

The Week That Was^{TW2}

June 10 – June 14, 2024



Happy Thursday, June 13th to the Laguna Beach community – and happy promotion and graduation day to all LBSD students. Here is *The Week that Was* for this past week:

Part I - Important Stuff for You to Know:

1. **Be sure to read the Community Newsletter!** It's [here](#).

2. **Mobile Mental Health (BeWell) May Statistics Available Online**

The May 2024 report 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 contacted 87 unique clients across 425 service calls in May.

3. **Summer Dog Restrictions on Beaches Effective June 15 – September 10**

Almost time to walk the pups early (or late) while on the beach. Dogs are prohibited on city beaches from June 15 through September 10 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This prohibition does not apply to service dogs, provided they are on a leash. Emotional support and therapy dogs are not considered service dogs under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Dogs, except for service dogs, are prohibited on Thousand Steps Beach at all times.

4. **Act V (Lot 16) Parking Lot Regraded**

This week, contractors working for the Street Maintenance Division of the Public Works & Utilities Department are re-grading the gravel portion of the Act V public parking lot (Lot 16) in preparation for the upcoming Summer Festival season. After regrading, parking stalls in the lot will be repainted. This effort began Wednesday, June 12 and will be completed by Friday, June 14. This work was coordinated by Maintenance Supervisor Todd Henry and Maintenance Worker II Brian Nguyen.

5. **Police Department Reports**

Patrol Activity

- On Wednesday, June 5, at 1:59 p.m., officers responded to a male subject yelling racial slurs. One male attempted to record the subject with his cellphone and the subject slapped the phone out of his hands. The subject left the area and officers eventually located the suspect nearby. He was arrested for assault and a hate crime.
- On Thursday, June 6, at 9:35 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 100 block of La Senda regarding a dog who jumped a fence and was stuck on a cliff. The fire department was requested to help rescue the dog. Officers used the thermal imager on the LYPD drone to locate the dog and guide the firefighter to the location. The dog was successfully rescued and unharmed.

- On Saturday, June 8, officers remained attentive while former President Trump visited Newport Beach. LBPD SWAT members participated in the security detail alongside NBPD personnel. Patrol staff was temporarily increased in case there was a request from our neighboring agency.
- On Sunday, June 9, at 1:28 p.m., officers responded to the 300 block of Harold Street for an assault. The suspect showed up at his father's address at the location. The suspect became upset at the caregiver and punched him in the face and the caregiver fled. The caregiver showed the security footage to the officers. When the officers made contact with the suspect, he exited the home angrily, tore the camera from the front of the home and refused to leave the home. The suspect eventually exited but was argumentative with the officers. He was arrested for battery and violation of a court order.
- At 4:41 p.m., a free Palestine group was demonstrating at Main Beach. A subject rode his bike through the signs set up on the grass, narrowly missing the demonstrators. The suspect turned around and returned to the group, dismounting his bike, and began to swing it around. A male tackled the suspect to subdue him. Officers arrived and arrested the suspect for assault and being intoxicated.
- On Tuesday, June 11, at 3:07 p.m., a caller reported someone from a car was throwing objects at his vehicle and then drove away. The caller followed the suspect vehicle. Officers located and stopped the suspect vehicle. The driver was verbally uncooperative and refused to exit the vehicle. The driver eventually exited and was handcuffed. During the handcuffing, the suspect began to struggle and was physically restrained by officers. The suspect was positively identified by the caller and ultimately arrested for DUI, throwing items from his car, and resisting arrest.

6. Upcoming Events

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
- The Laguna Canyon Dog Park will be closed Monday June 17 through Wednesday, June 19 for bridge maintenance and repair work

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

Friday, June 21:

- City Hall Open – closes at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22:

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

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

Part II – What’s Coming up On the Next City Council Meeting Agenda

Some noteworthy items on the June 25, 2024, City Council Agenda include:

- Adoption of the FY 2024-25 City Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Discussion about a proposed Commercial Property Maintenance ordinance
- A preliminary review of Climate Action and Adaptation Policy concepts

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

- I spent part of Sunday afternoon up at the **Top of the World Neighborhood Association (TOWNA)** – had some good conversations about fire risk, open space and parks, and more. And the snacks were great, too, just saying.
- I was done at TOWNA just in time to get down the hill, change, and get to the **Laguna Playhouse** to see the Playhouse’s *Holmes & Watson* production. It was fun, and clever, and a mind-bender. Really solid acting. I recommend going if you can get tickets for the end of the run (ends June 16th).
- This week much of the City staff had some basic training about the new **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software** – we’re so happy to have this coming online (despite my sleepiness in the meeting – training and mid-morning and me do not mix well). It’s a big step in modernizing City systems.
- I continue to work with team members on Community Development issues, and have really appreciated the input I’ve received. It’s been really helpful in navigating a plan.
- I took Council Member Orgill up on his offer to **walk along the downtown areas** to see where City property (and some private property) might be in need of a spruce-up. I really appreciated his views and the opportunity to think about what can be done to improve the “shine” or “inspiration” of the downtown core.
- It was my pleasure on Thursday afternoon to **do a Walk-Along** (this time around part of Main Beach) with Park Ranger Fernando Arizmendi and Animal Services Officer Lauren Elliott. We met a lot of folks who appreciated the help that Park Ranger Arizmendi offered (including photo taking, iPhone recovery, alcoholic beverage removal, and enforcement of the all-important “no white socks on the beach” dress code 😊). Seriously, the City should be (and is) proud of the work that our PD does to keep our public locations safe and welcoming places for our visitors and our residents.
- I want to close the week with thanks to **Kirsten Gallacher**, who is ordinarily in Community Development but admirably subbed for Becket Wilson here in the City Manager’s Office as Becket was on a rare and well-deserved vacation. Kirsten handled the role with aplomb and wasn’t fazed by the stuff that comes in the door and in on calls and emails. Thank you, Kirsten!

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.