



LCF *Vista*

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

Spring 2023

Showcasing “Secondhand Shenanigans” at the 2023 Rose Parade

With the theme of the 2023 Tournament of Roses Parade being “Turning the Corner,” the La Cañada Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association’s (LCFTRA) float concept came from the perspective of an adolescent who has outgrown toys and clothes from his youth and is preparing to move on to the next step in life’s journey—heading to college. As discarded items build up in the driveway, an opportunistic family of raccoons stop by and get involved in some “secondhand shenanigans” as the teenager watches curiously from an upstairs window.

Using materials such as potato skins, crushed walnuts, cinnamon, seeds, leaves, and (of course) various types of flowers, a team of volunteers brought the raccoon family to life. In addition to the furry family donning t-shirts from LCF schools, the float also portrayed boxes of toys, a transformer, a huge hot wheel racetrack with a loop and car, a house with congratulatory banners and balloons, and a squirrel enjoying a tree swing in the backyard.

2023 marked LCFTRA’s 44th entry into the Rose Parade and, as always, funding, building, decorating, and operating the float is a year-long effort. Winner of the 2023 “Mayor’s” Trophy - Most Outstanding Float from a Participating City, “Secondhand Shenanigans” was on display on January 7 at Memorial Park for residents to get an up-close look at the float’s details.

Vital to the float’s success, volunteers come from across the foothills to finish the float each year, meeting under the bridge at Flintridge Preparatory School’s parking lot on Hampton Road.

The design process is currently underway for next year’s float. To be a part of the experience of bringing the 2024 float to life, visit www.lcftra.org.



City Reduces Noise Levels With Completed Soundwall

Soundwall Project

In partnership with Caltrans and L.A. Metro, the City of La Cañada Flintridge recently finished construction of the Soundwall Project along the 210 Freeway. The City, Caltrans and Metro will soon hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completed work.

Commencing in 2014 and consisting of three phases, the project increased the heights and lengths of three soundwall segments along the I-210 to significantly reduce traffic noise for residents. Walls vary in height from 14-16 feet and, here on, will be maintained by Caltrans.

The City thanks former council member and current Senator Anthony J. Portantino for his part in moving the project forward by assisting and supporting the City's efforts in gaining approval of the \$5 million Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program funds.

"Preserving the quality of life for residents in La Cañada Flintridge is a top priority for the City," said Mayor Keith Eich. "Soundwall construction is just one example of that effort in our community."

To learn more about the project, visit: CityOfLCF.org/public-works/engineering/soundwallphaseiii/

Project Phases:



Phase I consisted of updating three soundwall segments located adjacent to the Meadow Grove and Curran Street neighborhoods and St. Francis High School.



Phase II consisted of the construction of the soundwall on the southside of the I-210 from west of La Tour Way to Alta Canyon Road.



Phase III involved the construction of soundwalls located on Alta Canyon Road, north of Vineta Avenue and at the intersection of Baptiste Way and Vineta Avenue.

LCF to Consider Permanent Outdoor Dining Protocols

With the popularity of outdoor dining, the City of La Cañada Flintridge will consider an ordinance to permanently maintain outdoor dining practices.

"We appreciate everything the City of La Cañada Flintridge has done and is doing to support local businesses," said Hill Street Cafe owner Mark Kim. "At the height of the pandemic, our restaurant was able to operate due to the City's decision to allow outdoor dining spaces on sidewalks and parking lots, which allowed us to serve the community and sustain our business. Now, we are looking forward to giving our customers this outdoor option permanently."

The ordinance would permit restaurants and eateries to operate outdoors and includes standards recommended by staff and the Planning Commission, such as:

- requiring businesses to submit for review the location of tables and chairs to ensure safety
- requiring business owners to present a seating plan to avoid interference with adjacent businesses
- prohibiting the expanded service within 15 feet of homes to mitigate noise

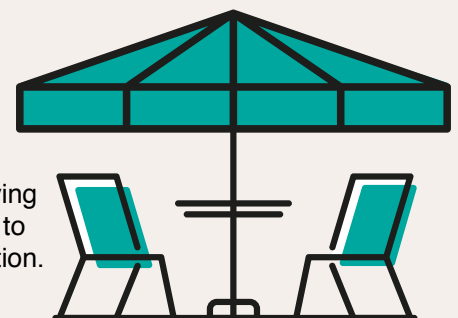
Background

In July 2020, the City began allowing businesses to operate outdoors to comply with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's (DPH) COVID-19 protocols.

At the October 3, 2022 meeting, City staff presented a draft ordinance to the City Council that would add language to the Municipal Code authorizing permanent outdoor dining. The City Council advised staff to modify the ordinance and bring it back for adoption. The City Council will consider the modified draft ordinance in April/May.

Next Steps

City staff is working with the Citywide Beautification Subcommittee on standards and modifying the ordinance to take to City Council for adoption.



Completed Project *Links* Residents with Safe Pathways

To commemorate the completion of the Foothill Link Bikeway and Pedestrian Greenbelt Project, the City will host a ribbon cutting this spring. The event will have local, County and State officials and community members in attendance.

“We’re excited that work on this project has been completed and that streets will now be safer for bicyclists. Traffic flow will be improved on the west side of our community, as well,” said Patrick DeChellis, Director of Public Works.

The project, over 10 years in the making, created a half mile of Class I bicycle and pedestrian paths and two miles of Class II bike lanes between La Canada Plaza Road and Hillard Avenue. The bike and pedestrian paths contain signage and pavement markers for drivers to follow.

The project also included the following:

- resurfacing and restriping the existing pavement
- updating street lighting and traffic signals
- installation of new medians
- planting of trees and plants to beautify the streetscape and pedestrian paths

For a full history of the project, visit the City’s dedicated project page at the following link CityOfLCF.org/public-works/engineering/link-project



Class I bicycle paths include off-roadway bike paths or bike trails.



Class II bicycle paths include on-roadway, separated (striped) bike lanes.

Summer Concerts in LCF



Get ready for a fun summer in La Cañada Flintridge! Set to kick off at 4 p.m. on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, and every Sunday thereafter through Labor Day weekend, the City of LCF’s annual Music-in-the-Park summer concert series will feature live music from new and returning bands. Be sure to stop by Memorial Park and listen to the first band of the season, Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries. The series will run every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. Bring a picnic basket, blankets and chairs and enjoy these summer evenings of free music. More information and the full schedule will be available on the City’s website as the first event draws near.

Housing Element Update

What is a Housing Element?

The Housing Element is a State-mandated policy document within a city's General Plan that guides the implementation of various programs to meet future housing needs for residents of all income levels.

The housing needs are determined through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA)*. The Housing Element identifies available land that is suitable for housing development, as well as goals, policies and programs that:

- accommodate the City's housing need
- provide opportunities for new housing
- preserve the existing housing stock

Why update the Housing Element?

California Housing law requires that local jurisdictions update their Housing Elements every eight years. These frequent updates are necessary because housing is critical to ensure economic prosperity and quality of life throughout the State. Jurisdictions not in compliance with housing law could lose eligibility for significant funding currently provided by the State and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Noncompliant jurisdictions also risk being sued by the State Attorney General.

How is the Housing Element implemented?

The Housing Element sets goals, objectives, policies, and programs that are implemented after the plan is adopted. When a new housing program, project or idea is considered, the Housing Element provides guidance for decision-makers to evaluate the proposal.

What has been done thus far to update the Housing Element in LCF?

On October 4, 2022, the La Cañada Flintridge City Council adopted the revised 2021-2029 Housing Element following several meetings and public hearings. At the meetings, LCF City staff explained:

- The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process.
- The components of the Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element.
- The role of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).
- Recent changes to State law that affect the 2021-2029 Housing Element.

During each meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the Housing Element. In order to help the community better understand

RHNA complexities, the City conducted and promoted several public Planning Commission study sessions, held workshops, invited residents to attend City Council meetings and produced a video to explain the process.

What is the schedule to complete the updated Housing Element?

On February 21, 2023, the City Council addressed feedback received from HCD on its adopted plan. Only minor clarifications were sought to the submitted plan. The next phase will include revisions to the City's Zoning Code to comport with the final adopted Housing Element.

To view drafts of the Housing Element, FAQs, and more, visit CityOfLCF.org/housing-element-update.

*To learn more about RHNA, visit CityOfLCF.org/regional-housing-needs-allocation-rhna or scan the QR code



Get Ready to Get ActiveLCF

This spring, the City will launch a new recreation software: ActiveLCF. ActiveLCF allows users to access a simplified reservation system for parks, athletic fields and facilities.

Previously, when an individual or group wanted to reserve a facility or request a permit, an online application would need to be submitted and processed manually. Users also had to speak to City staff to check facility availability. Through ActiveLCF, applicants can check availability and complete a reservation request online. The system will then allow City staff to quickly review and process the request. The system will also allow applicants to pay online, check existing reservations and even cancel reservations

through their portal. ActiveLCF will enable applicants and City staff to easily communicate with each other regarding the status of a permit request.

To ensure a smooth transition, City staff will provide user guides and work with local user groups to ensure they are familiar with the system. ActiveLCF will require users to log in, however, the login provides many benefits to the user, including a digital portal where they can see their pending requests, active permits and much more. Once launched, all individuals or groups seeking use of the City's recreational facilities requiring a reservation or permit will need to submit requests through ActiveLCF.

In addition to providing straightforward communication for residents, ActiveLCF will allow for more accessible communication between departments. For example, recurring permits require multiple levels of approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission and City staff; the software is configured to automatically notify the responsible party of approvals.

User guides will soon be available online to all residents who wish to use the new system. For more information on ActiveLCF, contact the Parks and Recreation Division at (818) 790-8880.

Waste Collection and Street Sweeping Procedures

Solid Waste Collection

Per the City's Municipal Code, waste containers should not be taken to the curb or collection area prior to 5 p.m. the day preceding the scheduled collection. Containers should be removed from the curb or collection area no later than 8 p.m. the same day of collection.

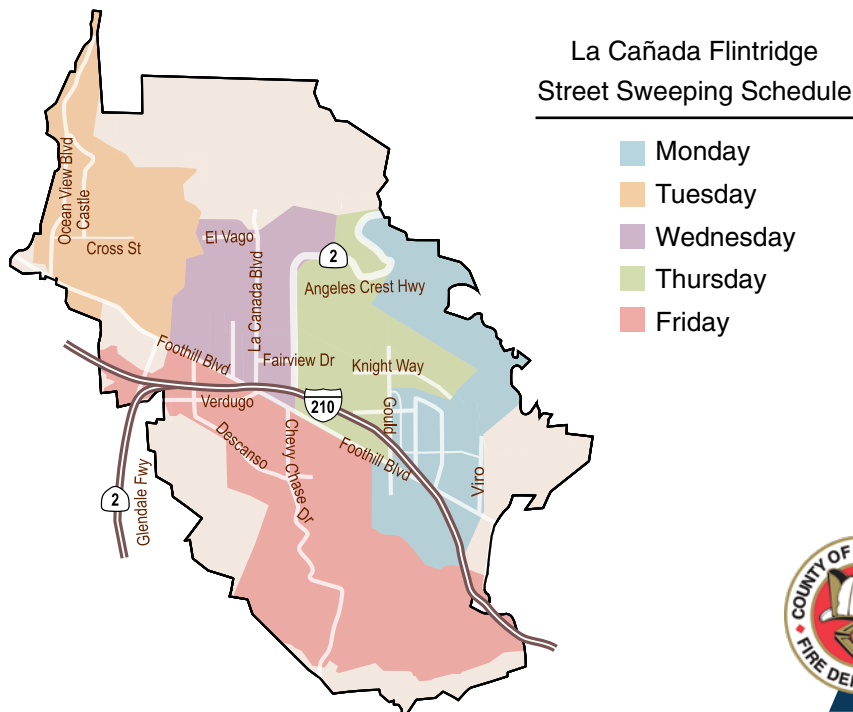
To assist with the safe and efficient collection of trash and recycling, residents are encouraged to:

- place containers so that lid openings face the street,
- place materials inside the collection bins; trash placed on the ground will not be collected (unless scheduled for a bulky item pick-up)*,
- leave about 18 inches of space between each container, and
- place containers at least three feet away from any obstruction such as a car, lamp post or fence.

Street Sweeping

The Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of all public facilities, parks and public rights-of-way—including street sweeping. Residents are encouraged to know their street sweeping schedule and to move cars off-street for better street sweeping results. Visit CityOfLCF.org/public-works/maintenance for more detailed schedule.

* All haulers provide up to two (2) bulky waste/electronic waste pick-ups per 12-month period (call your hauler directly to coordinate).



LCF's Great Outdoors

As spring arrives, more LCF residents will venture outside to take advantage of our region's beautiful scenery and natural resources. The City encourages residents to enjoy the outdoors safely by utilizing the following tips.

Snake Safety

While out exploring LCF's trails with your furry friend, follow these guidelines to keep you and your pet safe from snakes:

- Always wear closed-toe shoes when walking through wild areas.
- Stay on trails and avoid tall grass and heavy underbrush.
- Never hike alone.
- Please keep your dog leashed, so they don't explore a potential snake habitat, such as under rocks and logs.

Bear Safety

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California's bear population continues to grow alongside California's human population. If you encounter a black bear, abide by the following tips:

- Make yourself a large, dominating presence by spreading your arms. Yell or use other noise to assert your presence.
- If the bear aggresses further, fight back. Don't play dead. Once the bear leaves, remove the source that attracted it to your location.
- To learn more about animals in our area and report sightings, visit: CityOfLCF.org/animal-control



Vegetation Clearance Program

Beginning May 1, LA County Fire will conduct single family home fire inspections. For more information, call (626) 969-2375.



Water Saving Solutions

California is in the third straight year of significant drought. According to the Foothill Municipal Water District (FMWD), the City of LCF is currently under Stage 4: Allocation Conservation measures. Under these drought conditions, FMWD is asking residents to increase conservation. The best way to do this is by reducing the number of days you water your lawn to only two days per week. As the drought persists, the State and water district may call for further action to help conserve water in regional storage.

Here are some additional tips for conserving water in your yard:

- Irrigate your turf after dusk and before dawn; less sunlight means less water evaporation.
- To save water and money, hose down paved surfaces only to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards. In all other cases, use a broom to clean paved surfaces.
- After planting, use a layer of mulch to help prevent water evaporation.

Be sure to visit BeWaterWise.Com and FMWD.COM for more information and water conservation rebates.



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 29, for Memorial Day.

City Council

Keith Eich – Mayor
Richard B. Gunter III – Mayor Pro Tem
Kim Bowman
Michael T. Davitt
Teresa "Terry" Walker

City Staff

Mark R. Alexander - City Manager
Adrian R. Guerra - City Attorney
Kelly Wine - 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

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

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