



# CITY LINE

September 2020

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The Longmont Museum, pictured above, has a full line-up of both virtual and in-person programs and classes ready for you this fall. Visit [LongmontMuseum.org](http://LongmontMuseum.org) for more information.

Watch a brief video on the water bonds ballot issue and learn more, including some arguments for and against the issue: [LongmontColorado.gov/water-bonds](http://LongmontColorado.gov/water-bonds).

## Fall Ballot to Include Bonds for Aging Drinking Water System Improvements

This fall, City Council is asking Longmont voters to approve issuing up to \$80 million in bonds to finance the renewal of aging water system infrastructure and maintain system reliability and quality. These water bonds are a component of the five-year rate schedule approved by City Council in 2019, along with adopted rate increases.

This question of issuing bonds is being taken to voters for approval as required by Longmont's city charter. Existing fund balances, along with the five-year rate increases, will cover repayment and interest on the bonds.





# A Message from Mayor Bagley

## Thank You, Chief Butler

Lost in all the attention given to the COVID-19 pandemic was the news that after an awe-inspiring 40-plus year career in law enforcement and the last 26 years as Police Chief and Public Safety Chief in Longmont, Mike Butler quietly retired this summer.

Very few people have had an impact on the Longmont community as profoundly as Chief Butler. For that, we owe him a great deal of gratitude.

I'm sure he will be upset with me for writing this tribute because he wanted to walk away quietly, without fanfare. And as an organization we respected and honored that request, but I believe he still is owed a public thank you from his colleagues and staff from the City of Longmont.

Although he retired quietly, he was anything but passive during his Longmont career.

Chief Butler transformed the nature of law enforcement in our community to one of the most respected agencies in Colorado and, dare I say, in the nation. It's very telling that while there are protests around the country against the actions of some police officers, we in Longmont hold our collective heads high knowing that Longmont's relationship with public safety is a healthy one. We are not perfect but there is a sense of belonging in

Longmont, and we owe much of that positive relationship to the work of Mike Butler.

He will say that any success he has had in Longmont is due to the great teamwork in the department. That's true; it's never about one individual, but leadership starts at the top and that is the case with Chief Butler.

During his tenure, he has done more than lead a public safety department. I won't list all of his accomplishments in this space; you can read about that elsewhere. I want to focus on the man himself.

You see, with Mike, it's always been about the human element. If you speak with him for more than five minutes, you'll immediately know that he is a man of compassion who truly cares about his fellow human beings. It's remarkable to me that he maintains such an optimistic outlook after being involved in a profession that, by its very nature, can be grim and gruesome at times.

That's what I will miss about Chief Butler. His career was never a "job" to him. It was about making a profound difference in the community. It was about caring for people. It was about lifting us up and inspiring us to be better.

Mission accomplished, Mike. Longmont is forever in your debt.

## Longmont City Council

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Find City Council meeting agendas and minutes at [LongmontColorado.gov/City\\_Council](http://LongmontColorado.gov/City_Council)

## Stay Informed: Watch city council meetings live or recorded

Although residents can't attend city council meetings in person right now, it's easy for you to view meetings, either live or recorded. To watch the meetings live at 7 pm on Tuesdays, visit the City's YouTube channel at [bit.ly/longmontyoutubelive](https://bit.ly/longmontyoutubelive) or Longmont Public Media's livestream at [LongmontPublicMedia.org/watch](https://LongmontPublicMedia.org/watch). Following each meeting, you can view the recording on YouTube. Keep refreshing your browser if you are unable to see the video.

You also can call in to speak at "public invited to be heard" and during public hearings on specific issues. Just watch for the instructions that are shown on the live feed immediately prior to each opportunity to speak.

# Celebrate Día de los Muertos in Longmont

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Longmont Museum's annual Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) exhibition and programs, and a global pandemic won't stop the celebration. Attracting more than 6,000 people annually to the exhibit and programs, it's the largest and longest-standing Day of the Dead exhibition and celebration in Colorado.



## And there's more!

Visit [LongmontMuseum.org](http://LongmontMuseum.org) to read about more live-streaming programs, Día de los Muertos Art & Sip classes, downtown altars, and all the ways our community can keep alive the tradition of Día de los Muertos and celebrate life during these difficult times.

## Exhibition

October 2 – January 10  
\$8 adults, \$5 students/seniors

Día de los Muertos makes a triumphant return to the Museum's main gallery this fall for a special exhibition of community ofrendas (altars) and the artwork of renowned Colorado artist Tony Ortega. The exhibition

includes paintings, illustrations, prints, mixed media works, and a new, original downtown mural in honor of the 20th Día de los Muertos anniversary. Join us for a free virtual opening reception on at 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 1, with a live performance by Grupo Azteca Tlahuizcalli, an artist talk with Tony Ortega, and conversations with altar builders from the exhibition gallery (live-streamed to Facebook, [LongmontPublicMedia.org](http://LongmontPublicMedia.org), and local Comcast channel 8/880).



## Virtual Day of the Dead Celebration

Sunday, November 1, 2:30 to 4 pm  
Free – Live-streamed to Facebook, [LongmontPublicMedia.org](http://LongmontPublicMedia.org), and local Comcast channel 8/880

We can't gather together for the usual downtown festival, but you can celebrate

Day of the Dead from home with all of the performances you love live-streamed right to your computer, tablet, or phone. Traditional dance, music, and poetry will be part of the mix as we celebrate safely. Authentic weekly web content at

[LongmontDayoftheDead.com](http://LongmontDayoftheDead.com) (English) and [LongmontDiadelosMuertos.com](http://LongmontDiadelosMuertos.com) (Spanish) will prepare you and your family to create your own Día de Muertos celebration at home. Every week in October, visit the website for new content highlighting the origins and traditions that make Day of the Dead such a meaningful holiday.

## October's 2nd Friday to Showcase Day of the Dead Altars in Downtown Longmont

October's Second Friday will kick off the 2020 Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festivities in downtown Longmont. On Friday, October 9, downtown businesses will unveil their ofrendas (altars), which will remain on display through November 1.



Find more information, ofrenda locations, and self-guided tour maps at [DowntownLongmont.com](http://DowntownLongmont.com).

## Be a Smart, Sustainable Online Shopper

Reduce emissions by consolidating your orders and choosing no-rush shipping.

tips



Find more simple sustainability tips at [bit.ly/sustainability-longmont](http://bit.ly/sustainability-longmont).



THRIVE Today and Tomorrow

# Forestry Services Maintains Trees Throughout Longmont



Have you ever wondered which trees are maintained by the City of Longmont? You can now check out the inventory online at [bit.ly/longmont-forestry](http://bit.ly/longmont-forestry). You might be surprised to learn which trees near your home are actually maintained by the City's Forestry Services.

Forestry Services is responsible for the care and maintenance of around 21,000 trees. This includes pruning, removal and treatment for the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) if appropriate.

Forestry staff assess each tree for pruning or removal needs on a set schedule. Ash trees that are eligible for EAB treatment are assessed in the year prior to their scheduled treatment.

More than 900 ash trees have been treated for EAB since 2016. These trees continue to be monitored and will receive additional treatment as needed.

Visit [bit.ly/longmont-forestry](http://bit.ly/longmont-forestry) to learn more about trees throughout Longmont. If you have questions or concerns, check online or call 303-651-8416.

## 2020 Bike to Work Day is Cancelled Enjoy Bike to Wherever Week Instead!

Bike to Work Day, originally scheduled for June 24, was postponed to September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After careful consideration, the regional organizer has cancelled all Bike to Work Day activities for the remainder of this year.

While Bike to Work Day won't take place this year, the fun continues with Bike to Wherever Week, September 21-25. Visit [BiketetoWorkDay.us](http://BiketetoWorkDay.us) to learn more.

## It's Time to Dispose of Your Household Hazardous Waste

**UPDATE:** The 2020 chemical drop-off day scheduled for Saturday, September 12, has been cancelled.

Longmont residents can take items at no charge to the Boulder County Hazardous Materials Management Facility, 1901 63rd Street in Boulder. Schedule your appointment at [BoCo.org/HMMFappointment](http://BoCo.org/HMMFappointment). Businesses can schedule appointments at [BoCo.org/HMMFbizappt](http://BoCo.org/HMMFbizappt). Anyone can take hazardous items for a fee to Veolia. Visit [HHWDisposal.com/colorado](http://HHWDisposal.com/colorado). Finally, visit [PaintCare.org](http://PaintCare.org) for locations to dispose of paint.

For more information, call 303-651-8416 or visit [LongmontColorado.gov/WasteServices](http://LongmontColorado.gov/WasteServices).

## Have You Seen the Alpha Car?



This summer Longmont Fire debuted its new Alpha Car to handle lower-priority medical calls for service. This unit also serves as backup for ambulance transport. The Alpha Car allows the larger fire engines to remain in service for more critical medical calls and saves on wear and tear and fuel cost. This unit has been in the Fire Strategic Plan for 12 years, and thanks to the voter-approved Public Safety Tax it has finally become a reality.