

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 14, 2016  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** John Pietig, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY UPDATES

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**Downtown Specific Plan Update - Joint City Council and Planning Commission Study Session** - The City of Laguna Beach and MIG consulting team will continue their efforts on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) Update with a Joint City Council and Planning Commission Study Session on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers. The study session will focus on Parking and Circulation. MIG will provide a review of related policies within the existing Downtown Specific Plan, an overview of their evaluation and preliminary recommendations for updating policies for consideration. Additional meetings will occur during the winter and spring to review other key topics including, but not limited to Land Use and Urban Design. This session and future meetings play an essential role for MIG to obtain input from the community and direction from the City Council and Planning Commission, and to identify the City's priorities for the future of the Downtown. For more information, contact Wendy Jung, Senior Planner, at (949) 497-0321 or [wjung@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:wjung@lagunabeachcity.net).

**Community Assistance Grants** – The City of Laguna Beach is now accepting applications for 2016-2017 Community Assistance Grants. The Community Assistance Grant program is available to non-profit and/or public organizations that provide special services to residents of Laguna Beach. The objective of this program is to assist local organizations in funding new projects and/or expanded services within our community. Organizations applying for Fiscal Year 2016-17 Community Assistance Grant funds will find additional information and may download the application from the City's website: <http://lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/community/grants/>. To be considered for a grant, applications must be received by Friday, February 26, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

**2016 Banner Competition** - The Arts Commission is currently accepting banner designs for the annual competition. The banners are displayed on lampposts through the City and are a celebration of the community. The competition is open to Orange County artists 18 years of age or older. Artists may submit one proposal to the scale of 4' x 16'. Winning artists will be awarded \$2,200 to paint their design on a provided banner which measures 4' by 16'. The deadline for proposals is Friday, March 11, 2015. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach. Applications and information for this competition is available at: <http://lagunabeach-rod.civicasoft.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=15082>.

**New Personnel Services/Risk Manager** – I am pleased to announce that Elvie Balderrama has been hired as the City's new Personnel Services/Risk Manager. Elvie is a seasoned Human Resources professional with a long tenure of public service beginning her career with the City of El Monte, then the City of La Habra and most recently, as the Human Resources Manager at the City of Irwindale. She starts work on Monday, January 25.

**Police Department welcomes its Newest Officer** - Police Recruit Kyle Milot graduates from the Orange County Sheriff's Academy this evening. His graduation is the culmination of six months of rigorous training which has prepared him for the next phase of his law enforcement career. Next week, Kyle will begin field training and will be assigned to a series of experienced Police Corporals who will teach him about our community and the high expectations for Laguna Beach Police Officers.

**New Paramedic Unit** - On Tuesday, January 19, the fire engine at Station Three, located at 2900 Alta Laguna Blvd., will be upgraded to a Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU). Presently, the Fire Department has paramedics at Fire Stations One (Downtown) and Four (South Laguna). As the Top of the World neighborhood, where Station Three is located, is somewhat isolated from the other two paramedic units in the City, this addition will enhance the Department's ability to provide advanced life support services in a reduced amount of time. This is especially important for the community as two schools are also located in Station Three's response area. The Department was able to utilize existing personnel who are state licensed paramedics for this service enhancement.

**Firefighter and Reserve Firefighter of the Year** - The Fire Department is proud to announce the 2015 Firefighter and Reserve Firefighter of the Year. Fire Engineer/Paramedic Alex Pacheco, who has been with the Department for nine years, was nominated by his peers for the work he has done this past year as the Reserve Firefighter Coordinator. Reserve Firefighter Jeff Terzo, who has been with the Department for one year, was nominated by the Reserve Committee for his contributions to the Department this past year. Both will be recognized by the Laguna Beach American Legion on Thursday, January 21, 2016, and by the Mission Viejo Elks Lodge on February 20, 2016.

**Sewer Line Construction Third and Forest Pipeline Project** - In the previous week, construction of the sewer pipeline continued on Third Street, from Loma Place to approximately the Laguna Beach Community Clinic. For the upcoming week, the Contractor will continue to trench and install the pipeline on Third Street up to Mermaid Street. **TRAFFIC IMPACTS:** The northbound lane on Third Street will be closed from Park Avenue to Loma Place. The westbound lane on Mermaid Street, from Second Street to Gleneyre, will also be closed. Lane closures are expected only between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. For more details or questions concerning construction please call the project hotline at (949) 464-6686 or visit the Construction Projects section of the Water Quality Department website: [www.clbwq.net](http://www.clbwq.net).

## **REMINDERS:**

**Historic Preservation Workshops** - The City is in the process of holding a series of workshops with the Heritage Committee that will focus on different topic areas related to historic preservation with the purpose of formulating a revised Draft Ordinance and Historic Inventory Update. The next workshop will be held on Monday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers to discuss the potential of incorporating an opt-out provision into the Ordinance. The City Attorney will also be present to discuss this topic as it relates to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For more information or information about past meetings please visit: <http://lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/preserve/historicresources.htm>.

**Holiday Tree Recycling** - Waste Management will collect and recycle holiday trees on the regular collection days through Saturday, January 16. Trees must be cut to lengths less than four feet. Decorations, tinsel, metal ornaments, and metal stands must be removed from the trees. Flocked trees will be collected, but cannot be made into compost due to their chemical content. After January 16, non-flocked trees can also be recycled by cutting them up and placing them in the green waste carts.

**Holiday Transit Operations** - Mainline Transit service will run from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18.

**The January Planning Commission, Design Review and View Preservation meetings will not broadcast live on the City's Cable Channel (852) on the City Website** - As of January 4 through January 22, 2016 the City Council Chambers audio/visual and broadcast system is undergoing a significant upgrade. During this time, the January 4 View Restoration and January 6 Planning Commission meetings were not broadcasted live over the City's Cable Channel (852) or the City website. These meetings were videotaped and made available the following day for viewing on the City website. The same will apply to the upcoming January 14 Design Review Board meeting and the January 20 Planning Commission meeting.

**2016 Cultural Arts Funding Applications** - The Arts Commission is currently accepting applications from non-profit organizations with functioning cultural programming based in Laguna Beach. The deadline to submit the application is February 1, 2016. For additional information contact Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager at (949) 497-0722 extension 4. Applications must be submitted on-line at [www.lagunabeachcity.slideroom.com](http://www.lagunabeachcity.slideroom.com).

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