

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



JUNE 2023

MAYOR'S CORNER

As most of you know, Mayor Greg Thornton resigned as our mayor in March so that he can focus on his health. We will respect his privacy during this time and send thoughts of hope to him and his family. Building off the foundation former Mayor Thornton and the preceding mayors created, we will continue to strengthen our community. I will be hosting a Q & A session on Wednesday, June 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the newly named Gregory L. Thornton Municipal Building (formerly City Hall). I encourage you all to join me so that I can answer your questions and hear your concerns. Mayor, Thomas Strobehn

ARCHIVES ACTION

“Records management is knowing what you have, where you have it and how long you have to keep it.”

The City of La Center was a recipient of the “Organizing the File Room” Local Records Grant from the State of Washington, Office of the Secretary of State (SOS), Archives and Records Management Division in October 2021. The city was awarded \$17,884.97. The grant provided the purchase of compliant records shelving, SOS compliant archive boxes, shredding services and a temporary staff member to begin organizing the new records room. From October 2021 to November 2022, the city’s documents have been moved and organized in the new City Hall’s Records Rooms, a compliant, protective environment. Before the grant was issued, records were kept in a multitude

of filing cabinets, book shelves, boxes on the floor and on sagging shelves. Documents had not been filed or destroyed under the current records retention scheduled, making it nearly impossible to locate items for Public Records Requests. With the new organization, public records requests research time has decreased significantly. In Finance, the department began with 176 boxes, 7 filing cabinets and two book cases of records. The records between Community Development, Public Works, and Waste Water started with 324 boxes, six filing cabinets and five book cases of records. When the grant period closed at the end of November 2022, Finance ended with 52 state archives boxes and the other departments ended with a total of 112 state archives boxes. There were 23 boxes sent to the Washington State Archives in Olympia and LeMay Shredding services through Waste Connections, shredded sixteen (16) 90-gallon shred bins (that equates to 1,440 gallons!).

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Through resolution the City Council has officially named the new City Hall building, The Gregory L. Thornton Municipal Building. This is in honor of previous Mayor, Greg Thornton, and the beautiful new City Hall building that came to fruition during his tenure in office. Now joining the City staff in the building as a leaser will be local company, Why Racing Events. They will be running their business out of the first floor with their main entrance

on the back of the building.

The East Fork Apartment (Riverside Subdivision) buildings have all received occupancy and are available to tenants. The East Fork Apartment’s Clubhouse is set to open for tenant use as it received occupancy as well. Pending various maintenance building’s completions, the East Fork Apartments will be finished with construction very soon.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

As one of the largest employers in La Center, MT&M Gaming, Inc., who owns The Last Frontier and The New Phoenix casinos, offers the best gaming experience with not only the most popular game types in Washington State, but also with new and fun promotions to drive business. One way they have accomplished this is through the recent remodel of The New Phoenix casino. “Like the mythical Phoenix, we knew that if we were going to rise, we had to be bigger, brighter and bolder than before,” states Chris Swindell, General Manager. Providing both poker and table games located in one building at The Last Frontier, had resulted in overcrowding and they were not able to effectively serve their customers according to Swindell.

Continued on our
website

[https://ci.lacenter.wa.us/
community/local-business/](https://ci.lacenter.wa.us/community/local-business/)

FUN FACT:

The La Center Tribune, established in 1894, was a weekly newspaper that ran until 1898, leading to The La Center Clipper’s establishment in 1900 which ran until 1906.

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GROWING THE CITY WITH EMPLOYEES

It has been a busy early Spring in the hiring department at the city. Two new supervisor positions were created in Public Works and Wastewater, reporting to Bryan Kast, Public Works and Community Development Director.

Our Public Works Supervisor, Amy Roberts-Santistevan, comes to us from the City of Portland where she was a Division Manager II in Maintenance and Operations. She had lived in Portland since 2001 and recently moved to Washington with her family. Originally from Colorado, Amy finds the Pacific Northwest her permanent home where she is kept busy in building a strong, professional relationship with the Public Works staff and focuses on strategic planning encompassing compliancy, safety, and making it a great place to work.

Coming with extensive experience both in Public Works and Wastewater, we are fortunate to find Jay Favor from afar. He has spent most of his time in Missouri working for the City of Kansas City, Woodard and Curran, to Central States Water Resources. He is certified in both Wastewater Operator, Wastewater Plant, and Water Distribution in a variety of states such as California, Missouri, Illinois and Washington. His most recent tenure was working for the City of Collinsville in Illinois. However, he isn't new to the Pacific Northwest – he did work for Woodard and Curran in Quincy, Washington for 11 years so, we'd like to say – WELCOME BACK!

A graduate from La Center High School, we want to welcome Andrew Yelizavetskiy as our seasonal maintenance worker in Public Works. Andrew comes with experience working in warehouses and a general laborer for

the likes of Costless and Amazon. He has also worked as a seasonal wildland firefighter for Grayback Forestry in Merlin, Oregon where was a type two hand crew that helped as the initial attack crew.

Zachary Messner was also hired as a maintenance worker in Public Works, replacing Cade Ledwith. Zachary is skilled maintenance of streets, buildings, and utilities. He has experience in managing and leading teams to complete projects on time and within budget. He has several certifications and licenses in forklift operation, CDL-A, ground work and pipe installation. Zachary was compelled to work in La Center because of our strong sense of community and commitment of service to the residents.

Please wave and say hello to these new faces when you see them out and about maintaining our beautiful city!

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, June 3

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

La Center High School Parking Lot

For more information

www.ci.lacenter.wa.us

City Facebook or call 360-263-2782

Rainbow Walk

Sunday, June 4

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Holley Park

La Center High School -

Graduate Parade

Friday, June 9 - 7:00 p.m.

Farmer's Market

Thursdays, June 22 – August 17

4:30 p.m.

La Center Church Parking Lot

Concerts In The Park

Saturdays, June 24 – August 5

5:30 p.m.

Sternwheeler Park Amphitheatre

Our Days Garage Sale

Saturday, July 15

www.lacenterourdays.com

The Miss Teen

La Center Pageant

Saturday, July 15

7:00 p.m.

La Center Middle School

La Center Library Events at

www.fvri.org/loc/la-center

Our Days Celebration

Parade

Friday, July 28 – 8:00 p.m.

Starts at High School

Movie

Friday, July 28 (after parade)

Sternwheeler Park

Festival

Saturday, July 29 - 10:00 a.m.

Holley Park

www.lacenterourdays.com

Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, August 19

Check City website for times

www.ci.lacenter.wa.us

Holley Park

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit the Civic Web

lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

June 14 & 28

July 12 & 26

August 9 & 23

Mayor Strobehn

Q & A

June 7 @ 6 pm