

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 9, 2015
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

READY! SET! GO! - Last Friday's fire should serve as a good reminder that every resident should have a plan in place in case of a wildland fire. Are you READY? Is your home defensible? Have you maintained the landscaping around your house? Are you SET? Have you created a disaster plan for your family? Do you know what items you would take with you if requested to evacuate? Do you have a disaster kit ready to go at a moment's notice? GO! Go early; don't wait for the evacuation order if the fire is nearby. When requested to evacuate, GO! Don't stay behind; this could hinder fire department operations. The Laguna Beach Fire Department has READY! SET! GO! Information available on their website so you can be prepared for the next emergency. You can also sign up for a wildfire consultation by firefighters who will come to your home and make recommendations on how you can better prepare it to survive a wildfire. Information can be obtained by visiting the following link:
http://lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/fire/fire_prevention/default.asp.

Update on High School Pool and Tennis Court Improvements - The locker room renovations at the High School and Community Pool have been completed. The work included installation of new flooring, LED lighting, new locker room fixtures and benches, interior and exterior painting, and other routine maintenance to ensure safe and efficient operations. A new shade structure at the pool will be installed in August. At the adjacent tennis courts, boulder-scape facing and reinforcing soil nails have been installed along the slope where the previous retaining wall was failing (Court #6). A new freestanding concrete wall was then added to match the existing wall along Court #5, and additional drainage improvements were constructed above Court #6. Voids beneath Courts #1 - 4 have also been repaired by filling grout between the dirt and concrete slab. Repair of the voids was a critical first step in the full renovation of the facility, which will begin in August. The renovation project will address the surface cracking, drainage, lighting and fencing issues and provide high-quality courts for Laguna Beach High School athletic programs and the community at-large.

Nyes/Oro Canyon Fuel Modification Project - The proposed Nyes/Oro Canyon Fuel Modification Project was appealed to the Coastal Commission this week. A "substantial issue" hearing has been tentatively set for the week of August 10, 2015, in Chula Vista to determine if the appeal has merit. Last week's fire has only strengthened the City's resolve to get this public safety issue abated. Representatives from the City will make their case before the Coastal Commission at this hearing with the hope of having the appeal denied.

Senior Housing Task Force – Needs Assessment Survey - The City of Laguna Beach has hired CSU Fullerton to conduct a mail-in written survey to identify and address the needs of the City's senior community members. This week, the survey will be mailed to select households and we encourage residents to participate. The survey includes 50 questions and will take about 15 minutes to answer. We look forward to the results of this survey and its importance for our City's seniors. Your participation is vital. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Belinda Deines, Associate Planner at (949) 464-6626 or bdeines@lagunabeachcity.net.

Ambassador Training - The Police Department, in partnership with Visit Laguna, has arranged for “Ambassador Training,” for the Police Aides so that they can better direct our visiting community to shopping, places of interest, and restaurants.

Police Chief’s Radio Interview - On Sunday, July 12, Chief Farinella will participate in a radio interview on KX 93.5 with Righty James for the Laguna Roundtable.

City Hires Two Associate Planners - The Community Development Department has hired two new associate planners who will work in both the zoning and planning divisions. They will initially be working in the zoning division focusing on reducing the zoning plan check turnaround time to no more than two weeks. Monique Alanis-Flejter has worked as a development project specialist and associate planner for the City of Peoria, Arizona for the past eight years and previously worked for the City of Mesa, Arizona and the City of Glendora. She holds a master’s degree in public administration from Western International University and a bachelor’s degree in public administration from California State University San Bernardino. She lives with her husband and two sons (ages 14 and 19) in Anaheim. Christian (Chris) Dominguez worked as an assistant planner and code enforcement aide for the City of Laguna Hills for the past five and a half years and previously worked at the City of Scottsdale, Arizona. He holds a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from University of California, Irvine and a bachelor’s degree in urban planning/architecture from Arizona State. He lives with his wife in Laguna Niguel.

REMINDERS:

Downtown Specific Plan Update – Upcoming Community Workshop - The City of Laguna Beach and MIG consulting team will continue the public outreach phase of the Downtown Specific Plan Update Project with a community workshop on Monday, July 20, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., at the Laguna Beach Community and Susi Q Center (380 3rd Street). The City of Laguna Beach invites you to view and provide input on the refined topic areas and strategies for updating the Downtown Specific Plan. Specific topic areas include: land use, parking, mobility, placemaking, urban design, key opportunity sites and infrastructure. Last fall, the community provided their visions and ideas for the Downtown through the use of interactive displays and survey tools during the exciting Plan Trolley and Pop-Up Downtown events. This next workshop is your opportunity to see how these ideas have been refined. We encourage you to learn more about the strategies and continue to share your thoughts for the future of Downtown Laguna Beach. For more information visit:

http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/planning/downtown_specific_plan_amendment/default.asp or contact Wendy Jung, Senior Planner, at (949) 497-0321 or wjung@lagunabeachcity.net.

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