

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2014
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

Halloween Road Closures - On Halloween evening October 31, Oak Street and Brooks Street will once again be closed to vehicular traffic from Catalina Street to Temple Terrace from 5:00 p.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. for the annual Halloween Street neighborhood event.

Daylight Savings Time - The Fire Department wants to ensure that all residents check their smoke alarm batteries on Sunday, November 2, when they move their clock back one hour for daylight savings time. On average, 60% of fire related deaths result from fires in the homes with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that were not working properly. The Fire Department offers free batteries and the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for residents of Laguna Beach. To participate in the Smoke Alarm Program, please visit the city's website and complete the "Free Smoke Alarm" sign up form at http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/fire/fire_prevention/smoke_alarms.asp. A representative from the Fire Department will contact you and schedule an appointment to determine how many detectors are needed and install them.

Construction of Cerritos Drive Retaining Wall Improvements - Construction began last week to stabilize the slope adjacent to the street at 1315 Cerritos Drive. Improvements include removing the temporary wall, adding colored structural shotcrete to lock in the lower portion of the permanent retaining wall, and re-grading the surrounding slope. The work is anticipated to be completed by the first week in December.

United States Postal Service (USPS) Concerns - Staff recently researched concerns voiced by residents about changes in operations at the two local USPS offices. It was determined that undeliverable packages are now being held for pick up at the Aliso Viejo USPS office instead of a local post office here in town. In addition, the USPS office in South Laguna has reduced its hours of operation to 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mayor Pearson has sent a letter to the Post Master requesting a return to the former procedure for holding undeliverable packages in a Laguna Beach post office and to increase the South Laguna's Post Office's hours of operation. Residents displeased with these changes in convenience and availability are encouraged to send a letter to Post Master Aree Jitranajinda at 29911 Niguel Road, Laguna Niguel, CA, 92677.

Flood Preparedness Exercise - On Wednesday, the City held an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise to simulate a flood. This exercise involved participants from all city departments, the two water districts, and representatives from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). It was well received by all involved and provided valuable training for emergency response personnel. In addition to the exercise, letters are going out to the downtown businesses and Laguna Canyon residents next week to provide winter preparation tips and advice.

Exciting Upcoming Events Related to the Downtown Specific Plan Update - The City of Laguna Beach is continuing its Downtown Specific Plan Update with a series of outreach events seeking public input this fall and winter. One of the upcoming events is an interactive outdoor “Pop-Up Downtown” workshop on Saturday, November 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The workshop will include the temporary transformation of a portion of Ocean Avenue near Coast Highway to garner community feedback on potential improvements to the Downtown area. There will be interactive examples of how to improve livability and mobility in the Downtown, such as parklets, bulb outs and seating areas. Topics will also include street and intersection treatments, open space improvements, visualizing building heights and brainstorming improvements for parking areas. The workshop will be very innovative and allow the City to obtain valuable community feedback while the community enjoys some food, music and conversation about the vision of the Downtown. In addition to the “Pop-Up Downtown” workshop, a unique mobile “Plan Trolley,” utilizing one of the City’s trolleys, will bring important information about the Downtown Specific Plan Update to the community at key events that will include the First Thursday’s Art Walk on November 6, the High School Football Game on November 7, Hospitality Night on December 5 and during the Sawdust Art Festival’s Winter Fantasy in December. At the events, the “Plan Trolley” will be parked, with city and consultant staff assisting community members in providing their vision and ideas for Downtown Laguna Beach through the use of interactive displays and survey tools. For more information visit www.lagunabeachcity.net/dspu or contact Wendy Jung, Associate Planner, City of Laguna Beach, at [949.497.0321](tel:949.497.0321) or wjung@lagunabeachcity.net.

Juried Fine Art Exhibition – Winners Announced - The Arts Commission conducted its eighth annual Juried Fine Art Exhibition this month which is currently on display at City Hall, 505 Forest Avenue and can be viewed through November 26, 2014. The juror, Laguna College of Art + Design, President Jonathan Burke reviewed 185 submissions from artists from throughout Orange County. On Thursday, October 23, 2014 Mayor Elizabeth Pearson announced the winners of the exhibition as 1st Place, Amber Foote; 2nd Place, Tom Swimm; and 3rd Place, Naomi Shachar; each were awarded \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively. Honorable mention was awarded to Ellen Rittenhouse, Cliff Wassmann and Barbara White.

Public Art Projects - The Arts Commission recently conducted a call for artists for two public art opportunities. Following review the Commission selected Sukhdev Dial, Pat Downing and Ricardo Duffy as finalists for the Main Beach Park Sculpture Competition (Art-in-Public Places.) Artists Alber de Mattias, Kiduck Kim and Louis Longi were selected as finalists for the 2014 Artist Designed Bench competition. The artists will develop proposals for the sites and will make their presentations to the Commission on November 24, 2014.

Construction of Temple Hills Drive Storm Drain Construction - Starting next week, storm drain construction will be progressing from Dunning Drive to Temple Hills Drive. Temple Hills Drive will be reduced to one lane between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers. The work is anticipated to be completed by the end of March.

Construction for Street Resurfacing - Preliminary work is underway to resurface streets in the Arch Beach Heights and Temple Hills neighborhoods. A construction notice providing detailed project information was mailed to all affected residents. The work will be coordinated with storm drain construction occurring on Temple Hills Drive, Dunning Drive and Cerritos Drive.