

# LA CENTER BULLETIN

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JUNE 2025

## NEW EMPLOYEES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Anthony D'Angelo is quoted to say, "Become a student of change. It is the only thing that will remain constant." As long as the City of La Center exists, staff will come and go. We want to welcome Pete Boyce, as the City of La Center's new Director of Administrative Services.

Pete has dedicated 25 years to local government service which includes experience as a manager and administrator in city and county governments, in the states of Oregon, Montana, Minnesota and Washington. He comes to the City of La Center with initiative and the ability to collaborate with the public, elected officials, department heads and staff which Pete believes is of the utmost importance in a customer service industry such as local government.

In his roles as city administrator, he has managed and developed multi-million-dollar budgets, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, and improved operations by leading capital and planning projects. He has worked closely with outside agencies and committees to support homeless services, fire and law enforcement services, and community water and sewer access. He has balanced budgets, developed personnel policies, reviewed master plans for city infrastructure, recruited city personnel, and developed working relationships with union representatives to name a few skill sets.

Pete is married. His wife of 24 years is a registered nurse. They have two daughters, ages 20 and 16. When Pete is not wearing his city government hat, he enjoys

playing the drums and traveling. Pete is eager to collaborate and learn from our talented team and looks forward to contributing to our projects and getting to know La Center.

## THE WHEEL CLUB LEGACY

The Wheel Club Community Center's new look is complete following four months of remodel and repair. The City of La Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 7, 2025 to celebrate the reopening of the community center.

The Wheel Club Community Center, originally built in 1961, has long served as a home for recreational programs for the youth and members of the community. The Wheel Club was an organization made up of community members who volunteered their time and efforts to create a welcoming and engaging environment for citizens of La Center. In 1990, the Wheel Club made the generous decision to donate the community center to the City of La Center, ensuring its continued operation and service to future generations. The city has upheld the Wheel Club's efforts by enhancing the facilities through continued maintenance and securing grants to ensure it remains a vital resource to our community. Collaboration with local nonprofit organizations such as Meals on Wheels, the La Center Arts Council, La Center United, the Lions Club, Our Days, and the La Center Library has brought meaningful events to our community that honor the Wheel Club's enduring legacy.

The recent community center upgrades were made possible with the support of Washington State Senator John Braun, Representative Peter Abbarno, and Repre-

sentative Ed Orcutt who advocated for the funds to complete the project. The remodel was funded by a generous \$242,500 grant provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce, along with an additional \$80,000 contributed by the City. The city is thankful for their support in recognizing the city's mission to maintain the Wheel Club and its long-standing history in La Center.

## 4TH STREET WIDENING AND SIGNAL

In 2019, the city received grant state funding to design the East 4th Street widening and Brezee Creek Culvert replacement project. The grant funding required a traffic analysis to be done to determine (1) if a culvert or bridge would be most cost effective to construct over Brezee Creek, and (2) if a roundabout versus a traffic signal was warranted at the intersection of East 4th Street and Highland Road. The traffic analysis concluded the northbound left turn lane of the existing intersection was failing with an "F" level of service (LOS). The analysis then went on to compare a traffic signal versus a roundabout. The analysis concluded that either option increased the LOS to an acceptable level rating of A or B. The 4th street intersection was realigned in 2008, making Highland Road perpendicular to east 4th Street. It was prepared for the future anticipation of constructing a traffic signal, thus conduit and pull boxes were installed for wiring a traffic signal. Because both options (roundabout or traffic signal) resulted in an acceptable level of service, a traffic signal option was chosen, due to previous preparations to reduce the reduced cost of construction. The traffic signal is \$700,000,

**Prior La Center Mayor, Skip Carlson, was a firewalker who held ceremonies on his property in the 1990s.**

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versus the estimated cost for a roundabout is \$4,000,000, thus 20% of what the roundabout would cost. The signal cost is \$6K per year to maintain, thus the ROI for the choice of a signal vs. roundabout is a 550 year payout.

In 2023, the city applied for a Safe Routes to School Grant to fund the construction of the signal and was successful in receiving a grant for funding this project! Due to grant funding opportunities the city separated East 4th Street Widening Project and Brezee Creek Culvert Replacement Project into two separate projects; 1) 4th Street and Highland Road Traffic Signal Project and 2) 4th Street Widening and Brezee Creek Culvert Replacement Project.

The 4th Street and Highland Road Traffic Signal Project has received a nearly \$1 million *Safe Routes to School* Grant. Construction on this project began October 2024, with an expected completion date of December 2025.

The 4th Street Widening and Brezee Creek Culvert Replacement Project has

received multiple grants which total near \$12 million. The Brezee Creek Culvert Replacement Project is in the process of being obligated/approved by the state, after state and federal reviews are completed. Due to the type of grant funding and coordination between the state and federal level, the approval process is, and construction timeline is longer. The estimated date to bid this project for construction is September of this year, with an estimated completion date of December 2027.

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

On April 23, Mayor Tom Strobehn issued a proclamation in recognition of Arbor Day at the City Council meeting. Arbor Day is a national day of observance held on the last Friday of April. It honors the vital role trees play in our communities not only for their natural beauty but also for the many benefits they provide. Here in La Center, we are fortunate to be surrounded by trees that enhance our landscapes, improve our air quality, and provide habitats for wildlife. In honoring Arbor Day, the City of La Center has planted a dogwood tree at

Heritage Park. This tree is the first step in hopefully becoming an official Tree City USA in partnership with the national Arbor Day Foundation to grow into a community that's happier, healthier and greener.

## SATURDAYS IN THE PARK IS BACK!

The La Center Saturdays in the Park concert series is back this summer at Sternwheeler Park with the first concert beginning on June 28. Our talented friends at Sadie and Josie's will pause their delicious baking to kick-off our summer concert series with their band, Happy Face. You can expect a wide range of rock and alternative cover songs from the 90s to 2010s. Other featured artists include: Fortunate Gold, Kevin Selfe and the Tornadoes, Rich Layton and Tough Town, Nobody's Sweetheart, and Whiskey & Wildflowers. Join us for a family friendly concert series with music from a variety of genres. Keep up to date with Saturdays in the Park on Facebook for more information on upcoming shows this summer.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### City Wide Garage Sale

July 12

### Our Days - *Going Renaissance*

July 25 & 26

### Friday, July 25

Twilight Parade  
8:00 p.m.

LCHS - 4th St - Aspen Ave - 10th St

### Saturday, July 26

5k Run/Walk, car show, vendors,

KidZone, beer garden, beautiful baby contest, bingo, live music, and more!  
Visit [LaCenterOurDays.com](http://LaCenterOurDays.com) for more information.

### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Holley Park

### Blood Drive

Thursday, August 7

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

La Center City Hall

## SATURDAYS IN THE PARK SCHEDULE

At Sternwheeler Park

ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M.

June 28 - Happy Face

July 5 - Fortunate Gold

July 12 - Kevin Selfe & the Tornadoes

July 19 - Rich Layton and Tough Town

August 2 - Nobody's Sweetheart

August 9 - The Filament

August 16 - Whiskey & Wildflowers

Visit the Civic Web  
[lacenter.civicweb.net/portal](http://lacenter.civicweb.net/portal)

## City Council Meetings

June 11 & 25  
July 9 & 23  
August 13 & 27

Office Closures  
June 19, July 4 &  
Sep 1