

Laguna Woods Globe

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GUIDE DOGS



PHOTO BY MARK RABINOWITZ

Puppies wait in an enclosure outside Clubhouse 5. Five were delivered recently by Guide Dogs for the Blind to go to local volunteer raisers for obedience and socialization lessons ahead of formal training to become guide dogs.

Special delivery: Handle with love

By Anita Gosch
Globe editor

Five puppies were delivered to Clubhouse 5 recently from Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael in Northern California.

The dogs, about 8 to 10 weeks old, were headed for their new raisers to learn basic obedience, house manners and socialization in public before returning to San Rafael for formal training to become service

dogs.

Three Labrador retrievers and one golden retriever/Lab cross were going to volunteer puppy raisers outside the Village.

A second golden retriever/Lab cross — a fluffy

girl named Glendale — was eventually going to the home of Village resident Penny Flaherty.

Glendale is puppy No. 5 for Flaherty.

Residents can expect to

PUPPIES » PAGE 11

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Travel back in time to Village's infancy at History Center exhibit

Artifacts from the 1960s, when the first residents moved in, are on display

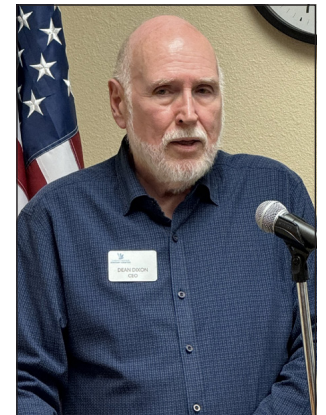
By Penny E. Schwartz
Correspondent

“Constructing the Village” is a new exhibit that celebrates the first days of what is now Laguna Woods Village at the community’s History Center next to the Village library.

Artifacts from the early 1960s as well as photographs and mementos offer a time capsule 60 years back to the birth of the Village. The exhibit is the second of three celebrating the community’s milestone 60th anniversary.

“Ten families moved into their manors on Sept. 10, 1964, when Phase 1 opened,” said History Center CEO Dean Dixon.

The community, founded by Ross Cortese and known at the time as Rossmoor Leisure World,



COURTESY OF PENNY E. SCHWARTZ

Dean Dixon is CEO of the Laguna Woods History Center.

was the first planned community in Orange County.

The walls around Phase 1 were incomplete when it opened, but Gate 1 was ready with its first security officer, Dixon said.

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History

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The new exhibit features a wide variety of artifacts from the time of the first construction and move-ins.

One cabinet displays a collection of fossils uncovered during the excavation and grading of the Village. This left “piles of dirt for residents’ grandchildren to find fossils ultimately given to the History Center,” according to a text panel accompanying the collection.

The area’s geological history can be traced back 65 million years to a time when it was at the bottom of the ocean,

A selection of dishes used at banquets in Clubhouse 1 is displayed along with a pink telephone and a blue Smith-Corona manual typewriter that date to the era.

“I tried to add as much color to the exhibit as possible,” said History Center curator Gail Dixon.

In the 1960s, General Electric and Westinghouse sponsored a nationwide campaign to advertise the benefits of electrical appliances in the home. Rossmoor Corp. took advantage of the promotions by certifying the new Leisure World with “Gold Medallion Home” badges on the first manors.

The display features one of the badges as well as the fancy box and manor keys new owners received. They also got a box of stationery as a move-in gift.

The community began with 56 homeowners associations, which eventually coalesced into today’s three mutuals and a common areas foundation. It continued to be built out in five phases for 18 more years, into the 1980s, until there were more than 12,500 manors in about 5,500 buildings.

The new exhibit runs through August, to be followed by the third exhibit in the series, detailing the Village’s celebrations through its 60 years.

The History Center is open 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays, but “if the lights are on, you can come on in,” said Dean Dixon.

For information, call 949-206-0150 or visit LagunaWoodsHistory.org.



Elegant Leisure World china was used for the earliest banquets held at Clubhouse 1. The china is displayed in an exhibit at the Laguna Woods History Center.



Fossils dug up by grandchildren of Leisure World’s earliest residents in the 1960s are displayed in the exhibit.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PENNY E. SCHWARTZ

A display cabinet in an exhibit at the Laguna Woods History Center that details the construction of the community and the first move-ins in 1964 includes a pink rotary telephone, upper right, and a Smith-Corona manual typewriter, lower right, from the era.

At left is the uniform of Nate Willner, one of Leisure World’s first security officers.



Residents of what was called Rossmoor Leisure World in the 1960s received fancy keys to their new manors.