May 2017



# VillageBREEZE

A Joint Publication of the Laguna Woods Village Corporations

# In This Edition...

**Observe Memorial Day** by attending the Memorial Day Ceremony and Concert. Are you bored? Consider running for a Board! Plus more in store for GRF on pages 2-6

Third attempts to end rental confusion, and drones fly back to the Security Committee for reconsideration. Plus, what in the world is a weep hole? And more on pages 6-11.

**All Aboard!** The United Board welcomes new members Jack Bassler and Maxine McIntosh. Directors Tibbets and Dorrell discuss alterations, plus landscape improvements and more on pages 12-16.

**At the Towers,** strum your ukulele, enjoy an *agua fresca*, and more on pages 16-17



The Laguna Woods Senior Clown Alley
Photo by Mark Rabinowitch

Click here to view a calendar of upcoming Business Planning (Budget) meetings, or visit lagunawoodsvillage.com and click Resident Links.

Having trouble viewing the Village Breeze? Click the download icon at the bottom left of the screen for a PDF version.

# **Share the Breeze**

Do you know someone who would like to receive the Breeze? Forward this email to a friend and tell them to **click here** to sign up to receive the Village Breeze by email, or visit www.lagunawoodsvillage.com, and click the sign-up link at the top of any page.





#### Remember Those Who Served at a Special Memorial Day Ceremony and Concert

The All-American Boys' Chorus (AABC) is returning to the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Monday, May 29. This year, there is no cost to enjoy the concert!

The American Legion will kick off the Memorial Day event with a ceremony at noon at the PAC. The All American Boys' Chorus will take the stage at 1 p.m. They are highly motivated and produce a wonderful show. The group reflects a rich diversity of cultures, instilling ethnic harmony and cultural respect. Seating is limited! Pick up your complimentary tickets now at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. Call 949-597-4289 for more information.



# City of Laguna Hills Memorial Day Half-Marathon and 5K



On Memorial Day, May 29, 2017, the City of Laguna Hills will host its annual Memorial Day Half-Marathon, 5K, and 10K, honoring the United States Marine Corps Dark Horse Battalion. This favorite Memorial Day running event takes place in the beautiful Orange County cities of Laguna Hills, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Woods, and Laguna Niguel. Runners and walkers of all experience levels are invited to come out and enjoy the Memorial Day festivities! With a half-marathon (13.1 miles), 5K Run/Walk (3.1 miles), 10K Run/Walk (6.2 miles) and a Kid's Run (1/2 mile), there is something for everyone! All events and the Finish Line Expo will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2017.

The half-marathon, 5K and 10K start in front of the Saddleback Memorial Medical Center and finish at the Laguna Hills Community

Center. The Kids Run takes place at the Community Center. Visit <u>lagunahillshalfmarathon.com</u> for more information.



Village residents get special pricing! <u>Click here</u> to download a signup form, or pick one up at Clubhouse 1 or Community Center Fitness Center.

Please note: A portion of the race will come through Gate 2. The race starts on Calle de La Louisa, enters Laguna Woods Village by way of Gate 2, traverses around a certified/sanctioned course on Via Estrada, to Calle Aragon, to Avenida Sevilla, to Avenida Majorca and back to Via Estrada and back out Gate 2 again. The following Cul-de-sacs will be closed from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. on race day: 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 24, 40, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61. Gates 2 and 4 will be closed from 5:45 to 8:30 a.m. Streets surrounding the Village will be closed, as well. Click here for a map or visit www.lagunahillshalfmarathon.com.

# Emergency Operations Plan, Drones and More, Presented to the Security and Community Access Committee

The GRF Security and Community Access Committee (SCAC) held their regular meeting on April 20, 2017. Chair Tom Sirkel opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and announcing that the drone policy would be considered at a special meeting on May 18, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse 1 multipurpose room.

Chair Sirkel introduced representatives from ELA & Associates, who developed the amended Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). David Lopez from ELA & Associates presented the EOP to SCAC. The EOP is an essential component in the Village's preparation for a disaster, including earthquakes and fires, and involves staff across multiple divisions, as well as volunteers from the Disaster Preparedness Task Force. By unanimous vote, the motion to approve the EOP passed.

In other news, Security Chief Tim Moy informed SCAC that the bike patrol unit had been activated, and committee member Ray Gros announced that a couple of educational videos on traffic had been produced and are showing on ThisDay on channels 6, 6.1 and 406, or by visiting www.Youtube.com/LagunaWoodsVlg.

#### **Media and Communications Report**

The Media and Communications Committee had quite the turnout at their April meeting. Led by Committee Chair JoAnn diLorenzo, the committee discussed the Village Breeze at length, debating whether the publication should be released every four or six weeks. No change in the monthly schedule was made at this time. Directors Beth Perak and Joan Milliman intend to recruit resident volunteers to help write articles about topics requested by the Board for the Breeze.





Community Manager Lori Moss reported that the Marketing and Communications Division was working with a consultant to develop a quote for a comprehensive social media strategy with an emphasis on Facebook. The strategy will be presented at an upcoming Media and Communications Committee meeting.

Broadband and IT Services Director Chuck Holland gave a comprehensive presentation of his division, including updates on capital projects, contracts, and a preview of the new lagunawoodsvillage.com website.

Ms. Moss presented an overview of the Marketing and Communications Plan that her team uses to enhance and measure their communications efforts. Lastly, the committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the contract policy as it applies to cable network contracts.

The next Media and Communications Committee meeting will take place Monday, June 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

#### **Happy Anniversary to Your History Center**

By History Center Chief Communications Officer Catherine Brians



Over the past 40 years, the History Center has preserved, cataloged and maintained the history of Laguna Woods. From the pre-construction planning and early stages of construction, the Rossmoor Corporation maintained records and photos on the development of the Village. In 1976, records and other collateral material were turned over to the newly-formed Historical Society for preservation.

The History Center is an all-volunteer 501c (3) organization committed to maintaining our history's past and new developments in the community. With the aid of a large print scanner, volunteers are completing a digital preservation of years of the weekly Globe and its earlier versions. The newspapers were in various stages of disintegration, even with their location in a controlled temperature archive room. Soon residents can "keyword" items, names and events from the newspaper's past 50 years.

By logging on to the History Center website at <u>lagunawoodshistory.org</u>, you can watch videos of long-term residents and their views on how the Village has changed during their years of residency. The most recent video is of Rob Merritt, highlighting his 40 years of service to the community on TV6.

The History Center is here for your use and enjoyment. Come in, say hi, and find out about history



in Laguna Woods. We are located next to the Village Library and open Monday through Friday, midday when volunteers are working, and whenever you ask! For more information call 949-206-0150 or visit <u>lagunawoodshistory.org</u>.

## **Consider Running for a Laguna Woods Village Board**

By GRF Director Joan Milliman

What personal qualities and qualifications are helpful to being a good HOA board member? There are others, but these are ones that stand out to me. If you would like to become part of the boards' team, please come forward and begin attending meetings, so you will be "in the know," and then apply when the call comes.



- 1. Neighbors and others will look to you as a board member, and it is almost impossible to take the hat off. So, find common ground by getting the other party to understand "why" a board decision was reached.
- 2. Any kind of "collar" experience (blue, white, or no collar), [i.e., professionals who work well with all demographics, "types" of personalities, and group dynamics,] is welcome.
- 3. Have a strong foundation in understanding financial information. You don't have to debate the virtues of cash versus accrual accounting, you just need to be able to read a spreadsheet, notice irregularities and be able to project expenditures.
- 4. Be a good communicator able to talk about the board in a positive way, explain board decisions, and be willing to write a newsletter article, if asked.
- 5. Be a team player able to express your opinions about ideas, but then respect the consensus, and live with the overall decision of the board; neither grudge holders nor an agenda seekers make good Board members.
- 6. Be able to deal with agitated homeowners without losing your cool.
- 7. Be able to set policy, make decisions and then step back and let the management implement the decisions; understand the concept of policy governance.
- 8. Ability to read the whole email or management packet and make sense of it, answer questions and understand issues.



- 9. Have the desire to work in the best interest of the corporation.
- 10. Be a good listener, because you will be looked upon to make decisive decisions.
- 11. Today, it's very helpful to have some basic knowledge of how to use a computer for research and emails.
- 12. Have patience and knowledge of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

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#### **Your Safety Is Our Priority!**

By GRF Director Joan Milliman

On Friday, April 7, 2017, I attended the Saddleback Emeritus' Dorothy Marie Lowry *Distinguished Guest Lecture Series on Senior Scams and Lost Dollars*. Laguna Woods resident and Senior Advocate, Denny Welch was the honored speaker, and invited Chief Tim Moy to share his expertise. <u>Click here</u> to download the "Fraud Book" with information from various sources, including, the U.S. Senate, FBI, California Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), Post Office, and FAST (Financial Abuse Specialist Team) of Orange County. Chief Moy's <u>Avoid the Scams</u> quarterly update, lists eight of the most common scams today and gives tips on how to avoid them. Your safety is our priority!

Download both of these important resources for your own information and protection at <a href="https://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com">www.lagunawoodsvillage.com</a> under Resident Links, Security.

Finally, if you receive a call that just doesn't seem right, never give out personal information, don't pay any money, and just hang up.

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#### **Hot Flashes**

By Third Secretary Burt Baum

**Give Me a Home Where There Are Few Drones**–You spoke; we listened. The Third Board has sent the proposed Drone Policy back to committee. We only want drones used by VMS management as part of their work to fly in the community. Read on for more details.



**Ending Rental Confusion**–The Board just passed (subject to the required 30-day waiting period) an updated and clarified Leasing Policy. Here are some of the major rules for lessors (landlords) and lessees (renters) to follow:

- Leases must be for a minimum of 60 days.
- The lessor turns over the use of the whole manor and access to the community facilities and amenities to the lessee for the life of the lease.
- Neither lessor nor lessees can rent out individual rooms in the manor.
- Lease applications need to be approved by the Board before anyone can move in and need to be re-approved yearly.
- The lessee must adhere to all community regulations. The lessor is responsible for the lessee's behavior and is subject to discipline if the lessee commits a violation.

In line with what rental agencies and landlords have been doing nationwide, we have instituted a requirement that the lessor needs to submit a credit score and background check on each lessee. In answer to some complaints, we have modified this regulation to make it easier to meet. Credit scores can be obtained at little or no cost from the major credit agencies, such as Expedia or Transunion, and need to be done only initially. Background checks can be run by several online agencies (name supplied on request) for \$20, and the results can be obtained in a few minutes. This need only be done every five years. These steps protect lessor, as well as the community.

# **Third Refers Drone Policy Back to Security Committee**



Many residents of Third expressed concerns regarding drones, so Tuesday, April 18, the Third Mutual Board referred the drone policy back to the GRF Security and Community Access Committee (SCAC) for revision. Previously, members of the Board recommended that the Committee and staff consider prohibiting drones in the Village unless they are flown by staff or an individual commissioned by staff, and that staff, in order to meet the standards of any policy and Federal law, be required to complete a flight plan that is

submitted for review by the Security Chief. The SCAC meeting will be held May 18, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Clubhouse 1. After the Security Committee makes its recommendations, GRF and United are expected to reconsider their drone policies, as well.



#### Be on the Lookout for Rogue Sprinklers

As the rainy season comes to a close, we become more dependent upon irrigation water to keep the Community's landscaping healthy and vibrant. To be as economical and efficient as possible, staff uses a sophisticated weather-based software program to schedule irrigation cycles in accordance with the demands of the weather, applying only the amount of water that is needed. Moreover, the total sprinkler run-time is broken down into short increments, separated by longer soak intervals, to allow the water to percolate into our heavy clay soils and minimize runoff. While drift and overspray onto sidewalks and other areas cannot always be avoided, drip systems and low precipitation spray nozzles are used to place water on the desired location as accurately as possible. Despite these best efforts, runoff can still occur for a number of reasons, such as broken pipes or sprinklers, or malfunctioning valves. While staff routinely performs system checks, turning on the valves and visually inspecting for broken equipment and making necessary adjustments to keep the system performing optimally, they cannot catch every problem every day. Residents are encouraged to contact Resident Services at 949-597-4600 or Dispatch at 949-580-1400, to report any unusual flow of water.

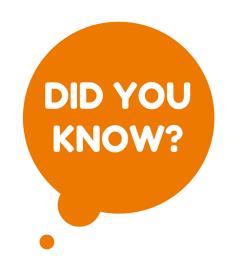
#### **Did You Know?**

By Third President Rosemarie diLorenzo Dickins

• If you are hiring a contractor to do work on your manor, you must ensure they are following the community's rules. Your contractor may perform work only during designated times: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (only quiet work permitted between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.), and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No work is permitted on Sundays and VMS Observed Holidays.

All Contractors are required to obtain a Vendors' *Worker Gate Access Permit* to perform work in the Village.

Contractors are prohibited from parking in visitor parking;



they must use street parking. Your contractor is **your** responsibility. Please ensure the contractor follows the construction waste rules (click here). If your contractor does not abide by the rules Third Mutual has set, you may be held responsible. Consequences can include a hearing before the Board and fines. Any questions? Contact Manor Alterations in Resident Services by calling 949-597-4600 or emailing <u>alterations@vmsinc.org</u>.

 Those small square holes in window frames serve a very important purpose. They are called "weep holes," but they are not something to cry about. They are there to drain water out of your



window, preventing rot in the window sill, water damage and mold in the wall. The holes are designed so they will not allow cold air in. It is important that the weep holes are clear of obstruction (dirt, sand or building materials). To clean the weep holes, use a small, soft brush to clear the opening. Never, ever, caulk over them or seal them shut—or you could be weeping over expensive water damage.

#### Landscape Improvements Require Removal of Some Plants Near Gates 10 and 11

Improvements to landscaping along the edge of the community that borders the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park near Gates 10 and 11, has begun and will continue into June. This portion of the community falls within the Orange County Fire Authority's Ember/Fire Hazard Severity Zones. OCFA is working with all property owners in these zones to minimize fire fuel load and staff is removing old, large woody plants and bushes, and replacing them with new, drought-tolerant, lower growing plants. The work will, hopefully, reduce coyote activity by eliminating potential hiding spots. Please be aware that the work requires significant removal of existing slope landscaping, so residents will see bare areas until the landscaping is re-established. Questions? Call Resident Services at 949-597-4600.

#### **Director Profile: Annette Sabol Sole**

By Third Adviser Carol St. Hilaire

Since June 2005, Director Annette Soule and her husband, John, have resided in Laguna Woods Village. She retired from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of US Trustee, as Regional Administrative Officer in December 2016. Her duties at the DOJ included handling budgets, operations, facilities, security, personnel and procurement. She is currently attending Emeritus stretching and sewing classes, and is preparing for a half-marathon in May. After that, she will start learning golf so she can hit the greens with her husband, who is passionate about the game. She and John enjoy theatre, music, cooking and traveling to see their large extended families, especially when they get to tailgate at a Kansas City Chiefs' home game. They enjoy traveling to San Francisco to watch



their grandson compete in gymnastics—not to mention enjoying an Irish coffee at The Buena Vista Café after the competition.

Annette believes in being polite and civil; staying curious, caring and committed to the Village; and learning Robert's Rules of Order to assist her in developing into a good Board Member. Annette enjoys using the Newport Beach Library for her research, as well as online learning through



Knowledge@Wharton, introduced to her by her son, and Ted Talks (TED: Tending to Each Other's Dreams), introduced to her by her daughter.

#### **Where Third Spends Your Money**

The cost of maintaining your community is collected through monthly dues, called assessments. The expenses that are common to all members of Third Mutual are identified as the Total Basic Monthly Assessment, which is \$619.86 in 2017. The Third Mutual portion of the Total Basic Monthly Assessment is \$426.25. Residents also pay \$193.61 which is the GRF assessment used to cover the Mutual's share of community wide services and amenities.

The Third Mutual portion of the Total Basic Monthly Assessment consists of two types of funding:

An amount to cover the current year's operations. Part of the monthly assessment is designated to pay for the current year's operations, which typically includes such things as landscaping around the buildings and on the slopes, janitorial services in common areas, building maintenance, property and liability insurance, electricity for common area lighting, and other utilities such as water, sewer and trash collection.

An amount that goes into reserves. The remaining portion of the monthly assessment is placed into reserves for long-term repairs and replacements, such as exterior painting, roofing and elevator refurbishments. (Having ample reserves ensures that the HOA has money available to pay for repairs or emergencies when they come due).

In addition to the Basic Monthly Assessment, there are additional assessments specific to where a resident lives in the Mutual. Surcharges are included in the assessment for common laundry facilities and certain items unique to multistory buildings, such as elevators and Garden Villa Rec Rooms. Residents also pay an equal portion of the GRF assessment (\$193.61). Because the assessment will vary depending on the manor type, one specific figure cannot be used to represent the assessment. In November, a statement is mailed to every member explaining their individual assessment amount for the next year. A copy of the 2017 Business Plan Summary can be found at lagunawoodsvillage.com under Resident Links, Boards and Committees, Third Mutual, General Information.

## What do the Third Committees Do, Anyway?

Third has many standing, sub- and ad hoc committees that perform various tasks as assigned by the Board of Directors. Here is a breakdown of what they do:

*Architectural Control:* Upholds the architectural standards of the boards by reviewing requests for alterations and variances, and deliberating on alteration standard violations.



Communications: Promotes communication of Board-approved policies and information through available mediums such as: email newsletters, a Speakers Bureau and the internet. Promulgates appropriate public relations programs and policies to promote a positive image of Third and good relations among Laguna Woods Village residents, the surrounding communities and the public at large.

Executive Hearings: Three Directors and two alternate Directors meet to hold hearings about Common Area Damage Reimbursements and disciplinary cases involving residents.

Finance: On a monthly basis, reviews financial statements, reports, investment funds and the reserve accounts, to ensure they are in accordance with the Mutual's budget and policies. Annually reviews and makes recommendations regarding the proposed Third Mutual Business Plan (commonly referred to as the "budget").

*Garden Villa Rec Room:* As a subcommittee of Maintenance and Construction, reviews and makes recommendations on items specific to all repairs and replacements for Garden Villa Recreation Room components, as required.

Landscape: Ensures that the level of service provided by the Landscaping Division is adequate to maintain Third Mutual landscaping in an aesthetically pleasing, environmentally appropriate and cost-effective manner. This committee is also charged with working with GRF to promote the optimum and most efficient use of water in Third Mutual.

*Maintenance and Construction:* Reviews and makes recommendations on: preventative maintenance procedures; advancements in technology and methods for increased efficiencies; and the long range needs of the Mutual. Think roofing, painting, dry rot remediation, pest mitigation, etc.

Resident Problem Resolution Services: Residents who have an unresolved issue that they want to bring to the attention of the Mutual may phone Catherine Laster at 949-597-4265 to make an appointment with the Committee. A Committee member will call you.

*Water Conservation:* This Ad Hoc Committee develops water conservation strategies and procedures, in compliance with the mandates imposed upon Third Mutual by state and local agencies.

Get involved by finding time in your schedule to attend a meeting. Visit <u>lagunawoodsvillage.com</u> and click Resident Links, Boards and Committees, Calendar for the times, places and agendas for a schedule of upcoming Board and committee meetings.





#### **United Board Complete!**

On April 11, 2017, the United Board reorganized. New officers include: President Juanita Skillman, First Vice President Janey Dorrell, Second Vice President Don Tibbets, Treasurer Pat English and Secretary Maggie Blackwell. Completing the Board are new, but seasoned, Directors Bassler and McIntosh.

President Skillman was elected to the board in 2014 and served as Secretary until being elected President. She worked as a Certified Records Manager and retired in 2011 from the OC Sanitation District. Juanita served over 15 years on three international professional boards: ARMA International, the Institute of Certified Records Managers, and the ARMA International Education Foundation, including positions as Treasurer, President and Chairman of the Boards. At the Village she has been a very active volunteer at the library. Her favorite United committee is Governing Documents, but she is also an asset on the Executive Hearings Committee. Juanita enjoys attending Laguna Woods and Laguna Hills City Council meetings to keep up on what is going on adjacent to United's boundaries. When asked, Juanita said her goals are to see United thrive, to improve communications with residents and cooperation with all Boards. The Board looks forward to her leadership.

#### Want to Make An Alteration to Your Manor? Some Advice From Two Directors

By United First Vice President Janey Dorrell and Treasurer Don Tibbets

Don Tibbets: There has been an increase in unauthorized work on manors, meaning work without mutual consent, by residents. We encourage you to improve your manor, but first please visit Resident Services, Window #7, and speak to an inspector.

Janey Dorrell: The Board has strict rules and regulations regarding alterations, variances, permits, and fines. Unapproved alterations are



subject to disciplinary action and costly fines. It is the member's responsibility to know and follow the rules.



#### Can work be done first?

Don: Changes involving electricity and plumbing almost always need a City Building Permit and a Mutual Consent for Manor Alterations before commencing work. If you hire an outside contractor, make sure he is knowledgeable of the Village procedures.

Janey: Please follow the established guidelines, get the required permits, select a licensed contractor, make sure you have a contract, and never give the contractor money up front. Your compliance will prevent any unnecessary delays in the enjoyment of your upgraded unit.

#### Where do I get help?

Janey: Start by locating your alteration list in your escrow papers, or check with Manor Alterations Staff in Resident Services.

Don: On April 26, 2017, the Maintenance and Construction Committee voted to create an Architectural Control and Standards Committee to review variances. The new committee consists of Directors Bassler, Dorrell, Leonard and Tibbets. Subject to approval of the Bylaws by the Board, in May, the committee will convene in June. If you have questions, call Manor Alterations Staff at 949-597-4616.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

By United Treasurer Pat English

The three-month average for resale prices in March 2017 were \$243,642. The three-month average for March 2016 was \$214,743, representing an increase of 14 percent in 2017.

## **Landscape Report**

By United Secretary and Landscape Committee Chair Maggie Blackwell

In spring, gardeners awaken with green thumbs itching. Fortunately, United allows residents to plant flowers, small plants, or shrubs of their choice in the bedding areas adjacent to their manors. Residents must first receive approval from the Landscape Department before removing or replacing standard shrubs. Residents in multistory buildings have equal access to planting beds on a cooperative basis. Disagreements will result in the area being returned to standard landscaping. Decorative items, potted plants and hanging items, which do not interfere with a landscaper's work, may be placed in the foundation planter area. These areas may be marked by yellow stakes. Acceptable fruit trees should be a dwarf species, pre-approved by the Landscape Supervisor, yellow staked, and maintained by the resident. Stepping stones have specific regulations, which can be



found by <u>clicking here</u> or at <u>lagunawoodsvillage.com</u> under Resident Links, Operating Rules. Vegetables and tomatoes are restricted to the Garden Center.

Potted plants in breezeways, patios, and balconies require water saucers to prevent moisture from remaining on flooring, elevated by casters or sturdy platforms. Indoor/outdoor carpeting may not be used. Maintain plants so that no water, debris, or plant material enters a neighbor's area, a walkway or staircase. As summer approaches make sure that there aren't large amounts of standing water in saucers that might breed mosquitoes. Breezeways and hallways must not be cluttered or create a hazard. Any area not well maintained will be restored to standard landscaping at resident cost. Residents must not place or remove anything from other common areas without Landscape Staff approval. Make sure your plants and décor are a joy to you and your neighbors, not a nuisance, lest a complaint be filed.

#### **April Director Elections**

By United Secretary Maggie Blackwell

In March and April, Jan LaBarge and Lenny Ross resigned, opening two-short term vacancies. The United Board has benefited for years from excellent service by both valuable and experienced Directors. Four well-qualified candidates applied to fill the two vacancies: Manny Armendariz, Jack Bassler, Reza Bastani and Maxine McIntosh. The Board expressed their appreciation to all the applicants, after seating new Directors Bassler and McIntosh, both previous members of United Board, who will serve six month terms. Mr. Armendariz and Mr. Bastani have been active on committees and were encouraged, along with anyone else interested and qualified, to run in the regular October elections, where four seats will be available. Persons interested in being a part of United Board can become acquainted with Board procedures and issues by attending board and committee meetings, watching United Board meetings and This Day segments on TV6 or YouTube, and reading GRF Director Joan Milliman's article in this issue of the Breeze entitled, "Consider Running for a Laguna Woods Village Board." Remember notice of Board and committee meetings are listed on TV6 as well as in the Globe, and governing documents are available on the website.

#### **United Board Bits and Pieces**

By United Secretary Maggie Blackwell

Some residents spoke opposing the Land Use Policy due to misunderstanding the resolution. The new Land Use Policy specifically prohibits variances for expansions outside the unit footprint. The patio and atrium are part of the original footprint. Shareholders may apply for a variance to enclose an existing patio or atrium, submit your completed request to the Manor Alterations Staff at Window



#7 in the Community Center and request to M&C. Requests for additional land comes up when members enclose their patio and then want additional land for a new patio. The new policy will not allow this or any other expansion into the common land.

The Parking Decal policy, lowering the number of decals/RFIDs to the number of bedrooms per unit,



was discussed and approved, subject to a 30-day notice. The item will be discussed again by the Board on May 9, 2017. While some cul-de-sacs have serious parking problems, many do not have issues. The Schedule of Monetary Penalties was discussed, and wording adjustments suggested. Sideline notes: There are ongoing discussions throughout the Village regarding the Drone Policy, approved by GRF and United. Many residents spoke in opposition and as a result the Security and Community Access Committee will be reviewing the policy on May 18, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse 1 multipurpose room. Stay tuned.

#### Remember To...

By United Secretary Maggie Blackwell

- Check your water heater flex hose lines and icemaker water lines regularly for leakage. These items are shareholder responsibilities, no matter who installed them.
- Service your A/C regularly and change the air filter at least three times per year. Take a picture with your phone of the edge of the old filter so you have it for your next trip to Home Depot; always have a replacement filter on hand.
- Know exactly where your United Membership Certificate is located, we suggest a safe deposit box, and remind relatives of the location.



- Be a good neighbor, leave your TV/Sound system on and walk around the outside of your manor to determine if your sound system is too loud and may impact the quiet enjoyment of others.
- Just for fun, find and review your Occupancy Agreement.
- Enjoy the sunshine, Vitamin D you know! It's better tonic than a little moonshine and cheaper.



# THE TOWERS at Laguna Woods Village

#### At the Towers: We Strum Along, Sing Along

By Towers Adviser Saretta Berlin

According to Marian Schultz, director of The Towers Ukulele Group, learning to play an instrument has several proven benefits including:

- Learning a new skill to help retain memory
- Meeting new people
- Having fun

Every Monday, the group meets in the lounge of Tower One to learn a new song or to interpret an old one. When they work on Hawaiian songs they use a reference guide to get the correct pronunciation. Old favorites like *Ain't She Sweet, Pennies From Heaven* and *Smiles* are in the repertoire along contemporary tunes like *Moon River* and *Sentimental Journey*. Throughout the year the group rehearses a selection of classic songs which are performed in the lobby at holiday celebrations. Singing along is always encouraged. Marian has an extensive background in performance and music education. She grew up in a musical family; her first instrument as a first-grader was a half-size cello. She and the instrument grew and at 17, she was playing in the Sacramento Symphony. "Music is food for our souls," Marian stresses that everyone living in Laguna Woods is welcome to come and learn how to play and enjoy the ukulele.

# Now Pouring at the Towers: Waters!

By Towers Adviser Saretta Berlin

Yes, we know – everyone is supposed to be drinking eight glasses of the clear stuff per day, but research indicates that fewer than 10 percent of us actually achieve that goal.

Sodexo, caterer in residence at The Towers, believes strongly in mindful eating and drinking as part of a healthy lifestyle. To help residents achieve the healthful water goal, the staff has instituted



the Sips Hydration Program. Tall crystal-clear cylinders have been placed at each of the coffee stations. These stations are beautiful to the eye and feature a display of greens and fresh fruit. Naturally infused waters, refreshing *agua frescas*, fruity lemonades and minty teas will be offered on a daily basis. Located next to trays of freshly baked cookies, the hydration stations promise to be a popular feature.



#### **Leaders in the Struggle for Women's Rights**

By Towers Adviser Saretta Berlin

"SEVEN" is a live documentary play that tells the gripping stories of seven women who made a difference in the struggle for women's rights. Developed by Vital Voices Global Leadership Network, it has been performed throughout the world since 2007. It was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience at Clubhouse 1 last month in honor of International Women's Day.



Each of the voices is a real-life story of the hardships endured by women who see the poverty and discrimination around them and

struggle to improve the lives of others. There is an Afghani woman who fought against the treatment of women by the Taliban. Another voice is that of a Russian woman who founded the first domestic violence hotline in her country. Hasfat Abiola, now a political figure in Nigeria, began her journey when her activist parents were murdered.

Cece Sloan, a longtime Village resident, produced the play locally and will bring it to The Towers for a performance, Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. She and two other actors performed "Seven" at the United Nations Women's Commission on the Status of Women in New York, offering dramatic testimony of the role of women in the fight against human rights abuse throughout their 12-day meeting.

#### **Patio Now Open for Summertime Events**

By Towers Adviser Saretta Berlin



At The Towers, summer officially begins when the patio – freshly cleaned and filled with flowering plants -- opens for the season. This year the first Patio Party, complete with music and a bar, took place April 29. Events scheduled for the remainder of the season include the holiday BBQs on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day and an assortment of evening entertainment. Residents and their guests are always welcome to enjoy the patio. During the day there is plenty of shade and the fountain provides a cooling backdrop. In the evening, with twinkle lights illuminated, it is the perfect spot to meet with friends over after-dinner drinks or coffee.



# **About Us**

This newsletter is put together by all of the housing Mutuals and GRF. If you have comments about this newsletter, please contact JoAnn diLorenzo, GRF Secretary, at <a href="joanndilorenzo914@gmail.com">joanndilorenzo914@gmail.com</a>, Burt Baum, Third Secretary at <a href="maggiebewell@comtine.com">bsqrd54@gmail.com</a>, Maggie Blackwell, United Secretary at <a href="maggiebewell@comtine.com">maggiebewell@comtine.com</a>, or Katy Howe, General Manager at the Towers at <a href="maggiebewell@comtine.com">katy.howe@associa.us</a>.

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