



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
February 22, 2019

Upcoming Events

Tues., Feb. 26

City Council Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
5 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 28

Zoning Administrator Mtg.

City Hall, Corona del Mar
Conference Room (Bay1E)
100 Civic Center Dr.
3 p.m.

Tues., March 5

Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
6 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 6

General Plan Update Steering Committee

Central Library Friends Room
1000 Avocado Ave.
6 p.m.

Thurs., Mar. 7

Planning Commission Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
6:30 p.m.

Residential Street Parking Ordinance

Staff will be introducing an ordinance to modify sections of the Newport Municipal Code relating to street parking issues due to construction activities in residential areas. City Council directed staff at the January 22, 2019, meeting to consider changes to the Newport Beach Municipal Code that will lessen the impact of construction related parking on residents and address parking management issues. The revised ordinance addresses information signage, limits starting construction during peak summer season, and requirements for a parking management plan for new construction. Staff will be presenting the item for City Council consideration at the February 26, 2019, meeting.

CDD Fourth Quarter Activity Report

The Community Development Department Fourth Quarter Activity Report is now available at www.newportbeachca.gov/cdd. The report compiles operational statistics to illustrate the volume of business activity that the Department handles on a quarterly basis. As we closed out the last quarter of 2018 (October – December), the Building Division worked steadily to issue 1,382 permits while performing over 10,000 building inspections. During this time, Code Enforcement maintained their performance by responding to 91 percent of their caseload in three days or less, while Planning reviewed and completed 81 percent of their plan checks at the public counter. Lastly, the Systems and Administration Division was busy supporting the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator while answering 5,300 phone calls with a live person. Past reports are also available at the website listed above.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at
newportbeachca.gov/events.

Coastal Commission Meeting on March 8, 2019

On March 8, 2019, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) will consider whether the City's approval of a Coastal Development Permit for a resident parking permit program for the Finley Tract raises a "substantial issue." The Finley Tract is located just west of Lido Village on the Balboa Peninsula. The agenda item is in response to an appeal filed by Mr. Jim Mosher and two Coastal Commissioners. If the CCC determines that a substantial issue exists, they will hold a future public hearing. The Coastal Commission staff agenda and staff report can be found here: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda/>

General Plan Update Steering Committee

Following a well-attended community forum on the upcoming General Plan Update, the newly created General Plan Update Steering Committee held its first meeting on February 20, 2019, in the Civic Center Community Room. The Committee reviewed and discussed a draft request for proposals (RFP) for consulting services. The Committee will be meeting again on March 6, 2019, at 6 p.m. in the Friends of the Library Room at the Central Library. The draft RFP and the role of the Committee as part of the future community outreach effort will be discussed. A third Committee meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2019, at 6 p.m. in a location to be determined. Stay informed by visiting www.newportbeachca.gov/gpupdate. For additional information, please email staff at GPUUpdate@newportbeachca.gov.

Replacement of City's Land Management System (LMS)

In October 2016, the Community Development Department and the IT Division released a request for proposals (RFP) for the full replacement of City's legacy permitting software - Permits Plus. For the past 21 years, Permits Plus has been the key software to track all permit and development activity for Building, Planning, Code Enforcement, and Public Works. Although the current system has served its purpose, the City has outgrown the software's ability to keep up with the pace of technology. The general criteria and focus of the RFP was to evaluate software that will advance the City into the next generation of permitting while improving internal efficiencies and expanding online services for the public's use.

After a two-year vetting process of various systems, staff will be recommending Energov (Tyler Systems) as the LMS replacement. Staff is currently wrapping up the Statement of Work and agreement. This item is scheduled to go before the City Council for their comments on the process and potential system at the March 26, 2019 Study Session.

Discussion with Airbnb

City staff held a video conference meeting with representatives of Airbnb to discuss opportunities to partner. The discussion revolved around ensuring short-term lodging units that are posted on the platform are legal units located in the correct zone. Additionally, many cities have entered into a tax collection agreement, where Airbnb will track, report, and remit the transient occupancy tax back to the City. Staff is exploring the implementation of a similar agreement with Airbnb.

Flood Insurance Community Outreach Meeting

The City of Newport Beach will be hosting a community public outreach meeting regarding the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) on March 14, 2019, at 6 p.m. at Marina Park Community & Sailing Center. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be attending to present information about flood insurance requirements.

Homeowners, representatives or design professionals who are impacted by design standards in the Special Flood Hazard Zone or flood insurance requirements will be able to obtain information directly from FEMA representatives and ask questions.

Arrest Made in 1973 Murder of 11-Year-Old Linda O’Keefe

On Tuesday morning, detectives from the Newport Beach Police Department arrested James Alan Neal, a 72-year-old resident of Monument, CO for the abduction and murder of Linda Ann O’Keefe. Linda, an 11-year-old girl from Corona del Mar, disappeared on July 6, 1973 while walking home from summer school. Her body was discovered near Back Bay Drive the next morning. The facts of her case were shared through the #LindasStory campaign on Twitter last summer (visit <https://twitter.com/i/moments/101563933312089292> to learn more).

In addition to public awareness, the NBPD pursued a number of traditional and innovative investigative techniques, including the latest in DNA technology. And, after decades of work, investigators were able to use forensic DNA testing and an online genealogy website to identify the suspect’s DNA as being consistent with DNA left at the crime scene.

Chief Jon Lewis shared this statement: “Thank you to Linda’s family, and schoolmates, and friends – who never gave up hope. Thank you to everyone all over the world who was touched by Linda’s Story – for your thoughts and prayers for this little girl, and the search for her killer. And thank you to everyone who worked on this case throughout the years – because of you, James Neal is now in custody.”

Tree Plantings Flourish Around Town

In our on-going effort to maintain and manage one of the gems of Newport Beach, our wonderful Urban Forest, Public Works staff reached out this week and contacted 76 property owners about re-planting a new tree in the public parkway adjacent to their property. Owners have the option to select a tree from a designated list. Once their selections are made, staff will schedule the tree plantings. Additionally, 27 Forest Pansy trees were planted on the Jamboree Road median and 24 Gold Medallion trees were planted along West Coast Highway median.

Restroom Repairs-Rehabilitation Project

The Public Works Department has started the Restroom Repairs-Rehabilitation Project along the City’s coast. When work is completed, the restrooms at 58th Street, Channel Place Park, Balboa Pier, Buck Gully and CDM State will have been rehabilitated and have a refreshed appeal. Work on the restrooms includes new flooring, plumbing, light fixtures and interior paint. While the restrooms are temporarily closed for construction, portable toilets will be provided. Work is scheduled to be completed before the Memorial Day Holiday weekend.

Storm Watch

During the latest storms, the log boom at the Newport Aquatic Center captured 20 tons of trash that flowed down the San Diego Creek. The trash was pulled ashore, stacked for drying, collected and then hauled away to the Bee Canyon dump by the Public Works Municipal Operation crew.

Public Works Municipal Operations crews also responded to a mudslide on Back Bay Road and a rockslide at Pirates Cove. Back Bay Road was temporarily closed while crews cleaned up the mud and debris caused by the storm. In addition, crews were dispatched to Pirates Cove to clear fallen rocks. During the events, approximately 10 tons of combined material was removed from the two areas.

