



July 2024 newsletter

July General Meeting Picnic

Monday, July 29
6 p.m.

Alta Laguna Park

Village Laguna Board Meeting

Saturday, August 3
9 a.m.

By Zoom

Village Laguna City Council Candidates Forum

Tuesday, August 27
6 p.m.

City Council Chambers

August General Meeting

Thursday, August 29
6 p.m.

**At the home of
Amy Jackson
412 Jasmine**

Endorsement vote

Members only!

Dues must be paid
30 days in advance
in order to vote.

Village Laguna Annual Picnic

Join this informal potluck picnic at Alta Laguna Park, Top of the World at 6 p.m. Monday, July 29.

This is a time to enjoy getting together with fellow Village Lagunans, relaxing away from the busy summer activity as children play and we all admire the sunset while overlooking the Greenbelt.

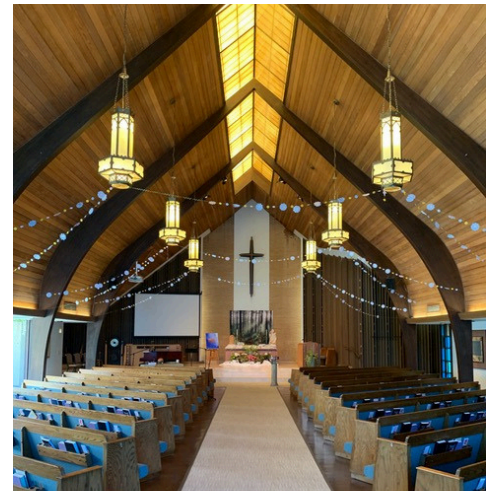
Bring a beach chair and a pot luck dish to serve 10.

Affordable Housing at Neighborhood Congregational Church (NCC)?

Representatives of Village Laguna have met with representatives of the NCC to discuss the proposed project to demolish all the existing buildings on the property and instead build a 72-unit apartment structure with underground parking. This all to be accomplished with state and city housing grants and other financing arranged through the developer, Related California. The church will end up with a “spiritual center” within the new complex. A new state-authorized streamlined approval process dictated in SB-4, can facilitate this project without our normal reviews and California Environmental Quality Act process. The concerns and potential impacts are numerous and a new community organization named “Reasonable Housing for Laguna” has been formed to affect the preservation of “the character, scale and spirit of Laguna Beach” in this project.



Bridge Hall/Aubrey St. Clair architect



Sanctuary/William Blurock architect

Village Laguna shares these goals and will be working to preserve the existing buildings which are beautiful landmarks. Bridge Hall was designed by Aubrey St. Clair, and the sanctuary by William Blurock. Our goal is a scaled down affordable housing project that fits the character of the neighborhood and the village.

Did you know...

The political committee has implemented an advertising campaign in the Independent to alert Lagunans to important issues of concern—follow up information can be found at villagelaguna.org Time to take action!



VillageLaguna.org

City Council wants to take over the Canyon Road from Caltrans...why? What is it going to cost us?

While Laguna's population has declined since 2000, the number of City employees has increased 50%.

Ref: Laguna Beach Historical Society & The City of Laguna Beach Budget

Other cities allow public participation on Zoom. Why doesn't Laguna Beach?

Ref: Letter to the editor by Anne Caenn

Laguna Beach taxpayers subsidized city visitors by more than \$20 million in 2017; how high is it now?

Ref: Balancing the costs and revenues research paper, posted on Village Laguna's website

The City's Downtown Action Plan proposes to remove nearly all the mature trees on lower Forest and lower Broadway?

Ref: Village Laguna website photos and Power Point.

City Council is considering more 3-story buildings in our downtown? Why change the character of our charming village?

Ref: December 12, 2023 item 22 staff report

Evacuating Laguna Beach under normal roadway conditions will take 4 ½ hours. Why are we adding housing units and encouraging more visitors?

Ref: <https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/home/showpublicdocument/10280/637762074884530000>

With traffic congestion at all-time highs, the city is spending millions to increase tourism?

Ref: Page 228 of 290, City of Laguna Beach 2024-2025 Budget

Our lifeguards rescued 2,278 people over the long Fourth of July weekend.

Thank you Marine Safety team.

Ref: Balancing the costs and revenues research paper, posted on Village Laguna's website

Obituary



Elisabeth Brown, PhD.

Tributes will never be enough to describe Elisabeth Brown's dedication to assuring the continuation and long-term health of the Laguna Greenbelt in over 35 years as its president. In recent decades she has led the campaign to maintain healthy wildlife populations by creation of a wildlife corridor between the Greenbelt and the Cleveland National Forest. In 2011 Village Laguna recognized her as "Villager of the Year."

This excerpt from her resume gives a hint of all her day to day life working for the Greenbelt:

"Response to EIRs and other planning documents;

extensive public hearing attendance and testimony before local, regional and state agencies; tracking of projects through the public hearing process; working with various agencies' staff; coordination with other citizens' groups; attendance on working groups and other planning bodies; working with a lobbyist in Sacramento; development and presentation of position papers; newsletter production; presentation of slideshows/talks to community and business groups; coordination of deer watering program; creation of brochures for self-guiding nature trails; creation of brochures for local residents; public education about local natural history; fundraising; grantwriting; mailing list management, bookkeeping and IRS reporting for a 501(c) (3)."

Elisabeth also served as Laguna Beach Planning Commissioner, regional vice-president of the Planning and Conservation League, vice-president of the Laguna Canyon Foundation, chair of the Coastal Greenbelt Authority, and taught at UC Irvine, Whittier College, Cypress College, Rio Hondo College, and Saddleback College.

Elisabeth Malartre Cohen was born in 1943 in New York City, met Dr. Allen Brown at Berkeley and moved to Laguna Beach at the suggestion of his mother, who found their house in Canyon Acres.

Elisabeth died July 6 of complications of Parkinson's disease. Her daughter Mina continues her dedication, working as an environmental planner and serving on the city's Environmental and Sustainability Committee.

Renew your membership

If the date on your mailing label is 2025 you are paid up. Thank you! If it's 2024 or earlier please renew at VillageLaguna.org or by mail

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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+) |

To satisfy new campaign reporting regulations for contributions of \$100 or more, I am supplying the name of my employer (or specifying that I am retired): _____

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



PO Box 1309
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

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

Doug Miller Assistance Needed



The vibrant and talented Doug Miller that we are used to seeing at every event, playing his violin, showing his paintings, and photographing all of us and the village for over 50 years—is suffering from serious infections as the result of a cat bite. He has been

hospitalized twice and is now recovering slowly with the help of his family and friends.

His principal income every year is from the Sawdust Festival and this year he has been unable to even finish his booth. We can help by donating to the GoFundMe account and bringing meals through MealTrain.

GoFundMe:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-for-douglas-miller>

Mealtrain:

<https://mealtrain.com/wlr1nw>

Contact Carly Sciacca at carlydayart@gmail.com with any questions.