

LCF *Vista*

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

Fall 2014

CITY BUDGET BREAKDOWN

On July 21, 2014, the City Council formally adopted its Annual Budget and Financial Plan for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The following provides an overview of the City's revenues and spending.

From July 2014 through June 2015, the City will receive approximately \$12.1 million in various revenues and will expend about \$11.3 million for municipal operations. In addition, \$6.2 million will be used for various capital improvements throughout the community. By the end of the fiscal year, it is estimated that the City will have approximately \$14.3 million in its reserve fund, or roughly 125% of its annual operating budget.

Expenditures Include



The City is proud of its long tradition of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. While so many other cities have faced significant hardship in the wake of the "Great Recession," the City has balanced its budgets and maintained a very healthy reserve fund. Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is one of the City Council's top priorities and that mindset is again reflected in this year's budget.

Residents can review the entire budget online at the City's website: www.lcf.ca.gov/finance/budget.

WHAT IS JOINT USE?

UNDERSTANDING PARKS AND REC IN LCF



The City strives to provide quality recreational space for the La Cañada Flintridge community. Besides operating 6 parks, the City makes facilities available through agreements and partnerships with LCUSD and community groups.

Through Joint Use Agreements, the City invests approximately \$1 million annually to operate, maintain, and improve LCUSD owned sports fields, courts, and other community facilities. These agreements ensure well-maintained facilities for the benefit of youth athletic groups, LCUSD students, and the community in general. City parks and Joint Use facilities are listed to the right.

One great success of the Joint Use Agreements is the Lanterman Auditorium. In 2003, the City took over the auditorium's operations and management from LCUSD. Since that time, much of the interior has been remodeled, the sound system has been replaced, and a long-term project has begun that will replace the entire lighting system with state-of-the-art dynamic

LED lighting equipment. Besides these physical improvements, the City has increased the auditorium's rental income fourfold, allowing the City to continue providing special non-profit rates for community groups, including the La Cañada Girl Scouts and the Assistance League of Flintridge.

The City also partners with community youth athletic groups to take advantage of these facilities. Partnerships with the La Cañada Baseball/Softball Association, the La Cañada Gladiators, and AYSO Region 13 have allowed the City to maintain minimal staffing while providing local recreation opportunities for children. In addition, the City partners with and supports the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, which fills an important role providing youth and seniors educational and creative programming.

The partnerships between the City, LCUSD, and various community groups and organizations allows for quality parks and recreation programs while keeping the City's costs and staffing level to a minimum.

LCF PARKS & JOINT USE FACILITIES

PARKS

- Glenhaven Park
- Glenola Park
- Mayors' Discovery Park
- Memorial Park
- Olberz Park
- Winery Channel Trailhead

FIELDS

- La Cañada High School Varsity Baseball Field*
- La Cañada High School Junior Varsity Baseball Field*
- La Cañada High School Oak Grove Softball Fields*
- La Cañada Elementary School Field
- Palm Crest Elementary School Field
- Paradise Canyon Elementary School Field
- FIS Lower Field
- FIS Upper Field
- Cornishon Athletic Field

* Including field lights

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- Lanterman Auditorium
- Skate Park
- FIS Tennis Courts
- LCHS Tennis Courts
- Cornishon Outdoor Basketball Court
- LCHS Outdoor Basketball Courts

OTHER FACILITIES

- LCHS Library/Information Resource Center
- Athletic field at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints



710 FREEWAY TUNNEL IS NO ALTERNATIVE

The City Council formally opposes the proposed freeway tunnel alternative that is part of the SR-710 North Study Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

In February 2015, LA Metro will release this DEIR which will analyze the following five alternatives proposed for addressing congestion and mobility issues attributed to the incomplete I-710 Freeway:

- Bus Rapid Transit
- Light Rail Transit
- Transportation System Management/ Transportation Demand Management
- A freeway tunnel (from Hellman Ave. just north of the I-710 terminus and ending near Green Street in Pasadena just south of the existing I-210)
- No Build Option

The City Council's opposition and concerns regarding the freeway tunnel alternative are due to a variety of reasons discussed below. While the City Council is interested in resolving regional congestion problems, it is steadfast in its belief that the freeway tunnel alternative would have profound negative impacts, such as:

HEALTH

Increased traffic congestion on the I-210 Freeway (mainly from big rig diesel trucks) will increase air pollution in La Cañada Flintridge. Poor air quality will harm residents, particularly children attending one of the many local schools situated along the I-210 corridor. Clinical reports, such as the USC Children's Health Study, have shown that exposure



to freeway pollution could increase respiratory health issues for our children, possibly lasting their entire lives.

COST/BENEFIT

A freeway tunnel will cost billions of dollars. Public expenditures of this magnitude are simply too great for taxpayers to support, given the limited to no congestion benefit to be derived from such a project.

SEISMIC SAFETY

Earthquakes are a fact of life in Southern California. Building a six-mile tunnel with no exits poses a significant safety risk during a seismic event.

LITTLE TO NO TRAFFIC RELIEF

It is expected that a tolled northbound freeway tunnel, during peak hours, will operate at a level

STAY CONNECTED

SOCIAL MEDIA

The City of La Cañada Flintridge is getting more social! Find us on social media to stay up-to-date on all things LCF.



facebook.com/cityoflacanadaflintridge



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Youtube.com/ThecityofLCF

of service “F” – the worst measure of traffic congestion according to the Highway Capacity Manual. While this project is intended to relieve traffic, a tolled freeway tunnel with no exits is not likely to provide any real relief.

A Five City Alliance, comprised of La Cañada Flintridge, Glendale, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena, has formed to fund a review of the DEIR to ensure that it provides an accurate analysis of all five alternatives.

The City Council believes a better and more cost effective alternative can be found. Residents are encouraged to stay informed about this important issue.

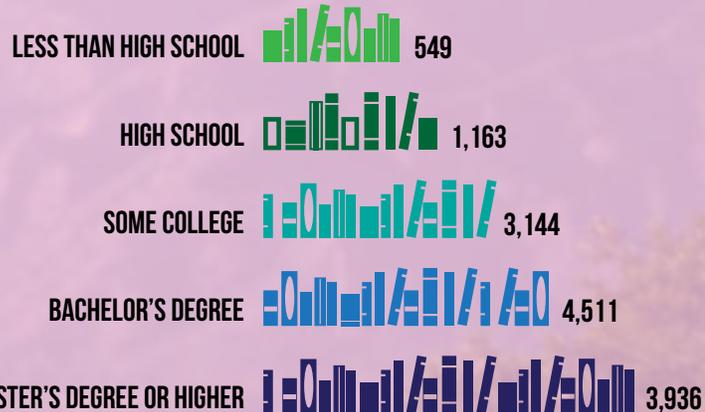
LA Metro has a webpage dedicated to the SR - 710 North Study (www.metro.net/projects/sr-710-conversations). Residents can also contact the Mayor and provide feedback by emailing mayor@lcf.ca.gov.



LCF: *By The Numbers*

EDUCATION LEVEL OF LCF

SOURCE: LA TIMES



LCF: *History Corner*

August marked the 5th anniversary of the devastating Station Fire. This milestone is a good reminder to take precautions to protect your family and home from fire. Visit the LA County Fire Department website at www.fire.lacounty.gov for more information.

TREE PROTECTION IN A DROUGHT

The City has earned the coveted distinction as a Tree City USA and takes great pride in the many trees that beautify La Cañada Flintridge neighborhoods. In 2014, the City Council revised the Tree Protection ordinance, outlining which trees are considered “protected” and what that means for residents who have such trees growing on their property.



Protected trees have been defined as:

- Oak or Sycamore trees with a diameter of 12 inches or greater growing in the R-1 Single Family Residential Zone
- Deodar Cedars within the Historic Deodar Cedar District
- Any tree above five feet in height in a non R-1 Single Family Residential Zone

More information about the revised Tree Protection ordinance, guidelines, and zoning maps can be found at www.lcf.ca.gov/planning/private-property-trees.

Recently, proper tree care has become a concern as residents look for ways to conserve water in the face of California’s drought. Because of the lower than normal amount of annual rainfall, local arborists are noticing distressed trees throughout the area. In an effort to protect the trees in La Cañada Flintridge during drought conditions, the City asks you to consider the following facts and tips:

- Trees have extensive root systems that can gather water from deep underground.
- Surface moisture conditions are not necessarily indicative of moisture conditions below.
- Effective tree watering methods are different from watering traditional landscapes.
- Directly applying water to the roots can actually harm Oaks, Deodar Cedars and Sycamores.
- Root rot, fungal infection, decay and parasite infestation can all occur from overwatering the anchor root.
- Instead of sprinklers, consider using a drip or soaker hose ten feet from the base of the tree or along the outer two thirds of the canopy.

- Arborists recommend one to two deep soaks in the summer for Oak trees facing dry soil conditions. Deodar Cedars and Sycamores may require more throughout the summer.
- Check the soil before watering and be sure to let the soil dry in between applications, as soggy conditions can compromise root conditions.
- Mulching starting six inches away from the trunk to the outer edge of the canopy, at a four-inch depth, can help reduce watering needs by 20-30 percent. Newspaper or cardboard can be used over grass before mulch is applied to avoid the need for chemical treatments.
- Remove rocks as such material near tree trunks and roots retains heat, creating an environment too warm for healthy root growth.
- Adjacent plants such as flowers and grass can have a detrimental effect on the health of trees. Consider planting a less water-intensive landscape around your trees to ensure water is being used judiciously. Avoid planting any competing plants under the tree canopy.
- Residents looking to do their part to reduce their water consumption are encouraged to consider a drought tolerant plant palette; grass is not a landscape requirement.

Residents are advised to consult with an arborist for specific tree care issues, or with City staff regarding landscaping requirements. For more information about the City’s Tree Protection ordinance or to obtain a list of City approved arborists, please visit the City’s website at www.lcf.ca.gov/planning/private-property-trees or call (818) 790-8881.

City of La Cañada Flintridge
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La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011



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CITY HAPPENINGS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK



The City wrapped up its summer Music in the Park concert series on Sunday, August 24th in Memorial Park. Thank you to all who attended and made this year one of the best yet. See you next summer!

CITY INFORMATION

The City Council meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers.

October 13, 2014 - City Hall Closed for Columbus Day

November 11, 2014 - City Hall Closed for Veterans Day

City Council:

Michael T. Davitt – Mayor
Donald R. Voss – Mayor Pro Tem
Jonathan C. Curtis
Laura Olhasso
David A. Spence

City Staff

Mark R. Alexander - City Manager | Mark W. Steres - City Attorney
Jeffrey Wang - City Treasurer | Kevin M. Chun - Director of Admin. Services
Edward Hitti - Director of Public Works | Daniel Jordan - Director of Finance
Robert Stanley - Director of Comm. Development

City Hall

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Administration: (818) 790-8880
Finance: (818) 790-8880
Community Development: (818) 790-8881
Public Works: (818) 790-8882
Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Bulding and Safety Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Website: www.lcf.ca.gov