



# CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2019



## CITY MANAGER'S MESSAGE

The City is in the midst of several significant efforts that will help to shape La Verne and its future. These efforts all are seeking input from the community and I would encourage residents to look here and on the City's website on how to stay updated and provide input. These efforts include the General Plan Update, review of Gold Line's new terminus locations, and the City's consideration of a tax measure in March of 2020.

I hope you enjoy the activities and development news that have been provided in this issue.

*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

### February 4 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

### February 8 – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Sweetheart Dance for People with  
Special Needs  
*Community Center*

### February 18

President's Day  
*City Hall, City Yard and  
Community Center closed*

### February 19 – 6:30 PM

City Council Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

### February 26 – 6:30 PM

Youth & Family Action Committee  
Meeting  
*City Hall Council Chambers*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled. At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the City Council:

- Presented certificates to the seven graduates of CERT class 0718
- Recognized 10-year-old State Wrestling Champion Hunter Jauregui
- Approved a part-time salary chart update for the January 1, 2019 minimum wage increase

## ADMINISTRATION

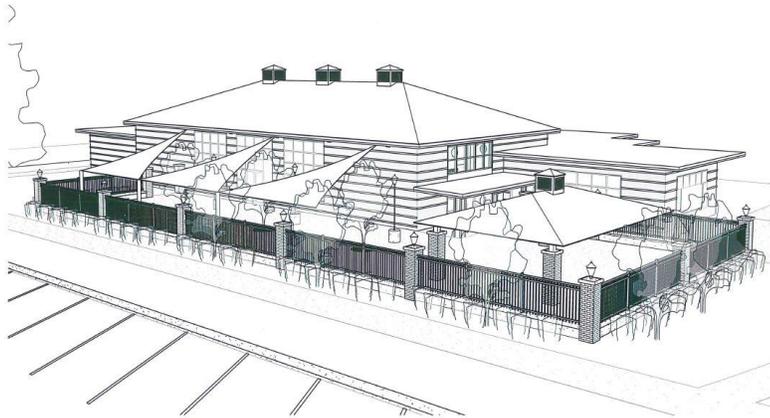
### Annual Property Tax Update

The City recently met with our property tax consultant, HdL Companies, for our annual property tax update. The City saw strong growth in assessed values of 8.9%. This was the third highest growth in the county behind the Cities of Industry and Inglewood. Some highlights from the meeting are as follows: Residential values account for 75.6% of all property values in the City and added \$179.8 (5.3%) million in value. Through September, there have been 171 full value single family home sales, down from 234 in the prior year. Lastly, the current median sales price for a home in La Verne increased to \$690,000, which is a \$50,000 (7.8%) increase from the prior year.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### ULV Begins Construction on Randall Lewis Center

Construction is slated to begin on February 4<sup>th</sup> for the University of La Verne's new Randall Lewis Center for Well-Being and Research. The new facility is taking over the former Davenport Dining Hall building and will provide a space for students and faculty to enhance both their physical and mental well-being.



In addition to offering gym equipment and spaces for group classes, such as yoga, the new Center will offer research space, including lab rooms for diagnostic testing. The renovations will primarily consist of interior work, but there will be some minor modifications and updates to the exterior of the building. Look for the new Center for Well-Being and Research at the southwest corner of C Street and Third Street later this year.

## New Building on Wheeler and Foothill

The City Council approved a new building at 1401 Foothill Boulevard. The applicant revised the original plans, which included a 3 tenant 5,700 square foot building, with a new 2,200 square foot single tenant building with a drive through. This gives the developer the option to build either plan depending on the ability to locate viable tenants. The location of the building is similar, just smaller in size and the drive through lane remains in the same location. There is also a patio/seating area to the east of the building at the entrance. Once the applicant can negotiate a lease for a tenant, demolition of the old building and new construction will begin!

## Target Remodel



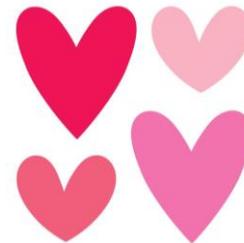
If you have driven past the Target parking lot you may have noticed there are several storage pods located adjacent to White Avenue. Do not fret! This is because Target is in the process of remodeling more than 1,000 stores across the United States, and our La Verne location is one of them!

Target will remain open during regular business hours and conduct their improvements during the night. The new design is expected to enhance the shopping experience.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Sweetheart Dance for People with Special Needs

The annual Sweetheart Dance for People with Special Needs will be held at the Community Center on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Participants can enjoy photo ops, a DJ, refreshments, and a chance to party with their peers. Tickets are available for \$5 presale at the Community Services Office or \$7 at the door. If you are interested in volunteering at this great event, please call Jorge or Brandon at (909) 596-8776.



### Homeless Count

The City of La Verne participated in the county-wide homeless count. The City had 17 volunteers that arrived at the Community Center at 6:30 PM to receive their instructions and all arrived back to the facility by 10:00 p.m. The City was separated into seven different areas, and the count was broken down into the following criteria: Individuals, families, cars, vans, campers, tents, and shelters. The findings are as follows, with a comparison to La Verne's previous findings:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Individuals	2	11
Families	0	0
Cars	1	1
Vans	1	1
Campers	1	0
Tents	0	1
Shelters	0	2

These counts are helpful for the city as we explore programs aimed at curbing homelessness from occurring locally.

## Your Sponsorship is Needed for 2019 La Verne Concerts in the Park!

The La Verne Heritage Foundation along with the City of La Verne is proud to announce their 2019 Summer Concerts in the Park series. We are currently scheduling bands for the upcoming summer. These concerts have been one of their most popular local events for over 25 years.

To continue offering quality music, sponsors have an opportunity to donate towards these concerts. If you are a business owner, family, or know of someone who would like to help in continuing to offer these free events to La Verne residents and surrounding communities, please contact Chad Peterson at the Community Services Office at (909) 596-8700 or by email at [cpeterson@cityoflaverne.org](mailto:cpeterson@cityoflaverne.org) with your interest. To ensure your business or family name will be included in any time-sensitive advertising, it is important to express your interest ASAP. Benefits include a tax write-off, listing of your business in all concert advertising venues to reflect your support of community events, and your business's exposure at all the concerts.

Support your community with this great event! It is a pleasurable time for families to enjoy quality music, beautiful Heritage Park, and "Music Under the Stars."

## PUBLIC WORKS/CONSERVATION

### Local Household Hazardous Waste Events



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 Diamond Bar on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at City Streets Gateway Corporate Center, 1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive, Diamond Bar from 9 AM till 3 PM. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to this event, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com)

### Adjust Your Sprinklers for Winter

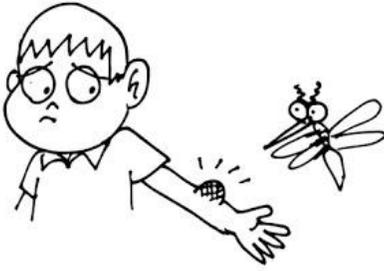
Winter brings colder and wetter weather that allows plants to better maintain moisture. La Verne residents should adjust sprinklers to water less during the season and continue our devotion to water conservation.



### Water, Mosquitoes, and Disease Prevention

Cold and flu season serves as a yearly reminder of how disease spreads. It takes just one disease carrier, the vector, to spread disease within places like work, school, and home. People aren't always the vectors for diseases though. Various insects (in Southern California these are most commonly mosquitoes) will also act as vectors for different types of diseases. It is important to control these vectors, especially in a place with high population density, like LA County where disease can spread easily and quickly.

Locally the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District works to prevent outbreaks of disease and works with other local vector control districts to keep the greater Los Angeles County area safer. Vector control districts employ several preemptive strategies to manage disease outbreaks and work closely with flood control districts to ensure water flows rather than pooling in populated areas.



If insects can't be controlled early in their life cycle as eggs or larvae, they are significantly harder to handle. La Verne residents will want to ensure that water is not left to stagnate on their property including places like pools, ponds, buckets, rain barrels, and even tarps with low points where water can collect and sit. Even a little water left for a short time can be a breeding ground once it's still, so remember to keep water moving, properly treat it, and report chronic standing water issues outside of your property to the vector control district.

Another good practice is to wash vehicles in areas where the water (and accompanying chemicals) will not runoff the property and potentially into the storm drain. These simple car washing tips allow residents to make a big difference in storm water quality.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Fire Annual Report

In 2018, LVFD responded to 3,491 calls for service:

- 2,593 of which were medical related, with 1,386 patients being transported to the hospital.
- 97 motor vehicle accidents
- 61 hazardous conditions
- 53 fire calls
- 27 fire assignments
- 660 other (good intent call, false alarm, public assist, etc.)



### National Burn Awareness Week

While thousands of scald burns occur annually, increased awareness of the dangers can prevent injuries. To help people be mindful of scald burns, the American Burn Association has declared the first week of February as National Burn Awareness Week.

Following a few simple precautions will help keep you and your little chef safe from potential burns:

- Cool a burn under cold running water for 10-15 minutes and call 911 for serious burns.
- Always supervise children in the kitchen and dining areas.
- Create a "No Child Zone" while preparing and serving hot foods and beverages.
- Don't carry or hold a child while cooking on the stove. Instead, place the child into a high chair or other safe area while cooking.
- Children love to reach, so to prevent hot food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from its edge. Also, keep hot foods away from the edge of your counters.
- Keep clothing from coming in contact with flames or heating elements.
- A small adjustment to your water heater can give you one less thing to worry about. To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer's recommended setting.
- Make a habit of placing matches, gasoline, and lighters in a safe place out of children's reach and avoid novelty lighters as they may look like toys in a child's eyes.
- When filling the bathtub, turn on cold water first then mix in warmer water carefully.

National Burn Awareness Week is the perfect time to share this information, develop a home fire drill, check your smoke alarms, and to make your kitchen safe for your little chef in training. And as always, call 911 for the La Verne Fire Department in case of emergencies.

## Coyotes and Wildlife Safety Precautions

In California, people have become accustomed to drought conditions and water restrictions, but how does the wildlife survive in drought conditions? Wildlife depends on water just as citizens do. The unusually dry weather in the region, along with construction activities in town, is causing wildlife to leave their typical habitats and go in search of food and water in the more populated areas. This should be expected and prepared for with open wilderness areas bordering the community.

The first precaution to take around your home is to clear the brush and dense weeds from around your property. This will reduce the likelihood of rodent or snake invasions. Tightly screen all access holes into your home from ground to roof to bar rats, squirrels, and birds.

Be sure not to allow pets to roam from your home and bring in cats and dogs at night whenever possible. Pet food left outside is like a buffet for wildlife. Once animals become accustomed to your pet's feeding routine, they will begin to depend on it. Animals will be attracted by the smell of food in your garbage too. Keep garbage containers tightly lidded and secure against tipping by large animals. Drain any outdoor sources of water each night including bird baths or pet water bowls.

Carry a whistle with you when you take your pets out for a walk. If you see a coyote, blow the whistle. The noise will scare them and push them back into wildlife areas.

If you encounter an animal that is posing a threat to people or pets, please report the incident immediately to the Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA at 909-623-9777 (8:00 AM to 5:30 PM) or 909-594-9858 (after hours). If you are reporting an encounter and the situation requires emergency medical attention, dial 911. If you have seen any wildlife, especially in groups or in families, and want it documented, please call the Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA during regular business hours.

The California Department of Fish and Game offers the following information regarding coyotes. More information can be found at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are by nature fearful of humans. If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They lose caution and fear. They may cause property damage. They might threaten human safety. Relocating a problem coyote is not an option because it only moves the problem to someone else's neighborhood. Help prevent deadly conflicts for these beautiful wild animals.

### "Coyote country" precautions

- Never feed or attempt to tame coyotes. The result may be deadly conflicts with pets or livestock, or serious injuries to small children.
- Do not leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.
- If followed by a coyote, make loud noises. If this fails, throw rocks in the animal's direction.
- If a coyote attacks a person, immediately contact the nearest Department of Fish and Game or law enforcement office.

### Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing coyotes access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.



Coyotes primarily hunt rodents and rabbits for food, but will take advantage of whatever is available, including garbage, pet food, and domestic animals.

- Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
- Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Bring pets in at night, and do not leave pet food outside.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- Provide secure enclosures for rabbits, poultry, etc.
- Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
- Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

## LA VERNE BRANCH - LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY

### Library Hours:

Monday, Tuesday: 10 AM – 6 PM

Wednesday, Thursday: 11 AM – 8 PM

Friday, Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday: Closed



The library will be closed on:

President's Day – Monday, February 18, 2019

For more information visit the library's website: <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/laverne/index.php>