



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2020



## CALENDAR

**October 5 – 6:30 PM**

City Council Meeting via Live Stream

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

**October 19 – 6:30 PM**

City Council Meeting via Live Stream

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

**October 30 – 6:30 PM**

Drive-In Movie "Coco"

*Fairplex Gate 17 – Gates open at 5:30 pm movie starts at 7:30 pm.*

## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

This fall, La Verne has adapted some of our favorite traditions for the new COVID era. The Heritage Park pumpkin patch has become a Harvest Farmers Market, the Halloween parade is now a virtual costume contest, and the Food & Wine Festival has become a Restaurant Week – all so La Verne residents can keep safe and still enjoy the City's autumn highlights.

Based on guidance from LA County Public Health, La Verne playgrounds and the skate park will be able to reopen next week! When enjoying the playgrounds and the skate park, please follow the guidelines. The full guidelines can be reviewed here: <https://bitly.co/3mVT>

For more information about these events and other information about the City, keep reading!

*Bob Russi, City Manager*

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL

At the September meetings, the City Council:

- Proclaimed September 7-13 as National Patriotism Week
- Approved an extension of partial salary during military deployment to an employee called to active duty
- Reaffirmed the ongoing need for the local emergency declared by Resolution 20-17
- Observed a moment of silence for a firefighter who died battling the El Dorado fire
- Adjourned in memory of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, US Supreme Court Justice

## CHAMBER EVENT

### Chamber Restaurant Week



The La Verne Chamber of Commerce will host “A Taste of La Verne Restaurant Week” to showcase La Verne as a premier dining destination offering diners a wide variety of culinary experiences Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Corner Butcher Shop is the event’s title sponsor.

The goal of Taste of La Verne Restaurant Week is to help local restaurants gain exposure through extensive media promotion and to attract new patrons by experiencing their food. A list of the participating restaurants will be available closer to the event dates on the Chamber’s website at [www.lavernechamber.org](http://www.lavernechamber.org).

## ELECTION



### Election Information

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>! All California registered voters will be mailed a ballot no later than 29 days prior to Election Day, and early voting and in-person voting locations will also be available to voters. Information about voting locations will be available in October, and early voting locations will be open October 5<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Voters who prefer not to vote in person and do not wish to mail in their ballot may place their ballot in an official ballot drop box. The LA County registrar has designated two official ballot drop box locations in La Verne-one at Oak Mesa Park and the other has been installed on the sidewalk between the Community Center and the La Verne library.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES



### Halloween Coloring Contest

The Halloween Coloring Contest has begun! The coloring contest is limited to children 3 to 12 years of age. The coloring sheet was made available online at [www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org) or can be collected at the Community Services Office. All entries must be submitted by Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm. Winners will be notified via email/phone call and can pick up their prizes at City Hall on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.



### Halloween Costume Contest

The City of La Verne invites you to enter our virtual "Halloween Costume Contest". To register, post a picture to Facebook or Instagram, use the hashtag #LAVERNECOSTUMECONTEST, and tell us in your post which category you'd like to enter. The four categories are "Pet Costume", "Tot Costume" (Ages 0-3), "Child Costume" (Ages 4+), and "Family/Group Costume". Last day to enter is October 27<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced and receive a prize on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Halloween Home Decorating Contest

The City of La Verne invites you to enter our virtual "Halloween Home Decorating Contest". To register, post a picture of your Halloween themed home to Facebook or Instagram, use the hashtag #LAVERNEHOMECONTEST, and tell us in your post which category you'd like to enter. Last day to enter is October 27<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced and receive a prize on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Special Needs Dance

On Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the City of La Verne will be hosting a "Halloween Hop Virtual Dance". The dance party for those with special needs will take place from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. This is a free online Zoom event! Registration has begun and will continue through Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. You will need to provide a valid email address upon registration. If you have any questions about this online event, please free to contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



### Drive-In Movie at the Fairplex: COCO



The City of La Verne will be hosting a Drive-In Movie at the Pomona Fairplex on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Come bring the family and join us for a screening of Disney-Pixar's "Coco"! The entrance is located at Gate 17 of the Pomona Fairplex and will open at approximately 5:30 pm with the movie starting at 7:00 pm. Registration and fees are to be announced. If you have questions regarding the event, don't hesitate to contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



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

Come take a cruise through the La Verne Community Center and City Hall parking lot on Halloween night, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>! Participants will remain in their vehicle and drive through the parking lot to receive treats from various booths. Pre-registration is required for this fun and FREE event! The event is tentatively set to take place from 5:00-8:00 pm cars will sign-up for time slots in 30 minute increments. Registration date is to be announced. If you have questions regarding the event, don't hesitate to contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.

### Heritage Harvest Farmers Market

Come celebrate the fall season! Visit the Farmer's Market to buy your pumpkins, jams, candy, and heritage attire. The Market will be open to the public 10:00 am-5:30 pm, Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Census Deadline

Time is running out to complete the 2020 Census! The deadline is currently October 31<sup>st</sup>, but may be appealed. If the appeal is successful, September 30<sup>th</sup> will be the last day to participate in and complete the census form. It is critically important that everyone in the community is counted in order to ensure the community receives the resources it needs. La Verne's response rate is currently around 78% so we still have a way to go. Please encourage everyone you know to take 10 minutes to complete the Census today! Visit <http://my2020census.gov/> to participate and find more information!



### Late Night Tacos!

The Planning Commission recently approved Taco Bell to be open late! If you are in the mood for some tacos in the middle of the night, you can now drive through Taco Bell on Wheeler and Foothill to fill your cravings because the drive through is open until 2:00 am!

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Pink Patch Project



We have kicked off our #PinkPatchProject for 2020! Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on gatherings we will only be selling patches this year. They are available Monday-Friday from 7:00 am-6:00 pm at the Police Department Lobby. If you have any questions please contact Community Services Officer, Hollie Savage 909-596-1913 or [hsavage@lvpd.org](mailto:hsavage@lvpd.org).



## **Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10)**

Four goals of fire protection: (a) prevent fire from starting, (b) prevent loss of life in case fire does start, (c) confine fire to its origin, and (d) extinguish fire.

What should you do in a fire? Stay Low! If you can see smoke in the house, stay low to the ground as you make your way to the exit. In a fire, smoke and poisonous air hurt more people than the actual flames do. You'll breathe less smoke if you stay close to the ground.

## **Preparing for Wildfires: Preventive Measures and Safety Tips**

Living along the foothills of the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains may bring breathtaking views and provide fun outdoor activities for the La Verne community, but living in this area is not without risk. This is especially true if your home borders a natural area, which firefighters refer to as Wildland Urban Interface. These areas are susceptible to wildfire events.

Wildfire has been a natural part of the ecosystem in Southern California for thousands of years. And while the month of October used to be our region's peak fire season, recent events have demonstrated that wildfires have become more frequent, intense and unpredictable. The reality is that the risk of a wildland fire is now a year-round threat to communities like La Verne, requiring vigilance on the part of both the fire service and residents alike.

Wildfires are often fueled by dry vegetation and high winds. The survivability of a home from wildfire depends on both its construction materials and quality of the "defensible space" surrounding it. Windblown embers from a wildfire often find the weak link in a home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked or seemingly inconsequential factor.

However, there are measures La Verne residents can take to safeguard their home from wildfire. While it may not always be feasible to accomplish or implement all of the measures listed below, each will increase your home's and possibly your family's safety and survival.

### **Address**

- Address markers should be clearly visible to first responders, day or night, from the road.

### **Home Site and Yard**

Residents should also ensure homes have at least a 100-foot radius of defensible space (managed vegetation) around their home. This includes looking beyond one's own property line to determine the impact a common slope or neighbor's yard may have on your property during a wildfire. Your entire property should be maintained and kept free of combustible materials and fire hazards, which can be accomplished by:

- Cutting dry weeds and long grass, preferably before noon when temperatures are cooler to reduce the chances of sparking a fire.
- Ensuring trees and branches are at least four (4) feet away from power lines.
- Landscaping with fire-resistant plants that are low-growing with high-moisture content.
- Properly disposing of all bagged and cut materials, or chip and spread all materials to no higher than three (3) inches in height.
- Keeping woodpiles, propane tanks and combustible materials away from your home and other structures, such as garages, barns and sheds.

## **Driveways and Access Roads**

- Driveways should be designed to allow fire and emergency vehicles and equipment to reach your home.
- Access roads should have a minimum 10-foot clearance on either side of the traveled section of the roadway and should allow for two-way traffic.
- Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment.
- Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to a minimum of 13½ feet to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

## **Chimney**

- Cover chimney outlets with a nonflammable screen of ¼-inch wire mesh or smaller to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.
- Make sure that your chimney is at least 10 feet away from any tree branches.

## **Roof**

The roof is the most vulnerable part of a home because it can easily catch fire from windblown embers. Please note that homes with wood shake or shingle roofs are at a higher risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. With this in mind, please consider:

- Building your roof or re-roofing with fire-resistant materials that include composition, metal or tile.
- Blocking any spaces between roof decking and patio covering to prevent ember intrusion.
- Cutting any tree branches within 10 feet of your roof and home.

## **Vents**

Vents on homes are particularly vulnerable to flying embers, therefore:

- All vent openings should be covered with 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn.
- Attic vents in eaves or cornices should be baffled to prevent ember intrusion (mesh is not enough).

## **Rain Gutters**

- Clear pine needles, leaves and other debris from your roof and gutters.
- Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

## **Deck/Patio Cover**

- Use heavy timber or non-flammable construction material for decks and patio covers.
- Enclose the underside of balconies and decks with fire-resistant materials to prevent embers from igniting items underneath.
- Keep your deck clear of combustible items, such as baskets, dried flower arrangements, and other debris.
- Make sure any decking surface is ignition-resistant if it's within 10 feet of the home.

## **Non-Combustible Boxed-In (Soffit) Eaves**

- Box-in eaves with non-combustible materials to prevent accumulation of embers.

## **Non-Combustible Fencing**

- Make sure to use non-combustible fencing to protect your home during a wildfire.

## **Garage**

- Have a fire extinguisher and tools, such as a shovel, rake, bucket and hoe, available for fire emergencies.
- Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage.
- Install weather stripping around and under the doors to prevent ember intrusion.
- Store all combustibles and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

## Inside

- Keep fire extinguishers in working condition on hand and train your family members how to use them
- Check fire extinguisher expiration dates regularly and replace as needed.
- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and near bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

Additional tips and information, including how to prepare a *Ready Set Go* plan, can be found on the La Verne Fire Department's [website](#) or by reviewing this [Wildland Fire Action Guide](#).

While residents do their part to help mitigate wildfire risk, the City/La Verne Fire Department and County also remain proactive and vigilant. In La Verne, abatement of hazardous vegetation (e.g. weeds and brush) is a joint enforcement and clearance effort between the Fire Department and the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) Weed Hazard Bureau. The County is responsible for weed hazard inspection and enforcement on all open parcels within the City and typically begins a systematic inspection of these areas each year in April, followed by clearance operations.

The City's Municipal Code and State law require regular maintenance and clearing of weeds, grass, vines and other growth to assist in the creation of defensible space around homes and other structures. Fuel modification zones are either maintained by the City as part of a landscape maintenance district or are the responsibility of a development's Homeowner's Association. The Fire Department also conducts regular inspections of high hazard locations, such as Sierra La Verne, and works with property owners to improve wildland fire safety. In the event that the property owner does not clear their property as required by law, the parcel is placed on the weed hazard declaration list. Once a property is placed on this list, the property can be cleared by the County with the cost being assessed on the property tax bill.

These ongoing cooperative efforts between residents, the City, Fire Department and County have provided defensible space for firefighters, saved many homes from fires and prevented numerous fires from starting in the first place. We encourage everyone to keep up the good work.

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



The entire month of October is dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness. During this month, we increase attention and support for the awareness, early detection, and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease. The La Verne Fire Department supports "Pink" month by proudly wearing "Fight Strong" shirts and hats. To buy "Fight Strong" gear in support of Breast Cancer awareness, contact LVFA at 909-596-5991.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Household Hazardous Waste Event

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in La Verne on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at LA County Fairplex, Gate 15, Arrow Hwy, in La Verne. All LA County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to this event, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in LA County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.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/>.

