

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



JUNE 2024

HIRING THE BEST PEOPLE

The City hired Tracy Coleman as the Public Works Director, replacing Bryan Kast. Ms. Coleman has transitioned into the role May 13 working closely with Mr. Kast before he leaves on his adventure to Puerto Rico. Ms. Coleman has over 30 years of experience in capital projects along with managing architects, engineers and contractors. Her recent tenure of five years was for the City of Woodland as the Public Works Director where she brought in over \$15M in grants. A graduate of Ridgefield High School, Ms. Coleman continued her education and received her BS degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University and her Executive MBA from University of Washington. Immediate projects that interest her in La Center are the plans for the Brezee Creek Culver Replacement/East 4th Street Widening Project, Kayak Launch Project, design guidelines for Downtown Overlay District, providing input to the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, options for looking at alternative bridge access for the city as an emergency route, and transferring the La Center bottoms and county legacy lands over to the city. Ms. Coleman's leadership positions have extended into her extracurricular activities where she has coached football and basketball for several years along with being a Little League coach and a board member of the West Valley Little League. Let's give her a big welcome!

Angie Merrill has been hired as the city's Associate Planner. She comes with over 21 years of experience in land use planning including permitting and project management. She worked for Clark County as a planner and held a variety of roles for

the Community Development office, such as a permit technician. In her 20 years of employment for Clark County, Angie has become familiar with local jurisdictions, Washington State Codes, and working with many consultants, vendors, and the public sector. A graduate from Columbia River High School, Angie went on to obtain a degree in business. Time and time again, Angie has emphasized how easy it is for her to connect with internal and external customers, build partnerships, and loves a team environment. You will see Angie at Planning Commission meetings so introduce yourself next time you see her!

The public who walks into the front doors of City Hall or call us on the phone matter the most to us and that is why first impressions are important. Welcome Maria Rennaker (not to be confused with Maria Swinger-Inskeep) to the finance department, welcoming our public! Maria has extensive experience in her ability to elevate customer experiences by working as a consultant for Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank along with an extended period of time for Clark County in the Community Development department as a permit technician. She obtains a great knowledge for managing offices, budget control, and tracking performances against budget parameters. She knows subdivision, site plans, short plat, county codes, construction plans, setbacks, plumbing, and regulations for zoning and environmental hazards when assisting customers in applying for permits. Maria is the face for the City of La Center (our first impression) and the go-to person for answering customer questions, complaints, and guided help. Come in and greet Maria with a smile and she will elevate your customer experience to a new standard by making our customers our partners in our mission!

“Small Businesses Are The Heartbeat Of Your Neighborhood, The Spine Of Your Local Economy, And The Spirit Of Your Town.”

The City of La Center promotes small businesses through vending opportunities at local events such as Our Days Celebration, La Center Arts Fair, Rainbow Walk & Festival, Cornhole Tournament, and the Christmas Festival. Outside of these events, a business or individual can solicit, peddle and vend throughout the city. However, there are steps one must take to legally do all of these things in complying with our municipal code LCMC Title 5, Chapter 5.40.

1. Obtain a business license through the Department of Revenue – www.dor.gov.wa
2. Obtain the City of La Center business endorsement on your business license - \$0 or \$50, depending on the dollar amount of yearly sales in the city.
3. For vending, soliciting or peddling – obtain a vendor permit through the City of La Center - \$20

The City currently offers a place for vendors to sell their produce or goods at the La Center Bridge in a designated area. There are exemptions in place for farmers and bee keepers. For further information, read LCMC 5.40 and our Frequently Asked Questions, along with the vendor form at: Forms - The City of La Center, Washington or www.ci.lacenter.wa.us or contact Desi Allinger-Nelson at 360-263-8586, dallingernelson@ci.lacenter.wa.us

FUN FACT: La Center was officially incorporated on August 27, 1909. The population in 1940 was 192 people. 2024 marks the city's 115th Anniversary.

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ART FAIR A SUCCESS!

As one La Center Arts Council member commented, “It flowed poetically well”, when asked what went well with the First Annual Arts Fair, held on Saturday, May 11. Mayor Tom Strobehn opened with a special welcome, followed by a blessing from the Cowlitz Tribal Drum Circle, setting the tone for a great day.

Many local and nearby, artists set up booths displaying and selling their artwork from paintings, prints, jewelry, pottery, mixed media, photography, fiber art, and stonework. La Center was honored to have Clark County’s poet laureate, Susan Dingle, share her work and guided the public to compose a community poem that fantastically weaved together. Our La Center representative for the Clark County Arts Commission, Dan Masterson, demonstrated “Street

Art” by creating a painting of the planets and moons, using items found around the home, all with spray paint and no brushes!

The weather was exceptionally warm to bring people from all corners of town, athletes from the Little Leagues games, and families celebrating Mother’s Day. Among the many favorite things about the fair was the involvement of the kids and the variety of activities for them to partake in. The afternoon brought live music provided by The Rough Cuts and a set from 24-7 Band, while attendees enjoyed snow cones, baked goods and iced coffees from local vendors.

The La Center Arts Council and Art Fair committee is already planning for next year – most likely on Mother’s Day weekend and could stretch into a two-day festival. Board member, Kirsten Peterson,

states, “Cultural arts strengthen a community by benefitting the youth in the schools, engaging the aged, building a more diverse and creative economic base, and attracting visitors. The arts build upon a foundation of cultural heritage while providing avenues for fresh perspectives.”

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Are you a new business in La Center? Is your business located in a commercial building or in your own brick-and-mortar? We provide a business spotlight in our quarterly newsletter and ribbon cutting at your business opening where the mayor or a city council member will speak to welcome you and your business. Please contact Maria Swinger-Inskeep at 360-263-8663 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

La Center High School

Graduate Parade

Thursday, June 6

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Farmer’s Market

Fridays, June 14 – August 17

4:30 p.m.

La Center Church Parking Lot

Concerts in the Park

Saturdays, June 22 – August 10

4:00 p.m.

Sternwheeler Park Amphitheatre and Gazebo

Summer Clean Up

Saturday, June 29

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

La Center Middle School Parking Lot

Our Days Garage Sale

Saturday, July 13

For more information visit:

www.lacenterourdays.com

The Miss Teen La Center Pageant

Saturday, July 20

7:00 p.m.

La Center Middle School

Our Days Celebration

Parade & Festival

Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 27

La Center Sternwheeler Park

and Holley Park

For more information,

visit: www.lacenterourdays.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, August 1

12 – 6:00 p.m.

City Hall

For more information, visit their website.

Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma.

Give Life | Red Cross Blood

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6

4 - 6 p.m.

Holley Park

Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, August 17

For more information, visit website at:

La Center Education Foundation - Home

(lcedf.org)

Dept Of Social Health Services Mobile

Community Office

Thursday, August 22

12 – 4 p.m.

La Center Wheel Club Community Center

Parking Lot

Visit the Civic Web
lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

June 12 & 26
July 10 & 24
August 14 & 28

Office Closures:
June 19, July 4
September 2