

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

June 3 – June 7, 2024



Greetings to the Council and Laguna Beach community!

## Part I - Important for You to Know:

1. **Be sure to read the Community Newsletter for lots of upcoming events and more.** That link is [here](#).

### 2. **Downtown Streets Receive Annual Traffic Painting Refresh**

This week, contractors working for the Street Maintenance Division of the Public Works & Utilities Department began the annual effort to repaint traffic lanes, arrows, pavement legends, parking stalls, and curbs throughout the downtown area. The traffic painting takes place in the early morning hours to avoid downtown traffic; this year's effort began on Monday, June 3 and is expected to be completed by Friday, June 14. This work was coordinated by Maintenance Supervisor Todd Henry and Maintenance Worker II Brian Nguyen.

### 3. **Security Fence Repairs at Thousand Steps Pedestrian Gate**

This week, the Facilities Maintenance Division of the Public Works & Utilities Department worked to repair damaged portions of the security fence along the top of the Thousand Steps pedestrian gate. Portions of the security fence were recently damaged due to vandalism and reported to the Facility Maintenance Division by the Police Department's Neighborhood Enhancement Team. This work was coordinated by Maintenance Lead Worker Steve Rivera and Police Sergeant William Downing.

### 4. **Police Department Reports**

#### *Patrol Activity*

- On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 9:50 p.m., officers responded to Mission Hospital Laguna Beach about an assault with a deadly weapon investigation. The officer spoke to the male victim, who identified the male suspect. Officers located the male suspect who admitted to the altercation where he hit the victim with his skateboard. The male suspect was placed under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon.
- On Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 9:25 a.m., motor officers responded to South Coast Plaza to assist Costa Mesa PD with a pursuit suspect who had fled Laguna Beach officers the week prior. Officers identified the male suspect and conducted an interview. Ultimately, the male suspect was placed under arrest for multiple violations related to his police pursuit.
- On Friday, May 31, 2024, the Laguna Beach Police Department conducted a DUI saturation patrol. During the deployment, officers arrested four individuals related to driving under the influence.

- On Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 1:28 a.m., officers responded to the area of 100 Cliff Drive about a domestic violence incident that had just occurred. Officers separated the male and female who had previously been in a dating relationship. The male subject had an active restraining order against him and by contacting his ex-girlfriend, he violated the order. The male suspect was placed under arrest for the domestic violence order.
- On Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 2:54 a.m., officers contacted a male subject who was naked in the area of South Coast Highway and Agate Street. The male subject appeared to be under the influence and later admitted to drinking a concoction of different narcotics. The male subject was placed under arrest and taken to Mission Hospital Laguna Beach for medical clearance.
- On Monday, June 3, 2024, at 9:10 p.m., Laguna Beach police and fire personnel responded to the area of 290 Cliff Drive about a fire. Upon arrival, officers located a beach chair and other personal property on fire. LBFD quickly arrived on the scene and extinguished the fire. Officers located a male subject in the area who later admitted to setting the property on fire. The male subject was placed under arrest for arson.

## 5. Upcoming Events

*Saturday, June 8:*

Laguna Ocean Foundation Kelpfest from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Main Beach

*Saturday, June 8:*

Circus Bella at 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. at Bluebird Park

*Tuesday, June 11:*

Annual Military Equipment Inventory Public Meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers

*Saturday, June 15:*

Fete de la Musique from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony) at Main Beach

*Monday, June 17:*

Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center Pelican Release at 11:00 a.m. at Aliso Beach

*Tuesday, June 18:*

Tenancy Termination Ordinance Community Workshop from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

*Wednesday, June 19:*

Juneteenth (City Hall Closed)

*Thursday, June 20:*

CR&R Townhall Meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers

*Saturday, June 22:*

CR&R Townhall Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers

*Saturday, June 22:*

Laguna Ocean Foundation/Chamber Beach Clean-Up at Main Beach from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Some noteworthy items on the May 14, 2024, City Council Agenda include:

- An item about billing for the change in waste collection from Waste Management to CR&R. As you might know, this change will occur after July 1, 2024. The service will change a bit – with similar collection processes but more community events, but the billing process will change the most. Today, most people pay for the cost of the trash collection on our property tax bills. After July 1, the charge will come off the property tax bills and onto a direct billing per quarter. The agenda item allows this change to occur. For most customers, the new cost will be slightly less than the current charges. For more information, click [here](#).
- Results of the recent survey where we asked you (not all, but many of you) whether you might support a measure on the November 2024 ballot to raise revenue – sales tax, or hotel bed tax, or the business license tax.
- A follow-up report on the pickle ball courts at Lang Park.
- The possible removal of a home at 2055 Catalina from the Historic Register.
- An appeal of the Design Review Board’s approval of a project at 32051 Coast Highway.

*A disclaimer: Please know that I won't highlight all of the items on the agenda - if I missed calling one out that you're specifically interested in, please know that doing so was not purposeful.*

### **Part III – Less Important Stuff – My Week That Was**

- It was so nice to be at the LBPD’s badge-pinning ceremony on Friday afternoon. So many great staff members and their families were there, all excited about starting their new job or role with the LBPD. Everyone had a walk-up song. Mine also would have been from one of Taylor Swift’s eras – because all too often “it’s me, hi, I’m the problem it’s me.”
- Along with Mayor pro Tem Rounaghi and Council Member Whalen, I attended the Friendship Shelter’s “intersections” lunch in Costa Mesa. The guest speaker, Tony Hoffman, told his detailed story about coming out of mental illness, addiction, and homelessness. It reminded me that everyone comes to homelessness via an individual pathway – and an individual pathway is needed for each person to come out.
- I spent a lot of time working through my thoughts and listening to others’ about Community Development, and how to make our system more effective. I spent just a short hour at the Planning and Building Counter, and ran into long-time friends there as well as listened to the counter interactions.
- Looking forward to [Kelp Fest](#) tomorrow – and looking forward, too, to ocean swimming again when the water gets just a tad warmer.

As always, if you have any questions relating to this report or about any matter in the City, feel free to [send me an email](#). I always love hearing from folks about this great community.

Sincerely,

***Dave Kiff***

City Manager

*Note: Thanks to the department directors and city staff, as well as to Assistant City Managers Jeremy Frimond and Gavin Curran, for helping pull this together.*