

VILLAGE BREEZE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025



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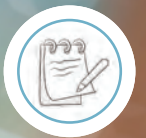
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A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

History, books and television. As communications staffers, it shouldn't surprise anyone that these are a few of our favorite things—and that's exactly what you'll find in this edition.

This year marks a milestone: Village Television is celebrating 60 years since its very first broadcast on October 11, 1965. We sat down with Rob Merritt and Paul Ortiz, who looked back on their decades at the Village's own TV station, sharing hilarious stories and unforgettable moments.

Now, I can't quite remember 1965 myself—it happens to be the year I was born—but I do see its impact everywhere in my life. My favorite film and musical, "The Sound of Music," premiered that year and went on to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards. And who could forget the simple joy of Julie Andrews singing about "raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens"?

Television was booming with new series like "Green Acres," "Get Smart" and "I Dream of Jeannie." Music history was made when The Rolling Stones recorded "Satisfaction," and The Beatles electrified a screaming crowd at Shea Stadium.

It was a year of remarkable milestones: the St. Louis Gateway Arch rose to completion, Mariner 4 sent back humanity's first closeup images of Mars, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law following the historic Selma to Montgomery marches. It was also a time of turbulence, as the Vietnam War escalated and, for the first time, combat footage reached Americans directly through their television screens.

Closer to home, the cost of living looked almost unbelievable: a new house averaged around \$20,000, a car under \$3,000 and gas just 31 cents a gallon. For a dollar, you could buy a gallon of milk, two dozen eggs or four loaves of bread.

History has always had a way of weaving into our community. In 1997, Huell Howser cut the ribbon on what would become the Laguna Woods History Center. Today, that building still preserves stories worth cherishing. Right next door, the Village Library continues to thrive, thanks to dedicated volunteers who offer not just books but a true literary haven—complete with best-sellers, puzzles, DVDs and lively book clubs.

Of course, Village life is about more than culture and history. It's also about co-existing with the natural world around us. From coyotes to squirrels, wildlife has been part of this community long before 1965. Living safely alongside them requires all of us—neighbors working together to stay vigilant, use deterrents and report sightings.

Whether you find joy in history, books, television—or simply in the company of neighbors who share your favorite things—this edition is for you. After all, what could be better than celebrating the past while building a community for the future?

Susan

**Susan Logan-McCracken,
Managing Editor**



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VILLAGE BREEZE

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 GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
of LAGUNA WOODS

 THIRD LAGUNA HILLS
MUTUAL

 UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

 Village Management Services, Inc.

 THE TOWERS
Laguna Woods Village

in every issue

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UNITY FESTIVAL CELEBRATION SEPT. 30

Tickets are on sale now for the Unity Festival—a celebration of the vibrant cultures and strong community bonds that make our Village such a special place to live.

You won't want to miss this exciting, first-of-its-kind event this fall at Clubhouse 2 on Tuesday, September 30, from 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy live music by Midnight Regret on the big stage, resident cultural performances on the small stage, delicious global cuisine and interactive booths hosted by Village clubs that reflect our diverse heritages.

Sample delightful bite-sized tastings from four ethnic food trucks with a \$20 ticket bundle. Sample dishes from Nostimo (Mediterranean), Kala Truck (Mexican), GermanYumTruck (German, Turkish, Mediterranean) and The Coconut Truck (California-Asian fusion). Plus, enjoy the GRF no-host bar.

Purchase your "tasting passport" ticket bundle at the Clubhouse 2 office. Check or credit card only/ card fees apply. Shuttle service will run between the Performing Arts Center and the Community Center from 3 to 8 p.m. Picnicking is welcome, but outside alcohol and glass are not permitted. Please bring your own seating; setup begins at 2 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to support community causes through donations to the Village Community Fund.

We look forward to seeing you there in celebration, in community and in unity!



NEW COMMUNITY CENTER ENTRY AFTER-HOURS

To enhance resident and staff safety, after-hours access to the Community Center recently changed.

Weekdays (Monday through Friday):

- Doors lock at 5 p.m.
- From 5 to 9 p.m., residents may enter through the south (front) doors only by tapping/swiping a valid resident ID card at the access reader adjacent to the doors.

Weekends (Saturday and Sunday):

- Doors remain locked 24 hours.
- Residents may swipe/tap their valid ID card



at the access reader to enter through the front doors from noon to 5 p.m. only.

After-hours access is limited to residents using:

- The Table Tennis room
- Paid Elm Room reservations

If the front desk is temporarily unattended, please wait briefly until a staff member returns to assist you.

If your ID card does not work, please visit Community Services in the Resident Services Department during business hours to have it activated or replaced.

We appreciate your cooperation as we implement these safety-focused improvements.



HELP FACILITATE STREET SWEEPING

Move your vehicle on street-sweeping days and make a positive impact on the environment and keep the Village beautiful. By moving your vehicle, you help street crews clean every inch of the street, from curb to curb. A single parked car can block nearly three car lengths of space from being swept.

Street sweeping plays a crucial role in preventing pollution by removing debris, oil and harmful particles that can clog gutters and pollute local waterways. Federal and local regulations, including the Clean Water Act, require municipalities to help reduce pollution, and your cooperation makes a difference.

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com/services/maintenance and click "Maintenance calendar" under "Community maintenance schedules" to view the street-sweeping schedule.

ALERTS POWERED BY EVERBRIDGE

The Village is upgrading to the Everbridge emergency notification system, a more robust and widely used platform that enhances our ability to keep you informed via text, email and phone during critical events.

Everbridge (Nixle), a system trusted by municipalities across the country for its reliability and effectiveness, offers advanced features that push timely alerts via text, email, voice and mobile push notifications, ensuring you receive important information.

- **If you're already enrolled in CodeRED through VMS:** All your contact information has been automatically transferred to the new system. You don't need to take any action to continue receiving alerts.
- **To verify or update your information:** Visit the newly enhanced resident portal at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Resident login** to update your phone number or emergency contacts, or contact Resident Services at residentservices@vmsinc.org or **949-597-4600**.
- **To enroll in Everbridge:** Visit the resident portal at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Resident login**, fill out the form at bit.ly/4IK4Kqd, or pick up a paper form from the Community Center literature racks. For assistance, contact Resident Services at residentservices@vmsinc.org or **949-597-4600**.





WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE

Wildfire Preparedness Flyer in 5 Languages

We've made it easier than ever for all residents to stay informed about wildfire preparedness. A new flyer is now available, providing vital safety information in Chinese, English, Farsi, Korean

and Spanish, thanks to generous resident and Village Management Services volunteers who provided their translation services. Visit bit.ly/41BelbJ to view and download.



NEW RESIDENT PORTAL

Village Management Services is excited about the new Laguna Woods Village resident portal.

This upgraded platform provides you with a faster, more secure and user-friendly way to manage household tasks and stay connected to the community. From submitting maintenance requests to viewing upcoming events, the portal brings everything you need into one convenient place.

Here's what to expect:

- Enjoy a modern, mobile-friendly design that works on any device.
- Log in securely.
- View multiple properties easily.
- Submit and track maintenance requests with real-time updates.
- View your account balance and make secure online payments.
- Verify vehicle registrations and emergency contact information.
- Customize your communication preferences, including opt-ins and opt-outs.
- Use direct links to recreation calendars, board meetings and maintenance schedules.
- Purchase Performing Arts Center tickets.
- Access external booking tools for tee times, guest registration and facility reservations.



To help smooth the transition, the portal includes a built-in tutorial that walks you through features and each page step by step. Whether you're comfortable with technology or learning something new, the system is designed to be easy to use for everyone.

This launch represents a significant step forward in our commitment to providing high-quality, resident-focused digital services. The new resident portal was shaped by feedback from the community and built to support the unique needs of our Village.

For those who prefer hands-on support, instructional classes are offered by the PC and Mac Clubs. Find details at thepcclub.org or themacclub.org.

GREAT SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILL

The Village Management Services (VMS) Department of Security Services and the Disaster Preparedness Task Force (DPTF) encourage all Village residents to participate in the annual statewide Great ShakeOut earthquake drill, **Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m.**

Identify where you would “drop, cover and hold on” in the event of an earthquake, inventory your personal emergency supplies and update your emergency contact information with friends and family.

In addition, Security staff will run a tabletop communications system exercise with representatives from the Amateur Radio Club, DPTF clubhouse coordinators, Good Neighbor captains and VMS clubhouse supervisors. Visit ShakeOut.org/california for more information and to register.



Medicare Questions?

Let our Medicare Support Team help you.

If you have questions about Medicare or aren't sure which plan is right for you, learn about your options at a free Medicare class. Licensed brokers will be available to assist you with health plan comparisons.

Towers at Laguna Woods Village
24055 Paseo Del Lago W
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Saturday, Oct. 25 | 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 | 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 | 2 p.m.



You can register by calling Jose Juarez
at (714) 640-7158.



Technical Director Bill Lauter (right) behind
an industrial black-and-white camera in 1965

VILLAGE TELEVISION TURNS 60

Long-time staff members
reminisce about the history,
struggles and adventures.

By Susan Logan-McCracken

When Ross Cortese envisioned an idyllic community for active retirees, antennas on rooftops were not part of the picture. To ensure television reception, he opted for an underground cable system that would become the world's first cable operator. The original master antenna was housed in Clubhouse 1 and provided access to major stations in Los Angeles and San Diego.

"The studio really got started

FROM CHANNEL TO APP

From Channel 6 to Village Television, the station has gone by many names. Originally known as Channel 6, it also became channel 406 after the HD conversion. In the streaming era, traditional channel numbers matter less than recognizable brands, like Peacock or Disney. Following a rebranding effort, Channel 6 became Village Television. By 2027, channel 6 will go away, but Village Television will continue as an app available on the App Store and Google Play. You can watch the same great programming on your phone, smart TV or other devices. Just search for "Village Television" spelled out, not "TV."

by a couple of college kids, who wanted to do a radio station down here,” said Rob Merritt, who joined in January 1969 as a Cal State Fullerton intern and was hired in May of that year. “They got a hold of Cortese and he said, ‘I’ve got a couple of black-and-white cameras. Want to do a TV station?’”

On Oct. 11, 1965, Channel 6 went on the air as the world’s largest closed-circuit TV system. Thom Keith served as the first director, producer and writer, with Bill Lauter as technical director. Big-band era singer Harry Babbitt hosted the first program, which aired the Clubhouse 2 dedication filmed weeks earlier.

In 1968, the studio moved from Clubhouse 1 to the old administration building, now part of the San Sebastian senior apartments.

THE ADVENTURES OF LIVE TELEVISION

After early struggles and a weeklong shutdown in 1969, the station relaunched Jan. 1, 1970, with a redesigned studio, new equipment, a 24-hour weather feed and live bingo. Rob Cromwell hosted cooking segments and created “Trading Post,” which became the longest-running show. “One woman listed her 85-year-old husband to trade in for two 35-year-olds,” Merritt recalled.

By 1971, programming included daily news, Monday movies, administrative chats and resident-hosted shows on pets, books, health and more.



Big-band era singer Harry Babbitt (left) became the first host and Thom Keith served as the first director, producer and writer.

Color broadcasting debuted Feb. 5, 1971, marking the station’s longest day on air, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., all live.

“We had rain dripping in the control room,” Merritt said. “Cromwell was doing the ‘Trading Post’ while Ivan Foley held cardboard over my head. Water was cascading behind me. Eventually, Ivan said, ‘This is ridiculous. Take us off the air.’”

With the studio accessible from the Clubhouse 1 parking lot, passersby sometimes wandered in during broadcasts. “A light exploded on air once,” Merritt said. “Luckily, no one was hit.” Still, it was mostly fun. “We went live from the parking lot a few mornings to kick off summer in Hawaiian shirts.”

THE SMALL STAFF THAT COULD
Recording capabilities in 1983 changed everything, allowing

TIMELINE

- **Oct. 11, 1965:** Channel 6 goes on the air as a closed-circuit TV system.
- **July 19, 1966:** First outdoor telecast airs at the Clubhouse 1 swimming pool.
- **Jan. 1, 1970:** New decade begins with redesigned studio facilities and new equipment, a 24-hour-a-day weather reporting system and popular bingo show.
- **Feb. 5, 1971:** Programs are first broadcast in color; also, the longest broadcasting day in its history, from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **October 1977:** A 100-foot tower constructed in the highest area of Gate 14 gives residents better television reception.
- **January 1995:** GRF agrees to rebuild the cable TV system after a county mandate required the update to keep the franchise.
- **April 1, 1999:** Upgraded system expands channel capacity from 36 to 80 analog channels.
- **April 1, 2004:** High-speed internet becomes operational.
- **2010:** Staff completes conversion from analog to high-definition resolution.

NOTABLE GUESTS

- **Sonny Bono:** Musician, politician
- **Christopher Cox:** Politician
- **Bob Eubanks:** Game show host, TV personality
- **Dianne Feinstein:** U.S. senator
- **Robert Goulet:** Singer
- **Dan Gurney:** Motorsports Hall of Famer
- **Alan Hale Jr.:** “Skipper” from “Gilligan’s Island”
- **Brett Halsey:** Actor, author
- **Huell Houser:** TV personality
- **Eartha Kit:** Actress, singer
- **Jack LaLanne:** Fitness and nutrition guru
- **Cloris Leachman:** Actress, comedian
- **George Lucas:** Filmmaker
- **Ronald McDonald:** McDonald’s mascot
- **Francis Gary Powers:** U-2 spy plane pilot shot down over the Soviet Union
- **Ronald Reagan:** 40th U.S. president
- **Barbara Rush:** Actress
- **Gregory Sierra:** Actor from “Barney Miller” and other sitcoms
- **Dean Torrence:** Musician from Jan and Dean
- **Patrick Warburton:** Actor
- **Betty White and Allen Ludden:** TV personalities
- **Cal Worthington:** Car dealer

board meetings to be aired and replayed. “At first, people wanted us to go away. By the time I retired, the boards wanted full coverage,” Merritt said.

Back then, homes were still being built, so Village Television became a vital source of community information, said Broadband Services General Manager Paul Ortiz, who started as a Cal State Fullerton intern in 1988. He had been working the graveyard shift at the Towers since 1980 and juggled both roles for six months.

“We really needed Paul and his expertise,” Merritt said. “You had to do a lot with a little.”

“It was only Rob, Carolyn and George when I joined,” Ortiz said. “With Rob on air, that left just three of us in production.”

Merritt even had to put himself on camera once. “I was supposed to interview GRF President Peggy

Kermer. I set her up, told her to start talking when the light came on, ran back to the control room and said, ‘Hi. I’m by myself. This should be interesting.’”

Volunteers filled in the gaps. “At one point we had close to 100 volunteers,” Ortiz said. “Rob led the volunteer program; they helped on ‘Trading Post’ and in the office.”

“That started with a resident who noticed we were answering our own phones,” Merritt added. “We had to answer them in the studio because we didn’t have an office.”

PASSING THE MANTLE

Carolyn Wood retired in 1991 after introducing the community bulletin board, still in use today. “She was the gadget person,” Ortiz said. “She taught me how to type code for the bulletin board on the Apple IIe.”



Photo by Mark Rabinowitch

To commemorate Village Television’s 60th anniversary, the History Center launched an exhibit in July that will be available through Dec. 31, 2025.



Photo by Mark Rabinowitch

Retired News Director Rob Merritt shared stories about Village Television's early days at its 60th anniversary celebration at the History Center on July 17, 2025.

George Phelps retired in 2003 after 35 years. "George got us our movies, which is our most popular programming now," Ortiz said. During COVID, movie broadcasts expanded to twice on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Merritt retired in 2012 after 44 years. "I was happy to see it grow and continue," he said. "I always called it the little engine that could."

"Rob was the face of Channel 6 for decades," Ortiz said. "After Carolyn, George and Rob retired, I started hiring people trained on modern high-definition equipment."

In 2010, Channel 6 converted to high-definition. Before that, viewers often skipped over the channel, sandwiched between HD giants 5 and 7. "Once we went HD, people stayed with us," Ortiz said. "That was a major accomplishment for the station."

Today, Village Television produces half-hour shows with clubs and organizations, something that wasn't possible

in the early days. "Now we have PJ Higgins, Cole Young and Mark Weiss. Content, quality and programming will keep growing and our 'This Day' hosts Bree Cox Kennedy and Michael Taylor

continue the tradition of Rob Merritt."

The team also began producing commercials, generating revenue for GRF. By the early 2000s, Jon Noell and Michelle Mitzel had joined the staff and took on the responsibilities of cable network advertising.

"I'm most proud of the team," Ortiz said. "You can see the continuity from Rob, Carolyn and George. Every decade, we've had people who care deeply about the residents."

"Rob, George, Tony and Thom built this train and got it on the tracks. We've just been adding boxcars and putting coal in the engine. We're lucky Ross Cortese had the vision. And we're proud to continue that tradition and expand on his vision."



Photo by Mark Rabinowitch

Broadband Services General Manager Paul Ortiz receives a certificate of recognition from Laguna Woods Mayor Shari Horne at Village Television's 60th anniversary celebration.



Where the Walls **TELL A STORY**

Find your place in history at this Laguna Woods treasure.

By Kim Campbell Thornton

You may have stumbled across it as you entered or exited the Laguna Woods Village Library: a modest suite of offices next door, with glass cabinets in the front, some artwork on the walls, a couple of offices and meeting rooms, and people in the background working on computers.

Inside, if you poke around in file cabinets and storage boxes, you might find a set of china, a small replica of the El Camino Real Bell, uniforms and flags, and photos and documents from the many clubs formed here over the years. On the glass shelves, you would see marine fossils amid other memorabilia, such as a necklace created by an artist belonging to the local Acjachemen Nation.

They are among the artifacts, ancient to new, that can be found at the Laguna Woods History Center. It is less a museum than an archive of objects and documents that tell the story of Laguna Woods from its earliest beginnings to the present. Witness the story between its walls.

TIME CAPSULE TOUR

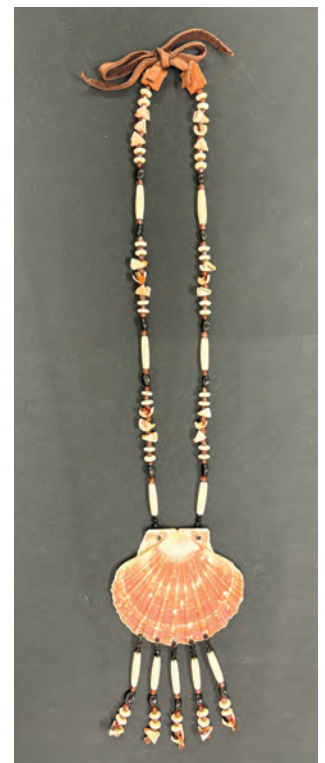
Some 100 to 400 million years ago, long before Laguna Woods Village was a gleam in a developer's eye, the land was covered by a warm, shallow sea. Paleontologists are still finding marine fossils as the county is developed. Among them on display at the History Center are shark teeth—possibly the densest concentration found in western North America—and tiny fossilized sand dollars from the late Miocene period, about

12 million years ago. The teeth are from a variety of shark species—primarily sand sharks, but also blue, tiger and great white sharks. They were collected by Henry and Hildegard Wylde. Hildegard Howard Wylde, born in 1901, made a name for herself as the first woman paleontologist specializing in avian fossils. After retirement in 1961, she continued researching and writing, contributing a number of papers, including one titled “Tertiary Birds From Laguna Hills, Orange County, California.” She lived in Laguna Hills, in what was then called Leisure World—renamed Laguna Woods Village in 2005.

The original human inhabitants of what became Orange County were the Acjachemen people,

who lived here beginning some 16,000 years ago, thriving in their natural world of oak woodlands, meadows, marshes and ocean. Today they are formally known as the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, and are still residents of Orange County and surrounding areas. On display at the History Center is a contemporary necklace made by an Acjachemen craftsperson in the style of that culture. It was purchased recently at a gala fundraiser by History Center CEO Dean Dixon, who wanted to acquire authentic artifacts from the Acjachemen Nation because of their ties to the history of Orange County. To learn more about the Acjachemen Nation, see “Then and Now” article on page 56.

The Spanish were next to make their mark on California, arriving in 1769, and their missions that line the state from San Diego to San Francisco are an indelible part of its history. In Orange County, the mission in San Juan Capistrano, a close neighbor of Laguna Woods Village, is famed not only for its beautiful architecture and returning swallows, but also for the El Camino Real Bell, replicas of which can be found throughout the state marking the Spanish royal road, or King’s Highway, a 600-mile route linking California’s original 21 Spanish missions. The inclusion of a small replica bell in the History Center’s collection relates to the proximity of San Juan



LEFT: On display at the History Center are possibly the densest concentration of shark teeth found in western North America and tiny fossilized sand dollars from the late Miocene period.

RIGHT: A contemporary necklace made by an Acjachemen craftsperson in the style of the tribe’s culture is on display at the History Center.

Capistrano, an area where many members of the Acjachemen Nation lived before the Spanish enslaved them to build their mission and farm their lands.

The streets of Laguna Woods Village also herald the area's Spanish heritage, with names such as Paseo de Valencia, Via Estrada and Calle Aragon. The original street signs with bold, stylized lettering can be seen atop the shelves in the archives. The streets take their names from Spanish cities and descriptions (think Bahia Blanca and Via Puerta) as well as early south Orange County founders, including Lewis Moulton (Moulton Parkway), his wife Nellie Gail, and his daughters Charlotte (Avenida de la Carlota) and Louise (Calle de la Louisa). Read "Pioneering Preservation" on page 18 of the September/October 2024 Village Breeze at bit.ly/3U3W6Yw.

A set of dishes donated by Clubhouse 1, with gold rims and a logo incorporating a globe and the words Rossmoor Leisure

World, were specially made for the community by Franciscan Ceramics, which at the time was produced in Los Angeles. This set was the first used for banquets, events, anniversaries, dances or other entertainment in Clubhouse 1. Popular patterns to this day include desert rose and Franciscan ivy.

FASCINATING FACTS

The retirement community built here was the first in the world to be tied to the academic study of the needs of seniors.

"Prior to this, retirement communities were based on wants," said Dixon, who has been active in local history preservation in Orange County since 1974. "You want to golf, there's a golf course. You want to swim, there's a swimming pool. You need a doctor, that's none of our business."

The founder, Ross Cortese, after building a community in Seal Beach, commissioned a University of Southern California

study on retirees. He was so inspired by the results that he donated \$4 million to create the first school of gerontology in the United States.

"That changed everything that came afterward," Dixon said. "If you're following the evolution of retirement communities around the world, this is the first pin in the map. Every retirement community built after ours in 1964 has been based on the academic study of gerontology or, more specifically, residents' needs, not just their wants. When I say it changed the world, it really changed the world."

The History Center itself stands out for being the only purpose-built local history archive in Orange County. While it documents the stages of life at Laguna Woods Village, it also serves as a vital resource for researchers from around the world who study retirement and gerontology. Local community researchers may seek historical background for issues under



LEFT: TV personality Huell Howser, who produced, wrote and hosted "California's Gold," participated in the History Center's groundbreaking. **RIGHT:** Historical Society President Tom Gaylor takes the microphone while Huell Howser and Evelyn Shopp share scissors at the ribbon cutting ceremony November 27, 1997.



The original street signs with bold, stylized lettering can be seen atop the shelves in the History Center archives.

consideration by governing bodies. Sometimes people show up wanting to know where their grandparents lived or when a unit they own first became available for occupancy. Exhibits range from pre-Village history to celebrations of Village milestones. The current one, which runs through the end of the year, focuses on the 60th anniversary of Village Television. Read “Village Television Turns 60” on page 8.

Altogether, the History Center stores approximately 10,000 documents, publications and photos, as well as artifacts such as badges, security guard uniforms and keys. One special collection features drawings by the late former Disney animator George A. Rowley, who was a resident and drew cartoons for clubs as well as a comic strip that was published in community newspaper Leisure World News (now the Laguna Woods Globe).

For \$50 annually, clubs and organizations can store

documents such as minutes of meetings, scrapbooks from events, or other paperwork. “It’s nice for research because people are allowed to look at them but not take them out unless they’re members of that particular club,” said volunteer curator Gail Dixon.

What would she like to have that’s missing? Images from the late 1980s to the current period. “We would love to have people bring those in. We can make a copy of their photos and give them right back.”

BEHIND THE ARCHIVE

With so much ephemera on hand and coming in, the goal is to digitize print information as soon as possible. The History Center has its own server and eight workstations, and invested \$10,000 in a high-capacity scanner to digitize the newspapers.

An example of the type of information they’ve been able to digitize is 40 years of print issues of a local newspaper from before

the publisher began making it available in digital form. “It took six people 22 months to get this into our server,” Dixon said. “But the nice thing is now you don’t have to go through every page to see if there’s information on it that you want.”

A volunteer comes in twice a week to scan documents or photos, keeping the archive as up to date as possible.

“He’s someone who never used a computer, or rarely used a computer, and our digital archivist, who moved on to the Camera Club, taught him how to do it,” Gail Dixon said. “And he’s been doing it ever since.”

For Gail Dixon, the pleasure of doing the research and finding information that people are looking for is what she loves about volunteering for the History Center.

“It’s a treasure hunt,” she said.

TO LEARN MORE

- **Address:** 24266 Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods
- **Contact:** Dean Dixon, CEO, or Catherine Brians, Chief Communications Officer
- **Website:** www.lagunawoodshistory.org
- **Email:** info@lagunawoodshistory.org
- **Hours:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m., or by appointment
- **Volunteer opportunities:** LWHC is always in need of volunteers. Contact Catherine Brians for more information about opportunities.



READ. SHARE. REPEAT.

From best-sellers to book clubs and so much more, the Village Library is a lending haven.

By Ellyce Rothrock

Tucked away off Calle Aragon next to Clubhouse 1, the Village Library is one of Laguna Woods Village's best-kept treasures—an inviting space where stories live, neighbors connect and discovery is just a page away.

With more than 30,000 items in its catalog, this resident-supported library offers something for every reader and curiosity-seeker. Whether you're hunting down the latest best-seller, revisiting a classic, flipping through magazines or checking out a DVD, the Village Library has you covered. If you prefer large print, you're in luck. Many titles are available in easy-to-read formats.

And it's not just about books. The library has a portable DVD player and headphones available to borrow for a cozy movie night at home. Simply search for "DVD Player" in the catalog to reserve it.

THREE BOOK CLUBS, ENDLESS CONVERSATION

If you seek thoughtful discussion and friendly faces, the Village Library volunteers host three monthly book clubs, and everyone is welcome,

VILLAGE LIBRARY

24266 Calle Aragon
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Hours

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

949-597-4274

lwvillagelibrary@yahoo.com
[lagunawoodsvillage.com/
about/all-amenities/
village-library](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com/about/all-amenities/village-library)

2025 Holiday Closures

Sep. 1, Nov. 11, Nov. 27-28, Dec.
5, Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31, Jan. 1



whether you've finished the book or just want to join the conversation. Meetings take place in the library reading area monthly on the second Monday and third Tuesday at 6 p.m. and the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.

MORE THAN JUST A COLLECTION

What makes the Village Library special isn't just the volume of books or the quiet charm of the reading room. It's the volunteers who keep the pages turning.

MAUREEN LAZAR: FINDING COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

"I had been told that Laguna Woods Village had its own library, and that it was entirely volunteer run," said volunteer Maureen Lazar. "Once we got settled in, I stopped by and took home an application." Not long after, she began working the Thursday morning shift at the circulation desk. That was in 2017. These days, you'll still find Lazar at the library every Thursday morning, but behind the scenes. "I work in the back-office area on new purchases or putting together our monthly book order," she said. "We usually have other projects going on, like weeding or sorting donations. I think I most enjoy putting out the latest titles. It's always nice to see those new books ready and waiting for our patrons."

What makes the Village Library truly special is its spirit of service, Lazar said. "We are an all-volunteer-run library, with about 69 active volunteers, all of whom are residents. That says something remarkable about our community and its willingness to give back."

Volunteering at the library has also been personally enriching. "I can't begin to tell you how many wonderful, talented, dedicated people I've met during my time here," Lazar said. "There's definitely a social aspect to volunteering, and I've made dear friends. People I may never have met otherwise. My good fortune, indeed."

If there's one thing she wishes more residents knew about the library, it's how easy and helpful the Reserve Express feature can be. "We do our best to stock the latest titles from popular authors. Residents can sign up to automatically be placed in a queue for an author's newest release, and believe me, our wait times are much shorter than the Orange County Public Library system. Let us do that for you!"

What book does she recommend? "'West With Giraffes' by Lynda Rutledge is a wonderful, emotional novel based on the actual 1938 arrival of two giraffes in New York and their trek to the San Diego Zoo," she said. "I want everyone to read it."



Maureen Lazar

DONNA DAHL: TURNING PAGES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

"A year or so after moving to Laguna Woods, I started hunting for a Village book club," said Donna Dahl. "I was looking for folks I could 'talk books' with." She discovered that many clubs were small, private and full. So, she let the idea go, until one day, when a Laguna Woods Globe article announced the Village Library would begin hosting three monthly book clubs open to all residents. She joined all three and soon volunteered at the library.

"That was 11 years ago," she said. "Thank you to Linda Wida and Pat Hedrick for starting up our community's first book clubs available to all of our Village residents."

Most of Dahl's library volunteer work centers on the book clubs she facilitates. "For our monthly evening meetings, I

reopen the library after closing, arrange seating, put out name tags and welcome members, especially newcomers," she said. "Often I prepare research or announcements to share and serve as discussion leader or backup."

She also creates an annual trifold brochure listing all the upcoming book club titles that club members select and vote on. "It includes dates for each discussion, and you don't need to be a member to join a meeting or just listen in." Her favorite part is listening to members' often very differing perspectives. "It's fascinating that with so much commonality, our perspectives are as unique as we each are," she said. "It's a chance to see how profoundly our individual life experiences shape the way we interpret the same words."

What makes the Village Library stand out? "We're a resident-run library, independent from the county system, and we're also the only incorporated city in Orange County with access to both a Village library and a public branch," she said. "It's the best of both library worlds."

And there's more she wishes residents knew. "Many have yet to learn that we have a section of shelves devoted to our past book club reads," she said. "These books are available for self-checkout without a due date. Just return them when you're done." The library also has two magnifying machines for low eyesight readers.

If she could pick one book to share, it would be "Small Things Like These" by Claire Keegan. "It's just 114 pages, but it makes you think deeply. Keegan is a master wordsmith. This fact-based story is powerful, quiet and stays with you."



Donna Dahl

This library is by and for Laguna Woods Village residents, operating independently from the Orange County Public Library system. That means that everything from the cozy atmosphere to the curated catalog is shaped with Village residents in mind.

BROWSE, RESERVE, RENEW ONLINE

Visit the online catalog to browse the collection, reserve or renew items, or just see what's new at lagunawoods.biblionix.com/catalog. Use your Village ID and 10-digit phone number to log in. If you have questions about the online

catalog, the book clubs or anything else concerning the library, email lwvillagelibrary@yahoo.com. Whether you're a lifelong reader, a casual browser or someone looking for a good story and good company, the Village Library is your place to connect, learn and escape, one book at a time.

SUSAN NATHAN: **THE PUZZLE LADY OF THE VILLAGE LIBRARY**

"Always a reader," said Susan Nathan, "so seeking out a library was as important as finding a good grocery store." Volunteering came just as naturally; it's something she's done in some capacity her whole life.

When she joined the Village Library, she was first assigned to help with the paperback section and later cross-trained in jigsaw puzzles. "Just before COVID, I was asked to take charge of the puzzles," she said. "Now some people even call me 'The Puzzle Lady.'"

Nathan works the Saturday morning shift from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., a time she treasures. "This group is a very special one—warm, caring, fun and there for one another," she said. "Every shift, I start by straightening the puzzle shelves. Residents donate so many wonderful puzzles that we've never had to purchase a single one. It's such fun to find a new puzzle we don't have, process it and put it out."

She especially enjoys chatting with puzzle-loving patrons. "A few tell me they can do a 1,000-piece puzzle in a day or two," she said. "I'm always amazed."

One of her favorite ongoing stories involves missing pieces. "People will return a piece they found, often with no box or real

information, just a note," she said. "I've rarely found where those pieces belong, but the notes are sometimes hilarious, and I share them with the other volunteers."

The Village Library, she said, stands apart from others. "This library is lots of fun, not always quiet and residents smile a lot, and I don't know any other library with a collection of jigsaw puzzles like ours."

She encourages residents to explore the library's in-house puzzling spaces. "We have several tables designated for ongoing puzzles that anyone can work on during regular hours," she said. Some patrons work on them at the Clubhouse 1 Drop-In Lounge. "We welcome you!"

Volunteering has brought Nathan unexpected joy. "The women on my shift have each enriched my life and I've met so many residents I wouldn't have known otherwise."

As for her book recommendation? Well, it's not a book. "Try doing a puzzle with 100 to 300 pieces—they come with large-size pieces that are easy to handle, then work your way up," she suggested. "The puzzles are organized by piece count, and they're great for your brain."



EILEEN ORDWAY: LIVING THE DREAM, SURROUNDED BY BOOKS

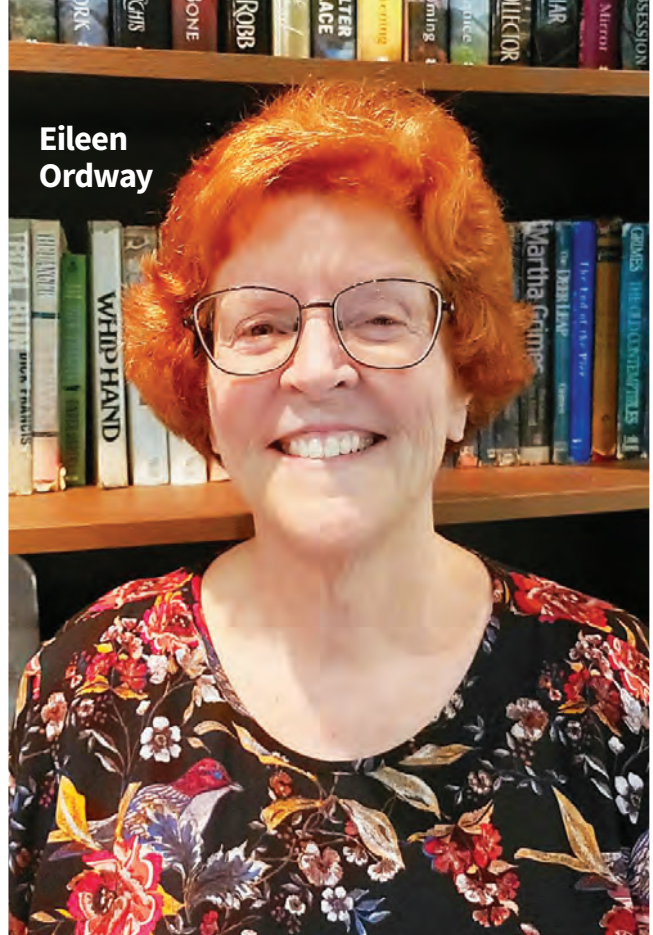
"I had a lifelong dream to be a librarian or own a bookstore," said Eileen Ordway, Village Library president. "That didn't happen, but when we moved here and I found out I could volunteer and be surrounded by books, I was in heaven."

More than 11 years later, that initial spark has turned into deep commitment. She's served as a front desk volunteer, supervisor, secretary and now president. "I've loved almost every minute."

With a background in computer programming, she brings a systems-oriented mindset to her work. "We have a definite process at the library, from acquiring and preparing items to circulating them, publicizing them, repairing what we can and finally retiring what we can't use," she said. "I especially love the catalog application. I've studied it to learn all of its capabilities and have added features that our savvy residents now use regularly."

But for her, it's about more than systems. "We have a lot of wonderful volunteers and residents," she said. "I got to know two women who lived to be over 100. Lillian Davis was a supervisor even before I started. Lucy Meyer worked at the library for 25 years. Both of them had minds sharp as a tack until the day they passed away. It was an honor to know them."

What makes this library so special? "Our catalog reflects the needs of our residents," she said. "We have over 3,600 large print books and purchase 45 to 50 newly published titles each month, and about a quarter of those are in large print. Plus, I doubt any library has the collection of jigsaw puzzles we do."



Volunteering has also had a personal impact. "By nature, I'm an introvert. When we moved here from Pennsylvania, we didn't know anyone. It would have been easy to stay home reading all day, which was actually my retirement goal," she said. "But the draw of the library probably saved me. I've made so many terrific friends and acquaintances I would never have found on my own."

She hopes more residents will take advantage of all the library offers, especially for fans of book series. "We recently spent a year relabeling almost 4,700 fiction titles to include the series name and number on the spine," she said. "So, if you're looking for Louise Penny or James Patterson, you'll find the books in order right on our shelves."

Her personal pick these days is "'The Road to Roswell' by Connie Willis," she said. "It's a road trip rom-com with a sci-fi twist, and so much fun. Every time I had to put it down, I couldn't wait to get back to it. If you like quirky characters, a good story and a little UFO nonsense, you'll love it."



EXPLORE YOUR DIGITAL WORLD

What to expect during the Ting Internet installation process

As technology advances, the benefits of high-speed internet become increasingly vital in our daily lives, connecting us to friends, family and information. For many, the thought of setting up new equipment can seem daunting. However, with the arrival of Ting Internet and a technician ready to help, there's no need to worry. This article will guide you through the process of welcoming this new technology into your home and understanding the benefits it brings.

WHAT IS TING INTERNET?

With your Ting Internet two-gigabit connection, you will have speed and reliability. With this level of service, you can enjoy seamless streaming of your favorite movies, quick downloading of important documents and smoother video calls with your loved ones. The technician who visits your home will ensure that Ting Internet, the Eero router and two wireless devices will be set up so you can enjoy these benefits without a hitch.

NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE

Residents can expect to receive notifications of their installation approximately 60 days and 30 days before the scheduled installation. A 21-day, three-day and one-day reminder will follow.

Correspondence will come from a dedicated email address and telephone number:

- Email notifications will come from lagunawoodsvillage@ting.com.
- Texts and telephone calls will come from **714-263-1826**.

PREPARING FOR THE TECHNICIAN'S VISIT

Before your technician arrives, please take a few simple steps to make the setup go smoothly:

- Clear a space near your existing modem or router.
- Make sure an electrical outlet is available nearby.
- Think about which device you'd like connected to your new Wi-Fi, such as a smartphone, tablet, laptop or smart home device.

A little preparation will help speed up the installation and get you online in no time.

DURING THE INSTALLATION

The technician will first assess your current internet setup. There is no need to disconnect your pre-existing internet service. The technician will then set up your new modem and router, ensuring they are properly connected to your new Ting Internet service. Ting's advanced technology will help your devices get online quickly

and efficiently. Before the Ting technician leaves, your internet and two wireless devices will be working on the Ting network. The technician will ensure your cable television is working properly.

Throughout the process, don't hesitate to ask questions! Technicians are happy to explain what they're doing and how each piece of equipment works. Understanding your technology can make you feel more comfortable using it.

CONNECTING YOUR WIRELESS DEVICES

Once the router is set up, the technician will assist you in connecting two of your wireless devices. You will need to know your Wi-Fi network name (SSID) and password. The technician will provide this information and guide you step-by-step to connect each device to your new network. Most devices have an easy-to-follow process for joining a Wi-Fi network.

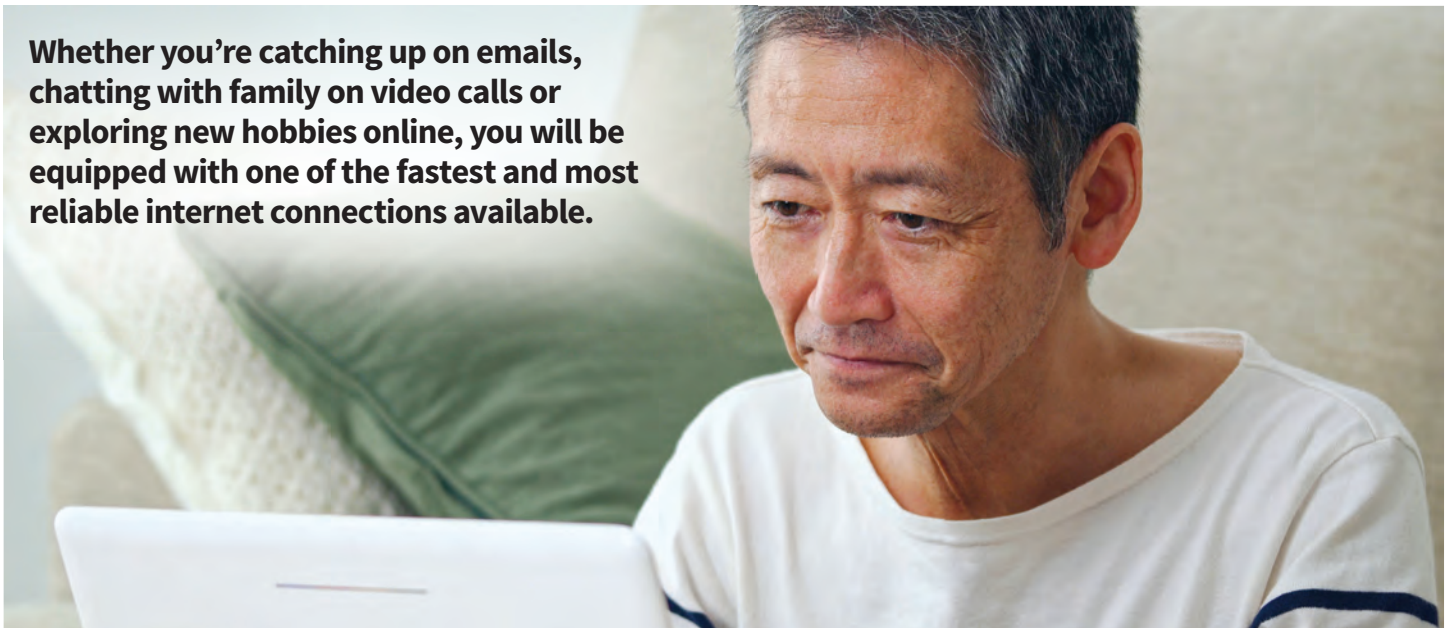
ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF YOUR NEW CONNECTION

With your Ting Internet service up and running, you're now equipped with one of the fastest and most reliable internet connections available. Whether you're catching up on emails, chatting with family on video calls or exploring new hobbies online, you can do so with greater ease and confidence.

Remember, you're not alone in this process. Ting technicians are not only experts in setup but also friendly guides who are happy to answer your questions and ensure everything is working just right before they leave. And should you ever need support in the future, visit tinginternet.com/lagunawoodsvillage.

Welcoming Ting Internet into your home means embracing a smoother, more connected lifestyle without the stress. Once you're all set up, take a moment to explore the digital world at your fingertips.

Whether you're catching up on emails, chatting with family on video calls or exploring new hobbies online, you will be equipped with one of the fastest and most reliable internet connections available.





DON'T LET COYOTES GET COMFORTABLE

Community-wide vigilance, deterrence
and reporting are key to reducing risks.

By Village Management Services Staff | Photos by Mark Rabinowitch

Like other communities located near wilderness areas, coyotes are a part of the local ecosystem. Closely related to wolves and domesticated dogs, coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are vocal, adaptable canines. They hunt alone for their typical prey—small mammals, reptiles, birds and insects—or in packs for larger animals like deer, scavenge on carrion if prey is scarce and eat what's readily available like fruit, vegetables, pet food, bird seed and even garbage.

Coyotes weigh between 15 and 45 pounds, can run up to 40 miles per hour and can jump 6 feet high from a standing position, 14 feet high with momentum and 12 feet horizontally. Coyotes form strong bonds, mate for life and raise their pups together, although some may live solitary lives.

According to California Department of Fish and Wildlife, coyotes play an important role in helping to keep rodent populations under control. They are naturally afraid of humans, but those that lose that fear, often because they have been fed by or spent time around people, may threaten human safety, cause property damage and endanger their own lives.

REPORT COYOTE ACTIVITY

Report aggressive coyote behavior. Under contract with the City of Laguna Woods, Laguna Beach Animal Services responds to wildlife situations in Laguna Woods and in the Village—not Village Management Services. Reporting coyote sightings and nuisances to Animal Services helps track activity patterns and supports effective response.

If you encounter a coyote exhibiting aggressive behavior, contact Laguna Beach Animal Services at **949-497-0701** (Press 0) or **coyotes@lagunabeachcity.net**. If you'd like a call or email back from city personnel, state so clearly in your voicemail or message.

In the past five years, Village Management Services (VMS) Security Services received 134 calls regarding coyotes, 128 reported coyote sightings and six reported coyote attacks.

Lethal removal or relocation is not an effective, long-term solution, according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Coyotes are territorial, so removing one often results in another quickly taking its place. Efforts to reduce populations through trapping or killing can increase breeding rates and litter sizes. Relocation is both illegal in California and ineffective; moved coyotes rarely survive or simply return.

Experts instead recommend retraining coyotes to fear people and making our environment unappealing to them.

MAKE THEM AFRAID

Hazing is a process used to scare wild animals away and instill in them a healthy fear of humans. This protects both public safety and the animal's well-being. Wild animals that become too comfortable around people can be dangerous and may have to be euthanized.

Consistency is key. Everyone in the community must work together to make coyotes feel unwelcome.

If you encounter a coyote, immediately pick up your pets, then begin hazing. Once you start, continue until the coyote leaves the area. Hazing strategies include:

- Stand tall, make yourself look as large as possible and wave your arms over your head.
- Be loud, large and animated: clap, stomp, shout and wave your arms.

- Direct your voice at the coyote in a firm, forceful tone.
- Throw rocks, sticks or any objects you can safely pick up.
- Maintain eye contact and never turn your back or run away.
- When walking, carry something you can use for hazing, such as a stick, golf club, water gun, air horn, whistle, noisemaker, can of coins, water-and-vinegar spray or a personal safety device (e.g., zap cane).

Important: Do not haze a coyote if it is cornered, injured or with pups. In these situations, maintain eye contact and slowly back away.

Security personnel patrol the Village regularly and are instructed to be especially vigilant, using hazing practices whenever coyotes are observed.

MAKE YOUR HOME UNAPPEALING

Coyotes are part of our environment, but we can make our homes and yards less

Coyotes weigh between 15 and 45 pounds, can run up to 40 miles per hour and can jump 6 feet high from a standing position, 14 feet high with momentum and 12 feet horizontally.



appealing to them by following these steps:

- **Obey leash laws.** Keep your dog on a leash 6 feet long or shorter when outdoors. Allowing dogs off leash, even briefly, such as when bringing in the mail or unloading groceries, greatly increases the risk of a coyote attack. When returning from a walk, do not remove your dog's leash until you are inside with the door securely closed. Walk dogs in groups whenever possible. Consider using a "coyote vest" for extra protection.
- **Keep cats indoors.** Free-roaming cats are easy prey for coyotes, regardless of size or breed. Keeping cats inside protects them and helps avoid emboldening coyotes.
- **Bring pet food and water bowls inside.** These can attract coyotes looking for easy food and water sources.
- **Pick up fallen fruit.** Coyotes are omnivores and will eat fruit. Remove fruit hanging within 3 feet of the ground to prevent your trees from becoming a food source.
- **Keep BBQ grills clean and covered.** Grease and food residue are strong attractants.

The current standard fence height in the Village is 5 feet, which coyotes can easily jump. Some fences vary due to decades of remodeling and grandfathered designs. Residents may formally request a fence height extension through the variance process, as Standards 8, 16 and 44 govern fence height in the Village. City of



Although coyotes are naturally afraid of humans, they may lose that fear if they have been fed by or spent time around people.

Laguna Woods permits may also be required.

Spike strips and other sharp deterrents are discouraged due to safety risks, especially for emergency responders. Motion-activated deterrents such as lights, sprinklers or sirens also require a variance and may impact neighbors.

DON'T FEED WILDLIFE

Though often well-intentioned, feeding wildlife draws coyotes closer to populated areas, where they can lose their natural fear and caution. This makes them a threat to both people and pets. Providing food to birds, squirrels and other wild animals is also prohibited. This practice attracts more coyote prey species into neighborhoods. As cute as they may be, squirrels can carry rabies and plague. And while bird feeders may be enjoyable to watch, the seed that drops to the ground attracts both coyotes and the animals they hunt.

Feeding wildlife is illegal in California. Here in the Village, both Third and United mutuals prohibit feeding or attracting animals. If you see neighbors

feeding wildlife, call Security at **949-580-1400**. Calls may be anonymous. You can also report wildlife feeding or leash-law violations anonymously to the Compliance Division hotline at **949-268-CALL**.

LEARN MORE

- Watch "Discovering Laguna Woods Village" host Cyndee Whitney interview retired Laguna Beach animal services officer David Pietarila at bit.ly/4n2Hu8L.
- Watch Laguna Beach Animal Services' coyote PSA at bit.ly/45gunu8.
- The City of Laguna Woods offers important information and safety tips in its Coyote Awareness Flyer, which is also available in English, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com/services/resident-services and scroll to "**Resident Services forms and documents.**"



FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED

The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village selected as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year

By Marcy Sheinwold, for the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village

The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village was selected as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblywoman Diane Dixon and was one of more than 100 nonprofits that were honored by their state legislators for their outstanding contributions to the communities they serve.

Since its start 28 years ago, the Foundation is the Village's very own charity that provides temporary financial assistance to residents facing a financial challenge. Working with Village Management Services (VMS) Social Services staff, assistance is confidential and limited to residents. In addition, the Foundation provides funding toward Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's daycare, transportation to the food pantry, emergency response devices and hearing aids, and for a second year sponsors good neighbor projects by Village clubs to increase community interaction.

This year in response to the LA wildfires, the Foundation also mounted a public education effort on emergency preparedness in cooperation with VMS. As part of this effort, the Foundation has developed a weekly series on Village Television called "Planning for the Unpredictable," created public service announcements and published an emergency preparedness brochure available to all residents. The Foundation's ability to continue as a resource is a tribute to the Village, which has sustained it over the years. Individual and club donations have ensured that help is available for our neighbors. Being chosen as 2025 Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblywoman Dixon is a tribute to the whole Village.

"We are grateful for the work of the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village and want to extend our congratulations for this well-deserved recognition," said Geoff Green, CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits.org), the sponsor for this initiative. "Nonprofits provide critical services, advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors and enrich the lives of all Californians." For more information, please contact the Foundation's new email address foundationlwv@gmail.com or visit foundationoflagunawoodsvillage.org.



BREAKING BREAD SEPT. 19

By Rachel Barnes

The Springboks Club—an evolving community service group in Laguna Woods Village—will once again bring neighbors together for its annual Breaking Bread event. Now in its second year, the workshop invites residents to roll up their sleeves and connect over flour, yeast and a shared love for handmade bread.

Held in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club, this year's Breaking Bread workshop takes place on Friday, September 19, at Clubhouse 3 (PAC), Dining Room 2. Participants will learn how to shape a variety of fancy bread rolls and discover how the same dough can be transformed into Italian bread or pizza, emphasizing versatility and creativity in the kitchen.

Our goal is to include everyone. That's why we're offering free, confidential scholarships, available online at springboks-online.com/breaking-bread. Participation is open to all, with member tickets priced at \$15 and nonmember tickets at \$20.

The Foundation of Laguna Woods recognized the Springboks Club on August 21 with the Good Neighbor Award, a distinction given to highlight one of 10 standout community projects. As the scent of fresh bread fills the air this fall, so too will the warmth of community spirit.

Meet Laguna Woods Authors

By Iris Burnham and Nancy Southern



For more than a decade, the PubClub has assisted writers and those considering putting pen to paper with resources, skills and support. Through monthly meetings and special events, members and guests learn the ins and outs of turning their ideas into published books, including how to write, edit, publish and market their works. Club members write memoirs, novels, mysteries, poetry, self-help and children's books.

The PubClub invites all club members to submit their works for possible inclusion in Village Stories, an anthology of contributors' best works. Anthologies can be found at the Laguna Woods Village Library and are available for sale at club meetings.

This year's Authors' Marketplace will include light refreshments and great books that make excellent gifts.

The Publishing Club of Laguna Woods' (PubClub) Annual Authors' Marketplace will occur on Tuesday, October 7, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Clubhouse 7. A guest speaker will open this year's event, where approximately 30 authors will greet visitors, showcase their works, sign books, answer questions and discuss secrets to their success.

WHAT A PARTY! *By Paula Sachs*

Over 1,500 Laguna Woods hippies and friends boogied to the music and vibe of this year's Laguna Woodstock. Thanks to planners and volunteers, bands and vendors, this event was the best one ever! A special thank you to the event sponsors, whose support was critical in making this event a tremendous success. Mark your calendars for June 27, 2026, when the Laguna Woods Boomers Club will do it all again!



LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE COMMUNITY STREET MAP

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11

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C

D

E



Map Not to Scale

- Golf Cart Route (dotted red line)
- Health Care + (red cross icon)
- Churches, Temples + (blue cross icon)
- Security Gates Gate (purple octagon icon)
- OCTA Bus Stops OCTA (blue square icon with 'OCTA' text)
- Clubhouses Clubhouse (orange square icon)
- Swimming Pool (blue wavy line icon)

2025, Laguna Woods Village



A

B

C

D

E





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
 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

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
 City of Laguna Woods 949-639-0500
 Florence Sylvester Senior Center 949-380-0155
 Foundation of Laguna Woods Village 949-268-2246
 Laguna Woods Globe (subscriptions) 714-796-7777
lagunawoodsglobe@scng.com
 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 949-582-4835
 The Towers 949-597-4278
care@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
 CR&R Inc. (Trash) 949-625-6735
LagunaWoods-Recycles@CRRmail.com
 El Toro Water District 949-837-0660
 Southern California Gas Company 877-238-0092
 Southern California Edison 800-655-4555
 West Coast Internet Customer Service 949-487-3302

In Your Neighborhood

To find out what’s going on in and around your neighborhood, visit lagunawoodsvillage.com, go to the Services menu, click on Maintenance and Construction and scroll down to 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.
Gate 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
Every other week
Gate 9 – Towers Parking Lot

FRIDAY

GRF Facilities
Please see GRF Facilities Sweeping Schedule.

Gate 11 – All streets in this area
No numbered cul-de-sacs fourth week of the month



Laundry Room Do's and Don'ts

Keep washers and dryers working optimally.

The Financial Services Department records revenue from laundry machines. Staff recently noticed that some washers and dryers are not performing efficiently. To help keep them running smoothly, please follow these do's and don'ts.

WASHERS

Do:

- Use high-efficiency (HE) detergent, suitable for both HE and regular washers
- Wash full loads but avoid overloading, which can hinder cleaning and rinsing
- Use warm water (90–110°F) for better cleaning and fabric care
- Select the correct setting based on care labels (e.g., normal for bed sheets)
- If using detergent pods, place them directly in the tub and not the dispenser, and only when the washer is empty
- Leave the washer lid open after use to let it dry and prevent mold

Don't:

- Use non-HE detergent, which creates too many suds and prevents proper rinsing

- Use the wrong dispenser, which can lead to soap buildup or blockages
- Place detergent pods in the dispenser, which can cause malfunctions
- Use too much detergent or softener, which can cause staining and other issues
- Fill the dispenser past the line, which can cause spills and stains
- Overload the washer, which reduces effectiveness and may cause damage
- Keep the lid closed after use, which can cause mold and mildew

DRYERS

Do:

- Clean the lint trap after every use to improve efficiency and prevent overheating
- Leave space for clothes to tumble and dry properly
- Choose the right heat setting based on fabric care labels (e.g., low for delicates, high for towels)
- Check for loose items like coins or buttons before loading

Don't:

- Overload the dryer, which restricts airflow and wears out parts
- Over-dry clothes, which can cause damage and wrinkles
- Use the wrong heat setting, which can harm clothes and overwork the dryer
- Let small items bounce around, which can damage the drum and make noise





REACHING YOUR DESTINATION

Navigating Laguna Woods Village has never been easier! Whether you're running errands, attending activities or heading out for some fun, there's a transportation option for you. From convenient fixed-route buses to after-hours ride services and specialized paratransit for those who qualify, our community offers several ways to keep you on the move. Here's an overview of the services we offer.

- **Easy Rider:** Discover how to get around the Village with ease using the Easy Rider fixed-route bus system. It's convenient, reliable and tailored for our community.
- **Boost (Lyft):** Need a ride after hours? Learn how to access our Boost service and use the Lyft smartphone app to get where you need to go, even when the buses aren't running.
- **Journey paratransit service:** If you're an approved applicant, Journey service is here to provide personalized transportation. Remember, all Village residents interested in Journey must complete an application and a professional assessment process to get started.

For assistance or for information, call the Transportation Division at **949-597-4659** or visit **lagunawoodsvillage.com/services/transportation-services**.

From convenient fixed-route buses to after-hours ride services and specialized paratransit for those who qualify, our community offers several ways to keep you on the move.



From Finance to Facilities

Jose Campos was promoted to director of the Village Management Services (VMS) General Services Department on June 30, succeeding Robert Carroll, who recently retired.

With 17 years in Financial Services, Campos brings a deep, cross-departmental understanding of operations, budgeting, capital planning and policy development.

Most recently assistant director of Financial Services, he oversaw accounts payable and the warehouse, prepared the Village's \$135 million operating budget and regularly presented financial and operational reports to leadership.





The Four Seasons of LANDSCAPING

A guide to understanding seasonal landscape maintenance in the Village

By Tameka Baccus, Landscaping Administrative Assistant

Laguna Woods Village is home to a vibrant, dynamic landscape that changes with the seasons and the maintenance activities required to keep it healthy, attractive and functional. You may notice bursts of visible activity or quieter periods. These intentional cycles reflect the seasonal needs of the Village's plants. The maintenance schedule below shows why each phase matters.

FALL: TRANSITION AND CLEANUP

Fall is a transitional season in the landscape. Crews shift their focus to removing fallen leaves while cutting back plants to prepare them for winter dormancy. Replanting operations begin.

Why it may look mixed: Some areas begin to slow down, while others are being planted or cleaned. Seasonal color changes are a highlight, while tree trimming continues as scheduling allows. Mowing is slowed to twice monthly to match the growth of the turf.

WINTER: PREPARATION AND PROTECTION

During the cooler months, crews focus on selective pruning of shrubs, especially those that are dormant or less vulnerable to stress during this time. Winter is also the safest time to perform major tree trimming, as many trees have dropped their leaves, allowing for clearer structural visibility.

Crews also begin inspecting and repairing irrigation and drainage systems, preparing for spring demands while conserving water.



during naturally wetter months. Landscape crews apply mulch to planter beds to suppress weeds, retain soil moisture and regulate temperature around roots.

Why it may seem quiet: Growth slows considerably in winter, so mowing and trimming are reduced. Mowing is reduced to monthly. However, this is a critical time for long-term health and structure management of trees and shrubs.

SPRING: RENEWAL AND GROWTH

As temperatures rise and daylight increases, plants emerge from dormancy. Spring is the time for fertilization, giving the turf and plants the nutrients needed to thrive.

Irrigation systems are reactivated and calibrated to meet increasing water needs.

Why it looks busy: You will notice increased activity as

mowing resumes, flowers are planted and mulching is applied across the Village.

SUMMER: MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

With rapid plant growth and warmer weather, the focus shifts to routine mowing, weeding and trimming to maintain mutual standards. Water management becomes a top priority, especially during drought-prone summers, so irrigation systems are actively monitored and adjusted for efficiency.

Staff watches for signs of pests or disease, which are more prevalent in hot weather, and may apply targeted treatments as needed.

Why the pace varies: While mowing and trimming continue regularly, planting slows, and other visible changes may be less frequent. Work may also occur earlier in the day to avoid high-heat exposure for crews.

YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING MATTER

Every activity in the seasonal maintenance cycle is planned to promote long-term plant health, conserve water, and maintain the beauty and safety of Laguna Woods Village.

Some tasks, like soil treatments or irrigation repairs, may be less visible but are equally essential. Other times, you may notice temporary overgrowth or delays due to weather, staffing or environmental conditions, all of which are considered in the scheduling process.

If you have questions about specific areas or activities, visit the Landscaping webpage lagunawoodsvillage.com/services/landscaping where you can find schedules, documents and landscape manuals.

Your awareness helps us support a healthier, more beautiful community for everyone.



YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS, FITNESS AND FUN

RECREATION OFFICE COMMUNITY CENTER

24351 El Toro Road

949-597-4273

recreation@vmsinc.org

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > Amenities for activities, classes, fitness and sports, golf, facilities, clubs and more. For registration, visit the Recreation office or the facility where the class/event is held.



Resident Golfer Achieves Rare **'GRAND SLAM'** in Senior Women's Golf

Congratulations to resident Shelly Haywood who recently made history by capturing the Grand Slam of Senior Women's Golf: winning the prestigious California State Senior Women's Championship in 2023, followed by both the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) and Northern California Golf Association Senior Women's Championships in 2024! The SCGA formally congratulated her on this remarkable achievement—an honor reserved for only the most accomplished amateur players in the state.

Arts and Crafts **BONANZA 2025**

Village artisans will showcase their talent at the Annual Arts and Crafts Bonanza from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, November 1, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, November 2, in Clubhouse 4. Find an assortment of unique gifts and handcrafted pieces including ceramics, jewelry, quilts, paintings, photography, woodwork and so much more.

Enjoy live music Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Food truck available both days while supplies last.

Off-site parking and complimentary shuttle service are available for attendees at the Laguna Woods Village Maintenance Center at 23081 Via Campo Verde. Entry is free for visitors and \$25 for vendors.

For more information, call 949-597-4291 or email recreation@vmsinc.org.



SPOTLIGHT CINEMA SERIES:

‘BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID’

Saddle up for a special Spotlight Cinema Series screening of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” on Monday, October 6, at 2 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. This classic 1969 Western stars Paul Newman, Robert Redford and Katharine Ross as the infamous outlaws of the Wild Bunch gang, blending action, wit and an unforgettable story of friendship.

Prior to the movie’s start, enjoy an introduction from film historian Theo Siegel.

Tickets are \$5 at tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com or the PAC box office (23822 Avenida Sevilla) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Credit card/check only; credit/debit card fees apply.

For more information, call **949-597-4289** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.

Don’t miss this chance to experience a Hollywood classic with fellow film lovers!



On Saturday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, vocal dynamo Charity Lockhart channels the soul and passion of Whitney Houston in this memorable tribute to the late musical icon. With a voice that soars through octaves with ease and emotion, she redefines what it means to be a powerhouse in today’s music scene.

Purchase tickets for \$20, \$25 or \$30 at tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com or the PAC box office (23822 Avenida Sevilla) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Credit card/check only; credit/debit card fees apply. For more information, call **949-597-4289** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.

TIMELESS MELODIES at the PAC

SWING: SEPT. 23, 1:30 P.M.

Dive in to the music of the Savoy Ballroom, Hollywood Palladium and Glen Island Casino, and the young kids dancing to its music in the turbulent years of the 1930s and ’40s.

**JEWISH CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC:
OCT. 28, 1:30 P.M.**

Explore the enduring contributions and profound influence of several artists of Jewish ancestry, including Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, George Gershwin and Harold Arlen.

UPCOMING

- **SONGS THAT INSPIRED A NATION: SALUTE TO VETERANS DAY, NOV. 25, 1:30 P.M.**
- **POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONGS: DEC. 16, 1:30 P.M.**

Tickets are \$5 each or \$16 for all four lectures. Buy online at tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com or at the PAC box office (23822 Avenida Sevilla, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Credit card/check only; no cash. Online purchases carry a \$2 per-ticket fee. Advance sales only. For more information, call **949-597-4289** or email recreation@vmsinc.org.



LIBRARY AND HISTORY CENTER

The Library and History Center are located adjacent to each other at 24266 Calle Aragon.

Library Hours

Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

949-597-4274; lwvillagelibrary@yahoo.com

History Center Hours

Monday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

or by appointment

**949-206-0150; info@lagunawoodshistory.org;
lagunawoodshistory.org**

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

RECREATION OFFICE **949-597-4273**

BRIDGE ROOM **949-268-2420**

CLUBHOUSES

- Clubhouse Reservations **949-597-4227**
- Clubhouse 1/Pool 1 **949-597-4281**
- Clubhouse 2/Pool 2 **949-597-4285**
- Clubhouse 3/Performing Arts Center
949-597-4289
- Performing Arts Center Box Office
949-597-4288
- Clubhouse 4/Pool 4 **949-597-4344**
- Clubhouse 5/Pool 5 **949-597-4382**
- Clubhouse 6/Pool 6 **949-597-4436**
- Clubhouse 7 **949-268-2417**

EQUESTRIAN CENTER **949-597-4275**

FITNESS CENTERS

- Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center **949-597-4284**
- Clubhouse 5 Fitness Center **949-597-4382**
- Community Fitness Center **949-268-2275**

GARDEN CENTERS **949-268-2387**

GOLF

- Golf and Village Greens **949-597-4336**
- 19 Restaurant and Lounge **949-206-1525**
- Par 3 Course **949-597-4334**

HISTORY CENTER **949-206-0150**

LAWN BOWLING **949-951-3027**

LIBRARY **949-597-4274**

PC WORKSHOP **949-268-2262**

MAC LEARNING CENTER **949-268-2263**

SADDLEBACK EMERITUS OFFICE **949-582-4835**

TENNIS CENTER **949-268-2481**

VIDEO LEARNING CENTER **949-470-0965**



GET MOVING

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities** > **View All Amenities** to learn more about the Village's resort-style amenities.

- View a list of amenities, location, contact information, registration process and more.
- Consider taking one or more of the almost 20 classes currently offered, including mat/chair yoga, ballroom dance, English or Spanish language classes, cycling, aquatic classes and more.
- Check out the schedule of current recreation classes at bit.ly/3YmE59C.



CLUB LOVE

In addition to the many amenities and activities offered through the Recreation and Special Events Department, 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** > **Village 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.



PERSONAL TRAINERS WORK WITH YOU

Get in a good workout led by a personal trainer at the Community Fitness Center or Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center. Five 30-minute sessions cost \$200; 10 30-minute sessions cost \$400. Call the Community Fitness Center at **949-268-2275** or Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center at **949-597-4284** for more information.



EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Our charming and unique equestrian facility offers boarding for resident-owned/lesson horses and a riding program for residents and their sponsored guests. In addition, riders and non-riders alike enjoy various events at our facility, including summer barbecues, the Taste of Country, Easter at the Equestrian Center and horse shows.

LOCATION

24312 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
949-597-4275

HOURS

Business hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour hours: Wednesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 and 2 p.m.

Riding program: Wednesday through Sunday; contact the Equestrian Center office for lesson schedules.

Tours and riding program are closed Monday and Tuesday.

HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES

Horsemanship classes at the Equestrian Center are all about developing the horse-man relationship. Horsemanship is a journey rather than a destination. In these group classes, staff combines lectures,

handouts, herd observation and hands-on education in the care of and communication with horses. It's a great opportunity for those who would like to someday own a horse or for those who just want to learn how to work with horses.

Six-session drop-in classes are offered Sunday at noon.

Those who graduate Level 1 are invited to join Level 2. Call or drop by the Equestrian Center for more information.

SPONSOR A GRF HORSE

The Equestrian Center is one of the happiest places in the Village—thanks to its many wonderful horses. Let's work together to keep that joy alive—please consider sponsoring a GRF horse!

Sponsorship Benefits

- You and your sponsored horse will be thanked in the equestrian newsletter.
- A special sign on the horse's stall door sporting the horse's and sponsor's names: "Sebastian is generously sponsored by Jane Smith."
- Receive an 8-by-10-inch color photo of your sponsored horse.
- Visit your special horse once a month to pet and take pictures during business hours.

Sponsorship Rules

- Handling, grooming or riding are not permitted.
- Giving food or treats may not be given without staff approval.
- Horses must remain in their stalls/paddocks.
- Staff must supervise visits.

Sponsorship Rates Per Horse

- \$650 monthly
- \$3,500 six months
- \$6,500 yearly

Sponsorship includes a percentage of the total board, feed and farrier costs for the care and maintenance of a GRF horse.

We truly are grateful for the generosity of those who sponsor our GRF horses. Please contact the equestrian supervisor for details on sponsorship.

Call **949-597-4275** for more information.



ONGOING CLASSES

Schedules subject to change without notice.

MONDAY

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Laughter Yoga with Cheryl Russell

Clubhouse 6 ballroom, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Zumba Gold with Tracy Murray

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 10 to 11 a.m.
\$25 for five classes

Ballroom Dance with Candi Davis

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 11 a.m. to noon.
\$35 for five group lessons

Belly Dance with Tahia

Performing Arts Center rehearsal room, 11:15 a.m. for beginner, 12:15 p.m. for intermediate
\$35 for five group lessons

Mat Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Polynesian Dance with Laura DeGuire

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Chair Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 5 to 6 p.m.
\$40 per eight-class session

Lengthen and Strengthen with Sheryl Leicher

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8:15 p.m.
Free drop-in class

TUESDAY

Yoga with Kim Min

Clubhouse 1 ballroom 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Tai Chi

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Clogging with Kathy Wu

Performing Arts Center rehearsal room, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Free drop-in class





RECREATION

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 9 to 10 a.m. and
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
\$40 per eight-class session

Chair Strength and Balance with Janet Gilliam

Clubhouse 1 gym, 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.
\$15 for five classes

Swim Clinic with Jan Levinrad

Pool 2, noon to 1 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.
Free drop-in class

IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
\$25 for five classes

Drum Circle

Performing Arts Center, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.
Free drop-in class

WEDNESDAY

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Zumba Gold with Tracy Murray

Clubhouse 5 ballroom, 9 to 10 a.m.
\$25 for five classes

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 10 to 11 a.m.
\$40 per eight-class session



Mindful Movement Yoga with Jerry Bloch

Performing Arts Center dining room, noon to 1 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Russian Language Class with Janet Preissler

Clubhouse 2 Grevillea Room, 3 to 5 p.m.
Free drop-in class

IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3 to 4 p.m.
\$25 for five classes

THURSDAY

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8 a.m.
and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
\$40 per eight-class session

Tai Chi Dance

Clubhouse 1, multipurpose room, 8 to 10:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 8 to 9 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Tai Chi

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Latin Line Dance with Rebeca Gilad

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Chair Strength and Balance with Janet Gilliam

Clubhouse 1 gym, 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.
\$15 for five classes

Tap Dance and Rhythms with Laura Fremont

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 10:30 to 11:20 a.m.
\$25 for five classes

Jazz and Ballet Mix-It-Up with Laura Fremont

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.
\$25 for five classes

Mat Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Chair Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Spanish Class with Walter Valencia

Performing Arts Center dining room, 1 to 3 p.m.
Email kevinvalencia@verizon.net to register

Vinyasa Yoga with Suzanne Curtis

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 3 to 4 p.m.
Free drop-in class

IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
\$25 for five classes

Meridian Yoga

Performing Arts Center dining room 2,
5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
Free drop-in class

FRIDAY**Cycling with Alisha Sullivan**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8 a.m.
\$40 per eight-class session

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Yoga with Kim Min

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Ballroom Dance with Ed VanOrnum

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
\$35 for five classes

Zumba Toning with Tracy Murray

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 9 to 10 a.m.
\$25 for five classes

Circle of Love Meditation with Zahir Movius

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Free drop-in class

SATURDAY**Tai Chi Dance**

Clubhouse 1 multipurpose room, 8 to 10:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Line Dance

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 2 to 3 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Disco Dance

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3 to 4 p.m.
Free drop-in class





Schedules subject to change without notice.

Clubhouse Reservations | 949-597-4227

Schedule reservations for Clubhouses 1, 2, 5 or 7; the Village Greens; the Performing Arts Center; or the Community Center at the recreation office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Reservations may be scheduled through December 31, 2025.
- Schedule reservations for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) auditorium with the PAC supervisor.
- Clubhouse 6 reservations Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Clubhouse 1 | 949-597-4281

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Fitness center open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Indoor mini-gym (badminton, pickleball, volleyball, basketball)
- Archery
- Shuffleboard
- Bocce
- Billiards
- Game room
- Drop-in lounge

Clubhouse 2 | 949-597-4285

- Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations; weekend hours vary based on reservations
- Video lab and studio, card room, lawn bowling

Clubhouse 4 | 949-597-4344

- Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Tuesday and Thursday which have extended hours until 8 p.m. Closed on all major holidays.
- Contact the clubhouse for specific studio hours. All studios open only when a volunteer supervisor is present: art studio, ceramics, glass studio, jewelry, lapidary, photo studio, quilting, sewing room, slipcasting, woodshop, machine shop

Clubhouse 5 | 949-597-4382

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and extended hours to accommodate reservations
- Game room
- Fitness center open daily 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Clubhouse 7 | 949-268-2417

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations; weekend hours vary based on reservations
- Bridge games Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- Bridge class schedule varies

Community Center | 949-597-4273

- Concierge, Resident Services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Table tennis: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.
- Mac learning center: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; **949-268-2263**
- PC workshop: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; **949-268-2262**
- Community fitness center Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Equestrian Center | 949-597-4275

- Business hours Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tours Wednesday and Thursday 2 p.m.; Friday through Sunday 12:30 and 2 p.m.
- Call to inquire about riding program.

Garden Centers | 949-268-2387

- Daily sunrise to sunset
- Call **949-268-2387** to schedule a tour.
- Website: **bit.ly/4elZ83E**

Golf | 949-597-4336

- 27-hole course open daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Online reservations only; see pro shop to create account.
- Driving range open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Par 3 course open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Call the course condition hotline at **949-597-4373** for course updates.

History Center | 949-206-0150

- Open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment

Lawn Bowling | 949-951-3027

- Open daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Morning social games Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 a.m. (October-June) and 9 a.m. (July-September)
- Afternoon social games Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at noon
- Evening social games Sunday, Monday and Wednesday at 3 p.m. (November-February), 4 p.m. (March-May and October) and 5 p.m. (June-September)
- Competitive game Friday at 9 a.m.
- Free lessons for residents and their guests Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. (September-March), 5:30 p.m. (April-August) and Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. or by appointment
- Website: **lwlbc.org**

Library | 949-597-4274

- Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Paddle Tennis | 949-597-4273

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday priority 7 a.m. to noon
- First, third Saturday priority 7 a.m. to noon

Performing Arts Center | 949-597-4289

- Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations
- Box office open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **949-597-4288**
- Auditorium open for scheduled shows; dates and times vary

Pickleball | 949-597-4273

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings priority 7 a.m. to noon; second, fourth Saturday priority 7 a.m. to noon

Pools | 949-597-4273

- Check the most current pool schedule at **bit.ly/4l8PdAX**.

Recreation Coordinated Classes | 949-597-4273

- Class schedule: **bit.ly/4fJhjRa**
- ActiveNet portal: **bit.ly/3eKhxts**
- ActiveNet tutorial video: **bit.ly/2UDQmJF**

Shuffleboard | 216-905-7051

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Club play: Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., Fridays at 1 p.m.
- Website: **bit.ly/4jDyO5Y**

Tennis | 949-268-2481

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- No reservations required for courts 1 to 7, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Court Reserve reservations required for courts 8 to 10, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Court Reserve reservations required for courts 6 and 7, 4:30 to 9 p.m. (lighted)
- For CourtReserve reservations, visit **bit.ly/4hl3bNS**.

Saddleback Emeritus | 949-582-4835

- Visit **saddleback.edu/emmeritus** for class schedule.

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.

Alison Bok
President
2024-2025

Martin Roza
First Vice President
2024-2027

Ellen Leonard
Second Vice President
2024-2027

Egon Garthoffner
Secretary
2022-2025

Andy Ginocchio
Treasurer
2024-2025

Cush Bhada
2023-2026

Marie Collins
2025-2026

Gary Duerst
2024-2026

Steven Leonard
2024-2026

Manohar Motwani
2024-2025

Brad Rinehart
2024-2027



THE VILLAGE IS YOUR PLAYGROUND

Explore every side of you.

By Second Vice President Ellen Leonard

Laguna Woods Village is not just a place to live—it's a place to thrive. Thanks to the collaboration between GRF Community Activities Committee (CAC) and VMS Department of Recreation and Special Events, residents have more choices than ever to play, create, learn and connect. Whether you are exploring your creative spark, flexing your intellectual muscles or simply looking for new ways to move, laugh and unwind, you can find an outlet to express your many sides right here.

YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE

Get your hands into clay at the pottery studio, melt glass in the jewelry room, sew up something spectacular or carve your next masterpiece in the woodshop. Not sure where to start? Drop by Clubhouse 4, where the inspiration is contagious.

YOUR INTELLECTUAL SIDE

Curious how the Village runs? We offer welcoming classes on how



local governance works, from committees to boards to budget planning. Get involved, stay informed and discover that policy can be surprisingly empowering. Drop by the Bob Sellards PC Club Learning Center on the third floor of the Community Center (24351 El Toro Road) for a class schedule or register for a class at bit.ly/3UCrAVL.

YOUR SOCIAL SIDE

A dance floor is always ready for you to enjoy ballroom dancing, line dancing or some other invigorating step. Or try your hand at billiards, join a tennis tournament or simply enjoy a walk at Aliso Creek with neighbors.

YOUR PHYSICAL SIDE

From pickleball, tennis and table tennis to golf, archery, body strengthening classes and more,

there is something for every fitness level, whether you are just starting out or still swinging strong. You move at your pace, but we promise you will have fun doing it.

YOUR EDUCATIONAL SIDE

Want to take better photos, transfer old family videos or tame your inbox? The Camera, Video, PC and Mac Clubs are ready with classes and one-on-one help. You do not need to be tech-savvy—you just need to show up.

YOUR REFLECTIVE SIDE

Enjoy a quiet moment in our resident-run Village Library or wander through the History Center, where you can take pride in our community's past, including 60 years of Village Television, on exhibit until the end of the year.

NEED RESTORATION?

The Equestrian Center offers more than riding lessons; it is a peaceful place for equine therapy, connection and healing. Horses do not judge.

AND AFTER ALL THAT?

Swing by 19 Restaurant & Lounge, where the greens are breathtaking, the food hits the spot and your scorecard stays our secret.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Here is the truth. There is no one way to do Village life. You can dip

a toe or dive in headfirst. But no matter what your interests, there is a corner of the Village with your name on it.

GOT A FRESH IDEA, SUGGESTION OR STORY?

We want to hear it!

- Email meeting@vmsinc.org with Community Activities Committee (CAC for short) in the subject line.
- Stop by the recreation office on the first floor of the Community Center (24351 El Toro Road).
- Attend a CAC meeting on the second Thursdays every month at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Center board room.

It's a wonderful life in Laguna Woods Village. The best part is the people who help shape it.

CAC MEMBERS GRF

Ellen Leonard, Chair
Steve Leonard

Third
Howard Fox
Moon Yun

United
Elsie Addington
Jeanne Costello

Mutual 50
John Luebbe

United Board of Directors

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

Mickie Choi Hoe
President
2023-2026

Jeanne Costello
First Vice President
2024-2027

Sue Quam
Second Vice President
2023-2026

Maggie Blackwell
Secretary
2024-2027

Charles Prater
Treasurer
2024-2027

Elsie Addington
2025-2026

Mourad Akesbi
2025-2027

Vidya Kale
2023-2025

Anthony Liberatore
2024-2025

Thomas Tuning
2022-2025

Georgiana Willis
2023-2026



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Strengthening our community
requires your involvement and voice.

By First Vice President Jeanne Costello

We've all heard the saying, "It takes a village." As homeowners, we're all part of Laguna Woods Village and an organization that affects our daily lives—United Mutual. The decisions made by the United board of directors shape essential aspects of our neighborhood and our Village: how common areas are maintained, how budgets are managed and how rules evolve to reflect our community's best interests. Yet too often, voter turnout in these elections is low, meaning just a few voices decide the direction of our shared home. In the most recent United Mutual board election held in October 2024, less than 30% of our members chose to have their voices heard.

Community building isn't passive—it requires your voice and your vote. Whether you're striving for better landscaping, a safer environment, fair bylaws or amenities that benefit everyone, the board has real authority, and your vote shapes who's in the driver's seat.

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Your vote in our mutual elections matters for you, because it:

- **Protects property value and quality of life.** The board controls spending and maintenance not only of our manors, but also our amenities and the common areas. If only a few vote, the board may not represent your interests in those areas.

- **Maintains fair representation.** Even the most well-meaning board may steer policy away from residents' needs and desires unless we exercise our right to be heard with a vote for a candidate who shares those same values.
- **Strengthens legitimacy.** High turnout builds trust, helps reach quorums and ensures elections meet legal thresholds. Per our bylaws, we must reach a certain percentage of our eligible membership to ensure a fair election. Voting ensures we don't have to hold a follow-up election because we didn't reach quorum.

HOW TO VOTE

1. Mark your calendar.

The official ballot was mailed Tuesday, August 26, 2025. In California, the Davis-Stirling Act requires timely notification of election dates, positions and voting instructions. Typically, this information is sent out 30 days before the voting deadline. If you did not receive your ballot or if your ballot was lost or damaged, please contact the UniLect inspector of elections' duplicate request call center at **866-466-6455**, which is available 24/7 throughout the balloting period.

2. Get to know the candidates.

Become acquainted with the candidates by reviewing election information online at **lagunawoodsvillage.com/united**, watching

the televised candidate interviews and recorded statements on **youtube.com/c/VillageTelevision**, attending in-person candidate Q&A forums and chatting with neighbors to understand candidates' projects and alignments.

3. Choose how to vote.

Whether you choose to walk in your vote to the Community Center ballot box or use mail-in voting, every vote is secured and counted.

4. Vote thoughtfully—and encourage neighbors to do so.

Make an informed vote, and help others do the same. Remind your neighbors about the deadlines, and offer to help them complete and send in their ballot.

BEYOND VOTING

Ongoing participation in building a stronger community and getting involved doesn't stop at voting.

You can also:

- **Attend board and committee meetings**, either in person or virtually, to stay informed about issues and hold the board accountable.
- **Join committees as an advisor**, where you can directly influence budgeting, decisions and rules. Have a special interest or field of study? We can use your insight and talents!
- **Suggest and participate in community social events** to

help neighbors get to know each other.

A WELL-GOVERNED MUTUAL

Your participation in the mutual board election is both a privilege and responsibility. It ensures fairness through quorum, supports balanced leadership and financial expenditures that benefit us all, fosters community trust and makes our neighborhoods and community a better place to live.

By voting and participating, you contribute to a well-governed mutual that reflects our shared values. Let's lift voter turnout, support our community and shape the leadership that safeguards our homes and lifestyles.

Please mark your calendar, review candidate information, choose your voting method and don't forget to cast your vote by **September 25**. Encourage your neighbors to vote, and let's show what an engaged community can accomplish. Our community thrives when we all show up.

After all, it takes a Village.

IMPORTANT! VOTING DEADLINE

All ballots are due by Thursday, September 25, 2025, by 11 a.m. if you mail your ballot to the UniLect inspector of elections or by 5 p.m. if you deposit it into the Community Center lobby ballot box.



Garden Villa Association Board of Directors

The Garden Villa Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday of even-numbered months at 4 p.m. General membership meetings are on the second Thursday of odd-numbered months at 10 a.m.

Stuart Hack
President, Region 2 Rep

Ro Kendall
Vice President, Region 3 Rep

Leah Kushman
Secretary, Region 4 Rep

Sheldon Mende
Treasurer, Region 7 Rep

Tom Stacy
Communications Director

Gail Berra
Region 1 Rep

Marti Mangan
Region 5 Rep

Theresa Keegan
Jim Southworth
Region 6 Co-Reps

Laurie Bereny
Regions 8 & 9 Rep

Joe Camera
Ad Hoc Building Captain



LIVING IN A THREE-STORY BUILDING

Discover the advantages that make life in these manors an enriching experience.

By President Stuart Hack, Garden Villa Association

Three-story buildings are a unique presence in Laguna Woods Village. Living among 23 other manors is significantly different from living in a five-plex, two-story building, two-plex or standalone home. Although this living arrangement might not be for everyone, those who choose it reap many advantages for a few inconveniences.



In general, the units are larger with open floor plans and great views from their windows and balconies. LH 21 buildings tend to be on hilltops with amazing

views and Garden Villa buildings surrounded by lovely gardens. Third Mutual is implementing a long-term changeover of the landscaping to native plantings that are drought tolerant and fire resistant. The new look may take time to appreciate, but the benefits are vital.

Residing in a three-story building is like living in a mini-city. Social opportunities are immediately available, right outside your door. Residents look out for each other. Each building has an elevator which gains importance as we get older each year. The laundry rooms, one on each floor, are a shared cost bargain.

The Garden Villa buildings provide an enclosed entrance foyer, enclosed mail room, underground parking with storage units and well-equipped rec room. LH 21s have covered parking that includes storage.

While the prices for these units tend to be lower per square foot than other types of manors in the Village, they do

bear a small additional monthly assessment for elevator and rec room maintenance: currently \$6.25 for the rec rooms and \$18.25 for the elevators.

Successful living in large multi-unit buildings requires a “live and let live” attitude. We see more, hear more and know more about our neighbors. Having Garden Villa Association (GVA) building captains to educate the residents, answer questions and look after the building’s maintenance is a major plus. The building captains provide welcome packets of information, maintain the building directory, keep contact information in the event of an emergency and more. GVA provides loads of information about Third Mutual committee and board activities, so residents can be up to date on happenings that may affect them.

Living in a three-story building is a pleasant and enriching experience. For additional information about the GVA and three-story buildings, contact agardenvilla@gmail.com.

GVA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES			
Region 1	Gail Berra	949-616-8315	gberra@comline.com
Region 2	Stuart Hack	949-212-7028	gvalwv@gmail.com
Region 3	Ro Kendall	818-438-9280	RoKendall@gmail.com
Region 4	Leah Kushman	818-469-6680	LeahKushman@gmail.com
Region 5	Marti Mangan	714-501-4774	martinamangan@att.net
Region 6	Theresa Keegan (co)	631-379-0155	tkeegan1@yahoo.com
	Jim Southworth (co)	760-709-0149	skierfromh@aol.com
Region 7	Sheldon Mende	949-877-8639	shel18@me.com
Regions 8 and 9	Laurie Bereny	818-216-5205	ljbereny@yahoo.com

Third Board of Directors

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

S.K. Park
President
2023-2025

Reza Karimi
First Vice President
2023-2025

Robert Mutchnick
Second Vice President
2024-2027

Steve Parsons
Secretary
2024-2025

Donna Rane-Szostak
Treasurer
2024-2026

Howard Fox
2024-2026

James Hopkins
2025-2026

Ruth Johnson
2024-2027

Peggy Moore
2024-2025

Craig Wayne
2024-2027

Moon G. Yun, M.D.
2023-2026

WATER CONSERVATION: MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

By Treasurer Donna Rane-Szostak

Third Mutual spent over \$3.1 million on water in 2024! Laguna Woods is in a portion of Orange County with no access to reliable ground water sources—thus, all our potable (drinking) water is imported hundreds of miles—at great cost! Because our water bill is covered by our monthly assessment, it is easy to forget how our own individual water use affects that cost.

Third Mutual has made significant progress controlling excessive use and costs of landscape water. Most of Third Mutual landscape watering has been converted to recycled water. Additionally, thousands of square feet of water-hungry turf have been replaced with drought-tolerant plants—saving both water and labor!

Unfortunately, in terms of residential water, costs and use remain high. However, residents can help conserve water and decrease costs:

- Take shorter showers to save 2.5 gallons of water per minute.
- Turn off water while shaving or brushing teeth to save up to 10 gallons per person per day.
- Scrape food off dishes instead of pre-rinsing to save up to 2 gallons per minute.
- Run clothes and dishwashers only when full. Clothes washers save 15-45 gallons per load. Dishwashers save 5-15 gallons per load.

Most important: Check for and fix leaks! One drop of water per minute from a faucet can waste 3,000 gallons a year. Average water loss from a toilet leak is 200 gallons per day. Toilet leaks are easy to detect: Place a blue tablet (available at no charge from Resident Services) in the holding tank. If the water in the bowl turns blue you have a leak.

Consider buying and installing leak detectors. These inexpensive devices can save thousands of dollars on water waste and repairs inside your manor—or in a manor damaged by a leak from your manor. (For more on leak detectors, read “To the Rescue” on page 44 of the January/February 2025 Village Breeze at bit.ly/4mECgiJ.)

To keep informed, attend our quarterly Third Mutual Water Conservation Committee meetings on the last Thursdays of January, April, July and October at 2 p.m. in the Community Center.



Village Management Services, Inc.

VMS Board of Directors

Jim Glassman
Chair
Third, 2024-2026

Cynthia Rupert
First Vice Chair
United, 2023-2026

Kathryn Bravata
Second Vice Chair
United, 2024-2025

Jeffrey Beck
GRF, 2025-2026

Bunny Carpenter
Third, 2025

Mark Laws
GRF, 2024-2027

Manny Robledo
United, 2024-2027

Juanita Skillman
GRF, 2025

Candace Tysdal
Third, 2024-2027



A NEW WAY TO SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Online format makes it faster and easier
for residents to be heard year-round.

By Chair Jim Glassman

The Village Management Services (VMS) board of directors is introducing a faster, easier way for residents to share thoughts and experiences year-round. Beginning in September, the new online Resident Satisfaction Survey will replace the previous once-a-year format with a simple, always-available form.

The survey takes less than three minutes to complete, can be filled out anonymously and is available in English and other languages through Google Translate. No login or resident ID is required, and it works on any device. You can use it to share your overall impressions, rate recent service experiences, note communication preferences and offer suggestions for improvement.

To access the survey, click the purple “Contact Us” button in the top menu bar of the Village website. Also look for QR codes in high-traffic areas like clubhouses, Resident Services and the concierge desk.

Responses will be reviewed regularly, with key trends and service themes reported to the VMS board of directors and to VMS executive leadership. This helps us understand what’s working well and where we can improve. Your feedback shapes the services, amenities and experiences that make Laguna Woods Village a great place to live. We encourage every resident to take a few minutes to participate and be part of shaping our community’s future.

Mutual No. Fifty Board of Directors

Earl Adamy
President
2025-2026

John Luebbe
Vice President
2025-2026

Margaret Bennett
Secretary
2025

Walt Bausman
Treasurer
2025-2026

Cindy Lillibridge
Director at Large
2025



THE TOWERS AT LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE ELECTS A NEW DIRECTION

By Secretary Margaret Bennett and Vice President John Luebbe

In April and May, 85% of Towers owners voted 182-32 in favor of electing a new board of directors to solidify their future in one of the best independent living communities in Southern California. The new board members bring a wealth of experience to their new positions and enthusiastically approach the changes necessary to return The Towers to an alternative resort style of independent living that is safe, secure and stable.



Earl
Adamy

MEET THE BOARD

Earl Adamy will use his understanding of financial statements and HOA reserve studies to construct effective plans with proven skills in restructuring and leading organizations to achieve their objectives. He brings deep experience in constructing effective plans to address both management and financial issues, as well as proven skills in restructuring and leading organizations to achieve their objectives.

John Luebbe is well-respected in Laguna Woods Village, having served on boards of directors for Third Mutual and GRF. He is committed to adhering to governing documents, state and federal laws and Davis-Stirling guidelines. Making good decisions is a major concern as homeowner participation in the process serves to improve communication. He also brings his business background as a retail store owner.

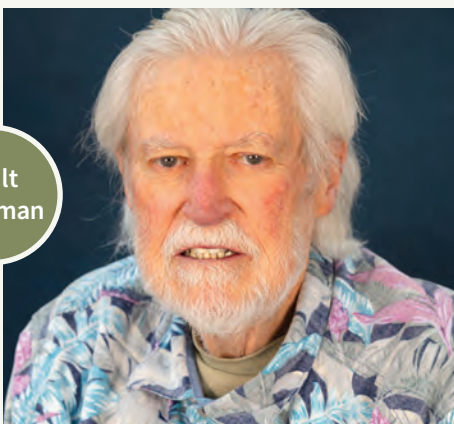
John
Luebbe



Margaret Bennett has served on community, educational and homeowner boards of directors for decades, including the Towers board from 2021 to 2023. With a master's in public administration and a paralegal certification, she brings extensive experience in compliance, finance, personnel and grants in higher education, as well as intellectual property, international contracts and research projects.

Walt Bausman is a CPA who began his career in accounting at Price Waterhouse. With a bachelor's in accounting, he spent 45 years as a consultant for nonprofits with extensive experience in regulatory

Walt
Bausman



Margaret
Bennett



compliance and strategic planning, which he currently utilizes to develop a financial plan for The Towers to restore stability, trust and transparency.

Cindy Lillibridge asked to be appointed liaison between homeowners and the board to ensure questions are answered and concerns are addressed. Her experience as an operations supervisor for the U.S. Postal Service will serve her well in ensuring board transparency, fiscal responsibility and communication of all resident concerns.

For more information, visit [TheTowersatLagunaWoods.com](https://www.thetowersatlagunawoods.com). Watch this space!

Cindy
Lillibridge



THEN AND NOW



This mural of the Acjachemen people is on display at Laguna Hills City Hall.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Long before Laguna Woods existed, the indigenous Acjachemen people called this land home for over 16,000 years. Hundreds of Acjachemen villages ranged throughout Orange County from the San Gabriel River in Seal Beach to the Santa Margarita River in Camp Pendleton.

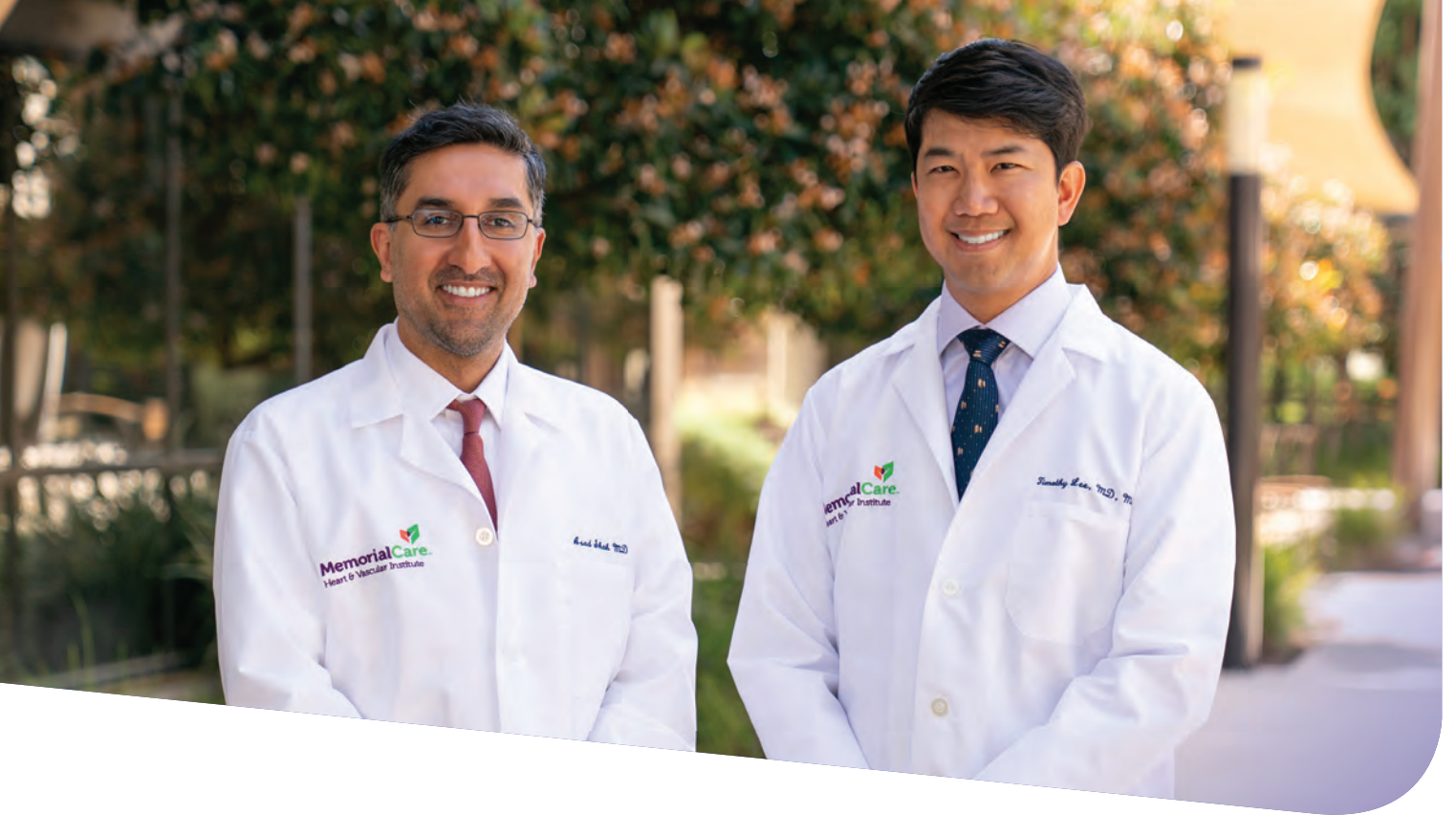
Today many contemporary members of the tribe identify as descendants of the indigenous society living in the local San Juan and San Mateo Creek areas and prefer the term Acjachemen, which literally means “wild sweet pea.”

Juaneño is the Acjachemen language, which is closely related to Luiseño, the language of the nearby Payómkawichum people. Both languages belong to the Takic branch of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Although Juaneño became extinct by the early 20th century, the Acjachemen tribe is working to revive and preserve the language for future generations.



Acjachemen woman in front of adobe house grinding with mano and metate. An earth oven is behind her under the sunshade. Copyright and possibly photographed by Herve Friend 1892.

The Laguna Woods History Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that receives no assessment funding, is located next to the Village Library. Visit weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment (call **949-206-0150**). Visit the website at **lagunawoodshistory.org**.



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MemorialCare doesn't just provide health care – it transforms it.

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We are excited to announce the addition of distinguished cardiothoracic surgeons, Dr. Asad Shah and Dr. Tim Lee, to our team at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center. With their arrival, MemorialCare continues to set the standard for superior medical care and treatments.

Learn More:



Asad A. Shah, M.D.
memorialcare.org/AsadShah



Tim M. Lee, M.D.
memorialcare.org/TimLee



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✓ QuickCare Visit

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