



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

June 2022 newsletter

In-Person Celebration of Life,

Bonnie Hano
Sunday, June 19, 3–5 p.m.

Via Zoom July Board Meeting

Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m.

Hybrid City Council

Tuesday, June 21, after 5 p.m.
Budget Adoption

Tuesday, July 12, after 5 p.m.
(1) Channel Repairs, (2) Major
Remodel, Blufftop Setback
Ordinance

OC Flood Control Channel Repairs Reach City Council for Approval

An oft-postponed consideration of the OC Flood Control District's plan for repairing a 1200-foot length of the channel in downtown Laguna seems likely to reach the City Council on July 12. The hearing by the Planning Commission on May 18, which led to a 4–0 vote approving a permit for the work, left as loose ends the commissioners' recommendations for aesthetic enhancements with regard to both landscape and hardscape. The hearing is expected to allow residents to comment on those recommendations and allow councilmembers to consider adding them to the approval. Public input at the Planning Commission hearing focused on the proposal to remove all of the trees on the site (from the Laguna Canyon Frontage Road and Woodland Drive), some to be replaced with a smaller number of much smaller trees and others not to be replaced at all. The commissioners were uniformly sympathetic to the public's concerns about the loss of so many mature trees and asked about ways of protecting the new construction with root barriers, limiting the repairs to the parts of the channel

that are actually broken, and/or planting larger trees and/or more trees. Village Laguna will be arguing for somehow saving the trees and restoring the landscaping of the park at Woodland Drive, which will be leveled, to its original configuration.

County Group Working on Rehab of Lower Aliso Creek Meets June 22

The next meeting of the Aliso Creek Watershed Collaboration Group, which has apparently been meeting for some time on a conceptual alternative approach for the rehabilitation of the lower six miles of Aliso Creek, will be on Wednesday, June 22, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via webinar. Lagunans whose concerns about the creek date back to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed SUPER Project and are just hearing about this county effort may want to get caught up on the latest planning for it. Feedback from the interested parties is, according to the announcement from OC Public Works, highly encouraged. To RSVP for the event, use the following link
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aliso-creek-watershed-collaboration-group-meeting-tickets-360640524517>—by Tuesday, June 21.

Founding Member Verna Rollinger Dies Suddenly at 77



Village Laguna members and the many friends of Verna Rollinger were shocked and deeply saddened to hear of her death on May 26. Born and raised in Southern California, Verna came to Laguna with her husband and two small children in 1970 and immediately got involved in the community. She worked on the 1971 anti-high-rise campaign that produced the city's 36-foot height limit and then became a founding member of Village Laguna. Soon after that she joined the campaign to recall a radical-right school board majority and then, when that effort narrowly failed, the campaign that elected Ron Chilcote to the board at the next election. She and others organized a monthly discussion group on school issues involving parents and teachers called Dialogue on Schools. She also served on the school-site council at the high school when Jeannette and Victor Rollinger were students there.

First elected city clerk in 1976, she went on to serve in the office for 27 years, assisting the city council with its meetings, keeping its records, and running its elections, and courteously and efficiently helping the many residents whose concerns brought them in contact with the city. She established the city's first website and initiated its program of online document storage. During these years she was also a founding member of Friendship Shelter, a member of the board of the Laguna Greenbelt, and a frequent participant in environmental actions of various kinds (see photo, with Sally Rapuano to the left and Teri Quam to the right, from the effort to save Laguna Canyon from development).

After her retirement, she did more than her usual traveling and camping, often with her daughter and the family's collection of Havanese dogs, and became a skilled and talented quilter before running for City Council in 2008. Having won a seat, she was an advocate for village and environmental issues on the dais, raising questions about the Corps of Engineers' SUPER Project in Aliso Canyon and encouraging support for the revision of the regional water quality plan required by the Clean Water Act. After the major flooding in 2010 she organized a task force of residents with expertise to develop and eventually see the adoption by the Council of a number of measures to make the damage less serious the next time around.

As a member of the Village Laguna Board and our dear friend, she was thoughtful, caring, knowledgeable, generous, constructive, and brave. We will greatly miss her wisdom but continue to be inspired by her devotion.

Council Approves Preliminary Plan for Permanent Promenade on Forest

Lower Forest Avenue (between Coast Highway and Glenneyre Street) has been closed to through traffic since 2020 as part of the City's emergency response to the COVID pandemic and its impact on the ability of restaurants to serve meals indoors. "Parklets," temporary platforms for outdoor dining, and planters were installed to create the "Promenade." On May 18 the City Council awarded a contract to a consultant to perform studies preliminary to making the Promenade permanent. The program will produce two concept plans for future consideration, one that maintains curbs, gutters, and sidewalks and the other eliminating all trace of the street. Stakeholder interviews with downtown business owners have pointed to some concerns, including that it shouldn't turn into a food court, that the restaurants who benefit from use of the outdoor space should pay rent for it, that the space heaters, propane tanks, tents, and shade covers detract from the overall aesthetic, and that the performances are noisy and should be moved around the site for fairness in accommodating to this disruption of business. Residents have yet to be consulted, and beginning in September there will be three public workshops to gather information about their ideas. Environmental studies are reportedly being deferred until a "project" has been identified.

Village Laguna Scholarship for 2022 Awarded to Peter Durand



Every year since 1978, Village Laguna has awarded a scholarship to a Laguna Beach High School graduating senior who shows leadership and involvement in activities that protect the environment and promote humanitarian goals. This year, Village Laguna was pleased to present its scholarship to Peter Durand (see photo, with Village Laguna board member Barbara Dresel).

Peter has been very active in his school and community. He's been a docent for the Dana Point Ocean Institute and maintained the fish pond in the Top of the World Elementary School Community Garden. He also was active in LBHS sports and played trumpet with the LBHS Wind Ensemble, while managing a 4.31 GPA.

Peter wants to have a career as a marine biologist and be a part of developing solutions to protect our oceans. He will attend college at UCLA to study marine biology. His goal is to "help preserve the millions of species in the ocean and convey the urgency of environmental issues to others."

The VL scholarship committee is pleased that it had a group of very qualified scholarship applicants and looks forward to hearing of their future endeavors and achievements.

Celebration of Life for Bonnie Hano Scheduled for June 19

A celebration of life for Bonnie Hano, who died in April, will be held on Sunday, June 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Woman's Club.

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+) |

Contact Treasurer Mary Ives at mives314@gmail.com to arrange for automatic monthly/quarterly payments.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Discussion with Katrina Foley Focuses on Local Issues

In her talk with Village Laguna members via Zoom on May 23, candidate for supervisor Katrina Foley stressed transparency and accountability and showed familiarity with issues of concern to the county's coastal cities and Laguna in particular. As an incumbent, she is already working with several cities' mayors and managers on permanent supportive housing for the homeless; planning a "sustainability summit" on climate change and sea-level rise; is aware of the issues with the Aliso Beach berm and the flood control channel, and is paying attention to reports of potential conflict with OC Parks about whether our wilderness parks should be wild. Asked about our efforts to preserve Laguna's atmosphere, she said that Laguna reminds her of Ojai, where she grew up. Unofficial results show her in the lead and likely to face Pat Bates in November.

2022 Board of Directors

Anne Caenn, President
Merrill Anderson, Vice President
Meg Monahan, Recording Secretary
Barbara Metzger, Corresponding Secretary
Mary Ives, Treasurer
Johanna Felder, Past President
Armando Baez
Janet Bescoby
Ann Christoph
Barbara Dresel
Darrylin Girvin
Chris Kreymann
Gary LeFebvre
Mike Phillips
Verna Rollinger
Kurt Wiese

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