



City of La Center News

www.ci.lacenter.wa.us

DECEMBER 2018

City of La Center
City Hall
214 E. 4th Street
La Center, WA 98629
Phone: (360) 263-2782
(360) 263-8662
Fax: (360) 263-5700

Office of the Mayor
305 NW Pacific Hwy
La Center, WA 98629
Phone: (360) 263-5123
Fax: (360) 263-7666

Public Works Office
305 NW Pacific Hwy
La Center, WA 98629
Phone: (360) 263-7665
Fax: (360) 263-7666

Police Department
105 W. 5th St.
La Center, WA 98629
Phone: (360) 263-2745
Fax: (360) 263-2757

EMERGENCIES CALL 911
NON-EMERGENCIES CALL 311

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Greg Thornton

City Councilmembers:
Doug Boff
Elizabeth Cerveny (Pro Tem)
John Stimmel
Thomas Strobehn
Randy Williams

Merry Christmas!



It is the holiday season and the Mayor, City Council, and City Staff would like to wish all La Center residents a Merry Christmas! Many residents and visitors enjoyed the **Christmas Festival**. Thank you to everyone who attended, the city staff who worked tirelessly to set up and run the event, Clark County Fire and Rescue for their contributions and a special thank you to the businesses and volunteers for all their donations and for unselfishly giving their valuable time and talents to make the event a success!

Council Approves Budget for 2019

After several months of public hearings and meetings with the Budget Advisory Committee, City Council voted in November to approve the City's 2019 budget. The budget continues existing city services and service levels and makes targeted investments in expanding the city's infrastructure. The complete budget can be found on main page of the city's website.



New City Employees in 2018

Matt Jenkins, Public Works Manager

Matt Jenkins was promoted to the position of Public Works Manager for the City of La Center in October of 2018. He worked for the City of La Center as the Wastewater Supervisor from 2017-2018, as the Chief Wastewater Operator for the City of Ridgefield from 2015-2017, and as Wastewater Operator for the City of La Center from 2010-2015. Matt brings to the city a breadth of experience in Public Works operations from both the public and private sectors. He was awarded the NWMOA Treatment Plant Operator of the Year in 2014 and the PNCWA Operator of the Year in 2016. Matt is a graduate of Battle Ground High School and holds an Associate's Degree in General/Behavioral Science. Matt attended Portland State University on an Athletic Scholarship. Matt and his family reside in Ridgefield.

Dustin Bailey, Finance Manager

Dustin Bailey joined the City of La Center as the Finance Manager in November of 2018. Dustin previously worked for the US Department of Transportation from 2009-2018. Before joining Federal service, Dustin worked for the County of El Dorado in Northern California. He comes to the city with over 15 years of experience in Financial Management, with 12 of these years being in local and Federal government. Dustin has been recognized for his innovative, creative and common-sense approach to Government service. His recognition includes the USDOT John Snyder Leadership Award in 2017, USDOT Secretary's Award for Excellence in 2016, the CO Federal Executive Board Eagle Award for Special Projects in 2013. Dustin holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, both from California State University, Sacramento. Dustin and his family reside in La Center.

Alec Langlois, LCPD Officer

Officer Alec Langlois joined the City of La Center as a lateral from the Longview Police Department. He joined the City of La Center in May of 2018. Alec is also currently a Sergeant in the United States National Guard.

Sheridan Crutcher, LCPD Officer

Officer Sheridan Crutcher joined the City of La Center as a lateral officer from the Warrenton Police Department in October of 2018. He is a veteran of the US Coast Guard. Officer Crutcher is currently in Field Training with the Police Department.





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Planning Commission:

Diana Mclean, Chairperson
Dennis Hill
Dennis Nutterbrock
Jeremy Smith
Steve Workman
Reymond Denny
Ken Stevenson

The La Center City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 214 E. 4th St.

The City of La Center Planning Commission meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 214 E. 4th St.

Visit our CivicWeb Portal for upcoming meeting dates/times, locations, and meeting materials at <https://lacenter.civicweb.net/Portal/>

City Council

Special recognition and appreciation are extended to **Joe Valenzuela** who retired from the City Council in July of 2018. On behalf of the city and its citizens, thank you for your valuable service.

Councilmember **Thomas Strobehn** has taken the vacated seat on the City Council as of September 2018. Thomas is an entrepreneur in the Information Technology Industry and has been a La Center Resident for over 12 years.

Roundabout Construction

The roundabout construction project is nearing completion. This construction project is financed through a combination the State Transportation Program Rural funds and State Transportation Improvement Board funding. Harper Houf Peterson Righellis designed the project for the city and the design was partially funded by State Transportation Program Rural funding.

Construction began in May 2018 with the project being split into two stages of detouring rather than the four stages proposed in the plans. By constructing the roundabout in two stages, the overall project length was shortened, as well as reducing the time of utility relocations to accommodate the roundabout construction.

The roundabout was open on November 20th in all directions to traffic. Although the roundabout is functioning, several items need to be finished before the project is complete.

- Thermoplastic cross walk striping and roundabout striping
- Activation of all of the street lights
- Installation of sidewalk adjacent to the concrete barrier
- Installation of some of the permanent signs.
- Repair of concrete curb and gutter
- Finish work of the concrete barrier
- Cleanup and finish work of sidewalk and landscaping

In order to complete some of this work, periodic lane closures will be necessary. This work will likely be done in the next few weeks weather permitting.



Community Development

La Center continues to reflect on our past as we plan for the future of our community. The City has been working hard to re-evaluate policies for parks, trails and zoning regulations. These changes will ensure that new developments reflect the longterm goals of our community.



New Park

With the support of Senator Riviers, the City was awarded a grant to construct the new **John Pollock Water Trail Park**. This new park is located along the East Fork Lewis River and is a great location to launch your kayak or paddle board.

Residential Development

This year we have seen a steady increase in residential growth with 49 new homes in various stages of construction. Staff continue to review plans for new subdivisions that will break ground next year. Development information is available on the city's website.

http://www.ci.lacenter.wa.us/city_departments/pw_landuse.php