

# LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



MARCH 2024

## HIRE GREAT PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM FREEDOM TO BE AWESOME

We welcome Michael (Mike) Honl as a part-time Code Compliance Officer. Mike is a retired Portland Police Officer and has 25 years of patrol and field training experience. He obtained his BS in Criminal Justice from Washington State University and his undergrad studies at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. Mike's job duties include investigating, interpreting and enforcing all of the City's codes, ordinances, regulations and laws, including the enforcement of parking and nuisance ordinances. With a dedicated staff member assigned to code enforcement the City will be able to more promptly respond to code complaints and provide an increased level of service to the community. In addition to responding to code complaints reported by residents, Mike will be proactively responding to code violations that are observed throughout the City.

To report a code violation complaint please use the code enforcement request on the city's website at: <https://lacenterwace.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/lacenterwace>

Please wave and say hello to Brian Wuitschick, the new face in Public Works, when you see him out and about maintaining our beautiful city! Brian comes with 23 years of experience in installation, maintenance and customer service in digital and analog services with AT&T, CenturyLink and TDS. In addition, he has obtained his CDL

and is certified in HVAC and Refrigerant Installation and Maintenance. I bet you didn't know he was also certified in Safe Pole Climbing and Ladders as well? Brian was looking for a responsible position where he can use his experience, education, positive work ethic and people-skills to help increase efficiency and make his employer profitable - we like the sound of that! Welcome Brian to the team!

## "THE GREATEST OF A CULTURE CAN BE FOUND IN ITS FESTIVALS"

-Siddharth Katragadda

The La Center Arts, a non-profit organization in the making, is hosting its first Annual Art Fair on Saturday, May 11. There will be a variety of artist booths inside and out, displaying and selling their art at the Holley Park and the Wheel Club Community Center. In addition to the booths, La Center Arts is planning all-day performances from theater, music, dance, poetry, book readings, and martial arts to be held at either the high school or middle school. La Center Arts' mission is to service the community in developing, inspiring, collaborating, and supporting access to, participation in, awareness of and appreciation for the arts in all forms including visual arts, music, literature, performance, and youth arts education. Their vision is to promote La Center as an artistic destination and attract visitors from all places.

For more information about being an art vendor, performer, and to VOLUNTEER, please contact Kirsten Peterson at 801-232-2776. You can also keep up-to-date on the art fair details by following their FaceBook

page /lacenterarts. More information posted about the Art Fair will be posted soon!

## UNWANTED? UNUSED? EXPIRED?

If you have any of these prescription or over-the-counter medications in your home, please bring them to the City of La Center Police Station at 105 W 5th Street on Saturday, April 27 between 10 - 2. The Drug Take Back Event is sponsored by La Center United and you can save a life by properly and safely disposing of medication at this event. Types of medications accepted include pills, liquids, inhalers (remove labels that contain personal information) and vape pens and e-cigarettes (remove batteries) are also accepted for disposal. All the medication collected at drug back events are safely incinerated by the D.E.A. For more information, contact La Center United at [lacenterunited@gmail.com](mailto:lacenterunited@gmail.com) or call 360-949-1563. You can also visit their website at [www.lacenterunited.org](http://www.lacenterunited.org)

## ICY COLD ROADS

2,000 gallons of salt brine, nearly 8 yards of sanding gravel, and over 785 miles were driven in the snow plow through the streets of La Center this year. 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. A huge thank you for the awesome work our Public Works staff accomplished during the winter season!

**FUN FACT: Pacific Highway from La Center to Martin's Bluff opened unceremoniously without announcement after the roads completion on September 11, 1922.**

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## La Center Comp Plan Update and Subareas Open House

La Center is expected to more than double in population and jobs over the next 20 years. The City needs your input to help decide where and how the community will grow.

Please join us and provide input at the Open House on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the La Center City Hall – 210 East 4th Street, La Center, WA 98629.

At the open house, the City will discuss its Comprehensive Plan update project and two subarea plans for Timmen Landing and Downtown that together will shape what La Center looks like and how it grows for

decades. A Comprehensive Plan is a guiding document that contains a community's vision and goals and directs how it will grow.

A subarea plan is an optional element of the overall Comprehensive Plan for a specific area. More information can be found on the Comprehensive Plan and subarea plan updates at the following websites using the respective QR codes below:



SUBAREA PLANS



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Bristles & Nibs Workshop

Wednesday, March 6

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Wheel Club Community Center

### La Center Arts

#### Art Fair Committee Meeting

Monday, March 11

5:30 p.m., City Hall

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 12

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

City Hall, 210 E 4th St

### La Center Arts

#### Board Member Meeting

Monday, March 18

5:30 – 6 p.m., City Hall

### Art Fair Committee Meeting

Monday, March 18

6 – 7 p.m., City Hall

### Bristles & Nibs Workshop

Wednesday, March 20

9 a.m. – 12 p.m., The Wheel Club

Community Center

### Public Open House

#### Comp Plan

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 p.m., City Hall

### Lions Club Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.,

La Center High School

### Public Open House

#### C-Tran Long Range Transit Plant

Wednesday, April 3

4-6 p.m., The Wheel Club Community Center

### Drug Take Back

Saturday, April 27

10-2 p.m., La Center Police Station

### La Center Arts Annual Art Fair

Saturday, May 11

Holley Park & The Wheel Club Community Center

### La Center Library

Events listed at

[www.fvrl.org/loc/la-center](http://www.fvrl.org/loc/la-center)

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

## City Council Meetings

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 8 & 22

City Council

Retreat

3/26 & 5/2