

CITY OF MALIBU

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



February 26, 2026



Greetings Malibu,

In this week's newsletter, we're excited to share updates on City Council activities, City projects, fire rebuild progress, community initiatives, and upcoming opportunities to get involved.

Malibu's fire rebuild continues to make steady progress, with 33 permits to begin construction—all of which are now underway—574 building permits issued overall, and 166 planning approvals completed. Each permit represents a family taking another step toward rebuilding their homes and neighborhoods.

We are especially excited to welcome Joe Irvin as Malibu's new permanent City Manager on March 2. Joe and his family have already moved into their home in Malibu and are eager to get to know the community. I am confident he will be a great fit for our City and look forward to his leadership in guiding Malibu's resilience, protecting its unique environment, and advancing high-quality public services.

I am honored to have served as Interim City Manager over the past few months and am grateful for the support of the City Council and all City Hall staff as we transition to this new era of leadership.

Other highlights in this edition include a celebration of a local small business and updates on the Temporary Use Permit and Sign Ordinance designed to support businesses recovering from the fires. We share progress on the City's environmental programs, the soft opening of the Malibu Skate Park as final touches are completed, and the release of the Palisades Fire After-Action Review—community members are encouraged to review it and provide feedback at the March 9 City Council meeting.

New cameras as part of the PCH Signal Synchronization Project now offer real-time traffic video, enhancing safety and traffic management.

Thank you for staying engaged with the City of Malibu. Your participation and partnership help us continue working together to serve and strengthen our unique community.

With gratitude,

Rob DuBoux
Interim City Manager

CITY COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT



Permanent City Manager Joe Irvin To Start New Role in Malibu March 2

Malibu's new permanent City Manager, Joseph D. "Joe" Irvin, ICMA-CM, MPA, will begin in his new role Monday, March 2. The City looks forward to welcoming him to City Hall and our community. Irvin brings over 20 years of executive municipal leadership and previously served as City Manager of South Lake Tahoe. His career spans service in four U.S. cities, with expertise in emergency management, wildfire response, environmental stewardship, community development, and strategic planning. Known for building strong organizational cultures and fostering partnerships, he has led large-scale wildfire responses, advanced housing and infrastructure projects, and modernized emergency communications. Irvin holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from CSU Channel Islands and an Masters of Public Administration from The Evergreen State College. He is recognized for collaborative, transparent leadership and is committed to supporting Malibu's resilience, protecting its natural environment, and delivering high-quality public service.



Pepperdine Student Government Association Visit City Hall

Students from the Pepperdine Student Government Association visited City Hall last week. They were able to sit at the City Council Chamber dais and ask Councilmember Marianne Riggins thoughtful questions regarding the City of Malibu and her role as a Councilmember. Councilmember Riggins led them on a tour of the Public Works, Public Safety, and Community Services Departments to meet with staff and learn about their work. The students enjoyed their visit and learning about the City's role in serving the community.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Supporting Local Businesses in Malibu



Malibu Councilmembers Marianne Riggins and Haylynn Conrad joined the Palibu Chamber of Commerce board to celebrate Malibu Village Books, a locally owned bookstore serving the community since March 2023.

Owned by Michelle Pierce, Malibu Village Books has shown resilience through the Franklin Fire, the Palisades Fire, and the extended Pacific Coast Highway closure. Since opening in 2023, the store has become a community hub, hosting author readings and signings, book clubs, children's storytime, and local artist

Contact the City

Business Assistance

displays and events. Malibu Village Books has partnered with Soho House on literary event book sales, organized a book drive for fire survivors with the Boys & Girls Club, and supports book sales for Malibu Library Speaker Series events.

The City remains committed to supporting small businesses that strengthen community connection, creativity, and resilience, especially as Malibu continues recovering from the Palisades Fire.

FIRE REBUILD



Fire Rebuild Progress Update, February 23

At the February 23 City Council meeting, Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy provided an update on Malibu’s fire rebuild progress.



To date, 33 single family residence building permits have been issued, meaning 33 families are actively under construction — an increase of 4 since our update of February 9. Another five permits may be issued this week. Overall, 227 families have moved forward with planning applications, with 166 approvals and 574 building permits issued in the affected areas.

Live Presentation

PowerPoint Presentation

Recognizing that 61% of affected families have not yet submitted applications, the City launched a new optional on-site visit consultation program to help homeowners get started. These one-hour consultations include Planning and Building Safety staff, along with the homeowner’s design professionals, reviewing preliminary concepts, confirming site eligibility, and providing guidance on next steps. The program is optional and does not add steps to the existing process.

Director Bundy highlighted the importance of flexibility and partnership with community groups to support families as they navigate the complex rebuild process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Temporary Use Permit and Sign Permit Ordinance Update

On March 16, the Planning Commission will consider amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Malibu Municipal Code aimed at supporting local businesses impacted by the 2025 Palisades Fire. The proposed updates focus on providing greater flexibility for Temporary Use Permits and Sign Permits to help stimulate economic recovery.

[View Meeting Agenda](#)



Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update

On March 23, the City Council will consider a proposed consolidated ordinance updating the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations. The amendments incorporate recommendations from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and align Malibu Municipal Code Chapter 17.44 with the latest State ADU and Junior ADU statutes.

[View Meeting Agenda](#)

February 25 Zone Captains Meeting



On February 25, Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy and Assistant Director Tyler Eaton met with Zone Captains to continue fostering collaboration and generate ideas to advance the rebuild process for each fire-impacted neighborhood. Staff discussed the Fire Rebuild Initial On-Site Consultation Program, an optional program designated to support families who have not yet begun the rebuild process. Staff also provided updates on the latest rebuild milestones and answered questions about the rebuild process.

Fire rebuild homeowners are encouraged to connect with their Zone Captain or visit the Rebuild Center for guidance and support throughout the rebuilding process. For more information and resources, visit maliburebuilds.org email maliburecovers@malibucity.org, or call 310-456-2489, ext 400.

February 25 Los Angeles County Assessor's Office Town Hall Meeting



The City of Malibu hosted a Town Hall Meeting in partnership with the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office on Wednesday, February 15, both in person at City Hall and online through Zoom.

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang provided a brief fire relief update and shared important legislative updates on property tax relief options available through the Assessor's Office. The presentation covered key property tax considerations and provided support resources available to affected homeowners.



Over 40 attendees had the opportunity to ask live questions with Assessor Prang and Chief Appraiser Neil Najjar, addressing frequently asked questions and encouraging residents to reach out directly for assistance with individual concerns. For more information and resources on the Los Angeles County's Assessor's Office, visit assessor.lacounty.gov or call 213-974-3101. View the [full presentation](#) on YouTube.

ENVIRONMENTAL



[More Events](#)

Environmental Programs Update: 2025 Accomplishments

On February 10, the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee received an update on key 2025 accomplishments and planned 2026 initiatives from the Community Development Department's Environmental Programs Division. The presentation highlighted programs supporting residents, local businesses, and the community. The meeting is available on [YouTube here](#).



[See Details](#)

Free Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Drive Through Event on February 21

On February 21, the City hosted a free Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection Event at City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road.)

More than 130 residents safely disposed of hazardous materials and electronic waste. The event is part of the City's ongoing HHW/E-Waste program, held on the third Saturday of February, April, June, August, and October.

PUBLIC WORKS

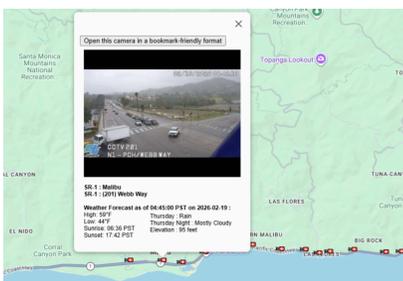


[Learn More](#)

Malibu Permanent Skate Park

The City recently hosted a soft opening of the Malibu Skate Park at Malibu Bluffs Park. Over the past two weekends, skaters have had the opportunity to enjoy and test out the new facility during weekend hours. As a reminder, the skate park is an active construction site Monday through Friday. Crews are currently completing underground utilities, landscaping, irrigation, fencing, parking lot, and the restroom building.

Real-Time PCH Traffic Video Now Available Online



The public can now view real-time traffic conditions on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu through live CCTV cameras on the [Caltrans website](#). The cameras allow traffic operators to quickly identify crashes, stalled vehicles, congestion, and other hazards, supporting faster emergency response and active traffic management.

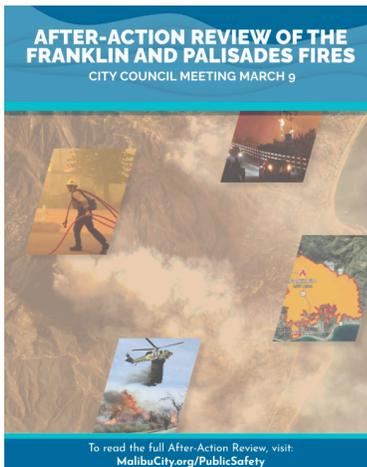
Live Traffic Videos

Learn More

The cameras are part of the **PCH Signal Synchronization Project** led by the City of Malibu. Completed in December 2025, the \$19.1 million project connected 12 traffic signals between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and John Tyler Drive into a coordinated Smart Corridor, allowing real-time signal adjustments to improve traffic flow and safety.

The project was named the 2025 Project of the Year in Transportation by the American Public Works Association Ventura County Chapter.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Read the Q&A

Read the Report

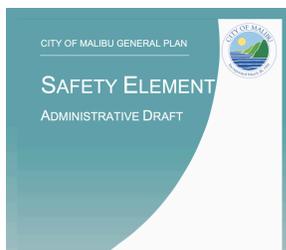
City of Malibu After-Action Review of Palisades and Franklin Fires Available for Public Review – City Council To Discuss on March 9

The City of Malibu has completed an independent **After-Action Review** examining emergency operations during the 2024 Franklin Fire and the 2025 Palisades Fire. The report will be presented at the City Council meeting on March 9 and the Public Safety Commission meeting on April 1.

The review focuses on the City's emergency management and Emergency Operations Center processes, including coordination, communication, evacuation, and operations. It was prepared by Witt O'Brien's, a nationally recognized emergency management firm, as part of the City's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

The report includes recommendations to strengthen emergency operations. Some are already being implemented, while others will be considered through future policy discussions and budget decisions. This review is separate from the LA County After-Action Review released in September 2025 and focuses solely on the City of Malibu's operations.

Community members are encouraged to review the report, attend the March 9 City Council meeting, provide public comment, and ask questions. The meeting will also be **livestreamed on YouTube** for those unable to attend in person.



Staff Report

General Plan Safety Element

On March 2, the Planning Commission will review the proposed **Safety Element Update** that was developed by the Public Safety Department and Community Development Department, and provide a recommendation to the City Council. The City is currently updating the Safety Element of its General Plan in accordance with California law. The update addresses critical issues for the Malibu community, including wildfire risk, geotechnical hazards, climate adaptation, and evacuation planning. In addition to meeting state requirements, the updated Safety Element will help the City qualify for the 2026 Fire Risk Reduction Community List, which may provide benefits to residents when applying for homeowner's insurance.

City of Malibu Crime and Safety Update



At the February 23 City Council meeting, Interim City Manager Rob Duboux gave a crime and traffic update, reporting that Friday, February 20, the LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) conducted a successful DUI checkpoint in Malibu between 7:00 PM and 3:00 AM. Deputies screened 806 vehicles. Eleven drivers were cited for driving without a license, and 39 drivers received warnings for not having their license in their possession. One citation was issued for driving on a suspended license, one vehicle was impounded, and one out-of-county warrant arrest was made.

The LASD's DUI checkpoints are an important tool to promote roadway safety and deterring impaired and unlicensed driving.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Malibu Marlins Swim Team

Spring quarter begins Tuesday, March 3
Tuesday through Sunday
Workout Schedules Vary by Level
Malibu Community Pool

The Malibu Marlins offers a diverse range of swim programs for all ages and skill levels. Join the team to improve your skills and be a part of a dedicated swimming community. Workout schedules for the Spring session of the Malibu Marlins Swim Team (Ages 5 to 17) are available on the City's [Aquatics webpage](#). [Register here](#).



Rise Institute Parenting Workshop – Raising Resilient Kids

Thursday, March 5
5:00 – 6:30 PM
Malibu Bluffs Park, Michael Landon Center
Complimentary

This workshop is designed to equip parents with practical tools to build resilience and confidently navigate life's challenges. Through engaging activities and guided reflection, participants gain strategies that are applicable at home, school, and in everyday life. Instructed by the [RISE Institute at Pepperdine University](#). [Online registration](#) is required.



Rise Institute Parenting Workshop – Bouncing Back for Kids

Saturday, March 7
10:00 – 11:30 AM
Malibu Bluffs Park, Michael Landon Center
Complimentary

Designed for youth ages 8-11, the program will provide activities and guided reflection to help participants build resiliency and cope with challenges at school, at home, and in everyday life. Instructed by the [RISE Institute at Pepperdine University](#). [Online registration](#) required.



Park Tales – Storytime in the Park “Read the Rainbow”

Thursday, March 12
10:00 – 11:00 AM
Malibu Bluffs Park, Michael Landon Center
Complimentary

Storytime, snack, and art activity, in partnership with the [Malibu Library](#). Learn more at the [Special Events webpage](#).



Caffeinated Verse

Saturday, March 14
11:00 AM
Malibu Library
Complimentary

Join Malibu Poet Laureate Charlotte Ward and Leila Chatti for a complimentary monthly poetry event. Details are on the City's [poetry website](#). RSVP is not required.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

MARCH 2

Regular Planning Commission Meeting – [City Hall, 6:30 PM](#)

MARCH 3

Spring Marlins Swim Club Session Begins – [Malibu Community Pool, 6:00 PM](#)

MARCH 7

RISE Workshop - Bouncing Back for Kids - Complimentary – [Michael Landon Community Center, 10:00 AM](#)

MARCH 9

Regular City Council Meeting – [City Hall, 5:30 PM](#)



MALIBU REBUILDING UPDATES

[Sign up for the Newsletter](#)

[Previous Newsletter](#)

[Rebuild Website](#)

STATISTICS

For more Rebuild information & resources, see the Rebuild website & newsletter

Staff continue to work with homeowners at the Rebuild Center.

- Contact or Visit the Rebuild Center 23805 Stuart Ranch Road, Suite 240 Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Schedule an in-person or virtual appointment [on the website](#) or call 310-456-2489, ext. 400. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Rebuild Totals - Single-Family Residences

Planning Phase

60

Under Planning Review

Projects that have been submitted to Planning, and are currently being reviewed

168

Total Planning Approved

Total Applications approved by Planning

Building Phase

46

Building Plan Check - Submitted

Projects that have been submitted for plan check, and are currently being reviewed by all City departments

33

Building Permits Issued

Building Permits issued and approved for construction

0

Total

Certificates of Occupancy issued

SIGN UP FOR NOTIFY ME!

Sign up for City notifications to receive important updates about emergencies, road closures, community events, public meetings, and more—straight to your phone or email. Stay connected and be the first to know what's happening in your community!

[FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



MalibuCity.org
310-456-2489
PIO@MailbuCity.org
23825 Stuart Ranch Rd, Malibu CA, 90265

City of Malibu | 23825 Stuart Ranch Rd | Malibu, CA 90265 US

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