



Established 1971 To preserve and enhance the unique village character of Laguna Beach

June 2021 newsletter

Hybrid

City Council Meeting: Garden Park Funding

Tuesday, June 15,
after 5 p.m.

Via Zoom

June General Meeting

Monday, June 28.
7 p.m.

July Board Meeting

Home of
Charlotte Masarik
Saturday, July 10,
9 a.m.

New City Manager to Speak at June 28 Meeting

Our new city manager, Shohreh Dupuis, has agreed to be the speaker for our next general meeting, one more meeting via Zoom before (we hope) we can start meeting again in person. We'll gather around our screens at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 28. The link will be on the website and in your e-mail inbox on the day, and meanwhile here it is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83088327629?pwd=NVoxZlZMUHZ-PNDVhcHIwRlFiM2xJdz09>

Community Garden Park at Risk of Loss of Funding

Twelve years of volunteer work toward creating a permanent community garden in Laguna are at risk next week when the City Council considers whether to take back its \$500,000 commitment to help fund the purchase of the site. There may not be three votes to keep the money in reserve. Councilmember Blake has expressed hostility to the whole idea of a community garden (which is, however,

a policy of the City's General Plan), and Mayor Whalen seems to believe that the ownership of the property is unknown and that the City can't wait indefinitely for the opportunity for a purchase. In fact, the owner has long since been identified and has been contacted in Saudi Arabia by volunteer realtors but is simply not answering inquiries. Meanwhile, garden supporters have raised \$475,000 from private donations in order to be ready when the occasion presents itself. The City's support is critical to the effort to make the garden permanent. Village Laguna has written to urge Councilmembers to maintain their commitment and encourages individual members to do so. The adoption of the budget of which this proposal is a part is scheduled for June 15.

CEQA Suit over Historic Preservation Ordinance Survives City Challenge

The Laguna Historic Preservation Coalition/Village Laguna lawsuit over the City's revised Historic Preservation Ordinance has survived the City's request for dismissal. The next step will be a case management conference in mid-July.

June's Historical Home Walk

To promote public awareness and preservation of Laguna's historic resources, Village Laguna will be exhibiting drawings of historical homes here and on its website (villagelaguna.org) through November. Each group of homes will make up a walkable tour. The writeups and drawings come from a brochure created in the mid-'90s by Village Laguna and the city's Heritage Committee for a self-guided tour by city bus.

In 1980, a year-long survey identified more than 700 structures significant to the city's architectural and historical heritage. This survey led to the formation of the Heritage Committee, which assesses the merits of houses and buildings for inclusion on the city's Historic Register. Structures on the register are entitled to preservation incentives and may display a plaque commemorating their architectural and historic significance.

383 Magnolia (1919)

This simple frame bungalow with humble colonial entry is typical of the houses that came to dot the north end of Laguna. Today it is typical of the houses that add an air of village charm to the neighborhood.



390 Magnolia (1907)

This pristine Settlement-era cottage was part of the 1906 Laguna Cliffs subdivision and winner of a \$100 prize offered for the first house to be built.

Mr. and Mrs. Spots of Orange were eager for the prize and had family and friends finish the house within one weekend. The \$100 probably covered most of their costs.



416 Jasmine (1928)

This small, eclectic Cotswold cottage, with its entry turret and arched door, reflects early Lagunans' appreciation of the village architecture of the English and French countryside. A. D. "Bill" and Kathyne Cook called it home from the time it was built through the '40s.



484 Jasmine (1922)

It's no coincidence that this shingled cottage has a Cape Cod look. It was built by Ben and Alison Peterson, originally from Cape Cod, for their daughter, Doris. The elder Petersons lived just next door at 440 while Doris pursued her career as a well-published writer of children's books.

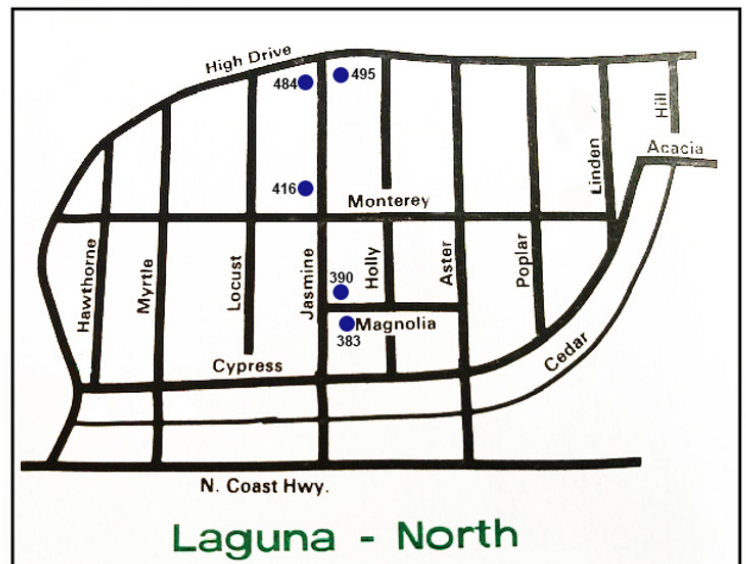


495 Jasmine (1922)

Among the best-preserved of Laguna's bungalows, this one with a Colonial Revival entry remains today as a beautiful living example of early housing styles. What was originally a modest bungalow has matured over the years into a lovely, but unchanged, bungalow home today.



Drawings by Karen Wilson Turnbull



Council Moves Ahead with Plans for Permanent Promenade on Forest

With the mayor pointing to what he sees as massive support for making the Forest Avenue Promenade permanent and expressing his belief that the loss of parking won't be noticeable, the City Council voted on May 18 to spend \$376,990 from the Downtown Action Plan budget on preliminary engineering and pursuit of entitlements to do so. The work is eventually to produce two options, one with minimal changes and the other with removal of curbs and modification of drainage, new pavement, and hard-scape and landscape replacements. The engineers have agreed to hold three community meetings to solicit public input and conduct interviews with stakeholders. Comment at the May hearing was evenly split, with enthusiasm countered by concerns that the effects of the street closure on traffic, parking, and retail-versus-restaurant uses in a normal (non-COVID) year haven't been assessed. Village Laguna recommended an environmental impact report and a citywide survey to measure support for the project among the public and the affected businesses.

Sunday in the Park with Village Laguna



Renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ **Email** _____

I have enclosed my check for the following membership. I understand the amount is not tax-deductible.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$250/family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic \$40/individual, \$60/family | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist \$500/family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$150/family | <input type="checkbox"/> Villager Extraordinaire (\$1,000+)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send the newsletter by email, instead of by mail. | * Includes two Charm House Tour tickets |

Contact Treasurer Mary Ives at mives@gmail.com to arrange for automatic monthly/quarterly payments.
Mail to: Village Laguna PO Box 1309 Laguna Beach CA 92652



PO Box 1309
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Fire Department Declares City Trees at Big Bend a Hazard to Be Removed

Two mature and apparently healthy trees on the City's open space at the Big Bend, an Aleppo pine and a fan palm, have been declared a fire hazard by the Fire Department and marked for removal (see www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/pw/trees). The declaration depends on the trees' designation by the department as "undesirable 'target' species." In accordance with the City's procedure for any removal of public trees, the announcement opened a seven-day period of public comment (May 20–27)—which was reportedly substantial—after which the Public Works Department was expected to notify the City Council, the City Manager, and the list of Lagunans especially interested in the welfare of trees of its responses to that public input and its final recommendation. Once that has happened, City Councilmembers will have two days in which to request a hearing on the decision if necessary. So far there has been silence.

Old Photos of Village Laguna Events Wanted for Video in Progress

For a video being developed of Village Laguna's 50-year history, we're looking for photos of Village Laguna events, the older the better (but not limited to the earliest days). If you have some that you're willing to share, please call 472-7503 so that we can arrange to borrow and copy them.

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