



FIRST CLASS MAIL

July 2026 newsletter



Council Meeting
Tax Increase
Ballot Measure
Lot line adjustment for
Congregational
Church affordable
Housing project
Tuesday, July 7, 5 p.m.

Council Meeting
Phase II Downtown
Specific Plan update
Design Review
Efficiency Ordinance
Tuesday, July 21, 5 p.m.

**Council Candidate
Forum**
Monday, August 31
6-8 p.m.

Meetings all at
Council Chambers
City Hall

Ken Frank Memorial
Thursday, July 9
4-6 p.m.
Susi Q, RSVP
kenfrankmemorial@gmail.com
278 Ocean Avenue

**Village Laguna
Picnic**
Monday, July 20, 6 p.m.
Alta Laguna Park

Annual Picnic

Join us for a potluck picnic with friends and neighbors at Alta Laguna Park on Monday evening, July 20 starting at 6 p.m. This peaceful park overlooking the Greenbelt is a perfect retreat during our busy summer season. We'll enjoy this lovely setting and the company of fellow travelers on the environmental path. Bring a dish to share and some extra chairs.
RSVP to VillageLagunainfo@gmail.com.



Scholarship

This year's Arnold and Bonnie Hano Village Laguna Scholarship Award was presented to Anna Sandquist by VL board members Amy Jackson and Regina Hartley.



Council Candidate Forum

Three seats on our City Council will be in play at the November election. Mark Orgill, Sue Kempf and Alex Rounaghi will be deciding whether to run for re-election and challengers are in the wings.

Village Laguna no longer endorses candidates, but we will be sponsoring the first forum of the campaign season on Monday August 31, 6-8 p.m. in the Council chambers to provide information about the issues the candidates and the city will be facing.

Have questions for the candidates? **Please send them to:** VillageLagunainfo@gmail.com and we will use them in preparing for the forum.

Support Village Laguna—2026

Your participation and dedication are so important in keeping Laguna Beach the city we love. Please join us in preserving our village character and protecting our historic and natural resources.



Donate at VillageLaguna.org or complete the coupon below and send your check to Village Laguna

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ **Email** _____

(please send me my newsletter by regular mail____by e-mail____)

- Student \$20
- Sustainer \$250/family
- Basic \$40/individual, \$60 family
- Preservationist \$500/family
- Supporter \$150/family
- Villager Extraordinaire (\$1,000+)

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

2026 Officers

Merrill Anderson, president
Joy Berry, vice president
Anne Caenn, treasurer
Johanna Felder, corresponding secretary

Directors
Whitney Aronoff
Margaret Brown
Jacob Cherub
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Darrylin Girvin
Regina Hartley
Toni Iseman
Amy Jackson
Mike Morris

Phone: (949) 472-7503
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Design Review Efficiency Ordinance

While the city has made improvements to this euphemistically named ordinance in response to public comments, this measure still concentrates its “efficiency” on limiting public input.

More projects will be reviewed by Administrative Design Review instead of the Design Review Board. Residents within the noticing area will have 15 days to respond to a postcard asking if they want to request a hearing on the application. If no one asks for a hearing the project will be automatically approved. Problem is the drawings for the proposed projects can't be viewed online. To know if you want to request a hearing you will have to see what is being proposed and that will involve a visit to city hall--normal business hours. Too bad if you have a regular job and have to be at work during those times. Then if there is a hearing and the hearing officer's decision doesn't address your concerns, and you want to appeal it will cost you \$2500. Village Laguna has objected to these provisions but so far Council has made no changes to them.

Administrative Design Review used to be handled in a more accommodating way. The public didn't have to specially request a hearing, all projects had one. If no one objected projects would be approved. Five minutes! If issues surfaced that could not be resolved, the hearing officer just sent the project on to the Design Review Board. Simple. There was no appeal and no fee.

There is much more to this ordinance. See Village Laguna comments at VillageLaguna.org.

The second and perhaps final reading of this ordinance will be July 21. Write and speak! Meeting starts at 5 p.m. Email City Council at citycouncil@lagunabeachcity.net

Mission Hospital Laguna Beach Threatened

The Hospital has served Laguna Beach and south County since the community united, donated and built South Coast Hospital in 1959. It's now Mission Hospital Laguna Beach, managed by Providence health system, which plans to close the current Emergency room, ICU beds, and acute care services. Residents are alarmed over Providence's plans. The petition to save the Hospital has collected 4,900 signatures and momentum is growing. Sign at: https://www.change.org/Save_Laguna_Beach_Emergency_Room

In a June 9th presentation in Council chambers, Providence Mission Viejo CEO Seth Teigen proposed a major downgrade of the facility and services to only an urgent care model with expanded outpatient services. Services would be far less than those available for over the last 70 years. 9-1-1 ambulances cannot deliver patients to an urgent care—so ambulances with critically ill patients would face heavy traffic and a long drive to the Mission Viejo facility.

A recent city poll found that **88% of respondents said having a 24/7 emergency room was important** to them. Laguna Beach's geographic isolation and high visitor traffic elevate concerns: studies have found a correlation between higher mortality rates and longer transit times. Our emergency room is also a critical lifeline for nearby towns. Its closure would leave just two ERs for all of southern Orange County. Keeping our ER open is a regional issue that needs local, County and State support.

On June 23rd the City Council selected 16 residents to serve on a community hospital advisory task force; a working group that includes council members Bob Whalen and Alex Rounaghi, city manager, city attorney and heads of the



Why close No. 1 in South Orange County?

community development and public safety departments. The first Hospital Task Force meeting will take place on Thursday, July 16 at 4:30 p.m. at the Community and Susi Q Center, 380 Third Street. But we the community, cannot rely solely on the city's efforts. **We must come together to act.** Let's get involved and stay involved on this important issue. As a first step you can add your name to the petition at link above and help spread awareness. Follow up by contacting VillageLagunainfo@gmail.com

Charm House Tour 2026—Arroyo Chico and Wood's Cove

“Charm House attendees sometimes ask, ‘Aren't you concerned you could run out of wonderful houses to feature?’ But after 51 years of charmers we still discover more and meet more delighted homeowners who are willing to share their lovely corner of Laguna for an afternoon. Volunteers not only work but add their own personality and insights to the experience—docents, bus guides, cookie bakers and more. We are grateful to you all!”

Anne Caenn, chair

House Selection

Ann Christoph
Bob Borthwick
Ruben Flores

Publicity

Jahn Levitt

Posters

Margaret Brown

Brochures

Keli Daniels
Rosemary Boyd

House #1 Little Ravine

Homeowners: Tenko & Jacob Cherub
Anne Frank
Margaret Brown
Michelle Linton
Norman Quebedeau

House #2 The Blue House

Homeowners: Christy & Brian Rayburn
Ginger Osborne
Wens-day Garcia
Valerie Miller
Liza Stewart
Steve Stewart
Joy Berry

House #3 Historic Gem

Homeowners: Jeanne & Michael Yale
Janet Bescoby
Farnoush Gidianian
Karen Schwager
Cheryl Czyz
Gerald Grinchis
Theresa Davies
Tracy Locke

House #4 Woods Cove Secret Garden

Homeowner: Ellen Edington
Darrylin Girvin
Kylie Girvin
Vicki Borthwick
Lisa Woode
Faith Fontan
Daneen Wilder
Ali Rowley
Terri Shubin

House #5 Golden Pearl

Homeowners: Susan & Veeder South
Amy Jackson
Trudy Josephson
Josephine Torbensen
Alexandra Torbensen
Siri Adams
Keli Daniels

Avia's & Avi's Cottage Garden

Homeowners: Rosaura & Larry Ulvestad
Leslie Davis
Patsy Tartaglia-Mars

Chairs & Cones

Theresa Davies
Tracy Locke

Refreshments

Merrill Anderson
Nancy Anderson
Gary LeFebvre

Cookies

Whitney Aronoff
Meg Monahan
Nick Aronoff
Claudia Kawas
Jane Jaquez
Janet Bescoby
Vicki Borthwick

Margaret Brown
Anne Caenn
Ann Christoph
Kate Clark
Darrylin Girvin
Charlotte Masarik
Bonnie McFarland
Ginger Osborne
Jinger Wallace

Buses

Johanna Felder
Gene Felder

Bus Guides & Route:

John Monahan
Bob Borthwick
Ruben Flores
Hallie Jones
Debbie Neev
Mark Orgill
Tom Osborne

Dinner

Darrylin Girvin
Gayle Waite



Docents Josephine Torbensen, Keli Daniels, Alexandra Torbensen and Siri Adams celebrate at the after-tour party. Little baby Frey also participated in the tour.