



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
February 21, 2020

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 24
Board of Library Trustees
Special Meeting
Central Library
1000 Avocado Ave.
5 p.m.

Monday, February 24
Aviation Committee Meeting
OASIS Senior Center
801 Narcissus Avenue
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25
City Council Study Session
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25
City Council Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
7 p.m.
([Insider's Guide](#))

Thursday, February 27
Zoning Administrator Meeting
City Hall, Corona del Mar
Conference Room (Bay1E)
100 Civic Center Dr.
3 p.m.

Request for Legislative Assistance

On February 14, 2020, the City sent letters to Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris and Senator John Moorlach requesting legislative assistance regarding housing policies and laws. The letters specifically request they sponsor five legislative amendments that would significantly reduce barriers for Newport Beach and other cities to achieve the State of California's ambitious housing goals set forth in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process for the 6th Cycle Housing Element covering the period 2021-2029. The proposed legislative amendments include:

- allowing cities to count accessory dwelling units ("ADUs") as *affordable units* provided the ADU meets certain objective standards;
- eliminating barriers to applying alternative methodologies for achieving compliance with state obligations to provide an adequate number of housing units;
- establishing objective standards of what constitutes "site eligibility" as cities are zoning for housing units in the preparation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element;
- providing a statutory exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") for the preparation and completion of a certified 6th Cycle Housing Element; and
- extending the deadline to submit a 6th Cycle Housing Element to the California Department of Housing Community Development ("HCD") for certification.

Copies of the letters, including amendment details, can be accessed at the City's 2020 Housing Action webpage: www.newportbeachca.gov/housingactionplan

Balboa Village Advisory Committee (BVAC) Meeting

The Balboa Village Advisory Committee (BVAC) met this past Wednesday at Marina Park. The BVAC was given a presentation by Joe Adams and Colleen D'Aluisio of Discovery Cube's Ocean Quest on its future plans for redevelopment and expansion. The presentation was

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

Thursday, February 27

Addressing Youth

Homelessness

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

Friday, February 28

Witte Lecture: David

Leonhardt

Friends Room, Central Library
1000 Avocado Ave.
7 p.m. (Central Library closes at
5 p.m.)

Saturday, February 29

Witte Lecture: David

Leonhardt

Friends Room, Central Library
1000 Avocado Ave.
2 p.m.

highlighted by plans to repurpose the existing buildings while maintaining and enhancing the fun zone charm. Their plans include installing large touch-tanks with real marine life, a historical exhibit, an environmental clean-ocean exhibit, and a movie and presentation area. Beloved attractions like the bumper cars, which harken back to the earlier days of the Balboa Fun Zone, are also being brought back.

Also, at this meeting, the BVAC received updates on the installation of a wayfinding signage revamp in the Village and updates on construction activity. As part of the construction activity, staff announced they had met with representatives of the Balboa Theater project and that updated, revised plans for the renovation could be coming in for review very soon.

Lastly, the BVAC reviewed its progress with addressing the strategies identified in the City Council-approved Balboa Village Master Plan and discussed the possibility of dissolving the Committee sooner than the December 31, 2020 sunset date.

The BVAC will meet again on Wednesday, April 15, and will continue the discussion about future initiatives and an earlier sunset date. They will also receive a presentation on the upcoming Wine and Food Festival, which is being planned for Peninsula Park. Public Works Department staff will also be on-hand to talk about the Balboa Peninsula Trolley program slated for 2020, and updates on the maintenance efforts in the Village.

The BVAC meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at Marina Park on an as-needed basis. For additional information, please check the City's webpage [here](#).

Tamura Deep Water Well Rehabilitation

The City's contractor, General Pump Company, recently completed the rehabilitation of the Tamura Deep Water Well. This drinking water well is 720 feet deep and has louvered casing walls that allow groundwater to pass into the well. Rehabilitation consisted of wire brushing the louvers and chemical treatment with hydrogen peroxide. A brand new well pump was also installed. The Tamura Well is one of four water wells and is capable of pumping 3,000 gallons per minute. Approximately seventy to seventy-five percent of the City's water supply comes from the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The City regularly maintains all four water wells in order to provide safe drinking water to 66,000 Newport Beach residents.

Homelessness Update

Success Stories: City Net, the City's contracted social services provider, continues to assist people with accessing and navigating resources in the community. Their outreach efforts, coordinated with the City and County's resources, continue to provide housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in the community.

Last week, City Net case managers connected several people experiencing homelessness to appropriate social services agencies in Orange County, including:

- Housing a man who had been chronically homeless for over 30 years. He moved in to his new Permanent Supportive Housing Unit in Irvine last Friday. City Net's team will continue to provide case management and support services through their Homeless Disability Assistance Program. The Program provides ongoing assistance such as helping him apply for Social Security benefits and assisting him with paying utility bills. The City Net staff coordinated the move-in day by collaborating with the leasing office staff, moving the man's belongings, and ensuring he had basic household items to begin his new opportunity.
- Completing a Vulnerability Index assessment (VI-SPDAT) with a man who had been resistant to assistance. City Net utilizes the Vulnerability Index intake assessment to screen clients on a number of factors to determine proper placement in the County's Continuum of Care system. Some factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered.
- Referred a family of four living in their car to the Family Solutions Collaborative. The Family Solutions Collaborative is a coalition of the leading family service nonprofits in Orange County. The Family Services Collaborative streamlines the process for homeless families to access the services they need.
- Interacted with a new client who made an appointment through the City Net hotline number. Staff referred the new client to resources in the community. The City Net hotline number is (714) 451-6198. People who call the hotline may leave a detailed voicemail message for themselves or others in need and the City Net staff will call back within 1-2 days, with the appropriate resources for the caller.
- Completing a Disability Verification for a man's Vulnerability Index assessment (VI-SDPAT). He is now formally active on the County's Coordinated Entry System for housing placement.

In addition to the City Net team, Newport Beach's Rapid Response Team (comprised of staff from several City departments such as the Fire Department, OASIS Senior Center, the Police Department, and Public Works) conducted outreach with the City's Homeless Liaison Officer. The team engages with homeless individuals in the field to help connect them to resources. Last week, the Rapid Response Team collaborated to transport two men, in separate incidences, to Hoag Hospital with their heavy motorized scooters. The Fire Department personnel tended to the men then coordinated with the Public Works staff and Hoag Hospital staff to reunite the men with their motorized scooters.

The Rapid Response Team also worked together in Lower Castaways Park to address a new encampment. Staff from Park Patrol, Public Works, and the Homeless Liaison Officer engaged with three men to have them remove their belongings from a brush area. Staff then reviewed curfew enforcement in the park. The men cooperated by leaving the area with their belongings without incident.

February 27 Program to Focus on Youth Homelessness

On Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. the City will host a program to address youth homelessness, featuring staff from Project Hope Alliance. Project Hope Alliance works to end homelessness among elementary to high-school age youth in our community. The free program will be in the Friends Meeting Room at the Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue.

March 26 Program with Families Forward

On Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. the City will host a program to address families in need of housing security, featuring staff from Families Forward. Families Forward, based in Irvine, has been providing housing navigation, food bank items, and job training for Orange County families since 1984. Their staff will present information about their organization's rapid re-housing resources, as well as renter's rights and education.

Long –Awaited Dolphin Topiary Replacements

In 1994, the City, in partnership with the Corona del Mar Business Improvement District (CdM BID), planted dolphin topiaries in the East Coast Highway medians at Marguerite Avenue. These dolphins have become a historical icon of the CdM business area. However, over time, these dolphins have significantly outgrown their intended form and have become difficult to maintain. Staff determined that severely pruning them back to their original size and shape would likely cause severe decline of the topiaries' health. Ultimately, staff has concluded that these dolphin topiaries have reached the end of their life cycle and are ready to be replaced.

Subsequently, the City, with continued partnership with the CdM BID has obtained replacement dolphin topiaries in duplicate poses and forms. The new replacement topiaries have spent much time growing in their planters and are now ready to be planted into the medians, replacing their predecessors. Once planted, the topiaries will grow more rapidly and with proper care and maintenance, will reach full maturity and flourish once again.

Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on February 25, 2020

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, February 25. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

Study Session begins at 5:30 p.m. We have some great presentations at this meeting; honoring our Junior Lifeguard of the Year, Peter Clark. Our Junior Lifeguard program is the most popular program here in Newport Beach, serving over 1,350 kids between the ages of 9 and 15, teaching them about the beach environment, learning valuable aquatic skills, and the role of ocean lifeguards. Laird Hayes will be recognized as our volunteer with too many contributions to mention. We will also have a presentation by the Banning Ranch Conservancy to provide an update on their recent efforts.

The Regular Meeting begins at 7 p.m. and the following are items of note:

- On the Consent Calendar is the approval of an Urban Search and Rescue Grant which will provide our first responders with training and equipment in case of an emergency.
- We continue to improve and maintain our infrastructure with several contracts including: a concrete alley and street replacement, and Balboa Boulevard median improvements.
- The City Council will also consider the Mayor's recommendations for the Housing Element Advisory Committee.
- Current Business includes a request to consider issuing a Request for Qualifications for a Permanent Supportive Housing Project (PSH). This is part of the City's strategy to address our homeless population. By providing PSH, the City can ensure a high-quality project where individuals can receive the support they need to end their homelessness.
- Public Hearing includes a presentation by the Fire Department amending the 2019 Edition of the California Fire Code to provide tailored vegetation management in some of the very high fire severity zones in the City. The requirements will provide guidance to homeowners to provide defensible space in case of a fire.

