

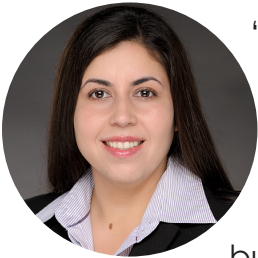
CITY OF VERNON RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM VERNON MAYOR LETICIA LOPEZ

Vernon officials and employees are dedicated to providing quality service to City residents through active communication and a focus on community. The Vernon team is led by Mayor Leticia Lopez who has served on City Council since 2016. In this edition of the newsletter, we convey her personal message to the community:



"I am Mayor Leticia Lopez and I am proud to be serving my Vernon community. My years in office have been incredibly rewarding. As a Council Member, I have been granted a unique opportunity to positively impact the City by working with my fellow Council Members to keep Vernon on its path to continued success. 2020 has been particularly challenging for all of us. I am pleased that City Council was able to offer a resident stimulus, a graduation celebration, and tools for our students' new school year to lighten the load burdened by our families. I assure you that I am here to lend a helping hand through these difficult times and beyond."

COVID-19 NEWS

USC AND VERNON PARTNER TO EXPLORE EFFECTIVENESS OF COVID-19 VACCINE

The City of Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department announced that it will work cooperatively with infectious disease medical investigators at Keck Medicine of USC to seek volunteers working at Vernon's processing and industrial businesses to participate in a Phase 3 clinical trial to test an experimental vaccine to provide immunity against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Vernon Health Director Fredrick Agyin said, "The Vernon Health Department is proud to collaborate with Keck Medicine of USC on this critically important medical investigation that, if successful, could result in a safe and effective vaccine to provide immunity for hundreds of millions of Americans against the virus that causes COVID-19."

The Phase 3 clinical trial will operate out of two locations: Keck Hospital of USC in the Boyle Heights community in Los Angeles and a satellite location in the City of Vernon. Keck Medicine of USC will be testing the safety and effectiveness of an experimental vaccine known as AZD1222 and seeks 500 volunteers for its Phase 3 clinical trial. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please visit: www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/.

IMPORTANT CITY INFORMATION

City Hall facilities are open to the public. Safety measures have been implemented to protect the health and safety of employees and visitors (like plexiglass at service counters, temperature checks upon entry, and roving cleaning crews who disinfect common areas regularly throughout the day). The City is committed to supporting all businesses and residents and will continue to provide services during this critical time of emergency.

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1



www.cityofvernon.org/covid19

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SEPTEMBER 2020

COVID-19 NEWS

Vernon's COVID-19 Response Efforts

Vernon's Department of Health and Environmental Control (HECD) continues its critical work to proactively protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. In support of federal, state, and local agencies and public health officials, the HECD disseminates information, provides phone consultation, and conducts site visits at facilities located in Vernon to ensure compliance with current COVID-19 guidelines, while working in close collaboration with other agencies including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Cal OSHA and the USDA where necessary.

The City is in constant communication with business operators to ensure the safety of the general public as well as employees in Vernon. Since early April, the HECD has engaged with several businesses reporting employees testing positive for COVID-19 and has worked closely with affected businesses to ensure that CDC recommended guidelines are followed and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.

In order to continue to manage the global COVID-19 crisis at the local level, the HECD will continue to monitor and respond to COVID-19 positive cases and coordinate with other agencies as appropriate. Vernon is entirely invested in the health of the community!

COVID-19 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

To help county residents better navigate local resources, LA County launched a COVID-19 Disaster Help Center to immediately support those adversely affected by the COVID-19 health emergency.

Phone: (833) 238-4450

Online: [LACountyHelpCenter.org](https://www.lacountyhelpcenter.org)

E-mail: DisasterHelpCenter@lacounty.gov



MEAL DELIVERY AVAILABLE TO VERNON RESIDENTS

Through a coordinated effort among City staff and the YMCA, pre-packaged meal delivery continues to be available to Vernon residents at no cost. YMCA staff members will deliver to individual households in Vernon on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week until resources are depleted.




In addition to pre-packaged meal delivery, seniors in Vernon have access to fresh grocery delivery as well. Please contact CityAdmin@ci.vernon.ca.us with questions, or to sign up for either delivery option.

Vernon is committed to ensuring that our residents have access to critical resources during these volatile times.



Up-to-the-Minute News

Remember to follow our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts for all of the latest City related news and events:

-  @CityofVernonCA
-  @City_of_Vernon
-  @city_of_vernon

www.cityofvernon.org/covid19

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SEPTEMBER 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Vernon Crime Tracker

Did you know that the Vernon Police Department now provides the public with real time data and crime statistics? An interactive map is available that allows citizens to easily understand where recent crimes have occurred and how crime reports are trending. Citizens can sign up to receive alerts and updates if desired.

Such tracking helps law enforcement promote two-way dialogue with the community by sharing local crime information and providing visibility to agency operations. Your Vernon Police Department is in support of transparent and timely communication!

Please check out the interactive map at: cityofvernon.org/crimemap



DTSC TO BEGIN SOIL SAMPLING IN VERNON

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is preparing to remove lead contaminated soil from some of our City owned housing units. In order to develop a soil-removal plan, the DTSC will be taking soil samples from a few properties located on Fruitland Avenue.

As first steps, DTSC will be scheduling time for soil core samples to be collected in the coming weeks. The core samples will remove up to 21 inches of soil, which will be backfilled with uncontaminated soil. The sampling process began on August 27th.

The City's Public Works staff will notify the residents of the homes where the sampling will occur, and will be present during the sampling.

Are You in the Know?

The City of Vernon strives to effectively inform Vernon residents on important news, events, and activities that may be of interest. Please visit our Community Resources page at

www.cityofvernon.org/CommunityResources

for updates on happenings in Vernon and in our neighboring cities located in the Southeast region.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE 2020 CENSUS?

As a reminder, your participation in the 2020 Census is key to shaping the future of the Vernon community. The census will be used to make important decisions that will affect you, your family, and this community for the next 10 years.

The census is easy to complete. Choose to use the web at my2020census.gov/, call (844) 330-2020 (English) or (844) 468-2020 (Spanish), or return your form via mail to the address noted on the physical form. Stand up and be counted!

Vernon is striving to achieve 100% participation from its residents. If you have completed the Census for your household, please contact CityAdmin@ci.vernon.ca.us to receive a special gift from the City!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

During these challenging times, Vernon would like to remind you that we are here for you. Instead of traditional community outreach events, the City is being creative and connecting with the community in new and interesting ways!

As we continue to battle COVID-19, we encourage our Vernon family to remain positive!

The City Honors Vernon's 2020 Graduates with a Graduation Parade Celebration!



2020 Grads, the City of Vernon is so proud of your academic achievements! We enjoyed celebrating with all of our resident grads on Monday, June 15th, during Vernon's Graduation Parade!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Vernon's 2020 Graduation Parade Celebration! It was certainly our pleasure to honor the accomplishments of our resident grads. We wish you all the very best. Be joyful in your pursuits and always reach for the stars!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

City Delivers Chromebooks and Back-to-School Supplies to Assist Vernon Students

On August 24th, Vernon City Council members set out to deliver backpacks stocked with useful school supplies for kinder-12th grade students, plus a Chromebook laptop computer for kinder-college students living in Vernon. With the special delivery, City leaders demonstrate their commitment to quality education for students by providing them with essentials that will give them an advantage as they engage with their teachers or professors online or in person during the 2020 school year that has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vernon Mayor Leticia Lopez said, "As a mother of three children and with my previous experience as a preschool teacher and Head Start Family Advocate, I know first-hand how challenging this new school year may be for many of our City's school-aged children, high school and college students. COVID-19 has forced distance learning on most of them and they need laptop computers to attend their daily classes and to complete their assigned homework. Our City's leaders strongly believe that supporting our scholars and helping them meet their back-to-school education needs today, supports our City's future. So, as in past years, we are reaching out to help in ways we feel will be meaningful. Our message as City leaders to our community's youth is: 'Vernon students – We want to do our part to make your school year a successful one.'"



VERNON GIVES BACK



City Officials Join Huntington Park for Drive-Thru Food Distribution Event

On May 21st, in an effort led by Mayor Pro-Tem Ybarra, Mayor Lopez alongside City staff and Huntington Park co-hosted a Drive-Thru Food Distribution event at Leonardo's in the city of Huntington Park. Cars were lined up early to receive bags of groceries filled with food donated by a number of generous Vernon businesses such as Vernon Sales, Vie De France, Melissa's, Whole Foods, Bon Appetit, Core-Mark, Jetro, Lineage, and the Vernon Commerce Federal Credit Union. Over 5,000 bags of groceries were distributed to appreciative carloads of families. Later in the day, grocery bags were delivered to each Vernon household to ensure residents were not without.

We are all in this together! Let us remember to be kind to one another and help those in need whenever possible.



CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Outreach and Events

Chalkathon

Now - September 7th

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) will host a "Chalkathon" from August 17th to September 7th in order to increase awareness and encourage families to complete the 2020 Census. As an added incentive to the weekly raffles that will be conducted by the LACOE, at the conclusion of the Chalkathon, City staff will conduct a raffle specifically for those Vernon residents that participate in the Chalkathon. Chalk and a designated space will also be made available should residents opt to create their chalk art at City Hall. For more information, please contact CityAdmin@ci.vernon.ca.us or (323) 775-8105.

Family Game Nights

Now - September 17th

In lieu of the City's traditional in-person annual family game night outreach event, we are asking our Vernon residents to send us photos of their own family activities and game nights that we can share on social media! Children in participating households will be entered in a raffle to win one of four bicycles donated by local Vernon bicycle manufacturer, Retrospec! For more information, please contact CityAdmin@ci.vernon.ca.us or (323) 775-8105.

City-Owned Housing Lottery

September

A remodel project at City-owned property located at 3361 Fruitland remains on schedule as work continues to progress week over week. By early September, the unit is anticipated to be ready for renters and a lottery will be held thereafter.

The City of Vernon owns 18 single family homes and an 8-unit apartment complex all located within the City's boundaries. In order to remain unbiased and fair with its rentals, placement in City-owned housing is based on a lottery system. As a vacancy occurs, a lottery is scheduled if more than one applicant confirms an interest in the available housing unit.

If an individual is interested in a City-owned property that is available for rent, they may submit an interest form to be included on the lottery list. This form can be accessed on the City's website, or you may contact staff at housing@ci.vernon.ca.us or (323) 826-1465.

Please share this information with your co-workers, family, and friends!

LA County Fire Transition

October 21st

Vernon will officially transition to Los Angeles County Fire services on October 21st. City residents should expect the same high-quality services that they are accustomed to receiving. Fire Stations 76, 77, and 78 will be staffed with LA County's finest and administrative Fire staff will continue to be accessible at City Hall. For more information, please contact CityAdmin@ci.vernon.ca.us.



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SEPTEMBER 2020

STAY CONNECTED

USEFUL CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Lease Renewals & Unit Transfers*

Are you currently on a month-to-month lease and wish to renew? Are you interested in transferring to a different unit? If you have questions about your lease options and/or the lottery procedures for unit transfers, please contact the Housing Hotline.

**Maintenance requests,
questions, or comments? Use our Housing Hotline!***

**Please contact:
(323) 826-1472 OR
housing@ci.vernon.ca.us**

**After hours emergency
requests?**

**Please contact:
(323) 826-1465**

**We are here to serve you and strive to provide exceptional
customer service!**

**NEXT VERNON HOUSING COMMISSION MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 @ 6:00PM (YOU MAY PARTICIPATE REMOTELY)**

Automatic Rent Payments*

The City now offers a convenient method to pay your rent and avoid any late fees! Automatic payments are available! If interested, please contact (323) 826-1472, or via e-mail at housing@ci.vernon.ca.us.

*Attention Residents at Vernon Village Park Apartments:

Please note that Solari Enterprises is available to assist you with matters related to your apartment unit. Please contact (323) 771-0202 with any questions or concerns.

www.cityofvernon.org