



"To preserve and enhance the unique village character of Laguna Beach."

Newsletter

THE VILLAGE LAGUNA NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2005 • ESTABLISHED 1971

Potluck Supper and Awards to Community Organizations

At a potluck supper and general meeting on Monday, June 27, Village Laguna will host representatives of the various community organizations to which we contribute and present checks for a total of \$6,710. The groups receiving donations this year are the Crosscultural Council La Playa Center and Laguna Day Workers' Center, Clean Water Now!, Even Start, the Friends of the Library, Friendship Shelter, the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club, the Laguna Beach Community Clinic, the Laguna

Beach Historical Society, Laguna Beach Seniors, the Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Shanti, the Laguna Resource Center, Schoolpower, and the Surfrider Foundation. Smaller amounts have already been given to the Top of the World Jogathon, Schoolpower, and the Laguna Beach Exchange Club (for the Police Awards Banquet).

Members are invited to bring food for six or more (we're feeding our guests, so be sure to bring enough to share) to the Wells Fargo 3rd-floor community room at 6 p.m.

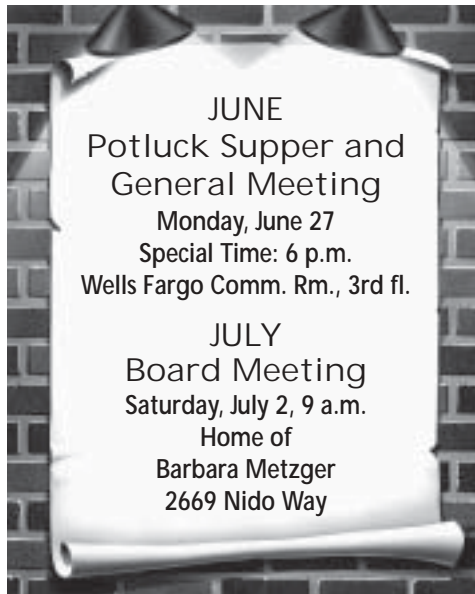
Council Acts on Second Thoughts about the Pottery Shack Renovation

Not too long ago, the new owner of the Pottery Shack property received permits to turn it into five retail suites, a restaurant, and two office suites and to provide less than half the parking spaces (41 of 98) that would otherwise be required in exchange for rehabilitating and preserving the E-rated historic structures. Village Laguna supported the tradeoff while urging the Council to take steps to reduce the impact of the parking deficit on the neighbors.

Perhaps demonstrating the need to be careful what you wish for, the City Council last week approved in concept a proposal to demolish the Glenneyre St. building and remove the sycamore tree that shades it to build an underground parking structure for 45 cars. The proposal is to devote 10 spaces to the development's own parking deficit and allow the leasing to the city or to other businesses of the remaining spaces. (It may be recalled that the original proposal also envisioned creating "excess" spaces on paper with a 75% parking reduction incentive and this idea was rejected.) The original building would be replaced by a new one set



Glenneyre St. Pottery Shack building and sycamore tree



JUNE
Potluck Supper and
General Meeting
Monday, June 27
Special Time: 6 p.m.
Wells Fargo Comm. Rm., 3rd fl.

JULY
Board Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 9 a.m.
Home of
Barbara Metzger
2669 Nido Way

back from the street and, according to the developer, "designed to fit with the character of the renovation on Coast Highway."

Village Laguna joined neighbors and others in pointing out that the proposal violates the agreement to preserve all but one of the landmark structures and the tree and should therefore result in a reduction in the number of parking credits granted the project and a dedication of the new parking to the project's own use. The appearance of the site from the Glenneyre St. side will be dramatically altered by the removals, and in addition the roof of the park-

(Continued on page 4)

June, 2005

President's Message

By Doug Reilly



I noticed the sound of helicopters around 7:45 a.m. and thought it unusual for police to be chasing a burglar this way in Laguna. I walked out of my home and looked up to find five helicopters hovering in a neat circle over Bluebird Canyon. Thinking that another fire had broken out, I quickly turned on my car radio and heard KNX reporting the landslide that had just destroyed at least 15 homes. Once again, Lagunans were dealing with disaster, something to which we have unfortunately become accustomed. How did we respond? By pulling together to help those in need, just as we have in the past.

We attended the community breakfast to help raise funds for the families who lost their homes, and it was great to see the outpouring of support from hundreds of residents. Over 400 of us attended the fundraiser for the Laguna Relief & Resource Center, which was already scheduled to raise critically needed funds for the center but immediately became the focus of victim relief efforts.



Village Laguna contributed \$1,000 to Laguna Relief that weekend and, with member approval on June 27, will donate another \$1,000 to support relief efforts.

Some of our members and supporters were affected by this tragedy, including Tim Saunders, who lost his home; Vera Martinez, whose home was damaged; and VL vice president Liza Stewart, whose original family home was spared — by mere feet. Rebuilding these neighborhoods will take years, and in the meantime landslide victims need our help. To donate, make checks payable to Laguna Relief and send them to Laguna Relief & Resource Center, 3305 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. Note in the memo which part you want donated for landslide relief (the rest goes to the center). Or you can volunteer by calling Debi Cortez of the center at (949) 338-4846. >

A Blue Bird Concert (BBC) at El Morrow Elementary School is being organized for Saturday, June 25, noon to 7 p.m. Please contact Andy Alison at (949) 307-9094 cell or 497-7210 if you want to sponsor, volunteer or donate talent to this fundraiser. Tickets will be sold at the door, \$25 per adult, children accompanied by an adult free, students with student I.D. \$10.

Please email me at reillyd@cox.net or contact me at 494-4137 if you have ideas or suggestions on ways we can help. ≈

Planning Commission to Consider Change in Maximum Grade for New Streets

In response to the recent refusal of the Post Office to deliver mail on certain steep streets in the city, the City Manager has pointed to the need to consider safety as a primary criterion in establishing new streets and evaluating proposed road extensions. The maximum grade for new streets is now 15%, and an earlier proposal by the Fire Department of a reduction of the maximum to 12% was considered in 2000 and, after extensive public input, tabled. The Fire Department noted at the time that steeper roads impair response times, operations, and safety, and the City Engineer cited difficulty of operation of vehicles and the risk of pedestrian injuries because of reduced sight distance in the transition from one grade to another. The Council, without comment, directed the Planning Commission to consider the matter. ≈

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Doug Reilly 494-4137

Vice-President

Liza Stewart 499-1934

Corresponding Secretary

Bonnie Hano 497-7454

Recording Secretary

OPEN

Treasurer

Verna Rollinger 494-9878

Immediate Past President

Ginger Osborne 499-4809

DIRECTORS

Bette Anderson 494-9538

Ann Christoph 499-3574

Cathy Fry 497-7330

Ed Fry 497-7330

Darrylin Girvin 376-7565

George Keplinger 494-7492

Helen Krugman 494-8015

Sal Maddi 494-0109

Barbara Metzger 494-3624

Mary Rabe 494-4646

Phyllis Sweeney 494-1335



Boardmember e-mail addresses are available on our website: villagelaguna.org.

Thanks to Everyone Who Helped Make the 2005 Charm House Tour a Success!

Chair, Charm House Tour Committee

Anne Caenn

Homeowners

Randy Boyd (Ocean
Peek)Michael Graves
(Tuscan Romance)
Debbie and Todd
Herzer (Manzanita
Cottages)Sandra and Joseph
Longnecker (Casa
Cielo)Mary and Herb
Rabe (Malcolm St.
Clair House)

House Selection

Ann Price

Eve Loftsgaard

Hostesses

Charlotte Masarik
(chair)

Casa Cielo: Maxine

Graves (head)

Lorianne Adriance

George Alexander

Diane Christie

Bill DeLand

Bruce Elerding

Sandi Fagan

Darrilyn Girvin

John Graves

Barbara Hoag

Mary La Russo

Lydia Mascarin

Todd Muffatti

Celeste Rogers

Tim Saunders

Karen Schwager

Angela Shearer

Ann Wood

Steve Wood

Malcolm St. Clair

House: Guine

Breeding (head)

Nancy Baker

Lou Gilmore

Tom Girvin
Joan McFarland
Gen McMenemy
Alex Masarik
Celia Rayment
Rita Moon

Manzanita Cottages:

Diane Keplinger (head)

Kep Keplinger (head)

Martha Anderson

Ellen Crane

Tom Crane

Rose Hancock

Gene Horner

Kris Horner

Caroline Koltai

Mickael Koltai

Pat Kramer

Helen Krugman

Bob Lawson

Jean Lawson

Anita Walton

Ron Walton

Ocean Peek: Ilene

Glassman (head)

Madeleine Peterson

(head)

Pat Griggs

Michael Hoag

Fran Hudzinski

Betsy Jenkins

Carrie Joyce

Pamela Keefe

Nancy Miller

Patrick Miller

Jeff Nixon

Jim Perry

Lana Perry

Nora Praisler

Pamela Strayer

Tuscan Romance: Colin

Henderson (head)

Ellin Henderson (head)

Betty Bartle

Kathleen Bouvier

Josephine Giroux

Ruth Ellen Heath

John Hein

Eve Loftsgaard

Sharon McNair

Martha Marino
Rosie Puff
Michelle Prata
B.J. Vanalstine
Ann Weisbrod
Peter Weisbrod

Bus Transportation

Johanna Felder

Bus Guides

Bob Borthwick (chair)

Mike Beanan

Ed Fry

J.J. Gasparotti

Janette Hartwood

Toni Iseman

Eric Jessen

Steve Kawaratani

John Monahan

Richard Moore

Linda Morgenlander

Suzanne Morrison

Tom Osborne

Kimberly Stuart

Traffic Control

Mike Beanan

Gene Felder

David Rosenman

Bus Tour Scripts

John Monahan

Program

Robin Brown

Program Editor

Gene Felder

Refreshments

Barbara Dresel (chair)

Alfredo Carreaga

Ann Christoph

Joy Dickerson

Alyssa Heitel

Jessica Heitel

Myrna Heitel

Marion Jacobs

Barbara Metzger

Jinger Wallace

Cookies

Barbara Metzger (chair)

Bette Anderson

Martha Anderson

Vicki Borthwick

Anne Caenn

Fran Chilcote

Ann Christoph

Mary Douglas

Johanna Felder

Mary Betty Fischer

Ginger Fitzpatrick

Nancy Gasparotti

Darrilyn Girvin

Jim and Jan Hall

Toni Iseman and Steve

Miller

Betsy Jenkins

Siggy Johnson

Helen Krugman

Bonnie MacFarland

Gen McMenemy

Charlotte Masarik

Jeannette Merrilees

Meg Monahan

Ginger Osborne

Rosemary Price

Mary Rabe

Verna Rollinger

Karen Rosenberg

Judy Sinisgalli

Claire Stoneman

Phyllis Sweeney

Ann Weisbrod

Publicity

Doug Reilly

Plaques

Helen Krugman

Details

Darrilyn Girvin

Mailing List

Ryen Caenn

Treasurer and Banner

Verna Rollinger

Corresponding Secretary

Cristina Calderone

Artwork

Cindy Love

Printing

John Keith

Technical Support

John Lombardo

Ticket Outlets and

Posters

Ed Merrilees

Ticket Sales: Outlets

Animal Crackers

Art of Framing

Coast Pet Supply

Copy and Print

Center

Fawn Memories

Golden Spoon

Hotel Laguna

La Casa del Camino

Mail Connection

Post & Package

Rock Martin Jewelry

Silver Images

UPS Store

Ticket Sales

Bette Anderson

(chair)

Ken Anderson

Helen Krugman

Verna Rollinger

Phyllis Sweeney

Betty Swenson

After-Tour Party

Ginger Osborne

Cathy Fry

Party Assistance

Café Zoolu

Claes' Seafood Etc. at

Hotel Laguna (raffle
prize)

Salerno Italian

Restaurant

Tivoli Terrace

Zinc Café and

Market

Membership

Julie Coccas

Liza Stewart

Steve Stewart

Pottery Shack, continued from page one

ing structure (and therefore the parking surface off Glenneyre) will be seven feet above ground at the rear face of the building. Whereas the slope of the property once hid most of the cars in the lot and allowed a clear view of much of the back of the building, the new construction seems likely to replace that view with one of parked cars.

Some speakers questioned the wisdom of moving cars around the neighborhood rather than dealing with the problem at its source, which is intensification of use, and one predicted that the new building would probably be used more intensely than the original one. They encouraged the Council to allow time and opportunity for thoughtful consideration of the proposal by all the bodies involved in the original decision — Heritage Committee, Planning Commission, Design Review Board, and Parking, Traffic, and Circulation Committee. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the management of the Surf and Sand spoke in favor of the proposal.

Council members expressed surprise at the opposition and explained that the idea had been suggested to the developer by two of them — Toni Iseman and Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider — as a way of getting what they thought the neighbors wanted. They had even considered the city's paying for part of it until they learned that the cost might be \$1.6 million. They agreed to take a close look at the design for the replacement building and suggested that it might be possible to move the tree (which is said to be 70 years old and probably as deep and wide underground as it is high and wide above). The applicant requested expedited handling of the approval process, which could be completed in a matter of weeks. ≈

Woman of the Year

At a sold-out luncheon at the Woman's Club on June 3, friends of Ann Christoph told her how much she is valued as a friend and a community leader.

Many of us have known Ann best in the years since she left the City Council for private life, bringing with her the same commitment to the good of the community that she demonstrated while she was in office. In those years, first, under contract with the City, she designed us some beautiful parks — Alta Laguna Park (in collaboration with Bob Borthwick and Fred Lang), the renovated Bluebird Park, and South Laguna's Village Green.

As a private citizen, she became part of the task force that produced the Landscape and Scenic Highways Resource Document — a planning source book that contains descriptions of 31 Laguna neighborhoods and landscaping suggestions for enhancing their unique character. She participated in the Vision Process as an active member of the Community Character-Place committee. And, as a member of Village Laguna and the South Laguna Civic Association, she continued to follow the affairs of the City and alert us to situations in which a Laguna principle — say, protection of the environment or preservation of neighborhood character — was in need of defending.

When she speaks on issues before the City Council, she

is unfailingly thoughtful, informed, and constructive, and as long as there is the faintest hope of making a positive difference, she doesn't give up. She is an inspiration to the rest of us and keeps us going.

Laguna has a long tradition of community participation in government. It's one of the things that makes it special. Ann is an outstanding representative of that tradition, and we're happy to see her being honored for it. ≈

Oceanfront Mansion Project Continued until Mid-July

The proposed development at 31351 Coast Highway, originally scheduled for a fourth hearing before the Design Review Board on June 2, will now be heard only in mid-July. Given the board members' concerns and those of the community about the demolition of the E-rated structure, it may be that some modification of the plans is in the works. ≈



Historic home at 31351 Coast Highway



Approximate placement of building



Architectural rendition of proposed house, approximate size as it would appear on property shown above

The L.A. Times Puts the Issue in Perspective Should Toni Iseman Be Reappointed to the Coastal Commission? The *L.A. Times* Says Yes

In a May 28 editorial entitled "Common-sense Conservation: Sore Winners," the *Los Angeles Times* had the following to say about the controversy over whether Toni Iseman should be reappointed to the Coastal Commission:

In this environmental quiz, guess who won in each case below: the conservationists or their opponents?

■ DDT ban in place, the bald eagle is making a nationwide comeback. But there is one island in California where the bird isn't doing well, so rehabilitation efforts there might end.

■ After a 30-year fight over developing the Dana Point Headlands, the final project has less than one-seventh the number of homes and one-eighth the number of hotel rooms that were originally approved.

■ At the Bolsa Chica wetlands near Huntington Beach, the number of homes in a proposed development shrank by more than 90%, and plans for a big marina and commercial development were scrapped.

Despite hard-earned gains on all three fronts, conservationists feel that any scaling back represents loss. Yet environmental decisions are usually matters of balance and degree. How much development versus how much open space? How much public money spent on protecting endangered species versus, say, transportation? If environmentalists insist on a political model — did we win or lose? — they almost always lose, at least as they see it.

Some are protesting over bald eagles and Yosemite trails; those are discussed in the editorials below. The most far-ranging recent example, though, involves those who seek the ouster of Coastal Commissioner Toni Iseman because the onetime darling of the anti-developers voted in favor of the downsized Headlands and Bolsa Chica projects.

In these conservationists' eyes, because they're not getting everything they wanted, they lost. This is environmentalism at its least attractive, when it gets the ruby slippers but wants your little dog, too.

Look what they've gained: In 1980, a plan for 5,700 homes, a 1,300-slip marina and hundreds of acres of commercial buildings on 1,600 acres at the Bolsa Chica wetlands won preliminary approval. None of it was built. Instead, a quarter-century later, the Coastal Commission approved 349 homes and a park on 105 acres on an adjacent mesa, while the wetlands remain an ecological and recreational haven undergoing an ambitious restoration project.

In 1974, Orange County supervisors approved 800 homes, two 400-room hotels and 27 acres of commercial space on the Dana Point Headlands, an oceanfront bluff. That development never happened either; instead, 30 years later, the Coastal Commission approved 125 homes, a 90-room inn and 40,000 square feet of commercial space, as well as five connected parks on 60 acres with trails, and more than 20 acres set aside for a handful of endangered Pacific pocket mice.

There remain, however, valid questions about whether the project is replacing an existing seawall or building a new one, which would violate state law.

Iseman is hardly a despoiler of the wilderness. The projects she approved shrank from concrete sprawl to ecologically sensitive developments tempered with a dose of fairness and realism. Conservationists gained — both times. They just can't have Toto, too. ≈

The Dip House: Next Phase

The proposed house at 1530 Glenneyre St., in the middle of Bluebird Canyon, was approved by the City Council reluctantly, after a closed session with the City Attorney on May 17. The adoption of a resolution to that effect was postponed from June 7 to June 21 so that neighbors would have an opportunity to see the language of the hold-harmless agreement associated with the approval. Given that the project is within 100 feet of a watercourse (indeed, in the watercourse), it is appealable to the Coastal Commission, and an appeal has already been filed. ≈

Join Village Laguna! Pay annual dues of only \$20 per member or \$35 per family and receive our informative monthly newsletter, attend fun parties, stay informed at our monthly meetings, participate in our annual Charm House Tour, and support local city and school board candidates. (If you are already a member, check your membership status on your mailing label. For example, 1/1/2005 means your membership expired in January of this year.)

If you would like to join Village Laguna or if you need to renew, please clip and return this form with your check. If you are already a member, why not share this application with a friend or neighbor?

Name(s) _____ Phone # _____

Street Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

I would like to volunteer for _____

I have enclosed my check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$20/person, \$35/family)

Mail to: Village Laguna, P. O. Box 1309, Laguna Beach, CA 92652



P. O. Box 1309
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Floral arrangement from Village Laguna provided for the May 31, 2005 Memorial Day celebration at Heisler Park

New Procedures for Public Input at Council Meetings

Discussing the ideas raised at their retreat about managing public input, during their May 3 meeting Council members abandoned the idea of requiring speakers to submit cards in advance. Steve Dicterow explained that his concern had been not to limit speakers or require them to speak in any particular order, but simply to make sure that their names would be properly spelled in the minutes. In the place of this idea, they decided to ask speakers to print their names on a clipboard at the podium.

The timer and light system was, however, adopted, and is now in place. Speakers may find the three-minute buzzer alarming, but the system has the advantage of displaying a running count of the time elapsed so that they can edit their remaining remarks accordingly. ≈

Coastal Commission Approves Corporate Yard Move

To no one's surprise, the City's compromise proposal for moving the Corporate Yard to the ACT V lot was approved unanimously by the Coastal Commission at its meeting in San Pedro on June 7. ≈

Time Schedule for Village Entrance Outlined

The City Council voted on June 7 to earmark \$42,325 in the 2005-6 budget for revised plans for the Village Entrance parking structure (to incorporate some Corporate Yard uses on the ground floor, in accordance with the compromise) and \$125,000 for an environmental impact report and related documents. Requests for proposals for the EIR preparation are to be solicited right away. The revised plans should be ready for consideration in a workshop in October. The City Manager estimates that the project might go to the Planning Commission in April 2007 and, after identification of a funding strategy by the Council, go out to bid July 2008, break ground in September 2009, and be completed by October 2010, with the park completion to follow by May 2011. ≈

Village Laguna Loses a Loyal Friend

Catherine McIntyre, a longtime member of Village Laguna, died on October 14, 2004. In recent years we heard from her once a year when she contributed cookies to the Charm House Tour even though she was no longer able to make or deliver them herself. Her daughter, Cathy Burton, reports that Catherine loved Village Laguna for helping to keep Laguna Beach the way she and her husband had first seen it when they moved here many years ago. We are grateful that she was one of us. ≈