

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

April 22 – 26, 2024



## 1. CR&R Conducts Trash Collection Vehicle Safety Training for Fire Department

CR&R, the City's new Solid Waste and Recycling Services hauler beginning July 1, 2024, recently held a training and demonstration jointly with Laguna Beach Fire and Newport Beach Fire and Police Departments. CR&R has a longstanding partnership with first responders in the region and has organized multiple trainings with Fire and Police Departments throughout Southern California. The training was organized by Dennis Maisano, CR&R's Director of Safety, to demonstrate CR&R's pioneering fire-suppression system on residential and commercial collection trucks. Firefighters are able to hook-up directly to the collection vehicle and pump water into the truck's compactor to extinguish any load fires. This type of suppression system allows internal extinguishment without the need to unload the burning material on the street in most cases. As an important safety reminder, please never dispose of any lithium batteries or electronics in any of your landfill, recyclable, or organics containers. For more information on how to properly dispose of hazardous materials, please visit [www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling). Questions regarding CR&R's Transition Plan can be addressed to Senior Public Works Analyst/Solid Waste Program Coordinator Liz Avila at [lavila@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:lavila@lagunabeachcity.net) or 949-497-0344.

## 2. Annual Recycling Drop-Off Event Collects 4 Tons of E-Waste, Universal Waste, and Paint

On Saturday, April 20, the City, in partnership with Waste Management hosted a successful Paint, Universal Waste & E-Waste Drop-off Event in celebration of Earth Day. The event was organized by Administrative Analyst Ashley Moran along with staff assistance from the Orange County Conservation Corps, who provided five (5) staff. Approximately 185 vehicles participated in the event and dropped off approximately 4 tons of E-waste, universal waste and paint. The most popular items collected were 4,300 lbs. of batteries, 2,100 lbs. of paint and 320 lbs. of light bulbs and lamps. Depending on the type of material collected, some items will be processed and recycled within California while other items will be sent elsewhere to be treated and recycled. Residents who were unable to attend the event can recycle these items on an on-going basis at one of the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Residents can also schedule a bulky item pickup to dispose of E-waste and universal waste. More information regarding the City's recycling programs is available on the City's website at [www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling).

## 3. City of Laguna Beach Recognized by Arbor Day Foundation for Excellence in Urban Forestry Management

For the sixth consecutive year, the City of Laguna Beach has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA" for successfully meeting the exacting standards of sound Urban Forestry Management. The City was also granted the Growth Award for the second consecutive year. This award is given to less than 15% of Tree City USA

communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement. City Arborist Matthew Barker oversees the City's urban forestry programs and submitted the award applications on behalf of the City.

#### **4. Cleo Street Beach Access Draft IS/MND**

On Wednesday, April 24, the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Cleo Street Beach Access Improvement was posted for public review. The Draft IS/MND will be available for public review and comment until 5:00 pm on May 24, 2024. The document is available for download on the Cleo Street Beach Access Improvement [webpage](#). Hard copies are available for review at the Public Works counter at 479 Ocean Ave, the Community Development counter and the City Clerk's office at City Hall, and at the Laguna Beach Library at 363 Glenneyre St. The Cleo Street Beach Access Improvement project proposes replacement of the existing stairs, extension of the bottom landing to reduce the drop-off to the beach, a new overlook area, new handrails, and updated landscaping. Questions related to the Cleo Street Beach Access Improvement can be directed to Project Manager, Alpha Santos, at 949-497-0729 or [asantos@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:asantos@lagunabeachcity.net).

#### **5. Public Works Confined Space Training**

Approximately 15 staff members from the various maintenance divisions within the Public Works & Utilities Department underwent Confined Space Training this week. Confined Space Training helps staff to prepare for safely entering and working in confined spaces, a common practice for staff who work in manholes, pipes, vaults, and other confined spaces as part of daily maintenance activities, thus mitigating risks associated with this confined space work. The training covered identifying confined spaces, recognizing and evaluating hazards, proper safety procedures and protocols, and responding to emergencies and rescues. This training is generally completed every two years, ensuring staff is up to date on latest OSHA standards, and each participant received a certificate of completion and continuing education credit.

#### **6. City Partners with Schools to Promote Organics Recycling: Earth Day Campaign Inspires Student Art and Videos**

The City in partnership with Waste Management conducted an "Organics Recycling for Tomorrow" campaign, in celebration of Earth Day, which engaged Laguna Beach elementary and middle school students in creating artwork and videos to promote food waste recycling and composting. The theme centered on the importance of organics recycling in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving space in landfills, as required by California's Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383). The contest invited elementary school classrooms to create art projects depicting ways to participate in food waste recycling through backyard composting or the city's curbside organics program. Middle school students created 1–2-minute videos to educate residents on the significance of organics recycling and encourage participation. Winners from El Morro and Top of the World elementary schools, as well as from Thurston Middle School, will be recognized for their creative contributions. Each winning student will receive a certificate, and the elementary school winners will receive a class pizza party. The Thurston Green Team, which produced the winning video submission, will receive a \$150 prize. The City plans to share the winning artwork on social media and its website to further promote the message of organics recycling and inspire community action.

<b>CONTEST WINNERS</b>			
<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Artist</b>
<b>El Morro Elementary</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Jamie Jameson</b>	<b>Claire</b>
<b>Top of the World Elementary</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Cory Day</b>	<b>Chase Provost</b>
<b>Top of the World Elementary</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Maryann Thomas</b>	<b>Penny Aiden</b>
<b>Top of the World Elementary</b>	<b>Fifth</b>	<b>Mrs. Andrus</b>	<b>Millie Mignos</b>
<b>Thurston Middle School</b>	<b>Sixth/Seventh/Eighth</b>	<b>Thurston Green Team</b>	<b>Billy Koulax, Joshua Fine, Miller Kilmartin, Jessie Kilmartin</b>

**7. Employee Picnic**

On Thursday, the 2024 Employee Picnic was held at the Festival of Arts. Employees enjoyed a catered BBQ lunch, a giveaway, music, cornhole, caricature artists, photo booth, and line dance instruction. Thank you to the Employee Picnic Team for delivering a fun event and all of our amazing employees for all the work they do everyday.

**8. City Participates in Laguna Canyon Conservancy’s Earth Day Seminar**

Councilmember Weiss and staff presented the city's environmental initiatives at the Rivian Theatre on Monday evening. Attendees learned about recent measures adopted by the City Council, including the balloon prohibition ordinance. Additionally, they received a summary of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation planning process.

**9. Police Department Reports**

*Patrol Activity:*

- On Wednesday, April 17, at 6:49 p.m., officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop at Broadway and S. Coast Highway. Officers searched the occupants and vehicle and discovered a large amount of methamphetamine, psilocybin mushrooms, drug paraphernalia, stolen checks, stolen credit cards, and tools used to steal mail from USPS boxes. All three suspects were arrested for fraud, identity theft, drug possession, and various other charges.
- At 4:22 p.m., officers responded to CVS, 30842 Coast Highway, about a theft. The subject left on foot on Coast Highway. The subject was quickly located and arrested for the theft and an outstanding warrant.
- At 8:05 p.m., officers were dispatched to the south end of the city after a stolen vehicle was seen on Coast Highway. The vehicle was stolen from Laguna Beach the same day. Deputies were able to intercept the vehicle in Laguna Niguel and detain the driver. An

LBPB officer responded to take the suspect into custody for the vehicle theft. The suspect is a Laguna Beach resident.

- At 9:07 p.m., officers were dispatched to a parking lot at 200 Broadway, for a report of suspects drinking alcohol and inhaling substances from balloons. When the officers arrived, several subjects ran away but were quickly detained. One subject was arrested.
- At 11:18 a.m., an officer responded to a theft from a vehicle at 30800 Coast Highway. Surveillance footage shows a woman going through the victim's vehicle. The loss was a .38 revolver.
- At 12:45 p.m., officers responded to a cut-and-rescue collision on S. Coast Highway at Moss Street. Officers arrived and the driver was already outside of the vehicle with minor injuries.
- At 10:06 p.m., an officer observed a known parolee in the downtown area. The parolee had not checked in with his parole officer, as is required. The officer contacted the subject for the parole violation. During the arrest for the parole violation, the subject attempted to assault the officers. Additional charges were added to the arrest.
- At 7:51 a.m., officers were dispatched to 300 Ledroit about an intoxicated female trying to drive from the location. Officers contacted the female after she drove and conducted a DUI investigation. The female was taken into custody for the DUI and her dog was taken to the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter for safekeeping.
- At 4:10 p.m., officers responded to 2500 S. Coast Highway regarding a possible burglary in progress. The reporting party said he arrived home and found numerous subjects inside his home. The subjects fled the area in a car. The victim discovered numerous windows shattered in his home. Officers located the vehicle and detained the subjects. The victim positively identified the subjects (1 adult, 2 juveniles). All three subjects were arrested.
- On Sunday, April 21, at 10:51 a.m., a pedestrian was struck at the intersection of Rosa Bonheur and Cliff Drive. The pedestrian was in the crosswalk and sustained soft tissue injuries.
- At 6:42 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop around 32000 Coast Highway. The driver was arrested for DUI.
- At 10:35 p.m., officers responded to the area of Bluebird Canyon and S. Coast Highway for a domestic violence incident. The female was seen striking the male and was arrested for misdemeanor domestic violence.
- At 4:56 p.m., officers located a stolen Ducati motorcycle on a tow truck. The driver was hired to transport the motorcycle by someone at a nearby location. Officers contacted that subject who possessed valid proof of purchase paperwork but was unaware the motorcycle was stolen. The original owner was located, and a recovery report was taken.
- At 7:59 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop at 100 Cleo. The driver was a 17-year-old female, and the passenger/registered owner of the vehicle was a 19-year-old male. During a search of the vehicle, officers located over 5 pounds of psilocybin mushrooms, cocaine, and marijuana. The male admitted to selling and transporting the drugs. The male was charged with various drug-related charges and delinquency of a minor.
- On Wednesday, April 24, at 7:21 a.m., officers were dispatched to 31500 Bluff Drive for a burglary that had occurred during the night. The victim said \$4,000 in tools was taken.

*Homeless Liaison Officer (HLO) Section*

- Completed a Project Homecoming for an individual who returned to New Jersey.
- Updating trespass letters with downtown businesses.

*Traffic Section*

- The newest motor officer is progressing through the basic motor officer pre-academy.
- Working on ordering equipment from OTS grant, such as Black Cat LIDAR to track speeds, a speed trailer, and a new motorcycle.

*Park Ranger Section*

- Park Rangers are working on completing their wildland fire training to assist OC Parks in the event of a brush fire that threatens Laguna Beach.
- Park Rangers are training with Parking Services on using Data Ticket to electronically issue parking citations.

*Parking Services Section*

- All PSOs are cross-training each other on all duties and responsibilities related to their positions.
- Conducting Interviews for part-time Parking Services Officers.

*Community Services Officer (CSO) Section*

- The CSO is planning the Road Safety Expo that is scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

**10. Upcoming Event**

*Living with Wildlife Discussion*

Animal Services will be conducting a community meeting at Alta Laguna City Park on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 12:00PM to discuss Coyotes and Living With Wildlife. Animal Services Officer John Thompson will be providing helpful information to the community about coyotes and other wildlife, and answering questions. This is not in response to any particular incident or problem, it is just part of our on-going community education efforts to provide residents with helpful information.

*Gavin Curran*  
Acting City Manager