

LOMITA

NEWSLETTER

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DROP
YOUR
BALLOTS



BALLOTS

VBM
DROP-OFF
BOX



WINTER 2020-2021



LOMITA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor James Gazeley
Mayor Pro Tem Mark Waronek
Council Member Cindy Segawa
Council Member Henry Sanchez, Jr.
Council Member Michael Savidan



Online Payments Accepted for Water Bills

Paying your water bill just got easier. The City of Lomita has upgraded its accounting software and is now able to accept online payments for water bills.

To sign-up visit
www.lomitawater.com
and click on the
"Online Bill Payment" tab.



City of Lomita, California

As our community slowly and safely begins to reopen one step at a time, we want to continue to hear about the ways in which you are all lifting each other up. Keep sending us your stories of Lomita Helping Lomita or let us know if you know of someone who could use some help. We're in this together – let's keep on proving why Lomita really is "The Friendly City." Visit: <https://lomitacoronavirus.info/liftuplomita/> and be sure to use #LiftUpLomita when sharing your stories and photos.

A collage of images related to the "#LiftUpLomita" campaign. It includes: a woman standing next to a "Toyota Plaza" entrance decorated with a heart-shaped balloon arch; a "2020 GRAD" sign in a grassy field; a "STRONG LOMITA" chalk drawing on a sidewalk; a stack of blue surgical masks; a "Thank you for your generous donation!" message from the Potters Family Foundation; and the City of Lomita seal.

#LiftUpLomita

Keep sending us your stories and images of Lomita helping Lomita!



CORONAVIRUS

Updates - Information - Resources

CONTINUE TO VISIT
<https://lomitacoronavirus.info/>
for the most up to date information on
Lomita programs and services

LOMITA CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY VOTES TO PLACE MEASURE L ON NOVEMBER BALLOT, SEEKS INPUT REGARDING CITY SERVICES



At its July 21st meeting, after analyzing projections that without a locally sustainable source of revenue the City could face an annual \$1.2 million funding shortfall by 2024, the Lomita City Council unanimously voted to place a $\frac{3}{4}$ cent Local General Municipal Sales Tax measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot. Measure L would address this shortfall and the repercussions to City services that would result from it and would keep local funds available here in Lomita that could be used to meet the needs of our residents instead of being used for County and Statewide purposes.

As a family-friendly City with a small-town feel, Lomita strives to maintain a high quality of life for our residents. According to recent surveys, 72% of residents believe that the City of Lomita is on the right track and 82% of residents say it is an excellent or good place to live. While these numbers are great, we'd like your input on how we can continue to improve – even in the face of the significant challenges in the coming years.

PROTECTING WATER QUALITY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN THE FACE OF A SHRINKING BUDGET

Our city faces serious health and economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While Lomita takes pride in being fiscally responsible, the City estimates a significant budget shortfall over the next 5 years as we operate without the local revenue sources of many of our surrounding communities. Recent projections indicate that without a sustainable source of local revenue, over the next five years the City will see a shortfall of more than \$1.2 million annually, which could have drastic effects on the City's ability to meet the needs of our residents.

In addition, Lomita is facing the serious health and economic challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Despite the financial challenges we face, the City is working tirelessly to provide the services our businesses and residents need to get through this extraordinarily tough time.

SUPPORTING AND RESPONDING TO RESIDENTS' NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

In recent surveys our residents have identified ensuring safe, clean drinking water, protecting public safety and emergency response, supporting our local small businesses, and repairing the City's streets and potholes as some of their top priorities, and the City Council has adopted goals and objectives for the community that reflect those priorities. To accomplish those goals, the City is continuing to upgrade and repair our nearly ninety-year-old water and sewage pipes and moving forward with upgrades to the City's water treatment facility – something our residents have long asked for.

LOCAL FUNDING PROJECTIONS

It is estimated that Measure L would bring approximately \$1.3 million annually to Lomita, if approved by voters. Measure L would directly fund city services and projects, rather than going toward regional or statewide projects outside of Lomita. Measure L would help address water treatment infrastructure to improve drinking water, maintain and improve the City's public safety and emergency services, keep parks and open spaces safe and clean, repair streets and potholes, support small local businesses and more.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND LIMITATIONS

- All funds from Measure L would be used locally for city services and be subject to independent financial audits
- Most purchases of groceries and prescription medicines in Lomita would be exempt



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU We welcome your input as we explore feasible solutions to address fiscal challenges and consider a potential local funding measure. Please visit www.tinyurl.com/LomitaSurvey to take a short survey that can help us better meet the needs of our residents.

1. According to a recent survey by FM3 Research, 82% respondents have a positive impression of Lomita, ranking it as an excellent or a good place to live. www.lomitacity.com



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. HOW HAS THE CITY ADDRESSED DRINKING WATER ISSUES?

A. Lomita has created a website – LomitaWater.com – devoted to providing transparency and solutions to residents with questions and concerns about what comes out of their taps. The City also has taken steps to install a \$4.4 million filtration system to improve taste and remove odor to provide quality water for our residents. The City has received a \$2 million grant toward the construction of the filtration system. While this is significant, it is not sufficient to cover the entire cost of the work ahead.



Q. WHAT SERVICES DOES LOMITA OFFER TO KEEP OUR RESIDENTS SAFE?

A. Crime in Lomita has steadily dropped over the years due to the City's proactive public safety efforts. Notably, since 2015 serious crimes have dropped nearly 30%. We also take pride in the swift action the City has taken to protect our most vulnerable residents during these trying times – including helping elders get free meals and providing medical masks.

Q. WHAT IS THE CITY DOING TO PROTECT SMALL BUSINESSES?

A. Our City's leadership is working hard to protect small businesses here in Lomita. We are working closely with the business community to ensure they get the support they need to overcome the economic losses and limitations brought by the pandemic. The City has partnered with the Los Angeles County Development Authority to provide forgivable low-interest loans through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for local businesses and is committed to being proactive in finding solutions to help combat the economic burden Lomita's small business are experiencing.

Q. COULD THE STATE CUT OR TAKE SALES TAX FUNDING FROM THE CITY OF LOMITA?

A. Unlike many other sources of revenue – which are allocated by the State to the City and can therefore be easily shifted by the State – local sales tax revenues would be controlled locally. Tax revenues raised by Measure L would stay in Lomita to fund local services right here in Lomita.

Q. WHAT ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES ARE INCLUDED IN MEASURE L?

A. Measure L includes a clear system of accountability, including public independent audits to ensure sales tax funds are spent only for legal purposes.



Q. WOULD VISITORS TO LOMITA PAY FOR MEASURE L?

A. Yes, sales tax is paid by anyone who shops in Lomita. This ensures that both residents and visitors contribute revenue for the roads, public safety services, and other city services they utilize while in our city.

Q. HOW MUCH WOULD MEASURE L COST?

A. Measure L would cost shoppers 75 cents on a \$100 purchase and would raise over \$1.3 million annually for Lomita City services.

Q. WILL MEASURE L BE APPLIED TO GROCERIES OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?

A. Most groceries and prescription medicines are exempt from the statewide sales tax. Purchases of groceries and prescription medicines in Lomita that are exempt from the statewide sales tax would also be exempt from Measure L.

VOTER INFORMATION

WHERE TO VOTE?

New Voting Experience: By mail or in person at any Vote Center in L.A. County or Vote by Mail Drop Box Locations provide safe, accessible, and flexible options to vote.

Every voter will receive an absentee ballot, even if you've never requested one or voted by mail before.

Look for Your Vote by Mail Ballot Beginning the Week of October 5, 2020.

Ballots must be dropped off at any vote center or drop box location, or be postmarked on or before November 3.

For more information on where you can cast your ballot visit
<https://locator.lavote.net/locations/vc>

ON THE BALLOT IN LOMITA



MEASURE L: LOMITA'S LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE

If approved by voters, Measure L would provide local funding to meet needs in Lomita. The Lomita City Council unanimously voted to place a three-quarter cent Water Quality and City Services transaction and use tax, commonly known as a sales tax, on the November 2020 ballot. It is estimated that Measure L would generate approximately \$1.3 million a year for local City services. The proceeds from the measure would directly fund City services and actions. Services and projects would be directed by the City Council and could include:

- Upgrading the City's water infrastructure to improve drinking water
- Maintaining the City's public safety and emergency services
- Helping to keep parks and public areas safe and clean
- Repairing streets and potholes
- Supporting local small businesses
- Addressing homelessness

STRICT FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- All funds from Measure L would stay in Lomita to be used for local priorities and needs
- Measure L funds would be subject to independent financial audits
- Most purchases of groceries and prescription medicines in Lomita would be exempt

TWO OPEN SEATS ON THE LOMITA CITY COUNCIL

Two seats are open on the Lomita City Council and there are five candidates seeking election. These new members of the City Council will help to shape the future of Lomita. Information on the candidates can be found at
<http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/electioninfo/index.cfm>

SAMPLE BALLOT

City of Lomita Local General Municipal Sales Tax Measure

"To protect Lomita's long-term financial stability; maintain City Services; improve local drinking water quality; repair streets/potholes; keep parks and public areas clean/safe; maintain emergency/public safety response; help retain local businesses; and provide other City services, shall a measure be adopted establishing a 3/4 cent local sales tax providing approximately \$1,300,000 annually until ended by voters, requiring annual independent financial audits with all funds benefitting Lomita residents?"

- YES
 NO

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING MEASURE L, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

 www.lomita.com/CityHall/MeasureL



SAVE THE DATE 2020 STATE OF THE CITY

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 19 • NOON TO 2:00 PM

Contact the Lomita Chamber for sponsorship opportunities and more information at (424) 378-7111 or hi@lomitachamber.org.

CITY HELPS RESIDENTS SAVE WATER (AND MONEY) THROUGH REGULAR LEAK MONITORING

Did you know that the Lomita Water team helps catch possible water leaks for residents? The Lomita Water System automatically detects possible leaks based upon meter flow and City staff sends residents a courtesy notification letter that there may be a leak somewhere on their property.

If you've received a notification letter of a possible leak, there are some easy-to-follow steps you can take. Our full article with a list of suggestions is available under our News tab on our Lomita Water website, www.LomitaWater.com.

Stay up to date and learn more about the Lomita Water System on www.LomitaWater.com and sign-up for Lomita Water News Alerts while you are there!

NEW FARMERS MARKET IN LOMITA

Although farmers markets have had to operate under specific safety guidelines because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lomita Farmers Market has had a growing turnout since it began in early July, according to organizers Heidi Butzine and Erik Bowman from the Lomita Chamber of Commerce. The event features fresh fruits and vegetables, tasty prepackaged food items, and helps celebrate local businesses in our community every week.

Support your local Lomita Farmers Market every Sunday from 10am to 2pm, at Lomita City Hall located at 24300 Narbonne Avenue. Please remember to wear a mask, maintain six feet of social distancing, follow directional signs, and use hand sanitizer from the various stations that are available. Once it is safe to do so, the event will expand to feature live music, arts and crafts, and additional vendors.

Don't forget to stop by the City of Lomita booth to obtain information on our community programs and services and to purchase your official Lomita apparel and gifts!

For additional information or if you are interested in reserving a booth space, visit www.lomitafarmersmarket.com. Sign up for the VIP List to get notified of special events and weekly vendors.



EAT LOCAL. SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL.

Why think of Lomita first? The holiday season is fast approaching, and our restaurants and small businesses really need customers to survive the pandemic economy. Our local businesses have had to adjust and make hard decisions about their business operations in response to COVID-19. By supporting our local businesses, you are keeping money in our community. Shopping online sends money out of Lomita.

Customers play a vital role in helping businesses survive – with your money, your business, and thoughtful consumer habits. Here are ways to keep supporting small businesses in Lomita:

- Ordering curbside pick-up and delivery
- Taking part in online classes
- Following businesses on social media and leaving good reviews
- Buying local before ordering from a big-box chain
- Buying a gift card to be used at a later date to boost cash flow to businesses during this slow economic period
- Having patience when expecting an order as the pandemic has disrupted supply chains, shifted workflows, and led to layoffs and furloughs
- Avoiding refunds and postpone instead of cancelling
- If you can afford to tip more than usual or make a donation, consider doing so
- Buying presents and birthday gifts for loved ones, even if those events are months away
- Shopping locally at brick-and-mortar stores to avoid last-minute shipping concerns
- Enjoy a unique customer experience and offers not available online by shopping at a local small business

The success of our local business community is good for all of us by providing revenues for public programs and services, maintaining jobs, supporting the local economy and contributing to the unique character of Lomita. Thank you for shopping Lomita first.

Visit the Lomita Chamber of Commerce at www.lomitachamber.org to learn more on how to support our local businesses safely.



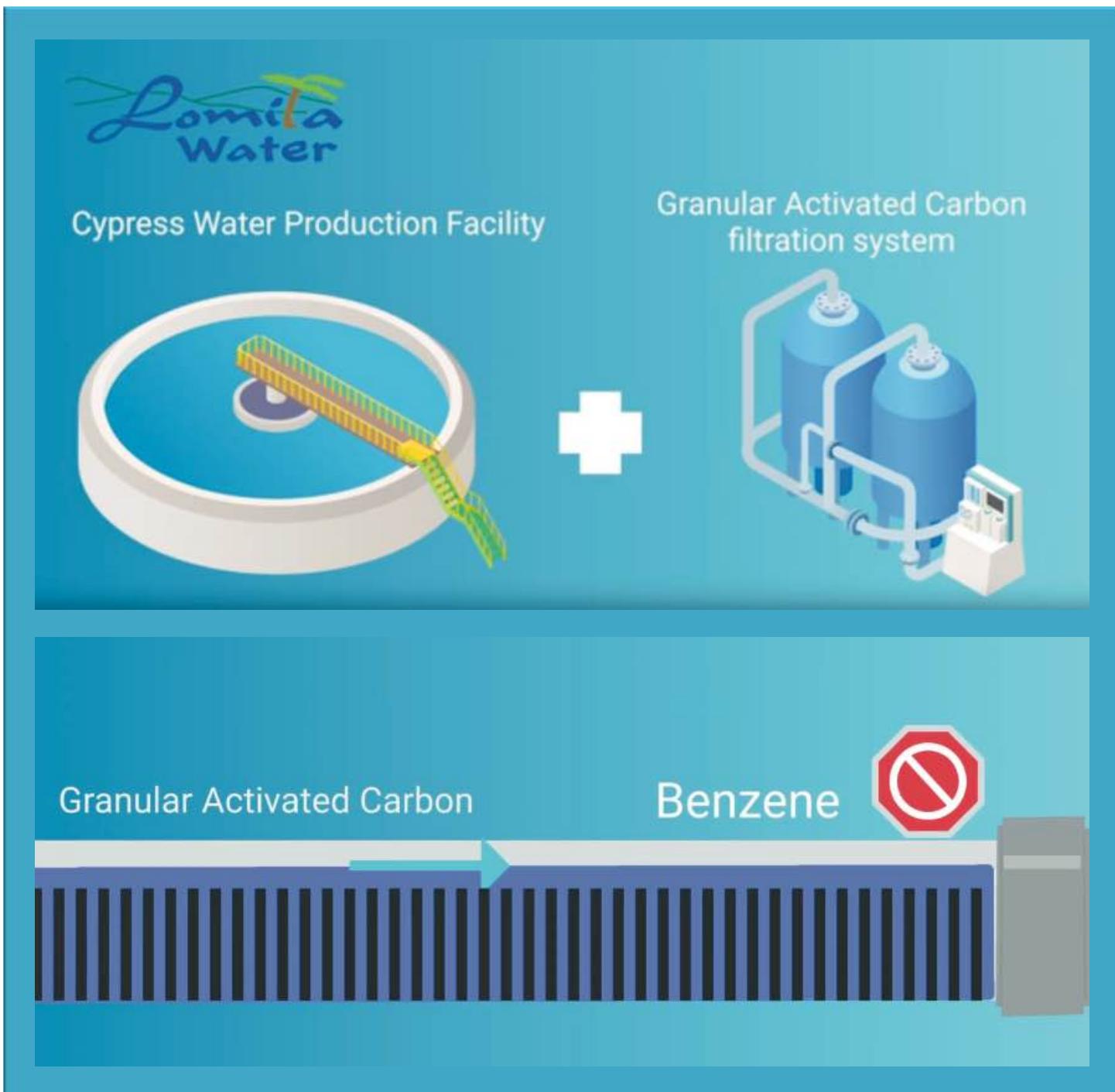
**THURSDAYS
(or everyday)**

Visit LomitaEats.com

LOMITA RELEASES VIDEO EXPLAINING NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM

Although we can't currently host in-person tours of the Lomita Water System, the City of Lomita has created a short video you can watch to learn about an exciting upgrade to our water infrastructure: a Granular Activated Carbon filtration system. See the video under the News tab on our water distribution system dedicated website, www.LomitaWater.com.

The new filtration system will filter out natural organic materials that have previously created taste and odor concerns, and it will also remove benzene that forced the City to shut down the Cypress Water Production Facility last year. The City listened to residents' input about drinking water in Lomita, and this project has been designed specifically to address that feedback.



PAPER GOODS & FACE MASKS STILL AVAILABLE

We know these are trying times for our community and we continue to connect with our residents with a helping hand.

The City has been distributing face masks and care packages of paper goods to those in need through the City's Lift Up Lomita Program and close to 400 packages have been delivered so far! If you are a resident or business owner in the City of Lomita and you are in need of these items, please continue to email us at LiftUpLomita@lomitacity.com and we will assist in getting you these items.

The face masks were generously donated by the Picerne Family Foundation, a non-profit organization that has partnered with Lomita in the past for the betterment of our community. The paper goods and water bottles were purchased with donated funds from members of the City Council and Lomita employees.

We are encouraged by all the great acts of neighborliness in our community and our region. Keep sending your positive stories of Lomita Lifting Up Lomita!





SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS FROM LOMITA

Sign up to receive public service and emergency related alerts by texting LomitaAlerts to 888-777 or visit alertsouthbay.com.

When an emergency happens, the City of Lomita wants to make sure you and your loved ones stay safe and informed. In case of a natural disaster, an extended utility outage, street closure or other issue of public concern, the new Alert South Bay notification system will help us provide you with important information to help reduce the loss of life, damage to property and the environment.

The Alert South Bay notification system, established by 12 cities in the South Bay including Lomita, allows us to send notifications via text, email, land lines and TTY/TDD devices based on your preferences and the topics you subscribe to. Alert South Bay is an opt-in system, meaning residents are not automatically enrolled.

We encourage you sign up for alert platforms relevant to where you live, work, and spend time in the South Bay. Your information is protected and will only be used to notify you in the event of an emergency or for the categories you subscribe to.

Residents can also opt-in to receive non-emergency notifications, such as traffic and parking enforcement advisories, public health alerts, emergency preparedness and other non-emergency alerts.

You can also rely on our other non-emergency communication methods to stay up to date on Lomita's programs and services.

- Lomita's standalone website dedicated to COVID-19 information, <https://lomitacoronavirus.info>
- Receive our electronic newsletter via email by subscribing at www.lomita.com/cityhall/mailing-list
- Follow us on Facebook @Lomitacity, Instagram @lomitacityhall/ and Next Door @CityofLomita

Lomita Farmers Market

FARMERS MARKET HALLOWEEN



Come out to the Lomita Farmers Market on Sunday, October 25th with your family. Children dressed up in their Halloween costumes will receive a free goodie bag! Simply stop by and "Trick or Treat" at the Lomita Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lomita booths as you make your way through the various stations making your purchases. Farmers Market is held every Sunday at Lomita City Hall located at 24300 Narbonne Ave from 10:00 am - 2:00pm. We hope to see you there!

LomitaFarmersMarket.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND E-WASTE ROUNDUP

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District will host a Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundup at the City Hall parking lot (24300 Narbonne Avenue) on **Saturday, December 19, 2020** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The program gives Los Angeles County residents a legal and cost free way to dispose of unwanted household chemicals that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash. Improper disposal of certain materials pollutes the environment and endangers public health and wildlife.

WHAT YOU CAN BRING TO THE EVENT:

- Motor oil, antifreeze, paint, paint thinner
- Turpentine, cleaners with acids or lye
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Household and car batteries
- Old computers and television sets
- Sharps or used needles
- Expired pharmaceuticals and mercury thermometers

WHAT YOU CANNOT BRING TO THE EVENT:

- Explosives, ammunition or radioactive materials
- Waste from businesses; Only household waste will be accepted
- Trash or old tires
- White goods such as washers, stoves, refrigerators or air conditioners

HOW TO PREPARE:

- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 lbs. per vehicle
- Bring items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers
- Be prepared to leave your containers
- Do not mix products together

For more information, contact the Los Angeles County Sanitation District at 1(888) CLEAN LA or visit www.CleanLA.com.



Lift Up Lomita

HALLOWEEN CARE PACKAGES

Halloween this year will be a bit different. But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate this fun day together in a new way. We want to see those amazing and creative costumes this year! So, parents listen up! The City of Lomita and Lift Up Lomita want to make the month of October special for your children by having one of our many amazing Lomita Park coaches deliver a special care package to your home! All you have to do is email LiftUpLomita@lomitacity.com with your child's name, address, and requested delivery time for drop off (please allow a span of at least 1 hour)! If possible, have your child dress up in their Halloween costume as well. This will help make Halloween that much more exciting for them. Plus, we would love to see their costumes this year, so please share it with us on Facebook ([@Lomitacity](#)) or Instagram ([@Lomitacityhall](#)) and use the hashtag [#LiftUpLomita](#). This event will run from October 26th - October 30th. All requests must be submitted by October 29th at 12pm. We wish you all a happy and safe Halloween and look forward to seeing all of you real soon! Stay Safe Lomita.

HALLOWEEN

DRIVE THROUGH PARADE AT LOMITA PARK

Parents, the City of Lomita will be providing a safe way to Trick or Treat this year at Lomita Park. On Saturday, October 31st from 3:00pm-6:00pm Lomita Park coaches will be handing out candy to dressed up children with a special drive thru Halloween Trick or Treat Parade. We will be playing music as you drive by and receive your candy bag.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL (310) 326-0140.**





CITY HALL Holiday Closure Schedule

City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. In addition, the facility will be closed Thursday, December 24th starting at 12:00pm and will resume regular hours on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Holiday Trash and STREET SWEEPING INFORMATION

Refuse collection will be delayed by one day on Thursday, November 26th (Thanksgiving day) and there will be no interruption on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Street sweeping will be cancelled on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving holiday, Christmas Day on Friday, December 25th and New Year's Day on Friday, January 1, 2021.

LOMITA PARK Holiday Closure

The Lomita Park offices, playground equipment, facilities, basketball courts, and Railroad Museum continue to be closed. As we comply with the LA Country rules and regulations to ensure the safety of our residents and community. Lomita Park staff is available to answer any questions by phone at (310) 326-0140.

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.
However, during the holiday season
we will be closed on selective days.

PLEASE SEE BELOW.

- November 11th – **CLOSED**
- November 26th – **CLOSED**
- November 27th – **CLOSED**
- December 24th – **CLOSED**
- December 25th – **CLOSED**
- December 26th – December 30th
9:00am-1:00pm
- December 31st – **CLOSED**
- January 1, 2021 – **CLOSED**



A SEASON OF JOY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

May your days be bright and merry!

The Annual Lomita Tree Lighting

event will take place Friday, December 4th at 5:30pm. Our festivities will be a bit different this year as our City Hall Tree will be lit and the front lawn will be decorated with several different holiday displays available for families to take their holiday pictures. Mark your calendars as the displays will be available from December 4th until the New Year 2021. For more information please visit the <http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/>.

HELP US KEEP LOMITA CLEAN!



The City would like to remind residents that each single family residential customer may request up to four free on-call bulky item pick-ups per year (maximum of 6 items per pick-up) and multi-family residential customers will receive one free on-call bulky item pick-up per residential unit within the development. This means you can call for bulky item pick-up anytime during the year.

Dumping items at the curbside is illegal and may result in an additional charge to your CalMet account. Schedule your special pick-up by calling CalMet Services at (562) 259-1239. Let's all do our part to keep Lomita clean!



Lomita Community Education
24300 Narbonne Ave • Lomita, CA 90717

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3100
TORRANCE, CA
ECR-WSS

CURRENT RESIDENT

City Hall and Community Contacts

Lomita City Hall
(310) 325-7110

Library
(310) 539-4515

Lomita Sheriff Station
(310) 539-1661

Lomita Park
(310) 326-0140

Railroad Museum
(310) 326-6255

Public Works
Water, Street, & Trees
(325) 7110 ext. 155

Water Emergencies
(310) 597-6428

Street & Tree Emergencies
(310) 597-6429

Emergency Park
Maintenance
(310) 597-6430

Animal Control
(310) 523-9566

Rubbish Collection (CalMet)
(310) 212-3496

Graffiti
(310) 325-7110 ext 156

Emergency Numbers
Dial 911

Sheriff, Fire, Paramedics,
Ambulance

Sheriff Complaints
(800) 698-8255

Lomita Post Office
(310) 326-8280

Lomita Chamber of Commerce
(424) 378-7111

For more information, please
view our webpage at
www.lomita.com/cityhall



CHECK OUT OUR WINTER RECREATION CLASSES

Karate / Brit West Soccer / Yoga / Sr. Chair Yoga

Sign-ups start December 1st at 9 AM

To ensure the most accurate and up to date information, Lomita's Recreation Programming for the Winter season will be available online only. It will offer many fun, family friendly and active opportunities along with information on special events and programs, assuming LA County coronavirus health regulations permit them to occur.

To find classes, register, and pay, please visit
<https://apm.activecommunities.com/lomitaparksandrec/Home>

