



# LCF Vista

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

Spring 2022

## “Who Says We Can’t?” Rose Parade Float Brings Home Award

After a one-year hiatus, the highly anticipated Tournament of Roses Parade returned for its 133rd celebration and the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association (LCFTRA) walked away with an impressive award. The float, entitled “Who Says We Can’t?”, won the Crown City Innovator Award for Most Outstanding Use of Imagination, Innovation and Technology for the parade’s theme of “Dream. Believe. Achieve.”

The float redefined what’s possible when you’re open to inspiring growth in yourself and others; an old dog can always learn new tricks. During the last 10 days of 2021, more than 1,000 community volunteers came together safely outdoors to impressively construct a dog skatepark float.

A pattern of over 50,000 roses, carnations and irises were paired alongside vegetables to create a vibrant spectrum of color throughout the skatepark. Each dog boasted a unique coat made with natural materials, from pampas grass to Fat Choy seaweed, crushed walnuts and more.

This year marked LCFTRA’s 43rd entry into the parade and, as always, the float was entirely self-built. Since its formation in 1978, LCFTRA has won 32 awards.

Not to be complacent with victory, the LCFTRA is already gearing up for 2023! For more information on how to get involved, visit [lcftra.org](http://lcftra.org).





## \$3 Million in Funding Approved for Flint Canyon Trail Restoration

During a December board meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), the SMMC staff approved the City of La Cañada Flintridge’s \$3 million grant application to fund 50% of the construction cost for the Flint Canyon Trail restoration project.

The Flint Canyon project will prevent the potential loss of a 1,000-foot section of Flint Canyon Trail that requires stabilization due to stream flow deterioration within the canyon. Ensuring this work is completed will preserve a vital component of the 12.7-mile trail while preventing future loss of trail connectors to Hahamongna Park and the Arroyo Seco to the east, San Rafael Hills to the west, and Angeles National Forest to the north. The trail is one of the oldest in the region dating back to when the Gabrieleños tribe used the path as a trading route.

Completion of the Flint Canyon Trail Restoration project will stem from two decades of effort by the LCF City Council to stabilize the trail with a permanent solution.

# New Sidewalk on Gould Avenue Helps Keep Residents Safe

At a town hall meeting held at Paradise Canyon Elementary School, the City collected feedback from parents and residents regarding various traffic and safety issues in the area. Community members shared two main concerns: excessive speeds and the lack of a safe path of travel for pedestrians on Gould Avenue, especially for parents walking their children to school.

To address these issues, the City proposed a project to build a new sidewalk along the east side of Gould Avenue between Vineta Avenue and Knight Way. On April 20, 2021, the City Council authorized staff to prepare the plans and specifications for the construction of the sidewalk. Construction of the project commenced on July 19, 2021 and the work was substantially completed on August 27, 2021.

“Our top priority as a City is to keep our residents safe. We also believe in building secure infrastructure to encourage efficient transportation and healthy exercise,” said Patrick DeChellis, Director of Public Works. “This project ensures that the children and families that make up our vibrant community have access to secure pathways that are protected from traffic.”

The City would like to thank the community for their input, suggestions and cooperation during the course of this project. The new walkway is now open to the public and residents are encouraged to take advantage of it on their daily walks.

## LCF’s Tree Planting Program

Trees are essential to the character and charm of La Cañada Flintridge. To protect the health of the urban forest, the City has a program in place to plant trees in the public right of way, free of charge.

“La Cañada Flintridge is a proud member of The Tree City USA program, and part of our mission involves protecting trees in the public right of way,” said Ken Roberts, City Facilities & Maintenance Superintendent. “We are thrilled to offer this tree planting program to our residents to bolster the livelihood of our urban forest.”

Residents can request a tree planting in the public right of way by visiting the City’s website. The species of tree to be planted is based on a City-wide tree map and the resident’s address. While species selection will vary depending on geographic location, the standard size is a 24-inch box tree.

After requesting a tree planting, an arborist will be dispatched to the site to collaborate with the requesting resident to determine the most promising placement of the new tree. Once planted, the tree will be added to the City’s Tree Inventory for maintenance needs.

To request a tree planting in the public right of way, visit [cityoflcf.org/trees\\_landscaping/](http://cityoflcf.org/trees_landscaping/).



## Soundwall Phase III Project

Construction of the three (3) soundwall segments comprising the Soundwall Phase III Project began February 2022 with expected completion in early 2023. The walls are located along south side I-210 between Alta Canyon Rd. to St. Francis Place and between Vineta Ave. to the on-ramp at Georgian Road, and north side I-210 between Baptiste Way/Vineta Ave. to the westbound off-ramp at Foothill/Crown. For questions, please call (818) 583-4312 or email: [soundwall@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:soundwall@lcf.ca.gov).

## Be Prepared, Be Protected:

### LCF Adopts Emergency Operations Plan

On December 21, 2021, the City Council formally adopted the City's new Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which serves as the guiding document for emergency and disaster preparedness and response. The EOP establishes the City's Emergency Operations Organization and provides the planning basis for a coordinated response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural and human-caused emergencies or disasters within or affecting the City.

"Our department works every day to ensure that we're ready to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens should an emergency situation arise," said Emergency Services Coordinator Shahan Atmajian. "We encourage community members to take part in this effort by signing up for AlertLCF, our citywide communications system for emergency alerts and other critical information."

Residents can sign up for AlertLCF by visiting [CityOfLCF.org/Alerts](https://www.cityoflcf.org/alerts) or by following the City on Facebook (@CityofLaCañadaFlintridge) or Twitter (@TheCityOfLCF) for timely emergency preparedness tips throughout the year. Periodic tests of the City's emergency notification system are conducted each January 15 and July 15 so that you know you have been successfully included on our system.

Finally, residents are encouraged to assemble emergency kits and routinely practice family emergency preparedness plans. Visit [CityOfLCF.org/Emergency-Prep](https://www.cityoflcf.org/emergency-prep) for helpful resources.

# New Organic Waste Reduction Program Takes Effect

Before you toss your coffee grinds and eggshells in the trash after breakfast, take a moment to review upcoming changes to how the state will handle food waste.

As of January 1, 2022, a new statewide program to divert organic waste from landfills is in effect under California Senate Bill (SB) 1383.

SB 1383 places requirements on residences, schools, organizations and businesses to change the way they dispose of organic waste, which consists of items like green waste (such as yard trimmings), soiled paper and food scraps. Starting this year, residents will be asked to separate organic waste from their regular trash.



Aimed at reducing greenhouse gases generated in landfills, improving soil quality and enhancing drought resistance, SB 1383 gets California closer to achieving a number of environmental sustainability goals. The state has set targets of reducing organic waste disposal by 75% by 2025, as well as recovering at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food for human consumption by 2025. Diverted organic waste material will be transformed into regenerative products like nutrient-rich compost and natural gas.

New collection services will be phased in incrementally in LCF. Community members will be kept informed as the process unfolds. To prepare for upcoming changes, residents are encouraged to review their waste generation and collection needs.

The City's municipal code requires all single-family residences to participate in the green waste collection and recycling program. All LCF households are already supplied with refuse, green waste and recycling bins. If you think you may need more or less capacity in one of these bins, contact your waste hauler. Authorized haulers will provide up to two 96-gallon recycling carts for the collection of organic materials at no charge.



To learn about existing laws mandating commercial recycling and commercial organics recycling, visit [cityoflcf.org/public-works/waste-disposal-recycling](https://www.cityoflcf.org/public-works/waste-disposal-recycling) or scan the QR code to the left.

Contact your authorized hauler to learn more about how SB 1383 will affect you.

- Allied Waste Services: (747) 245-9152
- Athens Services: (888) 336-6100
- NASA: (888) 888-0388



# The Next California Drought is Here

## What you need to know.

The State is in the second year of a drought. Pictured is the U.S. Drought Monitor's Conditions for California which shows 83% of the State is in an Extreme or Exceptional Drought. Based on these drought conditions, Foothill Municipal Water District is asking residents to increase conservation. The best way to do this is by reducing the number of days you water your lawn.

La Cañada Flintridge gets its supplies from two sources: local groundwater, which comprises about 15% of supplies, and 85% from imported water through Metropolitan Water District from the State Water Project and Colorado River Aqueduct. The State Water Project allocation has only been 5% of entitlement during this year. On December 1, the State will provide its initial allocation for next year, which is expected to be 0%.

La Cañadans are fortunate to have access to Colorado River water which allows us to be more reliable than other parts of southern California which have access to only the State Water Project and local supplies.

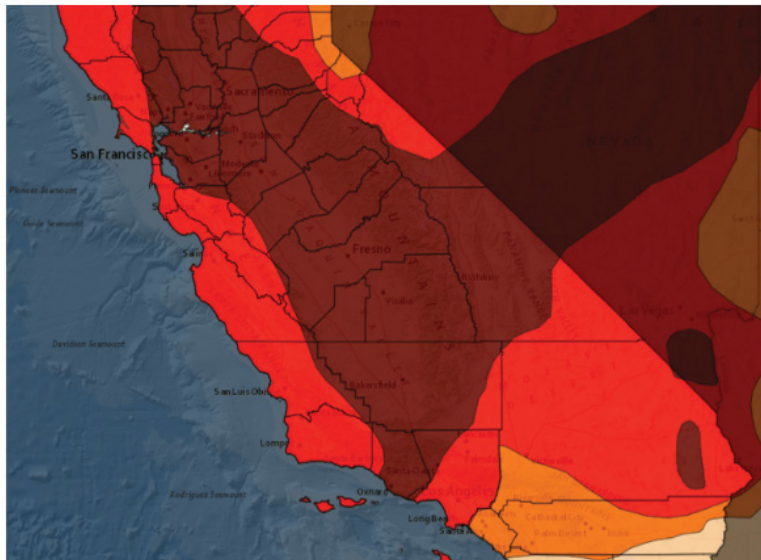
The State and Metropolitan may call for further action to help conserve water in regional storage, as such the Foothill Municipal Water District and its retail agencies will respond to these requests as appropriate.

Here are some tips to conserve water.

- **Efficient Irrigation of Turf:** Irrigate your turf after dusk and before dawn. Less sunlight means less water will evaporate.
- **Cleaning Paved Surfaces:** Save some money and water; hose down paved surfaces only to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards.
- **Limits on Washing Vehicles:** Use a hand-held bucket or similar container or a hand-held hose equipped with a self-closing water shut-off nozzle.

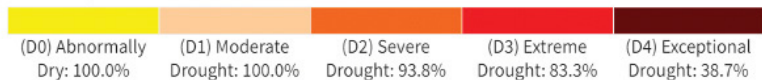
Be sure to visit [BeWaterWise.Com](http://BeWaterWise.Com) and [FMWD.COM](http://FMWD.COM) for water conservation rebates.

### Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for California: Current



Basemap Sources: National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, INCREMENT P

#### U.S. Drought Monitor for CA



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
Updates Weekly - 10/26/21

[Drought.gov](http://Drought.gov)

# Neighborhood Watch Program and Educational Outreach

Since his retirement this past year from the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station, former deputy Eric Matejka has continued to protect and serve the community. Since June 2021, Matejka has worked for the City on a part-time basis as our Community Services Liaison focusing on building public safety programs. His two main initiatives include LCF's Neighborhood Watch Program and educating parents and teens on community safety issues.

## Neighborhood Watch Program

The Neighborhood Watch Program is designed to promote safety through locally organized watch groups that self-report crime. Over the past nine years, more than 40 groups have formed within the City. These watch programs, established in partnership with the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station, provide a means for neighbors to better communicate with each other and educate themselves on issues related to crime and safety.



"Police can't be everywhere all the time," said Matejka. "The Neighborhood Watch program helps residents serve as their neighborhood's eyes and ears to ensure that everyone feels safe."

Watch groups consist of a neighboring block of homes. Ideally, neighbors get to know one another to better understand normal behavior at a nearby home. This familiarity provides neighbors with more context for suspicious activity occurring outside a home and an increased ability to identify a potential crime.

If residents are interested in organizing a local neighborhood watch group, they are asked to contact Matejka. He will organize a series of educational classes to train residents on how to keep their home and neighborhood safe, identify suspicious activity and report a crime.

## Educational Safety Outreach for Teens and Adults

Matejka also hosts school programs on a yearly and as-needed basis. He meets with Parent Teacher Associations as well as holds interactive programs at middle and high schools, both public and private.

Matejka provides comprehensive drug education for parents that draws from his relevant experience as a deputy. Another program aimed at students provides a wide scope of information on law enforcement from an officer's perspective. For example, Matejka teaches students what to do when involved in a traffic stop, car accident, traffic citation, as well as suicide prevention and other topics.

To inquire about starting a Neighborhood Watch Program or hosting an educational safety program, contact Eric Matejka by calling (818) 583-4311 or emailing [ematejka@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:ematejka@lcf.ca.gov).

# Preparing for a Wildfire

*A message from Acting Assistant Fire Chief Nicholas Berkuta of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD)*

If your children are in class when a wildfire breaks out, your first instinct may be to immediately retrieve them from school. Below is valuable information as to why this may not be the safest choice:

- Your children are safe at school and, in most cases, can be sheltered in place in their classrooms.
- When hundreds of parents are driving to the school to reach their children, this can lead to increased traffic congestion and collisions.
- Depending on road closures related to the wildfire, it may not be possible for you to reach the school.
- If children are sheltering in place at their school, the school will be made a top priority for fire response.
- Parents will be contacted by the school when it is safe to pick up children.

This information, coupled with the valuable tips found in the *Ready! Set! Go!* program at [fire.lacounty.gov/rsg](https://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg), will help ensure the safety of all your family members.





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**Coming Next Issue:** City Manager's Annual Report Highlights. See City website to view the 2021 Annual Report.

## This Summer in LCF

Get ready for upcoming events this summer in La Cañada Flintridge. The LCF Chamber of Commerce will return after a two-year hiatus to host the Annual Memorial Weekend Fiesta Days festivities beginning on Friday, May 27, and lasting through Monday, May 30.\* The four-day event honors and commemorates the fallen men and women of the armed forces. More information and schedules of each days' events can be found on the Chamber's website and social media channels as the event approaches.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, the Music-in-the-Park summer concert series will kick-off at 4:00 p.m. in Memorial Park. Be sure to stop by and hear the first band of the season, Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries. The series runs every Sunday through Labor Day from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring a picnic basket, blankets and chairs and enjoy these summer evenings of free music.

\*Subject to change based on LA County Department of Public Health COVID-19 restrictions.



## 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 Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.

### City Council

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

### City Staff

Mark R. Alexander - City Manager  
Adrian R. Guerra - City Attorney  
Jeffrey Wang - City Treasurer  
Carl Alameda - Assistant City Manager  
Patrick DeChellis - Director of Public Works  
Susan Koleda - Director of Comm. Development  
Alex Kung - Director of Finance  
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](http://www.CityOfLCF.org)

## WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay current on news and events by following the City of La Cañada Flintridge on social media.



facebook.com/  
cityoflacanadaflintridge



twitter.com/thecityofLCF

### Contact Your City Council

Jonathan C. Curtis – [jcurtis@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:jcurtis@lcf.ca.gov)

Michael T. Davitt – [mdavitt@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:mdavitt@lcf.ca.gov)

Keith Eich – [keich@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:keich@lcf.ca.gov)

Richard B. Gunter III – [rgunter@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:rgunter@lcf.ca.gov)

Terry Walker – [twalker@lcf.ca.gov](mailto:twalker@lcf.ca.gov)