



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung  
May 8, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

**City Facilities Closed Through May 17, 2020.** City Staff Will Continue to Provide Services by Phone, Email and Through the Web.

### Tuesday, May 12 City Council Regular Meeting and Closed Session

City Council Chambers

[\(Instructions for participating remotely\)](#)

**4 p.m.**- Please note earlier start time.

[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

### Thursday, May 14 Zoning Administrator Meeting

[The Meeting Room will be closed to the public-Click here for special Covid-19 participation details](#)

10 a.m.

## To Our Community:

City beaches are partially reopened under an “active recreational use” plan approved Wednesday by the State.

After all Orange County beaches were shut down last week by Governor Newsom, cities were asked to submit individual plans to reopen safely. Newport Beach’s reopening plan is consistent with the plans submitted by the cities of San Clemente and Huntington Beach.

The beaches are now open for active recreational use during normal beach hours (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.), 7 days a week.

Active recreational use includes walking, running, hiking, swimming, surfing, bodysurfing, boogie boarding, kite surfing, paddle boarding, skim boarding, kayaking, and fishing. Beaches and the ocean are closed to passive games, loitering, sunbathing, and gatherings of people (even if engaged in active recreation) outside of those within their immediate household.

For more information on the use of beaches under the “active recreation” conditions, [click here](#).

Beach parking lots, piers, and the Oceanfront Boardwalk will remain closed.

Newport Harbor remains open for all normally allowed water activities.

Also this week, the City reopened all 16 City-operated tennis courts for singles play only. The City looks forward to reopening additional recreational facilities in the coming days and weeks, in alignment with State and County public health guidelines. The City’s public safety officers will strive to educate the public on the “active recreation” use and we are hopeful that citations will be unnecessary.

Visit the City’s website for a complete listing of meetings and events at [newportbeachca.gov/events](http://newportbeachca.gov/events).

### **Reopening Newport Beach Businesses Safely and Responsibly**

The Governor recently announced the State's plan for slowly lifting the March 19 Stay-at-Home order and initiating a staged, ordered, reopening of businesses, sector by sector. The State's process for easing the Stay-at-Home order spans [four stages](#), with what is known as "Early Stage 2" beginning on Friday, May 8. Early Stage 2 permits retail, manufacturing and logistics businesses to open, if they can meet the [public health guidelines](#) that the State released yesterday. Business owners should make their own determinations, based on the State's guidance, as to if, how and when they can open their stores or facilities. We recommend that requests for clarification first be directed to the agency – either the State or the County – that created the guidance that addresses specific businesses or that regulates specific businesses.

The City is confident Newport Beach businesses will reopen in a safe and responsible manner and encourage residents to continue to take measures to protect their health and safety. For more information, please visit our web page on [Reopening Businesses](#).

### **COVID-19 News and Resources**

Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/covid19](http://newportbeachca.gov/covid19) for the latest City news and useful web resources, including information about the federal, state, and county resources available to help [small businesses](#) and [workers](#) that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis. We also have a [page of free resources](#) available through the Newport Beach Public Library and local organizations like SCORE, including online learning and business databases. Visit the [Orange County Health Care Agency's COVID-19](#) web page for countywide information, including the number of local cases. You can also follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and look for alerts from our City staff on [Nextdoor](#).

### **COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach**

The County of Orange posts reported COVID-19 cases by city at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>. The number as of May 8, 2020 is 104 cases in Newport Beach out of 3,092 cases total in Orange County. The County has informed cities that this information reflects the place of residence for those who have tested positive, not necessarily where the transmission occurred. Also, the data does not reflect all COVID-19 transmissions in a given community. Those who are asymptomatic and have mild cases may not be tested, and are therefore not reflected in the data.

### **OC COVID-19 Screening and Testing Network**

The Orange County Health Care Agency has released a list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. Please visit the County's web site [at this link](#) for a list of approved testing locations. The State also has information about [test sites available](#).

### **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Website**

On March 24, 2020, the City Council amended the City's regulations pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADU) for compliance with changes in State law. ADUs and JADUs are additional independent living facilities, for one or more persons, which are located on the same parcel as a residential dwelling unit. The City's ADU website, accessible at [www.newportbeachca.gov/ADU](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/ADU), provides the most up-to-date information pertaining to the changes in the City's regulations, answers to commonly asked questions, and an easy to use [ADU/JADU reference](#) table for understanding the different regulations that are applicable to different types of ADUs and development scenarios.

## **Wildfire Season – SCE Virtual Community Meetings**

The Newport Beach Fire Prevention Office is gearing up for the upcoming 2020 fire season. Fire inspectors will begin vegetation inspections in the Newport Coast communities next week. Pre-inspection letters were mailed to individual homeowners abutting Buck Gully and Morning Canyon regarding inspections beginning in July. The Fire Prevention staff is ready to meet with homeowners and homeowner associations to assist them with questions regarding potential wildfires in their communities and how to prepare their homes and properties. Southern California Edison is also preparing for the wildfire season and will be hosting two virtual community meetings – one on May 13 and a second on May 21. [Click here](#) for information on how to log on and participate in these virtual meetings. The SCE meetings will focus on the lessons learned from previous wildfires started by utility infrastructure and the work they are planning to reduce the risk of wildfires in their service areas. The meeting will also provide information on how SCE will use the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program to reduce the chance of a wildfire starting during high wind events. Newport Beach residents are encouraged to attend the virtual meetings to understand SCE policies for implementing the PSPS and its customer care program. If you have questions regarding the upcoming fire season, please contact Fire Marshal Kevin Bass 949-644-3108 or [kbass@nbfd.net](mailto:kbass@nbfd.net).

## **Homelessness Update**

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 response. City Net, the City's contracted social services provider, continues to assist people experiencing homelessness. Their outreach efforts, coordinated with the City and County's resources, provide housing, health care and other opportunities. City Net case managers practice proper social distancing and take protective measures to protect the health of the community. The City's Homeless Liaison Officer and the Homeless Coordinator continue to interact with those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach. Staff distributes personal protective equipment during street outreach and helps people find shelter and healthcare through the City Net case managers. Regardless of housing status, everyone is encouraged to practice social distancing, ensure proper hygiene, and avoid congregating.

City Net case managers, in collaboration with Illumination Foundation, have begun to shelter people experiencing homelessness in motels as part of Project Roomkey. Project Roomkey is a State initiative to provide a shelter-in-place location during the COVID-19 situation. People enrolled in Project Roomkey will continue to receive full City Net services, daily meetings, and housing navigation to obtain permanent housing. People may call (714) 834-3000 to enroll in Project Roomkey in Orange County.

## **Success Stories:**

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

- Enrolling a younger couple who were staying in a tent at the Newport Transportation Center into a new, pop-up shelter operated by Illumination Foundation in Rancho Santa Margarita. The clients are now safely housed in the shelter and are receiving housing assistance. Illumination Foundation, founded in 2008, provides targeted, interdisciplinary services for the most vulnerable homeless clients in order to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California.
- Collaborating with Volunteers of America to help an at-risk Veteran client who was previously at the Newport Transportation Center into a motel where he is now healthy and

safe. The client received a HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) voucher and is waiting for inspection of an apartment before he can occupy the unit. Established in 1896, the Volunteers of America is a faith-based nonprofit that provides affordable housing for low-income people.

- Navigating the Housing Disability Assistance Program with a long-term Newport Pier client experiencing homelessness. This program allows qualified clients to obtain Social Security benefits, including permanent supportive housing, with on-site services such as Social Security case managers and medical personnel. He was approved for the HDAP program and is now sheltered in a motel where he will continue to get case management services and ongoing assistance with the disability process.
- Enrolling an older man experiencing homelessness by the Newport Pier into City Net services. The case managers completed an HDAP screening and arranged temporary shelter for him in a motel.
- Enrolling a client into City Net services and assisted him with obtaining pain medications through Cal-Optima. Case managers are working to place him into a recuperative care facility.
- Providing hygiene kits, food packs, clothes and supportive services for clients.

The City Net hotline number is (714) 451-6198. Those who call the hotline may leave a detailed voicemail message for themselves or others in need and City Net staff will respond within 48 hours. If immediate assistance is needed, people are advised to call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747.

### **Let's Talk Books**

Newport Beach Public Library introduces [Let's Talk Books](#), a collection of video book reviews from Library staff. Like many of you, Library staff members are reading more than ever during their at-home hours. Moreover, with more customers looking to add books to their reading lists, why not share their insights and opinions? As part of Newport Beach Public Library's ongoing effort to provide meaningful virtual programming for at-home customers during this Safer at Home period, we have added book reviews to the collection. Other virtual programming includes, [Author Talks](#), [Storytimes](#), [Crafts](#), [Sunday Musicales](#) and [Medicine in Our Backyard](#). Take a look on our [Virtual Programming](#) page or on the [YouTube Play List](#) and enjoy them at your leisure.

For questions, book suggestions or information, contact the [Reference Desk](#) or call (949) 717-3800, option #2

**Visit the eBranch at <https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/ebranch/>!**

- The Library subscribes to dozens of valuable databases that give you free access to genealogical records, homework help, test preparation, investment information, career tools, research statistics and other reading materials.
- Download books for convenient reading on your computer or mobile device. The eBranch has a wide range of books for you to choose from, including children's books, fiction, non-fiction and even books in other languages.
- Enjoy our streaming video selections, including movies, documentaries, family classics, and travel films, for free through Kanopy and OverDrive.
- Download current issues of popular magazines to your mobile device for free and read them anytime. This convenient service lets you keep dozens of magazines on your mobile device.

## **Curbside Service**

Newport Beach Public Library offers Curbside Service for patrons at all four NBPL locations. Library staff has worked diligently to develop procedures for Curbside Service that follow social distancing protocols while effectively serving Library patrons. Curbside Service allows patrons to pick up library materials that have been placed on hold. Each NBPL location will have a designated Curbside Pickup Location clearly marked by signage for service during the closure.

For more information, visit: <https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/about/library-closure-faq>.

## **The City Arts Commission Announces New Date for Art Exhibition**

In concurrence with the executive order issued by the Governor of the State of California to limit social gatherings to help curtail further spread of COVID-19 in the community, the Newport Beach City Arts Commission is postponing the Newport Beach Art Exhibition, originally scheduled for Saturday, June 20, until September 26, 2020. The exhibition will be held on **Saturday, September 26 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.** in the Civic Center Community Room, at the Newport Beach Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach.

The Newport Beach Art Exhibition is a one-day juried art show that displays the works of talented local and regional artists and gives the community the opportunity to view and purchase the art on display and enjoy a festive atmosphere on the grounds of the spacious modern Newport Beach Civic Center campus. Artists, 18 years of age or older, may submit one or two original works of art to be displayed and judged. Entry fees are \$30 for one entry and \$40 for the maximum two entries. Categories include Painting: Watercolors and Painting: Oils and Acrylics, along with Photography and 3D Art. Awards in the one-day juried exhibition range from \$100 - \$300. The new deadline for entries is September 1, 2020. Applications should be submitted online at [CallforEntry.org](http://CallforEntry.org). Eligibility and submission guidelines can be found on the City website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/culturalarts](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/culturalarts) under "Newport Beach Art Exhibition" or at [CallforEntry.org](http://CallforEntry.org).

For more information, please contact the Cultural Arts office, at (949) 717-3802 or send email to: [arts@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:arts@newportbeachca.gov)

## **City of Newport Beach Accepting Applications for Community Programs and Special Event Grants**

The City of Newport Beach is accepting applications from community non-profit program and event organizers seeking financial support for Newport Beach-based community programs and special events. The applications are for events and programs occurring between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. The deadline is Wednesday, May 27, at 5 p.m.

These grants enable organizations to apply for funding to cover some of the costs associated with hosting an event or community program in Newport Beach. This is a competitive process. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding. Applicants should read the information and program overview to gain an understanding of the program's eligibility, qualification, and evaluation criteria and how the grants are funded.

To learn more about the Grants or to submit an application, visit <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/recreation-senior-services/grants>

## **Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on May 12, 2020**

**Please Note:** Consent Calendar and Current Business Will Begin at 4 p.m. – Closed Session Follows Current Business – Public Hearings Begin at 7 p.m.

During these unprecedented times, public participation is critical for good governance and accountability. To that end, the City has implemented an Information Technology solution to ensure your voice is heard. Using a program called Zoom, the City will livestream the meeting through its website (<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/nbtvlive>) and will broadcast the meeting on its cable television channel NBTV (Spectrum Channel 3 and Cox Channel 852). The Mayor and City Council members will be seen on screen as they participate in the meeting from their homes or other secure locations. In addition to providing written comments prior to the meeting, members of the public can call in to provide their comments for agenda items in real time. The telephone numbers are listed after agenda item titles on the Council agenda and will appear on viewers' screens at the appropriate times. Consistent with in-person Council meetings, callers will have three minutes to provide comments on an agenda item.

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Please note that in order to enhance public participation on several current business and public hearings that are of interest to the community, we will modify the start time of the City Council meeting as noted above. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

The Regular Meeting will start at 4 p.m. and the City Council will discuss items on the Consent Calendar and Current Business first. Public Hearings will begin at 7 p.m. and the following are items of note:

On the Consent Calendar at 4 p.m. are several items of note:

- The City Clerk will call the November 3, General Municipal Election and a proposed Charter Amendment which if approved by the City Council and the voters would establish the Harbor Commission as part of the City Charter.
- The City has recently completed park enhancements at Newport Island Park.
- The award of a contract to Rehabilitate Bonita Canyon Drive/Ford Road between Jamboree Road and the 73 Toll Road.

Current Business items of interest to the community:

- The City Council will consider whether or not to extend the prohibition on short-term lodging rentals beyond May 20, 2020.
- There will be a review of the City's Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 through 2025-26. In the 2019-20 budget review, the City Council will consider changes due to the revenue projections due to COVID-19.

The City Council will then go into closed session and the City Council Meeting will resume at 7 p.m. with Public Hearings:

- There is an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a project located at 215 Riverside Avenue which was continued from the April 28 meeting.
- In order to comply with State law, the City recently updated its ordinance for commercial solid waste and recycling. This public hearing is scheduled to determine if several waste haulers' franchise agreements will be terminated for those haulers out of compliance with the current agreements, continued from the April 28 meeting.

Due to the Governor's order to stay at home, and to practice social distancing, there will be no members of the public in the City Council Chambers. If you wish to comment, you may do so telephonically and the City strongly encourages you to send your comments via email to [cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov) by Monday, May 11, at 5 p.m.

