

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



MAYOR'S CORNER

Greetings Neighbors:

What a great summer it has been! After a two-year absence, the Our Days Steamboat Festival at Holly Park returned this year. It was wonderful so many people attended the Our Days twilight parade followed by movie night out in Sternwheeler Park. Many of you also enjoyed the various Our Days Festival displays, activities, events and vendors at the park. The Concerts in Sternwheeler Park Series was once again a great success this year. The Farmers Markets hosted by the La Center Evangelical Free Church was enjoyed by many. A very special thank you to all the community volunteers, parade participants, vendors, community organizations, the LC School District, and City staff who contributed un-told countless hours planning and organizing all these great events, and for everyone coming together to make them all a great success!

The City continues its efforts to provide for both short- and long-term solutions to address future policing in

La Center. Currently, two La Center Police Officers cover patrol calls during day time hours. In addition, Ridgefield Officers, Washougal Officers and CCSO Deputies cover scheduled patrol vacancies not filled by the LCPD. The City pays these agencies for this coverage. The LCPD continues to participate in a mutual aid agreement with all of the law enforcement agencies in Clark County for emergency call responses. Also, the LCPD monitors calls for service/reported crimes on a daily basis and incorporates this information into a monthly report to the City Council.

Discussions continue with the City of Ridgefield for contracting police patrol services in order to provide 24-hour patrol coverage within the City Limits of La Center. This is a similar model utilized by other municipalities within the State of Washington and other areas of the United States. All of this is occurring while we see continued impacts of police reform legislation, the nationwide shortage of qualified police applicants, and an uncertain economic future that may impact our potential

revenue sources as well as operational expenses. Many thanks to Interim Chief Richardson for all his continued hard work and efforts to assist the City Council and citizens of La Center a viable, long term, financially sustainable alternative for providing policing services to La Center.

The upgrades and improvements to the new city hall have been completed. City administration, finance, community development, planning, engineering and permitting are consolidated in one building enabling City staff to provide more efficient and effective city services to our many customers, partners, shareholders and citizens of La Center. Thank you, Senator Ann Rivers, Representatives Brandon Vick and Larry Hoff, Consultant Jeff Swanson, Consultant Lloyd Halverson and City Staff for all of their hard work to secure the \$1,236,000 in state funding utilized to assist in completing this critically important city project.

Stay well everyone!

Mayor, Greg Thornton

SUMMER DAYS DRIFTING AWAY

Summer may have ended its season for 2022 but the City of La Center walked away with re-establishing its identity, keeping old traditions alive, and creating new ones with a host of community events thanks to our volunteers and City employees. The celebrations over the summer helped our community establish a sense of pride, improve our mental well-being, frame social bonding, and enhance contented-

ness. Our Community Center and parks were opened and busy by providing a space for birthday parties, graduation events, a community shopping event, youth group activities, weddings, baby showers, celebration of life, and class reunions. Summer community events started off with the Rainbow Walk, weekly Concerts in the Park and Farmer's Market and finished with the Miss Teen La Center, Our Days, National

Night Out, and the Cornhole Tournament. City of La Center – are you ready to drift into Fall?

CITY OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, September 5 - Closed

Labor Day

Friday, November 11 - Closed

Veteran's Day

Thursday & Friday

November 24-25 - Closed

Thanksgiving

FUN FACT: The first subdivision in the City of La Center was Stonecreek Estates beginning in 1991.

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STERNWHEELERS! BRIDGES! FLUMES! OH MY!

“We had quite an exciting time going down the Columbia, Wednesday, when the steamers Mascot and Jerald had a race for a short distance. Honors even.” This statement was published in the LaCenter Clipper back in 1906 under the LaCENTER LOCALS section of the paper.

Thanks, due in part, to volunteers Judy Hickman and Suzi Terrell, for preserving and embracing the history of La Center through the La Center Museum Association, where they gave a tour to our city employee, Desi Allinger-Nelson, as background research in preparing the new City Hall with old photos and stories.

“I was amazed from the wealth of knowledge that Judy and Suzi possess about the families, stories, and people of La Center, as though they have lived here all their lives,” stated Allinger-Nelson. Allinger-Nelson went on to say, “To work in a city that you don’t live in, one must understand the rich history to be

able to make good decisions about the future. I appreciate this town a little bit more and the people in it where we all strive to be good stewards for the community through our city work.”

The tour began with Hickman and Terrell starting with the living area of a small house purchased by the Association. Paintings, artifacts, and memorabilia are perfectly arranged to begin the flow of the story how La Center began, once named Podunk. Next, one travels through the small house into other rooms each dedicated to the families that first settled here, like the Timmens and Pollocks. In addition, photos of long-gone buildings that once housed local businesses (and actual tools, furniture, and China from those businesses) grace display cases and walls. One just can’t look at the items and walk by. You need Terrell to share the stories behind each photo, pair of scissors, or dress for a full appreciation of

those who lived here before us. “I walked away with a deep appreciation and wealth of knowledge of how La Center began in the logging industry and built flumes to bring that wood down to the Lewis River; where sternwheelers play an important role in transporting not only the logs but people too; and how the history of our six bridges was an ongoing debate with the Clark County Territorial Government office. I encourage everyone to take a tour of the museum. You will appreciate this city just a little bit more,” said Allinger-Nelson.

The La Center Historical Museum is open the first and third Saturdays from noon – 4:00 p.m. You can also schedule an appointment two weeks in advance by calling 360-606-9232. Check out more on their website at www.thelacentermuseum.org or their Facebook page La Center Historical Museum. The museum is located at 410 West 5th Street and are always accepting monetary donations!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark your calendars for upcoming community events & information!

September 5

Holley Park

LAST DAY FOR SPLASH PAD

September Activities at the La Center Community Library

Adult Book Group

9/7 starting at 9 a.m.

Friends of the Library Meeting

9/7 starting at 6 p.m.

Pop-up Book Sale

9/24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Storytime

9/22 starting at 10:30 a.m.

Teen Book Group & Teen Council

9/26 from 3-5 p.m.

Tween Book Group

9/28 starting at 3 p.m.

Kid & Parent Boo Group

9/29 starting at 3 p.m.

*Drop by the library during the month of September for a free kids Make & Take Kit!

October Activities at the La Center Community Library

Creative Mask Making

10/20 from 3-5:50 p.m.

Harvest Festival

10/28 from 4-5:30 p.m.

November Activities at the La Center Community Library

Teen Pie Program

11/14 from 3-5 p.m.

Dinovember

11/16 from 3-5 p.m.

Meals On Wheels - Thursday between now and the end of December
Community Center

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for over 60
Contribution in any amount required

Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

December 4, 4:30 p.m.

Downtown La Center (4th Street)

Visit the Civic Web
lacenter.civicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

September 14 & 28
October 12 & 26