



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
April 24, 2020

Upcoming Events

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

Tuesday, April 28
City Council Closed Session
City Council Chambers
[\(Instructions for participating remotely\)](#)
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28
City Council Regular Meeting
City Council Chambers
[\(Instructions for participating remotely\)](#)
7 p.m.
[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

Thursday, April 30
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:

The City of Newport Beach will continue to provide the current level of public access to beaches and parks this weekend (April 24-26), with a visible presence from police officers, lifeguards and park patrol staff to maintain social distancing. With an expected increase in temperatures, the City anticipates greater numbers of visitors to the beaches and parks. It is imperative that beachgoers and park patrons continue to practice safe social distancing as required by the state and county.

Beach parking lots will remain closed, as well as the piers, the Oceanfront Boardwalk, the Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway, and the Wedge beach area. Outdoor recreation facilities will also remain closed, including tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, playground equipment, and soccer and baseball fields.

Under Gov. Gavin Newsom's "stay at home" directive, residents are to stay at home except for work at essential businesses, short trips to essential businesses such as the grocery store or pharmacy, and exercising within their neighborhood or close to home under social distancing guidelines. If beach and park visitors continue to comply with the directive, Newport Beach can maintain access for those seeking exercise and fresh air.

Police officers, lifeguards and park patrol staff will be monitoring the beaches and parks for group gatherings and any other behaviors that defy the state order.

COVID-19 News and Resources

Please visit 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

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

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 24, 2020 is 90 cases in Newport Beach out of 1,827 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. 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 Mandated for Essential Employees

Employees of essential businesses in Orange County will be required to wear face coverings beginning Friday, April 24. The County Board of Supervisors approved the directive on Tuesday.

As of 12 a.m. Friday, all employees of any grocery store, pharmacy/drug store, convenience store, gas station, restaurant, food preparation establishment, or retail store in Orange County who may have contact with the public must wear a cloth face covering while at work.

County officials said the directive aligns with state guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19 by those who are asymptomatic. The order is enforceable.

While customers are not required to wear face coverings, the state and County have strongly encouraged residents to wear face coverings while conducting essential activities in public.

Face coverings can be any cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. Residents should not purchase medical-grade masks, such as N95 and surgical masks, that are needed by healthcare workers.

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.

Areas that Are Closed or Have Limited Access

The Oceanfront Boardwalk on the Balboa Peninsula remains closed, as well as the Balboa Island Bayfront Walkway.

The City has prohibited surfing at the Wedge between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and closed the adjacent beach area to discourage public gatherings at one of Newport Beach's most popular surf spots.

Blackball flags are being flown in the Wedge area during the restricted hours. 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.

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 is closed.

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.

Flood Insurance Classification to be Upgraded

The City of Newport Beach recently completed a field verification audit for the recent five-year cycle on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The City's current CRS Classification of 8 will be upgraded to 7; providing an additional 5 percent discount to the current 10 percent for a total of a 15 percent discount on flood insurance premiums issued or renewed for properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Areas, on or after May 1, 2020. An electronic copy of the FEMA document, is available at <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/home/showdocument?id=66673>

Harbor Department's First Round of "Vessel Turn-In Program" a Success

The City of Newport Beach Harbor Department was recently awarded a \$175,000 grant from the CA Division of Boating and Waterways to assist in removing at-risk and aging vessels from Newport Harbor and other local waterways. Part of this grant program allows for qualifying private boat owners to voluntarily surrender their unwanted recreational boats, free of charge, for the City to responsibly remove from the Harbor for disposal. The program is intended to proactively support water quality, environmental and safety goals of California's coastal and inland waterways.

During the past several weeks four (4) boat owners, with vessels in Newport Harbor, were selected to take part in the program, after providing all required documents to the Harbor Department. These crafts included: a 42' trawler; a 37' trimaran; a 27' power boat; and a 25' mono-hull sailboat. The largest of these distressed vessels was safely removed from the Harbor for disposal earlier this week, and the remaining three (3) will soon follow.

Additional rounds of the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) will be organized in the coming months by the Harbor Department. If you would like to learn more about applying for the VTIP program, please contact the City Harbor Department at 949-270-8159.

Homelessness Update

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) 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.

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 team focused on outreach with people in the Balboa Pier area to encourage cleanliness, hygiene and social distancing. Staff also distributed masks and gloves.

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

- Completed the initial screening for the Homeless Disability Assistance Program (HDAP) with a man staying at the Newport Pier. The HDAP gives highest priority to chronically disabled homeless people to secure permanent housing and medical benefits.
- Completed two new Vulnerability Intake assessments (VI-SPDAT) at the Newport Transportation Center. After completing the assessment, the City Net case managers helped reconnect the man with his parole officer and provided transportation to his appointment. The case managers will follow up with the man to provide a housing assessment. The case managers also completed the assessment for a woman who spends her days at the Newport Transportation Center. She looks forward to relocating to the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach as soon as there is a space for her. The Friendship Shelter, operating in Laguna Beach since 1988, provides year-round shelter and rehabilitation services to homeless adults. 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 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.

Verizon to Install 4G Cell Sites for Police and Fire Departments

The City of Newport Beach is well on its way to improved communication infrastructure to support community safety and security. In 2018, Verizon entered into an agreement with the City to improve mobile data and voice services in areas that Police and Fire Departments had poor coverage. To do this, Verizon will be installing and maintaining thirty-two 4G small cell telecommunication facilities on City streetlights. Verizon has completed three sites and is currently installing a small cell facility at Seashore Drive and 56th Street.

Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on April 28, 2020

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 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 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, April 28. 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. with the following items of note:

- On the Consent Calendar is a Notice of Completion for the replacement of several old 16, 18 and 30-inch water mains located in transmission lines under Eastbluff and San Joaquin Hills Road. These replacements ensure that our water system remains strong and safe for the community and are part of the City's long-range Water Master Plan, funded by water rates.
- The Police Department works closely with the County Human Trafficking Task Force to combat this crime. The City will receive almost \$40,000 in reimbursement for our efforts.
- The appeal of the of the Planning Commission's approval of a project located at 215 Riverside Avenue was continued from the April 14 meeting to April 28.
- In order to comply with State law, the City recently updated its ordinance for commercial solid waste and recycling. A public hearing is scheduled for this meeting to determine if several waste haulers' franchise agreements will be terminated for those haulers who are out of compliance with the current agreements.
- With the existing 10-year contract expiring in May, the City has gone out to bid for street sweeping services and a new 10-year contract with Jonset Corporation is under consideration. Over the last several years, labor rates, regulations, insurance rate and requirements have all increased above standard inflationary rates, and the new proposed costs, while competitive, reflect the current environment.
- Two important items for the community include an extensive report on the impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic will have on the City's revenues and expenditures. The City Council will be considering proposed amendments to revise this year's budget to mitigate adverse impacts on reserves. There will also be a presentation on the framework for addressing the revenue shortfalls in the recommended FY 2020-21 Budget.
- Secondly, the City Council requested a review of the currently budget Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects in response to the fiscal impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The City Council will consider projects for potential deferral. A full listing of all CIP projects currently funded has been included as an attachment to this report.

Due to the Governor's order to stay at home, and to practice social distancing, there will be no 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 by Monday, April 27th at 5 p.m.

