

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



MAYOR'S CORNER

Summer is coming to a close, and I have to say it has been one of the best summers for the City of La Center. It has been filled with so many activities and decisions! There has been a huge turnout for Concerts in the Park and the Our Days festival had its best attendance ever. The parade stretched from the High School to the end of the route and kept going, while kids collected candy like it was Halloween! We saw a new Queen crowned and a Movie in the Park! The Cowlitz Indian Tribe sponsored La Center Day at the Ridgefield Raptors Baseball game, giving hundreds of tickets away for free!

La Center will see a familiar face running around the city in a police cruiser, Chris Olsen will be back in action as the city council made a historical decision to have the Cowlitz Indian Tribe be our contracted police service.

All I can say is, WOW, WHAT A SUMMER!

As the Mayor I want to thank each of you for your support, hard work and community involvement. Without you this City would be, well, just another City. But with you, we are the best in the State.

Soon Fall will be upon us and that means leaves will be falling, kids in school and the return of rainy days, leaving this person to wonder, how can it get any better than this!

Definitely a good time to be a resident of La Center!

Sincerely,
Mayor Thomas Strobehn

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

The City of La Center Christmas Festival was another successful event, featuring a new activity – Paint the Plow! This event couldn't be possible without the help of our community, businesses, and the city staff. Thank you Jurinda Swingruber from the library, Pastor Mike and Jay at La Center Church, Rhonda Catchpole and James Cameron from La Center High School as well as the band and choir students along with the drama students, Teresa's Little School, the American Legion, Clark County Fire & Rescue and cadets, Josh and Kris Soske, Miss Teen La Center, many community volunteers, and our city and Public Works staff. Mark your calendars for December 3 for the next Christmas Festival!

CONSTRUCTION ROUND UP

Say hello to your future new neighbors on the Eastside of town. There are two new subdivisions that have begun construction (grading, roads, utility lines) this summer. East of the new Middle School is Asa's View subdivision which will have 68 new homes. North of Asa's View on the other side of Lockwood Creek Road is Lockwood Meadows subdivision which will be home to 71 new community members. Construction will begin soon north of the established subdivision Heritage Country Estates will be Valley View Subdivision with 34 new homes. With

dirt work underway the contractors will have watering trucks in use to keep the dust to a minimum. Get ready to welcome your new neighbors in the coming year.

The Community Center Kitchen remodel, and parking lot repair is almost complete. The parking lot construction has been completed. All of the new commercial appliances and new commercial exhaust hood have been installed and only some minor construction is necessary before the final inspections by the Health Department, Labor and Industries and the Building Official are pending before the kitchen will be open to the public.

The chip seal on Highland Road/339th Street is complete. Final striping will be completed soon.

CITY LEADERSHIP

MAYOR

Thomas Strobehn

CITY COUNCIL

Melissa Fox

KC Kasberg (Mayor Pro Tem)

Sean Boyle

Myrna Leija

Elizabeth Cerveny

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Bryan Kast

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Maria Swinger-Inskeep

FUN FACT: The La Center Library was once home to Dr. Zenner and his family, who ran a local clinic and drug store beginning in 1906. The clinic was relocated from 5th Street (now named 4th) to its current location at Lockwood Creek Road and John Storm Avenue. The Colf Foundation maintains and owns the building.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

“It’s a safe, small town that’s directly in the path of progress,” stated Luke Sasse of Timberland, Inc. who just celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony in the City of La Center where they completed the construction and opening of the 144-unit apartment complex known as East Fork Commons. The name was a play on the east fork of the Lewis River and unique to most apartments, the area provides a large amount of green space with a large park next door. Sam Scheuble had a vision to fulfill a need in La Center by developing a place for an underserved community who needed to rent rather than purchase a home for a variety of reasons whether it be lifestyle, work or affordability. “La Center is country living with urban access, its got great schools, good demographics, access to the freeway and a lot of outdoor activities,” beamed Sasse when asked why La Center for this project. Sasse continues, “it’s a safe, clean community that’s somewhat immune to the crime and drug problems that plagues the downtown area.” East Fork Commons is currently 97% filled most likely because of the flexibility of leasing terms due to tenant needs, the price point of a one-bedroom at \$1,600 to a three-bedroom for \$2,000, and the desirable location. However, rent pricing depends

on the market and Sasse feels that there is a serious shortage of housing in the Pacific Northwest so prices will remain elevated. Timberland Inc. is excited to become a part of the La Center community and they are looking forward to future success!

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

“A company’s employees are its greatest asset”

– Richard Bronson

The City of La Center takes pride in hiring people for not only their skills and experiences but also for their personalities to fit our culture and be an integral part of the city’s mission. We are happy to have on our team, Luke Sheldon, who is our seasonal maintenance worker in Public Works. Luke’s experience in not only in construction labor but his positions in service made him the ideal hire for this position. He began in the Army National Guard as a military police officer, particularly providing assistance in a national emergency and collaborating with non-profit organizations in providing relief and support to communities affected by natural disasters. He is a current business owner where he obtained knowledge and skills in landscaping tasks, construction, power and hand tools, minor maintenance and repair, all the while keeping safety in the forefront. You may have seen or know Luke as

he is a citizen of La Center so give him a congratulations on his position here at the City of La Center next time you bump into him!

We want to congratulate Andrew Yelizavetskiy as he went from a seasonal maintenance worker to full-time in Public Works!

The City Council has itself, been through a lot of changes thus far in 2023. We welcome our newest city council member, Myrna Leija in position #4. Myrna comes with extensive experience in the law enforcement field working for the Vancouver Police and Clark County Sheriff’s departments, along with the U.S. Marshals and the Clark County Jail Industries Environmental Services. She has been a resident of La Center since 2019 after residing in Battle Ground for 26 years. Moving to La Center was her next mission in life in developing new ways to serve and support her new community. Myrna is very involved in attending school and library board meetings along with participating in numerous political events, forums, and town hall discussions to stay informed. This helps her connect with individuals from all walks of life who share her passion for dedication, a community’s livability, and good governance. We look forward to her future accomplishments for the citizens of La Center.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 26
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, 210 E 4th St

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

La Center Library Events at

www.fvrl.org/loc/la-center

Splash Pad

Open through
at least Labor Day

Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 3
4th Street & Aspen Avenue

CITY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

Friday, November 10

Veteran’s Day

Thursday, November 23 &

Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving

Visit the Civic Web
lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

September 13 & 27 | Mayor Stroehn
October 11 & 25 | Q & A
November 8 & 15 | September 20