

VILLAGE BREEZE



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

Recreation + Transportation + News + Services + More



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FINE-TUNING AWARENESS, EMPATHY AND COMMUNICATION

Various VMS staff recently attended sensitivity training—otherwise known as diversity and inclusion training. This coaching aims to help people be more aware of their goals and their prejudices, and be more sensitive to others and to the dynamics of group interaction. It gives individuals tools to foster greater empathy for people from all backgrounds so that everyone involved in any given interaction feels heard and respected.

VMS Director of Human Resource Services Director Carrie Weldon and IHG Consulting Principal Beverly Bevel designed a customized curriculum with Laguna Woods Village residents in mind. I was fortunate enough to attend this training. Because even if you believe you're already enlightened, respectful or "with it," this education serves as a stark reminder of just how complicated and unexpected human communication and interaction can be.

The curriculum covered how the brain's amygdala is impacted by aging; how cognitive, emotional and social challenges play a part in the aging process; how communicating with empathy, taking on another's perspective, listening and finding common ground are vital; and how various cultures represented in the Village shape values, impact behavior and affect communication.

I found this training utterly compelling and powerful, and I'm grateful for the profound lessons it taught. It highlighted how we can gain greater awareness of cross-cultural nuances and better understand how our words, tone and body language can help cultivate positive, cooperative relationships with diverse people and groups. But don't just take my word for it; colleagues with whom I shared the course felt the same.

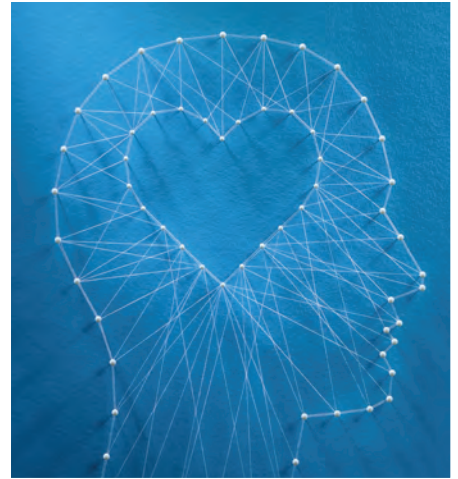
- "This training helps staff be more sensitive and accepting of resident and coworker diversity. Employees need to consider underlying issues others may have before they walk through the door; we need to put ourselves in their shoes. Cultural awareness helps us break down barriers, build bridges and, ultimately, provide superior customer service to Village residents."—*Jennifer Murphy, Recreation Manager, Recreation and Special Events Department*
- "This course brought greater awareness to the cultural, age-related and gender-related diversity we face daily, as well as how we can gain greater self-control and awareness, providing the tools to respond with greater understanding and empathy."—*Stacy Griffith, Customer Service Manager, Resident and Broadband Services*

Taking time to learn new, broader communication tools and perspectives—and better connect with others in meaningful, productive and positive ways—is perhaps one of the best ways we as humans can spend time.

Here's to stronger, more positive and joyful communications, no matter the place, time or participants.

Ellyce Rothrock, Editor

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Meet Laguna Woods Mayor Shari Horne.

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Mark and Sharone Hochberg evaded Fate and Harmony for a long time—until they met in the Village.

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON

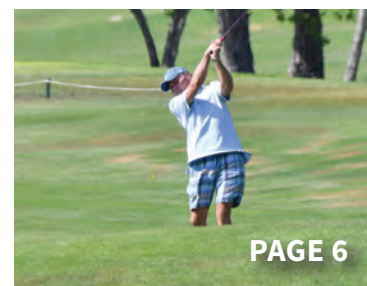
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Don't miss a special Village TV production, "Laguna Woods & California's Water Crisis."

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Showing villagers all the ways to participate in all our community has to offer

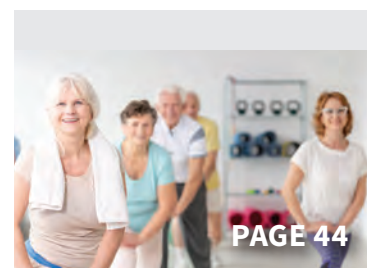
BY BETH PERAK, THRIVE TEAM CHAIR



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Every Village Breeze edition is paid for through a partnership with MemorialCare.

in every issue

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VILLAGE BREEZE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF
LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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 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.

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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 GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
of LAGUNA WOODS



Village Management Services, Inc.

 THIRD LAGUNA HILLS
MUTUAL

 UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

THE TOWERS
at Laguna Woods Village



WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



THIRD OR UNITED

Do you know what mutual you live in?

As a Village resident, you hear the terms “Third Mutual” and “United Mutual” used frequently, particularly around the time when annual elections occur. Do you know what mutual in which your manor is located? Locate your manor number in the chart below.

Third Mutual	United Mutual	Mutual No. Fifty
961-969	1-960	101 South Tower
2109-2120	2001-2108	151 West Tower
2126-2129	2121-2125	
2131-2136	2130	
2166-2182	2137-2165	
2192-2208	2183-2191	
2221-5598	2209-2220	



SOCIAL SERVICES IS HERE FOR YOU

The Village Social Services Division connects residents to community programs and services—such as caregiver services, transportation, meal delivery programs, mental health programs, dementia care programs, social engagement programs and much more—to help those residents maintain independence and enhance their quality of life.

For more information, please call the Laguna Woods Village Social Services Division at **949-597-4267**.

WHAT ABOUT MY COVID BOOSTER?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says studies show that after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus may decrease over time and be less able to protect against the Delta variant. According to the CDC website, although COVID-19 vaccination for adults aged 65 years and older remains effective in preventing severe disease, recent data suggest vaccination is less effective at preventing infection or milder illness with symptoms. This lower effectiveness is likely due to a combination of waning immunity and the greater infectiousness of the Delta variant.

Data from a small clinical trial show that a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot increased the

immune response in trial participants who finished their primary series six months earlier.

As of press time, only certain populations initially vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were able to get a booster shot—Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least six months ago and are:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- Age 18+ who live in high-risk settings

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot).



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 ever misses its mark at your (or your neighbor's) 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**.



Garden Centers Save Water

Scaled-back water access means conserving a precious resource.

As California remains mired in severe drought conditions, water costs continue to rise and VMS seeks ways to conserve water wherever possible, the Village Garden Centers' irrigation system now features automatic timer valves programmed to shut off water access when the facilities are closed.

By shutting off the water at night, staff hopes to stop any undiagnosed leaks/malfunctioning water timers that would otherwise run all night as well as eliminate any water line breaks that might happen when staff is not present. This practice also helps conserve when gardeners may forget to shut off water.

Water access will be turned off at Garden Centers 1 and 2 from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Sunday. Shutoff times will be adjusted accordingly with the seasons and daylight-saving time. Gardeners who have timers scheduled to run overnight during the shutoff time should adjust their timers accordingly.



WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



WIPES AND PIPES DON'T MIX

Products marketed as “flushable” are misleading and hazardous to plumbing.

No one particularly likes to talk about sewage backup problems, but when one affects your own home, it becomes an urgent subject. In addition to the fact that sewer lines in the Village are old and have limited capacity, trends in the marketing of hygiene products are filled with easy-to-believe fallacies that are causing major blockages.

Despite the marketing claims of “flushable” wipes, these products clog plumbing systems because they simply do not break down like toilet paper. Once a sewer line or toilet is clogged, the blockage attracts additional debris and becomes a critical issue. Place only standard bathroom tissue in toilets throughout the Village.



BEWARE THE “FORE!”

Nongolfers who use the Clubhouse 2/4 path during golf hours must know the risks.

The Laguna Woods Village golf course is restricted to golfers with tee times from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 365 days a year. Historically, the path from Clubhouse 4 to Clubhouse 2 has been available to pedestrian and nongolf cart traffic during golfing hours, with the following understanding of the risks involved in using the path during golfing hours:

- The perimeter access path is located within the golf course area of play; balls can be struck in that area.
- In general, the trajectory of golf balls hit by beginners will not go in the intended direction. This places anyone walking/driving in the area in danger of being struck.
- The path is close to the intended ball direction, and a marginally mishit shot will fly into this area.
- Nongolfers will not know what to watch out for on this path or what a “Fore!” warning means.

Players involved in a reserved/paid round will be aware of their surroundings and be spaced to minimize the danger of being struck by a ball. Nongolfers should avoid these areas during golfing hours. Nongolfers who do use this area while golfers are present should:

- Always remain aware of players striking a ball and where the ball is headed.
- Stop and watch where a struck ball is headed and proceed when safe.
- Stop and cover your head if you hear “Fore!” yelled by a golfer—this means a ball has been struck and is headed in your direction.
- Remain conscious of players about to swing and do not walk/drive your cart behind or in front of them. Doing so is dangerous and can distract players from their game.



DON'T WAIT IN 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 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.
- View frequently called Laguna Woods Village numbers at lagunawoodsvillage.com/contact.
- Inquire about appointments or email questions to residentservices@vmsinc.org.

CABLE CHANNEL UPDATES

Saying goodbye to more analog and duplicate channels.



As part of Broadband Services' continuing effort to remove analog and duplicate channels from the lineup, the movie channels located in the 800 block are no longer available but can be viewed with their corresponding channels in the 500 block. Further, the channels in the 600 block will no longer be available but can be viewed with their corresponding channels in the 100 block.

Please call Broadband Services at **949-837-2670** or email programming@vmsinc.org with questions.



ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

If you are a Village resident caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's/dementia and looking for connection and support, join our interactive virtual support group via Zoom to explore feelings and concerns, share ideas that work and receive support from other Village residents.

The group meets virtually via Zoom on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. To register, contact Alzheimer's Orange County facilitator Kathy Carchidi at **949-757-3758** or kathy.carchidi@alzoc.org.

For more information, call Alzheimer's Orange County at **949-757-3758** or Laguna Woods Village Social Services at **949-597-4267**.



WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE



APPROVED TO CONNECT?

All Village electric vehicles must display an EV decal to connect to mutual common area electricity.

As a reminder, those in the Village who drive personal electric vehicles (EV), including battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, are required to properly display an EV decal to connect to mutual common-area electricity.

Electric vehicle owners must obtain a decal from Resident Services for an annual cost of \$240 before charging to avoid a violation notice or a fine.

Call Resident Services at **949-597-4600** for more information.



CITY OFFERS SHREDDING DROP-OFF SERVICE

Get unnecessary yet sensitive documents destroyed for free.

The City of Laguna Woods is scheduling appointments for residents to drop off personal documents at city hall for free shredding. Documents will be stored in locked containers until shredded by a National Association for Information Destruction® AAA certified company at a separate facility.

To schedule an appointment, please visit www.cityoflagunawoods.org and click on the blue "Arrange Document Shredding" button. All currently available appointments are displayed on the city's website. Appointments can also be scheduled by calling city hall at **949-639-0500**.

Prior to scheduling an appointment, know the following:

- Proof of Laguna Woods residency is required for free document shredding.
- Bring no more than the equivalent of three 13-gallon kitchen trash bags of documents per appointment.
- For security, you will be required to feed your documents through a small opening in a locked container. Please allow an appropriate amount of time to do so.
- Remove binders, hanging file folders and large binder clips prior to your appointment. Manila folders with metal prongs, paper clips, rubber bands and staples are OK.
- Do not bring newspapers or magazines unless they contain personal information.
- X-rays, CDs, cassettes, flash drives, discs and batteries are not accepted.



PURCHASE AND PRINT

The Performing Arts Center box office is now online.

Now you can conveniently purchase and print Performing Arts Center tickets from your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To attend Champagne Pops, Men of Motown and Bee Gees Gold, or the New York Club's Brooks and Dunn Tribute, visit tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com to create an account and purchase and print your tickets with ease. Visit <https://bit.ly/3B2fJ7T> to view a tutorial for using the online box office. If you don't have a printer, no worries. A smartphone screenshot of your purchase will work or, at checkout online, you can opt to pick up paper tickets at the box office. Please call **949-597-4288** with questions.



RFID DECAL APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED

Residents can save time at the gates.

To save costs on postage, materials and staff, GRF made the decision more than a year ago to discontinue its windshield stickers in favor of using RFID decals (affixed to the driver's side headlight) for authorized entry to the Village.

Residents who do not yet have an RFID decal on their vehicle(s) are encouraged to schedule an appointment to do so to save time at the gates and avoid waiting in the visitor lane. Purchasing an RFID decal for \$25 per vehicle is the most secure and convenient way to access our community.

The best way to get your RFID is to email residentservices@vmsinc.org with a copy, a scan or a photo of your vehicle registration and request to set up an appointment to receive your decal from staff outside the Community Center.

For more information, call Resident Services at **949-597-4600**.

HOW THE RESIDENT PORTAL HELPS YOU

Go online to save effort and time.

Skip lines in person or on the phone for many services—use the Village resident portal instead! 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. Visit <https://bit.ly/3ksCvA4> to view a step-by-step tutorial on how to use the resident portal.





WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE

UCI DIALOGUE SOCIETY BOOK CLUB

Join an engaging discussion of *"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks"* by Rebecca Skloot.

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot narrates the story of Henrietta Lacks, otherwise known as "HeLa" by the scientific community. Lacks was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine and debated topics in medical ethics. This compelling nonfiction work received the 2011 National Academies Communication Award for best creative work that helps public understanding of topics in science, engineering or medicine. It also won the Heartland Prize for nonfiction, a Salon Book Award and more, and was named a 100 New York Times Notable Book of the Year. The paperback edition spent 75 weeks on the New York Times best-seller list.

- Chapters 1-19: October 27 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Chapters 20-38: November 10 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Zoom link: <https://uci.zoom.us/j/98201002415>
- Dial-in number: 1-669-900-6833
- Meeting ID: 98201002415



WHY IS MY POWER OUT?

Find out about Southern California power outages, savings opportunities and more.

To ensure you have as much information as possible about Southern California Edison (SCE) and why your power might be out, visit [sce.com](https://www.sce.com) to find answers. If you are suddenly without power or wish to know when SCE may schedule an outage for maintenance call/visit:

- Customer support: **800-655-4555**
- Outage information: **800-611-1911; [sce.com/outagecenter](https://www.sce.com/outagecenter)**

For general resources, customer programs, emergency preparedness, maintenance/repair/rotating outages, wildfire mitigation plan and more, from the [sce.com](https://www.sce.com) main page, click **Menu** at the top of the page and choose among the **Quick Services, Your Home, Customer Support, Outage Center, Safety and Wildfire Safety** tabs.

For customers with a heightened need for power to support medical devices, Southern California Edison (SCE) invites you to consider the following three steps:

- Visit the SCE Medical Baseline landing page at [sce.com/residential/assistance/medical-baseline](https://www.sce.com/residential/assistance/medical-baseline) to find out whether you qualify for a medical baseline allowance that may translate into savings for you.
- Contact SCE to advise of your critical care/medical needs and to have your account designated as such. This will enable SCE to identify the potential need in your community and collaborate with local government during large-scale emergency events.
- Update your contact information so SCE may be able to deliver critical information, particularly during emergency events.



ANNUAL RESERVATION LOTTERY

Enter by Oct. 29 to reserve Village venues for your 2022 special events.

The annual reservation lottery held by the Recreation and Special Events Department secures dates in advance for events that require long-term planning, including anniversaries, birthdays, family reunions, holiday celebrations and special club events.

To enter the lottery, pick up lottery cards in the Recreation Office or email a reservation

request to recreation@vmsinc.org through October 29. Emailed reservation requests will be processed as a lottery card. Please include your name, resident ID, manor, phone number, event type, event date and time (including preparation/cleanup), number of attendees, room preference and club/organization if applicable.

More important details:

- One event per card/request
- Limit of four cards/requests per club/manor
- Clubhouse availability is currently limited to:
 - o Clubhouse 1, Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 - o Clubhouse 2, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - o Clubhouse 5, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 - o Village Greens, Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Complete and return lottery cards/requests to the Recreation office by 5 p.m., Friday, October 29. Residents will be notified via mail by November 12.

For more information, call **949-597-4273** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.

USE DWELLINGLIVE FOR FASTER GUEST ACCESS

DwellingLive is the easiest, fastest way for your friends and family to access the Village. Register guests online and print passes 24 hours a day, seven days a week using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Simply visit the Laguna Woods Village website, click on **Guest Passes** in the top right-hand corner, and click on the **DwellingLive** link to register or log in. Residents who have an email address on file should have received an email with login instructions. If you do not know what email address you have on file, please contact Resident Services at **949-597-4600** or residentservices@vmsinc.org.

Never used DwellingLive before? It's easy! View a comprehensive DwellingLive tutorial at <https://bit.ly/3EFqTSh>, watch a Village YouTube channel video tutorial at <https://bit.ly/39u9fCR> or check out the DwellingLive video tutorial at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Residents > Resident Services > At Your Service > DwellingLive Video**.

Download the DwellingLive app at the App Store or at Google Play.



FIERCE ADVOCATE, *Friendly Neighbor*



Meet
**Laguna Woods
Mayor Shari Horne**

BY JENNIFER KARMARKAR

Shari Horne is used to wearing a lot of hats: wife, neighbor, concerned citizen, activist, environmentalist, senior advocate, politician (though she dislikes that moniker) and Laguna Woods mayor, to name a few. (She also can field strip an Uzi ... but more about that later).

As a city councilwoman, Horne is the face of Laguna Woods on the Vector Control Committee, the Southern California Association of Governments and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, which advises the Orange County Board of Supervisors. She also sits on the California Senior Legislature, where she chairs its health policy committee and helps craft state and federal laws impacting older adults.

In the Village, Horne is a past cannabis club president who rides the bus to the dispensary with fellow Villagers. She's a former building captain, a recycling guru and the neighbor most likely to give you the shirt off her back or her last loaf of bread.

**Laguna Woods
Councilmembers Cynthia
Conners and Shari Horne
attend the annual Donate
Life Rally**

Horne's penchant for service was ingrained in her as a child growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "I grew up believing in the common good and that we're our brother's keeper. If you see somebody down you help them up without a second thought," Horne, 69, says. "That was the way we were raised."

She is a vocal proponent of cannabis, which she uses to ease the aches she gets in her foot a decade post-surgery. Horne believes the leafy herb, in its many forms, is a gateway out of opioids for seniors. “There are a lot of people getting a lot of relief from it,” she says.

She’s also working to get spent nuclear waste removed from San Onofre, which, she reminds anyone who will listen, is only 20 miles from Laguna Woods Village.

“I think I’ve always been an activist,” says Horne. “When I believe in a cause I’ll march; I’ll sign petitions. Now, I can’t really be an activist, solely because there are so many issues. So, I have to divide my time.”

For several years, Horne has advocated for the extension of golf cart pathways from the edge of Laguna Woods to Laguna Hills Mall to make the area accessible for seniors who don’t drive. Although merchants were in favor of it, the proposal was voted down



Preparing for a session of the California Senior Legislature in Sacramento

by the city of Laguna Hills. Horne’s initiative now has state Sen. Dave Min’s (D-Irvine) backing, she says, and both are working behind the scenes to bring the project to fruition.

Horne’s passion, and one she never stops working toward, is improving the quality of life for seniors. “I’m surrounded with seniors I care about and love,” the two-time Laguna Woods mayor says. “The Village has done so much for their quality of life, and I just want to make sure they can rely on their homes and their food and have somewhere to go and someone to talk to.”

Marriage Is the Priority

For Horne, the issues are many and never-ending, and often require her to change hats several times a day. But for all her varied roles, the one she holds dearest is that of partner to Hal, her husband of 22 years.

“To have someone so loving and supportive, who went through so much with me—he, and our relationship, are my biggest priorities,” Horne says. “I can imagine anything in my life changing, but if I didn’t have Hal by my side, little would have value. With him, we can weather any storm, together, no matter what.”

The couple met in June 1998 on a blind date arranged by

Shari and Hal at their wedding



Horne’s aunt, who had known Hal since he was a child. Horne had been married, briefly, and wasn’t looking to be in a relationship, she says. But she went anyway to appease her aunt. “What’s the worst thing that could happen?” she told herself.

Turns out the couple hit it off immediately. “As much as we fought it, it ended up being the best thing that ever happened to me in my entire life,” Horne says.

Hal Horne recounts being “blown away” by his future wife from their first date at Souplantation. “We spent about an hour and a half there, just talking,” he says. “Her intelligence came through and it was very clear that this was somebody with very strong opinions, and she could back them

up with evidence. And she was willing to listen to my opinions, which was amazing.”

In 1999, the couple self-married, reciting Hebrew scripture under a canopy, as Hal’s parents had done some six decades earlier. Two years later they made their union official in the eyes of the state with a ceremony in Hal’s parents’ backyard in San Diego.

Early Adventures Abroad

Horne was 17 when she moved to Israel to live on a kibbutz, a collective living arrangement in which labor is provided in exchange for food, lodging and a small stipend. “It was wonderful. I learned how to stomp cotton and pick grapes and work in the kitchen, peeling potatoes,” Horne recounts.

It was 1969, just two years after the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The kibbutz was located on an army base near the border, and

residents took turns posting guard. “I never got very good at reading or writing the language, but I could field strip an Uzi easily,” says Horne, an avid shooter.

After leaving the kibbutz, she worked at Barclays Bank in Tel Aviv, interacting on foreign currency. Though a fluent Hebrew speaker, Horne says she often mixed up the word for “safe” with a similar-sounding word.

“I kept sending people to the whipped cream instead of sending them to the vault where they were supposed to go,” Horne recalls, laughing.

Horne returned home at 20 with a taste for independence, a penchant for activism and a husband she married so he could stay in the U.S.

“It didn’t work out,” Horne says about the marriage. “Opposites may attract on one level, but for an enduring relationship the differences were just too stark; the cultures were too different.”

Laguna Woods Beckons

Horne’s parents moved to Laguna Woods Village in 1986, and she waves her second-generation banner with pride. “I wanted to be here from the time they moved in here,” she says. “I had always been an artist, and I couldn’t wait to get to Clubhouse 4.”

The Hornes moved to Laguna Woods in 2005 and quickly fell in love with Village life, becoming active in several clubs. Following in her father’s footsteps, Horne became a building captain, a role that led to her being named president of the Garden Villa Association.



Shari and Hal attend an India Club function in Laguna Woods Village

“It’s not a social club but it gives you a warm feeling of helping your neighbors increasing the quality of their day-to-day lives,” Horne says.

While involved with an organization called Earthworks, she and City Councilwoman Cynthia Conners launched a recycling program in the Village, starting with a few three-story buildings.

“We had the residents put their recycling in blue bags and once a week a group would pick them up and take them to Via Campo Verde, where they would break them down.

“We did utilization studies of garbage bins to see how the amount of garbage was going down as recyclables went up. We did that for months,” Horne recalls. Soon, a pilot project of 50 bins was launched, with Horne taking a lead role. Eventually, the program morphed citywide.



Serving as assembly member on the California Senior Legislature

Leading a City

Horne's first foray into city government was on the Greening of the Woods committee. After an unsuccessful bid for city council in 2012, she was tapped to fill a vacant seat in 2014. She has served as mayor twice—in 2017 and 2021.

"Shari and I have worked together on city and Village affairs for probably 15-plus years," says longtime Laguna Woods City Councilman Noel Hatch. "When I think of her, I picture one of Jacquie Lawson's unique greeting cards: upbeat, colorful, creative and always with a message. Her interests and motivations are legion, and she serves well, always with collegiality as her mantra, so

working with her has been, and remains, a good run."

For her part, Horne says she was never interested in politics and doesn't consider herself a politician. ("We fix potholes, for goodness' sake.") However, her seat on the city council has given her a jumping off point to pursue her passions.

"No matter what your interest is—water, housing, transportation—there are committees you can join that could benefit your community," Horne says.

One of her highlights as mayor was attending the 2017 North American Climate Summit, which brought together mayors from across the globe to commit to addressing climate change at a

local level. She is equally proud of the work she and a coalition of south Orange County mayors did on the Dairy Fork Wetland and Habitat Restoration Project, designed to treat and collect runoff from 1,500 acres of land before it reaches Aliso Creek.

Whether sharing the spotlight with world leaders or marching against hate with her Laguna Woods neighbors, Horne's aim remains the same: to make the world a better place.

"It's a privilege to have a seat at the table and go to the places I go, and you have to use that," she says. "There's a saying if you're not at the table, you're on the menu, so you need to advocate for things that you want."



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)



TECHNOPHOBES AND TECHNOPHILES, *Rejoice!*

Whether you're a Mac or PC user stumped by your computer or a seasoned whiz, there's a club for you.

Many may think personal computers and smart devices are perhaps the greatest things since sliced bread. And by and large, they very well might be. However, they can cause frustration for some. If you own a Mac or PC desktop, tablet or smartphone and want to learn more about the functionality of your device(s), the Village Mac and PC Clubs are ready, able and eager to help!

THE MAC CLUB

BY BILL TILLEY

The original Village Computer Club operated only IBM-type computers. In 1980 the Apple III computer was produced and, under the leadership of Sam Mitchell, the Computer Club featured both types of devices.

In 1994, the Leisure World Macintosh Users Group became its own entity. Originally the computers were located in a Clubhouse 2 annex building; when the administration building on El Toro opened, the club obtained a dedicated computer room on the third floor. Residents used the computers but very few classes were held.

The year 1998 saw the emergence of the iMac, which has been the Mac Club's desktop computer for the past decade. Since that time, Apple has introduced the MacBook, the iPhone, the iPad and the Apple Watch.

About Today's Club

The Mac Club is a service club to Laguna Woods Village residents and, like all clubs in the Village, it operates under Recreation and Special Events Department guidelines and club bylaws with direction from the GRF board. GRF provides the Mac Learning Center, high-speed internet and desktop Apple computers for use by the community.

The primary mission of the Mac Club is to provide residents access to the Apple computing facility. Helping residents with their Apple devices is a secondary mission. All volunteers happily perform this mission to the best of their abilities, but if a particular room supervisor is not able to help with particular questions or problems, there usually is another supervisor who can.

Volunteers perform many other functions, including teaching more than 15 classes a month and managing the member lending library. The club provides other services not provided by GRF, including printing documents from iPhones or iPads and scanning documents and photos. Equipment such as classroom tables, large-screen televisions, media equipment, printers and scanners are

purchased by member support without GRF financial assistance.

Providing these services would not be possible without a group of dedicated volunteers who manage equipment, finances, the website, the library, membership, communications and education, and serve on the club's board of directors.

The Mac Club is always looking for new volunteers. Prior Apple experience is great but not required; new volunteers are paired with a current volunteer supervisor for on-the-job training.

If you wish to become a volunteer, please speak to a staff member to discuss the many opportunities the Mac Club offers.



MAC LEARNING CENTER

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday

Open to Village residents and their guests

Membership \$10 per person | theMacClub.org

The Mac Club is always looking for new volunteers. Prior Apple experience is great but not required; new volunteers are paired with a current volunteer supervisor for on-the-job training. If you wish to become a volunteer, please speak to a staff member to discuss the many opportunities the Mac Club offers.

PC CLUB, WORKSHOP AND LEARNING CENTER

BY RON NELSON

What is now the PC Club evolved from its inception as the Leisure World Electronics and Computer Club (LWECC) dating back as far as 1976. In 1984, in conjunction with LWECC, Al Boom started the Leisure World PC Users Group, composed of computer room volunteer supervisors. Over the next three decades these two groups merged to become the Computer Club of Leisure World - PC Users Group (mid-1980s), the Leisure World PC Users Group (in 1990), the PC Computer Club (in 1996) and, in January of 2006, the Laguna Woods PC Club.

Up until 1997 the group had a lab in Clubhouse 1 and held its meetings in Dining Room 3. In 1997 the club held the grand opening of its new Clubhouse 2 learning center, which housed eight computers. In June of that year, the club added two more computers and held weekly classes for up to 10 people. Beginner and intermediate classes were offered in the new 1,200-square-foot center on computers running Windows 95 and internet access. During 1997 and 1998 the computer

lab moved several times within Clubhouse 2 to accommodate capacity. During the next four years the lab was located opposite the learning center at Computer Square.

In 2001 and into 2002 the GRF board decided the Clubhouse 2 facilities were unsustainable and proposed moving the PC and Mac clubs to their current locations on the Community Center's third floor.

The Laguna Woods PC Club's 721 members are responsible for operating the PC Workshop and

the Bob Sellards Learning Center. In addition to eight membership meetings each year, the club has an annual June picnic and a November volunteer appreciation dinner. For \$10 a year, members receive class discounts, picnic and dinner attendance and a chance to win a prize at membership meetings.

PC Workshop

The workshop is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week to all Village residents and is staffed by two room supervisors and a front-desk greeter. All computers have the Microsoft Windows operating system, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel and PowerPoint), internet browsers (Chrome, Firefox and Edge) and Deep Freeze restoration software.

In addition to these standard configurations, one or more computers feature ArcSoft Family Paint, Corel Video Studio, Family Tree genealogy program, Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing, Professor Teaches Windows, Microsoft Access, Picasa and Quicken 2012 and 2015.

Dedicated Scanning/ Photo Editing

Two computers feature 4k HDR monitors and three have scanners, two of which are high automatic document/photo scanners, and one is a very high-resolution flatbed capable of scanning documents, photos and slides. All three are connected to the photo-quality color printer. Once an item is scanned, various software programs are available to edit or enhance the images using Adobe

For the latest information about the PC Club, its extensive facilities or the latest class schedule, or to register for a class or purchase membership, visit thePCClub.org.



Ever wanted to try a Chromebook or Chromebox? The PC workshop has both. You may be surprised at how quickly and easily you can be up and running. Instructions for use are on an adjacent placard and detailed instruction manuals are located next to each computer.

Photoshop Elements, Photoshop Lightroom or Acrobat, or GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program, a cross-platform image editor), a free and open-source alternative to Photoshop.

Epson FastFoto FF-640 Scanner

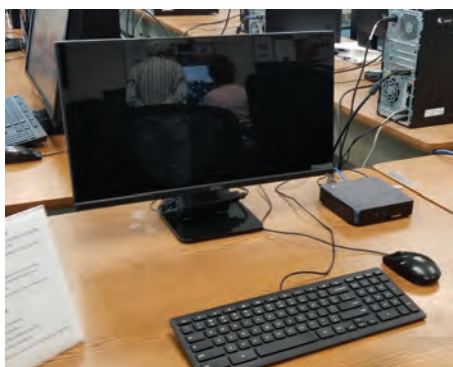
Features a 30-picture hopper (for various-size pictures) that can scan, store and enhance a batch of photos in less than one minute.

Work Area

Used to assist residents with personal computer needs. Laptops, desktops and printers can be brought in if necessary.

Data Security

In addition to Microsoft Defender (protecting against viruses, spyware and other malware), all lab computers are under the control of restoration software Deep Freeze, which restores the content of each computer whenever it is restarted (at least once a day). To ensure no personal work or data is left behind on the computer you've been using, ask a supervisor to restart it when you leave.



Chromebox and Chromebook

Instructions for use are on an adjacent placard; detailed instruction manuals are placed next to each computer.

Bob Sellards Learning Center

In February of 2021 the PC Club lost one of its most active members, Bob Sellards. Bob was a highly respected member of our Laguna Woods Village community and president of the PC Club for many years.

The center houses 21 Windows 10 desktop computers and a teaching station incorporating

an overhead projector and a wireless audio system. Volunteer-taught classes, open to all residents and their guests, are developed to be helpful and interesting to people in their avocations, day-to-day technology-related activities, active careers and post-retirement work interests.

Tax Preparation Services

February through April the classroom is home to the Laguna Woods Free Tax Program. This all-volunteer program provides free tax filing for Village residents. Even with the pandemic last year, we were the largest single free tax preparation site in Southern California. Our 20 volunteer counselors processed 957 returns with an accuracy rate of 98.2%. Tax processing for 2021 will begin the first week of February 2022. For more information, contact the site coordinator at taxes@thepcclub.org or visit thePCClub.org.



A standard PC configuration in the workshop



The Piano Man and the Singer

Mark and Sharone Hochberg evaded Fate and Harmony for a long time—until they met in the Village.

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON

Mark Hochberg's life is an improvisational composition marked by chance and happenstance, filled with music and, it must be said, a little bit of magic.

How else to explain the way fate kept trying to throw him together with his now-wife, Sharone? They might have met at bar mitzvahs in Chicago or Las Vegas when they were kids because his cousins and her parents were best friends. Or later when they both lived in Los Angeles and Mark nearly moved into the same Tarzana apartment building where Sharone was living at the time but decided against it. (A good thing, since it was later flattened in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.) Or when one of them failed to follow up on a singles ad Sharone had placed to which Mark responded.

What's Luck Got to Do With It?

It wasn't until they both moved to Laguna Woods Village that Fate and Harmony collaborated to bring them together. Mark was a member of the Sunshine Performance Club at the Village and Sharone, who also enjoys acting, wanted to get involved with the group. They became friends first and then started dating.



"I was just lucky that I met Sharone," Mark says.

"It wasn't lucky; it was meant to be," she replies.

Music played a big role in their courtship—even before they met. After all, in that long-ago singles ad, Sharone had mentioned that she was a singer and hosted a Jewish music program on the radio station at Cal State Northridge. When they finally did meet, that came up in conversation one day and they realized how close they had come to meeting much earlier in their lives.

"That stopped us both in our tracks," Sharone says. "That one had me crying for about two hours. The universe kept trying to throw us together. We kept missing."

Their first date was at Sizzler, after Mark, a mostly self-taught piano player from age 5, had finished performing with jazz group The Woods Combo. Then Sharone invited him to a concert. There were kids with Hula Hoops there, and she discovered that he was good at Hula Hooping.

Now they make music together all the time, through their various activities. Sharone helped Mark improve his piano videos, which he posts on Facebook and YouTube. Before COVID, he played piano for theater groups or at luncheons for groups who wanted a little background music. And he was involved with the Village MIDIots, which used a MIDI, or Musical Instrument Digital Interface, for producing songs.

"The more people I met, the more variety of things I was doing," Mark says.



His love of music, performing experience, and versatility stood him in good stead. It's a talent he has honed nearly his whole life. Although he took lessons when he was young, he discovered early on that he could play by ear, something his music teachers didn't approve of because it limited his ability to read music.

"I don't read music that well," he admits, "but I can hear a song and play it. I have a repertoire that goes way, way back to the early 1900s because my parents had the radio on all the time. I

learned all these old songs from their era and all kinds of music. My dad had opera records, classical, pop, just a variety of stuff."

He quit taking lessons but continued learning on his own, developing his own arrangements for songs he liked. He was able to use his talent in his work for the parks and recreation department of the city of Los Angeles.

"Our section did mostly outdoor activities, outdoor camping, and once in a while, they had some activities where I played the piano," he says.

Following Family

After working for the city for almost 30 years, Mark was offered a buyout and took it, ready for a change. For a while after retirement, he stayed in Alhambra, where he had been living.

What drew him to Laguna Woods Village—besides Fate—was family. Like so many other residents, he had relatives who lived there and liked it.

An aunt and uncle who lived in the Village encouraged him to consider moving there. Mark had looked at other retirement communities, but none appealed to him. They lacked the activities of the Village. They were downright dull, he says.

“In Laguna Woods, they had a lot of baby boomers moving in around the time I did, shortly before and shortly afterward. And they started having a lot more activities for that age bracket. So, I thought it was a good place to go.”

He finally took his uncle’s advice.

“My uncle was saying, ‘If you come down here, you’re going to be so busy and so popular.’”

“You’ll be surprised what it can do for your self-esteem and just your general happiness.”

—Mark Hochberg, on why Village activities are so important



And he was right. I met a lot of people and eventually my wife.”

Mark describes himself as a shy person but living in the Village helped him to engage with the people in his community and become more outgoing. “The more things I’ve gotten involved with, the more recognition I’ve gotten, it’s helped me a lot,” he says.

Sharone had a similar experience. She found that going to dances and other activities helped her meet lots of people. “You start talking and that’s how I made a lot of my friends here,” she says.

Hitched at the Honda Center

Mark and Sharone started dating in 2017, but it took the onset of COVID-19 for them to take the plunge into marriage. It was a first-time marriage for each of them. They had planned to have the wedding in Clubhouse 7 but by then all the clubhouses were closed. The idea of inviting a few people over and having the wedding in their backyard went by the wayside, too. Too many people wanted to come, and it was still some months before vaccinations became available.

Not many options were left, but then they discovered that marriage ceremonies were being conducted at the Honda Center in Anaheim. Plenty of room there!

They got dressed up and a friend drove them there so she could be a witness. They waited in the car until their names were called, and a court clerk behind a ticket booth conducted the ceremony. The photo in their



“There is really something for everybody. We’ve got the Emeritus classes from Saddleback in every subject you could possibly think of. You could learn accounting; you could learn a new language. You could study music; you can go to a philosophy class or learn how to draw. There’s everything. I tell my friends I moved to summer camp because there’s horseback riding and swimming and golf and archery and arts and crafts; there really is absolutely everything here.”

—Sharone Hochberg

living room says, “Hitched at the Honda Center.”

They’ve been married for a year. Mark moved in with Sharone and rents his own home to his brother. The couple share their lives with Sharone’s (and now Mark’s) two dogs: Rory, named after a character in the Doctor Who television series, and Olivia. Olivia is a daddy’s girl while Rory is more of a momma’s boy. “They’re both sweet doggies,” Mark says.

Summer Camp for Seniors

Now that things are starting to open back up, they’re each looking forward to taking up their many activities once again. Sharone describes living in the Village as summer camp for seniors.

“There is really something for everybody. We’ve got the Emeritus classes from Saddleback in every subject you could possibly think of,” she says. “You could learn accounting; you could learn a new language. You could study music; you can go to a philosophy class or learn how to draw. There’s everything. I tell my

friends I moved to summer camp because there’s horseback riding and swimming and golf and archery and arts and crafts; there really is absolutely everything here. So, nobody should be bored and nobody should be lonely because there’s plenty of

opportunities for people to meet each other.”

Mark agrees. As he himself learned, the secret is getting involved with activities.

“You’ll be surprised what it can do for your self-esteem and just your general happiness.”



- Watch Mark accompanying Sharone on “Till There Was You” from The Music Man at <https://bit.ly/3EtLOHT>.
- Watch Mark at the keyboard with Village residents Moqui Lund (vocals), Bill Hemberger (drums) and the instructor for the Village String band, on bass, Alan Levin, at <https://bit.ly/3Et4CqT>.
- Watch the Hula Hoop and Melodica King at <https://bit.ly/3tMEQsM>.



Lake Oroville today in
Northern California's
Butte County.

Water Supply

IN PERIL

Don't miss a special Village TV production,
"Laguna Woods & California's Water Crisis."

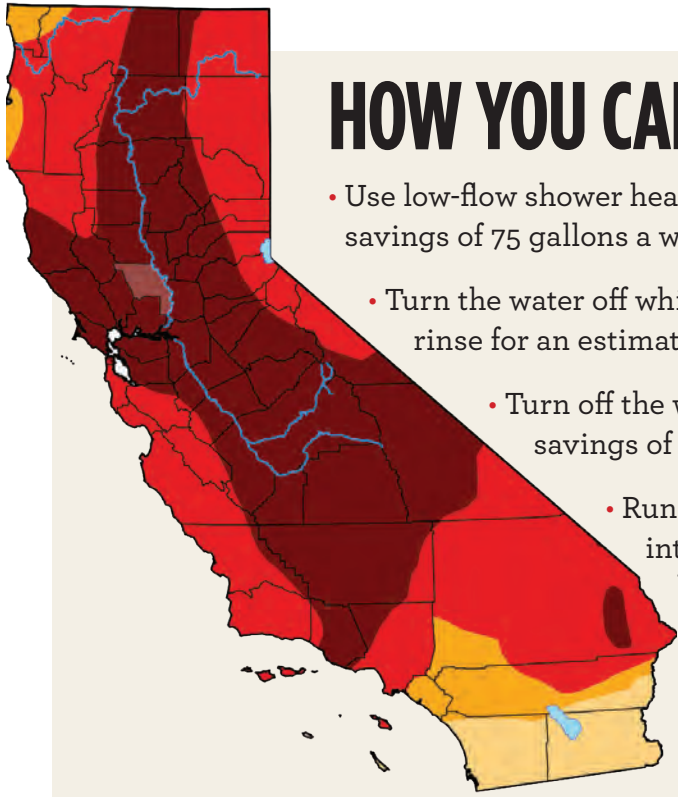
About three-quarters of the American West is in what is called a megadrought, with critical waterways like the Colorado River and Rio Grande that supply millions of people and farms expected to have dismally low flows this year.

Amid water shortages and restrictions in the Colorado River Basin, widespread severe, extreme and exceptional drought continues across much of the region.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of September 2, more than 95% of California is in severe drought, 88% extreme drought and 47% exceptional drought. Orange County is in severe drought.

This crisis means Californians must move beyond temporary emergency drought measures and adopt permanent changes to use water more wisely and prepare for more frequent and persistent periods of limited water supply.

In a special Village TV production, "Village Roundtable:



HOW YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE

- Use low-flow shower heads and limit showers to 5 minutes or less for an estimated savings of 75 gallons a week.
- Turn the water off while lathering in the shower, turning it back on to quickly rinse for an estimated savings of 75 gallons a week.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving for an estimated savings of 35 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.
- 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.

Laguna Woods & California's Water Crisis," five individuals who work in and/or serve the Village, and bring a broader perspective from our local water board, came together to discuss challenges regarding water use and costs in the Village and the wider area, educate residents about best-practice water use by the Landscaping Services Department and highlight ways permanent conservation efforts can help reduce costs, minimize waste and the harmful effects of drought.

Catch this discussion on TV6 on Sundays at 7 p.m. or on the Village YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/2YXRJh>.

By making conservation a way of life in California and the Village, we can do our part in the effort to save water, minimize water waste and prepare for future uncertainties.

CAR WASHING AND OVERWATERING

The rules and impact of both

Follow the Car-Washing Rules

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/3EsGG6S> 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/3tRxT9C> 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 can be detrimental to plants depending on their individual water requirements and may also 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.





WE HEAR YOU!

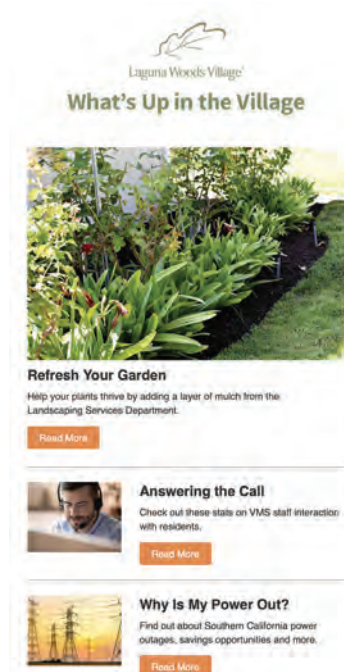
QUESTIONS ASKED & ANSWERED

WE HEAR YOU!



I hear that Village Television (Channel 6) plays wonderful movies without commercials. Where can I find the schedule for these movies?

Many residents are surprised to know that the community has its own television channel. Village Television, or Channel 6, provides residents with access to local programming seven days a week. The channel features community news, events, showcased stories and entertainment programs. Find the guide at lagunawoodsvillage.com > Amenities > Village Media Services > Village Television. The list of movies for the month are under the programming section.



I completed the application to receive the weekly newsletter “What’s Up in the Village” multiple times, but I still do not receive the email. Why not?

There are a couple of factors that could be at play here. First, check your junk/spam email folder; sometimes security settings automatically direct emails from the Village to that folder. Also, you may have unwittingly requested to opt out of receiving the newsletter. If that is the case, you will need to reach out to our newsletter provider to reset your preferences. If you suspect this is the case, please email info@lagunawoodsvillage.com and staff will assist you.

I received a letter stating that I could not plant my vegetables in a sunny area on the side of my manor because it is common area and mutual property. What can I do to nourish my green thumb and not receive a violation notice from the mutual?

Residents will be in violation if they plant anything in the common area around their manor. Random plantings in common areas interfere with

landscaping crews' routine and sometimes attract rodents to the area. However, the Village offers garden plots for rent. Garden Center 1, located on Moulton Parkway near the golf course, has 172 garden plots and 132 tree plots. Garden Center 2, located at 23102 Via Campo Verde, features 596 garden posts, 118 tree plots and one shade house with 26 benches for orchids and plants. Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > [Amenities](#) > [Facilities](#) > [Garden Centers](#) or call 949-268-2387 for more information.



I am tired of waiting on the phone to have my guest gain access to the community. I heard I can do this online called DwellingLive. How do I use it?

Community Access receives on average over **17,000 calls a month** for gate clearance—that's why you are waiting on the phone so long. There is an easy remedy to the wait while giving access to the Village for family and friends. Register your guests on DwellingLive online and print passes 24/7/365 using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Go to the Laguna Woods Village website, click on Guest Passes in the top right-hand corner and click the DwellingLive link to register. View a comprehensive DwellingLive tutorial on the Village's website by selecting [Residents](#) > [Resident Services](#) > [DwellingLive Video](#).



I would really like to get involved in the governing of the Village; however, I would like to try out volunteering my time before I run for the board. What can I do?

One way to get a better understanding of what is involved with governing the community is to become an advisor on a committee. Committee advisors usually participate in the planning and development phases of a Village project. Because committees are where all board-approved policies, procedures and projects originate, becoming an advisor allows you to experience governing from the start of a venture. To request to become a committee advisor, please contact the chair of the committee in which you are interested.

The content featured in this column comes from questions asked by Village residents and answered by Village Management Services' own Catherine Laster. If you have a question for Ms. Laster, email info@lagunawoodsvillage.com. Include your name, unit number and email in your message, and label the subject line My Community Question.



MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE

THE NEW FACES OF M&C

The Maintenance and Construction Department welcomes new staff in key roles. Meet the Village's new Maintenance and Construction director, facilities manager and maintenance operations manager.



Manuel Gomez, Director, Maintenance and Construction

Manuel Gomez, Village Management Services' new director of the Maintenance and Construction Department, has more than 30 years' experience in serving municipal public works departments. As the maintenance and transportation manager for the City of Santa Ana, Manuel provided

oversight of the maintenance, development services and transportation functions of the public works agency. As a senior project manager for Interwest Consulting, he served as interim public works director for the cities of Laguna Beach and San Clemente. As director of public works for the City of Irvine, Manuel provided leadership and policy direction for the

development, construction and maintenance of various public works infrastructure projects and programs, and was responsible for an annual operating budget of \$65 million and a capital improvement program of more than \$450 million. He worked closely with Woodbridge Village Association, a mutual benefit nonprofit corporation and private homeowners' association with more than 9,600 homes and an overall population of approximately 30,000 residents. Manuel is responsible for VMS' enormous Maintenance and Construction Department, which includes Maintenance Operations and Services, Damage Restoration, Projects Division and Manor Alterations.



Baltazar "Bart" Mejia, Facilities Manager

Baltazar "Bart" Mejia, Village Management Services' facility manager, has more than 30 years of civil engineering experience that includes such municipal engineering fields as water distribution, storm drains, environmental compliance, subdivision, buildings and

more. Bart comes to VMS from the City of Costa Mesa, where he managed the capital improvement program as city engineer. Prior to that he managed the water services capital improvement program for the City of Garden Grove. His skill set includes short- and long-range planning, capital improvement programming, project development to delivery, project and personnel management, grant writing, budget preparation and more.

Bart manages electrical and electromechanical systems and equipment, monitors existing equipment, identifies safety and energy related cost benefit improvements, and provides project management of electrical-related improvements, upgrades and construction projects for both housing mutuals and GRF.



Koh Shida, Maintenance Operations Manager

Koh Shida, Village Management Services' new maintenance operations manager, has 17 years of experience applying



MANOR ALTERATIONS ADDRESSES FAQs

Get answers to your questions and more with regular news bulletins.

Every two weeks via email, Manor Alterations issues a news bulletin to better inform members, realtors and contractors regarding important Manor Alterations topics. The bulletin addresses specific content and is distributed via email every two weeks. Topics covered address overall news, rule changes in effect or expected changes, expected changes in insurance requirements, new team members, backlog status and more.

To view previous news bulletins, visit <https://bit.ly/3io5V70> and select the orange Manor Alterations News Bulletins button or go to lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Residents** > **Manor Alterations** > **Manor Alterations News Bulletins**. Also, links to each bulletin are provided bimonthly in the "What's Up in the Village" eblast.

Manor Alterations invites your feedback at alterations@vmsinc.org.

extensive planning and problem-solving skills to enhance business processes and day-to-day activities. His skill set includes project and construction management, budget oversight, associate development, multifamily operations, capital improvement and commercial management. Prior to joining

VMS, Koh was maintenance manager for Brookfield Properties, multisite maintenance supervisor for Forest City Realty Trust, and more. At VMS, Koh manages the Maintenance Operations Division, including paint and prior-to-paint, carpentry, extermination, general maintenance and interior component programs.



LANDSCAPING

IRRIGATION FAQ

By Kurt Wiemann, Landscaping Services Department Director



Why do the sprinklers run so often?

Soil can absorb only so much water at a time; excess water runs off and is wasted. Watering several times during the night is a common practice referred to as “cycle and soak” programing, 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 three minutes, which is the limit of how much water the soil in the community can absorb, with a minimum soaking time of 20 minutes between cycles.

Why does the irrigation run when it is raining?

The irrigation system run times are based on data received from our on-site weather station. In addition to measuring rainfall and wind speed, our irrigation weather station employs an evapotranspiration gauge. Evapotranspiration is the process by which soil water is transferred to the atmosphere either by the plant or directly from the soil surface. This gives detailed information into how much water the plant material needs. This process is constant and run time calculations can change daily but in summer our weather is fairly

constant. A light rain will not affect irrigation much, as even a quarter inch of rain does not soak into the soil deep enough to reach the roots. Programmed cycles may run for shorter times after a light rain.

I read online that we should water during the day. Why do we water at night?

Landscape crews, painters, plumbers and electricians are out in the field during the day working in and around landscaping. Having irrigation running during the day would severely impact these operations. Also, our weather-based program may calculate a necessary total run time of 12 minutes on any spray head station. We have a large number of controllers with multiple stations that often require the program to continue to run for eight to 10 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.

There is a section by my unit that always seems to be damp and another that seems very dry. Can that be fixed?

Our irrigation system was designed and installed when the community was originally constructed. Our irrigation systems are set up so that multiple buildings with all four building sides 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.

I heard there were plans to install a new irrigation system. What will change?

Our massive irrigation system is comprised of a computerized master control and 31 cluster control units, which in turn control 407 irrigation controllers, each with a range of 18 to 40 irrigation stations. There is a total of 10,463 stations (valves) using an estimated average of 26 sprinkler heads per valve for a total of 272,038 sprinkler heads.

The irrigation master control system is owned by GRF; the rest of the systems are owned by the individual housing mutuals. The master system is outdated and mostly obsolete; staff is in the process of updating the system. The intent of the update project is to give more control to the operators. The current system requires a staff member to be in the office to monitor the system; the system has no remote capabilities or the capability to notify staff of main line leaks or other issues. It also relies on a complex and unreliable system of underground phone lines and radio frequencies to communicate with the controllers.



WHO DO I CALL WHEN I SEE BROKEN IRRIGATION?

Please immediately report all irrigation issues (leaks or broken heads) through the proper channels: Resident Services at **949-597-4600** or **residentservices@vmsinc.org** during daytime working hours and Security **949-580-1400** during off hours. Please give as much information as possible, including a callback number in case staff needs assistance in finding the issue.

Why haven't the mutuals installed drip irrigation everywhere?

Staff has converted 381 valves into drip irrigation and 1,979 valves into low precipitation rotator heads. Drip irrigation is effective in some applications but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution. It is a high-maintenance system that requires frequent adjustments and repairs. Low precipitation rotator heads are very effective in reducing water waste and require much less maintenance than drip systems. Additionally, converting to drip is a high-labor activity requiring removing much of the plant material; rotator heads can be installed on existing systems.

With all this talk of water conservation, why do the sprinklers get the sidewalks wet and some water runs down the street?

At the time our irrigation systems were installed, 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 are addressing this issue by slowly converting to stream heads that produce less mist and overspray. The Village also has many turf areas smaller than what spray heads are designed to cover. Staff is actively working with the landscape committees of both mutuals to eliminate these smaller turf areas.

I called in a broken sprinkler on the weekend and it didn't get fixed until Monday. Isn't that a waste of money and water?

A broken sprinkler head will use \$0.43 worth of water a day; it would cost the mutual \$75 for a technician to come in and fix it. While it may seem like a waste of water, it is financially prudent to wait until crews are on site on Monday to fix broken sprinklers. Staff does respond to calls regarding broken main lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE COMMUNITY STREET MAP

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

A

B

C

D

E



- Golf Cart Route (dotted line)
- Health Care (red cross icon)
- Churches, Temples (blue cross and star icons)
- Security Gates (purple circle icon)
- OCTA Bus Stops (blue OCTA logo icon)
- Clubhouses (orange house icon)
- Swimming Pool (blue wave icon)

© 2020, Laguna Woods Village

Laguna Woods Village®

A

B

C

D

E





KEYS TO THE COMMUNITY

In Your Neighborhood

To find out what's going on in and around your neighborhood, visit 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
info@vmsinc.org

AMENITIES AND RECREATION

General Information 949-597-4273
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
 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

STAY IN TOUCH!

Telephone and email

The Laguna Woods Village
 Community Center
 24351 El Toro Road
 Laguna Woods, CA 92637
lagunawoodsvillage.com
 949-597-4600

Emails provided where
 available

MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Services, City of Laguna Beach 949-497-0701
 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
 Lost and Found 949-597-4435
lostandfound@vmsinc.org
 RV Storage 949-268-2284
 Saddleback College Emeritus Institute 949-770-9669
 The Towers 949-597-4278
thetowerslwv@pmpmanage.com

RESIDENT SERVICES

Manor Alterations 949-597-4616
alterations@vmsinc.org
 Resident Services 949-597-4600
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



SECURITY SERVICES

2021 GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT DRILL

Participate and prepare to reduce your chance of injury during an earthquake.

Get Ready to Shake Out.



October 21

Shake Out

This year's Great California ShakeOut, the annual statewide drill designed to give residents an opportunity to practice preparedness for and safety during a large earthquake, is scheduled to begin at 10:21 a.m. on Thursday, October 21.

The Security Department and Disaster Preparedness Task Force encourage all Village residents to participate in the drill and identify where they would "drop, cover and hold on" in the event of an earthquake, inventory their personal emergency

supplies and update their emergency contact information with friends and family. The Great California ShakeOut website and an informational pdf offer earthquake safety tips as well as information on why you should register for the drill, planning your drill, how you can participate and more. Californians may register at ShakeOut.org/california.

Drop, Cover and Hold On

Taking the proper actions can save lives and reduce your risk of injury. Learn and practice what to do during an earthquake, whether at home or work, or while traveling.

In most situations, you will reduce your chance of injury if you:

- Drop where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby.
- Cover your head and neck with one arm and hand.
 - o Crawl underneath a nearby sturdy table or desk for shelter.
 - o Crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows) if no shelter is nearby.
 - o Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs.
- Hold on until shaking stops.
 - o Under shelter: Hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts.
 - o No shelter: Hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

Lock, Cover and Hold On

If it's hard for you to get on the ground or you cannot get back up again without help, follow these recommendations:

- Cover your head and neck with your arms or a pillow until the shaking stops if you are in a recliner or bed.
- Drop, cover and hold on to or sit on a chair, bed or other sturdy item, and cover your head and neck with both hands if you use a cane, and keep it nearby.
- Lock your wheels if you use a walker or wheelchair. Carefully get as low as possible. Bend over and cover your head and neck with your arms, a book or a pillow and hold on until the shaking stops.

Laguna Woods Village residents who would like additional information or are interested in joining the Disaster Preparedness Task Force can email the Security Department at chief@vmsinc.org.

The Disaster Preparedness Task Force is located in the rear of the Community Center, adjacent to the double doors. Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com/residents/security-services/disaster-preparedness for more information.



DON'T BE A GATE CRASHER

Thousands of cars enter the gates of Laguna Woods Village routinely. Based on timing, traffic congestion and reaction time from when a gate arm lifts, it is important for all drivers to adhere to the rules of the road.

Never assume other drivers will yield the right-of-way. Respecting others' right-of-way is not limited to yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks or watching carefully to ensure the right-of-way of bicyclists and motorcyclists. Yield your right-of-way when it helps to prevent collisions.

Please use caution if your vehicle and another look like they will enter the gate at or near the same time. Before moving ahead, both drivers must ensure it is clear to proceed and prepare to yield their right-of-way if it helps prevent a collision. Security thanks you for your time and attention to this important topic. Drive safely!

TRAFFIC VIOLATION FINES

Please place payments in the violations box inside the security building or mail them to:

Village Management Services
Attn: Security Department
24351 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Make violation payments by check only to the Golden Rain Foundation, and write your violation reference number on the check memo line.

Contact violations staff at **949-597-4297** or violations.security@vmsinc.org with questions.



BEYOND THE GATES

ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?

BEYOND THE GATES



Casa Romantica's bluff-top historic landmark, the former home of San Clemente, California, founder Ole Hanson, is open daily for self-guided and docent-led tours of the home, permanent exhibits and two and a half acres of lush coastal gardens.

This major south county cultural institution features wide-ranging cultural programming, including music, art, dance, theater, horticulture and a lecture series with international talent.

Casa Romantica also hosts a variety of free arts education programs for children year-round. The institution's annual music festival and academy has received critical praise for its

comprehensive two-week music studies program in cello, piano, viola and violin.

Tours

Enjoy a self-guided cell phone audio tour of the historic home and gardens. If you're looking to create the perfect outing for a club, organization or large group, contact Casa Romantica so staff can help arrange bulk ticketing, guided tours, ordering boxed



FOR MORE INFO

For more information about educational and cultural programs, a calendar of events, how to donate or volunteer and more, visit casaromantica.org.

Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens

415 Avenida Granada
San Clemente, CA 92672

949-498-2139
info@casaromantica.org

Monday: Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday, Saturday, Sunday:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

lunches and more. All tours must be booked within a minimum of two weeks in advance to ensure docent availability.

Accessibility

Some parts of the property are limited by historic architecture, but the majority of the home and gardens are ADA compliant.





VILLAGE TELEVISION

TALKING ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

On TV6 Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m.



Village Television's talk show "Your Health," a 30-minute informative program designed to cover in-depth a single subject per episode, is the brain child of Lisa Hart, host of Village Television's "This Day," and Jon Noell, vice president of sales and marketing for Media Services 55.

Sectioned into two parts, the first half focuses on defining the health issue and its challenges, and the second half focuses on treatments, the latest technological advancements and physician contact information. Each episode is designed as an interactive discussion with local, leading experts in their field of study.

"Your Health" has covered such topics as mental health, skin care, cardiology, artificial intelligence, hearing and more.

Watch "Your Health" on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. or watch on Village Television's YouTube Channel.

For More Information

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > Residents > Services > Village TV to find complete programming and contact information, how to use the community message board and more. To view previous "This Day" broadcasts, Village news, governance meetings and dozens of other videos, visit the Laguna Woods Village YouTube channel at lagunawoodsvillage.com/youtube.



DON'T MISS VILLAGE TV'S OTHER GREAT PROGRAMMING!

- **Discovering Laguna Woods:** Take an adventure around Laguna Woods with Cyndee Whitney. Broadcast Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- **Tales From the Woods:** An entertaining daytime drama about the lives of Laguna Woods women and the people they encounter. Broadcast Mondays at noon and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Esther's Laguna Woods Show:** Esther Grossfield interviews new and interesting guests each month to discuss topics that interest you most. Broadcast Thursdays and Saturdays at noon.



COMMUNITY CONNECTED

COMMUNITY CONNECTED

COMMUNITY CONCERTS ARE BACK!

By Ian Samson

Ever since they were established in what is formerly known as Leisure World in May 1965, Community Concerts have been a musical treasure for residents. The original nationwide concept for the concerts was formulated in the 1920s to bring fine music to ordinary American neighborhoods at an affordable price. The organization's slogan was "A Carnegie Hall in Every Town." Artists were contracted through Columbia Artists in New York. The famous pianist Leonard Pennario performed the first concert. While 50 music lovers attended that initial concert in the Village, subsequently, membership in the association grew to 900, with a waiting list for series tickets.

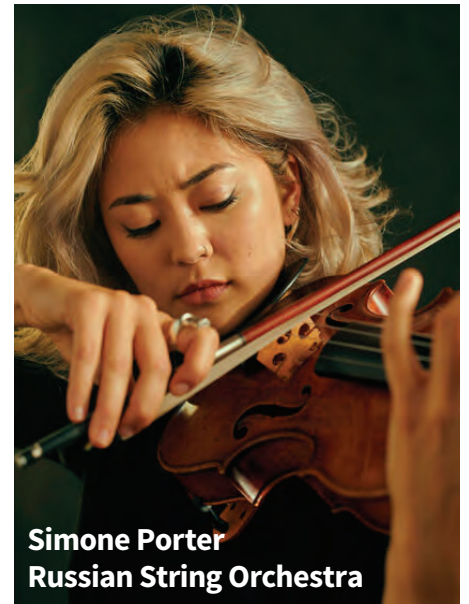
Eventually, the national community concert organization was dissolved. Since then, Community Concerts of Laguna Woods Village has been an independent organization

providing some of the world's most beloved music performed by world-class musicians.

Sadly, last year when COVID-19 broke out, the final two concerts were canceled. Nevertheless, the board plowed on, planning a season commencing in January 2022, in anticipation of COVID-19 having subsided to a level that will permit series resumption with socially and scientifically acceptable levels of precaution. An added plus will be the new HVAC system in Clubhouse 3.

Community Concerts Co-President Carol Coppage is thrilled to announce an outstanding program for 2022:

- **January 30: Minetti Quartet**, an Austrian string group and winners of the Schubert and Haydn Competitions.
- **February 27: Prima Trio** (piano, violin and clarinet) won the 2007 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, taking the coveted grand prize.



Simone Porter
Russian String Orchestra

- **March 27: Pianist Eric Lu**, a 20 plus-year-old phenom who won first prize and the gold medal at the Leeds International piano competition.
- **April 24: Russian String Orchestra**, an ensemble with more than 30 CDs and winners of multiple international awards.
- **May 22: Violinist Simone Porter**, one of the finest young violinists of her generation.
- **June 19 or 26: Israeli Chamber Project**, a group of world-class soloists with the technical perfection of Heifetz.

Membership, which includes season tickets, is \$60 per person. To join, please mail payment via check made to Community Concerts of Laguna Woods Village, PO Box 2821, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Events are for Laguna Woods Village residents and their guests only.



HELP "LITE THE NITE" FOR THE VILLAGE'S FASTEST GROWING SPORT

By Miranda McPhee

Look over at the pickleball courts beside the golf course after dark and you'll hear hoots of laughter and the "plink, plink, plink" of balls being hit back and forth. You will also see that only four of the seven courts are in use because they have lights. The Pickleball Club is on a mission to change this.

Lite the Nite is a community improvement project approved by GRF to add lights to the remaining courts, but budgets are tight, so the Pickleball Club is leading the effort to raise \$25,000 by December 31, 2021, to fund the project. Donations are managed through the Village Community Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit community benefit organization, which means they are tax deductible.

Who on Earth Plays in the Dark?

A lot of us! Did you know that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in both Laguna Woods Village and the USA? Hundreds of residents come to the courts each week to play this fun, social game on a small court using a paddle and perforated ball.

Evening courts are in constant use during hot summer months and shorter winter days. Lite the Nite will increase playing time by 75% at night and give everyone more opportunities to play.

A Game for Everyone

Pickleball is for everyone regardless of age, skill and experience. Some players are visually impaired, others have new hips/knees/rotator cuffs and some are physically limited. Some have never played a racquet sport before; others have played tennis, badminton or table tennis. Some

players enjoy a fun game with old or new friends that is leisurely one day and challenging the next; others compete in (and win!) state, western regional and national championships. It is a game you can pick up in no time, and you can choose to turn up to play or book a court with friends.

While the pickleball courts (shared with paddle tennis players) are open to all residents from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Pickleball Club boasts 450 members, offers free lessons, a ball machine and plenty of social events and tournaments (<https://lwpickleball.wixsite.com/lwpb>). If you have a pair of decent court shoes, the Pickleball Club can help with everything else, so getting started is easy, and you can soon challenge your grandkids to a game!

Please Support the Community

Any improvement to a popular Village amenity benefits us all, as it adds to the community's overall value. When the pickleball courts were created out of two original 1960s tennis courts, lights were added to only some courts to minimize costs and first gauge demand for night play. But who could have anticipated the dramatic rise in popularity of the game, especially during the pandemic, when so many other facilities were closed?

Seventy Pickleball Club members volunteered during the COVID-19 vaccination drive to support the community; we are now asking for support for this project. You may not play yourself, but chances are someone does among your friends, neighbors and family. Visit villagecommunityfund.org and click Lite the Nite, because every dollar counts!



COMMUNITY CONNECTED

COMMUNITY CONNECTED

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Zooming Through the World

Gratitude to the events happening around the world on Zoom.

Listening to readings, lectures and concerts from all over the sphere is a wondrous thing.

The logistics of turning on the computer and being in a library in Brooklyn, a museum in Portugal, a concert in Scandinavia.

All is possible.

Walking into Zoom is like a world encapsulated amidst this hum of time in an askew Dali universe.

Melting clocks.

Van Gogh sky.

Stars lifting their ears to whisper at us like a seashell understanding how the world has become tiny like a thimble and large as an ocean eternity.

Simultaneously seeking events and connection with all the ancient and new solitude.

Blending in a dance.

Learning new steps.

Twirling through the hemisphere.

The future wearing invisible ink.

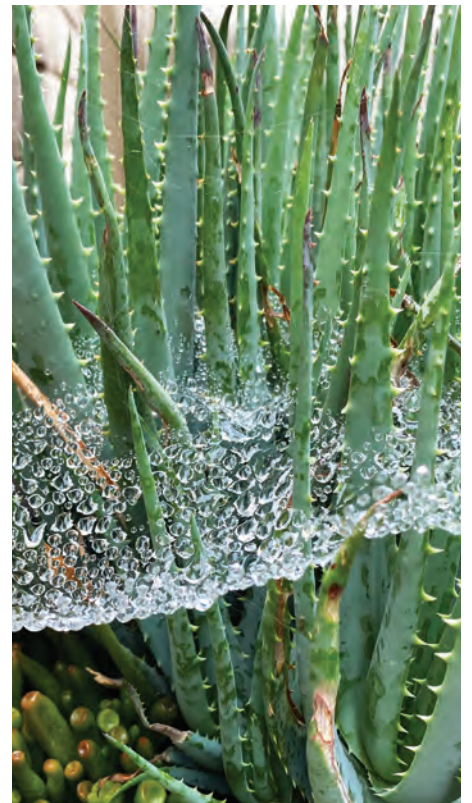
Unclear and profound.

—Ellyn Maybe

Resident Snaps



**Coopers hawk by
Susan Smallwood**



**Dew on succulent web by
Soco Davenport**

TIME TO THRIVE

Showing villagers all the ways to participate in all our community has to offer

By Beth Perak, Thrive Team Chair



Which Village pool is best for lap swimming? Is there a club where I can play my favorite card game? Are there walking trails in and around the Village? What about live entertainment?

Have you been hearing these questions and more from friends and neighbors? After the 18-month COVID-19 shutdown, new residents and established residents alike are ready to explore, inquire and learn what amenities await.

The Village has been reopening clubhouses and activities, and interest and excitement in this return to

normalcy is heard and felt as we reengage in our community.

To help residents make greater connections and thrive in the Village, the Thrive Team began a new project: “Time to Thrive in Laguna Woods Village,” which joins our continuing project, “Laguna Woods Village: A Community of Kindness.” This new project will use various mediums to demonstrate and answer the question: “What is there to do to thrive in the Village?”

The Thrive Team will use many tools to educate and inform villagers, including the Village

Breeze, the Laguna Woods Globe and Village Television. “Thrive Toolbox,” a 30-minute Village TV show, will play a major role, highlighting the indoor games, outdoor sports, crafts, equestrian activities, pools, theater, music, 200-plus clubs and fitness classes that are available to all through the Recreation and Special Events Department. But just how will this show demonstrate to viewers how they can participate in the amenities available to all residents?

“Thrive Toolbox” will feature four segments:

- **“People to Know,”** Thrive Team member Cyndee Whitney will ask folks what they love to do in the Village and what they might like to explore in the future.
- **“Places to Go”** will feature clubhouse tours, interviews with clubhouse managers and tours of facilities and activities.
- **“Things to Know”** Q&A segment will feature knowledgeable community members providing answers to questions frequently asked by new residents.
- **“Points to Ponder”** will be a 30- to 60-second visual display, video or photograph that repeats/reinforces concepts and inspires our neighbors to venture forth, engage and thrive in the Village.



RECREATION

FUN AND RECREATION AWAIT!

How to take full advantage of all the Village has to offer.



Laguna Woods Village residents enjoy resort-style amenities that are the envy of the nation at just a fraction of the cost. The Village is one of the most recreational-focused communities in the country, and the Recreation and Special Events Department strives to provide you with the best services, programs and amenities possible.

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/recreation or any of the bit.ly links here to get involved.

- View a list of amenities, location, contact information, registration process and more at <https://bit.ly/3tXFP9w>.

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.



- Purchase event tickets, register for outdoor classes, sign up for Clubhouse 4 activities via ActiveNet at <https://bit.ly/39sfreE> or by telephone between 10 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday, at 949-597-4382. Visit <https://bit.ly/3CDWAd9> to view an ActiveNet tutorial video.
- Check out our schedule of current recreation classes at <https://bit.ly/3u086MB>.
- Visit <https://bit.ly/3u2eovu> for a comprehensive list of virtual activities, classes and more.
- Email the recreation office at recreation@vmsinc.org or call 949-597-4273 for more information.

GET *clubbing!*

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 to browse clubs, including 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.





RECREATION

PURCHASE AND PRINT

The Performing Arts Center box office is now online.

Now you can conveniently purchase and print Performing Arts Center tickets from your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To attend Champagne Pops, Men of Motown and Bee Gees Gold, or the New York Club's Brooks and Dunn Tribute, visit tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com to create an account and purchase and print your tickets with ease. Visit <https://bit.ly/3B2fJ7T> to view a tutorial for using the online box office. If you don't have a printer, no worries. A smartphone screenshot of your purchase will work or, at checkout online, you can opt to pick up paper tickets at the box office. Please call [949-597-4288](tel:949-597-4288) with questions.



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, including mat/chair yoga, ballroom dance, English or Korean language classes, cycling, aquatic classes and more.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3uo86MB> to view the current class schedule.

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

MONDAY MOVIES

On select Mondays at 4 p.m. in the Clubhouse 5 Main Lounge, enjoy afternoon movies.

- November 8: "Queen Bees"
- December 27: "Last Christmas"

Seating is limited. Make required reservations one week in advance through ActiveNet. Be sure to bring your favorite snacks!

Call [949-597-4381](tel:949-597-4381) or [949-597-4273](tel:949-597-4273), or email recreation@vmsinc.org for more information. Call [949-597-4227](tel:949-597-4227) to verify your ActiveNet account.



Enjoy These Holiday Buffets!



Enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving buffet Thursday, November 25, at 1 p.m. at Clubhouse 5.

Martinez's menu includes turkey and gravy, baked spiral ham, salmon Florentine, cranberry sauce, seasoned dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, peas and pearl onions, Mediterranean pasta salad, seafood salad, fresh fruit, croissants, assorted rolls and pumpkin, cherry and pecan pie.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, October 28, in the Clubhouse 5 office. Ticket prices: Adults \$28, kids ages 6-10 \$14, children ages 5 and under no charge. For more information, call **949-597-4382** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.

This Christmas, celebrate a special dinner with friends, family and neighbors. On Saturday, December 25, at 1 p.m. at Clubhouse 5, enjoy Martinez's prime rib au jus, baked salmon, chicken cordon bleu, scalloped potatoes, broccoli and carrots, bread rolls and assorted desserts. Coffee and tea will be served; glasses will be provided to diners who wish to bring wine.

Tickets go on sale Thursday, December 2, in the Clubhouse 5 office. Ticket prices: Adults \$30, kids ages 6-10 \$15, children 5 and under no charge. For more information, call **949-597-4382** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.



RECREATION

AMENITY INFO



Bocce

- Open 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. daily

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

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
- Fitness centers: 16 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 (paddle tennis has priority
Tuesday and Thursday mornings)
- Kourts reservations required 3 - 10 p.m.
Monday - Friday (last reservation 9 - 10 p.m.)
- Kourts reservations required all day
Saturday, Sunday
- Second, fourth Saturday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
(last reservation 9 - 10 p.m.)

Pools (Expanded Hours)

- Pool 1: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., no lanes
- 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.

Tennis

Five courts will be available for reservations during prime time (7:30 a.m. to noon) and five courts will be available for drop-in.

Morning Play

- Courts 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be reserved via the Kourts reservation system for 1½ hours at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m.
- Courts 2, 3, 4 will remain one-hour drop-in and sign-up courts
- Courts 5 and 6 will remain 1½-hour drop-in and sign-up courts

Afternoon/Evening Play

- All tennis courts will be reserved via Kourts from noon until 10 p.m. for 1½ hours of play time.

Call **949-268-2481** with questions.

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



LET'S GET READY TO PARTY!

Secure clubhouse space for gatherings and get-togethers.

Schedule family gatherings or friendly 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.



RECREATION

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.



GIVING YOU A LIFT

All Village pools now offer a chair lift.

The Recreation and Special Events Department has completed installation of four new ADA-compliant Admiral lift chairs at pools 2, 4, 5 and 6 to offer a lift at every pool.

In addition, pool 1 also offers a lift chair and hot pools at clubhouses 4 and 5 feature walk-in ramps.

To use the lift chairs, check in with the lifeguard on site upon arrival. Lifeguards cannot assist residents with loading and unloading into the chair. Users must be able to maneuver the chair alone or bring someone to assist. Lifeguards will instruct users on how to operate the remote. A waiver is required.

The Admiral lift chairs feature a compact design, a rechargeable 24-volt battery, stainless steel construction and a UV-resistant powder coat finish. In addition to the low-profile design, the Admiral does not intrude into the pool when not in use and includes a water-resistant remote-control handset.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3uF9fd2> for the most up-to-date pool schedule.



POOLS

Visit <https://bit.ly/3uF9fd2> for the most up-to-date pool schedule. Make required reservations up to seven days in advance via Kourts.

Visit 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, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



RACKET SPORTS

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

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



PAINTING HORSES FOR A CAUSE

Art available for purchase that supports the Equestrian Center

The Art Association offers a new opportunity for plein air painters to sketch and paint horses at the Equestrian Center, auction their work for the benefit of GRF horses and donate the proceeds through the Village Community Fund. Six Art Association artists participated during the first week.

This ongoing event is open to artists at the Equestrian Center on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to noon. To participate and paint on site, artists must first fill out a waiver, check in with the office and stay clear of horse walkways and grooming areas.



RECREATION



TOUR THE EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Your special invitation to visit the facility and have a photo op with a GRF-owned horse

Looking for a unique yet close-by excursion that involves fresh air, nature and animals? Take a tour of our very own Equestrian Center!

Simply arrive at one of three scheduled tour times and sign in, and Equestrian Center staff will greet and prepare you for a fun and informative tour. No reservations are necessary, but close-toed shoes are required to interact with any horse. Every tour features a photo opportunity with a GRF-owned horse at the conclusion of the event.

Tour schedule:

- Wednesday and Thursday: 2 p.m.
- Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 12:30 and 2 p.m.

The Equestrian Center is located at 24312 El Toro Road.

COOL POOL NEWS

Swim clinic and safety flags

The Recreation and Special Events Department is excited to reintroduce a free swim clinic with international competitive swimmer Jan Levinrad. Jan learned to swim in South Africa at the age of 5 and began swimming competitively in school, earning full colors. Later she represented her college as well as her province. In the '90s she immigrated to the U.S. and joined the West Hollywood Aquatics Team where she competed internationally in numerous events, winning 42 gold medals.

Experienced swimmers are invited to join Jan at Pool 2 every Tuesday for a one-hour clinic; students may attend a noon or 1 p.m. session. Jan will coach swimmers on how to improve their breathing rhythm, strokes and endurance. Swimming is a great aerobic exercise that helps improve flexibility and reduce joint stress.

No registration is required. Simply drop in for this exciting social swimming experience. Residents only. Call **949-597-4273** for more information.

Safety Flags for Backstrokers

New flags are posted at Pool 2 to enhance swimming experience safety. These indicator flags, used by backstroke swimmers to alert them that they are approaching the end of the pool, are especially beneficial for swimmers who "flip turn" to accelerate off the wall. They are strung between stanchions via sturdy metal posts anchored to the pool deck using slip anchors.





FINDING SOLID FOOTING

The Equestrian Center riding and lesson arena undergoes enhancements for greater horse and rider safety and enjoyment.

To promote a higher quality experience for horses and riders by minimizing dust and providing a uniform surface, the GRF-approved project to enhance the Equestrian Center riding and lesson arena is now complete.

The Village riding program returned with an influx of riders and new boarders. The desire to continue to attract new boarders and provide a quality facility for existing boarders necessitates a well-maintained equine arena, as it is a primary focus of potential boarders when selecting a facility for their horses. Equestrian arenas require regular maintenance and resurfacing to provide proper horse footing, and arena footing should be deep enough to provide cushion.

The Laguna Woods Village Equestrian Center was one of the first recreational facilities built when the community was developed in the late 1960s. Over the past 55 years, the large

arena has sustained wear, tear and hardening due to weather and regular use. No records on file indicate that the large arena has ever been comprehensively resurfaced.

In September 2019, GRF adopted and approved the 2020 Capital Reserve Expenditures Plan, which included a \$50,000 appropriation for the Equestrian Center front lawn turf replacement.

In April of this year, Equestrian Center Supervisor Laura Cobarruviaz went before the GRF board to gain approval to reallocate the approved funds to the proposed arena footing improvement project and award a contract to Laser Grade of San Juan Capistrano, the low, under-budget bidder that has successfully completed similar projects at other venues, including the Orange County Fair Ground arena.

If you haven't visited the Equestrian Center lately to see all the great new improvements and perhaps watch the facility's beautiful horses, make time in your day today!

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

Laguna Woods Village Public Service Announcement



RECYCLE

回收
재활용



PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS 1-7



ALUMINUM CANS & FOIL



DAIRY & JUICE CARTONS



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



CARDBOARD



PAPERBOARD



PAPER BAGS



PHONE BOOKS



TIN & STEEL CANS



MAGAZINES & NEWSPAPERS



OFFICE PAPER & JUNK MAIL

IN THE VILLAGE, IT'S OK TO USE PLASTIC BAGS TO DISPOSE OF RECYCLING AND TRASH



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포함하지 마십시오



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CONSTRUCTION WASTE



MEDICINE & SHARPS



FOOD-SOILED PAPER & CARDBOARD



GREEN WASTE



POLYSTYRENE



PLASTIC & METAL HANGERS



USED NAPKINS & PAPER TOWELS



CLOTHING

VISIT LAGUNAWOODSVILLAGE.COM/RESIDENTS/RESIDENT-SERVICES FOR MORE DETAILS



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

THE GRF RESERVE FUND AND WHY WE NEED IT

By James Hopkins, Treasurer

The GRF reserve fund can be thought of as a savings account used to accumulate enough money to maintain, repair, replace or improve GRF-owned assets. These assets include our clubhouses, pool equipment, Broadband Services equipment, landscape equipment, fitness equipment, golf facilities, street paving, maintenance and transportation vehicles, computers (equipment and software), security equipment and vehicles, and much more. In fact, \$140 million in gross assets are managed by VMS for GRF. It requires a disciplined approach to be able to accumulate and judiciously spend the funds required to keep everything in working condition and avoid the need for a special assessment for a major repair or replacement.

Funding the GRF Reserve Fund

Reserves are funded in two ways. The first is included in our monthly HOA fee. The planned 2022 fee is \$17 per month and is collected from 12,736 Village manors. In addition, when a manor is purchased, the new owner is required to pay a one-time trust facilities fee. The planned 2022 fee is \$7,500, which is a \$2,500 increase over the 2021 fee. These are the only fees used to fund the reserve account.

How Much Does GRF Need?

There is a well-organized, universally accepted and disciplined approach to estimating our future requirements, but it is not exact. The assets that are replaced or maintained range from fitness machines to vehicles to buildings; we may purchase fitness machines every five to 10 years, replace a vehicle every five to seven years and replace a roof every 15 to 30 years. Therefore, there is a significant level of planning for GRF's \$140 million in assets. The VMS Finance Department uses a universally accepted useful life for each asset purchased and begins immediately calculating the funds needed to replace it using inflation estimates and other financial tools. Civil code requires a calculation every three years; VMS performs this analysis annually during the budget process. As a result of this process, the GRF board establishes a balance it determines as the fund minimum, referred to as the threshold amount—a targeted minimum balance set by the GRF board. It should not be considered a goal. It's a "low-water" mark. From time to time, it must be reevaluated in light of current annual spending patterns or plans. In some HOAs, the recommended threshold is equal to a total replacement estimate, which in our

case is \$93.6 million. Our current threshold is \$7.5 million, or 8% of our replacement estimate. In other cases, the threshold amount is determined by the board after consultation with a professional reserve study company. This study, among other recommendations, may assist the board in determining the minimum so that large repair or replacement does not require a special assessment. The GRF board has authorized a reserve study in 2022. Please note, we do not anticipate a special assessment. This study, the first in years, is to assist in our future planning requirements. Preserving our amenities and services, our aging clubhouses and other assets will require careful consideration and planning.

Reserve Fund Spending Plan(s)

The current year's planned spending is called the capital improvement plan. Items such as vehicles and equipment purchases are straightforward, while other authorized projects must undergo a more rigorous process of engineering specifications, vendor bids, selection, detailed implementation planning and supervision. These projects often last beyond the current year but have been authorized for completion. In some cases, after a thorough review and analysis, a project may be determined by the board to have changed in scope or no longer be needed. If this is the case, the authorization will be changed or terminated.

Unlike operating funds, any savings or spending delays from the reserve fund are returned to the fund to be considered in five- and 30-year spending requirements. Thus, savings from the current year reserve spending does not directly impact HOA fees in the next year.

The next level of planning is a five-year spending plan. In addition to regularly scheduled replacement and maintenance, these projections may include any unique or major clubhouse renovation, building replacements and large equipment purchases. General requirements are anticipated, but the specifics are not yet determined. So, it would be prudent for the board to consider the funding necessary for near future spending and threshold considerations.

Finally, there is the 30-year planning of annual spending, contributions and resulting annual balance. This estimate combines the annual and five-year plans with a remaining 25-year estimate, which is largely based on the assets' useful lives and replacement costs. The entire process is designed to bring requirements visibility and funding consistency to the reserve fund planning.

GRF Reserve Fund Current Status

As of June 30, 2021, the GRF reserve fund had a balance of \$25.5 million. Of that amount, \$8.1 million is encumbered by existing spending authorization not yet spent. Therefore, the balance for future spending is \$17.4 million. While this amount exceeds the

threshold, it must be viewed with the perspective of periodically replacing, repairing and improving \$140 million in assets.

Each year, based on requirements analysis, GRF may allocate one half or more of a current balance to keep up with replace-and-repair cycles. Managing the annual reserve fund spending and balance is an ongoing effort. This is why we look at projected annual, five-year and 30-year spending cycles in managing the reserves.

The 2022 spending authorization is planned at \$7.3 million, while the five-year (2022-2026) reserve fund spending projection is \$48.3 million and the 30-year (2022-2051) estimate is \$244 million.

More GRF Financial Information

GRF and VMS provide updates on on reserve account status during monthly GRF board meetings. The Village's future requires continuous financial investment, and the GRF reserve fund is a critical part of that investment. Review the annual Laguna Woods Village Business Plan, or "Greenbook," available in the GRF documents section at the Laguna Woods Village website. Past editions are available now, and the 2022 update will be available in December. These books contain a wealth of information regarding the recent financial history and plans of GRF. They include similar financial data for the housing mutuals. The detail that VMS provides in the planning and presentation of our financials is quite extensive.

Third Board of Directors

The Third Laguna Hills Mutual 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

Lynn Jarrett
Secretary
2018-2021

Robert Mutchnick
Treasurer
2020-2023

Cusrow “Cush” Bhada
Director
2019-2022

John Frankel
Director
2020-2023

Reza Karimi
Director
2019-2021

Donna Rane-Szostak
Director
2020-2023

Craig Wayne
Director
2019-2022



APPROVALS AND BOARD ACTIONS

JULY AND AUGUST MEETINGS

By Lynn Jarrett, Secretary

- Approved removal of two fern pine trees at 2391-2D
- Approved request of two bottlebrush trees at 5022
- Approved request for landscape revision to install artificial turf at the expense of owner at 5205
- Approved request of bottlebrush tree at 5406
- Approved removal of magnolia tree at 3023B
- Approved landscape revision request at owner's expense with the understanding that the area will remain common area subject to the use and passage of all members of Third Mutual at 3157B
- Approved a resolution for insurance renewal funding
- Approved a resolution to amend the guidelines for the financial qualifications policy net worth requirements for process improvements to resale documents
- Approved a resolution to transfer discretionary funds to Sunwest Bank and give SageView a 90-day termination notice
- Denied request for off-schedule trimming of two stone pine trees and two fern pine trees at 2391-2D
- Denied request to remove one Italian stone pine and three eucalyptus trees
- Denied request for off-schedule trimming of one eucalyptus tree



THIRD'S MINI PARK IS ALL GROWN UP

By Lynn Jarrett, Secretary

A project that began in fall 2019 has come full circle in two years to become a bit of a showcase for the entire neighborhood in Gate 14. It wasn't easy at first because adjoining neighbors were concerned about possibly losing their grass. The Media and Communications Department, led by Director Eileen Paulin, went to work and sent letters to all 414 residents of Gate 14 inviting them to an open house in the board room. VMS and our Third Landscape Committee held that open house for some skeptical but interested residents to show renderings by the landscape architect. Plant palettes were displayed alongside the renderings and as residents' questions were answered, most went away

with a good feeling knowing that we were going to save money on water and maintenance for years to come.

A few months later, beautiful plants took the place of turf. Decomposed granite was used for the walkways and a few nice benches completed the park.

Third Board Director Craig Wayne, who lives adjacent to the minipark, was most skeptical of removing the large and beautiful area of turf that happened to be in "his" backyard. Now he, too, has come full circle and enjoys the enhancement of the area. The "pilot" has been deemed successful.

This space is inviting for residents who want to walk their dogs along the paths or just sit

on the nice park benches to enjoy the weather and the view.

I apologize that the open house we planned in March 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic. However, you are invited to drive by or walk through or around the park and see it for yourself.

How Water Plays a Role

Water is precious in Gates 11 and 14 because potable water is used for residential and irrigation purposes. Sending water uphill to Gate 14 via Calle Sonora is not possible because it is so steep. We lucked out by securing a grant of 100% of the possible rebate which paid for 60% of the entire project cost, thanks to the work of the contractor under the guidance of Landscaping Services Department Director Kurt Wiemann.

We hope to do more drought tolerant projects along the way, but they will mostly likely be on a smaller scale. It is a fact, however, that it is not cost effective to implement these types of projects in areas where irrigation is done via recycled water.

We are in the infancy of campaigning to invite residents who have very thirsty plants immediately adjacent to their homes to take on drought-tolerant projects. They'll need to fill out a form found on our website and request assistance on the particulars of how to proceed from the Landscaping Services Department; however, smaller projects like that will be at the expense of the owner.



UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

United Board of Directors

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

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

Carl Randazzo
Director
2018-2021

Andre Torng
Director
2019-2022



UNITY FOR UNITED MUTUAL

By Elsie Addington, Director

Around the time this goes to press, the United board will have five new members. The following story from the past may be useful to the newly constructed board.

In about 1170 CE, a boy named Temujin was living in the wilds of Mongolia with his mother and brother. The mother had much work to do, but her sons fought each other constantly. She finally sat them down and told them a story from an ancestress, who had five sons who also fought constantly.

That mother brought her sons all together, giving each an arrow and telling them to break it, which they all did easily. She then bound five arrows together, and told them to break the bundle, which none of them could. She told them, "Brothers who work separately, like a single arrow shaft, can be easily broken, but brothers who stand together against the world, like a bundle of arrows, cannot be broken."*

Little Temujin never forgot the moral of the story, which is strength in unity. He grew to be a great leader, and always consulted a group of wise men, as well as his generals, before making decisions. He became known as Genghis Kahn, and eventually built the largest contiguous empire in history.

The moral of Temujin's story for the United board is not to build an empire, but to find ways to govern from unity. Finding a common path makes us all stronger.

(*From "The Secret History of the Mongols," written about 1228 CE).

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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



MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION OR MAL-INFORMATION

What's the difference?

By Judith Troutman, Director

Misinformation, disinformation and mal-information: The propagation of any one of these situations can and have destroyed reputations, organizations, cities and governments—and surely started wars. How do we confront or head off bad or inaccurate information before it does irrefutable damage? We fact check!

The RAND Corporation, the American nonprofit global policy think tank created in 1948, defines these types of “information” as “truth decay, a diminishing role of the facts,

eroding into civil discourse, leading to a village divided and public (resident) disengagement. The consequences of bad information can also destroy the rule of law in any society.”

Terms Defined

Let's look at these terms as defined by Merriam Webster, the Council of Europe's Information Disorder Report and RAND:

Misinformation: Incorrect or misleading information not created with the intention of causing harm (think mistakes related to



photo captions, dates, statistics or translations, or posting an article containing now out-of-date information but not realizing it).

Mal-information: Deliberate publication of private information for personal or corporate use rather than for public interest; a deliberate change of the facts to benefit a personal agenda. Information based on reality, used to inflict harm on a person, organization or country (e.g. someone using a picture of a dead child refugee with no context) in an effort to ignite hatred of a particular group they are against.

Disinformation: False information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth or to harm a person, social group, organization or country.

It Affects Everyone

We have all experienced bad information of one kind or another and can attest to how it affected our lives, the lives of those close to us, the organization for which we worked and neighborhoods in which we lived. It may have led to declining trust in a formerly respected source of facts. It can just start out as a blurring of lines between “opinion” and “fact.” Many internet blogs and online news sources do just that. The bad information strategy is used in the stock market all



the time. And we all know about Twitter, Facebook, Nextdoor and Messenger, to name a few.

Don't Spread Bad Intel

Through the use of words, one can manipulate others and attack their mental and emotional sensibilities to achieve a desired result. The manipulator seeks to create an imbalance of power, taking advantage of that power to control the victim and benefit from it at their expense. Here in the Village, bad information can be spread by those in leadership roles just as easily as by residents, but because of said leaders' positions, they can do more harm, especially because they were elected or appointed to a position of trust by residents.

Most of us read the Laguna Woods Globe once a week and focus on its Letters to the Editor section. In recent months, I have been impressed that the majority of letters were complimentary in some way and positive about

an ongoing issue. However, misinformation about the Third Mutual's insurance issue, for example, most assuredly led to an undesired vote and, in turn, the increase in the mutual's association dues.

Where to Find Facts

The every-Friday “What's Up in the Village” email blast contains facts. One of VMS' email addresses, info@lagunawoodsvillage.com, is monitored by VMS staff daily and answered with facts. The bimonthly Village Breeze magazine also publishes facts. There is no shortage of ways in which all residents can find facts about this community.

Let me ask you: Do we want to live in a community where high assessment costs are based on bad information or where residents are divided due to manipulation and mal-information? Let's always be responsible by reading and checking our facts.

THEN AND NOW

THE GOLDEN RAIN TREE

You may recognize the initials “GRF” as the acronym for the Golden Rain Foundation of Laguna Woods. Perhaps you wonder how using the term “golden rain” originated. It can be credited to the poetic side of Ross Cortese, the Village’s visionary builder.

Cortese first saw the golden rain tree in New Orleans, Louisiana. After he learned that these trees could thrive in California, he immediately ordered 2,700 trees sent to a nursery in Chino, California, where they were nurtured until ready to be planted in the Village. Thus, it became a symbol for our senior community.

The golden rain tree is a medium-sized deciduous tree that grows 30 to 40 feet high. It is a flowering tree that tolerates drought, wind, heat and air pollution. When the flowers drop it resembles a golden blanket, hence the common name, golden rain tree. The trees bloom in late May and early June—Aliso Creek is a great place to see the trees in all their “golden” glory.



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** for more information. Donations are greatly appreciated.



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