

# VILLAGE BREEZE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021



Recreation + Transportation + News + Services + More





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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

### UNIQUELY YOURS

I chose this issue's cover image because it vividly shows how picturesque a late-summer SoCal day can be. It's not specific to Laguna Woods Village, but it serves as a reminder that such beauty lies close—the Southern California mecca known as Laguna Beach is just 15 scenic minutes away via a canyon road unlike anywhere else in our state. Laguna is brilliantly unique among West Coast jewels, as is the Village among virtually any community—enclave for active adults 55 and older or not. The Village offers beauty in the eyes of all beholders, whether as a wild creek, lush green landscaping, stunning and sweeping vistas or anything else here that brings a smile to your face, a song to your heart and spring to your step. But you don't need me to remind you—your friends and neighbors can do that with their amazing photos. So, please, enjoy this issue and enjoy your community.

*Ellyce*

**Ellyce Rothrock, Editor**

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BY JENNIFER KARMARKAR



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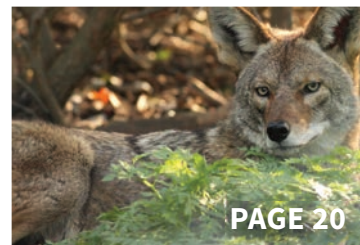
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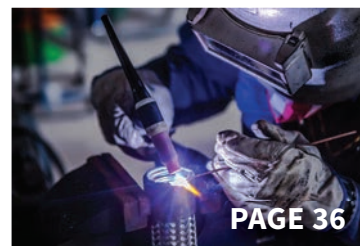
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**GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION**  
of LAGUNA WOODS

**THIRD LAGUNA HILLS**  
— MUTUAL —

**UNITED LAGUNA WOODS**  
— MUTUAL —

*Village Management Services, Inc.*

**THE TOWERS**  
*at Laguna Woods Village*

## VILLAGE BREEZE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

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Unsolicited manuscripts and content suggestions are welcome for possible future use in the Village Breeze or other VMS publications. Acknowledgement of unsolicited manuscripts is in no way a suggestion or guarantee of publication.

Submit concise editorial ideas as a one-page letter accompanied by recent writing samples to [info@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:info@lagunawoodsvillage.com) or to Village Breeze, 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Include your full name, phone number, email address and manor number. To receive a copy of the Laguna Woods Village Style Guide and editorial guidelines, email [info@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:info@lagunawoodsvillage.com).

Submissions will not be returned.

Village Breeze reserves the right to edit any and all content for clarity, accuracy, space and tone and correct grammar, spelling and usage.

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## WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



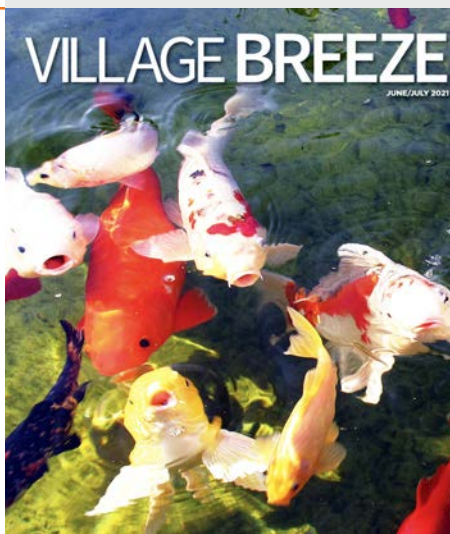
# GET INVOLVED!

In addition to the many amenities and activities offered through the Recreation and Special Events Department, more than 250 clubs, special interest groups and organizations offer residents a wealth of fun and entertainment. With so many clubs to choose from, there's sure to be like-minded new friends to make.

Visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs) to browse clubs dedicated to arts and crafts, cultural, dance, games, health and wellness, performing arts, political, religious and spiritual, science and tech, sports and fitness, support groups and more.







## WHERE TO FIND THE VILLAGE BREEZE

Pick up a copy at several locations throughout the community.

The Village Breeze is delivered to every manor via the United States Postal Service's Every Door Direct program. However, if delivery misses its mark at your door, you can find copies available throughout the Village:

- Clubhouse 1 fitness center
- Clubhouse 1, 2, 4, 5 offices
- Community Center concierge desk, fitness center, Recreation office
- Equestrian Center office
- Garden Center 2 office
- Golf pro shop, par 3 office
- Tennis clubhouse
- Village Library

You also can call the regional postmaster to inform them of missed delivery at **949 837-1848**.



## CAR WASHING AND OVERWATERING

The rules and impact of both

Everyone wants a clean car and some prefer to wash it themselves. Before you get your hose and bucket ready, it's important to know your mutual's car washing rules.

- Third Mutual: Car washing is prohibited in the interest of water conservation. Visit <https://bit.ly/2W8mdTv> and scroll to Section 7.12, Washing.
- United Mutual: Car washing is allowed as long as a hose features a spray nozzle with a shutoff valve, again to conserve water. Visit <https://bit.ly/3zmxrSj> and scroll to Section 7.12, Washing.

### Avoid Overwatering

From time to time the Security Department receives complaints about overwatering, which can pose a slip and fall hazard for others. Using a broom and a dust pan to clean outdoor surfaces is not only effective but it also helps conserve water. Overwatering also can be detrimental to plants depending on their individual water requirements and may cause dirt and other debris to flow onto walkways. Our Landscaping Services Department works diligently to keep plants healthy by following a systematic irrigation schedule. If you are aware of water waste in the Village, please call the anonymous Compliance Hotline at **949-268-2255**, or email at [compliance@vmsinc.org](mailto:compliance@vmsinc.org) and provide specific information.





## WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE

# California's DRYING!

Our state finds itself once again hung out to dry amid a worsening drought.

As of press time, Governor Newsom had called on Californians to voluntarily cut their water usage by 15% compared with last year and expanded his regional drought state of emergency to 50 counties, home to roughly 42% of the population, according to the Los Angeles Times.

If this drought persists, it might outpace the previous drought during Governor Brown's administration, during which scant winter rainfall led to minimal snowpack on the Sierra Nevada mountains, and spring heat evaporated much of the runoff that was expected to flow into reservoirs, stated the Times.

With this troubling news in mind, our ever-changing climate requires Village residents to adopt permanent changes to use water more wisely and prepare for more frequent and persistent periods of limited water supply.

If we cannot reduce usage, it will result in raised rates and penalty charges from the El Toro Water District. We urgently need your cooperation in keeping our water usage and costs in check.

The average Californian uses 196 gallons of water per day. We can work collectively to reduce water use and save money by taking some simple steps:

- Check for leaks in kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas. Look for worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves (particularly toilets). Call Resident Services at **949-597-4600** if you need a plumber.
- Capture cool tap water while waiting for it to heat up to use it later for cooking or watering plants.
- Rinse fruit and vegetables in a sink or a pan filled with water instead of running the water continuously for an estimated savings of 30 gallons a week.

- Use low-flow shower heads and limit showers to 5 minutes or less for an estimated savings of 75 gallons a week.
- Run only full loads of laundry and dishes; place food scraps into the garbage can or rinse them off with very short blasts of hot water for an estimated savings of 60 gallons per week.
- Use a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Don't water your plantings between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and refrain from watering the common area landscaping altogether.
- Do not hose or wash down hard or paved surfaces (driveways, patios and sidewalks).

If you are aware of water waste in the Village, please call the anonymous Compliance Hotline at **949-268-2255**, or email [compliance@vmsinc.org](mailto:compliance@vmsinc.org) and provide specific information.







# DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE DARK

How to sign up for rolling blackout alerts for this summer's heat wave events.

According to the 2021 Farmers' Almanac, this summer and fall SoCal will be warmer and drier than normal. For those who appreciate heat, this may be welcome news. However, with heat and heat waves come rolling blackouts.

## SCE's Outage Center

Receive outage alerts via voicemail, email or text. Go to [sce.com/user-registration](https://sce.com/user-registration) to create a user ID and profile. Once you are registered, go to the Outage Alert Preferences page at [sce.com/pa/customer-service/faqs/alert-preference-center](https://sce.com/pa/customer-service/faqs/alert-preference-center). Learn more about power outages and report them at [sce.com/outage-center](https://sce.com/outage-center).



## COOLING IT

Beat the heat at Clubhouse 1, Restaurant 19 and Laguna Woods City Hall.

Clubhouse 1 is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Restaurant 19 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Also, Laguna Woods City Hall is a designated cooling center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (when the Council Chambers are not in use). Please note that per the State Public Health Officer's guidelines, face coverings are required for all persons regardless of vaccination status when at city hall for cooling center purposes, unless exempt.

# SKIP THE LINE AT RESIDENT SERVICES

Go online to save effort and time.

Did you know that many things offered by Resident Services can be done from the convenience of your own home? Avoid heat and lines, save gas and time, and go online for the following:

- Register guests for daily passes and overnight parking permits 24/7/365 with DwellingLive at [lagunawoodsvillage.com/passes](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/passes) or download the app at Google Play or the App Store.
- Process credit card payments, submit service requests, check account balances, print account statements, update emergency contacts and review resident and vehicle information at [portal.lagunawoodsvillage.com](https://portal.lagunawoodsvillage.com).
- View frequently called Laguna Woods Village numbers at [lagunawoodsvillage.com/contact](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/contact).
- Schedule an appointment at or email questions to [residentservices@vmsinc.org](mailto:residentservices@vmsinc.org).





## WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



# TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Get to where you need to go.

Laguna Woods Village strives to help residents get to local shopping destinations, important appointments and more. For contact information, FAQs, bus and route maps and more, visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/transportation](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/transportation).

### Easy Rider/Fixed Routes

- Schedule times are approximate
- Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before scheduled time
- Hours of service: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (no service Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's days)

### Boost (LYFT Rideshare)

- Monday - Friday: 7 - 9 a.m. and 5 - 10 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sunday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Book rides using the smartphone app (with Village password LWVBOOST) or by calling Transportation at **949-597-4659**.

### Journey

- Scheduled ride service for preapproved riders with medical needs. Call **949-597-4659** and dial 4 for reservations.
- Daily: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (no service Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's days)

Village Transportation follows Transportation Security Administration regulations and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for mask requirements. Currently, all passengers and drivers of public transportation must wear a mask.



# TAKE A CLASS

Recreation offers more than 15 classes for fitness and fun.

Looking for new ways to occupy your mind and exercise your body? Consider taking one or more of the 15 classes currently offered by the Recreation and Special Events Department, including mat/chair yoga, ballroom dance, English or Korean language classes, cycling, jazz dance and more.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2TnNvEa> to view the current class schedule. For more information, email the recreation office at [recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org) or call **949-597-4273**.



# OCHCA URGES CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

Keep your COVID-19 masks handy and follow best practices to stay safe.

Public health officials at the OC Health Care Agency (OCHCA) are encouraging residents to take adequate safety precautions as COVID-19 cases continue to increase in the county. Those who are not fully vaccinated must continue wearing a mask indoors in accordance with guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

“We need to continue being proactive about protecting our loved ones and neighbors and taking the necessary steps to help reduce the risk of infection throughout our county,” said Dr. Clayton Chau, County Health Officer and Agency Director of OCHCA.

In line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OCHCA is reminding individuals to avoid large crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, especially

those who are not fully vaccinated or who live with others who are unvaccinated or have high health risk of contracting COVID-19. More than 90% of new positive cases are among people who are not fully vaccinated, and more than 95% of those hospitalized with COVID-19 had not been fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, all COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States are effective against COVID-19, including serious outcomes like severe disease, hospitalization and death.

Testing also remains a critical component of the county’s strategy to reduce viral transmission.

“Testing helps support early detection and prevent the spread of possible variants,” said Dr. Margaret Bredehoft, Deputy Agency Director of OCHCA Public Health Services. “Self-collection, at-home COVID-19 test kits are available



at no cost by visiting [www.ocalthinfo.com/covidtest](http://www.ocalthinfo.com/covidtest). If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please seek testing, regardless of your vaccination status.”

To keep the community informed, OCHCA reports county COVID-19 case counts and testing figures Monday through Friday. Dr. Chau also encourages individuals who remain hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to learn more about it through credible sources including the CDC, the CDPH, the Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization.





## WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



# MEETING SEATING

Attend open board, committee meetings in person or online.

Community Center seating for in-person open board and committee meetings is back!

Most committee and open board meetings are held as an in-person/online hybrid. Although some committee meetings may continue to be held online only, the majority of meetings will be held in-person in the Community Center board room, broadcast via Zoom and streamed on Granicus.

All meetings are subject to change; ending times are approximate. To view the meetings schedule, visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com) > **Calendars > All Governance Boards Calendar**.

### Board and Committee Meetings Via Granicus

Visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com/meetings](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/meetings) to watch open board and committee meetings online via Granicus (board meetings are also televised on TV6). Meetings are listed by date, with the most recent at the top. Click **Video** to watch the meetings and view agenda documents, or click **Agenda** to see the documents and backup materials. Viewers also can locate agenda items by typing keywords into the **Search** box.

Owner-members also are invited to submit comments remotely by emailing [meeting@vmsinc.org](mailto:meeting@vmsinc.org)

[vmsinc.org](https://vmsinc.org) any time before or during the meeting. Include your name, unit number and the name of the meeting on which you're commenting in the email subject field.

### Board and Committee Meetings Via Zoom

Participate live in open board and committee meetings via Zoom. Virtually raise your hand, ask questions and speak to board and committee members in real time. The platform also automatically records and publishes board and committee meetings to [lagunawoodsvillage.com/meetings](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com/meetings) (Granicus), so residents can watch them on demand.

To attend virtual open board or committee meetings, just look for the Zoom meeting link in the Open Forum section of the respective board's or committee's agenda posted on [lagunawoodsvillage.com](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com) and TeamUp. Click on the link a few minutes prior to the meeting to launch Zoom. Then select "Open Zoom Meetings" and "Launch Meeting" when prompted. Residents may need to enter a provided password to attend some meetings.

Members who wish to speak during the member comment agenda item may use the Raise Hand button on the Zoom screen. Members will be recognized in the order in which they have raised their hand.





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## CALIFORNIA RECORDS COVID-19 VACCINES DIGITALLY

**How to access the portal and acquire an electronic record of your card**

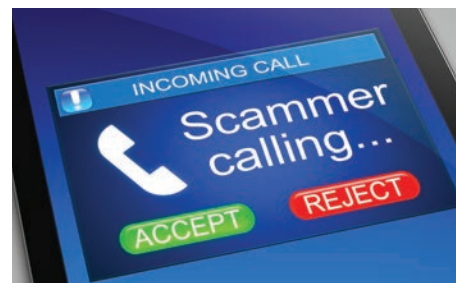
If you're vaccinated against COVID-19, you can now access a digital copy of your vaccination record. Accessing this digital replica makes it easier to show that you were vaccinated and provides a backup to your paper card in case it gets lost. The electronic alternative provides the same information as the paper card issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, plus a QR code that confirms authenticity when scanned.

The online portal pulls records from the state's immunization registry systems.

1. Visit [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) to access the portal.
2. Provide your name, date of birth and an email address or cellphone number you used when you received your vaccine.
3. Create a personal ID number at the prompt that will be sent directly to your email address or phone number on file.
4. Troubleshoot the portal by double checking that your information is correct and matches the email address and phone number associated with your vaccine record.
5. Visit <https://bit.ly/3iy2a8i> or contact the COVID-19 hotline at **833-422-4255** if issues persist or if a record needs correcting.

LAist reporter Jackie Fortiér offers these tips:

- Do not let your computer auto fill the fields.
- Remember that this is a website and not an app.
- Take a picture of your QR code; the link will disappear after 24 hours.
- Realize that the QR code cannot be stored by a business after scanning it.



## SCAMMERS' LATEST TRICKS

Don't believe that "friend" on your voicemail got thousands of dollars.

Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money—possibly your life savings—over the phone. Some scammers act friendly and helpful; others might threaten or try to scare you. One thing remains consistent: A phone scammer will try to get your money or your personal information to commit identity theft ([identitytheft.gov/#](https://www.fbi.gov/identity-theft)). Don't give it to them. Visit [consumer.ftc.gov/articles/phone-scams](https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/phone-scams) to learn from the Federal Trade Commission how to recognize phone scams, examples of scams, how to stop scammers' calls, what to do if you already paid a scammer and how to report phone scams.

Recently, here in the Village, several residents have reported they have received phone messages from people purporting to be friends and/or neighbors describing how to acquire money. According to one resident's message, a "friend" received more than \$100,000.





# SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON

BY JENNIFER KARMARKAR



Time-honored Komedy Klub looks forward to resuming its highly popular shows that offer comedy and camaraderie.

**A** guy walks into a bar and said, “Hey bartender, where can I find a stage, a cake and hundreds of people who like to laugh?”

That may sound like the start to a good joke, except the venue is not a bar, it’s Clubhouse 5. And the hundreds of people rolling on the floor laughing are enjoying a hilarious evening at one of Laguna Woods Village’s most beloved institutions, The Komedy Klub.

The Komedy Klub has been entertaining audiences with a blend of homegrown and professional comedians the fourth Thursday each month for nearly a quarter-century. The concept is part nightclub, part social club, where residents line up to pay a few dollars to see top-notch comedians, plucked from cruise ships, comedy improvs, television and even Las Vegas.

“Laughter really is the best medicine of all,” said Margie Turner, a club board member who’s been attending Komedy Klub shows since moving to Laguna Woods Village nine years ago. “There are so many things that are depressing to people, but here they can go in, sit down and have a meal with their friends or socialize at the bar and just enjoy the comedy.”



Residents are seated with friends at large, round tables. Refreshments are included—or patrons can bring their own—and there's a no-host bar for those who desire something stronger than coffee.

Shows regularly sell out, month after month.

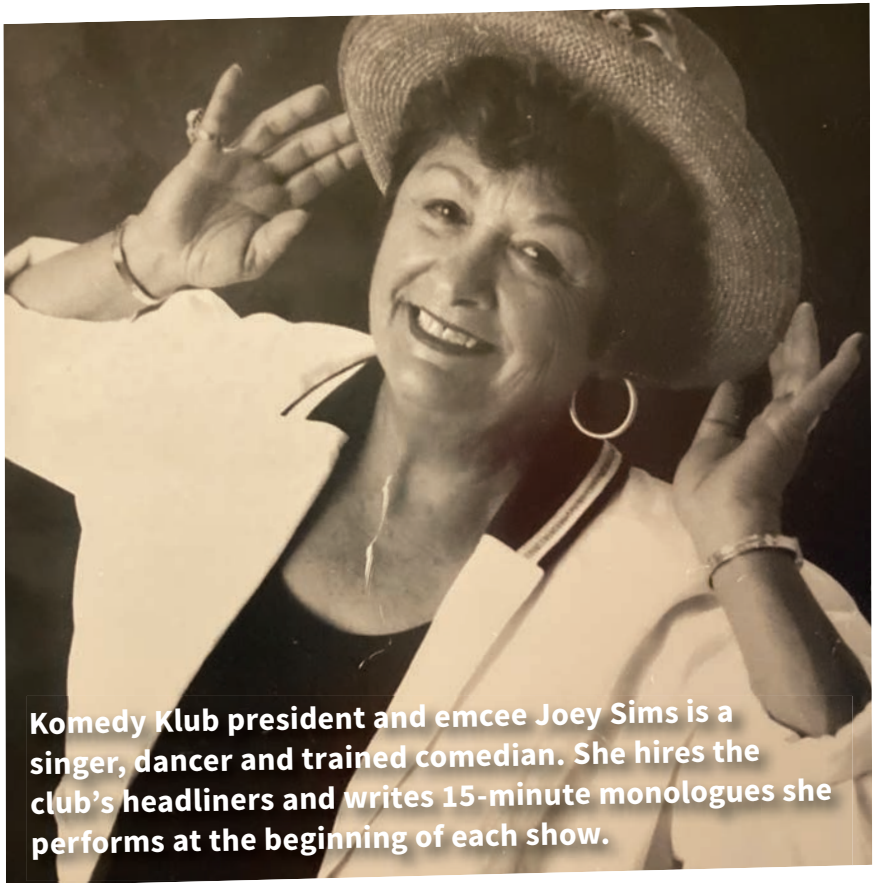
"People want to be entertained; they want to laugh, especially our population," said club founder Wally Granberg, 91.

Much of the club's success comes from the quality of the comedians it attracts. Popular acts have included Karen Rontowski, who blends comedy with her experience as a paranormal investigator and tarot card reader, and Mark Schumacher, a former school teacher who in 2015 was named one of the top 100 comedians in the country.

Some comics do impersonations; others strum a guitar or do musical parodies. One comedian, a former Disneyland entertainer, did an act with a bird that "was absolutely hysterical," said Surri Klein, the club's vice president. "People call and ask about booking him again."

And, because many residents have grandchildren, kids always are a relatable topic, Turner said.

But most would agree the secret sauce that binds this mix is the club's president and emcee, "Laguna Woods' Funny Lady," Joey Sims. A singer, dancer and trained comedian herself, Sims not only hires the headliners, but also writes a 15-minute monologue she performs at the beginning of each show.



**Komediy Klub president and emcee Joey Sims is a singer, dancer and trained comedian. She hires the club's headliners and writes 15-minute monologues she performs at the beginning of each show.**

Sims' topics run the gamut from aging, dating and dieting to her own health issues, including breaking her back in four places doing Zumba. What they don't include is smut. "I like edgy but not dirty," Sims said. "And being a senior, I know how to talk to the seniors, and I know what they want to hear and what they don't, and then I'm able to pick out the right comedians for them."

"When you're funny you don't have to be dirty," Sims said. "We tell them PG-13 and once in a while they'll go a little over that, but they don't do any cussing and dirty stuff because they don't have to do that. When you don't end every set with a bunch of bad words, and every word has to mean something, you're set is gonna be better."

### **Would-be Comedians**

The Komediy Klub was formed in 1998 after another club split into two factions. "One group went one way and became the Players Club, and we went the other way," Granberg said. "They voted me as president, and I quickly learned there were 20 presidents but only one person willing to stand up in front of the group, and that was me."

The club met monthly at Clubhouse 2; dues were \$10, and the audience members were the would-be comedians. There were few rules: They had to come up with their own jokes, they had to tell them from memory and they had to keep it clean (although Klein said the third rule was weakly enforced).



Ofentimes, the comedians' composure was funnier than their jokes, especially when they'd forget the punchline, Granberg said. "However, they were willing to put themselves in that position, and it just kept going. There were lines of people wanting to do it, and it wasn't the same folks. We would have to limit the number of people telling jokes because it was only an hour and a half meeting."

Eventually, the club started bringing in professional comedians and its popularity grew, forcing a move to larger digs in Clubhouse 7. When Sims took over as president in 2008, the caliber of the comedians shot up several notches and the club moved again, this time to its current home in Clubhouse 5, which seats nearly 500.

**Standing, from left: Martin Taylor (announcer), Kathy Tilley, Bill Tilley (publicity), Valerie Baker (volunteer), Joey Sims (president), Diane Landers (volunteer), Judy Blando (filming), Nancy Bledsoe (volunteer), Arlene Gitt, Al Gitt (volunteer) and Howard King (volunteer). Sitting, from left: Board of Directors: Margie Turner, Barbara Harris (treasurer), Carole Feldman, Surri Klein (vice president), Rosie Fine, Stan Fine and Wally Granberg (founder)**

"Because of Joey's history as a comedian and knowing a lot of people, that helped us get started and get fresh, new talent," Klein said.

Sims has a group of about 15 favorite comics she brings back year after year.

"The entertainment is excellent," said Richard Palmer, a resident. "There's not a lot of off-color comments, the comedians respect the crowd, and they react to it. I don't know where Joey gets all this talent from, but it's something that I always look forward to going to."

The only acts that didn't go over well were a magician and a hypnotist, Klein said. "We just want funny stories."

Appealing to baby boomers on up can be tricky, Sims said, but she pulls it off because she knows her comedians and she knows what resonates with her audiences.

"These comedians realize that even if we're in our 70s and 80s, we're grandmas and grandpas and we were mothers and fathers, and they can relate to us. I fill them in about Laguna Woods Village before they come,



and that's something I don't think most people do. I know that knowing the audience is the most important thing."

"Joey tries to keep it new and fresh," Klein said. "She never invites anybody that she doesn't see in person or in a YouTube presentation. She decides whether she feels they are proper enough for our club."

### It's Show Time!

It's 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday, and a whirlwind of activity is taking place in the Clubhouse 5 main lounge. About 15 volunteers are engaged in setting tables, hanging signs, setting up the ticket table and preparing to greet nearly 500 comedy lovers for the evening show.

Resident Martin Taylor is waiting in the wings to introduce Sims, who elicits wild applause as she introduces each club in attendance before jumping into one of her signature songs.

The board members already met the previous week to discuss how to ensure things run smoothly and efficiently on show night. "We have a good board, and certainly I work awfully hard, but I happen to know it's not a one-man show. There's a lot to it," Sims said.

Klein agreed. "It's a well-oiled machine because we all put our heads together, and we all get along as a board. It's just very organized. To me, if you care about what you're doing it's gonna be a success."

Of course, that all was during pre-pandemic times; like most

Laguna Woods Village clubs, the KomedY Klub has been dark since February 2020. Although some entertainment clubs have switched their formats to Zoom, the KomedY Klub did not.

"Comedy is painful on Zoom, even for the best comedians," Sims said. "I think it's because we don't feel fun and funny without an audience reaction. What makes this club so great is that this audience really reacts. If you're a good comedian, you look at people's faces and it does something to you."

Sims said she's looking forward to the shows resuming, even if only at 50% capacity. "I hope we get back full steam ahead sometime soon. Comedy means a ton, especially now."



## Virtual Community Education

### Get the most out of Medicare.

Not sure which Medicare plans and options are the best fit for you or a loved one? MemorialCare is here to help you. We will connect you to resources that provide education on all you need to know about Medicare so that it is easier for you to make a decision about what is right for you.

#### You can learn about:

- Original Medicare
- Medicare Advantage plans
- Prescription Drug plans
- Medigap plans
- Time frames of when to consider applying for Medicare
- Who is eligible for Medicare
- What coverage options are available
- How to apply for Medicare
- And more!

Learn about the four parts of Medicare and get in contact with Medicare experts. Find a date and time that works best for you at: [memorialcare.org/MCEvents](https://www.memorialcare.org/MCEvents)



# HAPPINESS

## *Is a Butterfly*

Monarch lovers in the Village do their part to preserve the species.

BY JENNIFER KARMARKAR

**V**ibrant and graceful, the monarch butterfly is truly one of nature's most magnificent creatures. Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarchs migrate from the northern U.S. and Canada to coastal California and the mountains of northern Mexico and back again—for some, a nearly 3,000-mile journey.

Sadly, a number of factors, including drought, habitat loss through overdevelopment and the overuse of pesticides and herbicides, have caused monarch populations throughout California to dwindle. The most recent census conducted annually by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation shows western monarch numbers have dropped by 99%, from an estimated 4 million butterflies 20 years ago to about 2,000 individual butterflies today.

In response, a number of Villagers are doing their part to encourage monarch conservation. Some breed monarchs or plant butterfly nectar plants to provide energy for the migratory journey while others plant

milkweed—the host plant of the monarch caterpillar. It's hoped that through such public efforts, the monarch will avoid being placed on the endangered species list, which is slated to happen in 2024.

### **A Most Personal Hobby**

When avid outdoorsman and conservationist Ian Samson became aware of the decreasing number of monarchs in the area, he decided to raise them. His late wife, Linda, was busy competing in dog agility shows with their



pooches, Lexi and Surfer Girl, so Samson found himself with extra time on his hands. He purchased a 3-foot-high netting cage and some milkweed seeds, watched a few YouTube videos and poof—he was a butterfly breeder, and he was hooked!

“It’s fun to do,” Samson said about the hobby he started about four years ago. “It gets quite personal. You almost want to name each of them.”

Samson began by planting a few milkweed seeds around his manor. Soon, the seeds sprouted into plants that attracted monarchs to lay eggs. He set up the netting cage in his garage and once he noticed eggs underneath the milkweed leaves, he moved the plants inside and placed them on a growing container in the butterfly cage.

It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch into caterpillars. During the next 14 days, the caterpillar will molt five times. After the fifth molt, the caterpillar climbs to the top of the cage and forms a sac called a chrysalis. Once the chrysalis turns clear, the adult butterfly emerges. After about four hours its wings will straighten and dry, and it can be released.

Samson raised silkworms as a child growing up in South Africa, and finds the attraction to raising monarchs similar.

“The silkworms were very personable,” he said. “They’d crawl on your hand; you could put them on your nose. They weren’t frightened by people.”

Monarch caterpillars are shy, he says.

Courtesy of Pat Cameron



Courtesy of Ian Samson

**Pat Cameron, chair of the monarch boosters, created a monarch waystation in her garden. Her group hopes to inspire other Laguna Woods Village gardeners to do the same.**

“They resent being touched and curl up into a ball,” he said.

Still, Samson admitted to developing an affection for them that borders on parental—in fact, he can even tell the difference between a male and a female monarch. (The male has a bulge above the black vein closest to its body and the female doesn’t.)

Over time, Samson has increased the number of milkweed plants around his manor and has put up signs in English and Spanish cautioning the gardeners not to remove it. He says he’s noticed a significant drop in monarchs this year, likely due to the depletion of milkweed around the area.

“Just about every creature besides man is thinning out,” he said. “It’s sad. I try to do my piece.”



**Caterpillars feed on milkweed.**

### **Garden Club Gets Involved**

An offshoot of the Garden Club called Monarch Boosters recently launched a campaign to encourage native milkweed plantings along with native nectar plants.

Yes, controversy exists even in the world of monarch butterflies. While tropical milkweed is abundant and easy to grow, international monarch watch groups are now saying that native milkweed is healthier overall, said Pat Cameron, the group’s chair.

All milkweed—native and tropical—harbors a microscopic





**The caterpillar moves to the top of the enclosure to form a sac called a chrysalis, where it will complete its transformation to a butterfly.**

**A growing tray is placed in the bottom of the butterfly enclosure. The frass, or waste, must be collected daily.**

parasite that can maim the butterflies, she said. Native milkweed dies back in the fall and the parasite dies with it, but tropical milkweed will continue to grow and must be pruned in the fall so its seeds do not spread.

“If you do that religiously you won’t have a problem,” Cameron said. “But we have a lot of elderly people and they might forget to prune, which is not good.”

Cameron says she, along with many gardeners in the club, are

## WANT TO HELP CONSERVE MONARCH MIGRATION?

- Include native flowering plants in your home garden, focusing on early- and late-blooming species that support the early spring and fall migrations.
- Ensure plants you purchase from nurseries are pesticide free.
- Limit pesticide use.
- Plant only species of milkweed that are native to your region, whenever possible. In Southern California, those include California milkweed, Indian milkweed and narrow-leaved milkweed.
- If you already have tropical milkweed in your garden, prune the milkweed stalks to about 6 inches high during the fall and winter months to discourage monarchs from establishing winter-breeding colonies.
- Recut the milkweed every few weeks as leaves resprout.
- Contribute to scientific knowledge about winter-breeding monarchs by participating in citizen science projects. Collect parasite samples from wild monarchs for Project Monarch Health ([monarchparasites.org](http://monarchparasites.org)), report observations about winter monarch sightings on Journey North ([learner.org/jnorth](http://learner.org/jnorth)) or collect detailed information on monarch use of milkweed plants for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project ([mlmp.org](http://mlmp.org)).

Sources: Environmental Nature Center, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**A sign cautions gardeners not to remove the milkweed, which is the host plant for the monarch.**





new to planting with natives, too. “We’re on a gardening and nature discovery ourselves,” she said. “It’s exciting to get involved in something new in our gardens to see what happens with it.”

To help protect monarch habitats, the group is encouraging Village gardeners to create certified “monarch waystations” in their home gardens. Once gardeners have met certain criteria for garden size, sun exposure, number of milkweed and nectar plants and garden management, they may apply to [monarchwatch.org/waystations](http://monarchwatch.org/waystations) to become certified.

Once certified, gardeners can purchase a sign to put in their garden advocating monarch conservation and encouraging others to plant milkweed.

The group hopes to get enough Villagers certified so the Golden Rain Foundation can promote the Village as “monarch friendly.” But their ultimate goal is to provide helpful information.

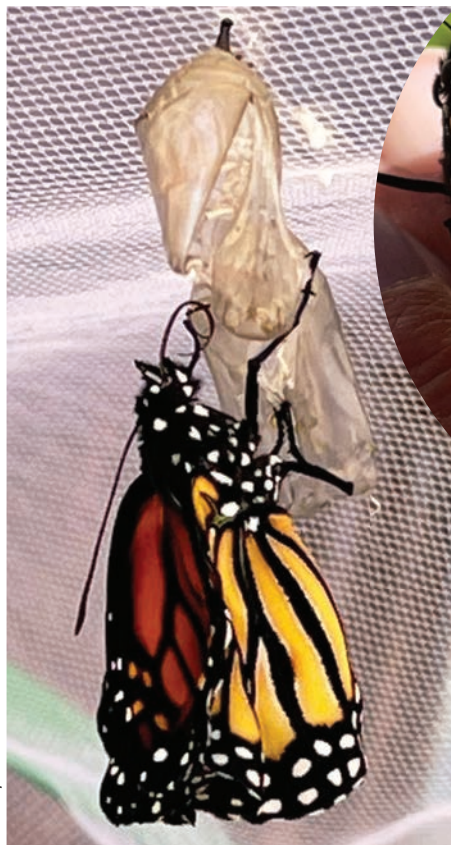
“We don’t want to offend people,” Cameron said. “We’re just trying to make sure people are educated.”

### **Monarch Momma Gets Attached**

Three years ago, Linda Whelan’s neighbor introduced her to raising monarchs and, after reading that monarchs are in jeopardy, she decided to try it herself. She bought the butterfly screen room from an online retailer and a couple butterfly bushes from a local nursery and she was soon a “monarch momma” herself.

“I just think it’s interesting,”

Courtesy of Ian Samson



**The monarch butterfly emerges from its chrysalis. Once its wings dry and straighten, it can be released.**

Whelan said. “I really get attached to the caterpillars.”

Raising monarchs is a fun and easy hobby for seniors, Whelan said, and after the purchase of the butterfly cage, the only expense is the milkweed plants.

Whelan released about 15 monarchs this spring, and by early summer she had about 50 caterpillars in various stages.

“They’re eating me out of house and home!” she said.

Caterpillars have huge appetites and can eat 200 times their weight in milkweed. And as they eat constantly, they generate a lot of waste, called frass, which should be collected often to keep the larvae healthy.



**Ian Samson prepares to release a male monarch. The male has a bulge on either side of the black vein nearest its body, which the female does not have.**

Whelan lines her butterfly cage with newspapers, which she changes daily.

She and her husband, Tim, enjoy watching the butterflies form inside the chrysalis.

“It’s just amazing how the big butterfly comes out of it,” she said.

Once the monarch emerges, they let it flap its wings for a few hours to straighten them. Then, one of them will put their finger inside the cage for the monarch to crawl on so it can be released.

“That’s my favorite part,” Whelan said. “They get on my finger and sometimes they’ll fly on my shoulder before they take off, and I think that’s neat.”

Sometimes she’ll see a butterfly on her patio that looks vaguely familiar.

“Oh, I think that’s one of ours,” she’ll say to her husband. “He’s back.”



# COEXISTING WITH CANIS LATRANS

The cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods provide answers to the coyote question.

**L**ike other communities located near wilderness areas, coyotes are a part of the local ecosystem. While most encounters with coyotes are nonthreatening, they can exhibit aggressive behavior and attack people and pets. Recently, coyotes have been observed in greater numbers in residential areas due in part to a drought-related reduction in wilderness sources of food and water, as well as the continued presence of “attractants” such as off-leash dogs and free-roaming cats.

## What Is Being Done?

Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services works throughout the year to prevent and respond to instances of aggressive coyote behavior. Its multifaceted approach to coyote control includes:

**Public education:** Animal Services officers are available to speak with residents one on one, either in person or by telephone, as well as at club meetings and other gatherings. For more information, call Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services at **949-497-0701 (press 0)** or email [coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net). Visit the City of Laguna Beach’s coyote information web page at <https://bit.ly/36VT6Ve>.

**Hazing:** Animal Services officers use sound, visual and tactile stimuli to frighten coyotes and discourage their presence in residential areas.

**Habitat management:** Animal Services officers work closely

## COYOTE MYTHS

**Myth: Coyotes can be completely eradicated.**

**Fact:** It is impossible to eradicate all coyotes due to their breeding and territorial patterns—and doing so would be unwise given ecosystem implications. Research shows that oftentimes when coyotes are aggressively eradicated, their reproductive rates increase, with breeding occurring earlier and in greater numbers.

**Myth: Coyotes can be controlled by poison or sterilization.**

**Fact:** It is generally illegal to use poisons or toxicants to control coyotes. Similarly, there is no practical and perhaps lawful sterilization practice.

**Myth: Coyotes can be relocated.**

**Fact:** Trapped coyotes must be destroyed, as relocation is generally illegal and would in any case involve an unacceptable level of risk and liability.





with Laguna Woods Village and other private properties to eliminate “layups,” dens and other areas where coyotes might hide, lurk, rest or breed.

**Trapping:** Trapping and other methods of population control are employed as conditions warrant. Research shows there is a fine line between effective and ineffective population control efforts. While targeted trapping can be effective in disrupting aggressive behavior, it is not undertaken, nor would it be successful, as a strategy for reducing long-term populations. Coyotes also learn to avoid and manipulate traps over time, causing continual trapping to be both impractical and ineffective.

### What Can Individuals Do?

**Obey leash laws.** Keep your dog on a leash when outdoors. Allowing dogs to be off-leash for even just a moment (e.g., bringing in the mail, unloading groceries, wrapping up a walk) greatly increases the risk of a coyote attack. When returning home from a walk, do not remove your dog’s leash until you are inside with the door securely closed behind you. Allowing dogs to be outdoors without a leash is illegal and carries fines and penalties (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.14.010).

**Walk your dog using a leash 6 feet long or less.** The greater the distance between you and your dog, the more likely a coyote is to attack. Walking dogs using a leash greater than 6 feet long is illegal and carries fines

## WILDLIFE HAZING GUIDELINES

Hazing responses have shown to reduce incidents of wildlife aggression. Do not engage hazing techniques with an animal you believe is sick or injured. Contact authorities and remove yourself from the vicinity. Sick or injured animals are unpredictable and you should avoid contact.

For hazing guidelines from the cities of Laguna Beach and Laguna Woods, visit <https://bit.ly/3y8BWja>.

Report any unusual wildlife behavior by emailing Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services at [coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net). For incidents that require immediate attention, call the Laguna Beach Police Department at **949-497-0701**.

and penalties (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.14.010).

**When you walk, walk safely.** Walk your dog in groups whenever possible, and carry a whistle, air horn or other noisemaker to startle any coyotes you encounter. In addition, stand tall, shout, flail your arms in a defiant manner and throw rocks or other small objects.

**Keep cats indoors.** Free-roaming cats are easy prey for coyotes, no matter the size or breed. Keep your cat inside your home to ensure its safety and avoid emboldening coyotes.

**Keep pet food and water bowls indoors.** Especially with the drought resulting in drier creeks and streams, pet bowls are convenient sources of food and water for coyotes. Keep pet bowls indoors at all times. Doing so has the added benefit of enhancing your pet’s safety while eating and drinking.

**Do not feed wildlife.** Though oftentimes well intentioned, feeding wildlife draws coyotes closer to populated areas where they can lose their natural fear

and caution, making them a threat to both people and pets. Feeding wildlife is illegal and carries fines and penalties (Laguna Woods Municipal Code §5.20.070).

**Pick up fallen fruit.** Coyotes are omnivores that eat both meat and vegetation. Pick up fallen fruit and remove fruit hanging within 3 feet of the ground to prevent fruit trees from becoming sources of food for coyotes.

**Keep BBQ grills clean and covered.** Grease and grilled food remnants are a strong attractant.

**Keep your trash containers covered.** Make sure trash bins are covered and not overflowing to keep coyotes and other wildlife from scavenging.

**Report aggressive coyote behavior.** Too often, residents fail to report encounters with aggressive coyotes or make their reports to entities other than Laguna Beach/Laguna Woods Animal Services. As the Village’s animal control provider, the agency is only able to act on reports that it actually receives.



## Essential steps for secure internet searches

BY DEBORAH DOTSON, DIRECTOR, GRF BOARD

**T**he answer to whether you are on the internet is likely a resounding yes, and this year you've spent more time surfing than ever before. Can you count how many searches you've performed in the past year? Can you say with confidence that you feel safe searching the internet?

Numerous tools can help you safely search the internet. Hardware protection, antivirus software and browser security settings are an imperative start to a worry-free searching experience, but the first and last line of defense is still you.

### **Protect Your Hardware**

No computer should be without antivirus/antimalware software. These vital tools erect a "firewall" between you and the outside world and filter email to protect your computer against viruses or malware in case you accidentally

open a harmful attachment, click a malicious link or visit an infected website. Although many operating systems on Mac or Windows come with enough security to screen your email, adding third-party protection is essential today. These tools may

not be perfect, but without them, you could lose all your data from your computer.

### **How 'Cookies' Crumble**

Many antivirus software products include ad blocking, which can offer an extra layer of protection against unwanted ads or history tracking. Tracking "cookies"—the cyberworld's tasty personal insight treats—are small pieces of text that help a website remember information about your visit. Cookies can make it easier and more useful to revisit the same site, but consider the information passing back to that site, as well.

You may recall seeing popup messages to the effect of "We use cookies to give you the best experience. Some cookies are necessary for the technical



operation of our website. If you continue browsing, you agree to this site's use of cookies. We share information about your use of our site with social media, advertising and analytics partners." This is where you really should pay attention and not just click "OK." This information can be sold, but you have the right to "opt out," which is recommended. Many sites make it difficult to opt out, knowing you'll give up and just click OK. However, don't do that; take a minute and allow the technical cookies but opt out of marketing and other nonessential cookies. Often you can just close the cookie message without accepting.

A good antivirus program not only offers protection against viruses, malware, spyware and ransomware attacks, but also monitors privacy and identity. Install antivirus software when you set up your device. If this task seems daunting, hire a professional. A few dollars spent now can save you later. It's like wearing a seatbelt while you drive: You still must pay attention, but you are safer wearing it.

### **Use Browser Security Settings**

A browser is a computer program with a user interface for displaying and navigating web pages. If you go to the empty bar and start to type a word into that field, that is part of your browser. The most common browsers are Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari or Microsoft Edge.

Each browser allows you to customize settings to help

narrow your search, protect it and manage the history of the webpages you visit.

When "safe search" is activated in your browser, the filtering tool ensures safe search results for all keywords entered. While it isn't 100%, it helps filter explicit content in search results for all queries across images, videos and many websites. Google offers a robust search, which allows for multiple customizations. Most browsers have these features, so check yours and customize the settings to suit your needs. Time spent now will save you later!

The best protection for any computer user is the proper use of security settings and tools. Establishing the security settings on your browser is like wearing sunblock when you go outside—it can keep you from getting burned as long as you use it properly.

### **Read Before You Click**

What happens when you see the hundreds of thousands of results of that search? You click on the first few listed, right? However,

be aware that companies often pay extra to be listed on that first page, and their content may not represent the best quality of your search.

Also consider what the result says. If it has ".pdf" at the end, it is a document, not a website; if it ends in ".html," it might be a computer-coded item. If the country of origin of the site is different than the United States, it will often end in a country abbreviation. For example, sites from the United Kingdom end in "co.uk" or "org.uk."

Once you find what you want to explore further and click to open the page, if anything pops up other than a warning about "this site uses cookies," be sure to read that message before clicking on it—messages are one of the easiest ways for a virus to infiltrate your computer.

You can take many measures to search the internet safely, but you are your own best defense. Read before you click, err on the side of caution and create good habits when searching.

## **PICK UP CRUMBS AND DELETE COOKIES**

You probably know by now that Big Tech chases your every click. It's a great way for them to pinpoint your preferences so they can route personalized ads your way. But you may not know just how these companies are tracking you. That's all thanks to cookies—small bits of data that track your online activity as you move from site to site. Cookies can save your passwords and help you log on more easily, but they can also collect so much data it can feel stifling.

For step-by-step instructions on how to clear cookies from five popular web browsers, visit <https://nr.tn/3eJbftN>.



## SECURITY SERVICES

# DON'T LAND IN THE DOGHOUSE

Rules and regs regarding dogs in the Village



Summer is here, the weather is warm and many residents are enjoying the outdoors by walking their dogs. In order to ensure community safety (and peace), the Department of Security Services would like to remind all Village dog owners to please follow these guidelines for dogs.

## IMPORTANT SECURITY CONTACTS

Compliance Hotline (Anonymous) - **949-268-CALL**

Lost & Found Message Line - **949-597-4435**

RV storage inquiries - **949-268-2284**

Security (24/7) - **949-580-1400**

Visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com/residents/security-services](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com/residents/security-services) for more information regarding security services including reporting a community rule violation, the community emergency operations plans, RV storage and more.

### Do

- Keep your dog on leash (not to exceed 6 feet long) at all times while outside of the home
- Pick up dog waste and dispose of it in a proper waste container
- Take action to mitigate dog barking

### Don't

- Let your dog bark continuously and disturb the peace and comfort of neighbors
- Allow your dog to be aggressive in the community
- Leave your dog unattended in the community, including common areas, balconies and patios

Residents may register dog complaints with the Compliance Division at **949-268-CALL** or [compliance@vmsinc.org](mailto:compliance@vmsinc.org) or with the Security Department at **949-580-1400**.

### Why Scoop That Poop

- It's the law—many urban and suburban areas require it
- It can contaminate groundwater
- It may contain harmful organisms such as *Giardia*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli* that can be transmitted to humans and other animals
- It may contain roundworms and hookworms (deposited by infected animals) that can live in the soil for long periods and transmit to humans and other animals
- It can attract rodents
- It's the right thing to do





# PROTECT YOUR BIKE

Enroll in Security's bicycle registration program and increase recovery chances in the event of theft.

Laguna Woods Village Security provides a voluntary bicycle registration program for community residents to raise bicycle theft awareness and reduce the number of unrecovered bicycles throughout the Village.

## Why Register?

In the event your bicycle is stolen, the Security Department can quickly locate your bike's identifying information and provide it to the Orange County Sheriff's Department, which increases the chance of recovering your bicycle. Any information provided is confidential and is not shared outside of Laguna Woods

Village or the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Bicycle registration also aids in identifying residents in the event of a collision. Many bicyclists do not carry identification when out for a ride.

## How to Register

Take two photos of your bicycle: one full-frame photo and one photo of the serial number, which may be located in one of these areas:

- Underside of crank
- Rear stays
- Top of crank
- Headset
- Seat downtube next to crank

If you need assistance with your photos, ask a neighbor or friend for help. If you are still unable to obtain photos of your bike, email a photo request to Security at [chief@vmsinc.org](mailto:chief@vmsinc.org).

Visit <https://bit.ly/3inrdLt> to download the bicycle registration form and return it to Security (along with your bicycle photos) at [chief@vmsinc.org](mailto:chief@vmsinc.org) or Security Department, 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.

## Bicycle Theft Prevention Tips

- Always lock your bike, even if you leave it for just a moment.
- Always lock your bike's frame and wheels.
- Lock your bike even when it's stored in a garage or on a porch or a patio.
- Remove all detachable items such as lights, bags and quick-release parts.
- Lock your bicycle to a bike rack or a firmly affixed (bolts covered in concrete) object such as a parking meter or sign pole.
- Purchase the most expensive lock you can afford. U-locks are strong; better quality locks come with theft warranties.
- Only buy a U-lock with a flat or disc key; cylindrical-keyed locks are easier for thieves to pick.

## In the Event of Theft

Call the Orange County Sheriff's Department nonemergency phone number at **949-770-6011** to report a theft. Call Laguna Woods Village Security at **949-580-1400** to report a theft.



**WE HEAR YOU!**

# QUESTIONS ASKED & ANSWERED



***I moved into the community in 2020 and I am still trying to get acclimated now that Laguna Woods Village is reopening. What is the best way to get acquainted with the community and what it has to offer?***

Welcome to the Village! We suggest you attend a new resident orientation, which provides an overview of the community as it relates to your specific mutual. United Mutual focuses on living in a co-op and Third Mutual features the aspects of condo living. This orientation is hosted by a member of your board of directors, meaning any questions you have will be answered by a resident who also is a community policy maker. Email Executive Assistant Becky Jackson at [becky.jackson@vmsinc.org](mailto:becky.jackson@vmsinc.org) for more information about new resident orientation.

Remaining 2021 orientation dates by mutual:

Third Laguna Hills Mutual

- Friday, September 17, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 20, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 19, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 15, 4:30 p.m.

United Laguna Woods Mutual

- Wednesday, September 8, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 1, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 10, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 3, 9 a.m.

If you have a question for column author Catherine Laster, email [info@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:info@lagunawoodsvillage.com). Include your name, unit number and email in your message, and be sure to label the subject line My Community Question.



***Summer has arrived and I have no air conditioning. Does the community offer cooling options on hot days?***

Both the City of Laguna Woods and Laguna Woods Village offer places to cool off. To beat the heat in the Village, Clubhouse 1 is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Restaurant 19 is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Laguna Woods City Hall is a designated cooling center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., when the Council Chambers are not in use. Call Laguna Woods City Hall at [949-639-0500](tel:949-639-0500) before you visit to learn of any guidelines that must be followed in the city's cooling center.





***I get so frustrated when I see my neighbor breaking community rules. Is there anything that can be done?***

Yes. If your complaint concerns pet violations or noise issues your first step is to call Laguna Woods Village Security Dispatch at **949-580-1400** to initiate an incident report. For other issues, you may request that the Compliance Division investigate the alleged violation. Visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com) > Residents > Security Services; mid-page you can download a Compliance Request Form to document your story. All

complaints remain anonymous; no information is disclosed to the alleged violator.

***Does the community have a lost and found?***

If you have lost or found an item in the Village, call **949-597-4435** or email [lostandfound@vmsinc.org](mailto:lostandfound@vmsinc.org). You should receive a response within 24 hours.

***If I wanted to reach the board of directors for my housing mutual or for GRF, how could I do so?***

You can reach the boards of directors for Third and United

housing mutuals as well as GRF via various methods.

Mail a letter addressed to the board you wish to reach to 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Be sure to include the name of the board as the addressee.

Attend a board meeting and address the board during the open forum period of the agenda; participants have three minutes to speak to the board.

You may also pick up the list of directors from the concierge desk in the Laguna Woods Village Community Center at 24351 El Toro Road. This list includes phone numbers and/or email addresses of directors who have provided their contact information to the public.

Call the Office of the CEO at **949-597-4265** or email Executive Assistant Becky Jackson at [becky.jackson@vmsinc.org](mailto:becky.jackson@vmsinc.org) to leave a message for a specific board member.





LANDSCAPING

# OUR BELOVED CREEK



How Landscaping protects Aliso Creek and keeps it a habitat for native wildlife

In an effort to make Aliso Creek more aesthetically pleasing, Village Management Services staff teamed with regulatory agencies and wildlife biologists, who recently approved two additional selective cattail removals per year in addition to annual winter removals.

This authorization requires a wildlife biologist to survey the entire creek area for active nests or breeding ponds prior to starting work. Bird nesting season regulations also restrict activity in the creek to avoid disrupting the natural habitat of birds and other wildlife. Once these nests are located and safety buffers developed, crews can remove cattails from the remaining areas of the creek. A biologist monitors the work in progress to further ensure no habitat is disturbed.

While crew and biologists surveyed Aliso Creek, they discovered several nonnative species living in the creek—including goldfish, American bullfrogs and red-eared sliders. These three species are former house pets and don't belong in the wild. They may even threaten the creek's sensitive habitat and native species living there, like the western pond turtle (WPT).

Aliso Creek is home to the WPT, which is a protected species. The bullfrog, which you can hear bellowing in the evenings, is an invasive species that has spread throughout the state and is a known predator of WPT. Adult bullfrogs prey on juvenile pond turtles and breed in such large numbers that adults can eventually eat so many hatchling

**Aliso Creek is home to the western pond turtle, a protected species.**

turtles that few survive to adulthood. After the existing WPT adults die off, nothing is left of the population in that location.

Because the WPT is the only native freshwater turtle in its historic range, it did not develop the ability to successfully compete for resources with other turtle species. For example, red-eared sliders produce nearly twice as many offspring, which overwhelm and out-compete the pond turtle population for resources.

That is why Aliso Creek must remain a habitat for native wildlife. Biologists will clear the creek of any nonnative species they find there. Releasing pets into the wild is harmful for the pets, the native wildlife and our beloved creek. If you see anyone placing anything in the creek, please call Security at **949-580-1400** or Resident Services at **949-597-4600**.

**If you have questions about Landscaping Services, please contact Resident Services at **949-597-4600** or email [residentservices@vmsinc.org](mailto:residentservices@vmsinc.org).**





## SPEAKING FOR THE TREES

Defacing Village trees, especially those near Aliso Creek, is prohibited.

Trees are living organisms, and we should do all we can to protect them—especially all the wonderful species we have right here at home.

Recent reports of nails being driven into our trees necessitates a reminder that defacing Village trees, especially trees in and around the Aliso Creek area, which is a wildlife sanctuary, is prohibited.

Nails can damage the tissues responsible for moving water and nutrients throughout the tree's system, prolonging the healing process and placing the tree under stress. Stressed-out, unhealthy plants are more vulnerable to pest or disease problems than healthy ones.

# THE DOS AND DON'TS OF LANDSCAPING SERVICES

## Landscaping does:

- Provide periodic mowing and edging of turf based on seasonal needs
- Provide periodic pruning of shrubs and trees in planters and on slopes in common areas
- Fertilize turf and shrub areas
- Manage pests through integrated pest management techniques and applying the least toxic materials available to control insects, weeds, diseases and rodents
- Address trees, shrubs or other plant materials that are not performing well; remove and replace trees and shrubs as needed
- Schedule and maintain irrigation systems to provide sufficient moisture for plant health, reduce water waste and meet state and/or local water conservation mandates
- Collect and process green waste into mulch or compost for use in common-area landscape
- Remove debris from walkways, cyclic mowing and landscape maintenance programs

## Landscaping does not:

- Substitute, rearrange or change basic landscaping at individual resident requests
- Alter the irrigation system at individual resident requests
- Set irrigation system schedules to comply with individual resident requests
- Maintain or help maintain any plantings in a private patio or other exclusive-use common area
- Permit any member of a landscape maintenance crew to provide personal gardening services to residents



# VILLAGE LANDSCAPING WATERWORKS

Answers to questions regarding irrigation schedules

In light of recent resident queries regarding perceived overwatering in the Village (watering several times during the night or day), Director of Landscaping Services Kurt Wiemann shares the following about the community's irrigation system:

Soil can absorb only so much water at a time; additional water runs off and is wasted. Watering several times during the night or during the day is a common practice referred to as "cycle and soak" programming, which reduces water waste by programming a fixed maximum irrigation period per station to minimize runoff. Typical spray heads are generally set at a maximum cycle time of 3 minutes, which is the limit of how much water the soil can absorb, with a minimum soaking time of 20 minutes between cycles.

As an example, our weather-based program may calculate a necessary total run time of 12 minutes on any spray head station. The computer then breaks the total run time into four 3-minute cycles, which may appear to some as watering too many times. We have a large number of controllers with multiple stations that often require the program to continue into the morning hours. We do our best to place late-running stations in less commonly used areas, such as slopes and hard-to-access areas, to minimize the impact to residents. Additionally, due to resident demand, we now plant year-round; new plantings require additional watering to keep the new root structure moist to avoid "planting shock."

Our irrigation system was designed and installed when the community was originally constructed and, at that time, little thought was put into water conservation, and this is brought to light by the issues we face now. Sidewalk overspray is an ongoing battle; the shapes of planters/turf areas are often irregular and don't fit normal spray patterns. We address this issue by slowly converting to stream heads that mist and overspray less. The Village also has many areas smaller than what spray heads are designed to cover. To address this issue in both mutuels, staff actively eliminates these smaller turf areas.

Many things are not ideal with our irrigation system. For example, modern irrigation systems feature different south-/west-facing stations from north-/east-facing stations, as the former are located in hotter and drier areas and require more water. Our irrigation systems are set up so that multiple buildings with all four faces are on the same station, making perfect watering patterns impossible. There will always be some areas that are watered too much in order to get enough water to dry areas. Fixing this is a monumental task. In United, shrub beds and turf areas all were originally on the same irrigation stations; we've been working for years, spending approximately \$10,000 annually, to separate them.





# STAFF THANK YOU LUNCH

In June, 140 staff from the Landscaping Services Department were treated to lunch catered by The Wanted Taco as a thank you for all their hard work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



## MUCH ADO ABOUT MULCH

Landscaping recently provided more than 60 cubic yards of mulch to residents

A mulch distribution event in June was a rousing success! Landscaping Services staff had to refill all three mulch locations twice and ended up providing residents with a total of more than 60 cubic yards of mulch.

Mulch is generated right here in the Village by Landscaping Services. It helps suppress weeds and prevent soil erosion as well as insulate soil, regulate its temperature and help it absorb and retain moisture, and more.

All tree trimmings and trunks (7,600+ trees trimmed/removed in 2020) are emptied into an 800-horsepower tub grinder and ground into mulch for use throughout the community. This green waste processing produces 2,500+ cubic yards of mulch each month. Instead of hauling it away and purchasing mulch, \$1.2 million is saved annually.

Further, GRF, in tandem with the Landscaping Services Department, altered the mulching license to include Equestrian Center manure composting, which saves the community approximately \$70,000 per year.

Landscaping plans on offering mulch day on a quarterly basis going forward, so stay tuned for future announcements.





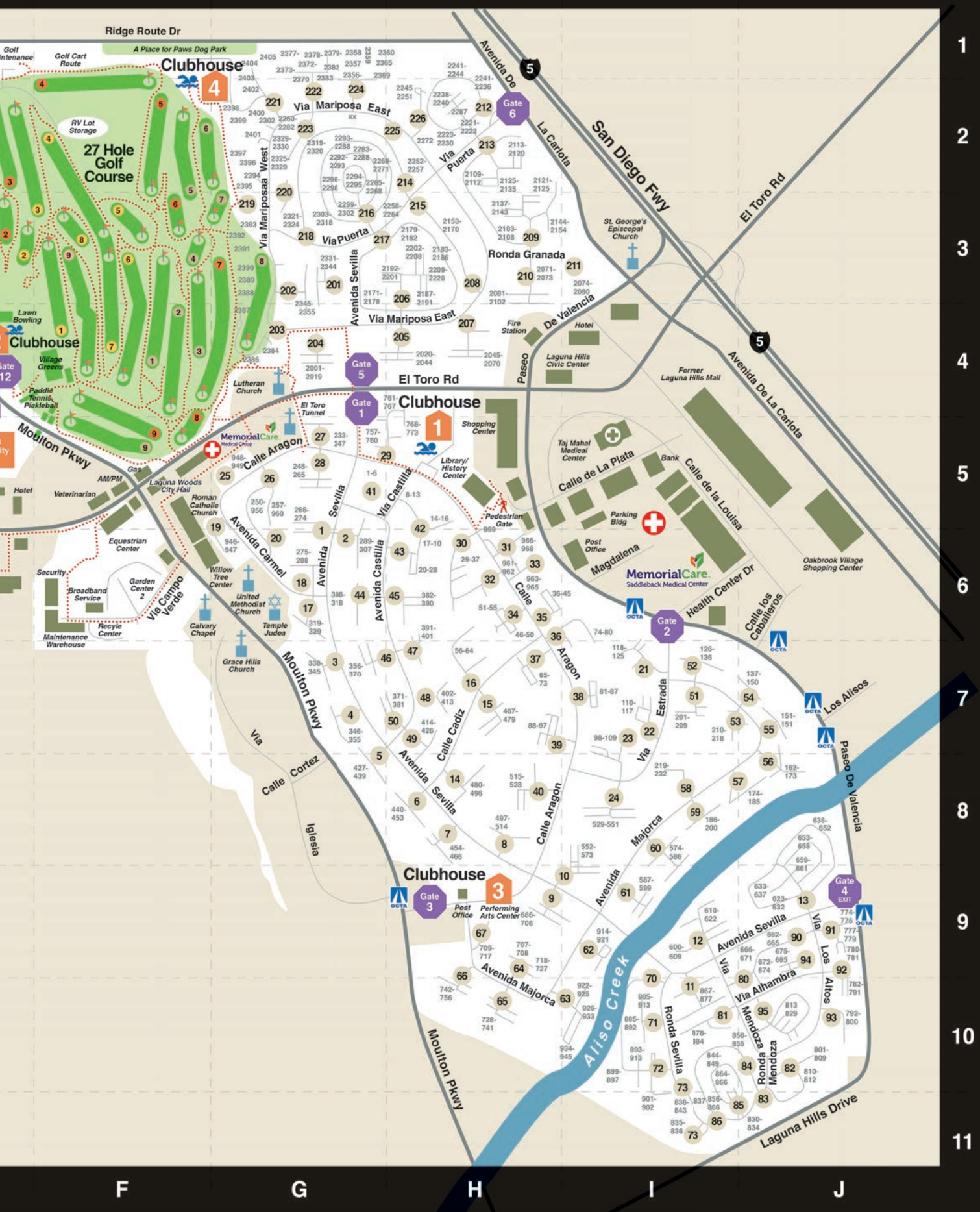
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# In Your Neighborhood

To find out what's going on in and around your neighborhood, visit [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com), go to the Residents tab, click on Maintenance & Construction and scroll down to Maintenance Project Logs.



GRF PROJECT LOG

UNITED MUTUAL PROJECT LOG

THIRD MUTUAL PROJECT LOG

## GRF Facilities Sweeping Schedule

### 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 5:30 a.m. Clubhouse 1

5:30 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 2

### 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 5:30 a.m. Clubhouse 3

5:30 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 4

### 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 7

6 to 7 a.m. Clubhouse 5

7 to 8 a.m. Clubhouse 6

### 4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 7 a.m. Maintenance Center  
Garden Centers  
Equestrian Center Lot

### 5TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH (WHEN APPLIES)

4 to 7 a.m. RV Lots  
Golf Maintenance

## Street Sweeping Schedule

*\*All times are approximate and subject to change*

### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cul-de-sacs

### MONDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Gates 1, 2, 3 – Calle Aragon to Via Estrada North  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Gates 1, 2, 3 – Calle Aragon to Via Estrada South

### TUESDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Gates 5, 6 – All streets in this area  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Gates 11, 14 – All streets in this area

### WEDNESDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Gates 7, 8 – Calle Sonora/Alta Vista (East Area)  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Gates 7, 8, 9 – Calle Sonora/Alta Vista (West Area)

### THURSDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Gate 10 – East of Ave. Sosiega & North of Monte Hermoso  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Gate 9 – South of Monte Hermoso

### FRIDAY

GRF Facilities  
Please see GRF Facilities Sweeping Schedule.

Every other week

Gate 9 – Towers Parking Lot  
Gate 11 – Check area and re-sweep if needed.



# Stay in Touch!

*Use these frequently called numbers to seek assistance, find answers and more.*

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

General Information 949-597-4600  
[information@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:information@lagunawoodsvillage.com)  
[info@vmsinc.org](mailto:info@vmsinc.org)

## AMENITIES AND RECREATION

General Information 949-597-4273  
[recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org)  
 19 Restaurant and Lounge 949-206-1525  
 Clubhouse 1 Office/Pool 1 949-597-4281  
 Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center 949-597-4284  
 Clubhouse 2 Office/Pool 2 949-597-4286  
 Clubhouse 4 Office/Pool 4 (Mon - Fri) 949-597-4291  
 Clubhouse 4 Office/Pool 4 (Sat & Sun) 949-597-4344  
 Clubhouse 5 Office/Pool 5 949-597-4382  
 Clubhouse 6 Office/Pool 6 949-597-4436  
 Clubhouse 7 Office 949-268-2417  
 Clubhouse Reservations 949-597-4227  
 Community Fitness Center 949-268-2275  
 Equestrian Center 949-597-4275  
 Golf and Village Greens 949-597-4336  
 Golf (Par 3 Course) 949-597-4334  
 Monthly Excursions 949-597-4273  
 Performing Arts Center 949-597-4289  
 Performing Arts Center Box Office 949-597-4288  
 Village Library 949-597-4274  
[lvvillagelibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:lvvillagelibrary@yahoo.com)  
 Village Television 949-597-4295

## COMMUNITY ACCESS

Community Access 949-597-4600  
 Gate Clearance 949-597-4301

## EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Fire, Police, Medical Emergency 911  
 Care Ambulance Service 877-972-0999  
 MemorialCare Saddleback Hospital 949-837-4500  
 OC Fire Authority Public Information Line 800-545-5585  
 OC Sheriff's Nonemergency Dispatch 949-770-6011

## MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Services, City of Laguna Beach 949-497-0701  
 City of Laguna Woods 949-639-0500  
 Florence Sylvester Senior Center 949-380-0155  
 Foundation of Laguna Woods Village 949-268-2246  
 Laguna Woods Globe 949-837-5200  
 Laguna Woods History Center 949-206-0150  
[info@lagunawoodshistory.org](mailto:info@lagunawoodshistory.org)  
 Lost and Found 949-597-4435  
[lostandfound@vmsinc.org](mailto:lostandfound@vmsinc.org)  
 RV Storage 949-268-2284  
 Saddleback College Emeritus Institute 949-770-9669  
 The Towers 949-597-4278  
[thetowerslvw@pmpmanage.com](mailto:thetowerslvw@pmpmanage.com)

## RESIDENT SERVICES

Manor Alterations 949-597-4616  
[alterations@vmsinc.org](mailto:alterations@vmsinc.org)  
 Resident Services 949-597-4600  
[residentservices@vmsinc.org](mailto:residentservices@vmsinc.org)  
 Social Services 949-597-4267

## SECURITY

Compliance Hotline (anonymous) 949-268-2255  
 Department of Security Services (24/7) 949-580-1400  
 Disaster Preparedness Task Force 949-597-4237

## TRANSPORTATION

Village Bus System 949-597-4659

## UTILITIES

Broadband (Cable) 949-837-2670  
 El Toro Water District 949-837-0660  
 Southern California Gas Company 877-238-0092  
 Southern California Edison 800-655-4555  
 Waste Management (Trash) 949-597-4600  
 West Coast Internet Customer Service 949-487-3302

**STAY IN TOUCH!**  
 Telephone and email

The Laguna Woods Village  
 Community Center  
 24351 El Toro Road  
 Laguna Woods, CA 92637  
[lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com)  
**949-597-4600**

Emails provided where  
 available



# WELD THAT'S JUST GREAT

Did you know on-staff VMS welders complete repairs throughout the Village?

*By Diane Phelps, Second Vice Chair, VMS Board*

If you've been to Clubhouse 4 you know that residents work on a wide variety of crafts. You might be surprised to learn there are a wide variety of talented craftspeople on the VMS staff, as well. For example, did you know VMS employs welders?

VMS employs two full-time union welders keep up with Village welding jobs. In a community such as ours with buildings that are 50 years old, there are several advantages to on-staff welders. They can more easily switch gears to focus on a higher priority job

when an emergency arises, they can fabricate and repair parts that are no longer manufactured and, because they are on staff, they are available for all of our needs instead of having to contract out this work.

Village welders worked 941 tickets in 2019 and 691 tickets in 2020. That's a lot of projects! Typical projects include repairing and replacing walkway handrails, patio railings, stairwells and storm drains. They also repair Village-owned equipment such as snake machines and stand-up



tractors, which means equipment has to be replaced less often. Specialty projects include repairing or replacing goose gates, security and flood gates, and security and Equestrian Center fencing.

When the welders are out and about in the Village, they use a modified golf cart to transport the equipment they need to work in the field, but on a daily basis they use the welding shop for metal fabrication.

The welding shop is located behind the Equestrian Center in the maintenance yard. The shop, assembled in the 1960s, is little more than a rough frame with corrugated metal sheets, a roof and walls. Funding for a modern and efficient building was approved by GRF in 2018 and 2020. Building plans were prepared and submitted to the City of Laguna Woods for plan check. The project is currently under review by the GRF Maintenance and Construction Committee but hopefully work will begin on the building soon.

So, when you reach for a sturdy handrail for support, thank a VMS welder!







## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

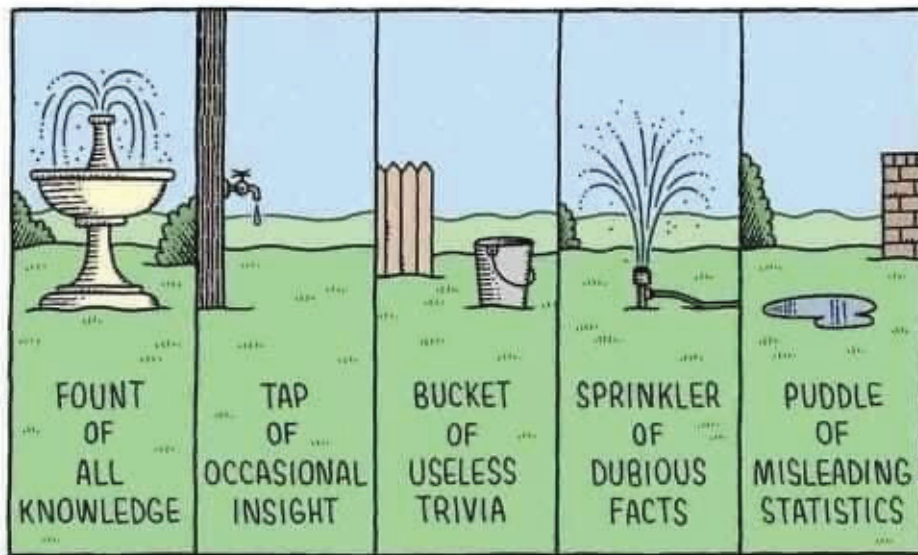
# GOT (THE RIGHT) INFO?

How to stay accurately informed about all things Laguna Woods Village

If you have questions or are curious about something you heard that doesn't sound quite right, Village Management Services has answers, in person, online, via email, on Village Television, in the Village Breeze and more!

### Get Facts

- Email [info@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:info@lagunawoodsvillage.com), which is monitored and answered daily by staff.
- Read the every-Friday "What's Up in the Village." Not subscribed? Send a request to [info@lagunawoodsvillage.com](mailto:info@lagunawoodsvillage.com).
- Read the Village Breeze. Didn't receive your copy? The Village Breeze is delivered to every manor via the United States Postal Service's Every Door Direct program. Call the regional postmaster to inform them of missed delivery at **949 837-1848**. Copies also are available throughout the Village: Clubhouse 1 fitness; clubhouse offices 1, 2, 4 and 5; Community Center concierge desk; Community Center fitness; Community Center Recreation office; Equestrian Center office; Garden Center 2 office; Golf pro shop; Par 3 office; Tennis clubhouse; and Village Library.
- Check out the latest news at [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com) > **News > News Home**.



- Watch "This Day" on TV6 Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m. (rebroadcast at 12:30 and 5 p.m.).
- Visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/LagunaWoodsVillage](https://www.facebook.com/LagunaWoodsVillage).

### Attend Open Meetings

- Under **Calendars** at [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com), go to **Calendars Home** and select **All Governance Boards, GRF, Third or United**.
- Click on the meeting of interest.
- Find meeting information and agendas by clicking on the meeting of interest.

### Get Answers to FAQs

- Click **How Do I?** at the top main menu of the Village website for a list of answers to frequently asked questions regarding general information,

sales and leasing, billing, decals and passes and more.

- Visit <https://bit.ly/3mEYYJE> to find out how to reach the department to best meet your needs.

### Who Can You Call?

- Click **Contact Us** in the top right-hand corner of the Village website for general information and important phone numbers, or make a **What can we help you with?** online query to be answered by staff.
- Visit <https://bit.ly/3uJZF7h> to view the full phone list or click **View Full Phone List** at **Contact Us**.
- Visit <https://bit.ly/2PXD8VV> for a comprehensive list of frequently called numbers.



## SOCIAL SERVICES

# A TEAM EFFORT

How Social Services and the Foundation of Laguna Woods partner to boost residents' quality of life

Social Services and the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village are dedicated to helping residents maintain their quality of life. Social Services has been providing direct services to Laguna Woods Village residents since 1972; the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village has been providing temporary financial emergency assistance to low-income residents for nearly 25 years.

Social Services offers resources, assessments, counseling services, educational seminars, social isolation prevention programming and fall prevention programming. The Foundation of Laguna Woods helps pay medical and dental bills, medication costs, homecare services, utility costs, emergency response devices and grocery gift cards, among other items.

Last year the foundation provided more than \$100,000 in financial assistance to Village residents. In 2021 the foundation began a research effort to get a better idea of who its services help. When a request for financial assistance is submitted to the foundation



**The Social Services team from left: Jeanne Chestnut, Susan McInerney, Dustin Arbuckle, Cathy Villafana, Lourdes Oseguera, Chelsea Marshello, Laura Boucher**

## CONTACT US

Call Social Services at

**949-597-4267**, 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m., Monday

through Friday, or visit

**[lagunawoodsvillage.com](https://lagunawoodsvillage.com)** >

**Residents > Social  
Services.**

from Social Services, the resident's name, address and other identifying information are withheld for confidentially reasons. The foundation obtains the reason for the request, the age of the resident and how long he or she has lived in the Village. While the number of residents assisted by the foundation is a very small percentage of the Village, the overwhelming number of those receiving assistance are single women. The average age is 79, and the average number of years lived in the Village is 13.4.

During the first four months of 2021, one of the most funded items was emergency response devices. The importance of these devices cannot be overstated, as falls account for nearly one in two ambulance calls to MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center involving Village residents. Fall prevention continues to be an important need in the Village but unfortunately many residents cannot personally afford an emergency response device, and this is where the foundation again meets a need in the Village.





## COMMUNITY CONNECTED

# R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Find out what it means to all of us.

By Susan Logan-McCracken

Everyone deserves respect. Yet sometimes without realizing it, we may say something that doesn't feel like respect to someone else. It happens. We're human and we couldn't possibly understand what it's like to be someone else. The background and experiences of others are uniquely their own. That's where training comes in. Sensitivity training offers tools to increase empathy for people from different backgrounds so that everyone involved in our interactions feels respected.

Over 200 employees from the Recreation, Resident Services, Security, Financial Services and General Services departments participated in a half-day interactive curriculum between June 21 and 30 at Clubhouse 5. Director of Human Resources Services Carrie Weldon and IHG Consulting Principal Beverly Bevel designed the Senior Client Workshop with Laguna Woods Village residents in mind.

This customized curriculum took several months to research and develop, and underwent multiple revisions and modifications.

The course expounded on:

- The amygdala, the part of the brain involved in experiencing emotions, and how it is impacted by aging
- The gerontology process and the cognitive hurdles, emotional challenges and social adjustments that it entails
- Communicating with empathy, including taking on another person's perspective, identifying the dominant communication style, listening and finding common ground
- The cultures represented in Laguna Woods and how they shape values, impact behavior and affect communication



To help VMS employees who work directly with Village residents “walk a mile in residents’ shoes,” interactive activities included a brain dominance self-diagnostic tool, problem solving exercises, a personal-values card sort and skills practice scenarios.

“Our employees are in a wonderful position of being able to make a difference in someone’s life,” Weldon said. “This training helps give them more tools to do that.” Creating a culture of courtesy and respect for employees and residents was at the heart of this training and Weldon hopes positive interactions and customer service will ensue.

“I thoroughly enjoyed coordinating this workshop,” Weldon said. “Of all the things I do, I got the greatest sense of reward that I could do something to help our employees and residents.”





## RECREATION



# WE'RE SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! THE VILLAGE IS OPEN!

Check out the details on what's open now



### Bocce

No restrictions or reservations

#### Clubhouse 1

- Open 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily
- No restrictions or reservations indoor gym  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday/Sunday
- Indoor mini gym (badminton, pickleball, volleyball, basketball)
- Archery
- Shuffleboard
- Game rooms
- Billiards
- Drop-in lounge

#### Clubhouse 2

- Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday,  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday
- Indoor recreation classes

#### Clubhouse 4

- Open 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday,  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday/Sunday
- No restrictions or reservations
- Contact the clubhouse for specific studio days/times

#### Clubhouse 5

- Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Saturday,  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday
- Game Room
- Indoor recreation classes
- Gym 5:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily
- Monday movies

For more information about  
Recreation and Special Events  
Department classes, amenities,  
events and more, call **949-597-4273**.



## What Is a Bit.ly Link?

Bit.ly links are short web addresses, or URLs. Simply type any entire bit.ly URL into your browser's search bar and hit "return" to reach your online destination.

### Clubhouse 7

- Open for bridge 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

### Community Center

- Open 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday
- Table tennis: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Mac Learning Center: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- PC Workshop: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Community Fitness Center 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Friday

### Equestrian Center

- Call **949-597-4275** to inquire about riding program or schedule a tour

### Guests

- Pools: 15 and older
- Golf: Allowed during non-primetime hours

### History Center

- Call **949-206-0150** to schedule an appointment

### Lawn Bowling

- Open daily; call **949-951-3027** for more information
- No restrictions or reservations



### Library

No restrictions or reservations, open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday (until 7 p.m. Wednesday),  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday

### Paddle Tennis

- No restrictions or reservations
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday noon - dusk
- Tuesday, Thursday 7 a.m. - noon
- First, third Saturdays 7 a.m. - noon

### Pickleball

- No reservations required 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Friday
- Kourts reservations required 3 - 8 p.m. Monday - Friday
- Kourts reservations required all day Saturday, Sunday
- First, third Saturday paddle tennis has priority
- Second, fourth Saturday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

### Pools (Expanded Hours)

- Pool 2: Reservations only via Kourts 6 - 11 a.m.; check-in monitored by lifeguards; five lane lines; free swim 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., 3 lane lines
- Pool 4: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., no lanes
- Pool 5: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., four lanes 7 - 10:30 a.m., two lanes 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Pool 6: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., no lanes

### Tennis

Daily

- No reservations required for Courts 1 - 6
- Kourts reservations required 7 a.m. - noon for Courts 7 and 8
- Kourts reservations required all day for Courts 9 and 10

Visit **bit.ly/35qWuYn** for instructions on how to make reservations using the Kourts online reservation system.



RECREATION

# MAKE WAY FOR THE FOURTH!



## How the Village showed its Independence Day spirit



Our July Fourth parade saw 91 golf carts, 12 cars from the car club (a few of which were transporting our local Marines from Camp Pendleton), eight cyclists from the bicycle club, the OC Sheriff, a custom-built float carrying our sponsors and dignitaries, and our very own warehouse truck with members of the Village String Band. Families, grandchildren and pets were all present, and hundreds of folks lined the streets for the 45-minute parade. Every corner and cul-de-sac saw spectators eagerly awaiting the festive Independence Day celebration.











## RECREATION



# THAT'S BAZAAR!

Another Village artisan/vendor event is coming your way.

In June, a fun time was had by all as Village artisans and vendors sold their wares at the Clubhouse 5 parking lot. Residents browsed among 60 registered sellers showcasing handcrafted items, art, home goods, knickknacks, jewelry, clothing and more.

Back by popular demand, on Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Clubhouse 5 parking lot, Laguna Woods Village artisans and vendors will once again offer their wares for purchase.

No food will be provided or sold.

For more information, email [recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org).



## DALLAS AND DOLL RETURN

Enjoy a free outdoor concert!

On Thursday, September 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Clubhouse 2 lawn, enjoy an outdoor concert featuring award-winning musical act Dallas and Doll, who have worked with everyone from Steve Perry to Stevie Wonder to Gordon Ramsey to Harry Connick Jr., as they perform Motown favorites, jazz hits and more.

This event is free. Parking is limited at Clubhouse 2; additional parking is available at Clubhouse 7. Seating is not provided, so bring your own blankets and lawn chairs. Glass bottles and containers are prohibited.

For more information, email [recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org).

## LET'S GET READY TO PARTY!

Secure clubhouse space for gatherings and get-togethers.

Schedule your family gatherings or friend get-togethers at Clubhouses 1, 2, 5 or the Village Greens. Make reservations in the Community Center Recreation Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional details:

- Reservations are through December 31, 2021, only.
- Reservations are limited to Clubhouses 1, 2, 5 and the Village Greens.
- Clubhouse 2 reservations will be limited to Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Clubhouse 5 reservations will not be available on Sundays after 1 p.m.
- Clubhouses 6, 7 and Performing Arts Center reservations will resume at a later date.



# KEEP THE VILLAGE CLASSY

Recreation offers more than 15 classes for fitness and fun.

Looking for new ways to occupy your mind and exercise your body? Consider taking one or more of the 15 classes currently offered by the Recreation and Special Events Department, including mat/chair yoga, ballroom dance, English or Korean language classes, cycling, jazz dance and more.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2TnNvEa> to view the current class schedule.

For more information, email the recreation office at [recreation@vmsinc.org](mailto:recreation@vmsinc.org) or call 949-597-4273.



## WEDNESDAY YOGA AT CLUBHOUSE 2

Jerry Bloch has returned to instruct his weekly Wednesday yoga class on the Clubhouse 2 back patio from noon to 1 p.m.

This class aims to help students achieve greater fitness and wellness—and a heightened sense of relaxation—through mindful movement yoga. Suitable for beginning and experienced yoga students, classes are designed specifically for active seniors and focus on breathing, mind-body connection, strength and balance. Many poses are designed to release tension and boost flexibility in the toes, feet, ankles, neck, shoulders, fingers, hands, wrists and hips. Jerry Bloch is a certified yoga instructor who has additional training in teaching yoga to seniors.

Students must be able to come to a standing position from the floor without assistance and bring a mat, a towel, a blanket and a pillow to class.



## KICK SELF-DEFENSE INTO HIGH GEAR

Enjoy an International Kickboxing and Thai Association (IKTA) self-defense class in which students, with hands wrapped and using 14-ounce boxing gloves, will learn proper striking and kicking techniques using balance, timing and combinations. Instructor Ron Murray, California IKTA representative, third-degree black belt and three-time world champion kickboxer, will hold mitts and bags for small class groups to simulate fighting situations.

Classes occur Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse 5 fitness room. Purchase a class punch card (\$5 per class) at Clubhouse 5 or in the recreation office.

## STEP UP YOUR FITNESS GAME

Personal trainers are ready to get you on track.

Do your body, mind and soul good with a workout led by a personal trainer right here in the Village at the Community Fitness Center or Clubhouse 1. Five 30-minute sessions cost \$200; 10 30-minute sessions cost \$400.

Call the Community Fitness Center at 949-268-2275 or Clubhouse 1 at 949-597-4284 for more information and to check trainer availability.



## RECREATION



# POOLS

Visit <https://bit.ly/3frRmsp> for the most up-to-date pool schedules. Make required reservations up to seven days in advance via Kourts.

Visit [bit.ly/35qWuYn](https://bit.ly/35qWuYn) for instructions on how to make **pool reservations** using the **Kourts** online reservation system.

Swimmers who experience a Kourts registration error can call **949-597-4273** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



# RACKET SPORTS

Visit [bit.ly/35qWuYn](https://bit.ly/35qWuYn) for instructions on how to make reservations using the Kourts online reservation system.

### If You Experience a Kourts Registration Error

- Players who experience a Kourts registration error can call **949-597-4273** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- For weekend assistance with reservations, call the golf pro shop at **949-597-4336**.
- For general Tennis information call **949-597-2481**.

# THE QUIET LIFE

## Three GRF horses go to Castleton Ranch Horse Rescue for well-earned retirement.

On a Sunday in late June in the wee hours of the morning, three Equestrian Center horses no longer suitable for the riding program walked onto wider pastures to enjoy retirement together.

Moreno is a 28-year-old chestnut gelding who is blind in one eye and has other health issues. Mikey, a chestnut gelding approximately 26 years old, suffers a conformational abnormality and arthritis, causing lameness in multiple legs, and chronic pain despite daily pain management medication. Zak is a 28-year-old bay gelding who is on daily maintenance with Cushing's disease, arthritis and lameness caused by an old injury.

Castleton Ranch Horse Rescue in Lancaster, California, will give Moreno, Mikey and Zak a lifetime home, with necessary medications and veterinary/farrier care, in a pasture together at no cost to GRF. The trio can enjoy visitors, and Recreation staff will receive periodic updates on their well-being.







## FASHION SHOW HORISING AROUND

The Equestrian Center hosts a fun thank-you event for those who donated to the Village Community Fund's Help the Herd campaign.

On June 28, the Equestrian Center hosted approximately 50 attendees at its first in-person event since the COVID-19 closure—a thank-you for those who donated to the Village Community Fund's (VCF) Help the Herd campaign.

The campaign was put in place to raise donations for the eight horses owned by the Golden Rain Foundation that serve the community through lessons and workshops, some of whom have been “on staff” at the center for more than a decade.

To date, the campaign has raised more than \$10,000 to benefit the horses and has purchased much-needed medical care and items to keep the horses happy and thriving.

Leslie Mogul, VCF board member and head of fundraising, and Susan Hemberger, the resident liaison who drives the project along with staff, shared opening remarks. Then, Equestrian

Center Supervisor Laura Cobarruviaz discussed how funds have impacted and benefitted the herd and emceed a horse fashion show, with the horses showing off boots, bridles, saddles, halters and flysheets that have been purchased with the donations.

The horses were spirited and enthusiastic in their thanks and dressed for the occasion! Long-time program horse June Bug led the procession gleaming in the sun with a flower wreath around his neck as he sported his rainbow unicorn fly protective attire. Lemonade and cookies were served during the event, and a tour of the facility and recent improvements along with opportunities for attendees to pet and take photos with horses closed out the day.

To donate to Village Community Fund's Help the Herd campaign, visit [villagecommunityfund.org](https://villagecommunityfund.org) and click Help the Herd.



### TWO NEW HORSES JOIN THE HERD

Murphy is a 16-year-old gelding quarter horse and Camelia is a 9-year-old bay Andalusian mare. The pair came from Quail Valley, transported by VMS employee Skylar

Sextro and resident boarder Kim Sakemme. Equestrian Supervisor Laura Cobarruviaz greeted the horses upon arrival and got them settled into their new home.



## TRANSPORTATION

# THE LONG, WINDING ROAD

The story of Village transportation from 1964 to today

Communication with the outside world or participation in its affairs was of little concern to early Village residents as they found their way along winding pathways and streets to the manors of newly acquired friends. If there was danger of becoming insulated against the world, it was not to last. Basic household needs had to be met. But there were no shopping facilities. Two miles to the east on El Toro Road was sleepy little El Toro Country Store. Almost overnight, its business began booming as residents discovered it and a need for transport was born.

Among the features of the Village from its early planning has been free transportation within the community and to certain adjacent facilities. On September 30, 1964, a few days after he and his wife moved in, Bill Mannix was hired as the first driver of the one and only bus. Negotiations with Orange County had produced a limited license permitting a privately owned bus line, operated by people with only an ordinary driver's license, to transport—not for pay—community residents.

The Transportation Division is part of the General Services Department which also includes the Vehicle Maintenance Division. The department staffs a full-service garage, which performs the necessary maintenance on 14 buses, 18 security vehicles and more than 341 maintenance vehicles. Over the years, numerous studies have shown that it is more efficient to use in-house vehicle maintenance rather than contract with outside repair shops,



especially as many of the maintenance vehicles can only be driven inside the gates.

In 1965, fuel was stored in above-ground tanks. In 1986, it became necessary to store fuel in underground tanks in order to meet the fleets' needs. However, underground tanks have a finite life and represent environmental hazards. In 2009, an above-ground fueling station was built adjacent to the service facility in order to meet necessary safety and environmental requirements.

At times during the last 50 years there have been as many as 19 bus routes. Currently, the Village bus service operates nine. All buses are handicap







accessible. Every hour-on-the-hour, buses converge in front of **Clubhouse 1**, and in an hour or less take residents to any point in the Village or to commercial establishments within the original community.

Today there are nine drivers supported by three schedulers. Each driver's shift is eight hours. All buses run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus service costs are included in residents' monthly assessments.

When residents and their guests ride Village buses, their trips are tracked by the RFID chip on their Village ID card. This tracking system is used to analyze ridership trends in

Call us at **949-597-4659**.

Email us at **ride@vmsinc.org**.

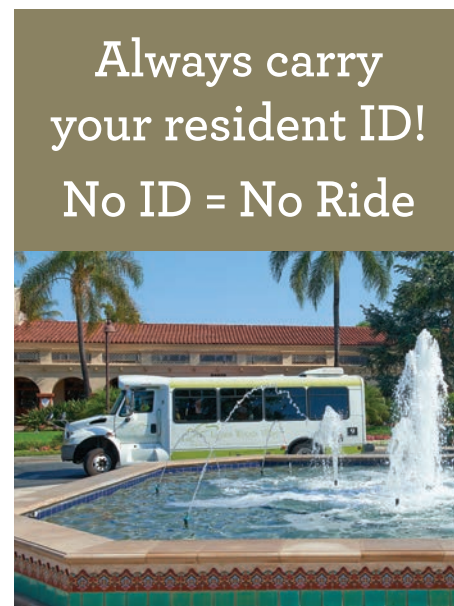
Visit us at **lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/transportation** to view updated route maps and schedules, Boost service instructions, frequently asked questions, hours of service and more!

relation to bus routes. Each bus travels about 100 miles a day, making a stop an average of two and a half times each mile.

Depending on size, new buses cost between \$150,000 and \$225,000. During the past 10 years, state and federal grants

have covered between 75% and 80% of the purchase price.

—*Story adapted from "Laguna Woods Village: 1964 - 2014"*



Always carry  
your resident ID!  
No ID = No Ride



# THE TOWERS

*at Laguna Woods Village*

A new beginning in affordable, independent senior living!



**SECURITY AND CONTROL**

## **MONTHLY ASSESSMENTS INCLUDE**

Restaurant-style nightly dinner service  
All utilities except telephone  
24-hour concierge front desk  
Biweekly housekeeping  
Free laundry facilities on each floor  
24-hour on-site maintenance  
Controlled access for security  
Village bus service at the front door  
Fitness, movies, bingo, entertainment



**TABLE SERVICE**

**Come see for yourself what hotel-style living includes!**

- Condo apartment lease/purchase options available
- Seven spacious plans featuring a patio or a balcony
- Real estate agents welcome

**Visit [TheTowersatLagunaWoodsVillage.com](http://TheTowersatLagunaWoodsVillage.com)**

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# For Mutual Benefit

*News and updates from the Laguna Woods Village Boards of Directors*

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## GRF Board of Directors

The Golden Rain Foundation of Laguna Woods Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Bunny Carpenter  
President  
2019-2022

Egon Garthoffner  
First Vice President  
2019-2022

Don Tibbetts  
Second Vice President  
2018-2021

Joan Milliman  
Secretary  
2020-2023

James Hopkins  
Treasurer  
2019-2022

Maggie Blackwell  
Director  
2021-2023

Debbie Dotson  
Director  
2021-2023

Yvonne Horton  
Director  
2019-2022

Gan Mukhopadhyay  
Director  
2018-2021

Jon Pearlstone  
Director  
2018-2021



# HOW BOARDS AND VMS WORK

**GRF, Third and United, and the agent of these corporations, VMS, collaborate for the advancement of our community.**

*By Bunny Carpenter, President, and Joan Milliman, Secretary*

### What Is a “Corporation?”

The housing mutual boards—Third Mutual, United Mutual and Mutual No. Fifty—and the Golden Rain Foundation (GRF) are incorporated not-for-profit organizations, also called “corporations,” that represent the interests of all owners in the entire Village. As such, board members are each loyal to their separate corporations, which set policies and procedures according to their jurisdiction. GRF provides oversight for projects and maintenance and sets policies for Village common grounds, amenities and services. Third, United and Mutual No. Fifty oversee projects and maintenance and set policies for their respective housing groups.

### Boards Speak for the Many

Boards must speak for the many views held by owners/stakeholders in each corporation—not just one particular group or individual. They speak for the good of the many in each case.

Each board represents the best interests for its respective corporation which, in turn, represents the best for all owners/stakeholders in that group.

### Responsibilities of the Board and Management

Respective boards are responsible for oversight of all aspects of their associations/corporations. The boards have the ultimate authority and responsibility to ensure that the community abides by the bylaws and other governing documents of their association/corporation as well as complying with all relevant federal, state and local laws.



The boards also set rules and regulations for residential conduct, common space use, landscaping standards and anything else that affects the overall residential environment and enjoyment of the community.

The board oversees management's activities and procedures as it fulfills the board's directives. However, neither a board nor its individual members are a part of staff (acting as employees). Management fulfills the tasks of implementing board directives.

Board committees provide valuable assistance by thoroughly investigating matters in their respective areas, taking into consideration professional advice from management and legal, and then by making recommendations to the board for approval.

Board members, especially through board committees, oversee; staff executes board decisions, directives and policies approved by the board.

### **A Board Speaks as One Voice**

The board speaks with one voice. Once the board makes a decision, all board members must respect it, even if they do not agree with the decision, because the board speaks with one voice. It is inappropriate for an individual board member who disagrees with a decision to continue to criticize or protest that decision.

### **Individual Board Member Responsibilities**

#### *Fiduciary Responsibilities*

A knowledge of a director's fiduciary responsibilities is one of the most important components of being a community leader. Through their board, a board member is entrusted with the oversight of the money, property and day-to-day business of a housing mutual or the Golden Rain Foundation (GRF).

Serving on a board can be an important way to positively impact and maintain the well-being of Laguna Woods Village. In order to serve responsibly, as well as to avoid potential legal liability, it is important to know what the fiduciary obligations are as a board member.

Fiduciary duties involve three basic components: duty of care, duty of loyalty and duty to act within the scope of authority.

#### *Duty of Care*

A board member must make informed decisions. This may require a little or even a lot of research before acting or voting on a homeowners association or GRF matter. Avoid uninformed or impulsive decisions by doing due diligence—reasonable steps taken by a person in order to satisfy a legal requirement, establish its assets and liabilities and/or evaluate its potential.

Board members also should be familiar with their board's governing documents—especially the CC&Rs and bylaws for the housing mutuals and the trust agreement and bylaws for GRF—as well as with applicable state laws.

#### *Duty of Loyalty*

Board members must act fairly, in good faith and for the benefit of the board's corporation as a whole. They must not make decisions based on personal interest or for personal gain and should avoid acting if a conflict of interest is involved. A board member must protect matters of confidentiality and not divulge any information provided in confidence to the board, even after that board member leaves the board. Finally, once a decision is made by the board, even if the board member disagrees, the board member supports the decision remaining loyal to the board's one voice.

#### *Duty to Act*

The duty to act requires the board to perform duties it is obligated to execute but prohibits the board from making decisions or acting on matters over which it has no authority. Board authority stems from its obligations under state laws, as well as the authority granted to it in the governing documents—specifically, the articles of incorporation, bylaws, CC&Rs, rules and regulations and the GRF trust agreement. In short, boards must obey applicable laws and their own governing documents while performing their duties.

### Business Judgment Rule

Under the business judgment rule, board members are presumed to have acted in good faith and in the best interest of the association/corporation, as long as they've taken the steps a reasonable person would in similar circumstances.

### Village Management Services

Village Management Services (VMS) is an agent of the corporation, meaning VMS is a hired third party responsible for acting on behalf of GRF, Third and United boards of directors (Mutual No. Fifty is managed by a different property management company).

VMS' responsibility includes providing business advice and best practices guidance to the boards. Part of the business judgment rule is that directors include such advice in their research. Such advice includes maintenance needs and planning, long-term planning, budget planning, vendor selection and more.

VMS and the boards work together to provide training seminars and mentorship opportunities to help familiarize all board members—especially new members—with the governing documents, financial procedures, parliamentary procedure and more.

However, it is important to remember that all ultimate decisions are made by the boards. Once decisions/policies are made/set, VMS, the agent of the corporation, is tasked with implementing them on a day-to-day basis.

VMS staff works for the management company (VMS) and not for the boards. The CEO of VMS is responsible for how the staff's work is done, not the board members. Only the CEO answers for VMS. The VMS Board is a management board that works with the CEO and employees of VMS.

# DIRECTOR DEBBIE DOTSON JOINS GRF BOARD

The former Third Mutual board member serves on 14 committees, subcommittees and task forces.

Deborah (Debbie) Dotson, a three-and-a-half-year resident of the Village, joins the GRF board to complete the term of former Director Bert Moldow (2020-2023). Director Dotson has served as a director on the Third Mutual board and currently serves on seven GRF committees, subcommittees and task forces. She holds bachelor's degree in organizational

development/leadership, a Master of Education specializing in technology, a board leader certification and 42 years of experience in business operations, information technology, budgets and more. Director Dotson says her motivation to serve on the GRF board is centered on her dedication to preserving the community. "As Laguna Woods Village ages and costs continue to rise, our goal should be providing a fiscal plan for sustainability and a strategy that will allow us to keep our community desirable and affordable," she said.



GRF oversees services residents count on: the bus system, security, gates, cable TV, roads, parking and maintenance of all common buildings and properties and more. Most of its work takes place within committees, which bring issues and recommendations to the board for action. Members are encouraged to become acquainted with the committees and to bring comments, questions and concerns to the appropriate group.



## Third Board of Directors

The Third Laguna Hills Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Steve Parsons  
President  
2019-2022

Annie McCary  
First Vice President  
2020-2023

Ralph Engdahl  
Second Vice President  
2019-2022

Lynn Jarrett  
Secretary  
2018-2021

Robert Mutchnick  
Treasurer  
2020-2023

Cusrow “Cush” Bhada  
Director  
2019-2022

John Frankel  
Director  
2020-2023

Charlotte Hislop  
Director  
2021

Reza Karimi  
Director  
2019-2021

Donna Rane-Szostak  
Director  
2020-2023

Craig Wayne  
Director  
2019-2022



# SAD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

*By Robert Mutchnick, Treasurer*

In the Fall of 2020, Third Board put forward a restatement of the CC&Rs for member consideration and a vote. The restatement was intended to revamp the CC&Rs that had not been updated since the 1980s. The primary impetus for the restatement was the untenable situation related to property insurance. Up until 2019, Travelers Insurance Company had insured the whole Village for \$700 million—the value of the Village.

In 2019, Travelers told Third, United and GRF, which purchased insurance together, that they would only insure the Village for the first \$50 million and that for the remaining \$650 million our insurance broker would have to find other companies to complete the coverage.

In 2020, Travelers told all three boards that before they would consider insuring the three entities, there needed to be total re-evaluation of the Village. The evaluation of the Village went from the historic \$700 million to a whopping \$3.4 billion (yes, you read that correctly). When we went to market with our new evaluation of \$3.4 billion you can imagine how high

the premium for 2020 went. In 2019 Third paid less than \$2 million for its share of property insurance. In 2020, Third's share of the premium rose to \$4.1 million, over double the previous year. The board decided to take action and use the rising insurance premiums as the lead to restate the outdated CC&Rs.

The restated CC&Rs were put before the members for a vote in fall 2020. While there was an amazing turnout of 63% of the members voting, it was not enough. The current CC&Rs require that 67% of the members vote "yes" to affect change. Of the 63% of the members who voted, 73% voted yes. It should be noted that 37% of the members did not bother to cast a vote, so the restatement was in trouble before the votes were even counted.

There was a strong minority of individuals who opposed the restatement and worked to defeat the ballot. The oppositional group posited that we should put forth an amendment to change only the requirement of 100% replacement cost for insurance. This oppositional group told the members of Third board on numerous occasions that if the ballot was just on changing the amount of replacement cost insurance that it would pass.

### **Sad News**

The members of the Third board listened to the members and decided to run an election that would address just the issue of insurance. As stated above, the current CC&Rs require there be 100% replacement coverage of the buildings in Third.

A ballot was distributed to the members asking for approval to provide the board flexibility in purchasing property insurance at a minimum of two times the PML (probable maximum loss expected for any one incident such as fire).

The group previous in opposition agreed to support the new ballot measure. The board held an informational meeting that was broadcast on TV6 prior to the distribution of the ballot.

On May 28, ballots were mailed to members who had until June 28 to vote. Two town halls were broadcast on TV6 so that the board could answer residents' questions. Members of the community organized a car rally to urge members to "Vote Yes." A full-page ad was placed in the Laguna Woods Globe with community influencers lending their names in support of the ballot. Four thousand flyers were printed and distributed to members of Third urging them to vote on this important matter. Many members of the community assisted the board and distributed the flyers, many going door to door. Signs were placed on cars strategically parked throughout Third. Residents placed placards near all the gates of Third Mutual asking to "Vote Yes." Emails were sent to every member of Third. All nonresident members were called by members of the board. The efforts of the board and members of the community were extensive and exhaustive, to put it mildly.

The sad news, even with all the effort, the ballot failed. In fact, the turnout for the ballot solely on insurance was less than that for complete restatement of the CC&Rs. The ballot to provide flexibility to the board on the issue of insurance had 51.63% of the membership voting. This is more than 11% less than the number who voted last year. The number voting yes on this ballot is 46.76% just about the same percentage that voted yes last year.

My thoughts are with the members who will have difficulty paying the increased assessment discussed in the "Bad News" section of this article. The question that needs to be asked is why did so many members choose not to vote and why did 347 members vote no, which hurts so many members on fixed or limited incomes?

### **Bad News**

With the failed ballot, the board, in preparation of the 2022 budget, has no choice but to raise monthly assessments by \$93 per manor per month beginning January 2022. Yes, this is a lot of money



and certainly is a sizable increase over last year. In fact, it is a 20% increase in the monthly assessment.

Note, that \$93 does not include any assessment GRF might impose for 2022, which by the time you read this article will have been announced. Right now, it appears that GRF will be raising its monthly assessment by \$13.35 per manor per month (PMPM). Also, all Third members must understand that the 20% increase is the maximum allowed by law in any given year. In this case, the bad news gets worse because the \$93 PMPM does NOT cover all the costs of insurance. Last year, to mitigate the increase in the cost of insurance passed on to members (last year's increase was \$20 PMPM) the board borrowed money from the disaster fund to underwrite the additional cost. We now have to begin paying back the disaster fund so that should the need arise, there is sufficient money available.

If the \$93 PMPM increase in assessment does not cover all of the costs, where else is the money coming from? Yet more bad news. The board, in preparing the 2022 budget, is also taking steps to curtail or cancel projects and programs to save money. The projects and programs that are under review are neither expected to impact the mutual's infrastructure nor include any staff layoffs. The same landscaping will take place in terms of the frequency of mowing and shrub work. Programs like fumigation, dry rot, waste line remediation, additional staff for VMS activities, purchase of some vehicles, etc., are included in the cuts.

Do not think that this year's increase solves our problem. The cost of insurance is expected to increase again next year, as will costs for materials, labor, electricity, water, etc. The wildfire season already has begun. When this article was being written we already had a wildfire near 73 that could be seen from the Village. Orange County Fire Authority responded quickly and forcefully and was able to extinguish the fire with just eight acres burned. It was fortunate that there was no wind to spread the fire. We may not

be so lucky next time, especially with drought conditions all around us. The value of Third, which is currently \$3.4 billion, will most likely also increase over the next few years, which will impact the cost of insurance further.

As long as the CC&Rs require the board to purchase 100% replacement cost for property insurance, the board will have little ability to control how much of this type of insurance is purchased. Therefore, the bad news is likely to continue. However, know that the Third board fully understands the problem and is doing everything it can to control costs, improve efficiencies, increase revenues and minimize increases that must be passed on to members. Remember, we board members must pay the same monthly assessment as everyone else.



## APPROVALS AND BOARD ACTIONS

May and June meetings

*By Lynn Jarrett, Secretary*

- Approved transfer of operating fund surplus to the disaster fund
- Approved tree removal request 2235-C
- Approved two tree removals at 5146
- Approved landscape revision request 3032-A
- Approved recommendation for variance at 5271-A
- Approved variance request at 3282-C
- Approved appointment of Steve Hormuth as assistant treasurer ex-officio
- Approved inspector of elections for annual election
- Approved resolution for limited pilot program for FireAvert devices
- Final approval of hate policy

# PILOT PROGRAM FOR FIREAVERT DEVICES

Potential lifesavers, especially for multistory buildings

*By Lynn Jarrett, Secretary*

Unattended cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires in the United States. In the Village, January 2014 to August 2018 saw 58 documented fires or kitchen-related incidents that required response by the Orange County Fire Authority.

The GRF Disaster Preparedness Task Force and GRF Security and Community Access Committee recognized the need to offer a prevention device called FireAvert. This device is a product connected to the power cord of a kitchen stove and through smoke alarm detection. FireAvert turns off the power to the stove, immediately turning off the burner.

Per the recommendation of the GRF Security and Community Access Committee, Third Mutual adopted a limited pilot program for the purchase and installation of six of these devices.

Such devices could be lifesavers, especially in multistory buildings. In 2010 all residents of 21 units in a three-story building in Third Mutual were evacuated and forced to vacate their condos for upward of a year when a fire started in a middle unit on the third floor.



## GVA REC ROOMS RECEIVE NEW FURNISHINGS

*By Lynn Jarrett, Secretary*

Due to the pandemic-induced closure of the rec rooms, fewer repairs were needed than usual. The 2021 budgeted funds were used for replacements. All 1,272 40-year-old wooden and leather chairs for the game tables are gone and nice, new chairs sit in their stead. Maintenance found it difficult to continue to repair those old chairs after multiple attempts over the years. Four very old kitchenettes were replaced as well. Residents returning to the rec rooms after nearly 16 months were quite pleased to find these improvements.



# CONTINUED PLEA TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

*By Donna Rane-Szostak, Chair, Third Mutual Water Conservation Committee*

Current and projected drought conditions highlight our need for water conservation. Awareness campaigns and incentives for low-flow toilets and showerheads led to a reduction in Third Mutual residential water usage in 2019. Unfortunately, the significant 2020 increase in residential Third Mutual continues into 2021 due to residents' increased time at home during the pandemic. As activities return to normal, we must once again be diligent about water conservation measures throughout the community both for residential as well as landscaping needs.

Our Landscaping Services Department has made significant contributions to water conservation. A 2019 irrigation study conducted by our water district suggested that replacing unused areas of lawn with drought-tolerant plant materials would have the greatest potential

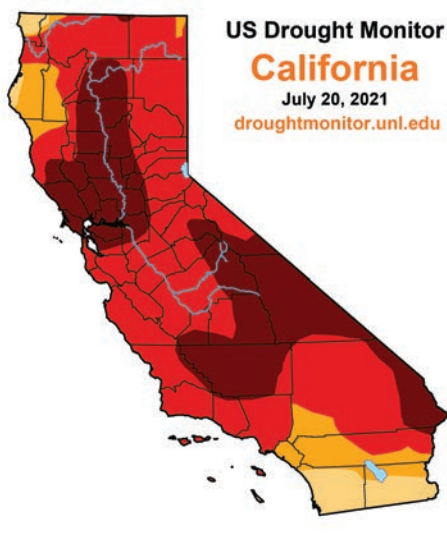
for both water savings and maintenance costs. Since then, more than 62,000 square feet of unused turf has been replaced with drought-resistant plants throughout the Village, including more than 13,000 square feet in Third during 2020 and the first part of 2021. Additionally, the central irrigation control system will be updated over the next four years, and spray nozzles



are being replaced with more efficient rotary nozzles as the budget allows.

The project to use recycled water for irrigation in Third Mutual is nearing completion and is a big step in water conservation.

Residential water conservation is up to all of us—shorter showers, turning off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving, installing low-flow toilets and shower heads, drought-resistant house and patio plants, and detecting and reporting leaks all play a role. If you receive an “excessive water usage” letter from the Village, be very conscious of how you are using water. If you suspect this excessive usage might be due to an undetected leak, contact Resident Services at **949-597-4600**. Inspections can be made to detect hidden leaks in potable water lines. Also, blue tablets that detect toilet leaks are available at no charge at the Village Community Center.



#### Intensity

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry D1
- Moderate Drought D2
- Severe Drought D3
- Extreme Drought D4
- Exceptional Drought

## United Board of Directors

The United Laguna Woods Mutual Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Sue Margolis  
President  
2018-2021

Manuel Armendariz  
First Vice President  
2020-2023

Reza Bastani  
Second Vice President  
2020-2023

Neda Ardani  
Secretary  
2019-2022

Azar Asgari  
Treasurer  
2020-2023

Prakash "Cash" Achrekar  
Director  
2020-2023

Elsie Addington  
Director  
2018-2021

Diane Casey  
Director  
2021

Brian Gilmore  
Director  
2019-2022

Carl Randazzo  
Director  
2018-2021

Andre Torng  
Director  
2019-2022



## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CO-OPS AND CONDOS

*By Sue Margolis, President*

I think everyone in the Village knows the basic differences between co-ops and condos: Co-ops are organized as United Mutual; condos are organized as Third Mutual.

In a condo, owners are responsible for everything from the walls inward. Third Mutual does not own the interior. Co-ops are totally owned by United Mutual—interior as well as exterior. That is why changes to co-op interiors require management, as they are the whole mutual's property.

Condo owners have land rights and have a title and can secure a mortgage. United members hold a stock certificate, which has no location tied to it so it cannot be used as collateral for a mortgage. Members can only get loans.

Third and United's governing documents are the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and rules and regulations. Third is also governed by CC&Rs, which United does not have. United is further governed by an occupancy agreement, which Third does not have.

The occupancy agreement gives the owner the right to live in a designated manor for three years. The agreement is automatically renewed unless the owner chooses to void it.

In Third, the owner receives and pays their tax bill; it is not included in their assessment. In United, we receive the tax bill as the property owner and must collect taxes from residents. Taxes are included in your assessment total.

Currently I am dealing with a difference in insurance.

Third's required amount of insurance is outlined in its CC&Rs. United has no level of required insurance; however, it is the board's fiduciary responsibility to hold sufficient coverage. This year we are experiencing challenges with Fannie Mae, which is requiring United to buy full replacement value insurance if lenders want to sell their loans. That would amount to more than \$1 billion. The issue is not yet settled, and we are attempting to get a variance. There will be more of these kinds of considerations in the coming months as we get closer to renewing our insurance in October.



# WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

By Elsie Addington, Director

Every year, each manor in United Laguna Woods Mutual receives the annual assessment letter packet—which includes the breakdown of your HOA assessment. Don't put it aside without having studied its contents! Find yours and familiarize yourself with the information it contains. If you've lost it, find a generic one at [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com) > Documents > United > Financial Services. There, you'll also find the 2021 Greenbook, which provides all the information I'm sharing here and a whole lot more.

So exactly where does all the money go? The quick answer is, it's spent on real estate taxes, insurance and services for United

Mutual residents! We know about taxes and insurance, so I'll skip right to the fun part, the Golden Rain Foundation (GRF).

Part of our annual assessment goes to GRF, which manages all Village amenities—clubhouses, golf, pools and more. Of the GRF portion of our assessment (\$205.60 per manor per month [PMPM]), only \$40.44 goes to recreation. The following isn't a complete list, but you'll get the idea:

- Information services, including television and cable (\$17.48)
- General services, including custodial service, bus service and fleet maintenance (\$33.83)
- Security services, including gate operation, security

personnel and disaster preparedness (\$41.53)

- Individuals who coordinate, maintain and construct these and other amenities

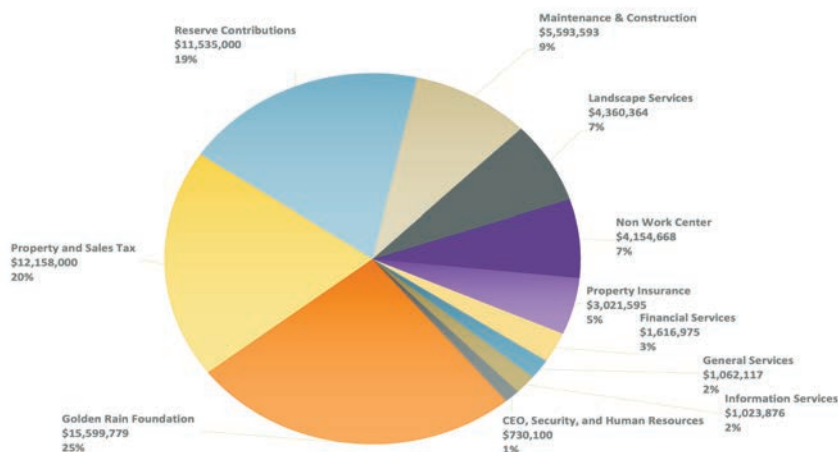
GRF isn't "just about golf"—it keeps us safe, entertains us in our homes, and gets us where we need to go.

As for United, our mutual assessment alone is \$396.38 PMPM, which, along with the GRF portion, totals the \$601.98 (plus taxes and insurance) with which we all are familiar. United provides it all, except for repairs and maintenance of nonstandard manor components, such as remodeled kitchens or built-in patios. The biggest items in United's assessment are:

- Landscape services, including pest control (\$57.47)
- Maintenance and construction, including plumbing, damage restoration, flooring and appliance installation and repair, outside manor painting, etc. (\$73.70)
- Electricity, water, sewer and trash collection (\$57.30)
- Reserve and restricted accounts, mostly earmarked for future capital repairs such as waste pipe lining, gutters, new roofs, future paint cycles, etc. (\$152.02 PMPM)

So that's where all the money goes—right back to us, in the form of a comfortable life and hundreds of recreational opportunities. Now that's not a bad deal, is it?

Total Basic Assessments \$60,856,067



**Money residents pay toward assessments is reinvested into the comfortable life our community enjoys.**



Village Management Services, Inc.

## VMS Board of Directors

Rosemarie DiLorenzo  
Chair  
Third, 2019-2022

Wei-Ming Tao  
First Vice Chair  
Third, 2018-2021

Diane Phelps  
Second Vice Chair  
GRF, 2019-2022

Stefanie Brown  
GRF, 2020-2021

Norman Kahn  
United, 2020-2023

Cynthia Rupert  
United, 2019-2022

Juanita Skillman  
United, 2020-2021

Judith Troutman,  
GRF, 2020-2023

Raquel Unger  
Third, 2020-2023

# SO, THE VILLAGE IS BACK!

We're enjoying more and more aspects of our wonderful community life, just as we did before COVID-19.

### *By Norm Kahn, Director*

In Medieval times, it was the black death. In the 20th century, it was Spanish flu and polio. In 2020, it was COVID, COVID, COVID! That dreaded moniker will forever mark our "lost time."

Before COVID, we here in the Village enjoyed a very comfortable life. We had so many wonderful things to do, events to enjoy, classes and clubs to be part of and friends with whom to share fun times and places. But COVID and government mandates abruptly changed all that. We found ourselves suddenly bobbing along in uncharted waters. But we stubbornly refused to surrender to despair, and now, after almost 17 months enduring the fallout of the COVID-19 virus, the Village is returning to "normal."

### **Looking Back**

So many things changed. Practically overnight we had a year's worth of toilet paper stashed in every empty space. When going outside we had to wear one mask, then two, then only the N-95 mask was effective, then came face shields and social distancing with colored floor decals 6 feet apart. One couldn't find a gallon of bleach unless you were willing to pay \$20 for it on Amazon! Hand sanitizer? Ten bucks if you could find the real stuff. Who didn't finish an email, text message or phone call without the farewell wishes "stay safe"?

Sitting in a restaurant for a meal? Fuhgetaboutit! Takeout or delivery only. Sadly, and despite the billions of dollars in business loans authorized by Congress, for many of our favorite stores and restaurants it was not enough; many closed, never to reopen. Schools were shuttered along with business and government offices. All live entertainment venues closed, and we were mostly home-bound. Online shopping created the richest man in the world richer. Working from home and Zoom cyber meetings flourished while the government invested more billions in developing effective vaccines. It's a time we'll likely always remember.

### **How Did We Cope?**

Like Americans have done during so many crises in our history, we just did. Options in the Village were few, and we are in the





highest vulnerability group. We took the advice of the experts and mostly remained in our homes. We followed the guidelines, we washed our hands and our apples 20 times a day and we waited for vaccines. The fact that out of more than 18,600 Village residents there was a reported total of only 425 virus cases speaks volumes for how well we managed to survive the deadly viral disease. Congratulations to the entire Village!

### **But Wait ... How Much Help Did We Have?**

The very short answer is “lots.” But that’s just not a good enough account, so let’s go from there and give kudos to a few of the many local stars. With the complete closure of many restaurants and all in-person dining at a standstill, residents who depended on restaurant food or takeout were at great risk. Responding to the problem, popular eateries like Restaurant 19, Laguna Café, Jolanda’s Café, Pizzeria Amore and so many others began rapid hot food delivery service or curbside takeout. Many local markets initiated special “Seniors Only” hours to minimize standing in long lines while many vendors offered home delivery service.

Let’s also not forget the grocery and drug store folks who kept shelves stacked and carts sanitized, truck drivers who kept products flowing to open stores and restaurants and medical personnel who tended the sick while risking their own health.

Let’s also remember our most important asset: Village employees. We owe much to all the dedicated employees who remained on the job, including our large landscaping staff, gate ambassadors, security and maintenance crews, transportation, information services group and, of course, Village management—they all were incredible.

We were fortunate to have such an abundance of help from so many sources.

### **The “Above and Beyond” Department**

Enough can’t be said about MemorialCare. As we all know, over many, many weekends, volunteer doctors, nurses and assistants dispensed more than 9,000 vaccinations to Village residents 65

and older. Support staff, Village volunteers and volunteer VMS employees managed paperwork, signage, security, traffic, lines and more. MemorialCare and our combined executive personnel organized thousands of appointments to keep the flow of people moving smoothly at Clubhouse 7. In addition, MemorialCare volunteers made house calls and provided curbside vaccinations to those in need. As a result, 81% of Laguna Woods’ residents have been vaccinated. We can never thank MemorialCare enough!

Let’s also extend kudos to all the Village boards. They were given the enormous task of dealing with all the very rapidly changing government mandates and colored safety tiers. Village business had to continue, and hundreds of daily decisions were made at every organizational level. VMS still had to oversee staff and scheduling adjustments, install new systems, organize virtual meetings and review the ongoing normal business of our very large community. To add to the chaos, all buildings were closed, so many VMS employees had to work from home.

### **Needless to Say**

The Village is back! Soon we’ll be enjoying our wonderful community as we did before COVID. The debilitating and deadly COVID-19 that caused us to alter our lives will soon take its place next to the Spanish flu, swine flu and polio. Life will do what it always does—it will go on!

But although COVID is in our rear-view mirror, we shouldn’t forget all the incredible things so many people did to ease our suffering. We did what Americans always do: We followed the rules, protected ourselves and our neighbors, and together we made it through this crisis with dignity, fellowship and care for each other. I recommend we continue to be wise and cautious as we enjoy our “new normal.”

Finally, when you can, why not give a well-deserved “thanks” to those who helped us get to where we are now. Remember, in the end “it takes a Village!”

## THEN AND NOW

# SPLISHIN' AND A SPLASHIN'



The Aquadettes are the longest-running senior synchronized swimming team in the world still in existence—and still amazing.

Almost immediately after the first residents moved into the Village during spring of 1965, a small group of women who loved to swim started meeting at the Clubhouse 1 pool, thinking it would be fun to swim together. They set up a regular time to meet, that first summer the Aquadettes hosted a small water show on a Sunday afternoon, and the rest is history!

The group wore no costumes for their 1965 show—just a few flowers on caps and leis. The next year, though, glitter made an appearance on the Aquadettes' swimsuits.

One 1981 member, a professional swimmer having begun her career training for the Olympics with New York Women's Swimming Association, swam with world-famous athlete Johnny Weissmuller.

The Aquadettes have appeared in TV commercials, on CNN, on the Today Show and other nationally known shows, and most recently in an episode of National Geographic TV's "The World According to Jeff Goldblum" (Season 1, Episode 11; [nationalgeographic.com/tv](http://nationalgeographic.com/tv)).



The Laguna Woods History Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that receives no assessment funding, is located next to the Village Library. History Center hours are weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment (call **949-206-0150**). Visit [lagunawoodshistory.org](http://lagunawoodshistory.org) for more information.



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### What can be treated during a video visit?

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## eVisit

We make it simple to get care on your schedule. No appointment. No waiting rooms. Available 24/7.

### What can be treated during an eVisit?

You can be diagnosed and treated for a variety of common conditions.

### How does it work?

Online interview takes five to 15 minutes and a MemorialCare provider will review within one hour.



## Urgent care

When medical needs just can't wait, our team of award-winning physicians is ready to treat you and your family, in-person or virtually.

### What can be treated at an urgent care center?

Non-emergent urgent medical needs for all ages.



## Emergency care

With every protection and precaution, we are experienced and ready to care for all patients at any time at Saddleback Medical Center.

### What can be treated in the emergency department?

Life-threatening situations and needs requiring immediate attention.



For more information, please visit [memorialcare.org/now](https://memorialcare.org/now) or scan the QR code with your phone camera.





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