

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2019
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

Village Entrance - Parking Lot 10, located adjacent to the Art-A-Fair, will be closed for bridge re-construction beginning Monday, April 29. Parking spaces along Laguna Canyon Road will become available for free public use. Lot 11, located at the intersection of Laguna Canyon Road and Forest Avenue, is scheduled to open for public use by May 6. For more information, please visit the Village Entrance website and newsletter at:

http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/pw/village_entrance_project/default.htm.

Update: SB 584 Heads to Senate Appropriations Committee - State Senate Bill 584, Wildfire Mitigation Through Undergrounding of Power Lines, has passed the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration in late May. If the bill is passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom, it would expedite the process for local jurisdictions like Laguna Beach located in Tier 3 fire-threat areas to underground current overhead electrical utilities for wildfire mitigation. The bill will also establish a Wildfire Mitigation Oversight Board to develop and implement policies that reduce the looming threat of more wildfires. Overhead utility lines and equipment have caused many devastating blazes, with the equipment of California's three largest utilities being responsible for igniting over 2,000 fires between 2014 and 2017. Currently, there are methods to aide municipalities in undergrounding their electrical lines. However, the criteria have remained mostly the same over the years and have not adapted to the changing utility dynamics that may necessitate undergrounding for a wider range of reasons, including wildfire mitigation and environmental protection. Click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjWrnq2CJIs> to hear Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen and Laguna Beach Fire Chief Mike Garcia speak more about the issue as it pertains to our City.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day - On April 27, 2019, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the Laguna Beach Police Department will be partnering with the DEA to host the DEA's 17th annual National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day drop spot will be in front of the Laguna Beach Police Department. Several members of our Police Department will be there to greet each community member and assist in the disposal of their prescription drugs. The Police Department will also have a sharps container to assist in the disposal of unwanted hypodermic needles. As a reminder, the usual methods of disposing of unused medications, flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash, both pose potential safety and health hazards. For further information, please contact Public Information Officer Sergeant Jim Cota at (949) 464-6671 or jcota@lagunabeachcity.net.

Heritage Month - Come celebrate Heritage Month this May and enjoy the many scheduled activities and events. Opening festivities commence on Thursday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. on the patio of Ocean at Main, located at 222 Ocean Avenue. A new event featured this year includes a trolley tour of past artists' homes within the city! This free tour will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and will begin on Loma Place, adjacent to City Hall. Tour space is limited so RSVP by emailing Clark Collins at clark@collinsonet.net. A calendar of all the events are posted on the City website at: http://lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/preserve/heritage_committee.htm

SCE Pole Replacement - On Monday, April 29, between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Southern California Edison (SCE) will be replacing a utility pole located at the intersection of Bluebird Canyon Drive and Keller Way. The westbound lane at Bluebird Canyon Drive will be blocked in the vicinity of the work and personnel be directing traffic. For questions or concerns, please contact Mark Collins with Pro Energy Services, Inc. at (714) 451-5896.

Pearl Street Beach Access Improvements - On Monday, May 6, construction work to rebuild the closed beach access at the end of Pearl Street will begin. The project includes replacing the stairways, creating seating and overlook opportunities, and adding landscaping. Construction is scheduled to be complete in October 2019. For additional information, please contact Tom Sandefur, P.E., Associate Civil Engineer at (949) 497-0792 or tsandefur@lagunabeachcity.net.

Police Department Citizen Academy Graduation - On April 18, 2019, nineteen people graduated from Class #26 of the Laguna Beach Police Department's thirteen-week Citizen's Academy. They will join the ranks of almost 484 alumni members. The Citizen Academy is a one night a week event designed to provide community members with a better understanding of the Police Department leading to a stronger partnership between the police department and the community. The next class date is expected to start sometime in January 2020. Interested candidates should contact Ross Fallah at rfallah@lagunabeachcity.net for more information.

New City Hall Exhibitions - The Artist Fund at Festival of Arts currently has artwork from three exhibitions, including Tie-One-On Retrospective, Board of Directors Show and Red-Hot Series on display in City Hall's first floor gallery in recognition of their 20-year anniversary. There will be a free reception for the exhibitioners on Thursday, June 5, 2019, at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Open to the public.

Red Telephone Booth Installation Rescheduled - The installation of *Super Hero Changing Station* by local artist Robert Holton in the Red Telephone Booth on Forest Avenue has been rescheduled to Monday, May 6, 2019. The installation will be on display for 24 months as part of the Arts Commission's temporary sculpture program. This program has been funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach.

Changes Made as Result of Public Questionnaire Feedback - If you recently interacted with City of Laguna Beach Community Development Department, you are invited to take a new customer service

questionnaire about your experience. We're already using your survey feedback to make service enhancements: a customer suggested that we make our Building Permit application easier to fill out electronically. As a result, we've changed the format from a static PDF to a dynamic PDF — now customers can enter their information on their home computers, print it out and save time at the counter. [See the new Building Permit here.](#) You can take the survey at: http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/customer_service_questionnaire.htm This questionnaire is a tool to help us enhance customer service, streamline development approval procedures, and improve project turnaround time as part of a new Community Development Department Action Plan.

Main Beach Basketball Court Resurfacing - Routine maintenance and resurfacing work at Main Beach Basketball will begin on Monday, April 29. The work is slated to be complete by Friday, May 3. The basketball courts will be closed for play during this time. If you have any questions, please call Alexis Braun, Recreation Supervisor, at (949) 497-0762.