

Legacy Links



**PRESERVING OLD LA VERNE'S
ENVIRONMENT:
MAKING HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

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Every Picture Tells a Story

1/22/22 will live in La Verne's history as a devastating local disaster. Although not on the scale of the 50-year 1938 flood, local damage was substantial. La Verne and the neighboring cities of Claremont, Ontario, Upland, and others on the coastal slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains appeared to be at the epicenter of the ferocious Santa Ana winds that hurled gusts exceeding 70 miles per hour. Hundreds of felled trees, downed power lines, and damaged homes and vehicles, were reported in the Inland Empire. Fortunately, there were no reports of personal injury. The cities of Claremont and Upland cancelled school district classes and La Verne joined Claremont in declaring a state of emergency, which would allow access to cleanup and repair funds if these are made available by the state.

Members of the LVHS join city leaders and residents of the community in feeling the shock of the windstorm damage. We are reminded that city government and public utilities are at the forefront of cleanup and restoration efforts. However, as citizens, we can help to restore La Verne by pitching in to clean a neighbor's yard, storing the contents of a refrigerator or sharing lanterns or flashlights with someone who has lost

power and re-assessing our household disaster preparedness. Checking in on our neighbors helps to make community connections.

History is made on a daily basis and preserving current events is an important aspect of the LVHS motto "Preserving Old La Verne's Environment: Making History for the Future". We will continue to report on La Verne's recovery from the 1/22/22 windstorm.

Marv Weston, who took many of the photographs that memorialize this event, made the following comments after he surveyed the area:

"Late Friday night, the wind really picked up and by early Saturday morning it was reported in Claremont nearby to be around 70 mph. They lost over 300 trees that have, in many cases, 100 years of growth. Large segments were out of power over there late last night. In La Verne, my first thought was Kuns Park, one of the early parks in our community with numerous old trees. I went there first, and it was really sad. From there I went to the old town area and sure enough, trees that were planted around 100 years ago were blocking the streets. There are a couple of photos of a large nursery that sells trees only and they have their work cut out to pull them back upright. In northern La Verne, a gated community had power lines down over their gates and they had no way out. I finished in the neighborhood Jon and Jetty (family)

lives in. Everywhere you go, trees down or badly broken. Quite a sight.”

Kuns Park & Surrounding Neighborhood





Third Street





Bonita Avenue North to Sixth Street





Hillcrest, "B" Street Cemetery, Church of the Brethren



North La Verne – Mount Springs Estates, Mills Park, & Stephens Ranch Road



Claremont



What Next???

Members of the La Verne City Council and other community leaders moved swiftly to address problems created by the 1/22/22 windstorm. A status report from City Manager Bob Russi on 1/26/22 declared:

Mountain Springs Estates has been reenergized.

The only street that remains closed is 5th west of Kuns park which crews are working to clear as I write this update.

Kuns park has been posted as closed and we will be pushing out a media post to that affect tomorrow. We expect it will remain closed for several weeks until all trees can be removed.

We found out today that at Pelota Park 4 pine trees fell at the northern end of park which has rendered the north ball field unusable. Due to access issues, it will be sometime before those trees are removed.

Green waste pick-ups are scheduled for 1/31/22 and 2/7/22 at no extra cost to residents.

Bins have been placed at Kuns Park, Mills Park and Station 3 for residents to place their tree debris. A media post was pushed out today with that information. We expect they remain at these locations and be serviced as needed for at least the next several weeks.

Building and Safety reports there were 5 structures that they inspected as a result of tree damage. 3 were yellow tagged.

Public Works currently has 100 active service requests they are prioritizing for response.

We estimate it could be a month before all downed trees and related services requests are handled.

Additionally, on 1/26/22 Council members took action to ratify the local State of Emergency which is required for us to seek State reimbursement should funding be made available. The preliminary estimate of the cost of loss, response, and recovery was to be \$1.7 million.

We will continue to push updates out on social media as well as this dedicated section of the website: <https://www.cityoflaverne.org/index.php/home-sp-254/featured-news/504-wind-storm-information>

The response continues to be an incredible team effort. City services personnel and residents are working together to put our city back on track. Check the city website for evolving responses.



The photo above, taken at Mills Park in North La Verne, commemorates an effort to beautify our city. The top left corner of the photo shows a giant oak tree lying on its side. Perhaps the wood salvaged from the oaks can be used to make beautiful and functional objects to remind us that not everything that is lost, is forever lost.

Thanks to the effort of Marv Weston, John Best, Eric Davis, and Bill Lemon, the windstorm of 1/22/22 has been recorded in many photos. We will move forward.

