

The Week That Was^{TW2}

November 20 – November 22, 2023



1. Diamond Street Utility Undergrounding

Construction of the subsurface infrastructure for the utility undergrounding project on Diamond Street is complete. Southern California Edison has removed the high voltage transmission wires and cut the utility pole tops. Senior Project Manager, Pierre Sawaya, is scheduling removal of the remaining overhead electrical distribution and communication lines with the utility companies. It is anticipated that the remaining wires and utility poles will be removed in the coming weeks.

2. November Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

The Environmental Sustainability Committee met on November 20. In the meeting, the committee 1) appointed three Laguna Beach High School students as part of the [Student Participation Program](#) approved by City Council on June 13, 2023, and 2) reviewed and approved its two-year workplan. The committee plans to present the workplan to the City Council for review and approval at the Council's meeting of December 12.

3. Significant Projects Status Report

Attached [here](#) is a status report concerning a wide variety of City Council priorities and other noteworthy City projects.

4. Hospitality Night

The City of Laguna Beach and the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce will host the City's annual Hospitality Night on Friday, December 1, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Peppertree Parking Lot (Lot 2). Santa Claus will arrive to greet holiday revelers before a tree lighting at 6:10 p.m. Street closures begin at 3:30 p.m. Trolley and on-demand transit services will operate extended hours until 11 p.m.

5. Coastal Fire

The Coastal Fire that occurred in May 2022 resulted in significant costs for the City totaling about \$53,500. Fortunately, due to terrific record-keeping throughout the incident, the City was able to recover 75% of these costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), which reimbursed us \$40,160. "Thank you" to the City's Emergency Operations Coordinator, Brendan Manning, and other Fire Department staff for working with CalOES to secure this reimbursement.

6. City Transit Services Closed on Thanksgiving Day

Laguna Beach Trolley and Laguna Local on-demand services will not operate on Thursday, November 23 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular service hours will resume on Friday, November 24.

7. Police Department Reports

Patrol Activity

- Officers have been proactive this year and have made 180 arrests for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Driving Under the Influence of Drugs.
- On Friday November 17, 2023, at 1214 hours, officers responded to 400 block of Center Street for unknown trouble. Officers arrived and found a male subject outside the location who was unresponsive. The reporting party said the male subject was her driver and when she came outside to get in her ride, she noticed he was unresponsive on the ground. LBFD quickly arrived on scene and began lifesaving measures. The male subject was pronounced deceased at the scene and the Orange County Coroner's Office responded, due to the circumstances.
- On Monday, November 20, 2023, at 2257 hours, officers responded to Broadway Street and Coasy Highway in reference to a solo vehicle traffic collision into a light pole. Officers arrived on scene and found the male driver to be conscious but unresponsive in the drivers seat. The male subject was intoxicated but taken to Mission Hospital Mission Viejo due to his injuries. A blood draw search warrant was granted and blood was obtained from the male driver to pursue criminal charges of driving under the influence.
- On Tuesday November 21, 2023, at 0757 hours, officers responded to Laguna Canyon Art and Design in reference to an unknown ordinance which was located by an employee in a storage room. Due to the known circumstance, OCSD Bomb Squad was requested, and the campus was temporarily closed until the ordinance was determined expelled. OCSD Bomb Squad determined the ordinance to be a 1960s 80mm mortar (see attached picture). The ordinance was confiscated by OCSD Bomb Squad for disposal.

Technology

- The City's core team for the CAD/RMS upgrade met with the vendor, Hexagon, for a demonstration regarding workflows of the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management Systems. The estimated go-live date for the upgraded system is September or October of 2024.

Patrol Training

- Jailer Rose is attending an Adult Corrections Officer course.
- Ofc. Kenney attended Radar/Lidar course.
- There was an organizational debrief with Dr. Heather Williams regarding the downtown homicide.

8. Upcoming Notable Community Events (of which staff is aware)

- **Friday, December 1:** Hospitality Night from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Downtown Laguna Beach

Sean Joyce

Interim City Manager