

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 20, 2014  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** John Pietig, City Manager  
**SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES**

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**City Hall Closed** - Reminder that City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday, as well as, on Friday, November 28.

**Exciting Events Related to the Downtown Specific Plan Update** - The interactive outdoor “Pop-Up Downtown” workshop held on Saturday, November 15 was successful and well-attended by approximately 400-500 community members and visitors to the downtown. The workshop included the temporary transformation of a portion of Ocean Avenue near Coast Highway to garner community feedback on temporary, “pop-up” ideas for the future of the Downtown area. Topics included street and intersection treatments, open space improvements, visualizing building heights and brainstorming improvements for parking areas. The City obtained valuable community feedback via interactive display boards and received 122 comment cards during the event.

The “Plan Trolley” will continue to bring important information about the Downtown Specific Plan Update to the community at key events that will include 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](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/dspu) or contact Wendy Jung, Associate Planner, City of Laguna Beach, at [499-497-0321](tel:499-497-0321) or [wjung@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:wjung@lagunabeachcity.net).

**Palette Competition** - The Arts Commission selected designs by artists Michael Ervin, Dedre Sines and Shannon Sybirski for this year’s competition. These new palettes have been installed outside City Hall. The palettes can be seen throughout the city extending to South Laguna. Currently in its 48<sup>th</sup> year, this program is funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach.

**Main Beach Sculpture Competition** - At its meeting on Monday, November 24, 2014, the Arts Commission will review presentations by three artists selected as finalists to the Main Beach Sculpture Competition. Artists Sukhdev Dail, Pat Downing and Ricardo Duffy were invited to develop proposals for the project. The artists will present their proposals at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue.

**Laguna Beach is Certified TsunamiReady and StormReady** - We are happy to announce that the Police Department has received our recertification from the National Weather Service as a TsunamiReady and StormReady city. This process took several months which required sight visits to our Emergency Operations Center and written plans to be updated to meet their requirements. To receive TsunamiReady certification you have to demonstrate you have a fully functional EOC, the ability to disseminate a Tsunami warning (AlertOC, local media, radio stations), have a Tsunami Hazard Plan, and a community awareness program.

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**Artist Open Studios** - Artist Open Studios will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can catch a free shuttle service from the Act V parking lot, located at 1900 Laguna Canyon Road, and take advantage of free parking. Over 30 artists will be opening their studios, offering hands-on experiences and insights into their creative process. This is opportunity to see artists working in a variety of media from glass fusion to bronze welding. This event is funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach. A brochure and map of participating studios is available at <http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=10497>

**Historic Resource Inventory Update** – The City’s Heritage Committee and historic consultant are in the process of conducting three public meetings regarding the City’s historic preservation program. The third meeting is scheduled for Monday December 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. At this meeting, the historic consultant will present a recent field survey of the homes identified on the 1982 Historic Resources Inventory. The updated survey results and proposed property ratings will be discussed.

**Utility Undergrounding Big Bend** – Southern California Edison plans to begin construction of underground utilities along Laguna Canyon Road through the Big Bend area in January. The first phase of the work will involve construction of underground conduit and vaults. Following that work, the underground utilities will be installed and connected to the properties along Laguna Canyon Road. When that has been completed the utility poles and wires will be removed. The high voltage wires and poles that bring power into the substation on Laguna Canyon Road will remain in place. Work will be suspended for the summer of 2015 and will resume next September. This is nearly a \$3 million project funded largely by the utility companies and \$800,000 of City funds.

**Winter Quarter 2015 Registration Activities** – Registration for winter quarter recreation activities begins Monday, December 1. The brochure has been mailed citywide and is now available at the Community & Susi Q Center, Community Pool and Community Services Department, as well as online. A wide variety of programs and classes are offered for all ages. Register for activities online at [www.lagunabeachcity.net](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net) (click on Recreation Activities), or by mail-in or drop-off to the Community Services Department at 515 Forest Avenue.

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