



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

June 2023 newsletter

Via Zoom

June General Meeting

Monday, June 26, 7 p.m.

In Person

Schools Master Plan

Study Session

Tuesday, June 27, 6 p.m.

Thurston School

Via Zoom

July Board Meeting

Saturday, July 1, 9 a.m.

Leaders of SensibleLaguna Speak on School District Plans

The Laguna Beach Unified School District's update of its 10-year master facilities plan has caused an uproar not only in the school community but outside it because of its enormous size and potential impact. Most of the disruption is centered around the high school, where two new pools, a new administrative building, and two parking structures are planned. All of us are involved because we live in the district and share the use and the cost of the pool. A group of neighbors known as SensibleLaguna has been formed to counter the district's proposals. Steve McIntosh, Gary Kasik, and Steve Brown have spent countless hours collecting data for the development of simple, cost-effective solutions that they hope the district will consider. At our next general meeting, via Zoom on June 26 at 7 p.m., <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83985860813?pwd=eXUxZU1lMDdMZDYzTGZkTTFZNDJVUT09>, they will tell us what they've learned. For more information in the meantime, contact www.SensibleLaguna.org.

Historic House Cleared for Demolition after Appeal

A charming historic house on Aster Street ("Key"-rated on the historic inventory) is slated for demolition after the failure of an appeal last month at which Village Laguna spoke. In 2020 the Heritage Committee recommended against demolition in favor of partial demolition preserving its cat-slide roof and rebuilding behind. Instead the applicant designed a new house to replace it, explaining to the board that staff had encouraged him to do that. It appears from this case and others that staff is interpreting the revised "historic preservation" program as justifying deliberate blindness to facts, historic resource reports, and Heritage Committee recommendations and actively discouraging preservation. If this approach persists and the board doesn't challenge it, we stand to lose significant numbers of the buildings, both on the inventory and not, that are responsible for Laguna's unique charm. We would hope to see respect for the principle of preservation while our challenge to the new program proceeds.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE CHARM HOUSE TOUR A SUCCESS!

Tour Chair

Anne Caenn

Homeowners

Tony and Sharon Domenico
Celeste Gilles and Dora James
Tracey Moscaritolo
Dan Satterthwaite and family
Betsy Woltz

Hosts

Janet Bescoby
Barbara Dresel
Dora Orgill

Docents

Kathy Aird
Tamara Campbell
Lisa Clark
Clark Collins
Lorna Cohen
Maura Conlon
Leslie Davis
Kris Evans
Anne Frank
Regina Hartley
James Henry
Judy Henry
Rick Holder
Claudia Kawas
Lois Kinsey
Amanda Jane Leslie
Priscilla Lloyd
Bonnie MacFarland
Joan McFarland
Christy Miller
Cheryl Sinclair
Lindsay Tognetti

House Coordinators and Publications

Rosemary Boyd
Ann Christoph
Ruben Flores
Charles Michael Murray
Mike Phillips

Bus Guides

John Monahan, chair
Bob Borthwick
Toni Iseman
Trudy Josephson
Mark Orgill
Tom Osborne
George Weiss

Bus Greeters

Vernon Aird
Tenko and Jacob Cherub
Jackie Gallagher
Jim Rue

Mailing

Barbara Dresel

Busses, Chairs, and Ticket Outlets

Armando Baez
Mike Beanan
Johanna and Gene Felder
Ginger Osborne
Jinger Wallace

Tickets and Accounting

Margaret Brown
Mary Ives

Ticket Outlets

Cottage Furnishings
Fawn Memories
Laguna Beach Books
Laguna Nursery

Plaques

Ginger Osborne
Ann Christoph

Poster Distribution

Janet Bescoby
Ann Christoph
Meg Monahan
Josephine Torbensen

Refreshments

Merrill Anderson, chair
Nancy Anderson
Meg Monahan
Laura Parisi
Josephine Torbenson

Cookies

Meg Monahan, chair
Vicki Borthwick
Rosemary Boyd
Linda Brown
Tenko Cherub
Ann Christoph
Kate Clark
Barbara Dresel
Betsy Jenkins
Trudy Josephson
Bonnie MacFarland
Charlotte Masarik
Barbara Metzger
Ginger Osborne
Michael Phillips

After-Tour Party

Darrylin Girvin, chair
Michael Hoag
Gary LeFebvre
Karen Schwager



James Henry, Judy Henry, Clark Collins, Anne Frank, Dora Orgill, Amanda Jane Leslie, Christy Miller, and Lisa Clark, Charm House Tour docents at Holly Haven, pictured near the end of the tour.

Council Reviews Parking Report, Opts for New Structures

The report on parking management prepared under the direction of Councilmembers Whalen and Kempf was heard on June 13 and largely accepted. At the urging of members of the public, its original prescriptive tone was altered by changing the main recommended action from “adopt” to “accept the report” and inserting language indicating that in some cases further deliberation by the council would precede action. A long list of transportation management practices (for example, persuading property owners to allow public parking at off-hours, revising the permit process, raising prices,

restriping and repaving existing lots) was given priority for action, and speakers favored waiting to see how the management was working before considering any structures. Initially, so did Councilmembers Rounaghi, Orgill, and Weiss, but ultimately they agreed with Kempf and Whalen to proceed with preliminary design and entitlements for a structure at the Village Entrance. They did, however, decline to do the same for the structure proposed for the Presbyterian Church site, which remains a possibility. A partial upper deck is planned for the Glenneyre Street parking structure, and the Peppertree lot is to house mechanical lifts two cars high. Village Laguna opposed all of the new structures, citing the Downtown Specific Plan’s policy that any additional downtown parking should be peripheral and the fact that, despite the perception, recent studies have shown that parking supply exceeds demand.

Discussion of Digester Renovation Awaits Completion of Parking, Facilities Plans

The discussion of the renovation of the historic sewage digester tower promised for this month has been put off until the parking management report and the facilities master plan have been completed. A drawing of one of the versions of the proposed parking structure presented three years ago showed the tower attached to one end of it, so perhaps that’s the thinking behind the delay. Whether this would meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for historic preservation remains to be seen. The City Manager assures us that the money allocated for the project hasn’t been spent on something else.

Renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

(please send me my newsletter by regular mail_____by e-mail_____)

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

☐ Student \$20

☐ Basic \$40/individual, \$60 family

☐ Supporter \$150/family

☐ Sustainer \$250/family

☐ Preservationist \$500/family

☐ Villager Extraordinaire (\$1,000+)

Mail to: Village Laguna PO BOX 1309 Laguna Beach, CA 92652



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Toni Iseman
Mike Phillips
Kurt Wiese

Phone: (949) 472-7503
Website: www.villagelaguna.org

Rim Rock Canyon at Risk of Development

Becky Jones writes in the fiftieth anniversary issue of the newsletter of the Temple Hills Association that formidable forces are gathering for developing the Rim Rock Canyon area. The central parcel of it, the Juarez property, has recently changed hands, along with multiple surrounding parcels, creating 11 parcels totaling more than 12 acres. Two of these contain houses on Temple Hills Drive, while the rest have no street access and so are not legal building sites. Efforts are currently under way to create the access necessary to open the entire acreage to development. This will have major safety and aesthetic impacts on

the surrounding neighborhoods and pose traffic and emergency access issues for the city as a whole. Becky urges readers to let City Council members know that they oppose creating new building sites there.

Laguna Bluebelt Photo Contest Accepting Entries till July 7

The annual Laguna Bluebelt photo contest, focusing on the city's marine reserve, is accepting submissions through July 7. There will be cash prizes, and the winning entries will be displayed August 3–20 in the LCAD Gallery at 376 Ocean Avenue. The rules of the contest are available at www.contest.lagunabluebelt.org, where entries should be sent.