

# The Week That Was<sup>TW2</sup>

February 5 – February 8, 2024



## 1. **Special Thanks to Public Safety and Public Works Staff for Keeping the Community Safe During the Recent Winter Storms**

On behalf of Sean Joyce, thank you to Police, Fire, Marine Safety, and Public Works staff for their exceptional efforts in planning for and responding to the recent winter storms. Despite the adverse conditions, their unwavering dedication, remarkable teamwork professionalism, resilience, and swift action ensured the community's safety and well-being.

## 2. **Temporary Coastal Access Closures at Certain Beaches Due to Winter Storms**

Several coastal access points are temporarily closed due to erosion and sand shift caused by recent rainfall. Access ramps at Victoria Beach, Crescent Bay, Bluebird Beach, and the stairway at Thousand Steps are inaccessible. Staff is assessing impacted areas and will reopen to the public once deemed safe. Staff anticipates opening Thousand Steps beach access Friday, February 9, 2024.

## 3. **Summary of City Council's 2024 Annual Planning Workshop Available Online**

On January 19, 2024, the City Council convened for its Annual Planning Workshop. [A summary of the workshop](#) is included on the City Council's upcoming February 13, 2024, meeting agenda. The workshop was recorded and is available on the City's website [here](#). The workshop materials are also included in the same website location as the video recording.

## 4. **Staff Focused on Pursuing the City Council's 2024 Priorities**

Staff is committed to presenting the City Council with its priority policy initiatives in a timely manner. The following items are anticipated to come before the City Council imminently:

- **Solar Panels on City Facilities:** Staff anticipates presenting solar and battery backup storage system concepts for four facilities in March. Staff will seek direction on the next steps, which could include funding for up to four projects.
- **Artist Live/Work Affordable Housing:** The City Council ad hoc committee (Mayor Pro Tem Rounaghi and Councilmember Orgill) will present its report to the City Council in March. The report will include a series of recommendations to support and preserve Laguna Beach's creative residents.

## 5. **Recreation Division Hosts Parents Night Out**

On Tuesday, February 13, the Recreation Division will host a Parents Night Out – Valentine's Edition from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Community and Susi Q Center located at 380 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to enjoy Valentine's-inspired crafts and

hand-decorated cookies, while parents can enjoy a few hours away. The cost is \$10 per child. For more information and to register, click [here](#) or call 949-464-6645.

**6. Consideration to Remove Lemon Scented Gum Tree at 387 El Camino Del Mar Returning to City Council February 13, 2024**

Staff will be presenting the results of the Level III Risk Assessment for the Lemon Scented Gum Tree located at 387 El Camino Del Mar to the City Council on February 13, 2024. This assessment comprised both ground-penetrating radar evaluation and a static pull test. Following careful consideration of the findings and associated safety concerns, staff recommends the removal of the tree. Additionally, the report proposes an update to the City's Tree Removal and Planting Policy, introducing a Level III Risk Assessment as a prerequisite for determining the necessity of removing apparently healthy trees where safety hazards are not visually apparent. [Click here to access the February 13, 2024, agenda report.](#)

**7. Mobile Mental Health (BeWell) January Statistics Available Online**

January 2024 data for the City's mobile mental health and substance abuse program is available on the City's website ([click here to access the webpage](#)). The program assisted 115 unique clients during the month of January.

**8. Planning Commission Updates**

The Planning Commission held its regular meeting on February 7, 2024. Below is a summary of public hearing items:

- **Mobility Improvements on Park Avenue, Including a Dedicated Bike Lane**

The Planning Commission considered a Coastal Development Permit to implement mobility improvements on Park Avenue between Wendt Terrace and Alta Laguna Boulevard, including implementation of a dedicated bike lane, reconfiguration of vehicle travel lanes and on-street parking modifications. The Commission voted unanimously to conditionally approve the project, and to specifically require that the entirety of the six-foot-wide bicycle lane be painted green.

- **Temporary Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit – Temporary Outdoor Dining for Four Restaurants**

The Planning Commission conditionally approved Temporary Use Permits and Coastal Development Permits for Saporì Italiani, Las Brisas, The Greeter's Corner, and Rywin Trading. The TUPs were requested to extend outdoor dining for the businesses, as an interim measure, while staff further evaluates a permanent Outdoor Dining and Parklet Program.

**9. Police Department Reports**

*Patrol Activity:*

On Thursday, February 1, at 2:21 p.m., officers were dispatched to CVS, 30000 block of Coast Hwy, regarding a theft that just occurred. The reporting party indicated a female stole items and fled in a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle on Catalina and Coast Highway. The suspect was a juvenile who was reported missing from Los Angeles and

had an active arrest warrant. The female was taken into custody for robbery, theft, possession of stolen property, and false impersonation.

On Friday, February 2, at 5:48 p.m., officers were dispatched to CVS, 30000 block of Coast Hwy, regarding a theft. Officers contacted two suspects outside the business matching the description stuffing stolen cosmetics into their clothing. Both suspects were arrested for shoplifting.

At 11:06 p.m., officers were dispatched to a call of a male pushing a female and then leaving the scene in a car. A separate reporting party called to say a male slapped a female and they left on foot in the same area. Neither reporting party was able to provide a physical description of the subjects. Officers were unable to locate the subjects.

On Saturday, February 3, at 3:59 a.m., officers were dispatched to 100 Cliff Drive for possible domestic violence. The victim reported the incident and said the suspect had already left the location. Officers contacted the female and discovered the couple was probably the couple from the previous incident in the area. The male struck the female in the face and back of her head. He also choked her during the violent encounter. Officers were unable to locate the male or a home address. The case was referred to the LBPD detective division and an arrest was later made in San Diego County.

At 2:11 p.m., officers were dispatched to CVS, for a theft that had just occurred. Officers located and contacted a subject near Gelsons. The subject was in possession of the stolen property and taken into custody for shoplifting and drug possession.

At 2:37 p.m., park rangers contacted a subject on Broadway who was discovered to be missing from a sober living facility in Long Beach. The subject was connected with Be Well and accepted transport back to the facility in Long Beach.

On Sunday, February 4, 2024, staff conducted patrol checks of the flood-prone locations within the city in preparation for the upcoming “atmospheric river.”

On Monday, February 5, 2024, at 8:39 a.m., officers assisted Public Works with a mudslide at Country Club Drive. The number two lane of northbound travel was closed temporarily while crews cleaned the roadway.

At 11:58 a.m., officers responded to 20600 Laguna Canyon Road for a single-vehicle non-injury traffic collision into a Frontier cable pole. The pole was severed and needed to be replaced by Frontier. The involved vehicle was towed from the scene.

On Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10:49 a.m., city staff responded to Summit Drive and La Mirada about a mudslide blocking the roadway. Summit Drive remained closed for a couple of hours while city crews cleaned the roadway.

At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to Laguna Lido about a private patio and staircase that fell onto the beach. No injuries were sustained, and no additional structures were affected.

#### **Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET):**

##### *Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) Section*

- Conducting mental health follow-ups with OC Mental Health.

- Working with the Orange County District Attorney's Office on repeat offender enforcement.

*Traffic Section*

- The new Motor Officer graduated from Basic Motor School and starts his first shift on Monday.

*Park Ranger Section*

- The new Park Ranger started on Monday and is in the orientation phase. All eight full-time positions are now filled.

*Parking Services Section*

- The new Parking Service Officer/ Accident Investigator (PSO/AI) started on Monday and will go through a four-week training and orientation phase starting next week.
- The current PSO/AI has completed basic accident investigation training and is currently completing non-injury and cold case hit-and-run collision investigations.

*Community Services Officer (CSO) Section*

- The CSO is working with detectives to create a communication portal for businesses in the city.
- The CSO is assisting with the current Citizen's Academy class.

*Jeremy Frimond*

Assistant to the City Manager