CITY OF MALIBU

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

March 12, 2026



Greetings Malibu,

It is an honor to write my first message to the Malibu community as your City Manager. I am excited to begin this chapter working with the City Council, our outstanding staff, and the residents who make Malibu so special.

I want to thank Interim City Manager and Public Works Director Rob DuBoux for his steady leadership during the transition, as well as department heads and the City Manager's Office for their support. I also appreciate the City Council's warm welcome, knowledge, and vision for Malibu's future.

Looking ahead, I am excited about advancing capital improvement projects, preparing for the upcoming budget season, and continuing the ongoing fire rebuild and recovery efforts. It is inspiring to see more families receiving permits and moving forward with rebuilding, reflecting the Council's commitment to our community's recovery.

Some highlights of this week's newsletter include the City Council's review of the updated General Plan Safety Element, and improvements to Temporary Use and Sign Permits to support local businesses recovering from the fire and PCH closure.

Malibu continues to lead in clean energy participation through the Clean Power Alliance – 96.3% of active customers in Malibu are on 100% Green Power. Residents can join free garden design classes with West Basin Municipal Water District. Our community programs offer arts, culture, and recreation for all ages, including new public telescopes at Malibu Bluffs Park, Chumash Day Powwow March 28 and 29, poetry workshops, birding and photography classes, nighttime nature hikes, and more.

My family and I are thrilled to now call Malibu home. We have felt the warmth and friendliness of our neighbors around town at local trails, events, restaurants and businesses. I invite everyone in the community to connect with me - I'd be happy to attend your community and neighborhood meetings. Please call City Hall at 310-456-2489 to schedule.

I look forward to working together to serve Malibu and its future.

Gratefully,

Joe Irvin
City Manager

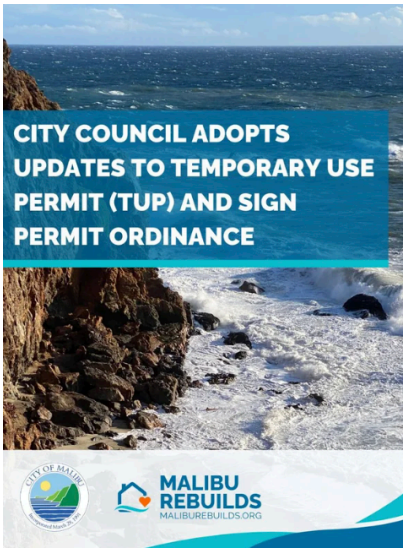
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



General Plan Safety Element

On Monday, April 13 the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed **Safety Element Update** and the Planning Commission's recommendation made on Monday, March 2. The City is updating the Safety Element of its General Plan in accordance with California Government Code Section 65302(g). 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, including potential discounts.

Learn More



Temporary Use Permit and Sign Permit Ordinance Update

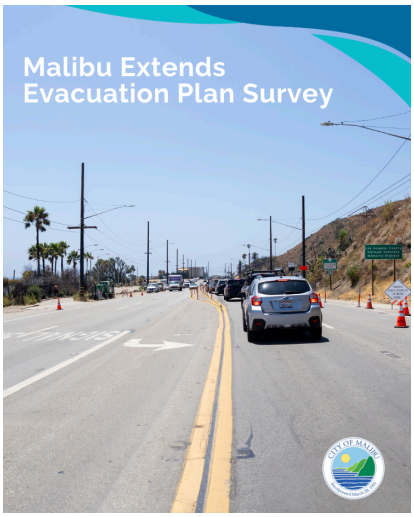
On Monday, March 16, the Planning Commission will consider amendments to Title 17 (Zoning) of the Malibu Municipal Code, aimed at supporting local businesses impacted by the 2025 Palisades Fire. The proposed updates focus on providing greater flexibility for **Temporary Use Permits and Sign Permits**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

View Meeting Agenda

Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance Update

On Monday, March 23, the City Council will review a proposed ordinance to consolidate and update 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



Malibu Extends the Mass Evacuation Plan Survey

The City of Malibu invites all residents, workers, and visitors to participate in a brief community survey to help strengthen the City's Mass Evacuation Plan. Your feedback is essential in improving evacuation routes, alerts and notifications, transportation options, and overall community readiness. All responses are confidential.

Survey

Learn More



CBS News Feature: Navigating the Malibu Rebuild Process

CBS News Los Angeles joined Community Planning Director Yolanda Bundy and City leaders for a ride-along through our fire-impacted neighborhoods. The segment explores the unique challenges of rebuilding in Malibu and highlights the steps the City is taking to streamline the process for residents.

Rebuilding coastal homes safely requires strict building codes and advanced engineering, such as deep concrete foundations. In addition to these safety upgrades, securing project funding and navigating difficult terrain to deliver construction materials often extend the timeline.

To help expedite recovery and cut red tape, the City has successfully negotiated with the state to streamline approvals for certain shoreline builds, saving homeowners years of construction time while ensuring these homes remain resilient for generations.

Watch the Video

ENVIRONMENTAL



Free Garden Design Class on March 26 – RSVP Your Spot Today

Learn how to create a climate-resilient, locally adapted garden! Malibu's Environmental Programs Team is hosting a FREE Garden Design Class on Thursday, March 26, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM at Malibu City Hall, in partnership with **West Basin Municipal Water District.** Light refreshments will be provided as supplies last. Space is limited to 40 participants.

RSVP Today



Malibu Clean Energy Update

Malibu continues to be a key clean energy leader. With 94.3% overall participation and 96.3% of active customers on 100% Green Power, our community is ahead of the **Clean Power Alliance (CPA)** average of 92.8%. Residential participation is 94.5% and non-residential is 93.4%. Since 2018, CPA members have avoided 16.998 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions — equivalent to planting and growing 127 million trees for 10 years.

Learn More

PUBLIC WORKS







Upper Busch Drive and Bonsall Drive Speed Humps

The Public Works Department maintenance crew recently completed the installation of new rubberized speed humps along upper Busch Drive and Bonsall Drive**.** Following resident requests and City Council direction in November 2024, staff evaluated the traffic and verified that over 60% of adjacent property owners supported the measure, meeting our City's Speed Hump Policy.

Staff also conducted traffic evaluations and determined that speed humps would be a safe and effective measure to reduce vehicle speeds in these residential areas.

To improve roadway safety while minimizing disruptions, the City installed eco-friendly speed humps rather than traditional asphalt. These modular devices are constructed of recycled materials and include high-visibility markings that comply with California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD) standards.

Compared to traditional asphalt speed humps, rubberized units provide several advantages:

- Faster installation with minimal roadway disruption
- Reduced equipment and labor requirements
- Lower overall cost (approximately 25-40% less than asphalt installations)
- Long service life with minimal maintenance
- Ability to remove or modify installations if conditions change

The installation supports the City’s ongoing efforts to address neighborhood traffic concerns and enhance safety on residential streets. Speed humps are a widely accepted traffic calming device intended to reduce vehicle speeds and improve conditions for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists**.**

Public Works will continue monitoring traffic conditions along both corridors to evaluate the effectiveness of the improvements and respond to any community feedback.

PUBLIC SAFETY

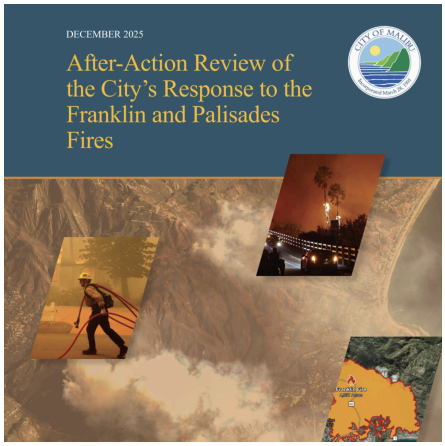


Fire Safety Liaisons Fire Conditions Update

We have had several days of moderately strong Santa Ana winds and warm weather, with a strong heatwave expected through the weekend. Fortunately, we will not see a high wildfire risk. Thanks to heavy rains over the winter, the Santa Monica Mountains have a large amount of new vegetation and very high Live Fuel Moisture levels, so any potential fires are not likely to grow large and spread fast. While this may delay the fire season, it will also become more fuel later in the year.

That's why now is a perfect time to get your free **Home Wildfire Assessment** from the City's Fire Safety Liaisons and start working on projects to make your home and property more resilient to wildfire.

Get Info & Schedule a Home Wildfire Assessment



City Council Review of Palisades and Franklin Fires After-Action Review Rescheduled to the March 23 City Council Meeting

The City Council review of Palisades and Franklin Fires **After-Action Review** that was scheduled for the Monday, March 9 City Council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, March 23.

The City has completed an independent After-Action Review examining emergency operations during the 2024 Franklin Fire and the 2025 Palisades Fire. 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.

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 23 City Council meeting, provide public comment, and ask questions. The meeting will also be **livestreamed on YouTube** for those unable to attend in person.

Read the Report

Read the Q&A

COMMUNITY SERVICES





City Council Approves Design of Snack Shack at Malibu Bluffs Park

Proposed designs for the new permanent Snack Shack at Malibu Bluffs Park were presented at the March 9 City Council meeting, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of community members and young Little League players eager to show their support. The Snack Shack has been a beloved community gathering place for decades. The new facility will replace the aging and deteriorating Snack Shack. Key features include a 374 sq. ft. kitchen, four ADA-compliant restrooms, storage for the City and Little League, and fire-resistant construction designed to complement the adjacent Skate Park. The budget was reduced from $5 million to $3.7 million, with construction targeted for October–November 2027. The Council approved the preliminary design and directed staff to return with a funding plan, including exploration of naming rights, grants, and permitting efficiencies. Malibu is so excited to see this awesome community resource move forward! Thank you to all of the Little League community members and Parks and Recreation Commission who have given their input and passion on this project!

Watch the Presentation





New Public Telescopes Installed at Malibu Bluffs Park

The Community Services Department has installed three new public telescopes at the whale watching location, next to the Whale Statue at Malibu Bluffs Park. Two of the telescopes have step-ups for kids, and one is wheelchair accessible. They are a significant technology upgrade from the aging telescopes that were breaking down. They offer a great tool for kids and adults to whale watch or observe the coastline and our beautiful views, for educational purposes or just enjoyment of our beautiful coastline.



Trancas Canyon Park Multipurpose Field Closed for Maintenance

The Multipurse Field at Trancas Canyon Park will be closed from Monday, March 30 to Monday, May 11 for annual rest and renovations to ensure the field remains safe and playable throughout the year. Playing fields at Malibu Bluffs Park will remain open.

Learn More



Poetry Programs: Caffeinated Verse and Vibrant Cycles

Caffeinated Verse: Saturday, March 14
Vibrant Cycles: Saturday, March 21
11:00 AM
Malibu Library
Complimentary

Join Malibu Poet Laureate Charlotte Ward at these complimentary monthly poetry programs. RSVP is not required.

Learn More



Introduction To Birding

Sunday, March 15
10:00 AM
Legacy Park
Complimentary

This beginner-friendly class introduces the basics of birding, including how to observe and identify common birds by sight and sound. Participants will learn where to find birds, use simple tools, and practice ethical birding while building confidence and appreciation for the natural world. Participants will receive a complimentary set of binoculars as well as a local bird identification guide. Instructed by a City naturalist. Ages 16 +.

Register Here

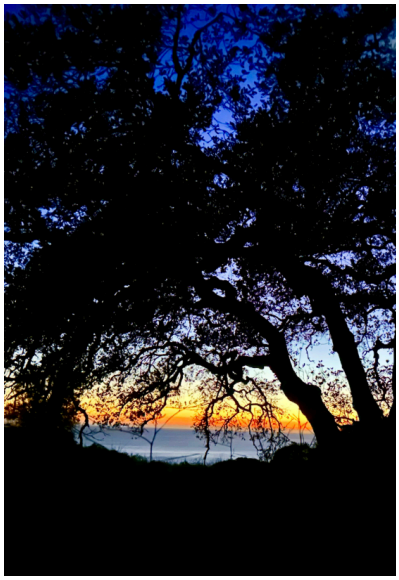


Legacy Park Bird Photography

Thursday, March 19
10:00 AM
Legacy Park
Complimentary

Learn beginner photography concepts and practices, including the use of equipment, aesthetic principles, composition, light, color, and texture. The instructor will focus on capturing the beauty of nature with a guided wilderness hike through Malibu Bluffs Park. Instructed by Michael Manfredo. Ages 16 +.

Register Here

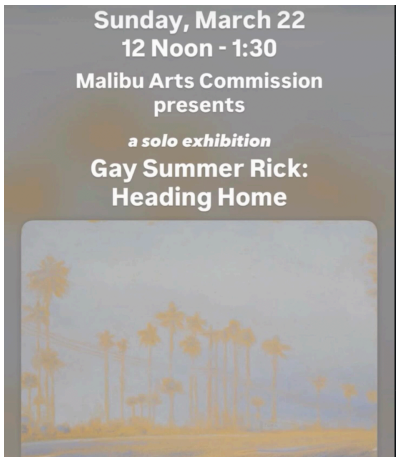


Charmlee Night Hike

Friday, March 20
6:00 PM
Charmlee Wilderness Park
Complimentary

Discover Charmlee Wilderness Park at sunset and experience the park's natural surroundings. The hike will be on uneven terrain for 90 minutes. Hiking boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Register Here

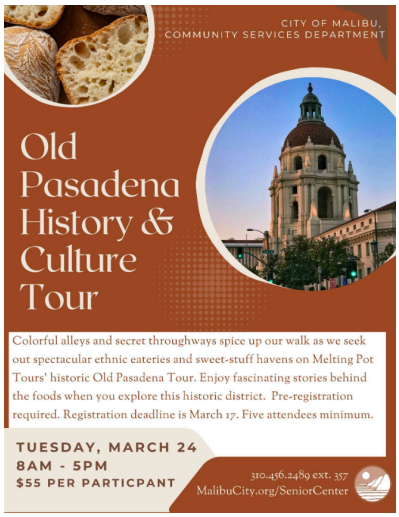


Heading Home Art Exhibition Opening Reception

Saturday, March 22
12:00 PM
Malibu City Gallery
Complimentary

Artwork created by local artist Gay Summer Rick will be on display at the Malibu City Gallery at Malibu City Hall from Monday, March 23 to Friday, May 1. The Opening Reception of her show, *Heading Home*, will be on Sunday, March 22 and will include live music, refreshments, and an artist introduction. An RSVP is not required.

Learn More



Senior Excursion, Old Pasadena History and Food Tour

Thursday, March 24
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
$55 per person

Enjoy ethnic eateries and sweet treats in historic Old Town Pasadena. The guided tour includes stories behind the foods when you explore this historic district. RSVP is required. For details, contact (310) 456-2489, ext. 357.

Register Here

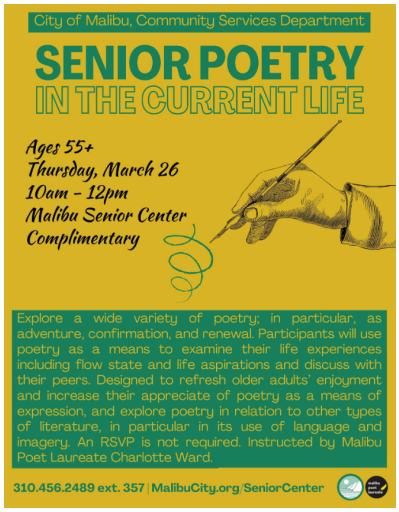


Afterschool Programs - Pokemon Art Workshops

Tuesday, March 24, at Malibu Elementary School
Wednesday, March 25, at Webster Elementary School
3:00 – 4:30 PM
$25 or Complimentary for Boys & Girls Club of Malibu Members

Learn techniques to create Pokémon characters and explore various art media, including watercolor, modeling clay, and pastels.

Register Here



Senior Poetry: In the Current Life

Thursday, March 26
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Malibu City Hall, Senior Center
Complimentary

Explore poetry and literature as forms of expression, focusing on how language and imagery convey meaning. RSVP is not required.

Learn More



25th Annual Chumash Day Native American Powwow and Intertribal Gathering

Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Malibu Bluffs Park
Free Parking and shuttles at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road
Complimentary Admission

A festive cultural celebration honoring Malibu's original residents, the Chumash Native Americans. The event includes Native American tribal ceremonies, dances, and special guest performances. Twenty Native American artisan vendors will have merchandise for sale, including jewelry, flutes, moccasins, beading accessories, leatherworks, pottery, dream catchers, and more. Food will be available for purchase. This free event is open to all.

Learn More

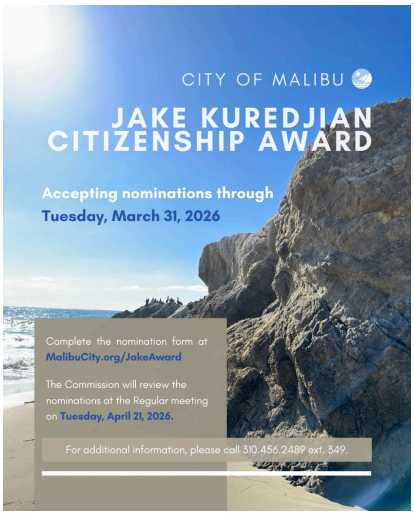


Youth Commission Applications for 2026-27 Appointment Year

Deadline to apply Tuesday, March 31

The **Harry Barovsky Memorial Youth Commission** are students in grades 7-12 who either reside in or attend school in Malibu. The Commission meets monthly, volunteers at community events, and makes recommendations to the City Council on programs and projects serving young people. The application period for the next school year closes on Tuesday, March 31.

Apply Here



2026 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award Nominations

Community members are encouraged to submit nominations for the 2026 Jake Kuredjian Citizenship Award by the deadline on Tuesday, March 31. The award is presented annually to recognize those outstanding individuals or groups who give their time and resources to enhance the quality of recreation programs within the Malibu community.

Submit a Nomination

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

MARCH 14

Caffeinated Verse – Malibu Library, 11:00 AM

MARCH 16

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

MARCH 18

Special City Council Meeting – Malibu City Hall, 2:00 PM

MARCH 25

25th Annual Chumash Day Native American Powwow and Intertribal Gathering – Malibu Bluffs Park, 10:00 AM

MALIBU REBUILDING UPDATES

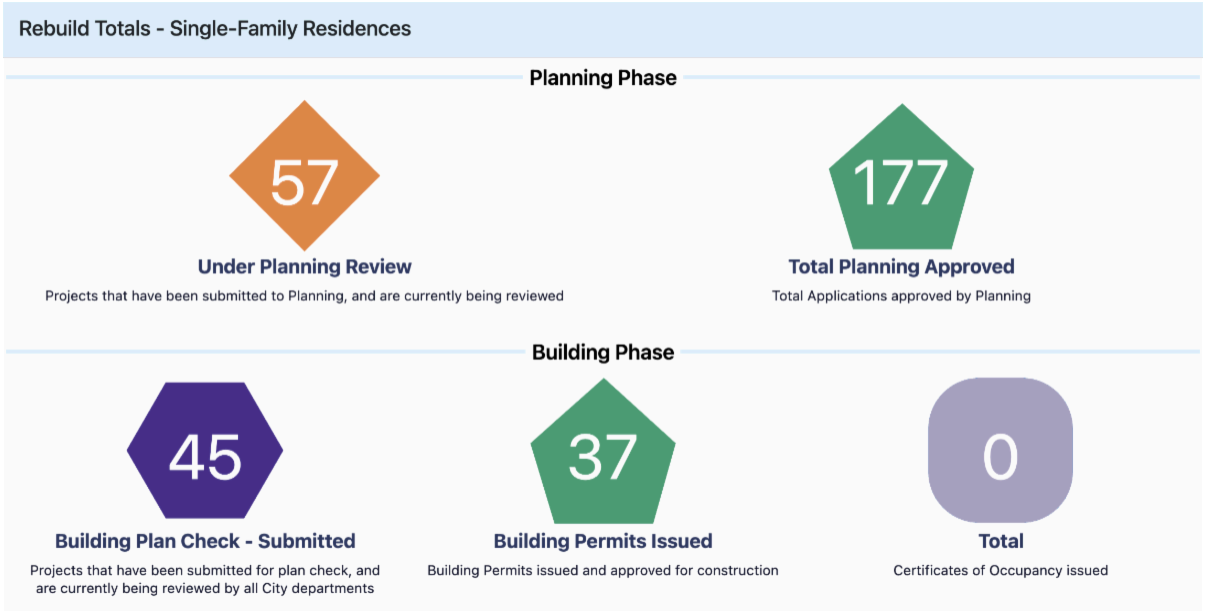
Sign up for the Newsletter | Previous Newsletter | Rebuild Website

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.



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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