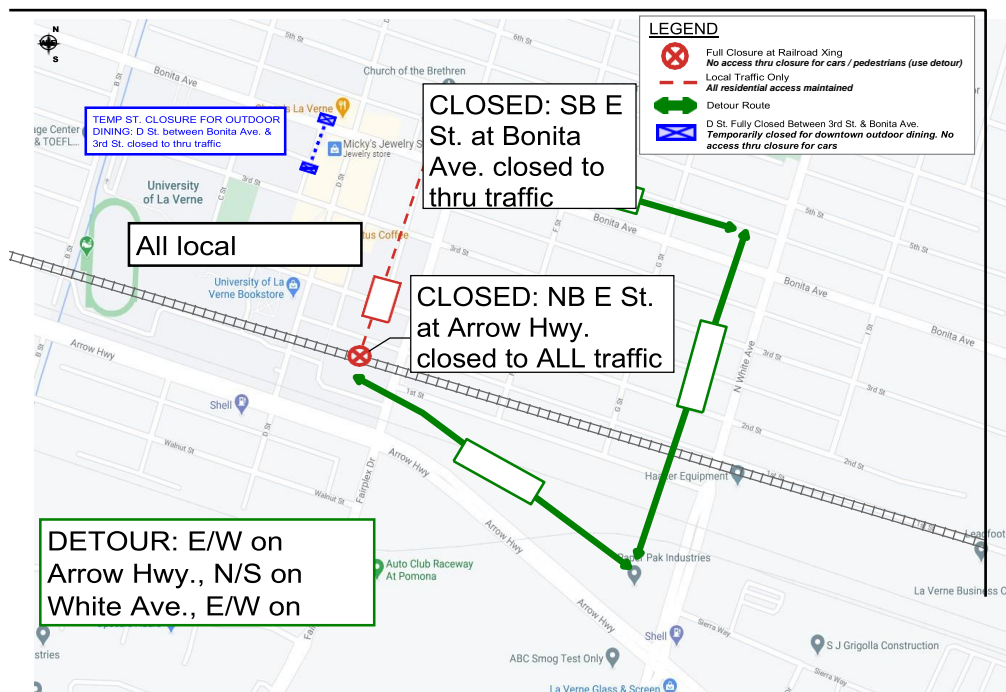
An annual increase has been proposed to the monthly service charges associated with providing refuse, recycling and green waste/organics service by Waste Management to customers located in the City of La Verne. The proposed rate increases are calculated based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for

Garbage and Trash Collections US City Average. A provision for annual increases was included in the franchise agreement effective July 15, 2019 between the City of La Verne and Waste Management approved by the City Council. To view the complete posting notice [click here](#)

Gold Line Update

Crews recently began fully rebuilding the railroad crossing on E Street north of Arrow Highway, as part of the 9.1-mile Foothill Gold Line light rail project. This work requires a full closure of E Street at the railroad crossing for approximately 4 months which includes underground utility protections and relocations performed by Walnut Valley Water District and Puente Basin Water Agency. Crews plan to work daily from 7:00 AM - 12:00 AM. Overnight work and Sunday shifts may also be required.

This work began on April 12th and will continue daily through August 2nd. E Street will be fully closed to all traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) at the railroad crossing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Arrow Highway. (just south of the crossing) and Bonita Avenue (north of the crossing) will remain open and accessible by way of detour routes, see map below.



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>

Sidewalk Service

Holds pick up available at this location, Tuesday, 12-7:30 PM and Wednesday - Saturday, 1-5:30 PM. Staff are available to answer questions via phone Tuesday, 12-8 PM and Wednesday - Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM.