CITY OF MALIBU

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

November 21, 2025



Greetings Malibu,

As we enter the holiday season, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude for the resilience and spirit of Malibu. Even while we work on recovering and rebuilding, we are celebrating a surge of new local businesses that are making Malibu more vibrant.

We are especially fortunate that the recent storms, while bringing several inches of much-needed rain, caused no serious incidents or damage. The rainfall significantly helped reduce the fire threat this season. Despite some evacuation warnings and orders, and minor flooding at City Hall, which required temporarily rescheduling or relocating some meetings and events, we weathered the storms safely.

The City is pleased to welcome Christopher J. Smith as Interim Assistant City Manager, bringing extensive experience in coastal city management, strategic planning, and public service innovation. Smith will oversee key departments, support major citywide initiatives, and serve as Acting City Manager when needed, leveraging his leadership background from Santa Monica and statewide policy work to strengthen Malibu's operations and recovery efforts.

Malibu is moving forward on school district separation, one of the City's top priorities, with the City and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District scheduling meetings in December to vote on key separation agreements that will ensure equitable and high-quality education for all students.

In public safety and emergency preparedness, we continue to offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings for residents, a key initiative to promote individual and neighborhood-level disaster preparedness.

The City staff continues to commit tremendous energy and resources to our fire rebuild and recovery, effort, and as of November 21, have issued more than 427 total permits, including 16 for single-family homes, thanks to the care, compassion and hard work of the City.
Our Community Development Department continues to meet regularly with the neighborhood Rebuild Zone Captains and local building professionals to ensure we are continuously getting feedback and identifying issues to improve the rebuild process.

City staff is working with SCE to accelerate underground electrical circuits in the Palisades Fire area, improve service delivery, reduce PSPS events, and provide more community benefits. The City also applied for a FEMA grant to fund undergrounding telecommunication lines, while a recent County motion aims to require telecom companies to coordinate with SCE—supporting Malibu's goal of removing overhead utilities.

The City has partnered with Frederick Fisher and Partners to create a Masterplan and Concept Design for a new recreation center at Heathercliff Community Land, funded in the FY 2025–26 budget. This step follows extensive community input prioritizing new sports fields and a multigenerational center with amenities like a pool, gym, and expanded library services.

Malibu's core value of environmental protection continues to shine, with workshops on a native plant giveaway last Wednesday, a rain barrel distribution Saturday, November 22, and water-smart landscaping, while the Community Services Department's outstanding programs offer countless sports, arts, education and wellness.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to thank every resident, business owner, and volunteer who contributes to Malibu's strong, caring community. May this season bring you joy, gratitude, and special time with loved ones.

With gratitude,

Ambassador Candace A. Bond (ret.)
Interim City Manager
CBond@MalibuCity.org

CITY COUNCIL AND MANGEMENT



CHRISTOPHER J. SMITH INTERIM ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

The City is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher J. Smith as Interim Assistant City Manager, bringing extensive experience in coastal city management, strategic planning, and public service innovation to the organization.

Christopher brings deep leadership experience, a collaborative approach, and a clear commitment to public service. His proven track record in effective city management and innovation will be a tremendous asset as Malibu continues the fire rebuild and recovery effort and strengthens its operations and deliver exceptional services to our community.

Smith joins Malibu following a distinguished 14-year career with the City of Santa Monica, where he served in multiple leadership roles, including Deputy City Manager, Chief of Staff, and Acting Chief Information Officer. He also served as Santa Monica's LGBTQ+ Liaison, leading community engagement and inclusion initiatives.

Prior to his work in Santa Monica, Smith spent a decade with the Judicial Council of California, where he led statewide court technology strategic planning and policy development to expand electronic filing and access services. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach. As Interim Assistant City Manager, Smith will support the City Manager in overseeing daily

operations, managing key departments including Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and coordinating major citywide initiatives. He will also serve as Acting City Manager in the City Manager's absence.



MALIBU UNIFICATION PROCESS REACHES PIVOTAL STAGE: DECEMBER 1 VOTE SET ON KEY SEPERATION AGREEMENTS! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) and the City of Malibu are advancing a major milestone in the effort to create two independent school districts: the Malibu Unified School District (MUSD) and the Santa Monica Unified School District (SMUSD).

SMMUSD will hold a Special Board of Education Meeting on Dec. 1 to consider three foundational agreements that establish the financial, operational, and governance frameworks needed for separation.

Monday, Dec. 1, 5–8 PM at the SMMUSD District Office, 1717 4th Street, Santa Monica, and via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted 72 hours prior **HERE**.

The three agreements include the Property Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement, outlining how property tax revenues will be allocated; the Operational Transfer Agreement, detailing the transition of staffing, facilities, and services; and the Joint Powers Agreement, establishing shared oversight of the transition.

Both SMMUSD and the City of Malibu remain committed to equity, fairness, and ensuring high-quality education for students in both future districts.

The Malibu City Council will hold a meeting to vote on the agreements after the SMMUSD meeting.

- **Property Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement**
- **Operational Transfer Agreement**
- **Joint Powers Agreement**
- **FAQ Sheet**



MALIBU HOSTS SCHOOL SEPARATION TOWN HALL

On October 30, Malibu hosted a town hall meeting to update the community on efforts to form an independent Malibu Unified School District, one of the City's top priorities. The City presented updates on its petition, which is currently pending before the State Board of Education.

The City also shared progress on a parallel path: separation agreements jointly developed with the Santa Monica-Malibu

Unified School District (SMMUSD). The SMMUSD Board will consider the agreements on December 1, followed by the Malibu City Council on December 8.

The City thanks all who participated and helped shape the path forward. School separation aims to give Malibu local control and alignment with community values and needs.

For more information, email **SchoolDistrictSeparation@malibucity.org**.

Watch the Meeting



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION AT CITY HALL

The City of Malibu honors the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces at the 26th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony, hosted in partnership with the Malibu Navy League, Pepperdine University, and the Malibu Association of Realtors on Tuesday, November 11, at City Hall. This year's theme, "Veterans: Stronger Together, United We Stand," celebrated the strength, unity, and sacrifice of veterans and their families. The free, festive event included a color guard, guest speaker, and musical performances by the Pepperdine University Choir, along with stories shared by local veterans.

BUSINESS SUPPORT



THE CITY CELEBRATES NEW BUSINESSES, SHOWCASING MALIBU'S RESILIENT SPIRIT

Malibu is proud to welcome new locally owned businesses — Papa Razzi's Pizza, LAYA and Malibu General Store — as part of the City's ongoing efforts to support our business community during the fire recovery.

The City is dedicated to supporting our local businesses as an important part of our recovery. New business openings are an important sign of progress and resilience for our community. To celebrate and support these milestones, the City Council is visiting each newly opened business in Malibu. These visits provide an opportunity to welcome owners, hear their feedback, and promote their business through the City's social media channels. It's one more way we're working together to strengthen Malibu's local economy and community spirit.

The City created a new dedicated email inbox to give local businesses direct access to City staff to announce openings,

share feedback and ask for support: **BusinessSupport@MalibuCity.org.**



PAPA RAZZI'S PIZZA

Papa Razzi's features fresh, handmade pizzas crafted with as many locally sourced ingredients whenever possible, including produce from The Thorne Family Farm and chef's knives made by local artisan and Malibu Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dane Skophamer. Oren has been a chef working in Malibu for more than 30 years, and he and Tamar also own Pita-Bu near the Malibu Pier.

Their menu ranges from traditional favorites and seasonal specials to vegan and gluten-free options. The current seasonal pizza, the decadent Trust Fund Baby, features wild mushrooms, black truffles, crème fraîche, mozzarella, truffle oil and chives.

Order for Pickup or Delivery



LAYA - SWIMWEAR BOUTIQUE

Dedicated to crafting premium swimwear and resort wear, LAYA was founded by Witney Laya Tucker in 2019 on the island of Mauritius, nestled off the east coast of Africa. Inspired by her childhood on the island and the confidence her mother drew from clothing as a former Miss South Africa and Miss World, Witney launched LAYA to create beautifully crafted pieces that capture this same sense of effortless confidence. LAYA also has stores in Santa Monica and Bel Air.

LAYA embraces a timeless, coastal aesthetic, each piece reflecting the relaxed charm of island living, and prioritizes exceptional quality at an attainable price point. The shop also features carefully curated jewelry and clothing pieces by local brands. (Be sure to pet Moses the Bulldog when you visit the store!)

For more information, **visit layaofficial.com**.



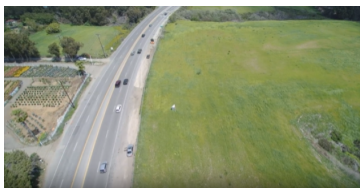
MALIBU GENERAL STORE

Brian Goldberg held a grand opening and ribbon cutting of his new Malibu General Store. Located at Pacific Coast Highway at Rambla Pacifico in the Palisades Fire burn area, Malibu General Store offers a curated mix of local artists, fine jewelry, apparel, bespoke furniture, and unique home and lifestyle pieces. Holiday features include Christmas trees from the Malibu High School Christmas Tree Lot and a Surf's Up Santa Photo Booth by Kroos Entertainment Group.



Featured brands include: Candace Kelly Resort, Heather Gardner Jewelry, Beryll, House of Malibu, Jennifer La Pierre Art, Pistol & Lucy, Organic Research Group, Habitat Home & Garden, Kjirsten Fouts Art, Watchet Lane, The Fabric Merchant, Harden, Greg Moulin Limited Editions, Wilkin & May, Eamon Harrington Art.

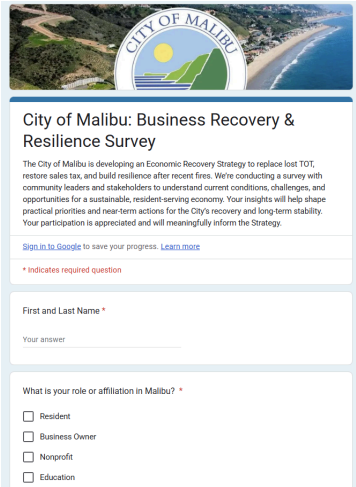
Learn More



CITY LAUNCHES MASTERPLAN & CONCEPT DESIGN FOR HEATHERCLIFF RECREATION CENTER

The City is taking the next step in the Malibu Community Lands Project with an agreement with Frederick Fisher and Partners to develop a Masterplan and Concept Design for a new recreation center at Heathercliff Community Land.

This work advances the City Council's direction following extensive community outreach on the use of 61 acres of City-owned land. Based on resident input, the Heathercliff and Ioki (Chili Cook-Off) lots were prioritized for potential new soccer, baseball, and softball fields, as well as a multigenerational community center with amenities such as a pool, gymnasium, senior center, and expanded library services.



ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES: TAKE THE SURVEY TO HELP THE CITY HELP YOU

Malibu business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders - we want to hear from you!

Take the survey to help us better understand: current business conditions and challenges, opportunities for growth and recovery, and how the City can better support and strengthen our local economy. Your input will directly shape real recommendations and actions to support Malibu's economic future. Share your perspective and help guide Malibu's path forward.

Take the Survey

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 13 DESIGN PROFESSIONALS MEETING RECAP

The City hosted its November Design Professionals Meeting on Tuesday, November 13 at City Hall and streaming online.



Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy and Assistant Community Development Director Tyler Eaton provided updates on the Malibu Rebuild Process; introduced the new Environmental Health, Coastal Engineering, and Geotechnical firms supporting fire rebuild reviews; and reviewed rebuild development permits, concurrent submittal requirements, and updates from Caltrans, SoCalGas, and SCE.

The next Design Professionals Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at City Hall and streaming on the City's YouTube channel. Details will be posted on the Rebuild website. **www.maliburebuilds.org**

Watch the Meeting



STREAMLINED GENERATOR PERMIT PROCESS

The Community Development Department is pleased to announce the implementation of a streamlined process for the review and permitting of generators. This initiative reflects the City's ongoing commitment to enhancing efficiency and improving customer service within the development review process. Under the new procedure, applicants submitting generator-only projects may now bypass Planning Division review by completing a simple form that confirms the proposed generator meets planning requirements and submitting it via the Development Portal.

The standard review turnaround time for generator-only submittals is 10 business days. For additional information, contact **mbuilding@malibucity.org**.

Click for the Form

Click for the Portal



CITY CONTINUES MEETING WITH RESIDENTIAL REBUILD ZONE CAPTAINS

The City continues to hold weekly meetings with our Rebuild Zone Captains to gather neighborhood-specific insights and strengthen homeowner support throughout the rebuilding process. These Captains serve as an essential connection between fire-impacted property owners and the City—helping improve access to resources, expedite problem-solving, and ensure consistent feedback.

All homeowners rebuilding are encouraged to connect with their Rebuild Zone Captain for questions or challenges related to their project.

For immediate assistance, please call **310-456-2489, ext. 400**.

Click Here to Find Your Zone Captain

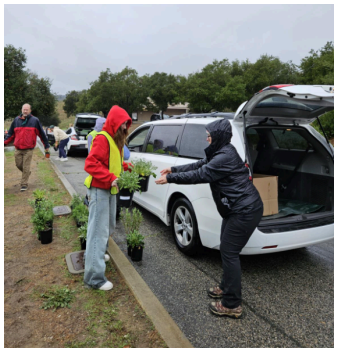
ENVIRONMENTAL



RAIN BARREL DISTRIBUTION EVENT AT CITY HALL, NOVEMBER 22

Saturday, November 22
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Upper Parking Lot, Malibu City Hall

The City and West Basin will host a drive-through Rain Barrel Distribution Event for residents. All onsite rain barrels have been reserved prior to this event. For more information about the program, **CLICK HERE** or call 310-371-4633.



NATIVE PLANT DISTRIBUTION EVENT

As part of a new project in the North Santa Monica Bay area - Your Smart Yard; West Basin partnered with TreePeople, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, LA County Waterworks District #29, and City of Malibu.

Residents pre-purchased the native plant kits back in July and picked up their plants on Saturday, November 1 in Calabasas. Residents from the Calabasas, Malibu and Topanga areas picked up an estimated 120 native plant kits, each kit containing 10 native plants, so that's 1,200 native plants that will help keep our local ecosystem healthy and resilient!

West Basin and the partners will offer discounted plants once again in 2026.

Visit our Website



CITY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL FIRESCAPING WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST BASIN

On November 13, the City's Environmental Programs Division partnered with West Basin Municipal Water District to host a Firescaping Workshop attended by more than 35 Malibu residents. The highly interactive workshop focused on fire-resistant landscaping and the use of native plants, which also save water, and benefit our local ecosystem.

The workshop was led by Douglas Kent, MS, MLA—author of the best-selling book Firescaping and a leading expert in fire-resistant landscape design. Kent has decades of experience working in communities affected by major California wildfires and has been featured in the *Los Angeles Times, New York Times, NPR, LAist, Pacific Horticulture*, and more. He is also the author of several other books, including “Ocean Friendly Gardens and Foraging Southern California.”

Learn More

PUBLIC SAFETY



SOME CITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS RESCHEDULED OR RELOCATED DUE TO MINOR FLOODING DURING WEEKEND STORM

The Malibu area received 4 – 5 inches of rain over the weekend in the region’s strongest rain event of the season. The NWS had issued a Flood Watch and a Flash Flood Warning with the potential for mudslides, debris flows and flooding; fortunately, there were no major issues, damage or injuries.

Evacuation Warnings were issued for all of the Franklin and Palisades Fires burn areas, and Evacuation Orders were issued for targeted vulnerable properties November 14 - 16, but were lifted early due to improving conditions. There were brief closures of Kanan Dume Rd and Malibu Canyon Rd. City Hall experienced minor flooding in the Multipurpose Room and Senior Center, requiring all events and meetings scheduled for this week to be rescheduled or relocated while the carpets are being dried out (check **www.malibucity.org/agendacenter** and **www.malibucity.org/calendar** for meeting and event schedules).

City staff were monitoring, coordinating with partner agencies, and posting alerts and updates throughout the weekend.



NEW CLASS OF CERT TRAINEES GRADUATES

The City of Malibu Public Safety Department recently completed one of the City’s regular Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trainings on October 25. A total of 8 students completed the seven-class course. The City applauds these residents for working to help their neighborhoods and community be prepared for wildfires, earthquakes and other disasters! Thank you to the official

Malibu CERT Team volunteers who help run these trainings with the City!

Following major disasters, professional first responders may be delayed due to blocked roads, communication failures, or high demand, leaving communities to rely on one another for immediate lifesaving needs. The City offers free CERT trainings for residents, focusing on basic first aid, search and rescue, fire suppression, disaster psychology and more, empowering communities to be safer and more resilient.

Learn More



HOMELESS OUTREACH UPDATE

The City has maintained a proactive, service-driven approach to addressing homelessness in Malibu year-round, strategically balancing outreach and enforcement while considering public safety, public health, and environmental impacts on the community.

Recently, the Community Services and Public Safety Departments collaborated with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) to develop new signs in Legacy Park related to the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones that communicate the City's camping and encampment regulations. The City is also in the process of installing security cameras in strategic locations throughout Legacy Park to assist with enforcement and promote security in the park.

The City has continued to collaborate closely with LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors (LADBH) to place removal notices on encampments throughout the County beaches in Malibu. On October 4 and November 13, LADBH cleared multiple encampments from Surfrider Beach, and on October 6, cleared another extensive encampment at Westward Beach.

The City installed new signs at the entrances to the Malibu Library parking to aid in enforcement, which enabled the City to address multiple homeless-related issues in the parking lot. The LASD, the City's Homeless Outreach Team, and City staff continue to contact unhoused individuals, provide outreach and conduct enforcement.

FIRE SAFETY



FIRE CONDITIONS UPDATE – LOW FIRE DANGER DUE TO RECENT & ONGOING RAIN

Current fire danger for Malibu is at zero due to the significant rain of more than 3 inches Malibu received November 14 - 16. Malibu is receiving more scattered rain this week, and another storm is expected to bring another 1 inch or more of rain Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21. This will significantly raise the dead fuel and live fuel moistures, key indicators of the threat that a fire can grow fast and large.

Currently there are no Santa Ana wind events, high temperatures or low humidity levels in the forecast. Humidity levels are forecast to be 57% to 94% during the daytime, and up to 80-90% range at night.

PUBLIC WORKS



SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING ON PCH ROUNDABOUTS PROJECT, DECEMBER 2

Join the City and Caltrans for a virtual community meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 5:30 PM at Malibu City Hall to learn about and share feedback on the PCH Quick-Build Roundabouts Project at El Matador State Beach and Encinal Canyon Rd. This is the second meeting on the project which aims to reduce speeds, improve safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, and make crossings safer near El Matador and Encinal Canyon. These locations were identified in the 2015 Pacific Coast Highway Safety Study, which examined collision data, traffic patterns, and pedestrian conflicts throughout the Malibu corridor. Construction is expected to begin in early 2026.

Learn more, find the Zoom link and give feedback on the comment form. **MalibuCity.org/Roundabouts**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®

SCE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNDERGROUND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The City of Malibu is in discussions with Southern California Edison to expedite undergrounding, improve service delivery, reduce Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) events, and increase community benefits.

Additionally, on November 18, 2025, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (motion by Supervisor Horvath) voted to pursue action at the CPUC to require telecommunications companies to underground their facilities in coordination with SCE’s undergrounding projects. This County initiative could

create a regional regulatory framework that supports the City's goal of undergrounding the telecommunication lines.

Lastly, the City has submitted a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application to fund the undergrounding of existing telecommunications facilities and the removal of remaining poles within the Palisades Fire area. If awarded, it would give the City both the funding and leverage needed to achieve the goal of undergrounding both electrical and telecommunication lines.

Learn More

COMMUNITY SERVICES



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS

Malibu City Hall, the Senior Center, the Rebuild Center and the Community Swimming Pool at Malibu High School will be closed Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, for the holiday. City Parks will be open for regular hours, 8AM to sunset. For more information or to learn about park amenities, visit the **Facilities and Parks webpage.**



MALIBU CITY GALLERY ART RECEPTION WITH RICHARD REINER

Friday, November 21
6:30 PM
Malibu City Gallery at City Hall
Complimentary

The Malibu Arts Commission will host a reception and celebration for Richard Reiner's art show, *Land, Water, and Spirit,* on Friday, November 21. The event will include a Q&A with the artist, music, and refreshments. Mr. Reiner is an avid adventurer with a passion for the outdoors, and his work explores the beauty, power, and serenity of nature.

The artwork will be on display through January 2, 2026, at the Malibu City Gallery, which is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Visit the **Malibu Arts Commission website** for additional information. This event was initially scheduled on Sunday, November 16, but was

postponed due to inclement weather and debris clean-up at City Hall.

MALIBU MARLINS SWIM TEAM

Beginning Tuesday, December 2 through Sunday
Workout schedules vary by level
Community Pool at Malibu High School

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

Click to Register



THE CITY OF MALIBU WELCOMED ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AMY TAN AS PART OF THE 2025 MALIBU LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES

The series, a partnership between the City and the LA County Library, brings notable authors and thought leaders to engage and inspire the community. On Wednesday, November 19 the speaker series presented bestselling author Amy Tan.

Amy Tan, most known for *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, and other internationally recognized novels, shared insights from her life and career. Tan has received numerous honors, including the National Humanities Medal, the Carl Sandburg Literary Award, the Commonwealth Award of Distinguished Service, and induction into both the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Malibu Village Books was also on-site for book sales, and attendees had the opportunity to have their books signed following the presentation.



PARENT AND ME BASKETBALL, REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Saturdays, December 6 – February 14
9:00 – 9:45 AM
Malibu High School Small Gym
$200

Players ages 3-5 will participate in age-appropriate basketball games and activities to improve coordination, confidence, and balance.

Click to Register



NEW WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION AT LEGACY PARK

The City of Malibu was awarded a $2,000 grant from the West Basin Municipal Water District to purchase and install a new water bottle filling station. The program promotes tap water as a high-quality source of drinking water, educates on water conservation, and reduces plastic waste by encouraging the use of reusable water bottles. The new pedestal water bottle filling station, drinking fountain, and pet water dispenser is located at Legacy Park.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER 24
Regular City Council Meeting – City Hall, 5:30 PM

DECEMBER 1
Regular Planning Commission Meeting – City Hall, 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 3
Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting – City Hall, 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 8
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.



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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