



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung  
April 10, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

**Closure of City Facilities Extended Through May 3, 2020. City Staff Will Continue to Provide Services by Phone, Email and Through the Web.**

**Tuesday, April 14**  
**City Council Closed Session**  
[Council Chambers Closed to the Public-Click Here for Special COVID-19 Participation Details](#)  
6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 14**  
**City Council Meeting**  
[Council Chambers Closed to the Public-Click Here for Special COVID-19 Participation Details](#)  
7 p.m.  
([Insider's Guide](#))

**Thursday, April 16**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
Council Chambers Closed to the Public-Meeting Participation Details Will be Provided Once the Agenda is Posted  
3 p.m.

**Thursday, April 16**  
**Zoning Administrator Mtg.**  
City Hall, Community Room  
100 Civic Center Dr.  
3 p.m.

## To Our Community:

The City of Newport Beach continues to monitor our outdoor spaces for compliance with social distancing directives, and we are taking additional steps as needed to help limit the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please know that the City's response is carefully considered and adheres to the direction provided by the State of California and Orange County public health authorities. However, the key to "flattening the curve" is for each of us to stay home except for essential activities and strictly adhere to social distancing when we do go out.

## **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, 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](#).

## **How many COVID-19 cases are there in Newport Beach?**

The County of Orange posts reported COVID-19 cases by city at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>. The number as of April 10, 2020 is 81 cases in Newport Beach out of 1,138 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 transmission in a given community because testing is prioritized for those at greatest

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

risk, or who are the most sick. Those who are asymptomatic and have mild cases may not be tested, and are therefore not reflected in the data. The data shows transmission is occurring throughout Orange County. Regardless of the case count in any particular city, it is important for all residents to practice social distancing as directed by the Governor and the Orange County Health Officer. Doing so will help to reduce the spread of infection, ease the burden on our hospital and healthcare system, and protect those most vulnerable in our county.

### **Face Coverings Now Strongly Recommended**

Public health authorities are now recommending that everyone wear a face covering when going out in public. The Orange County Public Health Officer announced Thursday that cloth face coverings are strongly recommended for all residents engaged in essential activities outside their homes, as well as for workers in essential jobs.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is asking everyone over the age of 2 to wear a cloth face covering that covers your mouth and nose. The cloth face covering is meant to protect others in case you are infected. Please use a cloth face covering and not a mask meant for healthcare workers.

Health officials emphasize that face coverings are not substitutes for physical distancing (keeping at least six feet away from others) and regular hand washing.

While face coverings are not mandatory in Orange County, the City of Newport Beach is supporting the County and strongly advising all residents to take this additional precaution to protect their community and limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **New Closures this Week: The Wedge, West Jetty Park and Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway**

The City will prohibit surfing at the Wedge between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning Friday, April 10, and close the adjacent beach area to discourage public gatherings at one of Newport Beach's most popular surf spots.

The Newport Beach Fire Department, which oversees beach lifeguards, made the recommendation Thursday after observing higher numbers of surfers at the Wedge, and spectators gathering to watch them, during this week's strong swell.

Beginning Friday, April 10, blackball flags will be flown in the Wedge area, which extends from the West Harbor Jetty to Lifeguard Tower P. City crews have installed temporary fencing from the West Harbor Jetty to M Street to discourage spectators from gathering in violation of the Governor's "stay at home" order.

The Wedge is closed to all surfboards and flotation devices from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 through October 31 each year. The City's directive advances the seasonal blackball order by about three weeks.

The City closed West Jetty Park on the Balboa Peninsula beginning Wednesday, April 8. Other City parks remain open, and patrons are generally practicing safe social distancing. However, the relatively small West Jetty Park made social distancing difficult.

The Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway is now closed. While the recently installed "one-way" directional signage improved social distancing, maintaining safe distances along the narrow Bayfront Walkway has been challenging.

These closures will remain in effect until further notice.

Also this week, City crews will be placing additional signs throughout Newport Beach, including electronic message boards, to discourage any outdoor activities not permitted under the Governor's "stay at home" order.

With the number of COVID-19 cases increasing throughout Orange County, it is imperative that we all do our part to help our community.

### **Other Areas that Are Closed or Have Limited Access**

The Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula remains closed.

In Corona del Mar, the City closed off the typically congested grassy areas along Ocean Boulevard, including Inspiration Point and Lookout Point. The Goldenrod footbridge is also closed as its narrow walkway makes social distancing difficult. The Buck Gully trail was closed last week after social distancing became a challenge.

All beachfront parking lots and piers remain closed. Back Bay Drive also remains closed to vehicular traffic, providing more room for recreational users to maintain at least six feet of separation from others.

City parks remain open, with the exception of West Jetty Park. Park amenities are closed, however, including playgrounds, fitness equipment, fields (baseball, soccer, multi-use), all courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, handball and volleyball) and the dog park.

### **Homelessness Update**

As concerns over COVID-19 (coronavirus) increase throughout the community, 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. The 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 our people experiencing homelessness. Staff actively encourages people to seek proper shelter and healthcare through the City Net case managers. People, regardless of housing status, are mindful to practice social distancing, ensure proper hygiene, and avoid congregating.

Please refer to the following links for additional information: [newportbeachca.gov/covid19](http://newportbeachca.gov/covid19), [ohealthinfo.com](http://ohealthinfo.com), and [covid19.ca.gov](http://covid19.ca.gov). The County of Orange operates emergency shelters in Fullerton and Santa Ana. The City Net staff makes referrals to these shelters as well.

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

- Completed a new Vulnerability Intake assessment (VI-SPDAT) with a man who spends his days at the Newport Transportation Center. 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. The case managers will follow up with the man to provide a housing assessment.
- Moved a veteran into a motel from the Balboa Pier area while he waits to move to the new Santa Ana Veterans Village in late April 2020. The Veterans' Village features 75 units of supportive housing for veterans and their families. On-site case managers will provide job skills training, counseling, and Veterans Administration services.
- Assisted a man by the Newport Pier with applying for his State-issued Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. The EBT system is used in California for the delivery, redemption, and reconciliation of issued public assistance benefits, such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, and other food and cash aid benefits. The program, established in 2004, provides up to \$125.00 per person, per month to purchase food.
- Provided a screening for a new client for the State of California Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). The HDAP gives highest priority to chronically disabled homeless people to secure permanent housing and medical benefits.
- Assisted a man at the Newport Transportation Center in placing an online order for a new motorized scooter. The City Net case managers also assisted the man with accessing proper medical care for flu-like symptoms.
- 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.

Last week, two veterans with ties to Newport Beach were housed in Orange County. One veteran accessed services through the 1736 Family Crisis Center. The 1736 Family Crisis Center, based in Los Angeles since 1972, assists people with escaping poverty, homelessness, and violence. The other veteran accessed services through the Veterans' Administration. In March 2020, the County's Coordinated Entry System case managers housed 21 military veterans and their families.

### **Library Curbside Service and eBranch Resources**

On Tuesday, April 6, the Library initiated a [Curbside Service](#) for Library holds. Library staff has worked diligently to develop procedures for Curbside Service that follow social distancing protocols while effectively serving Library customers. Curbside Service is available Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all four Newport Beach Public Library locations: Central Library, Corona Del Mar Library, Balboa Library and Crean Mariners Library.

Newport Beach Public Libraries are closed, but [video storytimes](#) are released daily (Monday-Friday) for children to enjoy at home.

This week, in addition to stories read by library staff, Mayor Will O'Neill is reading two of his children's favorite books - *The Pout, Pout Fish* by Deborah Diesen (Macmillan Publishers) and *Tallulah's Nutcracker* by Marilyn Singer (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books & Media).

To enjoy the stories read by Mayor O'Neill and library staff, go the [Video Storytimes](#) page on the Library website. Each weekday, new stories are released around 10:30 a.m., so tune in and enjoy storytime.

Other online resources for children include a variety of [Student Resources](#) and [Distance Learning](#) links.

For questions or information on the Library's [eBranch](#) and services during the closure, call (949) 717-3800, #2 or use the [Contact Us form](#).

### **Pirate's Cove Beach Sand Replenishment**

During the past three months, the City has been replenishing sand upon the public beaches at Pirate's Cove and China Cove within the harbor. This was a public/private partnership between the Channel Reef Community Association which dredged its marina near the harbor's entrance channel, and the City who disposed that same high-value, beach quality sand upon our public beaches up to 1,000 feet away. This project was the contractor's first project in Newport Harbor using a brand new, hydraulic, diver-based, handheld suction dredge under the marina, then also deploying 1,000 feet of floating pipe to the two beaches. Pirates' Cove beach had not been replenished in over 30 years, and China Cove beach is regularly replenished on an annual basis. The project is now complete with several thousand cubic yards of sand redistributed back to our public beaches.

### **Bison Avenue, San Joaquin Hills Road and San Nicolas Drive Pavement Rehabilitation Project Completion**

Public Works staff is excited to report that the Bison Avenue, San Joaquin Hills Road and San Nicolas Drive pavement rehabilitation project is substantially complete. City Council awarded this construction contract to R.J. Noble on November 19, 2019 and construction began in January 2020. Improvements consisted of replacement of deteriorated concrete driveways, sidewalks, and access ramps, grinding and repaving the asphalt roadway, and striping these roads with a fresh coat of paint. Staff is preparing the construction documents for the next major arterial pavement rehabilitation project, which will be on Bonita Canyon Drive/Ford Road from Jamboree Road to State Route 73. Construction for this next project is anticipated to start in June 2020. We want to thank the public for your continued patience throughout the construction phase as we complete these much-needed pavement rehabilitation projects.

### **Crosswalk Enhancements on Domingo Drive and Balboa Boulevard/28<sup>th</sup> Street**

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance pedestrian visibility, the Public Works staff recently installed flashing blinker signs at two crosswalk locations. The first location, in the Eastbluff neighborhood

on Domingo Drive, connects Our Lady Queen of Angels church and school, which sees many daily crossings, especially during school days. For beachgoers and residents alike, the other location, on the Balboa Peninsula at Balboa Boulevard and 28<sup>th</sup> Street, helps in providing increased visibility during crossings. Be sure to practice social distancing while using them to cross!

### **Rainfall and Tide update:**

This weeks' rain has been coupled with our seasonal high tides. The Utilities Department has been busy checking/repairing/unblocking the drainage systems, responding to calls and preparing staff and the pumps. Dozens of City Utilities and Public Works staff have been mobilizing at various times including late PM hours each day to pump rainwater from streets affected by the high tides. (And that is expected to continue through the weekend.) With our current rainfall numbers, we should hit and exceed our seasonal average of 13.6 inches. From a groundwater standpoint, much of that rainfall is being stored, pumped, diverted, and saved for future reuse by our partners at the Orange County Water District.

### **Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on April 14, 2020**

During these unprecedented times, public participation is paramount to good governance and accountability. To that end, the City will implement an Information Technology solution to ensure your voice is heard. Using a program called WebEx, the City will live stream the meeting through its website (<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/nbtvlive>) and 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 comments on 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. Please [click here](#) for more details on how you can participate in the meeting.

Our next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, April 14. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be [viewed here](#).

There is a Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Meeting begins at 7 p.m. The following are items of note:

- On the Consent Calendar is an item that recommends the City Council adopts a resolution initiating several Zoning Code and Local Coastal Program Amendments related to Tattoo Services, Density Bonus Regulations, Short Term Lodging and Food and Alcohol Service in the Industrial Zone. This item starts the process. It does not change the municipal code. It only authorizes staff to begin to work through the public process for future City Council consideration.
- The City Council will also consider purchasing a Wildland Fire Apparatus. The new piece of equipment is specifically designed to work in the wildland areas and will assist our Fire Department in protecting over 300 acres of wildland and urban interfaces here in the city.
- There is an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a project located at 215 Riverside Avenue. This item was continued from the March 24 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, April 13, at 5 p.m.

