

VILLAGE BREEZE

MARCH/APRIL 2025



Recreation | Landscaping | News | Services | More



Women's Health Pavilion Open in Laguna Hills

The Women's Health Pavilion is designed specifically for women, offering a one-stop-shop approach to women's health care. In a spa-like environment, women have access to:

- The Sarah & Taylor Nederlander Breast Center
- Women's Surgery & Oncology Suite
- Renewal Boutique
- Community Education Center & Patio
- OB/GYN & Certified Nurse Midwife Suite



Learn more at
[memorialcare.org/womenshealthpavilion](https://www.memorialcare.org/womenshealthpavilion)


MemorialCare[™]
Saddleback Medical Center



A VILLAGE TREASURE

We saw the images and felt the losses experienced by our neighbors in Los Angeles County. Many of us know people who lost homes in Pacific Palisades or Altadena. Perhaps some of us have lived in the fire-ravaged regions, are heartbroken over the devastation and are looking for ways to help. We also are reminded about our own vulnerability to fire's destructive effects and the need to be prepared to evacuate. With this in mind, we compiled information in the pages ahead.

We also looked for ways to spend less time cleaning and more time traveling the world. Ellyce Rothrock shares tips to make household chores easier, while Kim Campbell Thornton divulges unique destinations to explore.

This edition's Community Connected showcases accomplishments and contributions of clubs who reached out to us: Foundation of Laguna Woods Village, Publishing Club, Community Bridge Builders, Springboks and Laguna Woods Art Association. These and all Village clubs encourage us with what we can accomplish when we come together as a community.

Every year we are inspired, entertained and awe-struck by the art that beautifies the Community Center hallways and alcoves, produced by the Village's own art association members. We invite you to visit the 2025 art exhibit after you read about the contest and check out a small sampling on the cover and throughout the magazine. Enjoy the incredible talents of your neighbors in what is truly a Village treasure!

Susan

Susan Logan-McCracken, Managing Editor
susan.logan-mccracken@vmsinc.org



"Balloons" by Bonnie Fox



"Heisler Park, Laguna Beach" by Cheryl Harrison



"Laguna" by Bonnie Baller



"Sunflowers and Blue Vase" by Myoung Park



"The Quarry G.C." by Kenneth Oku



"Tillie on New Year's Eve" by Ginny Barrett



"The Storm Begins" by Inna Makarichev



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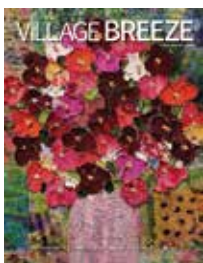
Get a fresh start for your home and health—without overdoing it.
BY ELLYCE ROTHROCK

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BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON

22 Experience Village Art

Enjoy a stunning art gallery right here in the Village, brought to life by the incredible talent of resident artists.



*On the cover:
“Flowers in a Vase” by Deborah Shriver*



Every Village Breeze edition is paid for through a partnership with MemorialCare.

“Park Bench” by Bonnie Fox



VILLAGE BREEZE

The official magazine of
Laguna Woods Village

MARCH/APRIL 2025

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Unsolicited manuscripts and content suggestions are welcome for possible future use in the Village Breeze or other VMS publications. Acknowledgement of unsolicited manuscripts is in no way a suggestion or guarantee of publication.

Submit concise editorial ideas as a one-page letter accompanied by recent writing samples to info@lagunawoodsvillage.com or to Village Breeze, 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Include your full name, phone number, email address and manor number. To receive a copy of the Laguna Woods Village Style Guide and editorial guidelines, email info@lagunawoodsvillage.com.

Submissions will not be returned.

Village Breeze reserves the right to edit any and all content for clarity, accuracy, space and tone and correct grammar, spelling and usage.

Only Village Breeze staff and its advisors prepare and assign editorial content. No contributor or agent may promise content, or content placement within Village Breeze, to any individual, group, business, organization or entity.

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TAX PREP SERVICE

One of life's certainties has arrived once again! Fortunately, the Laguna Woods Free Tax Program has been serving the Village community for more than 25 years. This program, operated under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance initiative, is managed and supported by the IRS. Through this partnership, the IRS provides oversight and certification for Laguna Woods

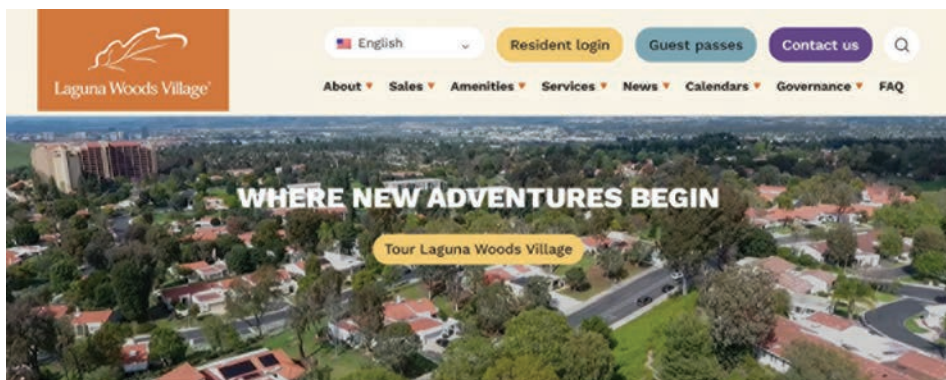
Village resident volunteers, enabling them to offer free tax preparation services to the community.

Last year, 1,200 residents benefited from this valuable service program.

Free tax preparation services are available by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on the third floor of the Community Center (24351 El Toro Road).

For more information or to schedule an appointment:

- Visit the PC Club webpage at thepclub.org or email taxes@thepclub.org.
- Stop by the PC Club Workshop on the third floor of the Community Center, located at 24351 El Toro Road.
- Call **949-391-9718** and leave your name and phone number; a representative will contact you.

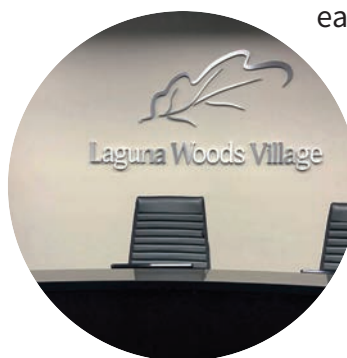


NEW ADA WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

VMS is excited to share information about the enhanced accessibility feature on the LagunaWoodsVillage.com community website: the accessiBe widget. This innovative tool enhances website accessibility, providing a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for everyone, including individuals with disabilities.

How to Use the Widget

- **Locate the widget:** Find the blue accessibility widget at the bottom right corner of your screen.
- **Activate the menu:** Click the icon to open the accessibility menu and explore a variety of options designed to enhance your browsing experience. At the top, you can reset your settings, read the accessibility statement or hide the widget. Additionally, you can use the search bar to look up terms in the dictionary.
- **Customize your experience:** Choose from a range of options, including accessibility profiles, content adjustments, color settings and orientation modifications.
 - Accessibility profiles let you tailor your experience by choosing from the following options: seizure safe, vision impaired, ADHD friendly, cognitive disability, keyboard navigation and blind users. To enable or disable a profile, simply toggle the on/off switch.
 - Content adjustments let you customize the overall content and font size, text alignment and line height. You can also highlight titles, emphasize links and magnify text. Simply click each button to enable these features or use the blue up and down buttons to adjust the size to your preference.
 - Color adjustments enable you to modify contrast, saturation and the colors of text, titles and backgrounds to suit your preferences.



STAY INFORMED of Board Business

Did you know that board representatives from GRF, United and Third appear as guests on TV6's "This Day" to provide updates the Thursday after each regular monthly board meeting?

To stay informed about upcoming meetings and participation details, check out the "Upcoming Meetings" section at the end of every edition of "What's Up in the Village." Click on the PDF link to view or download it for easy access.

Want more "This Day" and other great programming? Visit the Village YouTube channel at YouTube.com/@VillageTelevision.

- Last, orientation adjustments allow you to mute sounds, hide images, turn the page into reading mode and more.
- **Enjoy enhanced accessibility:** Once you've made your selections, the changes will be applied instantly, providing a smoother and more comfortable browsing experience.



WHAT'S UP IN THE VILLAGE

GOING MOBILE

Made possible in part by generous support from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and Orange County's Measure M2 (OC Go) half-cent sales tax, the Senior Mobility Program promotes lifelong mobility through the provision of affordable, older adult-oriented transportation services.

The program, which subsidizes the cost of taxi travel for Laguna Woods residents who are at least 60 years of age, features general travel vouchers (taxi bucks), non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) and Irvine Station (Transportation Center) travel vouchers. All Senior Mobility Program transportation is provided by taxicabs operated by California Yellow Cab.

Travel Costs

Enrolled residents receive an ID card that reduces regular California Yellow Cab fares to the following co-pays, for all trips starting or ending in Laguna Woods:

- \$0 to or from Laguna Woods City Hall/Public Library
- \$0 to or from Irvine Station (access to Amtrak, Metrolink and OCTA buses)
- \$5 for trips up to 10 miles within Orange County (each way)
- \$10 for trips over 10 miles within Orange County (each way)
- \$15 to or from VA Long Beach
- \$25 to or from John Wayne Airport

Enrollment Process

Residents can enroll on a walk-in basis at Laguna Woods City

Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed holidays). Call City Hall at **949-639-0500** to confirm hours of operation.

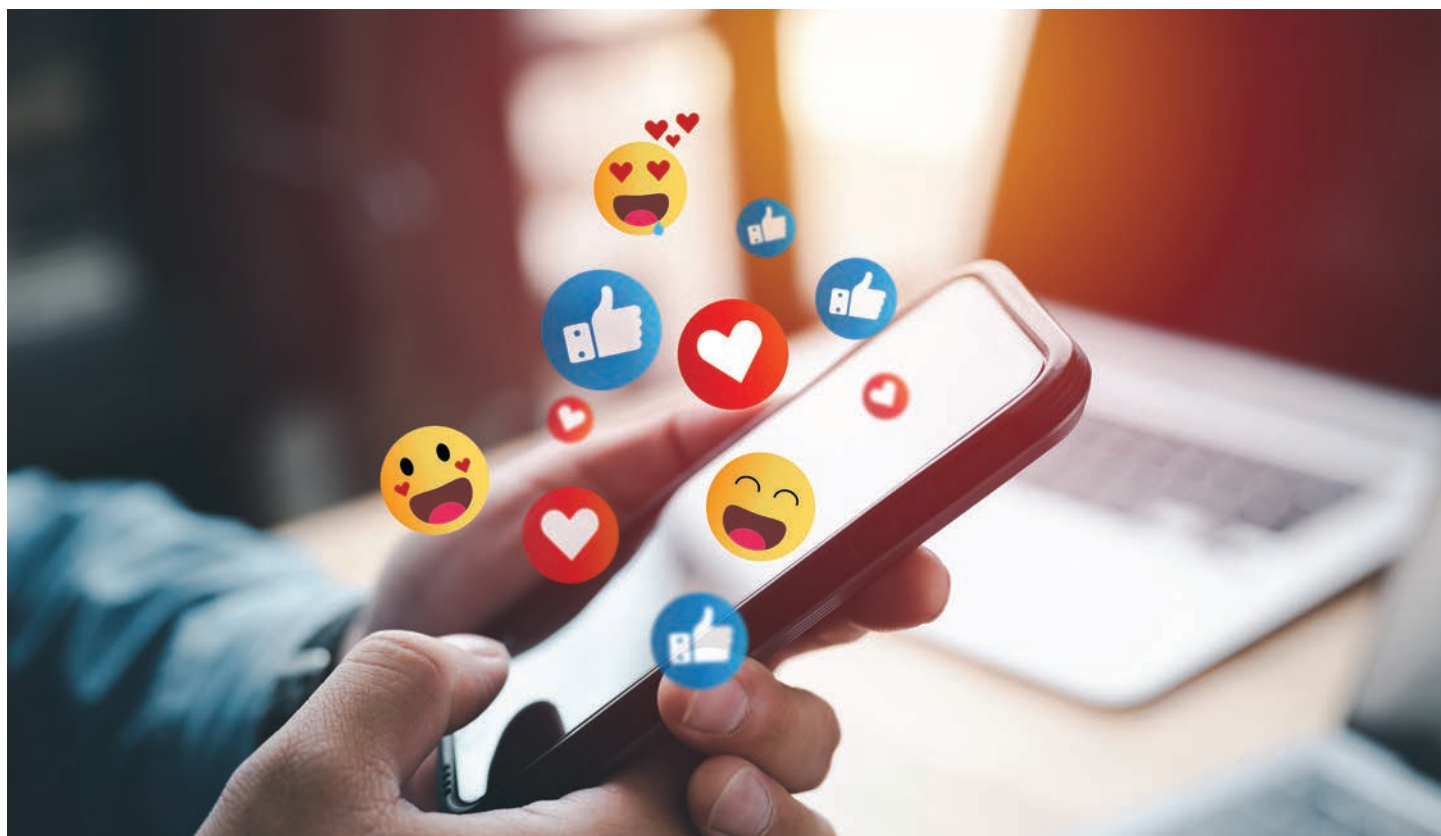
The enrollment process is free, takes only a few minutes, and generally includes the following:

- Show proof of age (must be at least 60 years of age)
- Show proof of Laguna Woods residency
- Complete the enrollment form and waiver
- Take a photograph for your identification card

Enrollments are valid through June 30, 2025.

For more information, visit bit.ly/4gzxS12 or contact City Hall at **949-639-0500**.





IT'S NOT JUST FOR 'LIKES'

Join the Village Facebook community to stay informed, share experiences, and engage with fellow residents. By following, liking, commenting, and sharing, you can enjoy the following benefits:

- **Stay updated:** Access the latest news, updates, events, activities and important announcements happening in the Village.
- **Engage with neighbors:** Connect with other residents, share stories and contribute to building a stronger, more vibrant community.
- **Share your feedback:** Join discussions, provide input and engage with posts to help shape the community conversation.

Don't miss out on this simple and convenient way to stay connected and

informed. Visit facebook.com/LagunaWoodsVillage today and follow our Facebook community!





MORE WAYS TO ENJOY LIFE



Laguna Woods Village offers many more amenities than comparable HOA communities—and at an amazing value.

For those living in communities that don't provide similar amenities, purchasing access via country clubs, racquet clubs, fitness centers, aquatic clubs, craft facilities, etc., is far more expensive than the Laguna Woods Village experience.

Find detailed comparisons for Recreation on pages 39 through 41 of the VMS Benchmarking Report, which assesses all departments and is available online at bit.ly/490wRN0.

Note: VMS Benchmarking Report data is from 2024.

FREE ESL CLASSES

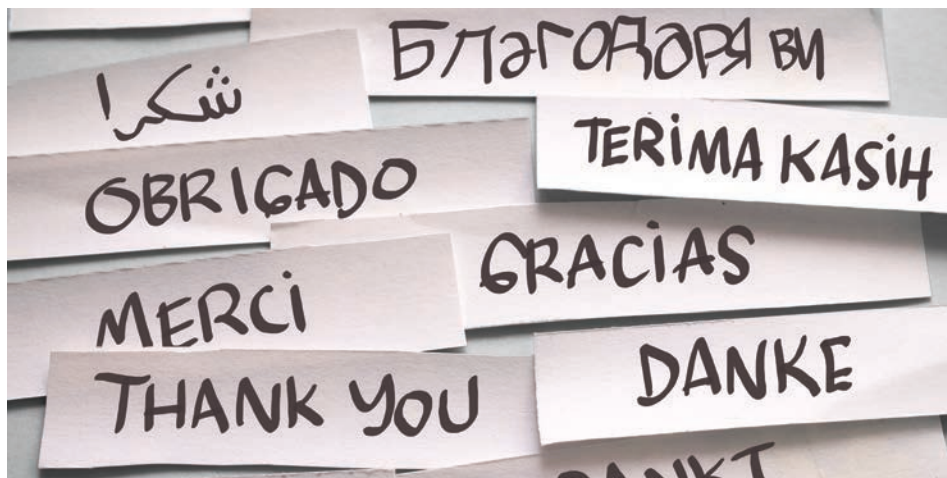
Join free ESL (English as a second language) classes and enhance your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Seven different two-hour classes are open to beginner and intermediate levels.

Classes are hosted Mondays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Clubhouses 1 (24232 Calle Aragon) and 6 (24061 Algarrobo), and at Village Greens (24122 Moulton Parkway).

Email skirchen@hotmail.com to register or contact 949-597-4273/recreation@vmsinc.org for more information.



NOW WE'RE TALKING!



VMS is excited to share that the Resident Services Division now offers enhanced communications via an upgraded AI-powered

translation tablet. This new technology offers advanced speech-to-speech translation, greatly improving the experience

for non-English speakers. Unlike the previous text-to-text system, the new tablet provides faster, more seamless interactions.

Residents have expressed their appreciation for the ability to communicate in their native languages. From English to Mandarin and beyond, VMS' goal is to ensure that all residents feel welcomed, heard and understood. This advancement marks a positive step toward fostering an environment where all residents enjoy a sense of belonging.

JOIN US Innovations in Neuro & Spine Surgery Panel Discussion

Hear from MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center neurosurgeons and learn about back and neck pain treatment options and skull base brain tumor procedures.


MemorialCare[™]
Saddleback Medical Center


Laguna Woods Village®

When

Tuesday, March 25
5:30 – 7 p.m.

Light food and refreshments will be offered.

Where

24112 Moulton Parkway,
Clubhouse 2

RSVP

[memorialcare.org/LWneuro](https://www.memorialcare.org/LWneuro)

For questions or further assistance please contact Reme at rataya@memorialcare.org or (949) 627-3565.



FIRE READY

Preparation and information
can help you stay safe.

As we acknowledge the profound impact of the devastating Los Angeles County fires on individuals and communities, our thoughts remain with all those affected. We also express our deepest gratitude to the first responders—firefighters, law enforcement and medical professionals.

PREPARE TO TAKE YOUR PETS

Pack a go bag for your pet that includes:

- Food – One-week supply, plus can opener and non-spill food dishes
- Water – One-week supply for drinking and cleaning, plus non-spill water dish
- Medicine – One-week supply
- Carriers – Portable, plus bedding, blankets and towels
- Vet contact information – Copies of vet records, plus microchip info
- Current pet photo – With owner information, name and ID tag
- Emergency contact information
- Pet poison hotline – ASPCA Poison Control: **888-426-4435**
- Grooming equipment – Clippers, combs, brushes, flea comb
- Cleaning supplies – Paper towels, plastic bags, disinfectant
- Favorite toys
- Harness and leash
- Muzzle
- Disposable litter box (for cat)



Now that the emergency is past and the relief work and rebuilding have begun, this is the time to prepare before the next emergency strikes. Although some emergencies call for sheltering in place, fires may require evacuation. These tips can help you prepare.

GO EARLY!

If you and your loved ones are in danger from a wildfire, don't wait for evacuation orders. Go early! Most wildfire-related deaths occur during evacuation efforts. Residents wait too long, leave too late and end up trapped in the path of the fire.

EVACUATION SITES

The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) oversees mass evacuations during disasters, with Laguna Woods Village Security Services assisting as directed by OCSD.

The OCSD chooses evacuation sites based on the type of disaster, how many people need

NOW IS THE TIME

The fires are contained. The rains have arrived. Now is the perfect time to prepare—before the next emergency strikes. Do you have your “go bag” ready? If not, this is your chance to get organized while the pressure is off.

WHAT IS A GO BAG?

A go bag is an emergency kit packed with essential items you’ll need if you must evacuate quickly. It should be easily accessible—perhaps by the door or in your vehicle—and light enough to carry. A backpack or a wheeled bag works best.

WHAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR GO BAG?

While personal needs vary, some essentials belong in every go bag:

- Portable phone charger
- Medications – Pack at least a few days’ supply.
- Food and water – Think nonperishables: protein bars, dried fruit, nuts, instant oatmeal and as much water as you can carry or transport.
- Personal hygiene items – Toothbrush, toothpaste, wet wipes, deodorant and any other essentials
- Important documents – Passport, driver’s license, insurance cards and other key paperwork
- Whistle – To signal for help if needed
- First aid kit – Be ready for minor injuries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries – Power outages are common in emergencies.
- Battery-powered radio – Stay informed with emergency updates (don’t forget extra batteries).
- Cash in small bills – ATMs may be unavailable.
- Change of clothes – Comfortable and weather-appropriate
- Emergency shelter items – A poncho, tarp or space blanket to stay dry
- Consider packing extra prescription glasses, pet supplies or any other items specific to

your household’s needs.

Check and refresh your go bag regularly.

ORGANIZE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

While you’re preparing for emergencies, organize your important documents.

Print out:

- Your info
- Your allergies
- Medical conditions
- Medications
- Blood type
- Local contacts
- Next of kin contacts
- Out-of-state contacts

Scan and store in a cloud:

- Advanced directive, will, living trust, power of attorney
- Birth certificates, marriage license, titles, deeds, insurance policies, funeral arrangements
- List of financial accounts
- List of passwords
- List of contacts
- List of medication
- Photos and videos

Set up medical ID on your phone, including:

- Emergency contacts
- Allergies
- Medical conditions
- Medications
- Blood type

For more tips on emergency preparedness, visit sce.com and sce.com/safety/family/emergency-tips, and check out SCE’s “Emergency Preparedness Guide.”

Be prepared. Stay safe. Now is the time to build your go bag!

KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

Small fires are common in households, especially in the kitchen. The leading cause is leaving the stove unattended, even just for a minute, which can cause major damage.

Practicing safe cooking can help prevent accidents:

- Never leave the stove unattended. Turn it off if you leave the kitchen.
- Keep flammable items, like towels and packaging, away from the stovetop.
- Turn pot handles inward to avoid spills.
- Clean cooking equipment to prevent grease and crumbs from catching fire.
- Dispose of grease properly. Let it cool before discarding, and never pour it down the drain.
- Avoid cooking when tired or after drinking. Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Have a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.
- Contain oven or microwave fires. Turn off the heat and keep the door closed until flames are out.

shelter and the safest locations at the time. These decisions depend on the situation and can change quickly.

In a wildfire, evacuation centers are set up away from the fire's path. Exact locations depend on real-time conditions and, therefore, can't be chosen ahead of time.

Possible evacuation sites include schools or large shopping center parking lots, as long as they are safe and out of harm's way to protect evacuees.

EVACUATION ROUTES

During a complete or partial evacuation from Laguna Woods Village, vehicle traffic will be dispersed away from



the Village to avoid conflicting traffic routes and minimize the impact on historically congested intersections. Evacuation routes are designed for each phase of Laguna Woods Village and to provide authorities and gate monitors with enough information to implement a default evacuation plan. The planned routes can be modified at any time to best respond to the threat or as a result of direction received from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) or OCSO.

- Phase 1 includes Gates 1, 2, 3 and 4 and can be accessed at bit.ly/3EJ9iNT
- Phase 2 includes Gates 5 and 6 and can be accessed at bit.ly/4319nqb
- Phase 3 includes Gates 7, 8, 9 and 10 and can be accessed at bit.ly/4k6NLig
- Phase 4 includes Gates 14 and 15 and can be accessed at bit.ly/4302dCC
- Phase 5 includes Gates 11 and 13 and can be accessed at bit.ly/3Qp7hJq

STAY INFORMED

Given the volatile and unpredictable nature of wind-fueled wildfires, staying connected and informed is critical. Plug in to the following resources:

- OCFA: Visit OCFA.org or follow OCFA on social media at x.com/OCFireAuthority for timely updates and information.
- Statewide wildfire updates: Access comprehensive information about California

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Fire extinguishers can prevent fires from spreading if placed correctly. Keep one near your kitchen, where most fires start, and another near your home's exit for safe escape.

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) recommends multipurpose ABC extinguishers for home use:

- **A:** For fires from wood, cloth or paper.
- **B:** For fires from flammable liquids like cooking sprays.
- **C:** For fires caused by live electricity.

Fire extinguishers are easy to use. OCFA provides guidance and recommends following the PASS technique:

- Pull the pin.
- Aim at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze lever slowly.
- Sweep from side-to-side.

If you cannot safely extinguish a fire, get outside quickly, close the door behind you to contain the fire, and call **9-1-1**.



wildfires at fire.ca.gov/incidents.

- AlertOC notification system: Enroll in the county's mass notification system, AlertOC, at ocgov.com/about-county/emergency. This service delivers time-sensitive messages directly to your home, mobile, or business phone, with options for text and email notifications.
- Download the Laguna Woods Village Emergency Operations Center Activation Guide at bit.ly/4194j04.

By connecting to these trusted sources, you can receive critical updates during emergencies.

ENROLL IN CODED ALERTS

Village Management Services (VMS) relays county messaging to keep residents informed of potential dangers. In emergencies or situations requiring urgent communication, the CodeRED system delivers brief, critical alerts via phone, text or email to Village residents.

To enroll in CodeRED, visit lagunawoodsvillage.com, click "Sign up today" under the red and black CodeRED icon located at the bottom right corner of any webpage, and complete the form. Residents can also register through the resident portal.

Read "Allies in Fire Safety" on page 50 to discover more about emergency preparedness.

Spring Clean SMARTER, NOT HARDER

Get a fresh start for your home and health—without overdoing it.

By Ellyce Rothrock

As the seasons change, so does our opportunity to refresh our living spaces. For active adults aged 55 and older, spring cleaning is more than just a tradition—it's a proactive measure to maintain health, especially with concerns like bird flu, norovirus and the common cold. A clean home not only uplifts the spirit but also serves as a frontline defense against these illnesses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CLEAN HOME

Maintaining cleanliness is crucial in reducing the spread of viruses and bacteria. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), norovirus—one of the most common causes of stomach flu—spreads easily through contaminated surfaces. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucet knobs/levers and countertops, can significantly decrease the risk of infection.

Furthermore, experts emphasize that respiratory viruses like influenza and bird flu can survive on surfaces for extended periods. According to the National Institute for Microbiology, cleaning these areas frequently can reduce the likelihood of transmission.

SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE CLEANING STRATEGIES

Keeping your home clean doesn't have to be costly or complicated.

Here are some budget-friendly tips from the Center for Microbiome Innovation from the University of California, San Diego:

- **Declutter regularly:** Reducing clutter minimizes dust accumulation and makes cleaning more manageable.
- **Routine cleaning:** Establish a regular schedule to clean different areas of your home, ensuring that dust and dirt don't build up over time.
- **Use microfiber cloths:** These are effective at trapping dust and require only water for most cleaning tasks, reducing the need for chemical cleaners.



CLEANING FREQUENCY GUIDE

- **DAILY:** Wipe down high-touch surfaces like countertops, doorknobs and light switches.
- **WEEKLY:** Vacuum and mop floors, clean bathrooms and dust furniture.
- **MONTHLY:** Clean appliances, wash windows and check for areas that may need deeper cleaning.
- **SEASONALLY:** Declutter storage areas, deep clean carpets and address any maintenance issues.



CAN TOO MUCH CLEANING AND DISINFECTING WEAKEN YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM?

While keeping your home clean is important, excessive sanitization may do more harm than good when it comes to your immune health.

According to Dr. Robynne Chutkan, author of “The Microbiome Solution,” overuse of antibacterial soaps, disinfectants and hand sanitizers can strip away beneficial bacteria that help regulate the immune system. “Our microbiome—the collection of good bacteria in our gut and on our skin—plays a vital role in training our immune system to recognize and fight off harmful pathogens,” she explains.

According to Dr. Jack Gilbert, a microbial ecologist at UC San Diego and cofounder of the Earth Microbiome Project and the American Gut Project, exposure to everyday germs can actually strengthen the immune response. Living in an overly sanitized environment stops our immune system from getting the “practice” it needs, which may increase the risk of allergies, autoimmune disorders and infections when we do encounter harmful microbes.

HOW TO KEEP A HEALTHY BALANCE

- **Use soap and water instead of antibacterial products.** Regular handwashing with plain soap removes germs without disrupting your skin’s microbiome.

- **Disinfect only when necessary.** High-touch surfaces like doorknobs and countertops should be cleaned regularly, but there’s no need to sanitize your entire home daily.
- **Get outside and interact with nature.** Studies show that exposure to diverse bacteria in soil and fresh air can help support a robust immune system.
- **Let your immune system do its job.** A little exposure to germs—like petting animals, gardening, or social interactions—can help strengthen natural defenses.

It’s also important to support your immune system through tried-and-true, common-sense methods:

- **Nutrition:** A diet rich in fruits, vegetables and lean proteins provides essential nutrients that bolster immunity.
- **Exercise:** Regular physical activity enhances immune function and overall health.
- **Sleep:** Adequate rest is crucial for the body to repair and defend against illnesses.

While it’s important to prevent the spread of illness, a well-balanced approach to cleanliness can help keep both your home and immune system in top shape.



SAFE, NONTOXIC CLEANING OPTIONS

For those concerned about the chemicals in traditional cleaning products, there are safe and effective alternatives:

- **Vinegar and water:** A solution of equal parts white vinegar and water can clean and disinfect various surfaces. However, avoid using vinegar on natural stone surfaces, as its acidity can cause damage.
- **Baking soda:** This natural abrasive is excellent for scrubbing sinks, tubs and countertops without scratching.
- **Castile soap:** This plant-based soap is biodegradable, nontoxic and suitable for general cleaning purposes.

HELPFUL GADGETS FOR EASIER CLEANING

Incorporating the right tools can make cleaning more accessible and efficient:

- **Lightweight vacuum cleaners:** Opt for models that are easy to maneuver to reduce strain during use.
- **Extendable dusters:** These allow you to reach high or awkward areas without the need for ladders or excessive stretching.
- **Ergonomic mops:** Designed to reduce bending and twisting, these tools make floor cleaning less taxing.

CLEAN SOURCED

Southern California seniors looking for trustworthy and affordable cleaning services can use the following strategies to find the right fit.

Use Local Senior Resources

Many senior organizations, such as AARP California and local senior centers, keep lists of vetted service providers.

Check Online Directories and Reviews

Search Yelp and Google for “senior-friendly house cleaners” in your area and look for companies with high ratings and positive customer feedback.

Also, the Nextdoor neighborhood-based platform allows you to get recommendations from local residents who have used cleaning services.

Hire Through Trusted Senior-Focused Services

Care.com and Handy allow you to find cleaners with verified reviews, background checks and options for senior-friendly services.

Some professional cleaning companies, such as Maid Brigade and The Cleaning Authority offer eco-friendly and customized cleaning plans for older adults.

Ask About Discounts and Senior-Friendly Features

When vetting a cleaning service, ask about senior discounts, nontoxic cleaning products and customizable services, like deep cleaning, laundry or light housekeeping.

Get Recommendations from Trusted Sources

Word-of-mouth referrals from friends and neighbors can be one of the most reliable ways to find a good cleaner. Also, local churches, religious organizations and community groups often maintain lists of trusted service providers.



AFFORDABLE CLEANING SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

If cleaning becomes challenging, consider professional assistance. Many cleaning services offer affordable rates and cater specifically to the needs of older adults.

AARP recommends researching local providers, reading reviews and seeking recommendations from community centers or senior organizations to find a trustworthy service. See “Clean Sourced” sidebar.



7 FAB TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Looking for a unique getaway or bucket-list adventure? Here are some favorites you might not have considered.

By Kim Campbell Thornton

Paris? London? Hawaii? They are among my favorite destinations, but the world is a big and beautiful place. In this article, we suggest a mix of well-known travel favorites as well as some cities and countries you might not yet have explored or considered.

Travelers from Laguna Woods Village fall into many different categories, which may or may not overlap: adventurous, cultured, athletic, restful, budget-minded, active or luxury-loving, to name a few. You may be a bird watcher, nature lover, cooking enthusiast, solo traveler, pet owner or have special needs. With that in mind, here are recommendations for the best places to go this year, no matter where your interests lie.

VIETNAM

This lush Southeast Asian country is rich in natural beauty, history and culture. From Hanoi to Halong Bay, Ho Chi Minh City to the Mekong Delta, Vietnam's beaches, cities, jungles and temples offer much to discover. Cruise aficionados will appreciate multiday expeditions through the Mekong Delta or Halong Bay, visiting pagodas, traditional villages, beaches, caves with unique geological features and ecosystems, and floating markets. Food lovers can take cooking classes in Hoi An or enjoy the country's café culture, particularly in

Hanoi, where lingering over coffee is a lifestyle. Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, is perfect for people-watching, enjoying water puppet shows, and partaking of street food, while Ho Chi Minh City, or Saigon, has a buzzy vibe that spans from the French colonial era to the Vietnam War, to its contemporary role as an economic, cultural and educational center.

Best time to visit: February and March.

Drawbacks: Air quality can be poor. Traffic can be daunting for people with mobility issues trying to cross streets.

Perfect for: The budget-conscious as well as luxury seekers.

KIMBERLEY COAST, AUSTRALIA

Australia's wild west coast, the Kimberley, is home to ancient rock art, spectacular waterfalls, swimming holes, gorges, reefs and a host of remarkable wildlife, from dugongs to wallabies, whales to sea turtles. If you're seeking a unique place to explore, this is it. When you're not fishing, hiking, diving, snorkeling or marveling at 40,000-year-old rock art, check out the world's only two horizontal waterfalls, observe the more than 300 bird species found in the area, visit a pearl farm, learn about indigenous culture or gaze at the sparkling evening show presented by the southern celestial hemisphere.

Best time to visit: Plan your excursion, which can be a cruise or land-based, between May and September.

Drawbacks: Remote and hard to get to.

Perfect for: Active adventurers, anglers, wilderness lovers and birders.



Barcelona, Spain

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Spain's capital of Catalonia, situated on the Mediterranean, is a hotspot for architecture, music, dining and sailing (the America's Cup race took place there last fall). It's also neighbor to gorgeous wine regions producing red, white and sparkling quaffs, many organic. Sagrada Familia, designed by Antoni Gaudi, stuns in person no matter how many photos of it you've seen. Beyond that, Barcelona's exciting urban environment showcases a range of architecture, from the wavy rooftop of Santa Caterina Market to the colorful Modernista style of the Palace of Catalan Music to the twisty, narrow streets of the oldest part of the city, the Barri Gotic, some of which dates to

Roman times. For music lovers, the city is home to Guitar Legends Hall, an immersive experience of rock and roll history, plus live events at its Blues Bar. Through mid-September, the city hosts Festival Guitar BCN, a series of concerts celebrating every genre, from flamenco to rock.

Good months to visit: May, June and November. Avoid hot, humid, crowded July and August.

Drawbacks: The city has a reputation for pickpockets, but normal precautions keep belongings safe.

Perfect for: Travelers seeking a highly walkable, dog friendly destination with easy-to-navigate public transportation.

QUEBEC, CANADA

Don't want to travel all the way to Europe? Take a French vacation to our northern neighbor. Both Montreal and Quebec City offer a taste of old France combined with great food, arts scenes and outdoor activities. They each have distinct personalities, and one may suit you better than the other.

Quebec City is a UNESCO World Heritage Site based on its 400-year-old mint architecture and status as the only completely walled city north of Mexico. It stands out for a dramatic cliff-top setting overlooking the Saint Lawrence River, historic sites,



Kimberley Coast, Australia

MATCHING NEEDS AND INTERESTS

What's your favorite thing to do on vacation? Sightsee, explore nature, enjoy the company of your pet, relax on the beach, discover new cuisines? Here's a guide to match up interests, needs and places.

Art, history, culture, food—and pet-friendly: Europe wins hands-down.

Budget-friendly: South Africa, Tanzania, Romania, Czechia, Poland, Croatia, Turkey, Colombia, Arizona, Utah

Beaches on a budget: Vietnam, Thailand, Montenegro, Albania, Sri Lanka

Great food: Italy; Spain; Amsterdam; Istanbul; Cape Town, South Africa; Singapore; Lyon, France; Lima, Peru; Portland (Oregon and Maine); Stockholm, Sweden; Tokyo.

Geared for people with mobility issues: Many cruises; Barcelona, Spain; Valentino Beach Club in Calabria, Italy; Algarve region of Portugal; Stockholm, Sweden; Vancouver, Canada; Singapore; Melbourne, Australia; Portland, Oregon.



Montreal, Quebec, Canada

museums, theater, Montmorency Falls (higher than Niagara!) and an annual winter carnival.

Montreal is a bigger city with a trendy vibe. It's the second-largest French-speaking city in the world after Paris, but English is also widely spoken. You can always find an art, music or film festival, car or bicycle race, or cultural event occurring. Don't miss Mount Royal Park and the city's old-town architecture.

Best times to visit: March through May and September through November for Montreal; June through September (festival season) and December through February (cold but lots of fun winter-time activities) for Quebec City.

Drawbacks: Cold in winter; Quebec City is not as easy to get to as Montreal; Montreal can be expensive.

Perfect for: Those seeking world-class restaurants, for which Montreal has the edge. For a slow, romantic and budget-friendly trip, choose Quebec City. For a fast-paced, sophisticated experience with a culturally diverse food scene, choose Montreal.

AFRICAN SAFARI

A bucket-list item for many, you may think an African safari is a

once-in-a-lifetime trip, but it's easy to become addicted to them. It's not wrong if Tanzania and Kenya immediately spring to mind when you think safari, but they're not the only option. Choose them, however, if you're a first timer and want as close to a guarantee as possible to see Africa's big five: lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and African buffalo. Top it off with a beach stay on the islands of Zanzibar (Tanzania) or Lamu (Kenya).

For a unique safari, consider Namibia, a narrow country in southwest Africa along the Atlantic coast. It stands out for desert-adapted wildlife, giant sand dunes, ancient rock art, coastal and mountain scenery, big-cat conservation centers, stargazing at the International Dark Sky Reserve and incredible wildlife sightings at Etosha



Tarangire National Park, Tanzania

National Park's waterholes. Combine Namibia with a visit to South Africa's Kruger National Park or Botswana's Okavango Delta and a trip to Victoria Falls on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Best times to visit: June through October, although this can vary depending on where you're going and what you want to see. Botswana's "green season" (December through March) offers lower prices, great wildlife sightings and spectacular afternoon thunderstorms.

Drawbacks: Tanzania and Kenya can be crowded; game drives are dusty and bumpy. Costs range from economy group tours to sky-high luxury.

Perfect for: Adventurers, wildlife and bird watchers, and (for Namibia) desert or geology nerds.

CHILE

Flying into Santiago as the sun rises over the Andes is unforgettable. A long, narrow country on South America's Pacific coast, Chile is known for fly-fishing, hiking, birding and puma trekking in the mountains and lakes of Patagonia; fantastic food and cocktails in the capital



Vail, Colorado

city of Santiago; wine-growing regions; the Mars-like terrain of the vast Atacama Desert with its amazing sky-watching opportunities; the mysterious statues of Easter Island in the South Pacific; Tierra del Fuego—the launching point for Antarctica expeditions; and a rich arts scene in Santiago and Valparaiso.

When to visit: South America's summer months of December through February. For a less expensive stay, try the shoulder seasons of September and October or March through May.

Drawbacks: Expensive (but worth a splurge); difficult to get around for people with mobility issues.

Perfect for: Adventurers, wildlife and bird watchers, and art or food lovers.

COLORADO

Want mountains and lakes but

prefer to stay closer to home? Consider a quick flight to "the Switzerland of America." For a taste of Colorado's varied and spectacular scenery, visit Rocky Mountain National Park (flat lake trails make for easy hikes); the red rock formations of Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs; the preserved cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park; the mineral hot springs of Glenwood Park; and the quaint mining-era town of Telluride. Grand Lake is popular for swimming, boating and fishing. Even if you're not a skier, you can enjoy Aspen or Vail for their après-ski scenes, shopping and spa treatments.

When to visit: Colorado is a year-round destination depending on the activities you have planned.

Drawbacks: Ski slopes and hiking trails can be crowded. May be expensive.

Perfect for: Travelers who hate leaving their dog at home. Colorado is a great place to share a vacation with your furry friend, no matter the size or activity level, from going river-rafting or hiking to strolling the gardens at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park (inspiration for Stephen King's novel "The Shining") to downing a cold one at one of the dog-friendly state's many breweries.



Atacama Desert, Chile



**“Papa’s Comfort Zone,”
Jim Gibson
1ST PLACE**

SPECIAL JUDGING

The 2025 exhibition was judged by art professionals not residing or instructing in Laguna Woods Village. Ribbons were awarded for Best of Show, 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention. Judging criteria was based on concept, composition, use of media and presentation.

Thank you to our judges:

- Pat Sparkuhl – Festival of Arts
- Hilary McCarthy – Adjunct Professor at Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD)
- Christian Olid-Ramirez – Faculty member at Irvine Valley College, LCAD and Fullerton College

Congratulations to the winners:

- **Best in Show** – “Capistrano,” Jim Brech
- **1st Place** – “Papa’s Comfort Zone,” Jim Gibson
- **2nd Place** – “Sunlit Pond,” Rosanne Snyder
- **3rd Place** – “RBG,” Renuka Pillai
- **Honorable Mention Choice of judge Pat Sparkuhl** – “Angel & the Violinist,” Patricia Waterman
- **Honorable Mention Choice of judge Hilary McCarthy** – “Ellen,” Jim Gibson
- **Honorable Mention Choice of judge Christian Olid-Ramirez** – “Pathways,” Roselie Rentz

EXPERIENCE VILLAGE ART

Village residents and their guests are cordially invited to visit the Laguna Woods Village Community Center to experience the newly installed 2025 Laguna Woods Art Association exhibit—a highly anticipated and well-regarded showcase of artistic talent.

This special exhibition features art association members who bring their creative visions to life in the Clubhouse 4 art studio, sharing their talents, passions and artistic joys with the community.

Whether expressed in acrylic, mixed media, oil, watercolor or another medium, the works on display span a diverse range of themes—from spectacular natural landscapes and evocative still lifes to bold statements, intriguing curiosities and deeply introspective portraits. Each piece is sure to inspire, captivate, charm, amuse or provoke thought in its own unique way.

WHERE TO FIND THE EXHIBIT

More than 140 works of art adorn the first- and third-floor hallways and alcoves of the Community Center. Each piece is accompanied by a placard listing:

- The artist’s name and contact information
- The artwork title, medium and dimensions
- Price (if available for sale; otherwise marked NFS)



“Capistrano,”
Jim Brech
BEST IN SHOW



“Sunlit Pond,”
Rosanne Snyder
2ND PLACE



“RBG,”
Renuka Pillai
3RD PLACE



“Angel & the Violinist,”
Patricia Waterman
HONORABLE MENTION
CHOICE OF JUDGE
PAT SPARKUHL



“Ellen,”
Jim Gibson
HONORABLE MENTION
CHOICE OF JUDGE
HILARY MCCARTHY



“Pathways,”
Roselie Rentz
HONORABLE MENTION
CHOICE OF JUDGE
CHRISTIAN OLID-RAMIREZ

The Art Association wishes to thank VMS staff who worked on making this such a wonderful exhibit:

- Jonathan Jauregui, Maintenance Operations Supervisor
- Gerardo Dimas, Maintenance Carpenter Technician
- Victor Saucedo, General Maintenance Worker

- Louie Ramirez, Maintenance Carpenter
- Cristina Loyola, Resident Services Concierge Agent
- Monica Madden, Resident Services Concierge Agent
- Ellyce Rothrock, Communications Manager
- Jenning Lai, Communications Associate
- Susan Logan-McCracken, Communications Associate

RESIDENT VOTING

At press time, resident voting was in progress. The winner was announced in “What’s Up in the Village” and at an artists’ reception on Friday, March 7.

We invite you to take your time and immerse yourself in this inspiring exhibition during Community Center hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



OUR HEROES

Thanks to your support, here's what we accomplished together.

By Marcy Sheinwold, for the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village

At the beginning of each year, the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village holds a brainstorming session to evaluate its progress during the prior year and set goals for the coming one. At this year's session, we identified some of our accomplishments during the past year. In doing that we realized that we could not have done any of this without the support of the Village. These efforts would not have been possible but for the community's support—your donations and contributions helped make our motto “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” a reality. Thank you!



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Together, we:

- Focused on loneliness to counter social isolation stemming from the pandemic and to foster greater social interaction
- Initiated the bus-lunch Nutrition Connections program to increase social interaction at the Florence Sylvester Senior Center by providing free lunch for one month to residents arriving by Village bus—piloted first at the Towers and then offered Village-wide; over 50 participated, and after the one-month, free-lunch trial some residents continued in the program on their own
- Completed work on the first 2023-2024 MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center grant providing emergency response devices (ERD) to fall-risk residents (approximately 80 rented presently), saving the life of a 94-year-old
- Continued to provide residents free fall-prevention classes with MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center
- Received a second MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center grant in November to provide financial assistance to residents needing hearing aids (five participants to date); hearing loss is a major cause of

- social isolation and increases dementia risk
- Screened over 30 residents in the first free hearing loss screening program for residents
- Participated in Village 60th anniversary celebration
- Participated in Village Peace Day
- Completed last “Planning for the Inevitable” video on hospice care
- Developed and publicized the Foundation’s first Good Neighbor program to involve Village clubs to increase social interaction
- Selected and funded five club Good Neighbor projects involving Chinese American, African American Heritage, Publishing, Camera and Pickleball clubs, and included the Ba’hai Club
- Held first joint meeting of all Good Neighbor club participants to foster greater interaction among clubs
- Welcomed the new Social Services manager
- Distributed holiday cheer grocery gift cards to approximately 130 residents
- Provided approximately \$210,000 in financial aid (including grocery and gas cards) to Village residents facing financial challenges

For more information about services provided by the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village, please visit our website at foundationoflagunawoodsvillage.org, call **949-268-2246** or email thefoundation@comline.com.

Publishing Club

Celebrates Poetry, Jazz

By William Scott Galasso and Patricia Bailey



In 1996, the Academy of American Poets designated April as National Poetry Month. Five years later, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History inaugurated Jazz Appreciation Month in April 2001. To honor these seminal events, the poets of Laguna Woods are celebrating.

To inspire our entire creative community, the Publishing Club of Laguna Woods will host Poetry/Jazz Fest on Wednesday, April 30, from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Clubhouse 7 located at 24111 Moulton Parkway, Gate 16. Poets of Laguna Woods and invited guest musicians will perform poetry readings and jazz, with Howard Schneider as emcee.

FEATURED JAZZ ARTISTS

This year we are honored to have two internationally acclaimed jazz musicians, Jennifer Hart and Celine You, join us. Jennifer Hart has performed with symphonies, orchestras and jazz bands all over the world. She sings phonetically in eight languages showcasing her range in musical genres. Celine You hails from the Berklee College of Music in Boston with her jazz journey taking her from New York to Korea sharing the stage with K-pop artists Lena Park and Johan Kim.

FEATURED POETS

Our featured poets are widely published and have read their poems

nationwide. Their books feature diverse subjects and are written in multiple forms. Each writer expresses his or her own unique style and perspective, which ranges from narrative and lyrical to free verse, beat and formalism. This is work that moves hearts and minds.

MORE INFO

Join us for a great celebration of poetry and jazz. Refreshments, coffee and tea will be provided. Residents and guests are welcome for a nominal fee of \$10.

Look for flyers at each clubhouse, in the Laguna Woods Globe and on TV6 or visit our website pubclublw.com for upcoming details. We look forward to seeing you.



Community Bridge Builders Tackles **AGEISM**

The Community Bridge Builders produced “Making the Invisible, Visible,” which premiered at the Performing Arts Center Monday, February 24. The one-hour video kicked off an educational program on ageism that will include workshops.

“The idea for the program was born one year ago as Community Bridge Builders was doing workshops regarding racism,” said Rebeca Gilad, the club’s president and founder. “When you look at one ‘ism,’ you cannot escape looking at other kinds of prejudices because many of them intersect.” As club members explored other biases, they found that ageism is almost always overlooked and prejudice against older people, especially older women, shows the convergence of two prejudices, said Gilad, who is also a gerontologist.

Club members reached out to the community at large and created a group of 12 writers to write four vignettes. With the help of three scriptwriters, actors, directors, Village Television videographers, post production volunteers and many snacks and rehearsals, the one-hour “Making the Invisible, Visible” film wrapped and premiered.

The next part of the program will include three-hour or 90-minute workshops, in which participants can watch the video and share their own experiences in small groups with a facilitator. Facilitators are residents who have education, training, public speaking and similar backgrounds and received eight hours of training to lead these workshops.

Gilad hopes this is just the beginning of spreading awareness on how older people feel. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the media announcing a new antiaging or age-defying product wouldn’t make us feel ashamed of our wrinkles? Wouldn’t you love it if the fact that we are the majority of donors, we vote in very large numbers, and we take care of our families and friends every time it is needed, would be recognized? I would. All the volunteers that are participating in this program would, and that’s why we are happily and excitedly working to fight ageism,” she said.

For more information, or to join or organize a workshop, email lwcommunitybridgebuilders@gmail.com.

LOVE, LAUGHTER AND LIP GLOSS

By Lori Traver

The rooms in the Village Greens of Laguna Woods Village were filled with smiles and sparkles this Valentine's season as a local vendor supported the newly formed Springboks Club's DIY lip gloss event.

The afternoon began with delightful entertainment from four charming clowns—Whimsy, Lollipops, Tootsie and Poodles—who set a festive mood for the creative workshop ahead.

Under the guidance of Springboks President Rachel Barnes, club members navigated through four carefully organized stations to create their own personalized lip glosses.

1. The first station featured precise measuring of organic ingredients, with Barnes providing expert instruction to ensure each mixture achieved the perfect consistency.
2. Moving to the second station, members watched as their carefully measured ingredients melted together in sanitized glass jars, transforming into the base for their custom lip glosses.
3. While waiting for their mixtures to prepare, participants channeled

their creativity at the third station, which offered an abundance of crafting materials including stickers, lace and decorative accessories. Here, members designed beautiful Valentine's cards and created glueless envelopes, proudly sharing their heartfelt creations with fellow club members.

4. The grand finale took place at station four, where members selected their preferred mica colors and flavorings to complete their handmade lip glosses.

The combination of beauty, creativity and companionship made for a memorable Valentine's celebration that exemplified the community spirit of Laguna Woods Village.

"This type of event perfectly captures what our Springboks Club is all about," Barnes said. "We're bringing together neighbors to learn new skills, create beautiful things and, most importantly, share joy with one another."

The success of this Valentine's event demonstrates how local business leaders can play a vital role in supporting and enriching our community's social activities. Through such partnerships, Laguna Woods Village continues to foster engaging opportunities for its residents to connect and create together.



LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE COMMUNITY STREET MAP

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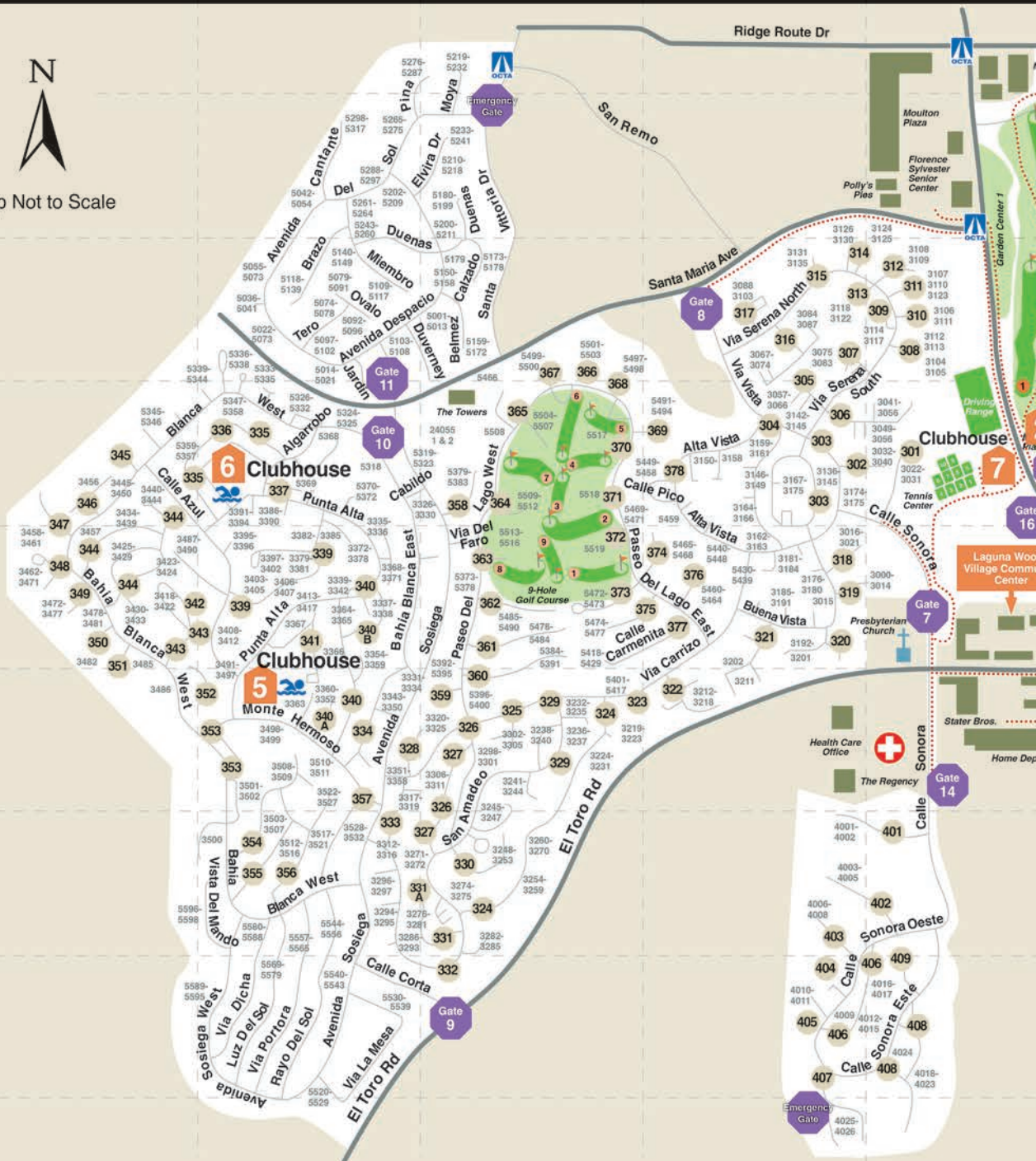
A B C D E



Map Not to Scale

- Golf Cart Route
- Health Care
- Churches, Temples
- Security Gates
- OCTA Bus Stops
- Clubhouses
- Swimming Pool

2024, Laguna Woods Village



A B C D E

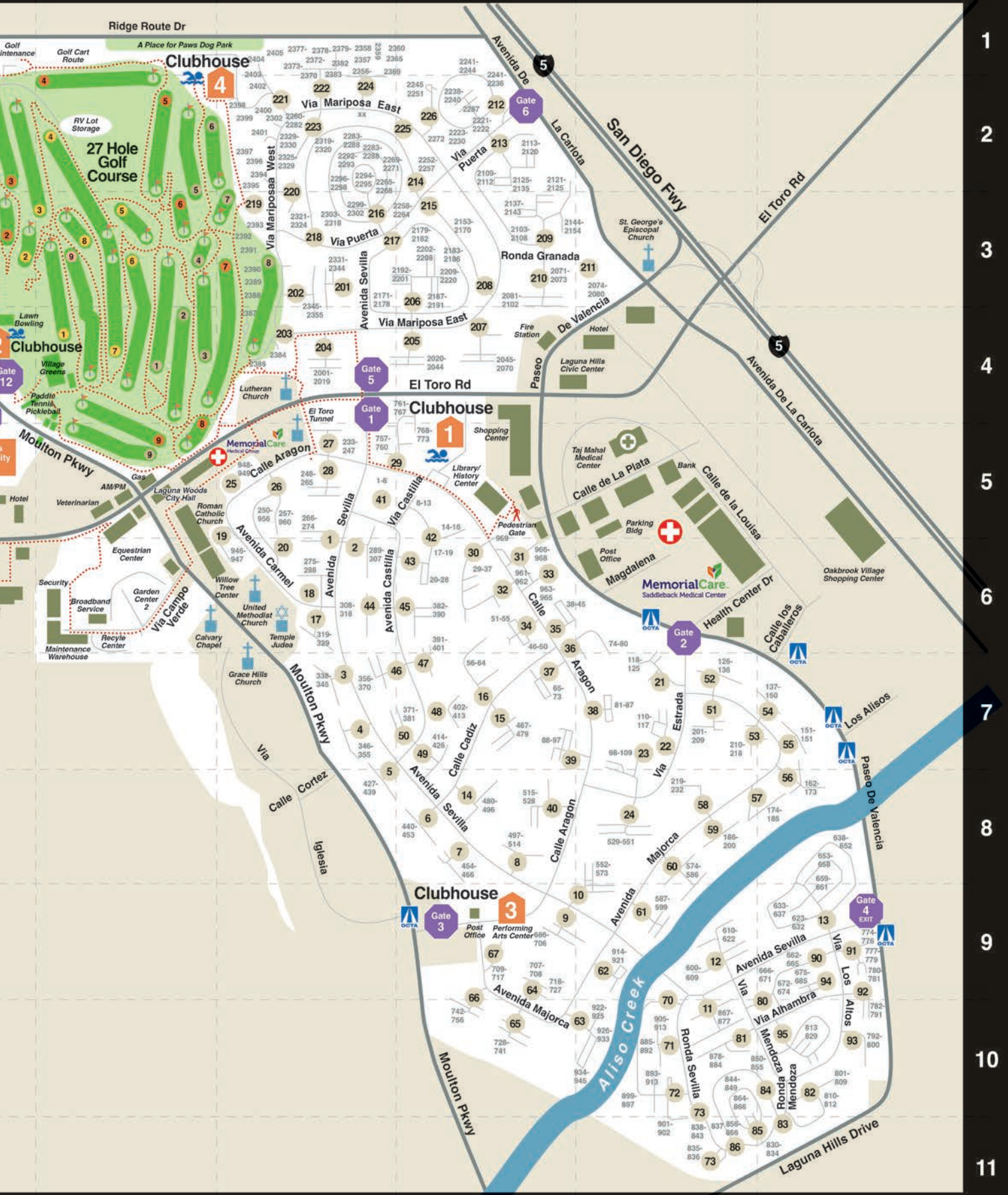
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KEYS TO THE COMMUNITY

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The Laguna Woods Village Community Center

24351 El Toro Road

Laguna Woods, CA 92637

lagunawoodsvillage.com

949-597-4600

Emails provided where available

Stay in Touch!

Use these frequently called numbers to seek assistance, find answers and more.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

General Information	949-597-4600
information@lagunawoodsvillage.com	
info@vmsinc.org	

AMENITIES AND RECREATION

General Information	949-597-4273
recreation@vmsinc.org	
19 Restaurant and Lounge	949-206-1525
Clubhouse 1 Office/Pool 1	949-597-4281
Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center	949-597-4284
Clubhouse 2 Office/Pool 2	949-597-4286
Clubhouse 4 Office/Pool 4 (Mon - Fri)	949-597-4291
Clubhouse 4 Office/Pool 4 (Sat & Sun)	949-597-4344
Clubhouse 5 Office/Pool 5	949-597-4382
Clubhouse 6 Office/Pool 6	949-597-4436
Clubhouse 7 Office	949-268-2417
Clubhouse Reservations	949-597-4227
Community Fitness Center	949-268-2275
Equestrian Center	949-597-4275
Golf and Village Greens	949-597-4336
Golf (Par 3 Course)	949-597-4334
Performing Arts Center	949-597-4289
Performing Arts Center Box Office	949-597-4288
Village Library	949-597-4274
lvillagelibrary@yahoo.com	
Village Television	949-597-4295

COMMUNITY ACCESS

Community Access	949-597-4600
Gate Clearance	949-597-4301

EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Fire, Police, Medical Emergency	911
Care Ambulance Service	877-972-0999
MemorialCare Saddleback Hospital	949-837-4500
OC Fire Authority Public Information Line	800-545-5585
OC Sheriff's Nonemergency Dispatch	949-770-6011

MISCELLANEOUS

Animal Services, City of Laguna Beach	949-497-0701
City of Laguna Woods	949-639-0500
Florence Sylvester Senior Center	949-380-0155
Foundation of Laguna Woods Village	949-268-2246
Laguna Woods Globe (subscriptions)	714-796-7777
lagunawoodsglobe@scng.com	
Laguna Woods History Center	949-206-0150
info@lagunawoodshistory.org	
Lost and Found	949-597-4435
lostandfound@vmsinc.org	
RV Storage	949-268-2284
Saddleback College Emeritus Institute	949-582-4835
The Towers	949-597-4278
thetowerslww@pmpmanage.com	

RESIDENT SERVICES

Manor Alterations	949-597-4616
alterations@vmsinc.org	
Resident Services	949-597-4600
residentservices@vmsinc.org	
Social Services	949-597-4267

SECURITY

Compliance Hotline (anonymous)	949-268-2255
Department of Security Services (24/7)	949-580-1400
Disaster Preparedness Task Force	949-597-4237

TRANSPORTATION

Village Bus System	949-597-4659
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UTILITIES

Broadband (Cable)	949-837-2670
CR&R Inc. (Trash)	949-625-6735
LagunaWoods-Recycles@CRRmail.com	
El Toro Water District	949-837-0660
Southern California Gas Company	877-238-0092
Southern California Edison	800-655-4555
West Coast Internet Customer Service	949-487-3302

In Your Neighborhood

To find out what's going on in and around your neighborhood, visit lagunawoodsvillage.com, go to the Services menu, click on Maintenance and Construction and scroll down to project logs.



GRF PROJECT LOG

UNITED MUTUAL PROJECT LOG

THIRD MUTUAL PROJECT LOG

GRF Facilities Sweeping Schedule

1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 5:30 a.m. Clubhouse 1
5:30 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 2

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 5:30 a.m. Clubhouse 3
5:30 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 4

3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 6 a.m. Clubhouse 7
6 to 7 a.m. Clubhouse 5
7 to 8 a.m. Clubhouse 6

4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

4 to 7 a.m. Maintenance Center
Garden Centers
Equestrian Center Lot

5TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH (WHEN APPLIES)

4 to 7 a.m. RV Lots
Golf Maintenance

Street Sweeping Schedule

**All times are approximate and subject to change*

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Cul-de-sacs

MONDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Gates 1, 2, 3 – Calle Aragon to Via Estrada North
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Gates 1, 2, 3 – Calle Aragon to Via Estrada South

TUESDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Gates 5, 6 - All streets in this area
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Gate 14 – All streets in this area

WEDNESDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Gates 7, 8 – Calle Sonora/Alta Vista (East Area)
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Gates 7, 8, 9 – Calle Sonora/Alta Vista (West Area)

THURSDAY

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Gate 10 – East of Ave. Sosiega & North of Monte Hermoso
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Gate 9 – South of Monte Hermoso
Every other week
Gate 9 – Towers Parking Lot

FRIDAY

GRF Facilities
Please see GRF Facilities Sweeping Schedule.

Gate 11 – All streets in this area
No numbered cul-de-sacs fourth week of the month



DEMYSTIFYING INSPECTIONS

What happens during the process and how long does it usually take?



At any given time, around 150 inspections are in process on average in the Village. What happens after you make your initial inspection request? Here are the 10 stages.

1. Initial inspection request

The inspection operations specialist sorts over 100 email messages daily in the resaleinspections@vmsinc.org inbox to identify first inspection requests. This process takes one to two days.

2. Manor research

If a regulated materials (CI07) ticket is open, the seller's agent receives an email informing the member (seller) to remit documentation to Manor Alterations to close the ticket, and the request is postponed. This can take up to one week.

The inspection operations specialist ensures the form is for the correct mutual and completed correctly. Signators who are not owners receive an email request to contact the appropriate department.

If damage restoration/moisture intrusion (CI03/MI01) tickets are open, an email is sent to the Damage Restoration Division. This adds another two to three days to the process.

3. Archive, material assembly

The inspection operations specialist prints from the database:

- Most recent inspection history report
- Permit/alterations list (Third and United)
- Components list (United only)

Tickets are created in the database:

- Resale inspection requested (RI100)
- First resale inspection fee (RSO1)
- Resale landscape inspection completed (RS04)

This takes one to two days.



4. Generate packet

After the inspection form is completed, the packet is created so the resale inspector can conduct field work. This takes one to two days.

5. Schedule first inspection

The inspector, who performs five inspections per day on average, contacts the seller/agent to schedule the inspection. If the inspector leaves a voicemail, he or she must follow up until schedule confirmation. This takes one to three days.

6. Inspection

The inspector identifies pertinent open tickets in the database and annotates the resale inspection form to help close resolved tickets.

Over the next one to five days, the inspector reviews:

- Exterior, including windows (Third and United)
- Nonstandard landscape items, such as citrus or other fruit (Third and United)
- Garages/carports (Third and United)
- Interior, taking approximately 40 photos and lasting one hour (United)
- Water heater only, taking approximately 10 photos and lasting 15 minutes (Third)

7. Prepare draft report

Over the next one to five days, the inspector:

- Prints the first resale inspection fee (RS01) ticket summary page, enters completion date and employee number, and signs and attaches the document to the RS01 ticket.
- Completes the nonstandard landscape inspection report, attaches the document to the resale landscape inspection completed (RS04) ticket.
- Enters water heater information on the cover sheet (if the manufacture year is not clearly stated on the appliance, the inspector must locate using the serial number).
- Reviews previous inspection history reports:
 - If work that required a mutual consent (MC) is listed, it is grandfathered, the inspector assigns an MC number, and enters and codes component information in the database.
 - If not listed in previous inspection history reports and an MC is required, it is noted on the coversheet with the corresponding standard.
- Lists corrections that do not require an MC.
- Creates a photo folder per inspection.

8. Prepare, email first inspection report

During this one- to two-day phase, the inspection operations specialist:

- Enters report data into an Excel file consisting of an alterations and corrections list for which the member is responsible.
- Verifies mutual consent/city permit requests.
- Emails first inspection report to escrow and agent. The seller addresses corrections before requesting a final report.

9. Reinspection (if required)

The inspection operations specialist receives the final inspection report request.

If corrections existed that did not require an MC, the inspection operation specialist creates a correction-required handout for reinspection, requiring another one to two days.

10. Report issuance

If all corrections are completed, including resolved restoration/moisture intrusion tickets, the final report is issued. This takes one to two days.

Total process times

On average, escrow can take 20 to 30 days if no issues are found or 30 to 90-plus days with open issues.



crews, reduced water consumption and created a space that residents can enjoy for years to come.”

The Clubhouse 6 turf reduction project serves as a model for future landscape transformations throughout Laguna Woods Village. By replacing difficult-to-maintain grass with sustainable, drought-tolerant alternatives, the community continues to prioritize environmental stewardship while enhancing its shared spaces.

Residents are encouraged to visit the newly renovated area to experience the transformation firsthand and gain inspiration. With its mix of beauty, sustainability and safety improvements, the Clubhouse 6 landscape redesign stands as a shining example of thoughtful community planning and environmental responsibility.

LANDSCAPING MAKEOVER

Clubhouse 6 undergoes a stunning turf reduction transformation.

By Megan Feliz, Landscaping Services Administrative Manager

A once troublesome patch of turf at Clubhouse 6 has been transformed into a stunning, drought-tolerant landscape, marking a significant step toward sustainability and improved maintenance efficiency.

The sloped grassy area had long been a challenge for landscapers due to its steep grade. The difficulty of mowing the slope safely meant that maintenance crews struggled with the terrain, as mowers would slide downward while in use. Recognizing both the safety concerns and the opportunity to conserve water, the landscape was redesigned to feature drought-resistant plants and an eye-catching aesthetic.

The new design incorporates a variety of succulents, native plants and decorative rocks, creating an inviting and environmentally friendly space. These plants require significantly less water than traditional turf, aligning with ongoing efforts to reduce water usage in the community. In addition to the practical benefits, the reimagined space offers a visually appealing blend of textures and colors, making it an attractive enhancement to the Clubhouse 6 surroundings.

“This project is a win-win for the community,” said a GRF Landscape Committee director. “We’ve improved safety for our maintenance



Before



After



ACCESSING GATE 12

What residents and their guests need to know

Gate 12 operates differently from other Village gates due to the absence of security arms. To help prevent unauthorized nonresident use of amenities, Security Services offers the following key points for residents to keep in mind when inviting guests to amenities at Gate 12.

- One-day guest passes are required for all guests visiting Gate 12. Create passes via dwellingLIVE at bit.ly/4hzrpnX or call Gate Clearance at **949-597-4301**. Only one-day guest passes are available for Gate 12. Two-week or annual passes are not offered for this gate.
- When using Gate Clearance, residents do not need to explain the purpose of the visit. Just request a Gate 12 guest pass and provide your manor number, resident ID, and the guest's name when asked by the gate ambassador.
- When creating a pass in dwellingLIVE, click Gate 12 in the dropdown menu. For help with registering or using dwellingLIVE, visit bit.ly/4b1GXOP. Among the features in dwellingLIVE, residents can generate a QR code and send it to their guest's mobile device. The guest will show the QR code to the gate ambassador, who will scan it and print a one-day permit for the guest to display on their vehicle dashboard.

Gate ambassadors will always check IDs, including resident IDs, to ensure rules are followed for 19 Restaurant & Lounge and to prevent unauthorized nonresidents from using golf, lawn bowling and pickleball facilities.

Remember, residents must stay with their guests at all times when using Village amenities.

CALIFORNIA'S NEW DAYLIGHTING LAW

The regulation aims to reduce pedestrian fatalities.

California drivers will now face enforcement of a new parking restriction under the "Daylighting Law" (AB 413). Designed to improve pedestrian safety, the law prohibits stopping or parking:

- Within 20 feet before any crosswalk (marked or unmarked)
- Within 15 feet of crosswalks with curb extensions, which are features that reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians

The regulation applies to both sides of one-way streets, a departure from the rules for two-way streets, where only the approach on the right side is restricted.

This measure aims to keep areas near crosswalks free of parked cars, improving visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. Daylighting, already mandated in over 40 states, has been shown to reduce crashes at intersections by up to 30%. For more information, visit the full bill text at bit.ly/4aY4twc.



YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS, FITNESS AND FUN



2025 LAP CHALLENGE

Who's ready to take the plunge in the 2025 Lap Challenge? Embark on an epic swim adventure—a virtual “journey” covering 180 miles from Busan, South Korea, to Nagasaki, Japan. That's 6,300 laps or 12,600 lengths of aquatic glory!

How it works:

- Swim at lap pools 2 and 5 anytime during the year.
- Log your progress with the pool attendant after each session to track your miles.
- This exciting challenge is open to all residents, so dive in, stay motivated and make every lap count. Are you ready to join the fun? Challenge ends December 31, 2025!

2024 Lap Challenge Highlights

A huge round of applause for the 2024 Lap Challenge swimmers!

- **Champion:** Richard Fairweather swam an astonishing 19,792 lengths to complete the challenge.
- **Runner-up:** Eng-Hong Lin clocked in at 11,321 lengths.
- **Third place:** Y Soong powered through 7,432 lengths.
- **Fourth place:** Jim Quigley rounded things out with 7,024 lengths.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in 2024, and best of luck to the 2025 challenge hopefuls!

RECREATION OFFICE VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER

24351 El Toro Road

949-597-4273

recreation@vmsinc.org

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities** for activities, classes, fitness and sports, golf, facilities, clubs and more. For registration, visit the Recreation office or the facility where the class/event is held.

SURFCITY SINGERS



From the Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts, the Surf City Singers will take you on an unforgettable journey through Broadway, spanning the Golden Age to contemporary classics.

Don't miss this stunning musical revue, bursting with energy and talent at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m.

Purchase general admission tickets for \$10 online at tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com or at the PAC box office at 23822 Avenida Sevilla Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Credit/debit fees apply.

For more information call 949-597-4288 or email recreation@vmsinc.org.



MONDAY MOVIES AT THE PAC

Showings at 2 and 7 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Free, ticketless entry.

- March 17: Arthur the King
- April 1: If
- May 19: White Bird

Email recreation@vmsinc.org or call 949-597-4288 for more information.



Prepare to laugh and be amazed when acclaimed comedy magician Mac King takes the stage at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. Purchase \$20, \$25 or \$30 tickets online at tickets.lagunawoodsvillage.com or at the PAC box office at 23822 Avenida Sevilla Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Credit/debit fees apply. For more information call 949-597-4288 or email recreation@vmsinc.org.

THE VILLAGE GAMES ARE COMING

The 2025 Village Games will take place Monday, March 31, through Thursday, April 24. The near-month-long competition features 23 events scheduled throughout the community: Archery, badminton, basketball, bicycling, billiards, bocce ball, bridge (progressive), equestrian, golf (18-hole, nine-hole and par-3), lawn bowling, outdoor pickleball, paddle tennis, pétanque, poker, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, target shooting, tennis, volleyball and soft volleyball. Register for the games now in the Community Center Fitness facility at 24351 El Toro Road during regular operating hours. The closing ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 24. For more information call 949-268-2275 or email assistant.fitness@vmsinc.org.

EAT, DRINK AND BE IRISH

Wear your green and head to Clubhouse 1 for a traditional Irish dinner on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, at 5 p.m. Martinez's menu includes corned beef and cabbage; chicken piccata; red parsley potatoes; green garden salad; buttered baby carrots; rolls, soda bread and butter; and key lime pie. The GRF no-host bar includes \$4 bottled Guinness and \$7 Jameson Irish whiskey. Tickets are \$28 and are on sale in the Clubhouse 1 office. Credit or check only. Credit/debit card fees apply.

For more information, email recreation@vmsinc.org or call 949-597-4281.





LIBRARY & HISTORY CENTER

The Library and History Center are located adjacent to each other at 24266 Calle Aragon.

Library Hours

- Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Sunday: Closed
- 949-597-4274; lwvillagelibrary@yahoo.com**

History Center Hours

- Monday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment
- 949-206-0150; info@lagunawoodshistory.org; lagunawoodshistory.org**

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

RECREATION OFFICE **949-597-4273**

BRIDGE ROOM **949-268-2420**

CLUBHOUSES

- Clubhouse Reservations **949-597-4227**
- Clubhouse 1/Pool 1 **949-597-4281**
- Clubhouse 2/Pool 2 **949-597-4285**
- Clubhouse 3/Performing Arts Center **949-597-4289**
- Performing Arts Center Box Office **949-597-4288**
- Clubhouse 4/Pool 4 **949-597-4344**
- Clubhouse 5/Pool 5 **949-597-4382**
- Clubhouse 6/Pool 6 **949-597-4436**
- Clubhouse 7 **949-268-2417**

EQUESTRIAN CENTER **949-597-4275**

FITNESS CENTERS

- Clubhouse 1 Fitness Center **949-597-4284**
- Clubhouse 5 Fitness Center **949-597-4382**
- Community Fitness Center **949-268-2275**

GARDEN CENTERS **949-268-2387**

GOLF

- Golf and Village Greens **949-597-4336**
- 19 Restaurant and Lounge **949-206-1525**
- Par 3 Course **949-597-4334**

HISTORY CENTER **949-206-0150**

LAWN BOWLING **949-951-3027**

LIBRARY **949-597-4274**

PC WORKSHOP **949-268-2262**

MAC LEARNING CENTER **949-268-2263**

SADDLEBACK EMERITUS OFFICE **949-582-4835**

TENNIS CENTER **949-268-2481**

VIDEO LEARNING CENTER **949-470-0965**



GET MOVING!

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities** > **View All Amenities** to learn more about the Village's resort-style amenities.

- View a list of amenities, location, contact information, registration process and more.
- Consider taking one or more of the almost 20 classes currently offered, including mat/chair yoga, ballroom dance, English or Spanish language classes, cycling, aquatic classes and more.
- Check out the schedule of current recreation classes at bit.ly/3YmE59C.



JOIN A CLUB

In addition to the many amenities and activities offered through the Recreation and Special Events Department, 250 clubs, special interest groups and organizations offer residents a wealth of fun and entertainment. With so many clubs to choose from, there's sure to be like-minded new friends to make.

Visit lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities** > **Village Clubs** to browse clubs, including arts and crafts, cultural, dance, games, health and wellness, performing arts, political, religious and spiritual, science and tech, sports and fitness, support groups and more.



PERSONAL TRAINERS ARE HERE FOR YOU

Get in a good workout led by a personal trainer at the Community Fitness Center. Five 30-minute sessions cost \$200; 10 30-minute sessions cost \$400. Call the Community Fitness Center at [949-268-2275](tel:949-268-2275) for more information.



EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Our charming and unique equestrian facility offers boarding for resident-owned/lesson horses and a riding program for residents and their sponsored guests. In addition, riders and non-riders alike enjoy various events at our facility, including summer barbecues, the Taste of Country, Easter at the Equestrian Center and horse shows.

LOCATION

24312 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
949-597-4274

HOURS

Business hours: Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour hours: Wednesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.; Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 and 2 p.m.

Riding program: Wednesday through Sunday; contact the Equestrian Center office for lesson schedules.

Tours and riding program are closed Monday and Tuesday.

HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES

Horsemanship classes at the Equestrian Center are all about developing the horse-man relationship. Horsemanship is a journey rather than a destination.

In these group classes, staff combines lectures,

handouts, herd observation and hands-on education in the care of and communication with horses. It's a great opportunity for those who would like to someday own a horse or for those who just want to learn how to work with horses.

Six-session drop-in classes are offered Sunday at noon.

Those who graduate Level 1 are invited to join Level 2. Call or drop by the Equestrian Center for more information.

SPONSOR A GRF HORSE

The Equestrian Center is one of the happiest places in the Village—thanks to its many wonderful horses. Let's work together to keep that joy alive—please consider sponsoring a GRF horse!

Sponsorship Benefits

- You and your sponsored horse will be thanked in the equestrian newsletter.
- A special sign on the horse's stall door sporting the horse's and sponsor's names: "*Sebastian is generously sponsored by Jane Smith.*"
- Receive an 8-by-10-inch color photo of your sponsored horse.
- Visit your special horse once a month to pet and take pictures during business hours.

Sponsorship Rules

- Handling, grooming or riding are not permitted.
- Giving food or treats may not be given without staff approval.
- Horses must remain in their stalls/paddocks.
- Staff must supervise visits.

Sponsorship Rates Per Horse

- \$650 monthly
- \$3,500 six months
- \$6,500 yearly

Sponsorship includes a percentage of the cost of care and maintenance of a GRF horse, which are total board, feed and farrier costs.

We truly are grateful for the generosity of those who sponsor our GRF horses. Please contact the equestrian supervisor for details on sponsorship.

Call **949-597-4275** for more information.



ONGOING CLASSES

MONDAY

Schedules subject to change without notice.

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Laughter Yoga with Cheryl Russell

Clubhouse 6 ballroom, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Zumba Gold with Tracy Murray

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 10 to 11 a.m.
\$25 for five classes

Ballroom Dance with Candi Davis

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 11 a.m. to noon.
\$35 for five group lessons

Belly Dance with Tahia

Performing Arts Center rehearsal room, 11:15 a.m. for beginner, 12:15 p.m. for intermediate
\$35 for five group lessons

Mat Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Polynesian Dance with Laura DeGuire

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Chair Yoga with Kristine DeYoung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.
Free drop-in class

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 5 to 6 p.m.
\$40 per eight-class session

Lengthen and Strengthen with Sheryl Leicher

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8:15 p.m.
Free drop-in class

TUESDAY

Yoga with Kim Min

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Tai Chi

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Free drop-in class

Clogging with Kathy Wu

Performing Arts Center rehearsal room,
8:30 to 10 a.m.
Free drop-in class





RECREATION

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 9 to 10 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

\$40 per eight-class session

Chair Strength and Balance with Janet Gilliam

Clubhouse 1 gym, 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.

\$15 for five classes

Swim Clinic with Jan Levinrad

Pool 2, noon to 1 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.

Free drop-in class

IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

\$25 for five classes

Drum Circle

Performing Arts Center, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Free drop-in class

WEDNESDAY

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9 a.m.

Free drop-in class

Zumba Gold with Tracy Murray

Clubhouse 5 ballroom, 9 to 10 a.m.

\$25 for five classes

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 10 to 11 a.m.

\$40 per eight-class session



Mindful Movement Yoga with Jerry Bloch

Performing Arts Center dining room, noon to 1 p.m.

Free drop-in class

Russian Language Class with Janet Preissler

Clubhouse 2 Grevillea Room, 3 to 5 p.m.

Free drop-in class

IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3 to 4 p.m.

\$25 for five classes

THURSDAY

Cycling with Alisha Sullivan

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8 a.m.

and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

\$40 per eight-class session

Tai Chi Dance

Clubhouse 1, multipurpose room, 8 to 10:30 a.m.

Free drop-in class

Chi Kung

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 8 to 9 a.m.

Free drop-in class

Tai Chi

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Free drop-in class

Latin Line Dance with Rebeca Gilad

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

*Free drop-in class***Chair Strength and Balance with Janet Gilliam**

Clubhouse 1 gym, 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.

*\$15 for five classes***Tap Dance and Rhythms with Laura Fremont**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 10:30 to 11:20 a.m.

*\$25 for five classes***Jazz and Ballet Mix-It-Up with Laura Fremont**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

*\$25 for five classes***Mat Yoga with Kristine DeYoung**

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Free drop-in class***Chair Yoga with Kristine DeYoung**

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

*Free drop-in class***Spanish Class with Walter Valencia**

Performing Arts Center dining room, 1 to 3 p.m.

Email kevinvalencia@verizon.net to register**Mindful Movement Yoga with Jerry Bloch**

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 3 to 4 p.m.

*Free drop-in class***IKTA Kickboxing and Karate with Sensei Ron**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

*\$25 for five classes***Meridian Yoga**Performing Arts Center dining room 2,
5:30 to 6:45 p.m.*Free drop-in class***FRIDAY****Cycling with Alisha Sullivan**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 7 to 8 a.m.

*\$40 per eight-class session***Chi Kung**

Clubhouse 1 patio, 8 to 9 a.m.

*Free drop-in class***Yoga with Kim Min**

Clubhouse 7 ballroom, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

*Free drop-in class***Ballroom Dance with Ed VanOrnum**

Clubhouse 1 ballroom, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

*\$35 for five classes***Zumba Toning with Tracy Murray**

Clubhouse 2 ballroom, 9 to 10 a.m.

*\$25 for five classes***Circle of Love Meditation with Zahir Movius**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

*Free drop-in class***SATURDAY****Tai Chi Dance**

Clubhouse 1 multipurpose room, 8 to 10:30 a.m.

*Free drop-in class***Line Dance**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 2 to 3 p.m.

*Free drop-in class***Disco Dance**

Clubhouse 5 fitness room, 3 to 4 p.m.

Free drop-in class



AMENITY INFO

Clubhouse Reservations | 949-597-4227

Schedule reservations for Clubhouses 1, 2, 5 or 7; the Village Greens; the Performing Arts Center; or the Community Center at the recreation office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Reservations may be scheduled through December 31, 2025.
- Schedule reservations for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) auditorium with the PAC supervisor.
- Clubhouse 6 reservations will resume at a later date.

Clubhouse 1 | 949-597-4281

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Fitness center open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Indoor mini-gym (badminton, pickleball, volleyball, basketball)
- Archery
- Shuffleboard
- Bocce
- Game rooms
- Drop-in lounge

Clubhouse 2 | 949-597-4285

- Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations; weekend hours vary based on reservations
- Video lab and studio
- Card room
- Lawn bowling

Clubhouse 4 | 949-597-4344

- Art studio, ceramics, glass studio, jewelry, lapidary, photo studio, quilting, sewing room, slipcasting, woodshop, machine shop
- Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Contact the clubhouse for specific studio days/times.

Clubhouse 5 | 949-597-4382

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and extended hours to accommodate reservations
- Game room
- Fitness center open daily 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Clubhouse 7 | 949-268-2417

- Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations; weekend hours vary based on reservations
- Bridge games Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- Bridge class schedule varies

Community Center | 949-597-4273

- Concierge, Resident Services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Table tennis: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.
- Mac learning center: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 949-268-2263
- PC workshop: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 949-268-2262
- Community fitness center Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Equestrian Center | 949-597-4275

- Business hours Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tours Wednesday and Thursday 2 p.m.; Friday through Sunday 12:30 and 2 p.m.
- Call to inquire about riding program.

Garden Centers | 949-268-2387

- Daily sunrise to sunset
- Call 949-268-2387 to schedule a tour.



Golf | 949-597-4336

- 27-hole course open daily 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - o Online reservations only; see pro shop to create account.
- Driving range open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Par 3 course open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Call the course condition hotline at **949-597-4373** for course updates.

History Centers | 949-206-0150

- Open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment

Library | 949-597-4274

- Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Paddle Tennis | 949-597-4273

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Tuesday, Thursday priority from 7 a.m. to noon
- First, third Saturdays priority from 7 a.m. to noon

Performing Arts Center | 949-597-4289

- Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours to accommodate reservations
- Box office open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **949-597-4288**
- Auditorium open for scheduled shows; dates and times vary

Pickleball | 949-597-4273

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings priority from 7 a.m. to noon
- Second, fourth Saturday priority 7 a.m. to noon

Pools | 949-597-4273

Check the most current pool schedule at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **Amenities > Recreation and Fitness > Aquatics.**

Recreation Coordinated Classes | 949-597-4273

- Class schedule: bit.ly/4fJhjRa
- ActiveNet portal: bit.ly/3eKhxts
- ActiveNet tutorial video: bit.ly/2UDQmJF

Tennis | 949-268-2481

- Daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- No reservations required for courts 1 to 7, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Court Reserve reservations required for courts 8 to 10, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Court Reserve reservations required for courts 6 and 7, 4:30 to 9 p.m. (lighted)
- For CourtReserve reservations, visit bit.ly/4hl3bNS.

Saddleback Emeritus | 949-582-4835

Visit saddleback.edu/emmeritus for the most current class schedule.

GRF Board of Directors

The Golden Rain Foundation of Laguna Woods Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Cush Bhada
President
2023-2026

Martin Roza
First Vice President
2024-2027

Alison Bok
Second Vice President
2024-2025

Egon Garthoffner
Secretary
2022-2025

Andy Ginocchio
Treasurer
2024-2025

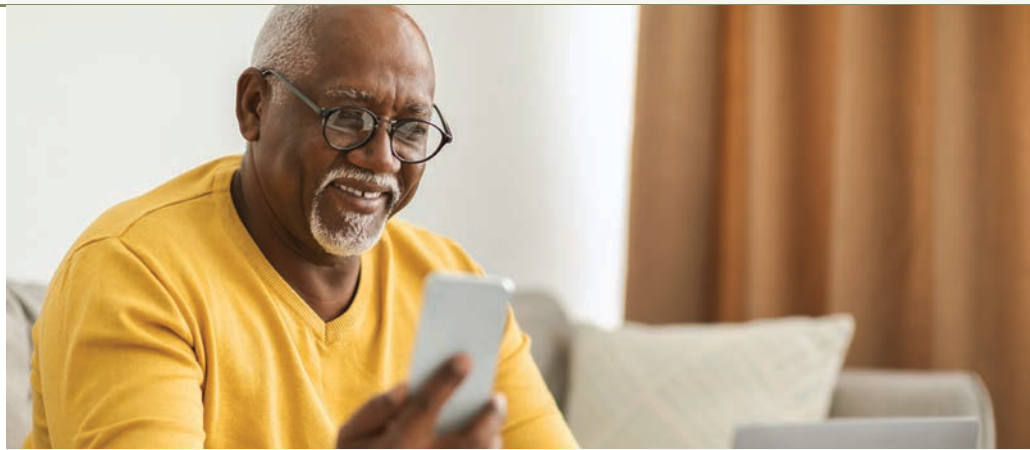
Gary Duerst
2024-2026

Ellen Leonard
2024-2027

Steven Leonard
2024-2026

Manohar Motwani
2024-2025

Brad Rinehart
2024-2027



CONNECT AND STAY TUNED

We tailor communications to your preferred platform.

By Alison Bok, Second Vice President

What's new? What's going on? Many of our daily conversations start with these questions to open dialogue. Our fingers on the keyboard ask it online when we visit favorite sites to read or chat, or on the remote to watch television programs. Sometimes we are passive listeners or readers, other times we engage politely or loudly by message or voice. Because we are experienced and smart people, we constantly evaluate the information we receive. Does this answer my question? Does it square with reality? Does the author push a certain point of view? Who is going to benefit?

A huge cultural divide opened up from the 1990s to the millennium, when cell phones and internet service became accessible to most Americans. Like the explosion of automobile ownership a century before, the communication explosion changed us. Some people embraced the new technology while others ignored it, dismissed it as a fad, even opposed it—until they saw personal benefits to themselves and didn't want to miss contact with their grandchildren. Now that divide is closing; for example, the GRF e-newsletter, which is open to all Laguna Woods Village members, reaches over 15,000 of us.

Village members have myriad ways to receive and give information, so let's sort them by various preferred communication styles.

IN PERSON

- Attend the monthly town halls for United or Third mutuals.
- Frequent open board and committee meetings for United, Third, GRF or the Towers. Sit in the gallery and observe or ask questions during the Member Comments segments.

- Visit the Community Center, sign in at Resident Services and speak with desk staff there.
- Contact board members by asking the Community Center concierge staff for a current board member contact list.
- Ask for Resident Services' enhanced AI-powered tablet for speech-to-speech translation.
- Attend a new resident orientation—even if you aren't exactly new—offered quarterly by both United and Third mutuals in the Community Center.
- Reserve a seat at the new Village Living sessions on the second Tuesday of the month in the Community Center Elm Room.
- Visit the clubhouses for flyers and brochures on clubs and activities. Mosey to the rooms and talk to people who are there for arts, crafts, fun, music or companionship.

ON THE BIG SCREEN

- Watch "This Day" on Village Television (TV6) Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m. or catch the rebroadcast at 12:30 and 5 p.m.
- Watch "This Day" and any TV6 programming on demand at [youtube.com/@VillageTelevision](https://www.youtube.com/@VillageTelevision).
- View the TV6 message board and "crawl" for important messages posted during TV downtime.

IN PRINT

- Read the Village Breeze magazine delivered bimonthly to every manor via the U.S. Postal

Service. You can also pick one up at the clubhouses and other facilities.

- Stop by the Community Center and clubhouses to pick up club flyers about coming events, informative brochures about senior mobility and area discounts.
- Consider subscribing to the Globe (weekly on Thursdays) by calling **714-796-7777** or visiting ocregister.com/location/california/orange-county/laguna-woods.
- Join the Laguna Woods Library: It's free, convenient, full of wonderful books, magazines and puzzles, and staffed by resident volunteers. Your resident ID card is all you need.
- Write a letter to the General Manager, 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.

ONLINE

- Email the general information inbox at info@vmsinc.org or info@lagunawoodsvillage.com, both of which are monitored continuously and answered daily.
- Get answers to frequently asked questions by clicking FAQ at the top main menu at lagunawoodsvillage.com.
- Subscribe to the "What's Up in the Village" every-Friday email blast for news, events, upcoming meetings and more at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **News** > **Subscribe to News** or email info@lagunawoodsvillage.com.

- Read the latest news at lagunawoodsvillage.com > **News** > **All News & Events**.
- Get social, leave a comment or ask a question at the Village Facebook page at [facebook.com/LagunaWoodsVillage](https://www.facebook.com/LagunaWoodsVillage).
- Subscribe to United or Third monthly e-newsletters from the board president for news about your mutual by emailing info@lagunawoodsvillage.com.
- Visit the PC Club to enhance your technology skill level at theclub.org.
- Explore the website at lagunawoodsvillage.com where you can access meeting minutes, governing documents, current events, schedules and in-depth information with your resident portal login credentials.
- Join open board and committee meetings via Zoom or Granicus by visiting lagunawoodsvillage.com > **News** > **Upcoming Meetings**.

We hope you will partake in the community and gain the best experience Laguna Woods Village has to offer. Village communications are here to help.

The evolution of communication enabled the greatest human achievements, from hand signals to smoke signals, from the faint wail of the alpenhorn to the town crier, from printed newspapers to radio, movies and television—now to instant and continual electronic messaging. Isn't it fascinating that we still often greet each other with the words: "What's new?" or "What's going on?"



Third Board of Directors

The Third Laguna Hills Mutual Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

S.K. Park
President
2023-2025

Reza Karimi
First Vice President
2023-2025

Robert Mutchnick
Second Vice President
2024-2027

Steve Parsons
Secretary
2024-2025

Donna Rane-Szostak
Treasurer
2024-2026

Howard Fox
2024-2026

Ruth Johnson
2024-2027

Peggy Moore
2024-2025

Craig Wayne
2024-2027

Moon G. Yun, M.D.
2023-2026

Jules Zalon
2023-2026

WE HEARD YOU

Look for enhanced landscaping services in Third Mutual this year.

By S.K. Park, President

As Third Mutual board president and Landscape Committee chair, I want to take this opportunity to let you know that we value your feedback and strive to improve the quality of our landscape services. You spoke, and we listened. To ensure our community remains beautiful, well-kept and enjoyable for all residents, we are enhancing the following landscaping services.

Increasing shrub maintenance cycles

In previous years, our landscape team provided four annual shrub bed maintenance cycles. Because we recognized the need for more frequent attention to maintain the vibrancy and health of our shared outdoor spaces, we are increasing our shrub maintenance cycles from four to six this year.

Increasing slope maintenance cycles

We previously serviced contracted slopes twice a year. Understanding the importance of slope maintenance for both aesthetics, erosion and fire control, we are expanding this service to three times per year. This additional attention will help maintain the integrity and beauty of our sloped landscapes while preventing overgrowth.

Introducing dedicated mowing crew

To keep up with summer growth and prevent any backlog on shrub bed maintenance, we are introducing a dedicated mowing crew. This proactive approach ensures that our green spaces remain neatly manicured and inviting, even during peak growing seasons.

Enhancing bare slopes

To reinforce our commitment to a greener, more vibrant community, we are enhancing bare areas on slopes with new plantings. All these improvements will beautify the area, lead to lusher and healthier landscapes, and contribute to the overall health of our environment. We will keep you informed about these changes and ensure that our landscape services continue to meet and exceed your expectations. Your input drives these improvements, and we appreciate your engagement in making Third an even better place to live. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these enhancements bring to our community!



Garden Villa Association Board of Directors

The Garden Villa Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday of even-numbered months at 4 p.m. General membership meetings are on the second Thursday of odd-numbered months at 10 a.m.

Stuart Hack
President
2025-2027

Ro Kendall
Vice President
2025-2027

Cindy Baker
Secretary
2025-2027

Sheldon Mende
Treasurer
2025-2027

Tom Stacy
Communications Director
2025-2027

Joe Camera
2025-2027

Jennifer Hsu
2025-2027

GVA'S ROLE DURING EMERGENCIES

Fire safety concerns for three-story buildings in Laguna Woods Village

By Stuart Hack, President, Garden Villa Association

The threat of fire is a pressing concern for all of us. Strong, wind-driven fires could occur in Laguna Woods Village, putting residents—especially those in three-story buildings—at heightened risk.

Each three-story building houses an average of 24 manors. In the event of a fire, elevators cannot be used, creating serious challenges for residents with mobility impairments.

The Role of Building Captains

Building captains serve as valuable sources of information for their neighbors, but it's important to note that they are not trained for rescue operations. For official emergency procedures, residents can refer to the Laguna Woods Village Emergency Operations Center Activation Guide at lagunawoodsvillage.com/emergency-operations-plan.

In the past, the Village maintained a block captain system to provide warnings and assist designated neighborhoods during natural disasters. Many building captains chose to participate in this program and received training.

Addressing Disaster Preparedness

At the time of writing, the Garden Villa Association planned to discuss disaster preparedness at its February 27 board meeting. Among the unique challenges facing residents of three-story buildings, key concerns include:

- The needs of second- and third-floor residents in an emergency
- Assistance available for transporting disabled residents from upper floors
- Safety of Garden Villa basements as potential shelter areas
- Identification of escape methods and routes
- Available aid from government agencies and organizations and how to access it

Residents are encouraged to stay informed, engage with their building captains, and participate in ongoing discussions to enhance emergency preparedness in Laguna Woods Village.

United Board of Directors

The United Laguna Woods Mutual Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Mickie Choi Hoe
President
2023-2026

Jeanne Costello
First Vice President
2024-2027

Marie E. Collins
Second Vice President
2024-2027

Sue Quam
Secretary
2023-2026

Charles Prater
Treasurer
2024-2027

Maggie Blackwell
2024-2027

Nancy Carlson
2023-2026

Vidya Kale
2023-2025

Anthony Liberatore
2024-2025

Thomas Tuning
2022-2025

Georgiana Willis
2023-2026



ALLIES IN FIRE SAFETY

How we work on many fronts to keep the Village safe

By Sue Ellen Quam, Secretary

As Southern California residents, we all are concerned about fire safety. Recent wildfires have prompted United Mutual members to inquire about efforts to protect the community from fire hazards. While natural disasters can't be prevented, we collaborate with allies to assist us in such events. The Augurisk Wildfire Hazard index, which assesses the potential for wildfires at the U.S. Census block level, reported that Laguna Woods has a low wildfire risk.

OUR WATER

Laguna Woods Village receives its water from the El Toro Water District (ETWD), which has developed detailed emergency response plans over the past 20 years. The district collaborates extensively with other water districts to ensure additional water can be supplied to the ETWD system in cases of emergency.

ETWD staff and volunteers participate in mock emergency response training to ensure preparedness for a variety of emergency scenarios. Backup generators are routinely tested, as is the functionality of fire hydrants. Their staff members receive thorough training in emergency readiness and maintain comprehensive response plans. ETWD acknowledges the critical importance of reliable water systems during fire emergencies. As part of their response plans, they acquire additional equipment, inspect current equipment and pump stations, and assess vulnerabilities to ensure these are addressed effectively.

A NEW FIRE STATION

The City of Laguna Woods and Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) are building a new Fire Station 12 near Moulton Parkway and El

Toro Road. The nearest existing fire station is on Paseo De Valencia, enabling quick response times. OCFA Operations Division 5 serves Laguna Woods, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel and Lake Forest with stations ready to respond.

Southern California firefighters work closely with the El Toro Water District and other responders and are skilled and efficient in their duties. For over 60 years, Laguna Woods Village has experienced few house fires and no wildfires.

LANDSCAPING SERVICES

The VMS Department of Landscaping Services collaborates with OCFA to address landscaping concerns and maintain standards. The Village landscape passes annual OCFA inspections and meets fire mitigation recommendations. Although several members have expressed concerns over trees in proximity to their residences, OCFA responded: "OCFA will not mandate the removal of any living trees; well-maintained, mature and watered trees can actually provide ember protection in the event of a wildfire."

"We can only enforce vertical separation of trees from the ground or vegetation underneath to prevent a ground fire from climbing into a tree," said Landscaping Services Director Kurt Wiemann.

Stay diligent and responsible to reduce fire risk, and if advised by emergency personnel, evacuate immediately.

PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE, RISK AND COST

Laguna Woods Village uses the services of major brokerage firms to help secure and place property insurance in the community. Part of the services they provide involves assessing our risk and recommending appropriate coverage limits.

Insurance costs are rising, with companies paying large sums to rebuild after natural disasters. We need reliable brokers for this essential purchase. United pays about \$4 million annually for coverage up to \$225 million per fire occurrence, with multiple occurrences covered if needed. Our community has never faced such events, but we must pay this amount to protect the Village. Each year the property insurance coverage is renewed and premiums may increase based on market conditions which would impact HOA monthly charges.

PURCHASE HO-6 INSURANCE

We recommend obtaining a condominium owners (HO-6) insurance policy, as your personal property, additions and alterations are not covered by United cooperative insurance.

Members are responsible for

damage to mutual property caused by the members' misuse or neglect, by additions or alterations, or by guests or lessees. If the damage is your responsibility, United Mutual can charge you for the repairs. If the repair costs exceed the deductible on the mutual's insurance, currently \$100,000 a claim will be submitted to the mutual's property insurer. HO-6 insurance can help you avoid paying these costs out of pocket. Consult with your agent about your insurer's practices and increasing your policy limits accordingly.

WORKING TO KEEP US SAFE

Stay diligent and responsible to reduce fire risk. Report any maintenance or landscaping concerns to Resident Services. Immediately call 9-1-1 for emergencies. If advised by emergency personnel, evacuate immediately.

Ensuring the safety of residents and structures is an important community responsibility. Working with our allies who assist us in such events can help maintain security. Learn more about how to stay prepared and informed by reading "Fire Ready" on page 10.



VMS Board of Directors

Jim Glassman
Chair
Third, 2024-2026

Cynthia Rupert
First Vice Chair
United, 2023-2026

Jim Hopkins
Second Vice Chair
GRF, 2025

Kathryn Bravata
United, 2024-2025

Bunny Carpenter
Third, 2025

Joshua Hsu
GRF, 2025-2026

Mark Laws
GRF, 2024-2027

Manny Robledo
United, 2024-2027

Candace Tysdal
Third, 2024-2027

WELCOME ABOARD!

Third Mutual appoints new VMS board directors.

Bunny Carpenter is a California native, born in San Mateo and raised in Inglewood. As the oldest of six children, she raised three sons of her own, along with a blended family that included two daughters and a son. Her educational journey began at Morningside High School, followed by two unforgettable years at college in Lamoni, Iowa. Carpenter continued her education with a purchasing management certificate from UCLA and later earned her B.A. from National University while working full time to support her family.

Throughout her career, Carpenter has remained dedicated to lifelong learning, particularly in procurement, and has been instrumental in working with government contracts and various industries, including technology, energy and environmental services. As a senior procurement specialist at Beckman Coulter, Inc., she managed the requirements for a wide range of operational needs, including purchasing capital equipment and software, and developing service contracts and master agreements. In the last two years of her career, she managed the global cell phone program, ensuring it met IT operational standards and compatibility.

A purchasing professional with over 30 years of experience, Carpenter supported multiple departments, purchasing office furniture, test equipment, event planning services and more. She also purchased requirements for research and development projects, facilities, computer hardware and consultant agreements. Known for her expertise in developing nationwide contracts and creating



company-wide standards, Carpenter has also led e-commerce initiatives to streamline procurement processes.

Earlier in her career, Carpenter served as a purchasing analyst and senior buyer, who managed large-scale purchasing projects. She also owned and operated an environmental business, specializing in product development and navigating complex contract negotiations for R&D and manufacturing.

In 2010, Carpenter moved to Laguna



Woods Village, where she quickly became involved in the community. She served on the Third Mutual board for 5½ years, later joining the GRF Board and was elected president for four years. Throughout her time on the boards, Carpenter contributed significantly to projects that shaped the future of Laguna Woods Village. She was part of the ITAC committee, involved with the ERP project, and participated on the committee to update GRF bylaws. During that time, GRF also launched the Lyft rideshare program, introduced The Village Breeze newsletter and made strides at the Equestrian Center. Additionally, she spearheaded the development of a vehicle replacement policy, completed a fleet rightsizing assessment, oversaw renovations at the PAC and Clubhouse 1, and served on the Broadband Committee to evaluate streaming options for the community.

Serving on the Third Mutual board, Carpenter helped develop standard terms and conditions for contracts and a purchasing policy used by GRF, United and Third. She also led the task force on purchasing, which improved best practices and documentation. Carpenter's leadership extended to Landscape, Communication, Maintenance and Construction, Compliance, the Executive and other committees. These experiences have allowed her to develop a deep understanding of

CANDACE TYSDAL

In December, Third Mutual appointed to the VMS board Candace Tysdal, who relocated to Laguna Woods Village in 2016 from Pacific Palisades, California, and is delighted to be part of the vibrant Laguna Woods Village community.

A dedicated community service volunteer, Tysdal actively participates in various community organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village and Community Concerts of Laguna Woods Village and volunteers at the Soka Performing Arts Center. Tysdal is involved in several other organizations, including the Laguna Woods Lawn Bowling Club, the Mac Club of Laguna Woods Village and the Great Decisions discussion group. She also serves as a building captain.

Tysdal's career in financial services was varied, with both private and public experience in Santa Monica, California; Manhattan, New York; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Lincoln, Nebraska. She also has held leadership positions on an HOA board, serving at various times as president, secretary and treasurer.

Tysdal hopes to support VMS management with implementation of best practices and policies fostering a positive and productive work environment.



MARK LAWS AND JOSHUA HSU
 The GRF board recently appointed Mark Laws and Joshua Hsu to the VMS board. We look forward to reading their profiles in an upcoming edition of the Village Breeze.

Laguna Woods Village business structure, maintenance and financial management.

Outside of her professional achievements, Carpenter enjoys a variety of activities that enrich her life. She loves day trips, sightseeing and traveling the world. After moving to Laguna Woods, she took photography

classes and now creates videos of her travel adventures and special exhibits. She is also passionate about theater, swimming, golf and walking along the creek. She feels incredibly fortunate to live in such a beautiful, safe area, just 7 miles from the beach, and to enjoy the year-round perfect climate of Southern California.



Mutual No. Fifty Board of Directors

Sue Stephens
President
2023-2026

Jim Brech
Vice President
2023-2025

Glenn Miller
Secretary
2023-2026

Tom Hood
2024-2026



FIRE DRILL

Firefighters practiced at the Towers how they would respond to a residential high-rise emergency.

By Sue Stephens, President

Every year, firefighters from the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) practice how they would respond to a fire at a high-rise residential building by conducting a “drill” at the Towers. Towers management identifies one vacated unit to be the focus of the drill.

In the most recent drill, under the direction of OCFA Fire Battalion Chief Mike Summers, six engine companies were eager to participate in the drill because they are often unable to find high-rise locations within Orange County where the owners, or their management, are willing to allow such a drill on their premises.

At the conclusion of the drill, all the firefighter teams gathered together to discuss which practices achieved the best benefits during the drill and which processes need improvement. In addition, Towers staff gained experience and made improvements to their procedures. For example, after the drill, stairwell signage was changed so that firefighters can more quickly identify which of the four stairwells will lead them to the proper location.

Chief Summers indicated he would submit a request to expand OCFA training into more areas of Laguna Woods Village, such as the multistory Garden Villa buildings.

Village Television crew recorded the recent drill that you can watch on demand at bit.ly/3U1bbdH or search “fire drill” at Village Television’s YouTube channel, [youtube.com/@VillageTelevision](https://www.youtube.com/@VillageTelevision).



LATITUDE 50

A new restaurant opens at the Towers.

Recently, Towers residents celebrated the grand opening of Latitude 50, one of the two onsite restaurants at the Towers. Latitude 50 was fully remodeled by Sodexo, Mutual No. Fifty’s food service provider.

The new Latitude 50 restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week and offers a flexible dining experience for residents and their guests. Sodexo provides diverse chef-crafted meals celebrating international flavors with a focus on fresh ingredients, local sourcing and sustainability.

Technology in the form of mobile ordering, self-checkout and digital menus ensures convenience for residents, while providing a social and engaging atmosphere for diners. Interactive live cooking stations and made-to-order meals enhance the dining experience.

The formal Crystal Dining Room is still in operation at the Towers, offering dinner only, in a full-service setting, Tuesday through Friday every week.



THEN AND NOW

GOLF BREEZE

Long before the first manors were occupied, Ross Cortese envisioned amenities as hosts to residents. To bring this vision to life, Cortese commissioned Bill Bryant, the owner, designer and operator of the California Country Club (and admitted golf nut) to design and build the first 18 holes.

In 1964 when the first residents moved in, the golf course was accessible from El Toro Road to nearly a mile down a dirt path to a tent that sheltered a golf starter's window. Much to the delight of golfers, the tent blew away and was replaced by a small travel trailer.

The Laguna Woods History Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that receives no assessment funding, is located next to the Village Library. Visit weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment (call [949-206-0150](tel:949-206-0150)). Visit the website at lagunawoodshistory.org.

Clubhouse 2, which opened in 1965, held the golf course's inaugural event that included a medal play tournament with residents and 30 teenagers from surrounding communities.

By 1969, Cortese began constructing nine additional holes adjacent to the 18-hole course.





Spring Health & Wellness Expo

Saturday, March 29 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Clubhouse 5

Kick off spring with a renewed focus on health and wellness at the 2025 Laguna Woods Village Health & Wellness Expo. You'll have an opportunity to meet with MemorialCare providers to learn about the programs and services available at Saddleback Medical Center.

The day will also include complimentary blood pressure screenings and presentations from our experts. We hope to see you there!

Learn more about MemorialCare.
(657) 241-8475
[memorialcare.org/LagunaWoods](https://www.memorialcare.org/LagunaWoods)


MemorialCare[™]



Introducing MemorialCare Medical Group 55+ – Laguna Woods

You're Invited to a Special Open House Event

We are excited to introduce MemorialCare Medical Group 55+ - Laguna Woods, our first health center dedicated to providing comprehensive health care services tailored specifically for patients ages 55 and above. Our team of experienced professionals specializes in addressing age-related conditions, ensuring that each patient receives personalized care.

Please join us for a special open house event to learn about our specialized services, meet our providers, tour our health center, and enjoy light refreshments.

Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
MemorialCare Medical Group 55+ – Laguna Woods
24268 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637



Please RSVP today!
[memorialcare.org/LW55](https://www.memorialcare.org/LW55)
(657) 241-8475