To the Residents of La Cañada Flintridge:

Enclosed you will find the Spring issue of the LCF Vista. The articles were produced prior to the current developments of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), therefore, we would like to provide this supplemental information.

COVID-19

During this public health crisis, the community is reminded of the current “Safer at Home” orders issued by the Governor’s office and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. This means residents must help curb the spread of the virus and protect against personally contracting it by staying home, avoiding any public or private gatherings (of any size), maintaining a social distance if and when you must venture out to conduct essential business, wearing protective gear as an added precaution (if you have it), avoiding or minimizing in-person interactions with those greater at risk, and frequently sanitizing your visited areas and washing your hands with soap and water at regular intervals. For local businesses that are not deemed “essential”, you should be shuttered until further notice. Complaints regarding assemblies of persons or non-essential businesses still operating, should be directed to the Crescenta Valley Sheriff’s station at (818) 248-3464.

A designated email address, covidresponse@lcf.ca.gov, has been established to respond to questions and/or concerns from the community regarding the City’s response to the current crisis. We encourage residents and community members to reach out for more information.

Resources for current, reliable information about the coronavirus include the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health at PublicHealth.LACounty.gov/Media/Coronavirus; the Centers for Disease Control at CDC.gov/Coronavirus; and the California Department of Public Health at CDPH.ca.gov.

The City also has information available at our website CityOfLCF.org/Coronavirus and on our social media accounts: Facebook.com/CityOfLaCanadaFlintridge and @TheCityofLCF on Twitter.

We ask for your patience, understanding, cooperation and help in supporting one another during this time.
City Hall Closure

City Hall has been closed to walk-in traffic as of Thursday, March 19 throughout the “Safer at Home” orders. Appointments can be scheduled with City staff so that residents, businesses and the public may continue their business transactions with the City. Residents and businesses are encouraged to use the City’s online portal, “ConnectLCF”, in order to conduct most business transactions with the City. The portal can be found on the City’s website: CityOfLCF.org.

City Meetings

The City is limiting public meetings to only those with essential business items and only via electronic means. For those meetings held, we are offering options for the public to participate from home. City staff will include a special note on each meeting agenda about available remote options and how to participate. Residents can view agendas at CityOfLCF.org/City-Clerk/Agenda-Minutes.

For upcoming City Council meetings, which are presently scheduled to continue, we encourage the public to participate remotely, by watching live video streamed meetings on their Spectrum Cable (Channel 3 – East of ACH or Channel 16 – West of ACH) or via the City’s website (CityOfLCF.org). E-mails to cccpubliccomment@lcf.ca.gov will be accepted during the meeting and are monitored in real-time and will be acknowledged and become part of the official record of the meeting.

Alert LCF

Emergency Preparedness is a top priority for the City of La Cañada Flintridge. Our mass notification system, Alert LCF, is used to deliver emergency alerts to residents when there is a threat to health and safety. Please sign up at CityOfLCF.org/Public-Safety/Alert-LCF/. Tests of the system are conducted the 15th day of the new quarter (January, April, July, and October).

“Summer in La Cañada Flintridge” Article

At this time, it is uncertain how the current public health crisis will impact planned summer concerts and activities, including Fiesta Days and Music-in-the-Park. Please check the City’s website for updated information.
LCF Rose Parade Float Takes Home "Bob Hope Humor Award"

The La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association’s (LCFTRA) float, “Dodo Bird Flight School,” took home the Bob Hope Humor award at the 2020 Rose Parade. One of only six self-built floats in the parade, LCFTRA’s creation has taken home this award four of the past five years.

The float symbolized the power of hope by portraying flightless Dodo birds riding atop a zeppelin. The birds, constructed from pinecones, buffalo grass, tan and purple pampas grass, paprika and more, were accompanied by the Lenny Kravitz song “Fly Away” as they journeyed along the parade route.

LCFTRA is already preparing for 2021. For more information, visit lcftra.org.
Forming a Neighborhood Watch and Flock Cameras Fight Crime!

The new year is a great time to start good habits and to remember the importance of neighbors looking out for each other. Residents of La Cañada Flintridge can be proactive about public safety in several easy ways including starting or joining a neighborhood watch group and scheduling vacation patrol checks.

Neighborhood watch groups provide a means for members to learn about crime and safety issues, help alert law enforcement to suspicious activity and assist in preventing burglaries. Typically, Neighborhood Watch groups are comprised of small groups of residents, such as ten houses on each side of the street or a cul-de-sac.

At a kickoff meeting, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputy Matejka will provide a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of a neighborhood watch group and answer any questions. At the conclusion of the first meeting, the group earns recognition as an official neighborhood watch partner of the Sheriff's Department.

In addition, on February 4th, the City Council approved an agreement with Flock Safety, a security camera company, to fund the placement of 39 cameras around the City. Flock safety cameras are stationary motion-activated cameras combining the ability to capture photo images and read license plates using Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) technology. ALPR technology can read license plates of vehicles driving on City streets in real-time. ALPRs utilize Optical Character Recognition (OCR) taking a photo of a vehicle, sending the image via a wireless card to a cloud-based server that has a database with information on all registered motor vehicles. If a license plate number is tied to an Amber Alert, a vehicle reported stolen or other law enforcement tag, the server will notify the dispatch unit and status of the alert. Flock Safety Cameras can also read the newly required paper dealership plates. Separate from the ALPR technology, video capture will be available to the Sheriff’s Station to use in analyzing suspicious vehicles reported to the Department.

“The Flock platform will provide a preventative tool toward crime,” said Crescenta Valley Station Captain Todd Deeds, “combining real-time alerts to the local Sheriff’s Station on vehicles with wants and a powerful investigative tool with the potential to tie notable arrests to past residential burglaries and other crimes in the community.”

Additionally, Flock Safety Cameras can be purchased and utilized by private homeowners or neighborhood watch groups, with the potential to share the feed with the local Sherriff's Department, providing a magnifier effect on coverage within the community.

To help further reduce the threat of burglaries, LCF residents are also encouraged to notify the Sheriff's Department and their neighbors when they're going out of town. Residents can schedule vacation patrol checks by contacting the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station at (818) 248-3464 or online at their website (lasd.org/crescenta-valley/contact).

For more information on neighborhood watch programs and other public safety tips, contact Deputy Matejka by calling (818) 236-4020 or emailing ejmatejk@lasd.org.
New Business License System Launching in Spring 2020

Thanks to a new system launching this spring, customers applying for a business license in the City of La Cañada Flintridge will experience reduced application times and increased convenience.

Building on the City’s Energov system implemented in September 2018 that enables electronic submission of land use and building permit applications, the new system empowers customers to submit business license applications electronically as well. Through new or existing Connect LCF accounts, applicants can simply answer a few questions about their business, add a business license to their cart and, depending upon the type, pay for and receive their business license immediately.

Staff will be available to ensure applicants understand the new system and receive their licenses promptly.

“This new system will help our businesses save on time and travel,” says Director of Finance Rebekka Hosken. “We hope they find this to be a positive change.”

Store fronts, professional offices, contractors and home-based businesses operating within the City are required by law to obtain an active business license. Businesses should watch their emails and mailboxes for information and detailed instructions later this spring.

Summer in La Cañada Flintridge

The City of La Cañada Flintridge has plenty of events planned for residents this summer. From Friday, May 22, to Monday, May 25, the La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce will host the 47th Annual Memorial Weekend Fiesta Days. The four-day event is filled with traditional festivities and is meant to recognize our community and pay tribute to our fallen service personnel.

The City’s Music-in-the-Park summer concert series kicks off on Memorial Day, the last day of Fiesta Days. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. at Memorial Park. Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries will, once again, be the first performance of the season. The series will continue every Sunday through Labor Day weekend from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Don’t forget your picnic baskets, blankets and chairs!

Some of the bands on this year’s Music-in-the-Park Concert schedule include:

- Steve Roth - A Tribute to Elvis
- The Gary Seiler Band
- The Jack Lantz Big Band
- Past Action Heroes
- Misplaced Priorities
- The Funky Hippeez ('70s hits)
- Live From Earth - A Tribute to Pat Benatar
- Hot August Nights - A Tribute to Neil Diamond

Look for our finalized concert schedule on the City’s website in the near future.
Devil’s Gate Reservoir Update

In May 2019, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works began removing 1.7 million cubic yards of sediment from the Devil’s Gate Reservoir. This sediment excavation effort, anticipated to continue through Fall 2022, is intended to provide flood relief to nearby communities and establish a permanent stormwater maintenance area, creating 70 acres of habitat and recreational opportunities.

In September 2019, after being halted due to wind and weather events, hauling was further suspended to address dust issues and to study the benefits of tarped haul trucks. The County then added a second tire wash to reduce dust being carried onto streets. Hauling is presently on hiatus from November 2019 through Spring 2020. For more information, visit pw.lacounty.gov/swe/devilsgate or call (626) 485-2507.

The City of LCF Increases Transparency by Live Streaming Planning Commission Meetings

La Cañada Flintridge residents can now view Planning Commission meetings from home or on-the-go by visiting the Agenda & Minutes page of the City’s website at cityoflcf.org/city-clerk/agenda-minutes.

Regular City Council meetings have been streamed online since 2009. The streaming of Planning Commission meetings launched in December 2019 to make it easier for residents to watch and engage with their local government. Residents can also watch meetings through the Public, Education and Governmental Access channel on cable.

Expanding the streaming service is part of the City’s ongoing efforts to provide services for our residents and to steward the high quality of life that La Cañada Flintridge residents enjoy.

The Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., with the exception of City holidays. In accordance with the Brown Act, agendas are posted and published at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and 24 hours prior to special meetings.
Zoning Code Updates

In 2013, the La Cañada Flintridge General Plan, the City’s guiding development document, was updated. The General Plan includes eight elements, including the land use and housing elements, which sets forth how the community will be developed and accommodate future growth. As a result, the zoning code also needs to be updated to ensure consistency. In the zoning code update, content will be organized differently and written in simple, non-technical language. Ambiguous and contradictory provisions will be eliminated and graphics will be added to make the code easier to understand.

City staff will be preparing a new zoning map as part of the update. It is possible that the zoning designation of various properties will change to be consistent with the General Plan Land Use Map.

Public hearings before the Planning Commission on the zoning code update began February 1, 2020 and will be held each first Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and each fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. A preliminary schedule of hearings, and the topics to be discussed at each, is posted on the City’s website (cityoflcf.org/zoningupdate). After each meeting, staff will place a PDF of the presentation of each chapter reviewed onto the City’s website. The public can make comments directly on the webpage.

At the end of the Planning Commission hearings, the Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council on adoption of the updated zoning code. This recommendation will be reviewed by the City Council during a public hearing(s), which will provide additional opportunities for the public to comment and offer feedback.
LCF City Hall Wins Project of the Year Honors

On December 10, 2019, the City of La Cañada Flintridge received the “Project of the Year Award” in the building category (for communities under 50,000 population) from the American Public Works Association’s (APWA) Southern California Chapter for its new City Hall project. The APWA’s award program recognizes the best in municipal public works projects.

“It is an honor to be recognized with this award,” said Patrick DeChellis, Director of Public Works. “This project was a large-scale undertaking and, with the support of the City Council, residents, community and staff, it was a great success.”

The new City Hall includes enhanced public access, collaborative staff workspaces, redesigned council chambers and revenue-generating space. The project’s completion in phases, under a tight timeline without disrupting City services, contributed to its selection for the award.

“The City is proud that the vacated Sports Chalet corporate headquarters has been successfully transformed into a space that is a valuable asset to the community, residents and staff,” said City Manager Mark Alexander. “We are thankful to the American Public Works Association for recognizing our project.”

CITY INFORMATION

The City Council meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, One Civic Center Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011.

City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.

City Council
Leonard Pieroni – Mayor
Gregory C. Brown – Mayor Pro Tem
Jonathan C. Curtis
Michael T. Davitt
Terry Walker

City Staff
Mark R. Alexander - City Manager
Carl Alameda - Assistant City Manager
Adrian R. Guerra - Interim City Attorney
Jeffrey Wang - City Treasurer
Patrick DeChellis - Director of Public Works
Susan Koleda - Director of Comm. Development
Rebekka Hosken - Director of Finance
Tania Moreno - City Clerk

Ways to Stay Connected on Social Media

Stay current on news and events by “Liking” and “Following” the City of La Cañada Flintridge on social media.

facebook.com/cityoflacanadaflintridge
twitter: @thecityofLCF
youtube.com/thecityofLCF

Contact Your City Council
Gregory C. Brown – gbrown@lcf.ca.gov
Jonathan C. Curtis – jcurtis@lcf.ca.gov
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