

CITY OF MALIBU

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



January 29, 2026



Greetings Malibu,

In this edition, you'll find updates on important City projects, community initiatives, and upcoming opportunities to get involved. Highlights include an invitation to celebrate the completion of the award-winning PCH Signal Synchronization Project, the City's most significant measure ever to address PCH safety, Planning Commission actions affecting Malibu schools and Accessory Dwelling Units; and recent fire rebuild and small business workshops supporting our community's recovery.

We continue to see inspiring progress as more and more families make progress on rebuilding homes lost in the recent fires, with 522 total building permits issued to date, 24 permits to begin construction issued, and at least 20 rebuilds are already under construction. Every permit represents a family getting closer to completing their homes.

The results of the 2026 Homeless Count highlights the City's long-standing, service-oriented approach that balances outreach and services with protecting public safety and removing encampments. The Count showed 44 people experiencing homelessness in the City, continuing a multi-year downward trend.

You'll also find information on environmental programs and rebates, upcoming household hazardous and electronic waste collection, progress on the Permanent Skate Park, public safety updates including the latest homeless count and Sheriff's crime report, and guidance on long-term wildfire preparedness through the Firewise USA program.

As always, we have a wide variety of community services programs, classes, and events for residents of all ages.

Thank you for staying engaged and connected with the City of Malibu. We appreciate your partnership as we continue working together to serve Malibu.

With gratitude,

Rob DuBoux
Interim City Manager
Public Works Director
Rduboux@MalibuCity.org

CITY COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT



JOIN THE RIBBON CUTTING OF MALIBU'S PCH SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT FEBRUARY 4

Community members are invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the City's Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Signal Synchronization Project, February 4 at 10:00 AM at PCH and Webb Way.

The project, which was completed and activated just before the winter holiday, was named the 2025 American Public Works Association (APWA) Ventura County Project of the Year in Transportation. The City's most significant measure to date to address PCH safety links 12 traffic signals between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and John Tyler Drive, allowing Caltrans to control them in real time based on existing traffic conditions. The goal is to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, lower speeds, and improve safety. The project also includes video monitoring, sensors, and intersection improvements.

[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



MALIBU MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

On January 20, 2026, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 26-04 approving a Coastal Development Permit for the next phase of development for the Malibu Middle and High School Campus Specific Plan, referred to as Phases 2, 3a and 4a. The project is focused on the new middle school facilities, including a two-story gym, outdoor sports courts, student activity and food service building, a media arts building, middle school quad, landscaping, solar installation, and utility upgrades. The project includes the demolition of several portable buildings.



ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT ORDINANCE UPDATE

On January 20, 2026, the Planning Commission approved Resolution No. 26-03 recommending updates to Malibu's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) rules. The changes align the City's code with state ADU and JADU laws and guidance from the California Department of Housing and Community Development taking effect in 2026. The recommendation now goes to the City Council.

[Learn More](#)



FIRE REBUILD PROGRESS UPDATE

Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy provided an update on the fire rebuild progress to the City Council at the January 26 meeting.

Building permits issued: 522 total permits have been issued in the fire incident area to date.

Planning applications:

- 67 applications are currently under review.
- 153 planning applications have been approved, an increase of 3.

Building plan review:

- 47 single-family homes are currently under building review.
- 24 building permits have been issued for homes, with at least 20 homes already under construction.

Rebuild Center activity:

- Since opening in March, the Rebuild Center has hosted 2,018 appointments.
- Average of 45 appointments per week.
- In the past 25 days alone, 144 families have been assisted, showing increased activity.



CITY OF MALIBU & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP RECAP

On January 28, the City of Malibu partnered with Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles to host a community workshop at City Hall and via Zoom for residents impacted by recent fires. Habitat LA shared information on rebuilding programs, recovery resources, and potential financial assistance, and met one-on-one with residents to discuss eligibility and next steps.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on recovery programs and rebuilding resources.



SMALL BUSINESS DIGITAL WORKSHOP RECAP

On January 28, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation and the Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce hosted a free workshop for local small business owners and entrepreneurs at the American Legion Palisades. Participants learned how to improve their online presence using tools like Google Business Profile, Pointy, and Merchant Center, and accessed expert guidance on financing, marketing, and disaster planning to support business recovery and growth.



SBA DISASTER LOAN OUTREACH CENTER NOW OPEN IN PACIFIC PALISADES

The SBA has opened a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Pacific Palisades to provide in-person help for homeowners, renters, small businesses, and nonprofits who have applied for disaster assistance after recent wildfires and winds. SBA staff can help with the next steps, questions, missing documents,

and possible loan increases for mitigation. New applications may be accepted in limited cases.

Located at Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283, 15247 La Cruz Dr., open Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM
Appointments: appointment.sba.gov
Info: visit sba.gov/disaster or call (800) 659-2955 (711 for relay services)

ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSFORM YOUR YARD & SAVE BIG WITH WEST BASIN REBATES

Get rebates from West Basin Municipal Water District starting at \$3 per square foot of grass removed — up to \$30,000 per project — by replacing turf with a water-saving, eco-friendly landscape! Qualifying residents in underserved communities may be eligible for an increased rebate of up to \$6 per square foot. [CLICK HERE](#) to see if you qualify.

To help you get started, West Basin is also offering FREE professional landscape designs, a value of approximately \$1,500, which are required to apply for the grass removal rebate.



REBATES FOR REPLACING GRASS LAWNS WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TREES

Ready to create a more sustainable, functional, and beautiful yard? Get \$100 per tree (up to five trees) when replacing grass with a beautiful California Friendly® landscape through LA County Waterworks District 29's new tree rebate. You can get a step-by-step guide to applying for the program, and access discounted landscape designs featuring native plants.

[Learn More](#)



FREE HHW/E-WASTE DRIVE THROUGH COLLECTION EVENT - FEBRUARY 21

Safely dispose of your household hazardous and electronic waste at the City's free HHW/E-Waste Collection Event on Saturday, February 21, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM, upper City Hall parking lot, 23825 Stuart Ranch Rd. Accepted items include paint, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, CFLs, and electronics. Containers must be labeled. Limit: 15 gallons or 125lbs per trip. Events are held the 3rd Saturday in February, April, June, August, and October.

[See Details](#)

Environmental Programs Annual Accomplishments & Highlights

Join the City of Malibu's Environmental Programs team for an engaging presentation to the Environmental Subcommittee celebrating this year's accomplishments, sharing key updates, and previewing exciting environmental initiatives ahead for Malibu!

Tuesday, February 10
3 PM - 4:30 PM

Malibu City Hall
23825 Stuart Ranch Rd



COMMUNITY INVITED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS UPDATE – FEBRUARY 10

Join the Environmental Team for an update on Environmental Programs at the Environmental Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, February 10, at 3:00 PM at City Hall. The Community Development Department's Environmental Programs Division will present highlights from the past year, including sustainability accomplishments, ongoing programs, and support provided for fire rebuild-related efforts. The team will also share upcoming initiatives planned for 2026.

[See Details](#)

PUBLIC WORKS

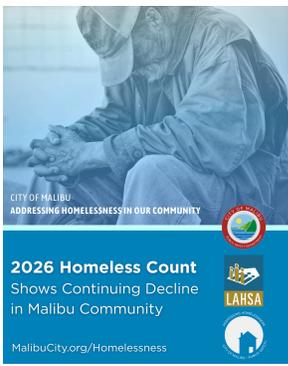


CONSTRUCTION NEARING COMPLETION ON PERMANENT SKATE PARK

Crews placed the final concrete panels and continue grouting tile within the bowl sections of the Permanent Skate Park. The concrete pad for the restroom was placed, and the masonry walls are under construction. Work continues on underground storm drains, plumbing, and electrical components. The City looks forward to opening this valuable sport, recreation and community gathering place for Malibu soon!

[Learn More](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY



CITY OF MALIBU'S SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO HOMELESSNESS REFLECTED IN CONTINUING DECLINE IN HOMELESS COUNT NUMBERS

Preliminary results from the 2026 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count show 44 people experiencing homelessness in Malibu (33 individuals and 11 vehicles), continuing a multi-year decline. The LAHSA-coordinated count was conducted January 22 by City staff, the Homeless Outreach Team, LAHSA, and volunteers. Since 2017, Malibu's outreach and coordinated encampment response efforts have led to significant housing placements and declining counts.



Homeless Count by Year

2016: 161
2017: 178
2018: 155
2019: 154
2020: 239
2021: 157
2022: 81
2023: 71
2024: 69
2025: 46
2026: 44



Housing placements:

2021: 22
2022: 67
2023: 51
2024: 72
2025: 46

The City also cleared 44 encampments in both 2024 and 2025, providing advance notice, outreach services, and environmental cleanup.

[Learn More](#)



SHERIFF'S CRIME AND SAFETY UPDATE – JANUARY 26 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies reported recent public safety activity in Malibu, including traffic enforcement, arrests, and updates on the School Resource Deputy program.

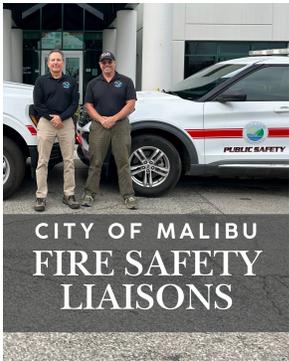
Sgt. Chris Soderlund reported a hit-and-run collision on January 15 at approximately 4:30 PM at Pacific Coast Highway and Cross Creek Road. The suspect's vehicle struck multiple cars and fled but was quickly located by deputies. The 22-year-old driver registered nearly twice the legal blood alcohol limit, had open alcohol containers in the vehicle, and was driving on a license suspended for a prior DUI. The driver was arrested for DUI and driving on a suspended license.

On January 13 at approximately 8:00 AM, deputies stopped a vehicle traveling 56 mph in a 25 mph zone on PCH. The driver could not provide proof of ownership, and the vehicle was confirmed stolen. The suspect was arrested and found in

possession of a stolen credit card, demonstrating how traffic enforcement can uncover more serious crimes.

School Resource Deputy Carlos Vendell provided an update on the program serving Malibu schools. He assisted a family affected by domestic violence following an off-campus incident, arrested the suspect, and coordinated with school staff and county agencies to secure emergency shelter and support services after the family lost their home in a fire. He also helped the family obtain a restraining order. Deputy Vendell additionally addressed coyote safety concerns at Malibu Elementary School by coordinating with appropriate agencies and advising school staff. He highlighted strong working relationships with students, parents, and staff, with ongoing engagement on safety and parking issues across campuses.

[Watch the Video](#)



WITH THE RAIN BEHIND US, NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN FOR LONG-TERM WILDFIRE SAFETY – BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

With the rain behind us, now is a great time to start making long-term wildfire safety plans. The City of Malibu’s Fire Safety Liaisons can help interested Malibu neighborhoods pursue Firewise USA recognition, a free and voluntary program that helps neighbors work together to reduce wildfire risk and build resilience. To date, they have assisted 13 neighborhoods becoming Firewise Communities and seven more are in the works.

Firewise provides a clear framework for organizing, planning, and taking action. Neighborhoods, HOAs, POAs, condo complexes, and mobile home parks with 8 to 2,500 homes are eligible. In addition to the City’s Home Wildfire Hardening efforts, Firewise USA recognition is one factor insurance companies must consider for discounts under California’s “Safer from Wildfires” regulations.

As CAL FIRE–designated Regional Coordinators, the City’s Fire Safety Liaisons can guide neighborhoods through the entire application process. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

For more information or to schedule a neighborhood meeting, email Fire Safety Liaison Bradley Yocum at BYocum@MalibuCity.org.



ANNUAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) CITY STAFF TRAINING

On January 21, the Public Safety Department hosted the annual mandatory Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Training for all City staff. The EOC is the central hub where the City coordinates with the LA County Fire and Sheriff’s Departments and other partner agencies on the planning, response, and communications to the public during a disaster, such as a wildfire or earthquake. Every year, the training focuses on implementing new procedures, protocols and efficiencies to improve emergency planning and response, based on lessons

learned from recent incidents, in this case the Franklin and Palisades Fires.



“DARE TO PREPARE” TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WORKSHOP – FEB. 9

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for American teenagers, with the first 18 months of driving representing the highest risk period. Malibu teens are invited to the "Dare to Prepare" teen driver safety workshop Monday, February 9, 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM at Malibu Middle School. The free two-hour workshop, in partnership with AAA, the Emily Shane Foundation and Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE), teaches parents how to structure supervised practice, select safe vehicles, and navigate California's Graduated Driver Licensing system.

[Register Now](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICES



RED CROSS LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION CLASS

Deadline to Register, Friday, January 30
Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Malibu Community Pool
\$240

Join the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course. Coursework is a hybrid format of online coursework and in-water skill demonstrations. Ages 16+.

[Register](#)



HEART HEALTH LECTURE AND BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Tuesday, February 10
9:00 – 10:00 AM
Malibu City Hall, Senior Center
Complimentary

Join an educational workshop on heart health, plus get a free blood pressure screening, presented by Malibu Urgent Care. Refreshments will be provided, and an RSVP is required by calling (310) 456-2489, ext. 357.



NATURE WALK AND STORY TIME

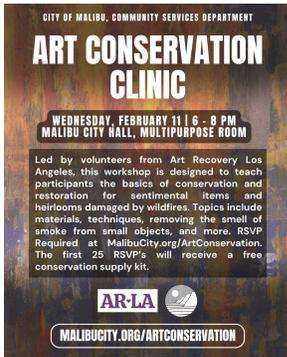
Wednesday, February 11

10:30 AM

Meet at the Malibu Library, Tour Legacy Park
Complimentary

City naturalists will guide caretakers and children under 5 years old through Legacy Park. Explore and enjoy the park's native landscape, habitats, and artwork. The walk will conclude with a story read by a librarian. An adult must accompany children. Pre-registration is required.

[Register Now](#)



ART CONSERVATION CLINIC

Wednesday, February 11

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Malibu City Hall, Multipurpose Room
Complimentary

Led by volunteers from Art Recovery Los Angeles, including curators from the Autry and Getty museums, this workshop teaches participants the basics of conserving and restoring sentimental items and heirlooms damaged by wildfires. Topics include materials, techniques for removing smoke odors from small objects, and more.

[Register Now](#)



PARK TALES – STORYTIME IN THE PARK “LOVE BUGS”

Thursday, February 12

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Malibu Bluffs Park, Michael Landon Center
Complimentary

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

Regular Planning Commission Meeting – City Hall, 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 4

Regular Safety Commission Regular Meeting – City Hall, 5:00 PM

FEBRUARY 9

FEBRUARY 10

Environmental Subcommittee Meeting – City Hall, 3:00 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

67

Under Planning Review

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

153

Total Planning Approved

Total Applications approved by Planning

Building Phase

47

Building Plan Check - Submitted

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

24

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

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