



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

# February 2023 newsletter

## Via Zoom

**February General Meeting**  
Monday, February 27, 7 p.m.

### **Mark Orgill to Speak February 27**

Having got better acquainted with Alex Rounaghi last month, we look forward to a similar conversation with the other new City Council member, Mark Orgill, at our next general meeting. Also, since it's February, we'll vote on the budget for 2023. We'll gather via Zoom on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. The link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85002160963pwd=aHk0MC96NkRhVHRaQjgxd1M rNUxpZz09>.

### **Future of Digester Tower to Be Revisited in May**

One of Village Laguna's concerns at the City Council's strategic-planning workshop on January 28 was the long-deferred maintenance of the Village Entrance's historic digester tower and the attached office building. In January 2020 the council voted to remove the sludge from the tower and paint and patch the exterior, restoring the stairway and decks, and nothing has been done to it since. At the workshop the city manager reported that the digester rehabilitation was dropped during COVID and now she thinks the project and its budget should be revisited. It will be coming back to the

council for consideration in May as part of budget discussions.

The structure, completed in 1934, is significant for being part of the city's first improvement district (appropriately for a beach town, a comprehensive sewer system), for having been funded by the federal Public Works Administration during the Great Depression, and (typically for the city in its early days as today) for having been designed to be not just functional but beautiful. Histories of the New Deal recognize the structure as architecturally unique. It was placed on the city's historic register in 1989, and its rehabilitation was recommended both by the task force that initiated the Village Entrance project and by the public at the workshop that resulted in the recently completed landscaping, parking, and pathway improvements. Village Laguna favored restoration and eventual repurposing of the building at the 2020 meeting.

### **Call for Volunteers to Help with the Charm House Tour**

Village Laguna's formerly annual Charm House Tour, on hold since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, is now scheduled for May 21. To volunteer as a host/hostess or suggest a house for inclusion, please call 1-949-472-7503.

**March Board Meeting**  
Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.



PO Box 1309  
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

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## **The News**

1. In contrast to previous years, when the city's strategic planning workshop was more of a retreat with very little public input, this year's event on January 28 was videotaped and is viewable, along with a staff report on the status of current projects, on the city's website. The results of the discussion, including new projects planned for 2023, will be formalized on the consent calendar at the next Council meeting, February 21.
2. OC Supervisor Katrina Foley has appointed Laguna Canyon Foundation director Hallie Jones to represent the 5th District on the OC Parks Commission. The commission advises the supervisors on issues affecting the county's harbors, beaches, and parks, and Hallie's appointment guarantees a strong voice on it for our surrounding wilderness parks.
3. The annual Patriots' Day Parade on March 4 will feature new Village Laguna board member Toni Iseman as Patriot of the Year.
4. Village Laguna has been invited to participate in the city's annual Arbor Day celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, at Moulton Meadows Park. We'll have a table with information about Village Laguna, and the committee is working on some kind of child-friendly activity stressing the importance of trees.
5. It's never too late to update your membership. If your mailing label says "1/1/23" or earlier, please consider writing a check and mailing it in the enclosed envelope or paying up online at [villagelaguna.org](http://villagelaguna.org).

## **2023 Board of Directors**

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Phone: (949) 472-7503

Website: [www.villagelaguna.org](http://www.villagelaguna.org)