

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 5, 2011  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** John Pietig, City Manager

**SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES**

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**Heisler Park Renovation** - The contractor is rapidly completing the improvements in the terrace garden area that extends down to the Rockpile Beach lawn area. This used to be the old shuffleboard court area. Recent footing excavations for walls have revealed unexpected groundwater conditions that are presenting some challenges. The project is still on schedule for completion by the middle of June.

**City Planning Award** - On Wednesday evening the City's Community Development Department was awarded the Orange County Section of the American Planning Association's *Focused Issue Planning Award of Merit* for the recently adopted *Design Guidelines- A Guide to Residential Development*. The Focused Issue Planning Award is awarded for a planning document of unusually high merit dealing with a specific aspect of the planning process. A panel of five jurors selected this year's awards. *The Design Guidelines –A Guide to Residential Development* was recognized as a comprehensive document that describes the design review criteria and the design review process. Congratulations to all who participated in the creation of the document.

**Sergeant Greg Bartz** – Sergeant Bartz who retired in 2004 after over thirty years with the Police Department passed away Monday at his home in Madison Connecticut. Greg was 61 years old and is survived by his wife, Dawn and five children.

**Wildfire Awareness Week** – The Governor issued a proclamation declaring May 1 – 7, 2011 Wildfire Awareness Week. California averages 7,000 wildfires per year that impact the public and emergency worker safety, economy, environment and quality of life for Californians. Wildfire Awareness Week is an important opportunity for California's communities and fire service agencies to reduce the risk of wildfire and increase public safety and awareness through education on fire safety, preparation and prevention.

**The Goats Have Arrived!** – An additional herd of goats recently approved by City Council arrived this week to help graze the extraordinary vegetation growth this year. The herd, of approximately 300 goats, have begun their fire prevention and mitigation efforts behind City Hall. Once finished behind City Hall, the herd will graze below Skyline and eventually toward the back of Top of the World. The primary herd remains in North Laguna and is grazing in a southerly direction toward the Downtown area.

**September 11 Remembrance Sculpture** - At its meeting on Tuesday, the City Council approved the competition guidelines for a memorial sculpture at Monument Point. The installation will include two metal beams from the World Trade Center and will convey the message of remembrance, respect and reflection. The competition is open to Laguna Beach artists and the deadline to submit qualifications is Friday, May 20, 2011. Application information is available at [www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/art/default.asp](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/art/default.asp)

**Sunset Serenades** - The Arts Commission program, Sunset Serenades, will be held every Friday evening starting on May 6. Held at the Picnic Beach entrance in Heisler Park the concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and are free. The schedule of performers is: **5/6** Tommy Davy Band – Gypsy Jazz; **5/13** Beth Wood – Singer/songwriter; **5/20** The Berkley Hunts – Eclectic Folk; and **5/27** Matt Poltrano Trio – Piano Jazz. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

**Free Compost Giveaway** - The annual compost giveaway event will be held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Act V Lot, 1900 Laguna Canyon Road. This is a self-service event. Empty sand bags will be provided, which residents can fill with compost. There will be a limit of six bags (about 80 lbs.) per household. Distributions are on a first come first serve basis for Laguna Beach residents only.

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