

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

February 19 – February 22, 2024



## 1. City Will Host Two Vote Centers for Upcoming Elections

The City will host two vote centers in City buildings for the upcoming 2024 Presidential Primary Elections. The Laguna Beach Community and Susi Q Center will host a vote center starting Saturday, February 24 through Tuesday, March 5. The Lang Park gymnasium will host a vote center starting, Saturday, March 2 through Tuesday, March 5. More information can be found by visiting: [Home](#) | [OC Vote](#)

## 2. Patriots Day Parade

The annual Patriots Day parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, beginning at 11 a.m. The parade route is the same as in past years, from Laguna Beach High School down Park Avenue to Glenneyre to Forest, ending just past City Hall. To accommodate the parade route as well as pedestrian traffic in the downtown area, portions of Forest Avenue, Ocean Avenue, Beach Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, Mermaid Street, Glenneyre Street, Short Street, Legion Street, Park Avenue and the Peppertree Parking Lot will be closed to vehicular traffic prior to and during the event. The weekly farmer's market is cancelled due to the parade and will resume on March 9, 2024.

## 3. Laguna Beach Participation in OC Career Fair

On February 21, 2024, the City attended the County of Orange Career Fair held at the Lake Forest Community Center. Representing the City of Laguna Beach, Robina Arora (HR Analyst) and Josh Norcross (Ocean Lifeguard III) engaged with more than 100 job seekers, promoting various job opportunities throughout the City, including part-time, seasonal, and full-time positions.

## 4. Installation of CCTV at Alta Laguna Park

The IT Division has completed the installation of the CCTV camera system at Alta Laguna Park, enhancing the security infrastructure. These strategically positioned cameras provide comprehensive coverage of all main public areas, offering an additional layer of security. By capturing and recording unusual activities or incidents in real-time, the system ensures a safer and more secure environment for visitors.

## 5. Preparing For New Fire Department Administration Offices at the Community Recreation Center

Contractors working for the Public Works & Utilities Department have installed office furniture at the Community and Recreation Center (CRC) for the new administrative offices of the Fire Department. Other improvements to facilitate the relocation of Fire Department staff to the CRC included freshly painted walls, new carpet and vinyl flooring, and new window coverings. This work was coordinated by Deputy Director Reza Jafari.

## **6. Graffiti Removal at Alta Laguna Park**

While conducting a patrol check in the early hours of February 16, Police Corporal Centeno found extensive vandalism and spray paint graffiti on numerous signs, trash cans, and fence posts in the park and trailhead areas near the north end of Alta Laguna Boulevard. The Police Department promptly reported the vandalism to the Public Works & Utilities Department. On the same day, the graffiti was removed by a maintenance staff team led by Maintenance Lead Worker Chris Osuna.

## **7. Fact Sheets Available for City Sponsored Legislation Related to Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units (SB 1055) as well as State Route 1 Relinquishment (AB 2817) to the City**

The City has partnered with Senator Min and Assemblywoman Dixon to introduce legislation addressing key City issues. Senator Min's Senate Bill 1055 focuses on affordable housing and accessory dwelling unit regulations, while Assemblywoman Dixon's Assembly Bill 2817 initiates the process to transfer control of Coast Highway from the State to the City of Laguna Beach through a relinquishment process. Summaries of each bill are available on the [City's website](#).

## **8. Police Department Reports**

### *Patrol Activity:*

On Friday, February 16, at 9:18 a.m., officers contacted a male subject yelling sexual comments at women on Main Beach. The male was not making threats or committing a crime and willingly left the area. Later the officers saw the subject creating graffiti and arrested him. He was also on parole and placed on a parole hold and transported to Orange County Jail.

At 11:36 a.m., a vehicle sideswiped another vehicle near Smith Cliffs and North Coast Highway. The vehicle fled northbound but was located in Corona Del Mar after he collided with additional vehicles. A Laguna Beach motor officer responded to Corona Del Mar. The suspect was arrested for DUI and hit and run.

At 6:30 p.m., officers received notification of a stolen vehicle northbound from the area of Ruby's Diner. An officer located the vehicle in Ralph's parking lot. Officers surveilled the vehicle and watched as the driver went to a nearby hotel. The driver was arrested for various stolen vehicle charges, drug charges, and misdemeanors.

On Saturday, February 17, at 12:39 a.m., officers arrested a female bar patron for fighting with staff. During the arrest, the female kicked an officer in the leg. She was later transported to Orange County Jail.

On Sunday, February 18, at 8:19 a.m., officers responded to Ocean Way about a suspect attempting to enter the resident's property. Officers arrived on the scene quickly and contacted the male suspect. Upon further investigation, it was determined the male subject was trespassing and placed under arrest.

At 9:13 a.m., an officer responded to Casa Loma Hotel about a stolen vehicle report. The surveillance cameras captured two suspects entering the vehicle and stealing it from the parking lot. This case is under further investigation.

On Tuesday, February 20, at 8:41 a.m., officers responded to Wesley Drive about a male subject who was a danger to others. Officers detained the subject and placed him on 72-hour mental health evaluation.

#### **9. Police Department Community Event**

On Friday, February 16, the police department hosted a Badge Pinning Ceremony for our new hires and promotions:

Animal Services Officer L. Elliott

Park Ranger J. Zenk

Officer J. Ross

Officer A. Meyer

Motor Officer A. Lopez

Officer B. Rowland

Jail Supervisor M. Ghaly

Lieutenant J. Farris

Mayor Sue Kempf, and Council members Mark Orgill and Bob Whalen were in attendance.

#### **10. Upcoming Community Events (of which staff is aware)**

- Thursday, February 29, 2024: Boys & Girls Club Annual Community Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Boys & Girls Club
- Thursday, February 29, 2024: Moulton Meadows Dog Play Area Ribbon Cutting from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Moulton Meadows Park
- Saturday, March 2, 2024: Patriots Day Parade from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 7, 2024: Arbor Day celebration event from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Boat Canyon Park
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Chamber of Commerce “Mayor’s State of the City Address”, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Montage Laguna Beach

*Sean Joyce*

Interim City Manager