

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



“Art is too important not to share.” - Romero Britto

We are happy to announce that the Clark County Arts Commission has confirmed Dan Masterson to represent La Center who was appointed by Mayor Greg Thornton. Dan has attended regular meetings in 2023 and is working hard in coming up with ideas of art events and collaborations with local and surrounding artists. Dan started the new year with a success for La Center as his pencil sketch of the bell tower in Esther Short Park was selected to don the program cover for the arts commission Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Paul Christensen! With Dan working closely with the city, local businesses, and public schools, we should have a greater awareness and support for the arts in La Center which include choir, band, drama, and dance. To show your support for our local artists, please stop by City Hall, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and partake in a self-guided tour of the art and sculptures. The artists will be changing out their artwork this spring.

Together at Last

City planning commissioners and councilmembers came together at City Hall for a joint work session during city council's February 22, 2023. The two groups discussed the Comprehensive Plan Update that is in its early stages after an overview of the several year process, presented by city consulting

planner, Ethan Spoo of WSP USA. The meeting can be heard now by visiting the city Youtube page, [youtube.com/@cityoflacenters5691](https://www.youtube.com/@cityoflacenters5691). If you want to know more, join Planning Commission the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 at City Hall, lacenter.civicweb.net/Portal/.

Icey Dicey Roads

That wasn't snow covering the streets of La Center this year that was hard cold ice. Plowing roads in response to a snow event is one thing, but freezing rain and ice on streets is another. Public Works staff went out several times preparing for and responding to the freezing weather by spreading salt brine over the majority of streets in the city. Even with the salt brine it is best to stay off the roads during winter storm events because preventative care does not eliminate the unsafe driving conditions brought on by the event.

Merry and Bright

Congratulations to the coloring contest winners this past December! Winning colorings were posted at City Hall while other submissions were posted in various business windows throughout the city. A special thanks to the Lions Club for sponsoring the prizes and judging. (0-5 age group) 1st place = Emilie, 2nd place = Addie Spence, 3rd place = Cassidy Walker; (6-8 age group) 1st place = Payton Smith, 2nd place = Wyatt Glackler, 3rd place = Janny Glackler; (9-11 age group) 1st place = Chloe Wasche, 2nd place =

Evelyn Gelsing, 3rd place = Tanner Jeffries; (12-14 age group) 1st place = Hannah Zylstra, 2nd place = Madelyn Hall, 3rd place = Ava Sicilia.

Community Center, is Community

Community Development recently advertised a contract and plans to remodel the Community Center Kitchen and parking lot repair. The bids were opened, and the construction project was awarded to the low bidder by City Council on January 25. Work will start on the kitchen in the next one or two months, depending on the length of time to receive the kitchen equipment. The Community Center building will be closed until the kitchen remodel is completed. The parking lot will be closed as necessary to reconstruct the parking lot in early summer.

Let That Sink In

Public Works staff have handled an emergency culvert repair in response to a sudden sink hole on 5th street that appeared in January of this year. You probably noticed the detour signs along 4th street and the round-about directing traffic away from 5th street. Staff acted quick in preparing and contracting the work through a bidding process to begin the much-needed repairs. The City engineer monitored the project throughout construction and it was completed in early February. 5th Street was reopened for use.

FUN FACT: In 1883 the first bridge at the East Fork of the Lewis River was built at La Center preceding five replacement bridges. The bridge was replaced in 1894 with a draw bridge for Sternwheeler travel, in 1903 and 1917 with turn-style bridges, and in 1924 with a concrete bridge which was demolished in 1980 to facilitate direct access to I-5.

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MARCH 2023

Dough Dunk at the Podunk

That is the motto for Podunk Pizza Company as their pizzas come with attached breadstick (the thick outer crust) that can be dipped in many of their homemade sauces. Located at 630 E Birch Avenue in La Center, Podunk Pizza had a soft opening in February and invites the community to their grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m. Owned by Tosha Emerson and her husband Anthony, the pizza place is focused on family, fresh ingredients, a rotating menu, music, and fun. "This was an idea in the making a few years ago as we have two boys in sports [they attend La Center High School] and there wasn't a place in La Center to take the family for a dinner right after a game or practice," stated Tosha. Tosha and her husband have many years of

experience and ownership in catering and the culinary arts. "I am a small town girl with a lot of country," says Tosha when telling how she came up with the name Podunk Pizza. She was reading the history of John and Hannah Timmen where she learned that La Center was originally named Podunk. The menu will be done in phases and rotated through the seasons. You will find pizza, appetizers and desserts right away but watch out for the pasta line (all handmade), gourmet pizzas and summer salads coming soon. Podunk Pizza Company is also offering catering services for corporate and private events, family game night, trivia night, and live music with outdoor seating in the near future. You will find them open everyday of the week opening at 3 or 4 p.m. and closing at 10 or 11 p.m.

podunkpizzaco.com

Like a Bridge Over Cleaned Waters

Community development staff are partnering with Clark Conservation District, Poop Smart Clark, and the Clean Rivers Coalition, in an effort to educate our La Center community on how we affect our waterways like the East Fork Lewis River and Brezee Creek. Through videos, flyers, grants, mailers, websites, and more we hope to learn together how we can clean our waters. This partnership is geared towards clearing and cleaning up our waterways of pollutants through community education and change.

Check out these websites for more clean water knowledge:

poopsmartclark.org

cleanriverscoalition.com

followthewater.info

Give Blood. Give Life.

The month of March is recognized by the nation, cities, and counties as Red Cross Month to highlight the work of the American Red Cross and their chapters. The City of La Center and our mayor proclaim March 2023 as Red Cross Month and encourage all citizens of La Center to reach out and support its humanitarian mission. The city will sponsor, with coordination of the Red Cross, a blood drive to be held on March 28 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the old City Hall, 214 E 4th Street. Contact Desi Allinger-Nelson at 360-263-8656 or at dallingernelson@ci.lacenter.wa.us to make an appointment to give blood

or you can go to this link <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation> time and enter the zip code of 98629 and the date of March 28; and keep an eye out on the city website (www.ci.lacenter.wa.us), Facebook (City of La Center) page, and our reader board for reminders on March 28!

Calendar of Events

American Red Cross Blood Drive

March 28, 12 – 6 p.m.

Old City Hall (contact Desi Allinger-Nelson for appointments)

La Center Library

Please call the library for further details on any of the events listed below

Master Gardener – Drip Irrigation

March 11, 4 – 6 p.m.

Miniature Button Art Contest

March 15 – 16, 3 – 5 p.m.

Teen Self Defense Workshop

March 28, Time: TBD

La Center Elementary Cafeteria (registration required, 14-18 years)

Earth Day Celebration, April 22

Teen Council

April 24, 3 – 5 p.m.

World of Needle Felting

April 28, 10:30 a.m.

Needle Felting Workshop

May 5, 10:30 a.m.

(Registration required)

Mobile Devices Lab

May 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Kids & Parent Book Group

May 25, 3:30 p.m. (6-8 years)

CHECK IT OUT: Citizen Action Request

<https://lacenterwa2.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/lacenterwa2>

City Council Meetings

lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

March 8 & 22

April 12 & 26

May 10 & 24