



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

Newsletter

THE VILLAGE LAGUNA NEWSLETTER • MAY 2005 • ESTABLISHED 1971

THIS SUNDAY!



Village Laguna 33rd Annual Charm House Tour on May 15

The popular Village Laguna Charm House Tour will be held on Sunday, May 15. Each year the tour has been attended by over 800 residents and visitors from all over who spend an enchanting Sunday afternoon visiting Laguna's most beautiful and interesting homes.

This year's tour is the 33rd annual and will feature five of Laguna Beach's most special homes, ranging from Laguna charmers to modern masterpieces. Tickets are \$35 each pre-sale, and \$40 the day of the event provided that tickets are still available. Tickets can be obtained by writing P.O. Box 1309, Laguna Beach 92652. Additional information is available at (949) 472-7522.

The tour will focus on homes in the central village area of Laguna Beach this year. Highlights include:

Manzanita Cottages



Garden cottages that capture the essence of Laguna, the Manzanita Cottages have shingled roofs, brightly painted front doors, fireplaces, hardwood floors and hand-painted tiles nestled in a private garden compound. Back in the 1920s, when Hollywood film stars turned Laguna Beach into a chic Bohemian resort town, film producer Harry Greene commissioned local architect Thomas Harper to design



Casa Cielo
High in the hills above Laguna Beach, this secluded estate received recognition as a lone survivor of the tragic 1993 Laguna fire. The "miracle home" provides a breathtaking 180-degree view of the ocean as it rests far above the city and replicates the splendor and romance of a 19th-century European country home. Carved doors once hung in a late-18th-century castle in northern Germany, the simply embel-

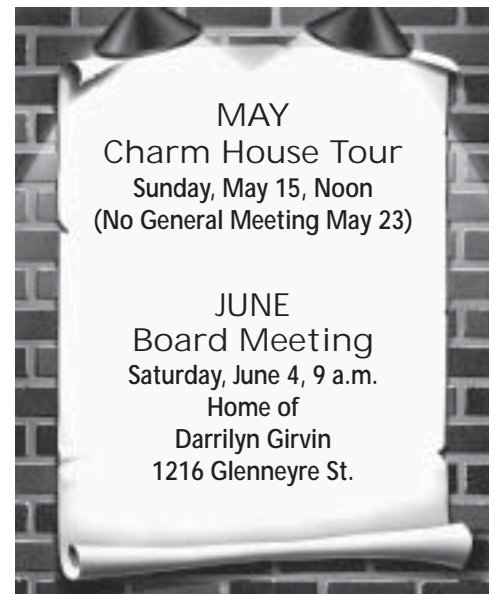
lished greystone fireplace was discovered in Belgium and is 200 years old, and the elegant Old World kitchen features a LaCornue French oven.

The Malcolm St. Clair House

When Laguna was young, the Hollywood elite stayed in this cottage while visiting their friend Malcolm St. Clair, who worked for Warner Brothers as location director for old-time silent-screen films. Designed in 1924, this shingled cottage was on the outskirts of the town surrounded by only barren hillsides. The glass in the large windows is original, as



four cottages where he could invite friends for getaways from the studio. Interiors have been renovated to capture vintage charm yet take advantage of modern amenities.



MAY
Charm House Tour
Sunday, May 15, Noon
(No General Meeting May 23)

JUNE
Board Meeting
Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.
Home of
Darrilyn Girvin
1216 Glenneyre St.



The Malcolm St. Clair House

are the wooden floors. The garage has two swinging doors and is called a “Model A” garage. The authentic water pump and brick well in the kitchen are original.

Ocean Peek

The shingled Cape Cod-style 1930s cottage located on Lombardy Lane is set on a luxurious double lot and combines an elegant mix of collected treasures and antiques. The dining room/library opens out onto the deck and gardens. The charming kitchen, somewhat redesigned, features black hand-honed marble countertops atop white vintage-style cabinetry.



The glassed closet doors are seventeenth-century European. A rare Basque armoire from the late 1800s and a Swedish free-standing clock are only a few of the special pieces.

Casa Bella

A former 1960s clerestory-windowed A-frame with vertical board exterior has been transformed into an Italian-style “Tuscan Romance” home. The front Palladian arched window, iron balcony, terracotta exterior and lush



gardens with fountains invite entry into this Italian country home. The fireplace, the original oil painting of Tuscan countryside, and seating make guests want to linger upstairs and enjoy the view of trees and hills. The deck and hillside gardens include a bar, weeping wall, formal fountain, firepit, wooden furniture and authentic Mediterranean plants.

Tram Schedule

Specially chartered Laguna Beach City trams will leave continually from the bus stop in front of the Festival of Arts on Laguna Canyon Road, starting at noon. Trams will circulate among the homes, return to the Festival area and serve the Act V parking lot throughout the day. The last tram departs at 3:30 p.m., and homes are closed for viewing at 5:30 p.m. Trams take participants to each home, but walking and stair climbing are required and comfortable shoes are a must. Civic leaders will be among home and tram guides. The tour can be completed at one’s own pace, normally taking two to three hours.

Gift Certificates

Participants will have the opportunity to win a \$100 gift certificate from Claes’ Restaurant in a drawing at the end of the day. Volunteers will have two chances to win gift certificates in a drawing at the after-tour party—golf for two from the Aliso Creek Inn and lunch or dinner at the popular downtown eatery, Sun Dried Tomatoes.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale at shops and offices throughout Laguna Beach, including Coast Pet Supply, 880 N. Coast Hwy.; Post & Package, 412 N. Coast Hwy.; The UPS Store, 668 N. Coast Hwy.; Golden Spoon, 272 Broadway St.; Rock Martin, 268 Forest Ave.; Fawn Memories, 384 Forest Ave.; Art of Framing, 1454 S. Coast Hwy.; Animal Crackers, 30822 S. Coast Hwy.; Hotel Laguna, 425 S. Coast Hwy.; Mail Connection, 30872 S. Coast Hwy.; Silver Images, 311 Ocean Ave.; Copy and Print Center, 240 Beach St.; and La Casa del Camino, 289 S. Coast Hwy. ≈

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

Ann Christoph Named Woman of the Year



Ann Christoph

The Laguna Beach Woman's Club has named former mayor and Village Laguna board member Woman of the Year for 2005. A luncheon honoring her will be held at the Woman's Club, 286 St. Ann's Drive, on Friday, June 3, at 11:30 a.m. The cost of the event is \$25, payable in advance or at the door if seats are available. Reservations are strongly advised; call 497-1200.≈

Another Mansion Proposal Threatens Historic Home

The E-rated historic structure once owned by Dr. Edwards at 31351 Coast Highway is at risk of being demolished and replaced with a 9,696-square-foot residence with a 2,008-square-foot (nine-car) garage. Dr. Edwards is reported to have been the physician for writer and adventurer Richard Halliburton when Halliburton was in residence in South Laguna. The historic Mediterranean-style home fits beautifully into the lushly landscaped grounds above the northern portion of West St. Beach, just south of Camel Point. The home, with its distinctive gazebo on the bluff, makes a memorable vista as viewed from the beach. The proposed gigantic new house, a Mark Singer contemporary, would take up almost all of the site, removing a major portion of the vegetation. Both the style and the size are completely inappropriate in this location.

The Design Review Board has held three hearings on the project. In continuing the discussion to its June 2 meeting, the majority of the board indicated its concern about the destruction of the historic house and the impact of the proposed replacement. Board Chair Suzanne Morrison urged the applicant to reconsider his approach and refurbish the existing home.

Village Laguna wonders how the mansionization control rules can be working if proposals of this magnitude and impact continue to be submitted. Members are encouraged to attend the hearing on June 2 to let the board know that this is not the way we want our city to be developed.≈

Concern to Organize to Preserve Wilderness Widens

At a meeting of the Laguna North Neighborhood Organization on April 18, some 20 residents discussed the current and future threats to the open space in and around Laguna Beach. Don Knapp chaired the meeting and read a strong statement expressing his concern and determination to thwart any and all attempts to develop in our wilderness areas. Members of Voices of Wilderness shared their experiences in fending off attempts to develop an 18-hole golf course and condominiums in Aliso Canyon and expressed their support for the protection of wilderness areas around and in other parts of Laguna Beach. After considerable discussion evaluating the alternatives of creating an umbrella organization or joining the existing VOW coalition, the group unanimously voted to attend the next meeting of VOW in the hope of joining forces to create a united, citywide front.≈

Mar Vista Mansion on Hold

Thanks to Village Laguna member Debbie Hertz, who filed an appeal with the Coastal Commission, the project at 31401 Mar Vista is on hold. This project involves an 11,333-square-foot residence with a 4,768-square-foot garage plus greenhouse, decks and swimming pool on a parcel adjacent to County-owned open space in South Laguna. Because the project is within 100 feet of a significant watercourse, it qualifies to be appealed to the Coastal Commission.

A hearing regarding the appealability of the project was to have been held in April. However, the applicant requested a continuance to the June meeting, and Hertz reports that a further continuance may be requested. The City has asked the applicant to prepare a biological report and a wetland delineation study following the protocol of the Army Corps of Engineers. Fuel modification and fire truck access continue to be issues.

While all this may seem to be bureaucratic maneuvering, these procedures are the methods that government agencies have for dealing with what we citizens have instinctively known from the beginning—that the project is too remote from safe access and, despite the large acreage, is too large to be accommodated on the site.≈

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



CHARM HOUSE TOUR! Sunday, May 15, Noon

Heritage Month Continues

The Heritage Committee announces the following calendar of events for Heritage Month:

Saturday, May 14, and Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. till noon: Guided walks in downtown Laguna. Meet in front of the Laguna Beach Library.

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. till noon: Guided walk in the Crystal Cove Historic District. Meet at Los Trancos parking lot (inland side of Coast Highway north of El Morro School). Parking \$10. Call 497-7647 for information.

Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m. till noon: Natural history hike 3.5 miles (moderate), Laurel Canyon to Bommer Ridge and Willow Canyon. Wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and hat and bring water. Donation for hike \$2; parking \$3. Call (949) 923-2235 for reservations.

Monday, May 16, 7 to 8 p.m.: Informational presentation, cosponsored by the Heritage Committee and Village Laguna, on the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. City Council Chambers. Refreshments.

Friday, May 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Illustrated lecture on the history of the Laguna Art Museum by Janet Blake, Curator of Collections. City Council Chambers. Refreshments.

In addition, residents are encouraged to tour historic neighborhoods using the *Self-Guided Tour Laguna by Bus* brochures available on city buses or at City Hall.≈

No Subway on Broadway

On a 2-2 vote in April, the Council rejected a proposal to open a Subway on Broadway next to the sandwich shop and food court. (Cheryl Kinsman recused herself, citing a

conflict of interest.) The Planning Commission had unanimously declared it inconsistent with the Downtown Specific Plan, which prohibits fast-food establishments and formula-based businesses in the downtown and discourages the replacement of retail uses with restaurant uses. (The parking concerns raised the last time this project was before the Council had been eliminated in the interim by the passage of a new ordinance permitting the off-site parking arrangement that it proposed.)

Councilman Steve Dicterow asked a number of questions apparently designed to cast doubt on the Specific Plan's definition of "fast-food," but they seemed beside the point in this case given that Subway describes itself as a fast-food chain. Toni Iseman reminded Council members of the precedent-setting aspect of any approval of the project. Village Laguna supported the Planning Commission's recommendation, and former Planning Commissioner Becky Jones argued eloquently against the proposal. Councilmembers Iseman and Egly voted to uphold the Specific Plan and deny the project; Pearson-Schneider and Dicterow would have allowed it. ≈

Bills to Keep Mobile Homes at El Morro Withdrawn

The *Coastline Pilot* (April 29, 2005) reports that Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, citing lack of support on the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, has withdrawn the two bills that would have extended the leases of residents of the El Morro mobile-home park for 30 years.≈