

# LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



## LA CENTER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The annual La Center Christmas Festival returns Sunday, December 7, 2025, for another year full of fun activities, festive music and local vendors. The festival will be located on 4th St. between Aspen and Cedar.

Visitors can expect a variety of food and artisan vendors, live entertainment, as well as a visit from our friends, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Don't miss your chance to see Santa and have your picture taken! He will be arriving from the North Pole at 3:00 p.m.

Vendors will open for business and live music will begin at 12:00 p.m. The tree lighting followed by fireworks will begin at 5:00 p.m. This year we've included an ornament decorating station which will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will be located in front of El Rancho Viejo, next to Paint the Plow. Don't forget to place your handprint on the plow so you can watch it drive by full of hands this winter as it plows the snow.

Sign-ups are now open for the Santa Stride 5k Run/Walk. The 5k Run/Walk will take place on 4th and Cedar, and will finish its 3.1 mile race in Downtown La Center. Registration is \$40 for adults and \$20 for children under 18. The first 100 registrations will receive an exclusive Santa Stride T-shirt! Prizes will also be awarded for the top female and male runners in their age division, as well as those who show up in their best dressed holiday spirit.

The Winter Wonderland Holiday Passport is returning this year and can be picked-up at La Center City Hall and other participating local businesses. Participants under 12 who receive at least five stamps on the holiday passport will receive a goodie bag.

Participants 12 and over who receive at least five stamps on the holiday passport will be entered into a drawing to win one of many items sponsored by local businesses. Passports can be returned at the La Center Christmas Festival on December 7 at the La Center Library booth. You can also submit your passport digitally by taking a picture and emailing it to [hshields@ci.lacenter.wa.us](mailto:hshields@ci.lacenter.wa.us)

The holiday passport drawing will be conducted after the completion of the La Center Christmas Festival and winners will be contacted immediately following. Winners can retrieve their prize at La Center City Hall.

Prior to the Christmas Festival on December 7, you can sign-up to receive a special visit from Santa Claus during the santa house calls on Friday, December 5, or stop by the La Center Holiday Bazaar at the La Center Middle School on December 6.

For more information about the La Center Christmas Festival visit [www.LaCenter-ChristmasFestival.com](http://www.LaCenter-ChristmasFestival.com)

## ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now open for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Center for Quality Communities (CQC) Scholarship. The CQC will award four \$3,000 scholarships to Washington students who demonstrate a strong commitment to civic leadership.

The City of La Center will nominate one (1) graduating high school senior to AWC for their consideration. Applications are due to the City of La Center by December

19, 2025 and can be submitted in-person at City Hall or emailed to the city's Outreach Coordinator, Hannah Shields at [hshields@ci.lacenter.wa.us](mailto:hshields@ci.lacenter.wa.us)

To be eligible the student must:

- Reside in La Center
- Be active in community leadership or civic engagement through school, community groups, or city government.
- Be eligible to earn a high school diploma, homeschool diploma, or GED in spring/summer of 2026.
- Plan to continue education in the 2026-27 academic year at an accredited college or trade school at least half-time.

To apply, the student must fill out the 2026 CQC scholarship application which is available on the City of La Center website, and receive one (1) letter of recommendation from a non-relative. Following submission at La Center City Hall, the city will select one applicant to submit to AWC. Scholarship applicants will be notified by AWC in Spring 2026.

If you are selected as a recipient, AWC/CQC will provide a travel stipend for you to attend AWC's Annual Conference in Spokane to be recognized at a CQC luncheon on June 25, 2026. This is a valuable opportunity to meet and network with local leaders from across the state.

Student nominees who are applying to the University of Washington are also eligible for consideration for the prestigious UW Presidential Scholars Program. As long as the student has checked the box on their application granting permission for it to be shared with Washington state academic institutions, the CQC will forward the selected applications to UW.

For more information visit <https://ci.lacenter.wa.us/awcscholarship>

# LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



## CODE ENFORCEMENT: DID YOU KNOW?

Fall and Winter are the best times to prune unruly blackberries and other vegetation that can create property damage or summer fire hazards. To permanently kill blackberry bushes, use a combination of cutting, brush killer and digging out the roots. This is easiest to do in the Fall and Winter months.

La Center Municipal Code 8.45 *Removal of Vegetation and Litter* requires residents to keep their yards free of overgrown vegetation and litter.

No owner or user of property in the city shall allow the growth or accumulation of vegetation or litter on property where such growth or accumulation presents, or could present, a fire hazard, mosquito breeding site, source of contamination of waters of the state, obstruction of the public right-of-way, or menace to the public health, safety or welfare. Any violation of this prohibition shall be a nuisance and a civil infraction that may be processed as such under this chapter.

## LA CENTER UNIVERSITY IS BACK!

La Center University is returning for a second year! La Center University is a five-course series where community members can come to City Hall to learn more about a variety of government topics. The topics included in the learning series are: city administration, municipal finance, community planning, public works, and public safety which will include law enforcement, fire and EMS. Each course will last two hours, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and occur monthly, beginning January 5. Citizens interested can sign-up on the City of La Center website. Students who complete all five courses will receive their "La Center University" diploma and participate in a graduation ceremony.

The last session of La Center University enrolled over 50 students, and completed with 28 graduates. La Center University is a great way to learn more about local government and create meaningful discussion by engaging directly with city staff and our La Center University professor, Jeff Swanson.

## HERITAGE PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS

Construction of sports courts at Heritage Park is well underway. Currently the courts are set up for pickleball, based on its recent popularity. The grading, compaction, and asphalt were all completed before the winter weather arrived. During the upcoming winter months, irrigation lines and the much-anticipated landscape around the courts will occur. As we are recycling the fencing from our 4th Street project, fencing is expected to occur by end of May. Between late spring and school dismissal, we plan on applying the leveling agent in areas needed as well as applying acrylic. The basketball court at Heritage Park will also receive acrylic during that time. We will finish the construction prior to June with the installation of nets for players use.

We thank you for your patience during the construction timeline and hope to see you out on the courts next summer! Keep an eye out on our webpage and Facebook for an official announcement date with the inclusion of a ribbon cutting celebration.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Santa House Calls

Friday, December 5

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Sign-ups:

[www.LaCenterChristmasFestival.com](http://www.LaCenterChristmasFestival.com)

### La Center Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 6

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

La Center Middle School  
with music by La Center Schools

### La Center Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 7

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Downtown La Center

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

12:00 p.m. - Food and Vendors open for business

Live music begins

1:30 p.m. - 5k begins at 4th and Cedar

2:30-4:30 p.m. - Mini horse petting

3:00 p.m. - Santa enters

Paint the Plow

Ornament Decorating

Gingerbread Decorating

5:00 p.m. - Tree lighting followed by fireworks

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

## City Council Meetings

December 10 & 17  
January 14 & 28  
February 11 & 25

Office Closures  
December 24 & 25  
Jan. 1 & 20, Feb. 17