



# July 2022 newsletter

## **In-Person**

### **Annual Picnic**

Alta Laguna Park

Monday, August 1, 6 p.m.

## **Via Zoom**

### **August Board Meeting**

Saturday, August 6, 9 a.m.

## **Hybrid**

### **City Council**

Tuesday, July 26, 5 p.m.

Possible City Ballot Measure

## **City Council**

Tuesday, August 2, after 5 p.m.

Flood Control Channel Repairs

## **Council to Discuss Possible Ballot Initiative July 26**

The hearing on a proposed initiative to compete with Laguna Residents First's on the November ballot was continued when the longtime local architect Morris Skenderian persuaded the Council that it needed more thought. The proposal would establish a maximum of 15,000 square feet for lot mergers within 500 feet of the downtown (where the maximum would remain 5,000 square feet), a set of standards for making projects over 15,000 square feet elsewhere look smaller, and the possibility of a variance to allow rooftop decks to exceed the 36-foot height limit. Village Laguna argued that the maximum size of a lot combination proposed was too large to have prevented some of the recent projects that residents have already judged oversized and that the overdevelopment that residents are concerned about includes the

parking, traffic, and cumulative implications of intensification of use in addition to scale and aesthetics. Allowing variances for rooftop decks would encourage the intensification of use, and under state law variances may be granted only on a case-by-case basis in response to particular site conditions that create a hardship. In voting for the continuance, Bob Whalen commented that for the Council the 36-foot height limit is "absolute" and any ordinance revision would need to make that clear. The special meeting is scheduled for July 26 at 5 p.m.

## **Annual Picnic Set for August 1**

After a gap of three years, we going to meet for our formerly-annual picnic at Alta Laguna Park on Monday, August 1, at 6 p.m. We'll provide ham and water. Bring a side dish or dessert that will serve 6-8, your own plates and utensils, and something to sit on.



PO Box 1309  
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## **News Briefs**

1. The filing period for the City Council election in November began July 18 and will end either August 12 or, for nonincumbents if any incumbent declines to file for reelection, August 17. Village Laguna has scheduled a televised candidates' forum on August 29 and an endorsement meeting for August 31.
2. The hearing on the County's repairs to the flood control channel is now scheduled for August 2. The main issue is the loss of all the trees between Frontage Road and Woodland Drive. Village Laguna has called for saving the trees somehow and restoring the landscaping of the park at Woodland Drive to its original appearance.
3. Design and environmental studies for a parking structure at the Village Entrance have been under way for nearly two years, and recently the Council voted to build a parking structure on the Presbyterian Church parking lot. Village Laguna has asked for clarification of the relationship between these projects, but we may have to wait for the report on Whalen and Kempf's parking management plan that is anticipated in September.
4. Updating the management of our e-mail list has resulted in this newsletter's being sent electronically to everyone on that list even if the subscriber already receives it by regular mail. Readers who like to see the newsletter on paper will continue to be able to do so.

## **2022 Board of Directors**

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