



The Historian

Preserving Today for Tomorrow

Volume One Number One

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The Leisure World Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1977. By action of the members at the annual meeting on February 18, 2007, new articles of incorporation and new by-laws confirmed our new name:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LAGUNA WOODS

and confirmed the Society's role in "preserving today for tomorrow." Many things have changed in those thirty years but one thing has definitely endured: We are nonprofit!

"Historical Society Newsletter" simply had to be changed. It had no class, no sparkle, no character, and it was outclassed by other Historical Society publications in the County. Look at us now: New name, new masthead, new logo, and even a border. We hope you like our new look and our new name.

Naturally, all the new stuff required a new "volume" so we added that. With all this accomplished, we should manage without major changes for another thirty years, more or less. By then, or perhaps long before that, the printed page will be totally out of style. Editors will have disappeared from the face of the earth, and would-be investigative reporters will be no more. But one thing will undoubtedly remain constant: We will be nonprofit.

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PRESIDENTIAL MUSINGS

Happy Birthday, Laguna Woods!

Our city will celebrate its 8th birthday on March 24th. I thought you might find it interesting to read what the nation's press had to say about the new city. The story on the next page, taken from the Chicago Tribune is representative.

As you read, notice that the press, like many of our residents, confused the activities and problems of the Village with those of the city. In fact, the Tribune's map was titled, "City of Laguna Woods (formerly Leisure World)."

The following is a comparison of the Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) very conservative estimates with the city's actual performance:

Revenues

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| LAFCO | \$3,037,843 |
| City Budget | 6,062,990 |

Expenditures

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| LAFCO | \$2,906,642 |
| City Budget | 5,998,204 |

Reserves

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| LAFCO | \$2,017,002 |
| City Budget | 8,357,215 |

Based upon this performance, we should agree that the City of Laguna Woods has been a very successful venture.

Our Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 18, 2007, at 5:00 pm in Clubhouse 5. At that meeting the members unanimously approved the amended Articles of Incorporation, the proposed revised By-laws and elected Martin Hecht, John Fuller, Fran Lindberg, Ruth May and Linda Wilson to serve as directors for the next 3 years.

In response to a motion made from the floor, the members also approved changing their status from voting to non-voting members. The logic behind this decision was: (a) to eliminate the problem of enticing a quorum of members at our Annual Meeting would no longer be an issue; (b) to allow the corporation to make mandated changes and necessary changes to

Articles without waiting for an Annual Meeting; and (c) to significantly reduce the attorney fees and administrative costs associated with the Society's Annual Meeting. It was agreed that the Annual Meeting, held by Board, would be open and all Society Members and that they would receive 30 day advanced notice.



Bob Ring

Society's Honorees of the Month

I would like to congratulate our recent Laguna Woods Honorees of the Month for 2007:

Ted Rosenbaum – February

Elaine Morgado – March

We are grateful to the Renaissance at The Regency and Avalon Las Palmas for funding this program. I am also pleased to announce that Virginia L. Templeton, who together with the Kiwanis Foundation won the coveted Strevey Awards for 2006, has been nominated for the City of Laguna Woods Citizen of the Year Award.

Progress

As noted elsewhere in this edition, The Robert Mayer Corporation, developers of San Sebastian, is sponsoring the update of our diorama.

Our focus for 2007 will be on the following projects:

Our Veterans Program– We have partnered with Channel 6 to use the interviews of our resident veterans to salute their contributions to our country on Veterans Day in November;

Making digital document images of our Archival Copies of the **Leisure World News** and **Laguna Woods Globe** in order to ensure their availability to future generations; and

Conducting another **resident survey**.

Reprinted from Chicago Tribune, Thursday, March 4, 1999 Section 1 Page 5

Retirement City

A 3.2-square-mile gated community is in the nation's 1st municipality composed entirely of senior citizens.

By Vincent J. Schodolski
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif.—Residents of the nation's newest city don't have to worry about finding money to build maternity wards, or sponsoring school bond measures, or fighting gang crime—unless the local Gray Panthers hop on Harleys and start acting up.

Laguna Woods, as the new town will be called when it is officially proclaimed on March 24, is the nation's first municipality composed entirely of residents who are senior citizens. The new city owes its odd demographics to the fact that nearly all of its 18,500 residents live in one of the country's oldest retirement communities, Leisure World.

The Leisure World residents narrowly voted to incorporate as an independent city Tuesday, hoping to gain greater control over the future of a community that sees the aging Baby Boom generation as a growth opportunity. Besides voting for cityhood, residents also chose the new name, with Laguna Woods beating out Laguna Verde and a less serious list of suggested names included Geezerville, Playtime, Rx and Viagra Village.

Almost all of Laguna Woods' 4 square miles consists of Leisure World, a 3.2-square-mile gated community in sun-soaked Orange County where senior citizens have gone to retire since it opened in 1963. The part of the city "outside the walls" as Leisure World residents call it, is made up mainly of long-term care facilities and some businesses that will provide much-welcomed tax revenue.

Inside the walls, Laguna Woods is a suburban enclave of tidy streets lined with homes that range in price from \$40,000 to \$400,000. It is distinguished from nearby communities only by the age of its residents and a plethora of communal pools, often filled with ladies sync swimming to the music of Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, and common dining facilities.

On Wednesday, newly elected City Council members started pondering the needs of their new constituents, who have some unusual characteristics—the youngest among them are 55 and the oldest 106—and widely varying interests. It is a community in which the "generation" gap spans 50 years, three wars—

World War II, Korea and Vietnam—and an untold number of hemline changes.

The new leaders have to figure out what to do with the shuffleboard courts that nobody wants to use anymore and how to keep the fitness center open for longer hours because so many of the residents still have full- and part-time jobs. They have to find more space for the burgeoning computer club. And they have to come up with a compromise on what kind of music to play at the daily dances.

"We have people who grew up in the big band era and people like me who grew up on rock 'n' roll," said Jim Thorpe, one of the new council members. "But we don't have a lot of juvenile drug use to worry about."

The vote to incorporate as a municipality will not affect Leisure World's legal status as a private retirement community which, under federal and state law, means it can still set a minimum age limit of 55 for residents without risking age-discrimination suits.

Over the years, Leisure World has adapted to the changing demands of generations of retirees: Thus the now unused shuffleboard courts and the now crowded fitness center and booming computer club, packed with people who have discovered that their grandchildren will actually write to them if they use e-mail.

And, the new leaders say, they are ready to satisfy anything retired Baby Boomers demand.

"I think we are on the cutting edge the way this thing [retirement communities] is going," said Burt Hack, 69, another of the new City Council members..

The debate over city status deeply divided the residents of Leisure World, where the average resident is 77 years old. Some saw incorporation as a way to gain real independence and financial security, while others saw it as a step toward fiscal disaster and unnecessary layers of government.

"You have no idea what friction there was," said Jackie Carey, a Leisure World resident who campaigned actively for the creation of the new city. "The biggest [thing] is being in charge of our own destiny."

Opponents campaigned against incorporation with posters that showed bulldozers and

suggested that the new city managers would use eminent-domain rights to demolish whole sections of Leisure World. Others suggested that the new council soon would start raising taxes.

Not so, say those who supported the move to cityhood, which won by just more than 300 votes—51.7 percent to 48.3 percent.

Thorpe, 63, said that as a city Laguna Woods will be able to collect federal and state funds as well as taxes from the sales of goods and services by the 60 businesses located within the boundaries of the new city. Yes, Laguna Woods does have a Starbucks coffee shop, as well as lots of drug stores, doctors' offices, a hearing aid center and, inevitably, a mortuary.

Another new source of money, which would otherwise have gone to Orange County, is the Leisure World cable television operation, recently expanded and updated to use fiber optics.

"We are going to be looking at different lifestyles [of future retirees] and the changes that will dictate," said Thorpe.

Carey was in charge of a study called "Project 21" which looked at changes that Leisure World needed to make to adapt to the needs of future residents. The group decided that the Leisure World of the 21st Century will remain a place for "active" seniors.

"We decided we did not want to get into caring for the elderly, expanding ramps and that sort of thing," said Carey. "We want to remain an active community."

But with all these changes and the vision for a future Leisure World where the Beatles, the Stones and the Doors may edge aside Elvis, there are some things that this retirement community's visionaries just can't, well, envision.

"Seniors want the same things that are interesting to others," said councilman Hack. "They are not interested in 'senior things', they are interested in everything."

Almost everything. "But I don't think MTV will ever make it here," Burt said. "I'll grant you that."

STREVEY AWARD - 2006

Virginia L. Templeton

Virginia is a native Californian, born in Santa Rosa. She is a professional woman who worked 30 years in public education agencies and public health agencies to provide services for handicapped children. She moved to the Village in December 1979.

She has held numerous positions of leadership including: President, Womens' 18 Hole Golf Club; Chair Village Board Nominating Committees for 4 years; and Chair of the City's Transportation and Privacy Protection Committees.

Our Award mentions her "behind the scenes" leadership with the following organizations:

- Garden Villa Board
- Leisure World Foundation Board
- Leisure World Historical Society Committee
- Community Civic Association Board
- Compassion & Choices Board
- City's Transportation and Community Services Committees
- City's General Plan Committee
- City's Beautification Committee
- Earthquake Preparedness Committee
- Saddleback Foundation Memorial Board
- South County Senior Services Transportation Committee
- Orange County Office On Aging Transportation Committee
- Laguna Canyon Conservancy efforts to preserve wilderness parkland
- El Toro Anti-Airport Groups
- Cityhood Groups that led our drive to become a city

In recognition of her dedication and "behind the scenes" leadership for the past 27 years in all areas of the life of this community, your Society presented a Strevey Award to Virginia L. Templeton. Both Virginia and the Kiwanis Foundation received Certificates of Recognition from the California State Assembly which were presented by Michele Lindstrom, the Field Representative for Assemblyman Chuck DeVore.



Michele Lindstrom, Virginia Templeton, Gil Rowland, and Bob Ring. Picture courtesy Laguna Woods Globe.

STREVEY AWARD - 2006

Saddleback Kiwanis Foundation

The members of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club organized this tax-free charitable Foundation in June 1981. Its purpose is to accept tax-free gifts from the members of the Club as well as the public-at-large.

The income and principal from all such gifts and bequests is used to: grant scholarships to young men and women; to provide grants to schools, hospitals, or other sources for the care, treatment, education and/or support of the ill and handicapped; to furnish assistance to persons suffering from communication disabilities; and for other charitable purposes.

The Saddleback Kiwanis Foundation has 14 committees which are responsible for: Selecting qualified individuals and awarding scholarships; the Young Children-Priority 1 program at San Joaquin Elementary School; the Key Clubs at Laguna Hills, Aliso Viejo and Woodbridge High Schools; and the Stroke Club, the Aid to Visually Impaired Program, Meals on Wheels, the Aktion Club, the Take Pride Program which picks up litter from our streets; and the Civic Funding Program.

Saddleback Kiwanis Foundation has made gifts which total more than \$1.25 million since its inception in 1971.

Mr. Gil Rowland, President of the Saddleback Kiwanis Foundation, accepted the Strevey Award for the Foundation.

Laguna Woods Diorama Updated

The "old" Leisure World Diorama is getting a face lift and by the end of the month, all scars should be healed and a "new" Diorama will more precisely define the Village and all the changes that have occurred in the last few years.

In the July/August issue of the "old" Leisure World Historical Society Newsletter, the story behind the Diorama was covered, with Gene Conser, the dreamer, and Don Davis, the donor, given deserved credit for the Diorama which greets visitors and members as they enter the lobby. Neither gentleman lived to see the need for updating, but perhaps, like the ghost of CH 3, their ghosts are looking over the shoulders of those involved in the changes and saying "Well done."

Both technical expertise and funding for the updating are being supplied by the Robert Mayer Corporation, developers of San Sebastian. This has been a time consuming project as many changes needed to be incorporated in the model. This is not something that can be done on an annual basis for a few dollars. The Society is indeed fortunate to have this project underwritten by the Mayer Corporation.



President of the Robert Mayer Corporation, Robert Mayer, and his wife Maya attended the annual meeting of the Historical Society on Feb. 18, 2007.

From the Archives Fran Lindberg

The Archives is the heart of an historical society but the "beat" is due to the combined efforts of the volunteers, each carrying out a function essential to the body. New technology and new equipment will change how the functions are done, but the volunteers will always be important to our operation. Here's an update on what our current volunteers are doing:

Marty Hecht, an experienced Archivist and currently first vice-president of the Society, spends many hours each week manning the computer and updating our files.

Gloria Levine has just completed the Veteran Project files. and is once again tackling the files of the Community Civic Association.

Alberta Montvydas, a long time volunteer, clips and prepares articles from the *Globe* which are scanned and "filed" by Mary Williamson.

Vonnie Doyle, who joined us two years ago, is doing an outstanding job indexing our subject, club and scrapbook files. Dick Tyhurst, a new volunteer, is assisting with calling veterans who may desire to have their wartime experiences taped. Frank Fonvielle is a jack-of-all-trades, assisting on projects as needed.

I oversee the many duties that are performed, and am pleased to have such a capable staff to keep the Archives in topnotch shape. However, more volunteers are needed as we are always receiving new materials as well as additions to materials on hand. That means recording, numbering (and sometimes rearranging) before placing in the correct archival site. When you stop in to see the newly refurbished diorama, do come to the Archives area and let us acquaint you with our vast amount of history.

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

Some us are eternally optimistic but an equal number are skilled pessimists. And some, like me, are forever deciding which side of the fence is preferable. All of this is leading to my comments about this newsletter. First, let me explain that I have been producing this "house organ" since we went to eight pages, six times a year. Before that, I did one page, two page, four page and other combinations. Some have been really "bad", most have been acceptable, and a very few great.

In the process, I wasted reams of my own paper, and used at least a dozen large rolls of scotch tape, plus umpteen bottles of Liquid Paper. In reviewing some of the issues produced, I am amazed that I wasn't fired (without severance pay.) The only thing that saved me was that no one volunteered to take over.

And so we come to this issue of the *NEW* newsletter: New name, new logo, new postal permit, less chatter, more facts -- an issue that makes even an old editor proud!

But still some questions: Does this become Volume 1 or continue in the old sequence? . Does the index go on the front or back page? And does one give credit where credit is due? One should.

Let's start with the print shop. The staff there is absolutely great! I know they mentally cringe

when I come in with copy, but they in turn use their whiteout and meet our dead lines. We are so fortunate to have a shop with the capabilities this one has, and the staff to manage it.

President Bob knows more about computers than most. He even understands the foibles of my Mac. He designed the front and back pages, produced the pictures, whipped out a slightly revised page two in response to my questions and seems to enjoy all the other Society projects he is involved in. We are fortunate.

The new logo was created by Charles Little and is clean, sharp and even more attractive when it is produced in color. Good job!

Mari Jan Vested has faithfully garnered "Bits and Pieces" even though she has had some health problems. Her contribution is always on time. Usually, she proofreads my copy, so when you see errors, you know she was not available.

Fran Lindberg finds material for the Archives Corner each month and she, too, is always on time and usually early. It helps!

I must mention the readers who have graciously commented on the issues they enjoyed and refrained from mentioning the errors. But I do think the "new" look is best! Hope you agree. If yes, tell me. If no, tell Bob.

WELCOME, NEW AFFILIATE

Jeff Turner, DDS
23961 Magdalena Suite 205
949 770-3294

Dr. Turner has been practicing dentistry in the same medical building for over 16 years. Newly renovated facilities are very inviting and his staff is very caring.

Dr. Turner stresses the importance of preventative care. Studies are showing a significant link between uncontrolled gum disease and such conditions as strokes, heart disease, chronic fatigue and diabetes. Implant restorations, denture fabrication and repair, crowns and cosmetic services are all provided by Dr. Turner.

Dr. Turner and his staff invite you to make a new patient appointment. Dr. Turner will also provide a no-cost consultation to those with specific dental problems.

FREMONT INVESTMENT & LOAN recently presented the Society a \$1018 check, our "earnings" from the Investors Deposit Incentive Program. 35 accounts were credited to us. This is a great program helping many organizations. If you have an account there or plan to open one, tell them to credit your account to the Society. Not only does this help the Society, it also gets you a competitive interest rate - and a friendly atmosphere with coffee and cookies!

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. David Ast
"Historically Advantaged"

Helen Donegan

Paul T. Gray

Richard Petersen
"Historically Advantaged"

BITS AND PIECES OF LEISURE WORLD HISTORY

(Selected from the *Leisure World News*)..... **Mari Jan Vested****Forty Years Ago****March 1967**

Laguna Hills Production Guild produces an eight act variety show with an all resident cast. Brings rave notices.

Laguna Beach Chamber offers free LW round trip bus service to attract shoppers to seaside village. Residents enthusiastically hop on limousines provided.

Warm weather attracts 2,137 swimmers to two pools in the past two weeks. There are 8,405 residents who enjoy activities in this community, an increase of 327 in the past two weeks.

Rossmoor launches new garden center on 3.5 acres.

Swimming lessons offered; \$ 25 for 10 lessons

April 1967

Residents dress up in fancy costumes for April Fools Day Dance.

Outdoor Art Show attracts throng to Plaza 1 where 200 professional and amateur artists, all residents, show works.

"Spring Promenade", featuring the latest in spring fashions is presented by the Masonic Auxiliary.

Twenty Five Years Ago**March 1982**

Protesters demand answers to utility hike. "Our people may be old but they are not senile", Lou Parris told the 300 residents assembled in CH 3. A letter will be sent to Edison Company demanding an answer to the current sky high bills. A second meeting drew 500 residents, angrily asking for answers.

Towers announced that recent conservation efforts have paid off in savings. Modification of manor air conditioning controls and lowering wattage of hall lights was Board authorized.

Opera 100 holds auditions for scholarships for young musicians.

Irvine Group proposes annexation of Moulton area.

Clubhouse 2 will host Easter buffet dinner.

April 1982

Administration building will be spruced up with new carpeting and new sound system. Total cost \$3,800.

Mini bus drivers appreciated the volunteers who bring cakes and other refreshments to Clubhouse 1 Drop-In Lounge.

Security Office cracks down on traffic violators.

Historical Globe soon to be property of the county, thanks to the LW Historical Society.

American Legion, Auxiliary and Landscape Committee plant a tree in honor of California Labor Day and in memory of Legionnaires who have died.

Ten Years Ago**March 1997**

LW sharing concept disputed. GRF sets up a study group to review the concept by which all owners/ members share the cost to maintain facilities. Formal document stipulates that swimming pools and the bus system are absolved from all charges forever.

United asks an architect to redesign cul-de-sacs.

United wants HUD Trust law changed.

April 1997

Two thousand residents sign petition asking for better street lighting. Claim many accidents could be prevented.

Residents can watch world class action on lawn bowling greens, free of charge.



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Diorama Updated. Story on page 5.