

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

After six months of closure and another month of limited use, the community center kitchen at Holley Park finally reopened this past September for full use! The public kitchen received its Level 1 Permit from the Clark County Environmental Public Health and Food Safety which means we are now in compliance to allow groups and individuals a place to prepare and serve meals, especially for catering businesses, Meals on Wheels and the Lions Club. We want to thank our community for all of their patience during the time of renovations.

LOW INCOME REMINDER

2024 is just around the corner and that means not only a new year but also a new tax season. If you are currently receiving a discounted rate on your sewer and stormwater bill, you must provide your 2023 proof of income and household size to City Hall by May 31, 2024 to see if you still qualify for a discounted rate. Included income could be any one or more of these examples: Federal Taxable Wages, Tips, Self-employment income, Unemployment compensation, Social Security, Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Retirement or pension income, Capital gains, Investment income, Rental and royalty income, and Excluded (untaxed) foreign income. Household size includes: dependent children, including adopted and foster children, children (shared custody) only during the years you claim them as tax dependents, children under 21 you take care of, dependent parents (only if you'll claim them as a tax dependent), non-dependent children other

relative living with you (only if you will claim them as tax dependents), dependent siblings and other relatives (only if you'll claim them as tax dependents), spouse (must file taxes jointly, or, living apart unless you are legally separated or divorced), and unmarried domestic partner (only if you have a child together or you'll claim your partner as a tax dependent).

If we do not receive your 2023 proof of income and household size by May 31, 2024, then your discounted rate will be removed and your sewer/stormwater bill will resume at a regular rate. If you are not receiving a discounted rate and want to see if you qualify, you can contact Desi Allinger-Nelson in Finance at 360-263-8656, or stop by City Hall in person.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The City's new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) went into effect on November 2, 2023. City staff will be reaching out to individual property owners who may be impacted by the new map change. The area that has been mapped into a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) include several parcels along Brezee Creek. Properties located in a SFHA are required to obtain a floodplain permit for any development on site.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

"Strong Mind, Strong Body, Kind Heart." This is Mark Moy's of Moy Martial Arts philosophy and school motto when he teaches his students a variety of martial arts. Moy states, "Besides the physical ability of 'enforcing no', there is an emphasis in class on working hard, choosing to have a positive attitude, and becoming a person of good character." Mark started training in the Martial Art of Kajukenbo Kung Fu in 1984 in Vancouver

and by 1991, he and his wife opened their own school, Moy Academy. He has been teaching full-time for the past 32 years. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he teaches Kajukenbo Martial Arts at the La Center Community Center and on Mondays and Wednesdays, he is teaching Tai Chi at Lava Java in Ridgefield. "Tai Chi is excellent for seniors to improve balance, coordination, and mobility," states Mark. His classes are age appropriate from 5-8, 9-12, and 13 and older. Skills that Mark teaches in his classes include kickboxing, stand-up grappling, ji-jitsu, and weapons. He also cross-trains in Wing Chun, Jeet Kune Do and Filipino Martial Arts.

What drives Mark's passion to teach? "I believe that we all have the responsibility to add value to our relationships and community. I have personally experienced the physical and self-improvement benefits of Martial Arts training, and I've also seen the positive changes in my students. After teaching for over three decades, I am still excited to share this Art with others and add value to my community." Mark is also most proud of when his students start with him at five years old and he trains them until they graduate from high school. During that time, he notices that those students have become leaders in their peer groups and do well academically, always with a great attitude and a positive influence to their peers.

Mark and his wife moved to La Center just this past September and they enjoy working in their garden. If you are interested in any of the Moy Martial Arts classes, you can reserve a spot now for Winter which begins January 2. Call 360-573-2367, email at info@moymartialarts.com and visit his website at www.MoyMartialArts.com. Gift certificates are available.

FUN FACT: In 1942, businesses in La Center closed from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in support of the six-man squad Wildcats football team and their game against Mill Plain.

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



LOCAL ART UPDATE

The City of La Center is actively promoting the beginnings of art awareness with help from our local artists. The goals are to create a thriving art community; integrate art into the revitalization of downtown La Center; and to exhibit art in many forms that will contribute to making La Center a must-see destination. The public and local artists were invited to an art reception on November 6 to hear about proposed plans and ideas for establishing and incorporating art into the downtown scene along with the parks and trails. The members of the Clark County Arts Commission were the special guests along with opening remarks from councilmember, Liz Cerveny, and city employee, Desi Allinger-Nelson. The La Center representative for the Arts Commission, Dan Masterson, announced the creation of La Center's local art group, La Center Arts, where anyone can join to help develop a mission statement, set goals, hold art workshops, and to address some immediate art project needs in the community. This art group will run as a non-profit with La Center United as their fiscal agent so that there is opportunity to raise funds, give out scholarships, and receive grant money to fund art projects in La Center. The group will begin organizing a spring art festival so watch for the date announcement soon! La Center Arts will hold their next workshop on Monday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the community center. Bring your lat-

est art project and supplies to meet other local artists and discuss the development of the art awareness program for the City of La Center. Please contact Dan at 559-392-1278 or email: danielmasterson@att.net to see how you can help or have any questions about the arts in La Center.

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

"A family needs to work as a team, supporting each other's individual aims and aspirations" – Buzz Aldrin

The City of La Center not only takes pride in hiring people for their skills and experiences but also for developing and supporting our employees for their career endeavors. A person's coworker tend to become their second family and at times, a person's aspiration can be beyond working for our city. Both Jessica Nash (Community Development) and Katrina Agarycheva (Finance) have taken that next step in their career ambition, and we wish them all the best.

Jamie Viveiros has joined Community Development as an Associate Planner. Jamie has a passion for local government planning and her experience and education shows just that. She previously worked for the City of Treasure Island in Florida where she served as the Assistant Community Development Director, Principal Planner and City Planner. She also served as a planner with the City of Gulfport, also in Florida. Jamie holds a Bachelor's degree

in Environmental Studies and a Masters in Sustainability. She is also certified by the American Institute of Planners and the Association of State Floodplain Managers. Jamie has worked solely in small municipalities and is excited to be part of an organization with a strong sense of community.

A native Washingtonian, Laura Loucks, is the new face that will greet you at the front desk in City Hall while Alex Richter has transitioned to Katrina's old role. Laura comes to us from the Public Works Department in the City of Ridgefield where she served as an administrative assistant. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts from Washington State University and her Master of Arts in Education from Concordia University where she put her degrees to work as a substitute teacher for the Vancouver School District. Prior to her teaching, she was a department head in the make-up field for a variety of film and television projects.

YOU ARE HUMANKIND

The City of La Center had another successful blood drive with the American Red Cross on September 26 thanks to our community and staff of La Center. Our unit goal was 19 and we collected a total of 24 units! The need for blood is constant and the giving of blood is instant gratification. Mark your calendars for our next blood drive at City Hall, Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from noon until 6:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Christmas Festival

Friday, December 1 - Sunday,
December 3

lacenterchristmasfestival.com

La Center Arts Workshop

Monday, December 11
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Community Center, 1000 E 4th St

Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 12

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

City Hall, 210 E 4th St

La Center Library

Events at

www.fvrl.org/loc/la-center

CITY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, December 25 & 26

Christmas Holiday

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 19

President's Day

Visit the Civic Web

lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

December 13 & 20

January 10 & 24

February 14 & 28

City Council

Retreat

December 16