



LCF Vista

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

Winter 2020

Celebrating Safely this Holiday Season

This year, with physical gatherings limited due to the coronavirus pandemic, our holiday season may look a little different than usual. Still, it is important for our community to embrace the holidays and stay connected with family and friends in safe ways.

As you plan holiday celebrations, please keep in mind the California Department of Public Health's guidance for private gatherings. For complete details related to the Department's requirements, visit cdph.ca.gov.

To help protect your family, friends and community from COVID-19, please consider the following holiday celebration and activity ideas as alternatives to in-person gatherings:

- Host a virtual holiday party via a video conference tool like Zoom, WebEx or Google Meet. Send your guests a goodie bag in advance filled with fun holiday treats like hot cocoa, baked goods and holiday activities such as puzzles, crafts and games.
- Meet with family and friends on Teleparty, a Netflix desktop app for streaming movies and shows with others, for a virtual movie night featuring your favorite holiday movie.
- Use an online gift exchange generator to pick names for Secret Santa, send your present and wait to open gifts during an online gathering.
- Dress up in your best (or "ugliest") holiday sweaters and accessories and take a walk around the neighborhood to look at holiday lights and decorations.



Please remember to always wear a mask in public, maintain six feet of distance from people who don't live in your household, and wash your hands frequently with soap.

Have a safe and happy holiday season from the City of La Cañada Flintridge!

Fighting Crime with Flock Safety

Partnership between City, Sheriff's Department and camera system sees early successes

The Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station has reported several notable arrests made possible by the new Flock Safety Cameras installed in August of 2020. The cameras, placed in strategic locations throughout La Cañada Flintridge, use Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology to capture the plates of bypassing vehicles. The plates are then compared against a law enforcement database to identify stolen vehicles or vehicles associated with individuals with warrants or known to be involved in reported crimes. The information is immediately shared with deputies working the field.

During the first two months of its joint partnership with Flock Safety and the City, the Crescenta Valley Station has recovered multiple stolen vehicles, intervened in an attempted home break-in and arrested a suspect wanted for multiple burglaries by identifying the suspect's vehicle.

"Without the cameras, we likely would not have found these vehicles on our own," commented Sergeant John Gilbert.

The speed and accuracy of ALPR technology allows law enforcement to ensure that no stolen vehicle or vehicles associated with a warrant passing through a Flock Safety zone goes unnoticed. Data captured by Flock Safety Cameras, including footage, is securely stored in an encrypted cloud service. All footage is permanently deleted after 30 days.

"We take privacy very seriously, and only use data for specific purposes related to active criminal investigations," said Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station Captain Todd Deeds. "If your plate number is not connected to a crime, it will not be tracked."

The mission of Flock Safety is to protect the public and lower overall crime by leveraging technology to fast-track law enforcement investigations. "This new technology will assist our station with recovering stolen property, apprehending suspects, and lowering crime," said Captain Deeds. "We look forward to sharing more success stories in the future."

Paving the Way for Smoother Commutes

Whether driving, biking or walking, there's a reason why residents have started noticing smoother commutes throughout La Cañada Flintridge. Toward the end of the summer, the City completed a number of improvement projects that resulted in several repaved streets and safer pedestrian spaces for the community.

In late August, the City finished a series of concrete repairs including new curb ramps, asphalt patching and gutter, sidewalk and driveway reconstructions to help increase pedestrian safety.

In addition to the concrete repairs, the City also completed a restriping project on Foothill Boulevard where street marks had become faded. Residents will now see fresh stripes, crosswalks, and other markings from west Alta Canyon Road to the west City limit.

North of Foothill Boulevard, the City completed a pavement reconstruction project on a public alley between Alta Canyon Road and Indiana Avenue. As part of the project, the City also installed pervious pavement that reduces runoff by allowing rainwater to pass through to the ground below.

In 2021, the City will complete Phase II of the 1-210 Soundwall Improvement Project, which will help reduce noise pollution from the 1-210 Freeway. The project consists of a 1,200-foot segment of sound wall along the I-210 Freeway from Alta



Canyon Road to La Tour Way. The wall will vary in height from 14 to 16 feet and will feature a decorative block pattern.

Residents can also look forward to a project that will begin in the Summer that will enhance bicycle, pedestrian and landscaping along Foothill Boulevard. Also known as the Foothill Link Project, the enhancements will connect existing bike lanes offering the first continuous bikeway between Los Angeles County's La Crescenta Valley Sub-region and the cities of La Cañada Flintridge, Glendale and Pasadena.

Be Proactive in Protecting Your Identity

In this digital day and age, it is not uncommon to receive alerts that your personal information has been compromised. Many large companies have experienced data breaches that can put your information into the wrong hands.

Some of the common signs that your identity may be compromised include seeing unknown transactions on your credit card; claims submitted to your medical insurance; the IRS may notify you that more than one tax return has been filed in your name; you receive bills that you don't recognize; or you stop receiving your routine bills.

If you feel your personal information has been compromised, take the following steps to minimize the damage:

- Call your credit card company, bank, medical insurance carrier, the IRS or other entities where the fraud occurred
- Place a free fraud alert on your credit report
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report identity theft and file a report with law enforcement

To further protect yourself, you can enroll in a credit monitoring service and contact the three credit bureaus to request a credit freeze. They will alert you anytime a new loan or credit account is opened in your name.

You should also be vigilant in protecting your mail, as this is a source of information for potential identity theft. Make sure to:

- Promptly pick up your mail
- Schedule a vacation hold when you are out of town
- File a change of address if you move
- Consider installing a locking mailbox
- Shred utility bills, credit card statements, or other documents that contain your personal information

A locking mailbox can ensure your mail stays safe and it acts as a deterrent for identity thieves. By protecting your mail, it could save you time and money in the long-run.

It is your responsibility to remain vigilant in protecting your identity. Make sure to routinely review bank statements, know your payment due dates, avoid public Wi-Fi when shopping online and shred all personal and financial documents. It is also important to review your credit reports at least once a year for any suspicious activity. Be proactive in protecting your identity!

For more information, visit cityoflcf.org/identity-theft-and-fraud-prevention-2.

COVID-19 Update

The City of LCF continues to encourage residents to follow health and safety guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19. County Health Department guidelines include practicing physical distancing, wearing face coverings in public places, maintaining safe hygiene practices and staying home whenever possible.

As City Hall remains closed to walk-in traffic, the public may access many City services online. Community members can use the online system, ConnectLCF, to obtain permits, licenses and more. This service can be found through the City's website at: CityOfLCF.org.

Public meetings continue to be accessible to the public via video telecasting. Please check the City's website for updated agendas and instructions for tuning in or submitting comments.

Residents are urged to continue monitoring up-to-date information from the City, County, State and Center for Disease Control and to sign up to receive emergency notices through AlertLCF by visiting CityofLCF.org/alerts.

New Citizen Reporter App

Additionally, the City recently released a mobile-friendly application, Citizen Problem Reporter, to facilitate the reporting of a variety of non-emergency matters to the City. Through the app, users can report issues, such as graffiti or road problems, directly to the City. A GPS locator feature within the app provides the exact location of the issue or problem and users also have the option of manually inputting the address. The application will allow for the uploading of photos to accompany the report. For instructions on how to download the app, visit cityoflcf.org/citizen-problem-reporter-app.





Community eGift Card Program Spurs Patronage of LCF Businesses

Small businesses need community support now more than ever as local economies recover from the impacts of COVID-19. On October 26, the City launched a community electronic gift card stimulus program to encourage local shopping as we head into the holiday season.

Following approval by the LCF City Council on August 4, the City worked with the LCF Chamber of Commerce to select a program and provider. The e-gift card company Yiftee was chosen. Yiftee has been in the gift card business since 2012.

"The e-gift card program is an excellent idea for bringing new business in at no cost to the merchant," said Diana Petrosyan, owner of Fruitti Felici Bakery at 711 Foothill Boulevard. The bakery, which recently opened, offers healthy baked goods in a cozy European atmosphere with outdoor seating available. "Business is picking up, but this will boost it a lot," said Petrosyan. "I'm really grateful that the City is doing this."

Customers can view a map of participating businesses and purchase e-gift cards in the amount of \$40 supplemented with an additional \$15 bonus card (limit 9 bonus cards) provided free from the City. The \$55 total value e-gift cards are eligible for use at any of the participating local businesses in the City.

Travis Emi, owner of The Dairy at 2271 Foothill Boulevard, commented that he can see the e-gift card program help to expose his business to new shoppers. He and co-owner Kyle Bilowitz believe in the philosophy of supporting local as many of the products they carry have been crafted by local artisans. They are proud to provide unique items like made-from-scratch quiche as well as specialty coffees. Promoting good health, preservation of the environment, and strengthening community ties are all important elements The Dairy strives to convey through the personalized products they offer.

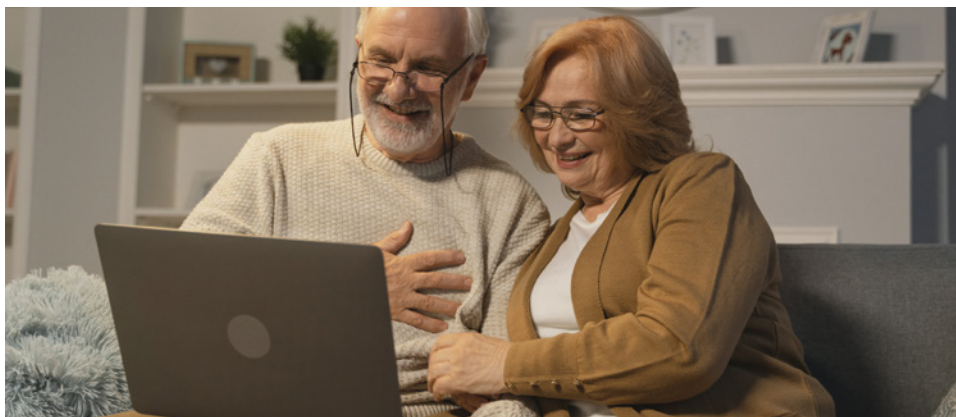
"Our local businesses are an integral part of the LCF community, and when small businesses thrive, our entire community benefits," said Mayor Michael T. Davitt. "The City is committed to supporting our business community and this innovative e-gift card program is just one of the ways we are showing our commitment."

To purchase a La Cañada Flintridge Shop Local e-gift card, visit app.yiftee.com/gift-card/la-canada-flintridge-la-canada-flintridge or scan the QR code:



How it works:

Select the value of your La Cañada Flintridge Shop Local Card. Choose your recipient and send via email or text message. The recipient can use that value to make purchases at participating La Cañada Flintridge Shop Local Card merchants.



Technology Helps Connect Friends and Family

While it's vital to follow health and safety guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's equally important to remain connected and to engage with friends and family. You can practice physical distancing while bridging social distance with technology platforms such as FaceTime and Zoom. But what about older adults who aren't as comfortable with video calling? Here is what you need to know to help the seniors in your life take the guess work out of video calls:

Connect Via Video

Video calling is an effective way to combat social isolation. Once older adults are comfortable with the technology, they can do more than just check in with friends and family, they can also participate in virtual exercise classes, clubs and events.

Access

Some of the obstacles older adults have with technology include access, skill and fear. Try to set them up for success by finding a user-friendly platform and go through how to use it step by step. You can install the necessary application and send along instructions with accompanying screen-grabs to help them on their first call.

Technology

For use on iPhone or iPad, FaceTime could be the easiest option. Since the application comes preinstalled, it can be as easy as answering a call. The one drawback is that you will only be able to communicate with others who have an Apple device.

Other options include Zoom, Skype, Facebook Messenger, UberConference and Google Hangouts. If possible, it can be easier for seniors to use a tablet as opposed to a smart phone as the larger screen can be easier to navigate. Some tablets, such as GrandPad, are made specifically for seniors.

Most importantly, connection is key. No matter how you stay engaged with friends and family, put in the effort to check in on each other and work toward the common goal of staying connected while being apart.

LCF Honors 19th Amendment

From August 26 through September 2, La Cañada Flintridge City Hall, illuminated in purple and gold, participated in the Forward Into Light campaign, a nationwide partnership celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment.

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state needed to ratify the proposed 19th Amendment that granted women the constitutional right to vote. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified and made law. To commemorate the centennial anniversary, on August 26, 2020, government agencies across the country lighted their buildings, facilities and landmarks in purple and gold, the colors of the women's suffrage movement.

"We were honored to join municipalities, organizations and historic landmarks from around the country as we commemorate this centennial anniversary," said Mayor Michael T. Davitt. "It was a pleasure to celebrate this milestone in American history."

For more information on the campaign, visit [womensvote100.org/forwardintolight](https://www.womensvote100.org/forwardintolight).



LCF Small Business Grant Program Supports Local Economy

Four local businesses in La Cañada Flintridge have been awarded small business grants totaling \$15,942 to assist in recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded by CARES Act federal dollars and administered by the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), the program awards grants to eligible businesses for the creation or retention of jobs for lower-income workers. Grant recipients were chosen by lottery.

"We're committed to supporting our community and local businesses, especially during this time of need," said La Cañada Flintridge City Manager Mark R. Alexander. "We want to ensure that our small businesses can continue to succeed in our City and participating in LACDA's Community Development Block Grant program to distribute small business grants is just one of the avenues through which we're striving to lend support."

Businesses can use the grant funds for operational expenses including payroll, supplies and costs associated with new health and safety practices to protect workers and patrons from the ongoing risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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 December 24-25 for Christmas, December 31-January 1 for New Year's, and January 18 for Martin Luther King Jr.

City Council

Michael T. Davitt – Mayor
Jonathan C. Curtis – Mayor Pro Tem
Teresa "Terry" Walker
Keith Eich
Richard B. Gunter III

City Staff

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

City Hall

One Civic Center Drive,
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Administration: (818) 790-8880

Finance: (818) 790-8880

Community Development: (818) 790-8881

Public Works: (818) 790-8882

Building and Safety: (818) 790-8651

City Hall Hours: Mon – Thurs: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Fri: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Building & Safety Hours: Mon – Thurs: 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM, Fri: 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Website: www.CityOfLCF.org

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.



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*City Hall is currently closed to walk-in traffic. To book an appointment, please call (818) 790-8880. For instructions on how to participate remotely in City Council Meetings, please visit CityOfLCF.org/Agenda-Minutes.



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