The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
July 10, 2020

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 14
City Council Regular Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
([See agenda for instructions on how to participate](#))
5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15
Balboa Village Advisory Committee Meeting (BVAC)
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
([See agenda for instructions on how to participate](#))
4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15
Housing Elements Update Advisory Committee Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
6 p.m.
([See agenda for instructions on how to participate](#))

Thursday, July 16
Zoning Administrator Meeting
City Hall, Corona del Mar
Conference Room (Bay1E)
100 Civic Center Drive
([See agenda for instructions on how to participate](#))
10 a.m.

Community members,

City crews have largely finished the big job of cleaning up all the sand and debris from parking lots and streets after Friday's flooding on Balboa Peninsula.

We had anticipated a strong swell, but what we saw on July 3 was unexpected and intense. The swell over-topped and eroded the sand berm that was in place to help prevent flooding. The main impact was in the Balboa Pier area, and flooding extended to Balboa Boulevard.

By dawn on Saturday, July 4, City crews and contractors were hard at work building a new, larger sand berm, which was in place by Saturday afternoon. The new sand wall held and prevented more flooding during high tides Saturday and Sunday.

The flooding carried a large amount of sand and debris onto City streets, which our crews cleaned up this week. The beaches reopened for full use on Monday, July 6. The parking lots closed for cleanup were back in service by mid-week.

Last week's high waves and strong swell also presented a challenge for our City lifeguard teams, which performed 100 rescues and gave 2,700 preventive warnings on Friday. One of our City lifeguards, Sean Richards, performed heroic back-to-back rescues. You can read about those rescues [here](#).

With the increasing number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, Orange County this week temporarily postponed organized youth sports. For a list of what is open and closed, please see an [updated FAQ here](#).

We have also made the decision to temporarily close City Hall to the public beginning Monday, July 13, based on concerns for the health and safety of employees and the public.

However, all City services will continue through phone, email and drop-off/pickup.

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

Thursday, July 16
City Arts Commission –
SPECIAL MEETING
City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
(Instructions for participating in person or remotely)
5 p.m.

The Cashier's Office will accept payments online. The Newport Beach Public Library will continue to provide pickup and drop-off services through https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/.

In alignment with City Hall, the City's Police Department has closed its front-counter service to the public. However, all essential police services will continue and communications are being handled by phone and email.

City Council and commission meetings will continue to be webstreamed live at newportbeachca.gov and the public can comment live by phone.

These measures will be in place until further notice.

See below for more information on planning, building, public works or fire permit applications during the temporary City Hall closure.

COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach

The number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach as of July 10 is 552 and the total cases in Orange County is 21,517. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of July 10 is 9,452.

Statewide there has been a steady increase in the number of new cases, hospitalizations and ICU hospitalizations. While the State and County are now better prepared to handle the increase – and currently have adequate hospital capacity, ventilators and PPE available – the upward trend is concerning. The Governor and health officials continue to strongly emphasize the necessity of proper social distancing, the wearing of masks when in public and the importance of regular handwashing.

COVID-19 News and Resources

The County of Orange continues to add new COVID-19 data and information to its website at https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc.

The County of Orange Healthcare Agency has a new COVID-19 Hotline, (714) 834-2000, and email address, ETeam@ochca.com. County staff will monitor the hotline and email box and answer questions about industry reopening and activity resumption, current guidance and more.

The County also maintains a growing list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. If you are showing symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider for testing information first. If you do not have a healthcare provider, visit https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing-and-screening for testing information. The SOS Health Center in Newport Beach is an approved community testing site. Call (949) 270-2100 for an appointment.

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. 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. You can also follow the City on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and look for alerts from our City staff on Nextdoor.

Project Submittals During Closure

The Permit Center will be closed to the public starting Monday, **July 13, 2020** due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in Orange County. To help minimize the disruption to the development community, the Permit Center will offer modified services starting **Monday July 13, 2020**. Please expect delays; we ask for your patience and cooperation during these challenging times.

Building Plan Check Applications

Obtaining information relating to plan check submittals can be done by phone or email. Please call 949-718-1888, or contact directly from this link.

For plan check submittals, you may drop off the plans in a bin located outside the permit center at City Hall (Bay C). Drop off times are available Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. All plans shall include all necessary documentations such as plan submittal form, completed permit application, soil reports, structural calculations, energy calculations, water quality reports, etc.

For plan check fees, please contact the Permit Center at 949-718-1888 to obtain information regarding the required fees to be paid. Payments may be made over the phone with a credit card, or make arrangements to mail a check.

Standard plans can be found here.

Permit Issuance and Revisions

Permits may be submitted via email here or fax 949-644-3250, provided it can be processed for payment authorization and signature by the contractor or owner. Permits will be issued electronically. For new construction projects, appointments will be established to come to City Hall and pick up the approved set of plans. For minor permits such as reroof, window change out, EV charging stations, water heater replacement, we encourage applicants to utilize the online **iPERMIT** system

For permit fees, please contact the Permit Center at 949-718-1888 to obtain information regarding the required fees to be paid. Payments may be made over the phone with a credit card, or with a check.

Planning and Zoning Services

Planning and Zoning information will be provided by telephone and email. Please call 949-644-3204 or your planner (for a roster, please follow this link).

If you wish to file a planning application, https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/community-development/planning-division/applications-forms-and-fees, please complete the application and mail it with all supporting design plans, reports, title report, mailing labels for notices and a check for the appropriate fee by mail. Alternatively, you can drop off your application in a bin that will be located outside the permit center at City Hall (Bay C). Drop off times are available Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Alternatively, you can upload your materials electronically here. (see instructions).

Inspections

Inspections will continue as normal with inspectors using PPEs and practicing social distancing. Please request inspections online here, or call for inspection at 949-644-3255.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement staff will continue to provide inspection services using PPEs and practicing social distancing. Please contact Code Enforcement at 949-644-3215.

New Integrated Library System

The Newport Beach Public Library Board of Library Trustees is pleased to announce the launch of a new Integrated Library System (ILS) on July 13, 2020. The powerful new software, Sirsi-Dynix Symphony, will be seamlessly integrated into the Newport Beach Public Library website and will perform all the functions of the former system, along with many new technological advancements and customer service enhancements that were not available 12 years ago when the former ILS was implemented.

The functionality of this new system extends far beyond the capabilities of the current catalog. While the system retains the features that customers currently enjoy, such as browsing the collection, placing holds, managing accounts, and creating reading lists, it provides new patron communication options such as text messaging and automatic renewals when items are not on hold by other customers. It also integrates well with Overdrive downloadable eBooks and eAudiobooks and offers additional filtering options to expedite and limit search results. A Mobile App will be added in August 2020.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/Home/Components/News/News/38364/11919

Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park – Phase V

The Newport Beach City Council approved ten new sculptures and proposed locations within Civic Center Park, as recommended by the City Arts Commission, for Phase V of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park.

The ten new sculptures were selected from submissions received by a national call for entries based on their artistic merit, durability, practicality and site appropriateness. They are scheduled for installation Mid-July and will remain at the Civic Center Park for two years.

The Phase V sculptures include:

- *Cosmo* by Roger Heitzman, Scotts Valley, CA
- *Fractured Peace* by Nancy Mooslin, Los Angeles, CA
- *I'm Listening* by Monica Wyatt, Studio City, CA
- *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Patricia Vader, Martinez, CA
- *Seated Diana* by Curt Brill, Tucson, AZ
- *Primemover* by Grant Irish, Oakland, CA
- *Window to the Sea* by Andra Broekelschen, Corona del Mar, CA
- *Marble Shooter* by Ron Whitacre, Laguna Beach, CA
- *Dude Ascending* by Joe Forest Sackett, Albuquerque, NM
- *Individuality n.1* by Dominic Panziera & Daniela Garofalo, Truckee, CA

For more information, please visit:
https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/library-services/cultural-arts/sculpture-in-civic-center-park-exhibition

Summer Reading Program: June 20 - August 8

Dig Deeper: Read Investigate Discover!

This summer we hope you dig below the surface and find a world of creativity and learning! Envision the future, explore other cultures, peer into nature, delve into the unknown and discover the treasures of reading.

The Summer Reading Program is open to Children, Teens and Adults, online and curbside!

Adults are invited to participate in the Adult Summer Reading Program. Interested participants may register by submitting a book review and are eligible to receive a prize book (while supplies last!) upon submission of their third review. Participants may only receive one prize book but may continue to submit book reviews for entry into the Grand Prize drawing at the end of the program.

Current or incoming 7th-12th graders are welcome to participate in the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens are automatically registered after they read and review their first book using our online submission form. Once Teens are registered they will be contacted to pick up their prize book curbside. Every review enters Teens into our Weekly and/or Grand Prize Drawings!

Children through 6th grade can participate in the Children's Summer Reading Program. Every child who registers will receive a free book (while supplies last). Readers keep track of their reading time on game sheets and can also write (or draw) book reviews. The Summer Reading Program is generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Family Storytime Bundles

Create a special at-home family storytime with a little help from your library. Instead of spending time browsing the Library Catalog for books, let the NBPL Children's Librarians select books for your child with a theme that you choose. Family Storytime bundles include two to three themed books perfect for family read-alouds along with a list of staff favorite songs and at home activities. Call your local branch for availability. Pick up your bundle using Curbside Service.

For more information, please visit: https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/home/showdocument?id=67197

Homelessness Update

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 response, working closely with contractor City Net and regional partners throughout the county and state. Recently, people in Newport Beach experiencing homelessness have been placed in motels through Project Roomkey, a state initiative to provide shelter during COVID-19. Newport Beach staff and City Net staff are collaborating with the Illumination Foundation, a local non-profit agency working with the state to facilitate Project Roomkey.

Success Stories:

- A man staying by the Newport Transportation Center was placed into a motel under the Project Roomkey program.
- A family of three staying near Newport Center was placed into a motel under Project Roomkey. From the motel, the family transitioned into a short-term rental apartment in Irvine. City Net staff is working with the family to obtain permanent housing.
- Staff completed four Vulnerability Index Intake Assessments with people staying in Newport Beach. The assessment is used to screen clients to determine proper placement in the County's Continuum of Care system. Some assessment factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered. Case managers will follow up with the clients to provide housing assessments and prepare documentation for housing.

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. For immediate assistance call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747. To enroll in Project Roomkey, call (714) 834-3000.

Heal the Bay releases their 2019-2020 Beach Report Card – Two Newport Beach locations make the "Honor Roll"

'Heal the Bay' recently released their 2019-2020 Beach Report Card and two Newport Beach locations made the "Honor Roll" -- Newport Bay, Via Genoa Beach and Newport Beach at 52nd/53rd, both received A+ marks in all three weather categories: Summer Dry, Winter Dry and

Wet Winter. The Beach report card transforms complicated water quality data into an easy-to-understand A-F grading format indicating where and when it is safe to go in the ocean.

Grades are based on water samples from the wave-wash analyzed for bacteria that indicate pollution from numerous sources, including fecal waste. The better the grade a beach receives, the lower the risk of illness to ocean users.

For a complete report card list please visit:
https://healthebay.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Report-2020_web.pdf.

Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on July 14, 2020

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, July 14. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed here.

There is no Study Session; Closed Session will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting begins at **5 p.m. Please note the start time** and the following are items of note:

On the Consent Calendar:
- A request to modify the start time for regular City Council meetings to 4 p.m. This change is requested to accommodate, coordinate and provide adequate time to conduct City business. The proposed change allows us to move efficiently from Study Session, which typically begin at 4 p.m., through Closed Session and then the Regular Meeting.
- After many years and extensive public input, there is a proposal to award a construction contract for Grant Howald Park Rehabilitation. The improvements will include: undergrounding of SCE lines, new playground equipment, new sidewalks and retaining walls and replacement of the athletic fields with synthetic turf. Due to a competitive bidding environment, the recommended bid is 20 percent below the engineer's estimate.

Current Business includes:
- A proposal to modify the City's Community Development Block Grant Program to support our business community by offering funding for job retention. This program will provide almost $470,000 in COVID Relief CDBG funds to our small business community. Should City Council approve the amendments, the guidelines and process to apply will be forthcoming to the community.