



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

# May 2023 newsletter

## **Hybrid City Council Budget Workshop**

Tuesday, May 16, 3–5 p.m.

Historic preservation  
appeal, 434 Aster  
also May 16, after 5 p.m.

## **Charm House Tour**

Sunday, May 21,

Noon to 5 p.m.

Last bus leaves at 3 p.m.

Festival of the Arts

650 Laguna Canyon Road

## **Via Zoom**

## **June Board Meeting**

Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.

## **Charm House Tour Returns Sunday, May 21**

After a three-year hiatus, the forty-eighth Village Laguna Charm House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, from noon to 5 p.m. This year's tour will focus on neighborhoods dating from the early 1900s, including cottages and bungalows adapted to today's living, a working artist's studio, art in the tradition of the early plein-air painters, and houses with links to the families that formed some of Laguna's landmarks. The first bus leaves the Festival of the Arts grounds at noon and the last at 3 p.m. Parking is available for \$4 (all day) across from the grounds. Tickets are available now for \$70 (\$80 on the day of the tour) by mail (P.O. Box 1309, Laguna Beach 92652) or online ([www.villagelaguna.org](http://www.villagelaguna.org)) or at Cottage Furnishings (802 S. Coast Highway), Fawn Memories (384 Forest Avenue), Laguna Beach Books (1200 S. Coast Highway), or Laguna Nursery (481 N. Coast Highway). For more information call 949-472-7503.





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## **Council Budget Workshop May 16: Funding for Digester Renovation?**

Three years ago the City Council voted to (1) proceed with the removal of sludge from the historic digester tower at the Village Entrance, (2) preserve, weatherproof, paint, and patch the structure, restore the exterior decorative stairs and upper deck, and continue its use as storage for police evidence, and (3) accept a contribution of \$200,000 from Greg and Barbara MacGillivray and appropriate \$629,000 from the Parking Fund to pay for the work. None of this work has been done, and now staff has promised a discussion of its funding in connection with the development of next year's budget. The digester has been on the City's historic register since 1989, and its preservation has been anticipated since then as part of the Village Entrance project. The

budget workshop on May 16 (from 3 to 5 p.m.) is likely to be important in deciding its future.

## **Median Planting for Canyon Road Approved**

Landscape plans approved April 18 for Laguna Canyon Road median include removal of the bottle brush trees and planting 3,000 new shrubs similar to the Village Entrance landscaping. Caltrans was not inclined to approve any trees in the median and had just rejected the City-recommended tall oaks and sycamores on the sides of the road at the reconstructed flood control channel, approving only small trees (redbud and Catalina cherry). Staff proposed those same trees for the median. The public requested rethinking and more Laguna Canyon native trees. The Council adopted the proposal, asking that Canyon native elderberry and toyon trees replace the redbud and cherry in the median if Caltrans approves.