

# LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



## MAYOR'S CORNER

### Greetings Neighbors:

Hopefully, many of you had the opportunity to enjoy the farmers market this summer hosted by the La Center Evangelical Free Church or the concerts in the park series held at Sternwheeler Park. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers, vendors, bands, City staff and community members who came out to make these events a great success. I am confident that as we continue to learn more about Covid 19 and its new variants, we will slowly be able to enjoy more community events with fewer restrictions and eventually resume our normal day-to-day and City activities without any limitations. With that being said, infections are rapidly increasing due the delta variant, placing a tremendous strain on our hospitals and health care professionals. As a result of the increase in Covid 19 cases, all city employees are again required to wear masks in public facilities and anyone visiting City offices will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. I appreciate everyone's understanding and strict adherence to this City policy.

Here are a couple of updates on the City's effort to provide law enforcement services within the city. As many of you know, the policing services assessment was completed earlier this year and the findings presented to the City Council on March 16. Among other things, the assessment outlined

two potential options for continued police services to meet the City's overall needs. The City has nearly completed a comparative analysis of police service options outlined in the assessment. This analysis will be presented at a City Council meeting in the near future. In the meantime, the City will continue to work with all our law enforcement partners in Clark County to provide professional law enforcement services for your continued safety.

Also, I am pleased to report the upgrades and improvements to the new City Hall are well underway with the project completion date scheduled for early November. Thanks again to Senator Ann Rivers, Representatives Brandon Vick and Larry Hoff, Jeff Swanson and Lloyd Halverson, City staff, and the City Council for all of their hard work and tireless efforts to secure the \$1,236,000 in state funding for this critically important city project.

The last few years have presented the City with many challenges and opportunities. Some of these were expected but many of them could have never been imagined. The demands placed on City staff with the opening of Ilani, the Covid 19 global pandemic, unprecedented residential growth and development, numerous annexations and significant utility and infrastructure projects necessitated major improvements and upgrades to all City operations. All this activity required the creation and implementation of many new policies and procedures resulting in in-

creased efficiencies and effectiveness across all City departments. Through all the growth and required changes, our great City staff, along with highly skilled, experienced professional consultants and experts, have done an exceptional job of providing outstanding City services to our community, stakeholders, partners, and neighbors. I am extremely proud and so thankful to each and every one of them for the amazing job they do every day!

Finally, it deeply distresses me when on social media and other electronic venues I see all the disinformation, misinformation, and outright lies about City operations and management of the City. As mentioned above, the City has been dealing with unprecedented challenges and growth these past few years. The City now has a professional, highly dedicated, hardworking, and motivated City staff working with professional experts in order to provide the best City services possible given our available resources during a challenging time. Change is always difficult, especially in small cities, but if we continue to pull together, our community will work through all our challenges and build a vibrant and successful City we can all continue to be proud to call home.

Stay well everyone!

**Mayor, Greg Thornton**

**FUN FACT: LA CENTER BEGAN ITS LIFE AS A BUSINESS CENTER IN THE 1870S UNTIL IT WAS INCORPORATED IN 1909.**

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SEPTEMBER 2021

## CITY SAFETY

### Be Aware – But Don't Be Afraid by Chief Bob Richardson

I have had the opportunity to serve as your Interim Chief of Police since January 2021 and wanted to take the time to talk about crime in the City of La Center – “reality vs. perception”.

We all want a safe and peaceful environment for our families as we go about living our lives in this wonderful community. I have had the occasion to talk to many of you regarding issues involving the La Center Police Department and one of the most frequent topics is the rising crime in the City of La Center. I want to ensure you that La

Center is one of the safest communities in the State of Washington, but even Disneyland isn't crime free.

Crime in La Center is predominately crimes of opportunity involving the theft of packages off your front porch, stealing items from inside your unlocked vehicle or vehicle theft. Almost all crime involving assaults on people are domestic violence related. Crimes against persons in our community are generally perpetrated by a suspect known to the victim.

This doesn't mean you should not be aware of your environment and take precautions. I would encourage you

to remove wallets, purses, cell phones and keys from your vehicle and then lock it before retiring for the evening. Invest in a quality security camera that provides coverage of your vehicles and driveway, be a great neighbor and call the police when you see someone suspicious.

Almost any data source (i.e. <https://bjs.ojp.gov>) will show you that crime is not surging in our nation except for homicides and assaults in major cities. What has changed is people's perception of crime due to us becoming more informationally focused with 24-hour news and social media.

## CITY KNOWLEDGE

### Dogs are La Center Citizens Too

Whether they are a Chihuahua or a Mastiff, they must be licensed with the City of La Center each year.

#### *The fees are as follows for each dog:*

- Spayed/neutered is \$16.00
- Not spayed/neutered is \$40.00
- For senior citizens is \$8.00

#### *Along with your fee, you must provide the following information:*

- Veterinarian's proof of rabies vaccination
- Proof of spaying/neutering
- Owner's name, address, and phone number
- Pet's Name, Breed, Coloring, and Sex

Stop by City Hall at 214 East 4th Street in La Center (please wear a mask) to obtain your dog license or mail a check with the above information included. Inquire at 360-263-8656.

If the City's animal control authority finds and declares an animal potentially dangerous or dangerous, additional licensing fees will apply.

### Save Money! Sign Up for Direct-Pay!

Save your tax dollars and sign up with Direct Pay!

It's free, convenient, and one less bill you have to worry about paying on time. The amount due every month is always the same as there are no meter readings.

The amount is deducted from your checking or savings account between the 20th and 24th of each month for the previous month's services, and, it's completely secured.

You can fill out the Direct Pay form found at our website (no need to attach a voided check) and email the form to [dallingernelson@ci.lacenter.wa.us](mailto:dallingernelson@ci.lacenter.wa.us) or, you may call Desi at 360-263-8656.

### Did you know dog poop can take up to 12 months to fully break down?

The poop carries disease causing bacteria and parasites, which can contaminate yards, parks, and gardens. There are City bag dispensers and trash cans throughout town for disposal. Please pick up after your dog to help keep our community clean and safe!

## CITY COUNCIL

**Justin Keeler** is our newly appointed City Councilmember. He is filling the vacancy for Position #1 replacing Councilmember Boff who moved before the end of his term. Councilmember Keeler will finish out Councilmember Boff's term which goes through the end of 2021. Councilmember Keeler joined our team in August and you can find him at the next Virtual City Council meeting on September 8th at 6:30 pm.

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

City Council Meetings

September 8th & 22nd  
October 13th & 27th  
November 3rd & 17th