



CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2021

MARCH

CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We continue to see County Health lessening restrictions to in-person schooling, youth sports, and park amenities to name a few. The La Verne community has been reported to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the County. We are hopeful that as we continue to see vaccinations increase we will be able to return to normal activities.

Let's continue to do our part so that we can keep our businesses open and infection transmissions down by practicing social distancing and masking.

I hope this newsletter is helpful in keeping you up to date with City news, activities and programs.

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

March 1 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

March 15 – All Day

Red Cross Blood Drive
Community Center-Appointments required.

March 15 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting via Live Stream
City Website at cityoflaverne.org

March 23 – 6:30 PM

Youth & Family Action Committee
Meeting via the City's YouTube
channel at
www.cityoflaverne.org/stream.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

February meetings:

- Approved the relocation of the home and bungalow at 2109 White Avenue to 2321 First Street
- Reaffirmed the ongoing need for the local emergency initially declared on March 16, 2020
- Authorized a contract with Miracle Recreation Equipment for the purchase and installation of inclusive playground equipment at Las Flores Park
- Decided that should Council approve the LA County Fire service contract, La Verne voters will vote whether to ratify the contract on the 2022 ballot
- Adjourned in memory of Richard Davis, longtime La Verne resident and La Verne Public Works retiree

FINANCE

Positive News on the City Finances

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the La Verne City Council received positive news in February regarding the City's [sales tax revenues](#) and its [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\)](#). "It takes a village to make things work, and we definitely have a great village here at the City of La Verne - from our various department staff and all the way up," said La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn. "It's because of their decisions and actions that our City, unlike many others, has been able to show such financial resilience and maintain a 'clean bill of health' during these challenging financial times."

RECENT COVID CHANGES

Youth Sports Allowed

The Los Angeles County released updated protocols for youth sports that allows for practices, scrimmages, and games. However, the City still has to approve use of any field before a team can utilize it. Mask wearing and social distancing is encouraged for the players to the extent possible during practice and games. Coaches and spectators are still required to wear a mask and social distance at all times. All the City's youth organizations have been informed of the new protocols and all (Little League, AYSO, LVGSA, LV Lasers) are looking to start registration for a more traditional season in the coming weeks. Basketball hoops have also been put back up at City parks.

Continuing Vaccinations

The Fairplex continues to partner with the County of Los Angeles to serve as a COVID-19 vaccine location. Vaccines are given by appointment only. Please visit the County Department of Public Health's website for more information and to make an appointment: www.vaccinatelacounty.com. **You cannot make an appointment through Fairplex.** All vaccine appointments need to enter through Gate 15. More information can be found at the [COVID Info page](#). *All events are subject to change, so please continue checking the Fairplex website for additional updates.*

GOLD LINE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES



Foothill Gold Line

KIEWIT-PARSONS, A JV

-Glendora to Pomona-

NOTICE: Nighttime Full Street Closure

**NIGHTTIME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING ON SAN DIMAS CANYON RD. (CITIES OF SAN DIMAS & LA VERNE)
MARCH 5 - MARCH 6, 2021 (14 HOUR FULL CLOSURE)**

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

As part of the Foothill Gold Line project's maintenance obligations, crews will remove the broken and loose rubberized track crossing panels at San Dimas Canyon Rd., just north of Arrow Hwy., and replace the driving surface with asphalt pavement. Tracks will remain in place when the operation is complete. To perform this work, San Dimas Canyon Rd. will be fully closed between Palomares Ave. and Arrow Hwy. in the cities of San Dimas and La Verne overnight for one night only.

WHEN

Friday, March 5th (for approximately 14 hours) reopening to thru traffic Saturday, March 6th, 2021, 7:00 PM - 9:00 AM.

WHERE

- Construction activities will take place at the railroad crossing on San Dimas Canyon Rd. between Palomares Ave. and Arrow Hwy.
- The red area in the map shows the work zones. The green arrows show the detour route.

TRAFFIC ADVISORIES

- San Dimas Canyon Rd. will be fully closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the railroad crossing for approximately 14 hours.
- San Dimas Canyon Rd., north of Palomares Ave., will remain open and accessible.
- Access to on San Dimas Canyon Rd. within the closure area north and south of the railroad crossing will be maintained at all times.

PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND BE PREPARED

- A detour route (see map below) will be in place during the closure and signage will be posted to direct motorists and pedestrians. Please follow detour signs.
 - ✓ San Dimas Canyon Rd. will be fully closed to all traffic at the railroad crossing between Palomares Ave. and Arrow Hwy.
 - ✓ Wheeler Ave. (northbound and southbound) will serve as the main detour route, see details below.
 - ✓ Bonita Ave. (eastbound and westbound) will remain open to all traffic.
 - ✓ Arrow Hwy. (eastbound and westbound) will remain open to all traffic.

NOTE TO RESIDENTS /

BUSINESS OWNERS

- Noise from construction equipment will be produced near the active work zones.
- Foothill Transit routes may be temporarily relocated, for more information:
 - Foothill Transit Bus: (800) RIDE-INFO/ (800) 743-3463 or foothilltransit.org
 - Metro Bus: (323) GO-METRO/ (323) 466-3876 or www.metro.net

STAY SAFE

Please obey all posted construction signs and do not enter the construction work zone.

Para información en español por favor llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a (626) 513-5788.



QUESTIONS?

Project Construction Questions Hotline: (626) 513-5788 Email: CommunityRelations@Kiewit-Parsons.com
General Project Questions: (626) 471-9050 Email: PublicAffairs@Foothillgoldline.org

Stay ahead of construction, sign up for alerts: www.foothillgoldline.org

*Construction schedules are subject to change for various reasons, including, but not limited to, weather conditions and unforeseen delays.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bienvenido a Mi Cocina

Have you been feeling like trying out some new Mexican food? Well, look no further because Mi Cocina is opening soon down on D Street! Mi Cocina serves a variety of classic Mexican cuisine along with margaritas and other alcoholic drinks. Mi Cocina also has another location in Highland, California that offers a hacienda-style setting with a patio and regular music. Keep a lookout for Mi Cocina at 2232 D Street St. #101 when it opens up soon!

It's Kebab Time!

La Verne is fortunate enough to have another delicious restaurant coming to town! Kebab G, a new Mediterranean restaurant, will be coming to La Verne soon at 2855 Foothill Blvd. # B102. Kebab G will offer various Mediterranean meals such as kebabs, falafels, shawarmas, and more! Check out Kebab G when it opens up in the coming months!

Design Awards

The following project was recognized with a 2021 La Verne Community Design Award (LVDA) in the category of Historic Preservation & Adaptive Reuse, Institutional, and Public Art - The Ludwick Center at the University of La Verne. This Center was the second major project that the University of La Verne completed after its master plan was approved in 2017. It involved the repurposing of the well-known existing Brandt Hall residence and also included public art features, such as an intricately patterned bronze metal screen on its stairway.



Seven local projects were selected to receive Community Design Awards. The projects were awarded in the categories of Historic Preservation & Adaptive Reuse, Institutional, Public Art, Residential and Interior Design.

After soliciting nominations from the City Council, Planning Commission, and City staff, seven worthy projects completed within the previous two years (2019-2020) were ultimately selected to receive an award. In order to qualify, the project had to meet the conceptual criteria within its nominated category. Criteria for each category ranged from functionality to use of materials to creativity, as well as design and architectural compatibility with its neighborhood and cultural relevance.

In the City's General Plan, which prescribes policies for future land use and development, La Verne specifies a Community Design Element with the purpose of protecting the City's small-town charm, promoting sustainability, and improving architectural quality.

“We understand the considerable labor and effort that go into planning these extensive design and development projects,” said La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn. “We are pleased that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to continue this biennial tradition of recognizing our community’s excellence in design.”

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Spring Coloring Contest

The Spring Coloring Contest is fast approaching! Starting March 1st, the coloring sheet will be available at the Community Services Office at City Hall during designated operating hours or those interested can print the coloring sheet from home at <https://www.cityoflaverne.org/>. Final coloring sheet submissions will be due by Monday, March 29th. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in various age groups. For additional information on the contest, you can contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.



Sidewalk Coloring Contest



From March 1st to March 25th the Community Services Department will hold our annual Sidewalk Coloring Contest for children 1 to 12 years of age. This year, residents will be decorating a designated sidewalk square located at their own home or a portion of their driveway if need be. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in various age groups. For more information and registering your family for this free event, you can contact the Community Services Department at 909-596-8700.

Las Flores Inclusion Playground

This month, the La Verne City Council approved the installation of inclusion playground equipment at Las Flores Park. Once installed, residents of all abilities and accessibilities will be able to enjoy and play at the new playground!

Red Cross Blood Drives

The American Red Cross reports a critical need for blood and urges you to “be a hero” and donate, especially if you have recovered from COVID-19. To support their mission, while the Community Center is unable to hold in-person classes and events, we are hosting a series of blood drives. Blood drives are open to the public, but walk-in donations are no longer permitted—all donors must have an appointment. To sign up, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and use code lvcc. Available dates are March 15th, April 5th, and May 3rd.



Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion

With rising divisiveness permeating many aspects of society and culture, residents of La Verne took it upon themselves to create a Committee on Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion (CASI), which was initially formed in 2019. The Committee aims to provide a space for La Verne residents to educate and connect with fellow community members. After learning about CASI and recognizing its potential positive impact, in August 2020 the La Verne City Council unanimously voted to participate in CASI and support its efforts to become more accessible to the La Verne community.

“Since the beginning of our partnership with the City of La Verne, we have benefitted from alternative points of view thanks to the participation of City Councilmembers Wendy Lau and Muir Davis, as well as City Manager Bob Russi and Police Chief Nick Paz,” said CASI Chair Gilbert Ivey. “We are also hoping that this growing relationship with the City may also lead to expanded interest and involvement in CASI activities and future programs.”

CASI is looking to start their “Join Us For Dinner” program in the next month to focus on building the relationships between La Verne residents through Zoom dinners. Residents will be encouraged to “leave politics at the door” and get to know their neighbors on a personal level. The dates of the dinners are forthcoming and will be posted on the Committee’s website and Facebook page.

“Through this committee, we’re really hoping to help the La Verne community build bridges across political divides,” said CASI Vice Chair, Julia Wheeler. “COVID has really challenged our committee to think outside the box on how to foster inclusion in a socially distanced society, but what better way to do that than over a community meal, even if it is virtual.”

The committee also hosts an internship program, where students are responsible for helping with the website and social media, and offers a community support form for residents to report cases of discrimination to help the committee gather local data and trends. Residents of all races, ages, religions and abilities are welcome to participate in and be involved with CASI. The committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Pawsitively Awesome

K9 Dino, a two-year-old Belgian Malinois, and his handler Detective Julian have completed the six week Handler Training School and started patrol on February 25th. Glad to have this team on the job in La Verne!



Coronavirus Update

As the COVID-19 virus continues to be a major threat within our communities, the La Verne Fire Department continues to closely monitor the effects of this virus on the community. With the vaccine slowly rolling out, we continue to encourage the community to follow the preventative actions from the LA County Public Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control to help keep you and your family safe and to prevent the spread of the virus.



Some FAQ regarding the COVID-19 vaccine:

1. **Why is vaccination important?** Vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent disease. Vaccines save millions of lives each year. When we get vaccinated, we aren't just protecting ourselves, but also those around us.
2. **How do vaccines work?** Vaccines work by preparing the body's immune system to recognize and fight off germs. They reduce your risk of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defenses to build protection. Once the vaccine has been received, the body can take between 7-14 days to begin building antibodies.
3. **Can you get COVID-19 from a vaccine?** No. After the mRNA teaches the cell to make the protein piece, the cell breaks it down and gets rid of it. mRNA does not enter the cell's nucleus and mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with our DNA (or genes) in any way.
4. **Can I stop wearing a face covering once I am vaccinated?** No! It is important to continue to take precautions like washing hands, wearing face coverings, and practicing physical distancing, even after you have had two doses of vaccine. This is because:
 - a. The vaccine is 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 illness. This is a really high level of protection for a vaccine, but it still means that 1 in 20 people who get the vaccine will not be protected.
 - b. We don't know how well the vaccine stops the actual virus from being spread. Getting the vaccine stops the disease from making you feel sick, but you might still be able to spread it to others.
 - c. It takes up to two weeks after the last dose to get the best protection. If you get COVID-19 after you have been vaccinated, you still need to isolate.

If you have been in close contact with someone with COVID, you need to quarantine even if you have been vaccinated. Stopping this pandemic is going to take all our tools. To find out more about the COVID-19 vaccine or to book an appointment, go to <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>.

PUBLIC WORKS/CONSERVATION

Hazardous Waste Event

Beginning Saturday, March 13, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts will resume their Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Program, with COVID-19 safety precautions in place. Attendees are asked to wear a face covering (even if vaccinated) and remain in their vehicles. Please visit the LA County Public Works Department website at cleanla.com for additional COVID-19 safety guidelines and future calendar dates.



There is a One-Day Collection Event on March 13th in Diamond Bar at 1300 Bridge Gate Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March Event

Visit the Octopus's Garden on Monday, March 8th at 7:00 pm with Dr. Ben Jenkins who will present a look into the emergence of Southern California, Railroads and the Citrus industry. In the nineteenth century railroads were referred to as "the Octopus", a negative reference to the reach of their tentacles into every corner of American life. In this presentation, Dr. Jenkins will focus on the connection between the citrus industry and railroads, clearly an important part of La Verne's early history.

Dr. Jenkins is Assistant Professor of History and Archivist at the University of La Verne. He teaches United States and California history and he directs the Public History Program. He received his Ph.D. in Public History at the University of California Riverside in 2016. For information on how to join the Zoom meeting. [Click here](#)

March Newsletter

The monthly newsletter is now available. [Click here](#)

LA VERNE BRANCH - LA COUNTY 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/>.

