

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 13, 2011  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** John Pietig, City Manager  
**SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES**

---

**AlertOC Test on October 20** - On Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 5:00 p.m., Laguna Beach will be participating in a regional emergency test in conjunction with the Great Shake Out; the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history. Part of the exercise will be to test the AlertOC system in which all registered phone numbers will be called with a pre-recorded message. Citizens wishing to add their cell phones, work phones, email addresses, and TDD/TTY devices to the system can do so by logging into [www.AlertOC.com](http://www.AlertOC.com)

**2011 Palette Competition** - At its meeting on Monday, the Arts Commission reviewed submissions to the annual Palette Competition. Designs by Laguna Beach artists Audrey Miller and Carla Rogers were selected. Holiday palettes are exhibited throughout the city from Thanksgiving through January 1, 2012. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach.

**Juried Fine Art Exhibition** - The Arts Commission will be installing the Juried Fine Art Exhibition at City Hall on Monday, October 17, 2011. The exhibition was juried by Richard Chang, the Arts and Entertainment Writer and Visual Art Critic for The Orange County Register. Mr. Chang selected 40 artists from throughout Orange County to participate in the exhibition. Winners will be announced on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 5 p.m. and the exhibition will be on display through November 23, 2011. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

**Rotary Car Show** - On Sunday, October 16, 2011 the Forest Laguna Canyon parking lot will be closed from 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Rotary Club of Laguna Beach will hold their Annual Classic Car Show in the City lot and at the Festival of Arts grounds. The Classic Car Show raises funds for local scholarships, charities and outreach projects.

**Haunting News of Another Street Closure** - Every year on Halloween the Police Department has been closing Oak Street in the 400 and 500 blocks for safety reasons due to the increasing numbers of "Trick-or-Treaters" who swarm the neighborhood. This year, residents on Brook Street have asked for a similar closure and the City will include this neighborhood in a trial program to close the street during the evening hours on Halloween.

**Main Beach Construction Begins** - Construction activity for the new Main Beach sewage lift station will begin this Monday, October 17, 2011. Preliminary work including layout and surveying will start next week followed by the relocations of electrical, gas, and water utilities the following week. Heavy construction will begin once the construction fencing is installed around the site. Once the site is secured, the shoring installation will begin toward the end of October. The project site is small and the basketball courts will need to be closed from October 28 through April 2012 to facilitate construction activities.

**Fire Station Tours** - This Saturday, October 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Fire Department would like to invite the public to visit their local fire stations. As part of Fire Prevention Week each of the City's four fire stations will be open for public tours and to answer questions about fire prevention topics. Fire Prevention Week is October 9 through the 15; this year's theme is "protect your family from fire."

October 13, 2011

Weekly Updates

Page 2

**City Hall Lawn Water Conservation Project** - This week, City staff along with our turf maintenance contractor renovated the grass area at City Hall. The lawn area was dethatched, aerated and over-seeded with AZ-1 Kikuyu grass. Kikuyu has several desirable characteristics including drought and salt tolerance, and disease, insect and pet urine resistance. The sprinkler heads will be replaced with low volume heads to reduce water usage. There is already a smart irrigation controller in place for this irrigation system.

**Mini Parks Projects Approved By Planning Commission** - The current budget includes \$50,000 for development of two passive mini-parks on vacant City property. One park is a 25 foot wide by 250 foot long strip along the 2400 block of Park Avenue. This site overlooks Canyon Acres. The other park site is a 20 foot wide by 200 foot long strip between Laguna Canyon Frontage Road and the Laguna Canyon Channel at Woodland Drive. Wednesday evening, the Planning Commission approved both projects with some minor changes. Proposed trees at the Park Avenue site were eliminated because of concerns about impairing views. Picnic tables proposed at the Frontage Road Site were eliminated and replaced with benches. The designs of the mini-parks were done by local landscape architect, Bob Borthwick. Improvements at both parks will include ground cover, shrubbery, and seating benches.

**Main Beach Lift Station Reconstruction \$700,000 Grant Award** - The Heisler Park Phase III project was awarded a Proposition 84 Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) grant from the State. Because favorable bids were received for the Park improvements, there would have been grant funds remaining. The grant was awarded to protect the coastline from sources of pollution entering the ASBS. As Main Beach is adjacent to the ASBS, staff approached the State with a compelling request to expand the scope of the project to include the reconstruction of the Main Beach Lift Station. An amendment to the original grant agreement was approved and signed this week.

###