

CITY OF MALIBU

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



January 16, 2026



Greetings Malibu,

I hope you enjoyed a safe and happy holiday with rest and recovery and time with family and friends. As we begin the new year, I want to thank our community for continuing to show care, resilience, and connection during this incredibly challenging time as we all work together to rebuild and recover.

I am honored to serve as your Interim City Manager until our recently appointed City Manager, Joe Irvin, begins his role on March 2. We are grateful to have survived through the major rain events over the holidays without any incidents or damages, and that we received enough rain to minimize wildfire danger during peak fire season. In

fact, the entire state of California is out of the drought.

Last week, our community paused to mark one year since the devastating Palisades Fire with events at City Hall and Pepperdine honoring the homes and lives we lost, supporting those still rebuilding, and recognizing the strength that has carried Malibu through the worst disaster in the City's history.

We are also focused on progress, with the ribbon cutting of the PCH Signal Synchronization Project, the City's most significant project ever to address safety on PCH.

We continue to prepare for future disasters, and I encourage you to take the Evacuation Plan Survey to give community input on the City's emergency planning and response.

Our Community Development Department (CDD) continues to work closely with homeowners, Rebuild Zone Captains, and building professionals on the fire rebuild, with multiple meetings aimed at improving the rebuild process and addressing issues for individual homeowners. CDD also has updates and meetings on school campus improvements, housing policy updates, and improvements to the review process for commercial tenant improvement projects.

The City continues its work to empower residents to help protect the environment, with one of the six, Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste drop off events the City holds every year.

The Community Services Department continues to offer a wide range of excellent arts, cultural, educational, and recreational programs for all ages including the Malibu Library Speaker Series, the student art exhibition opening reception, Poet Laureate events, and dog obedience classes.

As always, City staff remains deeply committed to serving our community's public safety, fire rebuild and recovery, and quality of life. We are grateful for our partnerships with regional agencies and, most importantly, with our residents.

I look forward to the year ahead as we continue working together to support a safe, resilient, and connected Malibu.

With gratitude,

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

CITY COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT



MALIBU MARKS ONE YEAR SINCE THE PALISADES FIRE

Palisades Fire Remembrance: Finding Strength in Community, January 7 at City Hall

On Wednesday, January 7, the City of Malibu held *Palisades Fire Remembrance: Finding Strength in Community* at City Hall, marking one year since the devastating Palisades Fire. The event honored the lives lost, the families displaced, the neighborhoods destroyed, and the resilience that emerged in the aftermath of Malibu's worst disaster.

The Palisades Fire destroyed more than 700 structures, claimed precious lives, displaced families, and left entire neighborhoods in ruins. It was part of a historic regional disaster that impacted surrounding communities as well, and the City stood in solidarity with all those affected. Despite the profound loss, the remembrance reflected Malibu's strength, unity, and commitment to healing together.

Community members gathered to reflect, connect, and support one another during a program that included a moment of silence, a song performed by the Senior Center Choir, a poem written and recited by Malibu's Poet Laureate Charlotte Ward, soothing music, food, a crocheted art tribute by Councilmember Haylynn Conrad a memorial space with an art tribute. Speakers include Mayor Marianne Riggins, Senator Ben Allen, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, LA County Sheriff Robert Luna, and LA County Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith.

[Watch the Palisades Fire One Year Remembrance video.](#)

[Watch the entire remembrance event at City Hall.](#)

Supervisor Horvath's Community Rising Picnic, January 10 at Pepperdine University



LA Supervisor Lindsey Horvath and Pepperdine University hosted the *Community Rising Picnic* on Saturday, January 10 at Pepperdine in Malibu to mark one year since the devastating Palisades Fire. Speakers included Supervisor Horvath, LA County Sheriff Robert Luna, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone, and Mayor Marianne Riggins, and City staff hosted a table with fire rebuild information table. The event revolved around community healing with many wellness activities and opportunities for community members to connect with each other, reminisce, and support each other. There were therapy dogs and miniature horses, a memorial for those who passed away in the fire, a tree giveaway, live music, interactive activities for children, a sound bath, and an interactive community mural that is now on display in City Hall. Free food was offered from local restaurants Howdy's, Duke's Malibu, Scotts Malibu Kitchen, and PitaBu, funded by World Central Kitchen.



MALIBU'S PCH SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROJECT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD – PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING FEBRUARY 4

The City's Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Signal Synchronization 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 project, 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 to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, lower speeds and improve safety. It also includes video monitoring, sensors, and intersection improvements. Community members are invited to attend the City's ribbon cutting and press conference to celebrate completion of the project on February 4 at 10:00 AM at PCH and Webb Way.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



MALIBU MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

On Tuesday, January 20, the Planning Commission will consider a Coastal Development Permit for the next phase of development for the Malibu Middle and High School Campus Specific Plan. The proposal is focused on 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 would include the demolition of several portable buildings.

[See Details](#)



ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT ORDINANCE UPDATE

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 6:30 PM at City Hall and remotely via Zoom to consider a Zoning Text Amendment to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. The updates include recommendations from the California Department of Housing and Community Development and recent state ADU/JADU laws that have taken effect recently or will take effect in 2026.

For more information, see the [staff report](#). For meeting participation instructions, see the [agenda](#).



STREAMLINED PLAN REVIEW PROCESS FOR COMMERCIAL TENANT IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Malibu Community Development Department is pleased to announce the launch of a streamlined plan review process for qualifying Commercial Tenant Improvement projects. This initiative reflects the City's ongoing commitment to improving efficiency and enhancing customer service within the development review process. The streamlined program allows eligible tenant improvement projects to be reviewed over the counter with Planning and Building Safety staff. Eligible projects include interior-only improvements for B and M occupancies under 3,000 square feet with fewer than 50 occupants. Applicants who meet the criteria may submit an application and the required documents through the Portal, after which staff will schedule an appointment to conduct the over-the-counter review.

For more information or assistance, please call the Community Development Department at 310-456-2489.



ADVANCING FIRE REBUILDS: GEOTECHNICAL WORKSHOP

The Community Development Department hosted a Geotechnical Fire Rebuild Workshop on January 14 with City Council leadership, City staff, and the City's geotechnical peer review consultants to improve the fire rebuild process. Mayor Marianne Riggins and Councilmember Haylynn Conrad joined staff, geologists, and engineers for the discussion.

The workshop focused on incorporating design professional feedback, streamlining review timelines, and clarifying rebuild requirements related to liquefaction, slope stability, fault hazards, and landslide risks, particularly in geologically complex areas such as Big Rock Mesa and the coastline. City staff and consultants

reaffirmed their commitment to transparency, efficiency, and public safety, with additional refinements and resources underway. Updates to [Malibu's Fire Rebuild Geotechnical Guidelines](#) are designed to support safe rebuilding while minimizing delays.

[Watch the Meeting](#)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT. HOLDS FIRST FIRE REBUILD ZONE CAPTAIN MEETING OF THE YEAR

Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy and Assistant Director Tyler Eaton met with Zone Captains for the first Zone Captain Meeting of the year on January 14, continuing the productive and collaborative dialogue established in 2025. Staff shared updates on rebuild projects in the Rebuild Center pipeline, reviewed key takeaways from the recent Geotechnical Workshop, highlighted upcoming 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.

[Look up your Rebuild Zone Captain](#)

For more information and resources, visit maliburebuilds.org or reach out to us at maliburecovers@malibucity.org or call 310-456-2489, ext. 400.



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR EMERGENCY RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

Applications are due by Friday, January 23 for the LA County Emergency Rent Relief Program, administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA). The program provides financial assistance to qualifying tenants, displaced residents, and small property owners impacted by recent emergencies, including wildfires. Priority will be given to property owners with household incomes at or below 80% of the Los Angeles County Area Median Income. Grants may cover up to six months of rent debt, with a maximum award of \$15,000 per rental unit.

[Info & Signup](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL



THANK YOU MALIBU FOR GOING GREEN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The City's annual Christmas Tree Recycling event ran from December 26, 2025, through January 11, 2026. Thank you to our community for recycling your Christmas trees and helping keep green waste out of the landfill!



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

Malibu, you can drop off your household hazardous and electronic waste to be safely and properly disposed of at the City's upcoming free Household Hazardous and E-Waste (HHW/E-Waste) Collection Event on Saturday, February 21, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the upper parking lot at City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road).

Accepted items include water-based paint, used motor oil, anti-freeze, automotive and household batteries, unbroken compact fluorescent bulbs, and electronics. All containers must be clearly labeled, and the maximum amount of paint or motor oil accepted per trip is 15 gallons or 125 pounds. The City offers HHW/E-Waste pickup events every 3rd Saturday in February, April, June, August, and October.

[See Details](#)



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, 2026, at 3:00 PM in the Council Theater.

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.

To learn more about the City's environmental programs, visit malibucity.org/267/Environmental-Programs.

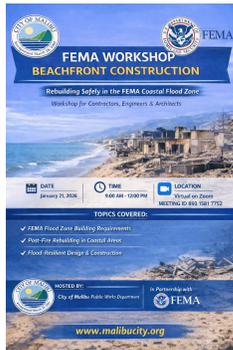
PUBLIC WORKS



STORM EVENTS DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 5

We are pleased to report that no major incidents occurred, and Malibu experienced no serious storm-related damage during multiple heavy rain events over the holidays.

The City's Public Works Department, Public Safety Department and City Manager's Office actively monitored storm conditions and supported safe city operations throughout, in close coordination with Caltrans, and LA County Public Works, Sheriff's, and Fire Departments. Special attention was given to areas near the Palisades Fire burn scar, which remains vulnerable to flash flooding and debris flows during heavy storms. Public Works staff maintained enhanced coordination and situational awareness throughout the event, with maintenance crews operating 24/7 during peak storm periods to respond quickly to any hazards. Emergency operations kept the community informed with weather, traffic and emergency alerts, and messaging on social media and the City website. City crews cleared roadways and drainage to keep roads open and safe.



FEMA WORKSHOP BEACHFRONT CONSTRUCTION

The City of Malibu and FEMA will be hosting a virtual workshop on beachfront construction following the Palisades Fire on Wednesday, January 21, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

[CLICK HERE](#) to join the Zoom meeting, ID: 893 1581 7752.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HOMELESS OUTREACH UPDATE



Community members can register now to volunteer for the Los Angeles Homeless Authority's (LAHSA) 2026 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count taking place in Malibu on Thursday, January 22. Every year, thousands of volunteers help conduct the Homeless Count, an annual census of people experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County to inform homelessness policy decisions and better direct resources to be able to address the homelessness crisis.

For further questions, contact Senior Management Analyst Luis Flores at 310-456-2489, ext.236 or lflores@malibucity.org.

[Info & Sign Up](#)



NEW INTERACTIVE STORYMAP HIGHLIGHTS WILDFIRE FUEL REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE EFFORTS IN MALIBU AND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

The Los Angeles County Fire Department's Fuels Treatment Monitoring Program has launched a new interactive storymap highlighting eleven fuels treatment projects across Los Angeles County, including Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains. The storymap features monitoring protocols, site maps, and before-and-after photos.

The program reflects a shift from seasonal fuel reduction to long-term ecosystem restoration and wildfire resilience, showcasing Malibu's collaboration with LACoFD and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. In September 2025, partners launched science-based wildfire prevention efforts in Topanga Canyon and Upper Las Virgenes Canyon, supported by \$3.2 million in state bond funding to treat about 675 acres.

Treatments include mechanical thinning, prescribed burns, fuel breaks, and targeted grazing, with monitoring to protect environmental and cultural resources. While residents must still maintain defensible space, these projects provide added safety buffers for communities.

[CLICK HERE](#) to explore project maps, photos, and monitoring data on the storymap.



SHERIFF'S DEPT. CRIME & SAFETY UPDATE TO CITY COUNCIL

Sergeant Chris Soderlund, the City's liaison to the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (LASD), presented a crime, traffic, and safety update to the City Council at the January 12 meeting. He reported that in December there were 16 crimes committed, bringing the total for 2025 to 261. This compared to 440 in 2024, a 40.7% decrease. Sgt. Soderlund noted that while the Palisades Fire played a role, Malibu has also seen an average 35% reduction in serious crime over the past five years, showing a continued downward trend.

Traffic safety also improved significantly in 2025. There were 176 total traffic collisions, down from 327 the year before, a 46% decrease. Injury collisions dropped from 100 to 59, and DUI-related collisions declined from 11 to three. Sgt. Soderlund said slower speeds, including those through construction zones, have helped reduce collisions and injuries.

For 2026, the Sheriff's Department will continue focusing on safety on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Fortunately, there were zero fatal collisions on PCH in 2025, and deputies will continue additional traffic patrols, DUI checkpoints, and will be working with the City's automated speed citation camera system. LASD will also focus on public safety during rebuilding,

encouraging residents to use the [LASD home security camera registry](#) program to help protect properties and assist with investigations.

[Watch the update](#)

[See monthly LASD Crime & Traffic Reports](#)



EVACUATION PLAN UPDATE SURVEY EXTENDED TO JANUARY 30

The deadline to participate in the City’s Evacuation Plan Update has been extended to January 30. Share your input to help shape Malibu’s Evacuation Plan. Whether you live, work, or visit Malibu, your feedback is essential to strengthening evacuation planning, routes, alerts, and transportation options, which is crucial for the community’s safety, and for the City’s emergency preparedness and response. The survey is short, confidential, and helps ensure the updated plan reflects real community needs.

[Take the Survey](#)



PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY SAFETY LOCAL EMERGENCY EXTENDED

At its January 12 meeting, the City Council extended the local emergency declaration related to ongoing reckless and illegal driving on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). The Council reaffirmed concerns about dangerous driving behavior and emphasized the need for continued coordination with Caltrans, CHP, LASD, and regional partners to improve safety along Malibu’s main transportation corridor. Extending the emergency declaration allows the City to maintain flexibility in pursuing enforcement strategies, safety improvements, and traffic calming measures. The Council reiterated that protecting residents, visitors, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists remains a top priority as the City advances long-term solutions for PCH safety.

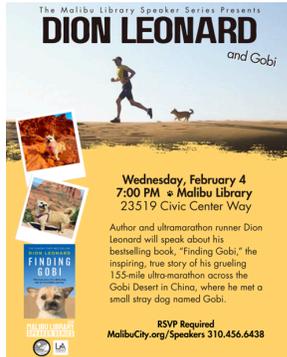


LOCAL EMERGENCIES EXTENDED FOR FRANKLIN AND PALISADES FIRES

The City Council adopted a resolution extending the local emergency declarations related to both the Franklin Fire and the Palisades Fire. Council recognized that ongoing recovery, mitigation, and rebuilding efforts remain necessary following the impacts of these significant fire events. Extending the emergency declarations allows the City to continue coordinating with state and federal agencies, pursue recovery funding opportunities, and support affected residents. Council reaffirmed its commitment to wildfire resilience, long-term recovery, and ensuring that

resources remain available to address continued challenges stemming from these fires.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



MALIBU LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES DION LEONARD 2/04

Author and ultramarathon runner Dion Leonard will speak about his bestselling book, "Finding Gobi," the true story of his 155-mile ultra-marathon across the Gobi Desert in China and his unexpected bond with a small stray dog named Gobi, who ran alongside him to the finish. When Gobi went missing after the race, a nationwide search began to reunite them.

At this special event, Dion will share their unforgettable journey, the effort to bring Gobi home, and the powerful bond they share. This inspiring story of determination, love, and loyalty is perfect for animal lovers and adventure enthusiasts of all ages.

[Info & RSVP](#)



SURFER MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS MALIBU'S INAUGURAL SURF LEGEND AWARD HONORING RANDY "CROWDADDY" MIOD

California "Surfer Magazine" recently featured the City of Malibu's first-ever Surf Legend Award, bringing national attention to the City's tribute to the late Randall "Crowdaddy" Miod and Malibu's deep-rooted surf culture. The award was presented at the December 8, 2025 City Council meeting, marking a meaningful milestone for Malibu's surfing community. [Read the article.](#)

Established by City Council in October 2025 following a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Malibu Surf Legend Award honors individuals who exemplify excellence in surfing, contribute to local surf culture, and have a strong connection to Malibu. Randall Miod was selected as the inaugural honoree for the authenticity, generosity, and joy he brought to Surfrider Beach and beyond.

Born in 1969, Randall lived in Malibu for more than 30 years after moving from the San Fernando Valley. A daily presence at Surfrider, he was known for encouraging others and building community, while also contributing to Malibu's creative spirit through work in restaurants, music, photography, and the arts.

Randall tragically lost his life in the Palisades Fire on January 7, 2025. His parents joined close friend Chris Wizner, who proposed Randall receive the award, at the December 8, 2025 presentation and expressed gratitude to the City and surf community for honoring his life and legacy.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY FACILITY HOURS

City Hall, the Rebuild Center, the Malibu Senior Center and the Community Swimming Pool at Malibu High School will be closed on Monday, January 19. City Parks will be open for regular hours, 8:00 AM to sunset. For more information or to learn about park amenities, visit the [Facilities and Parks webpage](#).



POETRY WRITING STUDIOS VIBRANT CYCLES

Saturday, January 17, 11:00 AM

**Malibu Library
Complimentary**

Join this generative poetry writing studio where participants cycle through each other's energies, read and discuss poems to stimulate imagination, and write original poems from prompts or personal impetus. This month's featured poet is former Malibu Poet Laureate Ricardo Means Ybarra, who will speak of the theme of "Wit & Humor." RSVPs are not required.

[More Info](#)



DOG OBEDIENCE WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 17, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Malibu Bluffs Park
Complimentary**

Discover a range of engaging tricks and exercises that delight both dogs and their owners. Using positive reinforcement, learn to strengthen communication, build confidence, and learn new skills together. Instructed by My Best Friend Obedience.

[Info & Sign Up](#)



STUDENT ART EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 23, 4:30 PM

**Malibu City Hall
Complimentary**

The 2026 Student Art Exhibition: "Next Gen Perspectives" features original artwork in various mediums by Malibu's talented student artists in grades TK to 12. The theme showcases the students' point of view, encompassing joy, sadness, and discovery, as well as reflections on the past and hope for the future. The [Opening Reception](#) will include light refreshments and student recognitions. The exhibit will be on display at the Malibu City Gallery at City Hall from January 23 to March 6. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

JANUARY 20

Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting – City Hall, 6:30 PM

JANUARY 20

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

JANUARY 26

Regular City Council Meeting – City Hall, 6:30 PM

JANUARY 27

Malibu Arts Commission Regular Meeting – City Hall, 9:30 AM

JANUARY 28

Public Works Commission Meeting – City Hall, 3:30 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



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



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