



Dick Sharp, 72, of Laguna Woods Village, will be honored as the Historical Society of Laguna Woods' Honoree of September. > CLAIRES WEBB/OCREGISTER.COM

# SEPTEMBER HONOREE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES DICK SHARP HONOREE OF THE MONTH. PAGE 14

# Honoree has paved the way for residents

BY CLAIRE WEBB  
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Have you driven a golf cart from Laguna Woods Village, across El Toro Road to the Willow Tree Shopping Center?

If so, you may have used a path that Dick Sharp of Laguna Woods Village helped pave.

Sharp, 72, a former director on the Golden Rain Foundation board, worked on the project to install a golf cart path that would allow residents to access Willow Tree Shopping Center through a path near the Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Sharp was named the Honoree of the Month for September by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods and will be honored at a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1 at Clubhouse 6.

Sharp was born in Kansas City, Missouri—or as he says with a southern accent: “Missoura.”

After graduating from the University of Kansas with a degree in architectural engineering, Sharp went to work on

construction projects.

In 1972, Sharp started his own company—R.G. Sharp Construction—where he managed building commercial properties such as schools, churches and businesses over the next ten years. He also worked with owner Johnny Morris to redesign the original Bass Pro Shop store in Springfield, Missouri into a prototype that is now used at the chain of outdoor retailers across the country.

After Sharp’s wife, Ruth, died in 1998, and his three sons settled in Missouri, he decided to retire. Sharp said he found what is now Laguna Woods Village on the Internet and moved west.

“I thought this was just the greatest place I’d ever seen,” Sharp said.

Sharp soon found himself volunteering as an advisor for the United Mutual Board’s Maintenance & Construction Committee. He said he remembers the first issue he wanted changed in the Village—adding more designated parking for golf carts.

“We didn’t accomplish it but it was one of the first things I thought was im-



Dick Sharp, 72, of Laguna Woods Village, will be honored as the Historical Society of Laguna Woods’ Honoree for September. Sharp was instrumental in the golf crossing project across El Toro Road so seniors in the community could access the Willow Tree shopping center. > CLAIRE WEBB, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

portant to do,” Sharp said.

Sharp was elected to the Golden Rain Foundation board in 2002 and became chairman of a GRF trails committee.

In his position on the trails committee, Sharp helped organize the construction of a golf cart path that would allow residents to access the Willow Tree Shopping Center from the Village, via a new path and electric gate near the Lutheran Church of the Cross.

With the help of the city, the golf cart path was approved in 2006 and now allows residents to use their electric vehicles to get to the shopping center, City Hall, St. Nicholas Church and access the garden center off Via Campo Verde.

Just months after moving to the Vil-

lage, Sharp was set up on a date with domestic partner and former United Director Mary Stone.

“We did not click right off the bat,” Sharp said. “She said I wouldn’t say anything because she wouldn’t shut up.”

However, the two found after three dates they were inseparable. Sharp and Stone shared a love of ballroom dancing each week with the Ballroom Dance Club and creating one-of-a-kind costumes for many occasions.

If you attend a costume party in Laguna Woods Village now and don’t recognize a pair of robots or pumpkin heads, Sharp said it’s probably Dick and Mary.