



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2020



## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Happy Harvest to our residents and business owners!

Many local businesses will be participating in Small Business Saturday which is a great reason to start or wrap up your holiday shopping while supporting your hometown businesses. The annual tree lighting ceremony in front of City Hall will be a virtual ceremony this year, posted on the City website.

As a reminder, City Hall will be closed in honor of Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

For more information about the city, keep reading!

*Bob Russi, City Manager*

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## CALENDAR

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 PM**

City Council Meeting via Live Stream

*City Website at [cityoflaverne.org](http://cityoflaverne.org)*

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Veterans Day Observed

*City Hall, City Yard & Community Center Closed*

**November 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM**

City Council Meeting via Live Stream

*City Website at [cityoflaverne.org](http://cityoflaverne.org)*

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving Holiday

*City Hall, City Yard & Community Center closed.*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL

At the October meetings, the City Council:

- Heard a presentation from Tri-City Mental Health Center and Union Station Homeless Services regarding services provided to La Verne
- Determined 2109 White Avenue is not a significant historic building, allowing 90 days for salvage or relocation
- Authorized the De Novo Group to complete the City's Housing Element Update
- Approved and placed on first reading an ordinance to regulate items permissible at public protests and assemblies

## COUNCIL ACTION

### Fire Department

Council took a significant action related to our fire department at the Council meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. By a vote of 4-1 they authorized the start of negotiations with Los Angeles County Fire District to contract for fire and emergency medical services to the County. While this is not the final step, and any agreement will need to be brought back to Council for final approval, which is expected to occur in the Spring of 2021.

In addition to negotiating the terms of that engagement, over the next several months the County will conduct a detailed analysis of our fire related apparatus and facilities to better understand the costs needed to implement such a conversion. The full timeframe for such a move is expected to be 12-16 months. During that time we will continue to provide the same high level of service and response to the community without interruption.

## CHAMBER EVENT

### Scavenger Hunt

This year your La Verne Chamber of Commerce is rallying the neighborhood to Shop Small by inviting the community to join us for a scavenger hunt for Small Business Saturday. From Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> through Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup>, La Vernians will have a chance to test their knowledge of their neighborhood, enjoy shopping at fun and unique stores and restaurants, and have a chance to win some great prizes!

Also in time for the holiday shopping season, the La Verne Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Yiftee, is proud to announce the new Shop La Verne E-Card, a digital gift card that makes it fun and easy to keep local spending local. With the Shop La Verne E-Card, you can support your favorite local business during the holiday season and beyond. Recipients can choose to spend it at one of a growing number participating merchants in La Verne, or mix it up and spend flexibly at multiple locations. Egifts are virtual, contactless, keep local dollars local, and can be purchased from the safety of your home on the Chamber's website, or at participating retailers, and at our local Staples store.

When you SHOP LA VERNE, the bulk of the money you spend and most of your taxes stay local — helping schools, paving streets, and keeping you safe. For more details and a list of participating retailers and Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt Map, go to [LaVerneChamber.org](http://LaVerneChamber.org).

# BONITA UNIFIED

## Bonita 5K Challenge

Wellness starts with We! Run, Walk or Ride all 5 loops of the Bonita 5K Challenge between November 8-28<sup>th</sup>! Come out and support the students and staff of BUSD. All proceeds support students' success. For questions email: [wellness4BUSD@gmail.com](mailto:wellness4BUSD@gmail.com). Click here for additional info: [Bonita 5K](#), [Registration form](#)

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Virtual Bingo

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, the La Verne Community Center hosts Virtual Bingo. The fun begins at 9:30 AM and typically games end around 11:30 PM. The game is free and open for any senior to play. If you know of someone interested, our November bingo games fall on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, you can call Brandon Granillo at 909-596-8700.



### Preschool-on-the-Go



Take part in our new Preschool On-The-Go program! The City of La Verne now offers our Preschool program in a to-go package! This monthly package will include: worksheets, crafts, one 30 minute Zoom call to sing and read, and activities that introduce kids to numbers, colors, shapes, and the alphabet.

This month's package will also include materials to create a holiday ornament that will be displayed at City Hall! All materials will be included for just \$30! Register online at [www.cityoflaverne.org/recguide](http://www.cityoflaverne.org/recguide). La Verne residents will have items delivered to their door, and non-residents must pick up their items at City Hall. For more information, call the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



### Curbside Senior Lunch Program

Thursdays at the La Verne Community Center from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, our "Curbside Senior Lunch Program" takes place. Each week's menu is a different variety of frozen meals, boxed lunches, fruits, bread, and milk. If you know a La Verne resident who is 60 years or older and would like more information, please call Brandon Granillo at 909-596-8700.

### Veterans Day Ceremonies

The VFW Post 12034 and the City of La Verne regret to announce the 2020 in-person Veterans Day Ceremonies have been cancelled. This is due to the ongoing concerns related to COVID -19 and physical distancing. While this decision was not an easy one, the safety of our staff, volunteers, and community is our top priority. Look for the virtual ceremony on our website.

### Successful Drive-Thru Trick-or-Treat Event

On Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Community Services Department hosted their first ever Candy Cruise! The event was successful with over 120 pre-registered cars (300 participants) driving through the City Hall parking lot collecting treats from the Fire and Police Departments, La Verne Preschool, Community Center, and City Council members. Stay tuned for another fun event coming in December!

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Housing Element Update

At their October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council authorized the execution of a contract amendment with De Novo Planning Group, who are currently contracted to complete the update to the City's General Plan, to complete work on the City's Housing Element Update. A required part of the City's General Plan, the Housing Element is updated every eight years to ensure the City has made adequate planning efforts to address the housing needs of everyone in the community.



Staff recently held a kick-off meeting with De Novo staff, and will be moving forward with a virtual community workshop and stakeholder interviews in the coming months in order to engage the community in the Housing Element Update process and gather feedback on specific housing priorities. The Housing Element Update is anticipated to be finalized by October 2021, and community members can stay up to date on the Housing Element Update process by visiting the City's General Plan Update website at [LaVerne.GeneralPlan.org](http://LaVerne.GeneralPlan.org), or by checking the City's social media accounts.

## Update to City's Homelessness Programming



The City has made great strides over the past two years in implementing the strategic goals and action items of the City's adopted "Plan to Prevent and Reduce Homelessness." Much of the progress is due in large part to the work of Tri-City Mental Health Center and Union Station Homeless Services, service providers that the City has been able to contract with for homelessness services as a result of grant funding.

Tri-City Mental Health Center and Union Station Homeless Services both have Navigators that work collaboratively to outreach to and provide services to La Verne residents experiencing, or on the cusp of experiencing, homelessness. Collectively, the Tri-City and Union Station Navigators provide residents with case management, resources, and support, in addition to access to shelter beds, motel vouchers, housing assistance, and prevention funds that can be utilized for rental, move-in, or utility assistance.

The Union Station Homeless Services Navigators outreach in La Verne weekly and split their time between La Verne, Glendora, and San Dimas. A Tri-City Mental Health Center Navigator is located at City Hall in the Community Services Department from Monday to Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, with on-call services available after-hours and on weekends. A forthcoming homeless resources page on the City website will provide additional information on their services and their contact info. Community members can also contact the Community Development Department and Community Services Department for information, or to be connected to the services of Tri-City and Union Station.

# PUBLIC SAFETY



## Thanksgiving Holiday Fire Safety

Thanksgiving Day is quickly approaching, and while giving thanks, spending time with family, and enjoying delicious meals, there are some very important fire safety tips to remember. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three times the average number of home structure fires caused by cooking equipment occurs on Thanksgiving Day. The popularity of using turkey fryers has continued to increase, which has

resulted in an average of 1,000 fires and over \$15 million in damages each year (NFPA). If you choose to use a turkey fryer, please follow the tips below from the UL brand turkey fryer manufacturers to ensure a safe and tasty holiday for your family.

- When frying your turkey, be sure to cook/fry outdoors on a flat surface away from structures or trees, not in the garage, on the patio, or on a wood deck.
- Do not overfill cooker-oil splatter or overflow could ignite.
- In case of a flare up, do not use water to try to extinguish an oil fire. Have an approved grease fire extinguisher on hand.
- Only thawed turkey should be used in the fryer; do not try to cook frozen turkey—ice and hot oil do not mix!
- When lowering the turkey into the hot fryer, shut off the flame first in case there is any overflow.
- Never leave a frying turkey or a fryer unattended, and instruct children to keep their distance from it.

If you are sticking with the more traditional methods of cooking your Thanksgiving meal inside, make sure that all of your smoke detectors are working properly, just in case. Do not leave items cooking on the stove unattended, and once again, instruct children to stay out of the kitchen away from hot cooking appliances. In case of a cooking fire, call 9-1-1 immediately. La Verne Fire Department wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving holiday!



### **No-Shave November**

This November you may see some of our male officers sporting moustaches, beards, or goatees. The La Verne Police Department is once again joining the “No-Shave November” movement in an effort to raise awareness in the community about men’s health issues while raising money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

When it comes to their health, too many men don’t talk and don’t take action, the consequences of which are too often deadly. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men in the United States. When detected early, prostate cancer survival rates are better than 98%, late detection rates however drop to below 26%. The risk of developing prostate cancer increases with age, but those with a family history of the disease are 2.5 times more likely to develop it. Men age 50 and over (45 if there is a family history) should talk to their doctors to see if testing is right for them.

If you would like more information please visit <https://www.pcf.org/>. If you would like to make a donation please contact Community Services Officer Hollie Savage, 909-596-1913 or [hsavage@lvpd.org](mailto:hsavage@lvpd.org).

## **PUBLIC WORKS**



### **Here Comes The Rain!**

With the rainy season upon us, it’s important for us to understand the quirks of this time. Water pollution now has the potential to escalate.

*What is storm water pollution and how is it created?* Storm water pollution is a major environmental issue in California that causes unhealthy water quality in lakes, creeks, rivers, oceans, on beaches, and when areas flood during heavy rain. It’s created when pesticides, trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, motor oil, and other contaminants left on the ground wash directly into local waterways. The polluted water eventually mixes with more rainwater and pollutants and ends up being washed into creeks, rivers, and the ocean. Contaminated waterways are dangerous to the health of wildlife, sea life, and people.

*What can we do to prevent storm water pollution?*

- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Consider using nontoxic or less toxic products. Drought tolerant gardens containing native California plants will also help reduce or eliminate chemical use.
- Adjust sprinklers and shut them off before, during, and after rain to help reduce runoff.
- Throw waste (cigarettes and pet waste included) in an appropriate trash or recycling bin.
- Recycle used motor oil. NEVER dump it onto the ground or in the drain. The City of La Verne offers free drain pans and accompanying supplies to get used oil to the three certified collection centers: Auto Zone (1410 Foothill Blvd.), Quickies Oil Change (914 Foothill Blvd.), and Sunland Tire (2019 Bonita Ave).
- Bring hazardous waste (paint, motor vehicle chemicals, cleaning products, pesticides and herbicides, batteries, pool chemicals, electronics, sharps, light bulbs, and mercury thermometers) to a hazardous waste collection event.

Reduce, reuse, recycle! By practicing these steps, we can reduce the waste that will end up in our waterways and water supplies.

**Fruit Street Median Project**

The second phase of the construction and landscape of medians on Fruit Street from Foothill Boulevard to Baseline Road started on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and traffic lanes have been reduced to one lane in each direction. This is necessary to provide a safe and adequate work zone for construction workers and to allow heavy equipment to maneuver without creating a hazard to the public. Completion of this project is scheduled for December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**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/>.

