

# Friends of the Village Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

 Laguna Woods Village

April 2010

**THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010 MEETING  
6:30 PM AT CLUBHOUSE 5**



## ***What are they thinking???***

**Third Mutual Board members will address questions of interest to the community on such topics as:**

- ***future plans for the community***
- ***evaluation of the management company***
- ***budgets***
- ***hard-surface floors***
- ***plumbing/flooding problems***
- ***landscaping, painting and roofing***
- ***illegal residents***
- ***promotion of the Village inside and outside the community***

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

<b>June 3</b>	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5
<b>July 1</b>	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5
<b>August 5</b>	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5

### **Membership Renewals Due May 31**

Our first club year will end May 31, and membership renewals are due at that time.

Dues are \$15 per year single and \$20 per year double.

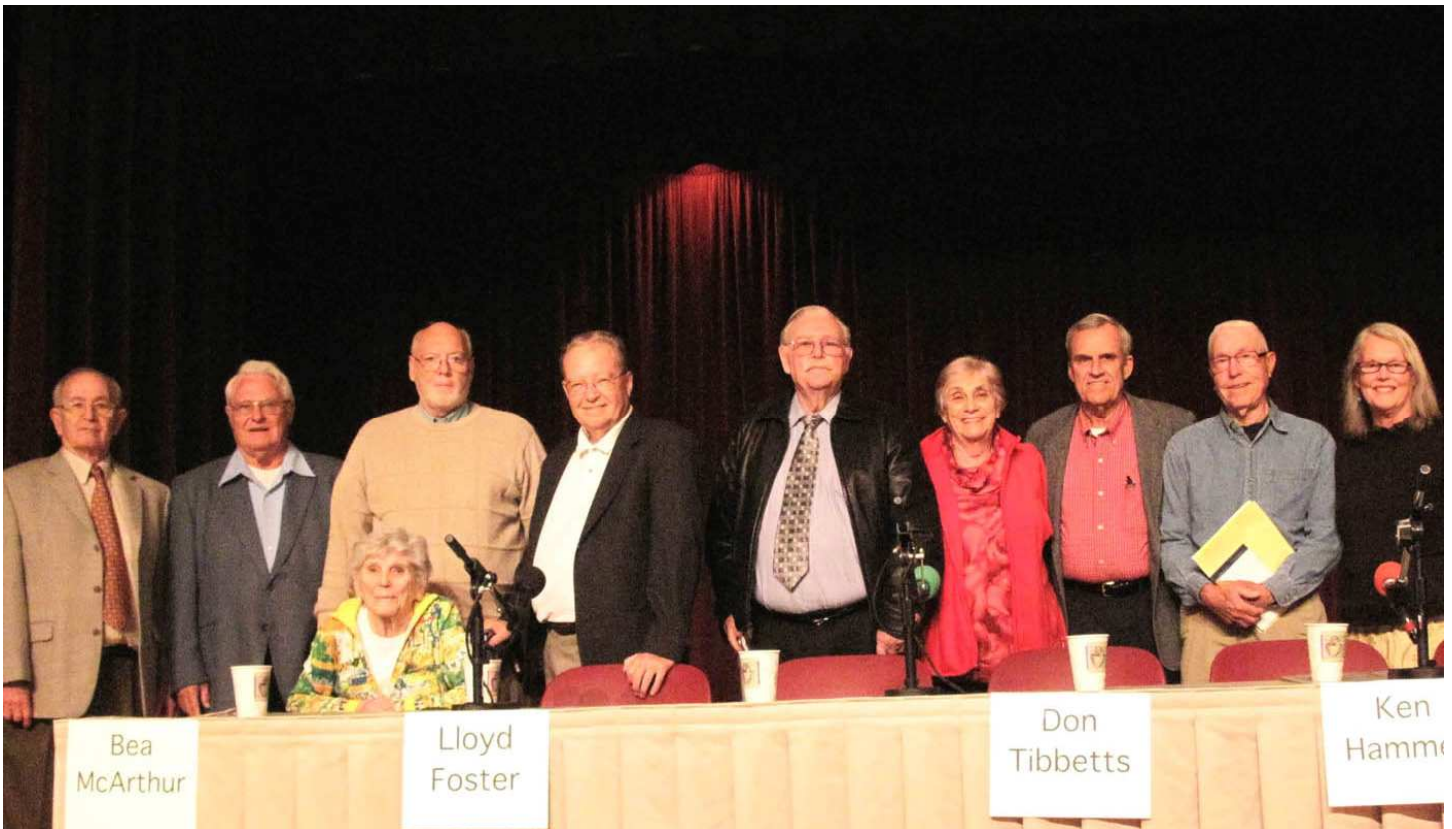
Please send your check to Myra Norman, 3312 San Amadeo, Unit #C and mark it: "FOV Membership Renewal."

A form for new members may be found at [www.friendsofthevillage.com](http://www.friendsofthevillage.com).



Members of Friends of the Village extend their sympathy to the family of United Mutual Director Michael Curtis who died Thursday, April 8, following a 3-year battle with lung cancer. Curtis will be remembered as an active member of the Laguna Woods Village, fighting for what he believed was right.





Directors answered prepared questions about various topics of interest to Village residents and then responded to questions from the floor at the FOV meeting on April 1, 2010. Pictured left to right: program moderator Sy Wellikson, GRF Board members Second Vice President Don Tibbetts, First Vice President Lloyd Foster, Secretary Bea McArthur, Ken Hammer, Ray Gros, Ruth May, President Jim Matson, Bob Hatch and FOV President Lynn Hamm.

## GRF Board Members Answer Questions

by Marian Dailey

Golden Rain Foundation (GRF) Board members answered previously prepared and submitted questions of interest to Village residents at the April 1 meeting of Friends of the Village (FOV).

Program Chair Barbara Marsh opened the program by stating that one of the goals of FOV is to keep residents informed regarding issues of interest and that the board members are the source of both knowledge and information about current projects in the community.

Marsh introduced Sy Wellikson, moderator for the evening, and outlined his many contributions to the community, including serving as President of Third Mutual and Parliamentarian of GRF.

Wellikson began the program by reminding the audience that the “good old days” that we choose to remember aren’t really that different from today – they just look better from a distance. He has lived in the Village since 1989 and considers it a “wonderful community.” He pointed out that we should not be confused about the roles of the housing mutuals and GRF: “GRF is responsible for how we live, not where we live.”

Following is a summary of the issues addressed; a complete transcript can be found at [www.friendsofthevillage.com](http://www.friendsofthevillage.com).

- **President Jim Matson** listed a number of long-term projects: lease of our broadband services to Connexion; progress of the new golf building; planning for the future of all amenities; rezoning of property owned by GRF; replacement of buses and a Statement of Work describing board and staff responsibilities.
- In Treasurer Bob Miller’s absence, **First Vice President Lloyd Foster** discussed the purpose and formation of a budget as well as the process for tracking it during the year. He also described the actions being taken by the mutuals and the managing agent with regard to fourteen trouble zones identified during the recent rains.
- **Second Vice President Don Tibbetts** addressed the question of the golf building and Clubhouse 2 since they are both part of the same project. While construction of the golf building will commence later this year, it will be at least three years before funds will be available to refurbish Clubhouse 2.
- **Secretary Bea McArthur** explained that GRF’s major job is to maintain all the community facilities in top-notch condition, taking costs as well as the needs of the community and changes in the community into consideration. She

also addressed the history of the gate refurbishment project, explaining how the decision was made to redo Gate 1. Lloyd Foster added that the criteria for determining the plans are: traffic flow, security and employee safety.

- **Director Ray Gros** quoted from the Davis-Stirling act which sets out the rules for conducting certain types of business such as litigation, contract negotiations and disciplinary actions in closed meetings.
- The duties of the standing committees were described by **Director Ken Hammer**. They perform special functions, serve at the pleasure of the board and are limited to advising the board. He encouraged residents to get involved in committee activities, starting with the Budget Committee meetings that will commence on April 12.
- Asked about things GRF can and cannot do, **Director Bob Hatch** replied that GRF must abide by the law and governing documents. Its duty is to represent the corporation, take a universal view and act in the best interest of the community as a whole. He also explained how important it is to get land use permits now in order to ensure productive use of GRF's land in the future.
- **Director Ruth May** pointed out that the workers we see daily are carrying out the instructions of the management company, according to the agreements with the mutuals, and that we shouldn't ask them to perform additional services.

Questions from the floor were also answered and can be found in the detailed report located at [www.friendsofthevillage.com](http://www.friendsofthevillage.com).

Throughout the program, directors encouraged residents to attend committee meetings. This is where issues are discussed and recommendations are formed. It's the place to be if you want your opinions to be heard.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, Wellikson announced that during this difficult economic time there is plenty of employment available in this community, but it doesn't pay anything! Volunteers who make themselves aware of current situations and actual facts can make a positive contribution to the Village. All the information anyone needs is available by attending committee and board meetings.

He closed with a song he wrote to the tune of "Singin' in the Rain" that is entitled, "**Welcome, Golden Rain.**" (He claims it sounds best when sung in the shower.)



*Welcome, Golden Rain,  
We're so glad that you came.  
We hope you'll be willing  
To come back again.  
I know that this crowd  
Does appreciate you  
For all your hard work  
And the good things you do.  
Don't let those who complain  
Wipe the smile from your face  
Come on Golden Rain  
You'd be hard to replace.  
I'll say once again  
As I repeat this refrain  
We need you,  
Really need you, Golden Rain!*

#### UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

Saturday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

##### Great Laguna Woods Goods Exchange

Drop off your unwanted items in the City Hall parking lot, including bulky items, household hazardous waste and electronic waste. You can also pick up other products you might want.

Thursday, April 22, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

##### 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Earthday 2010 at City Hall

Jointly sponsored by Earthworks and the City's Community Services Committee, information about solutions to global warming will be provided. Included will be environmental movies, vendor tables, a recycling display and popcorn and other goodies.



## Message from the President

by Lynn Hamm

My Mother is a very smart woman. But, let me digress for a moment. When she moved here a little over three years ago, she came from a small over-55 community in Oregon. This community had a small clubhouse and no organized transportation system. Unfortunately, she had previously been diagnosed with macular degeneration and the disease was progressing. After touring the Village, she realized our transportation system would enable her to continue to live a fulfilled and independent life.

As her macular degeneration progressed, she started to investigate our bus system. Mom would arbitrarily hop on a bus with pen and pad in hand, and take note of where that particular bus went and at what times. After about a year of living here, she was no longer able to drive her car. She immediately sold her car and bought a golf cart and started taking the buses. Mom volunteers at our library, attends impaired vision club meetings and activities, shops and keeps her doctor appointments by either driving her golf cart or taking a bus.

I thought it was time that I explore our transportation system especially since the GRF Bus Services Committee has been implementing service-oriented and cost-saving measures. And what better way to do so than by tagging along with my Mother, the experienced bus rider! Our first trip was on bus #4, driven by Lou.

When Lou learned I was taking my first "ride," he explained the bus transfer system at various locations and how the routes were planned to work on an hourly schedule. We went by CVS, the medical towers and the mall where we got off. I wanted to buy a tee shirt and socks. Since we had an hour to kill, I ended up spending \$140. We went home on bus #12. Our second excursion was to Moulton Plaza. This time we took bus #4 to gate 5 and transferred to bus #5 which was a new bus with comfortable seats.

I spent \$80 on this trip. By this time I was ready to take a trip on my own to the Trader Joe's area. Since I didn't have a Daily Boarding Time Schedule, I called 597-4659. I explained where I lived and that I wanted to take a bus to Trader Joe's. A very nice gentleman told me to be at my bus stop at 5 minutes after the hour, and that I'd be transferring to bus #2 at clubhouse 1. I arrived at my bus bench a few minutes ahead of schedule, read my book, heard a bus coming in the opposite direction and by the time I saw that it was bus #1, it was too late to flag him down. So, at that point I drove to our community center, picked up a schedule, drove to clubhouse 1, reviewed the posted routes and realized the bus #1 route on Avenida Majorca only went in one direction. I'd always have to pick it up on the opposite

side of my street. A few days later I did make it to Trader Joe's; I spent \$60. All the drivers were very friendly and accommodating and the buses all arrived right on schedule.

I highly recommend that all residents check out our wonderful transportation system. Pick up a bus route schedule, review the various route paths displayed at Clubhouse 1 and become familiar with this service. It's one of the reasons that a lot of us chose to live here in the Village. It's very comforting to know that we can continue to live active independent lives when we are no longer able to drive. Monday through Saturday we can take the 11 fixed route buses or the 8 fixed route buses on Sundays, with "Plan-A-Ride" service between 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. also available on Sundays. For more information on "Plan-A-Ride" you can call (949) 268-2590 or visit [www.lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com).

In conclusion, I admire my Mother tremendously. She is such an inspiration. When circumstances dictated that she would have to make lifestyle changes, she didn't sit around and complain. Instead, she got moving with the help of our wonderful system!

## Nominating Committee Functions Clarified

*The following is in answer to a recent Globe letter to the editor from a resident in Third Mutual.*

by Isabel Muennichow

In Third Mutual, the Nominating Committee does not choose the nominees. Any member who applies is automatically a candidate if he/she meets certain qualifications. The Nominating Committee's purpose is to solicit candidates, brief them about the job of Director, and hold a "Meet the Candidates" session before the elections. The qualifications for being a director on Third include:

- being a resident of Third and an owner in good standing (not being behind on assessments);
- turning the application in by a specified (and widely announced) date;
- not being related to, or living with, a member of another board or employee of the Laguna Woods City Council or employee of any organization where there is a conflict of interest.

The Globe letter correctly states that the Nominating Committee is made up of former board members and activists. The committee's purpose requires that its members know lots of potential candidates. Its function of briefing the candidates requires that its members are familiar with the workings of the Board.

# Shine Your Head in My Direction

By Jan Marshall

[www.authorhumoristjanmarshall.com](http://www.authorhumoristjanmarshall.com)

Toupee or Not Toupee

That is the question.

Whether it is nobler to

Suffer the eagle's droppings,

Yet pray for the Slings and Arrows of one tiny sparrow

Or be transplanted and screw

One's courage to the sticking place.

Ah! Men at some time

Are Masters of their fate

But nay, not when misfortune

Strikes their balding pate.

Men are going bald at an earlier age because balding men are advanced human beings.

Years ago, cave men and others needed hair all over their bodies because they were Neanderthals (generally a lost species except for my last date) but now they don't need the hirsute look because our earth is warmer, we have central heating and many of our guys *mostly* do stand upright when sober.

Still, there are few men in our Village who insist on covering their heads with discarded carpet patches or actual bird's nests. PLEASE STOP IT! We know. WE KNOW! This artificial turf looks nothing like what Mama Nature originally provided. Have mercy on the little homeless bluebird who cannot find his manor since you stole it.

I understand it is usually a male thing, though it can affect woman too.

So I implore you; if you must cover yourself, please go to a trained wig maker or hair stylist who can assist you. You go to a specialist for your big toe and every other body part so why plop a mop on top when you have a need for cover. Let an expert help you look like the original handsome hunk you were.

But, before you *do* go to a professional, I urge you to first consider this: BALDING MEN ARE BETTER LOVERS! It has something to do with the energy that was formerly generated by the electricity found in hair follicles. When the hair is gone, the energy has to find a place to park, so it goes to the libido and hangs around *there*.

There is a practical matter as well, in being a beautifully bodacious bald man. Consider the money saved on shampoo and conditioner. So your lady can't run her fingers through your hair but she could skateboard. In the evening your head can be used as a nightlight and, perhaps with a little buffing, a makeup mirror. "Honey, please shine your head in my direction; I want to check my lipstick."

The best idea is to accept your condition and to understand that your *shiny heads* look terrific. If your hair

is just beginning to thin out, do not worry. Trust me. It will all come out all right.

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## FOV Seeks Your Input

- Send ideas for articles in future editions of the FOV newsletter to [maryrobertson@comline.com](mailto:maryrobertson@comline.com).
- To receive your FOV newsletter by e-mail, please contact: [maryrobertson@comline.com](mailto:maryrobertson@comline.com).
- Send Letters to the Editor to [lvvfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lvvfriends@gmail.com).
- Send ideas for items of interest to be included in the FOV website to [pjwcrafts@comline.com](mailto:pjwcrafts@comline.com).
- **BRAVO!** To acknowledge special kindnesses by a resident that have made someone happy, submit information to [lvvfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lvvfriends@gmail.com).

## The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village Provides Services to Residents

by Pat Wilkinson

The Foundation was established in 1997 to provide temporary emergency financial assistance to residents of Laguna Woods Village. Specifically, the Foundation provides interim assistance with food, medication, utility bills, medical or nursing care, caregivers and respite care.

In addition, The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village also supports the following programs with ongoing monthly grants through Age Well Senior Services:

### The Congregate Meal Program

Besides nutritional support, the program provides an opportunity for residents to meet their neighbors at the Florence Sylvester Senior Center in a friendly social environment.

### The Meals on Wheels Program

Homebound seniors who can no longer shop and cook for themselves receive three meals a day delivered by our Village residents.

### The Adult Day Care Center

The center provides health and therapeutic services along with social activities for the participant while offering respite and peace of mind to the caregiver.

Laguna Woods Village residents have been instrumental in providing the necessary funds that have made it possible for the Foundation to operate. Many have given their donations as a remembrance or in the form of tributes to commemorate various occasions and events. Some residents have provided for a bequest to the Foundation in their estate planning. In addition, residents may donate securities to the Foundation, resulting in significant income tax benefits. The Foundation is qualified as a non-profit charitable organization.

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of resident volunteers who serve without compensation. The needs of individuals are identified and verified by the Social Services Department at 949-597-4267 and held in strict confidence. All assistance payments are made directly to the care providers by referencing a case number, not a name; therefore, the identity of the recipient remains anonymous to the Foundation.

The Foundation office is located at the Laguna Woods Village Community Center at 24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. You may send donations to: P.O. Box 3279, Laguna Woods Village, CA 92654-3279. For any information, please call 587-9064. The Foundation website will be available in the near future at [www.thefoundationoflww.com](http://www.thefoundationoflww.com), and we will notify the community through this newsletter at that time.

Please know that The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village is grateful for the ongoing generosity of the residents of the Village, and we hope that you will continue to support this vital cause.

## Nooks and Crannies

by Norm Salzberg

A secluded path, that I was unaware of, was suggested for this month's column by a resident. She affectionately described this little jewel as a Lovers' Lane, known mainly to residents of Cul-de-sac 67 as a private hideaway. Actually, this path is denoted as the Horse Trail Walk on the United Walkway System map (available at the Recreation Department office in the Community Center). To find the Horse Trail Walk, either start at Clubhouse 3 Parking Lot where the main Horse Trail crosses Calle Aragon (near the Post Office Annex), or enter Cul-de-sac 67 and go to the far end of its carports. This serpentine trail offers multiple walking surfaces; one is the bark-lined bridle trail and the others are either paved or grass walks on one side or the other of the trail. The bridle trail is lined with mature trees

which keep the area shaded and cool. The well-planted backs of many manors are visible along the way.

The trail crosses Avenida Majorca and winds its way to a natural section of Aliso Creek, where it dead ends. At the creek you can plunk yourself down on a rock and just listen to the creek tear across the rip-rap in its bed. Just beyond the rip-rap, a still pool opens up where the heron fish and the ducks bathe. The round trip is a flat, moderate length walk without any benches or other amenities – just solitude. The horseback riders from our Village Equestrian Center use their trail in the early part of the day. They may not venture past Clubhouse 3; however, watch where you step in case a horse preceded you.

Thank you Mary Melgun for your contribution to this column. Suggestions for future Nooks and Crannies columns are appreciated.

Thank you to the following sponsors who have made the FOV website and newsletter possible! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Harold Allen  
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Betty Battenburg  
Andrew and Gail Cmiel  
Marian Dailey  
Lynn Hamm  
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Mary Robertson  
Anne Seligman  
Marcella Stuebing  
Paul Vogel  
Judith Witherspoon

To help with the continued costs of these publications, please send your donation to Patrick Murphy, FOV Treasurer, at 777-P Via Los Altos, Laguna Woods and mark it "FOV Publications."

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## Friends of the Village Newsletter

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