

Friends of the Village Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2009

Friends of the Village Recently Organized

Friends of the Village was conceived as a non-profit organization to involve as many residents as possible to work together to:

- promote a more positive image of our community within and outside of the village;
- explore ways to constructively bring the Village together to work for a common goal;
- work to communicate correct information to residents;
- inform and help residents understand the governance of the community;
- reach out to new residents;
- work to support appropriate and qualified candidates to be elected to Mutual boards.

Notes from the President

By Barbara Marsh

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter!!! We are so fortunate to have a group of very well-qualified people who have volunteered their services to put this paper together. The first meeting of the staff brought out some very exciting ideas. I think you are going to look forward to seeing it in our clubhouses and in your e-mail.

Our last meeting was such a big success that we have acquired enough feedback to last us for months as we develop programs that will be of interest to all of you. It was exciting to walk through the clubhouse and hear people sharing ideas. Kathryn Freshley did an excellent job of putting on this program; we thank Kathryn and all the leaders and scribes for their help. It prompted many people to spend time thinking about how the club should develop, and many interesting suggestions were sent to me after the meeting.

It is very gratifying to have so many of you come forth as you have to help in any way you can to formulate this club. It shows you are all excited and feel the need for a positive and friendly organization in our midst.

The board came out against the Recall because we feel it is causing our community problems. The reasons were stated in the *Globe*, and I trust that most of our membership agrees with the board.

www.recallno.com

We will be attempting to bring forth correct information that will help you all have a better understanding of the governance of our community, so that you will be more knowledgeable when you hear misinformation. But this club will also be a club that **Acts** rather than reacts. We want to bring **Pride** back to our Village. We want to promote a more positive image within and outside of our community. We hope to bring people together. We will continue to listen to your suggestions. This is your Club.

CLUB OFFICERS

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| President | Barbara Marsh |
| Vice President | Lynne Dvorak |
| 2nd Vice President, Programs | Betty Williams |
| Treasurer | Naomi McCabe |
| Secretary | Nancy O'Dell |
| Membership | Joan Milliman |
| Publicity | Myra Norman |
| Newsletter | Carol Cartwright |
| Refreshments | Mary Robertson |
| Hospitality | Mary Melgun, Aloha Saxon |
| | Jan MacKenzie |

Items of Interest Identified at

June 28 Meeting

By Carol Cartwright

At the June 28 Friends of the Village meeting, Barbara Marsh, club president, warmly welcomed the 185 attending residents. She explained that the major purpose of the club was to promote a positive image of the Village, involving as many residents as possible.

Kathryn Freshley, using the Open Space Technology format, encouraged the residents to submit topics/issues

that they were anxious to have the new club address. Norm Salzberg recorded all the topics suggested, a vote was taken to determine the priorities of the group, and the following topics received the most votes:

- How do we counter negative groups and misinformation?
- Does the Shared Cost Concept need to be revisited?
- How can we improve communication among the residents, boards, and PCM?
- How can we show that our fees are a good deal?
- How can we get new residents involved in our community?
- What is our level of trust and confidence in PCM?
- What are accumulated costs of all the litigations of the past years?

These topics were discussed in groups no larger than 15 members, and then summaries were shared when the groups regathered in the main lounge. As a result of the expressed concerns, the Friends of the Village will explore these issues in depth.

Breakdown of Assessments to be Discussed August 5

How is our money spent?

At our August 5 meeting, Kathryn Freshley, Director of Third Mutual; Paul Vogel, Treasurer of United; Bob Miller, Treasurer of GRF; and Lynne Dvorak, realtor and First Vice President of Friends of the Village will present a breakdown of how our assessments are spent and how they compare with HOAs outside our community. Please attend.

| UPCOMING MEETING DATES | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| August 5 | 6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5 |
| September 17 | 6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5 |
| October 15 | 6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5 |
| November 12 | 6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 2 |
| December 6 | 5:00-10:00 p.m. – Clubhouse 5 |
| HOLIDAY PARTY | |

Is That What Friends are For?

By Jan Marshall

QUESTION: Just what does being a friend of Laguna Woods entail? I know what a loyal pal is. I am mostly

that; my buddies and family know they can count on me. In fact, I currently am being considered for sainthood which I *humbly* will turn down.

We neighbors are all in this together; a bunch of good people wanting the best for our community. So what exactly are *my* personal obligations as a friend to approximately 18,000 residents living here? Just asking!

- Do I have to drive *all* your brothers-in-law to the airport during a blizzard in evening traffic?
- If you need to borrow \$10,000, must I bring the cash right over?
- When your lover abandons you (or refuses to get out) is it necessary I awaken at 3 a.m. to comfort you?

Dear Abby has not responded to my query (where is she already?) regarding my job description on being your bud. Till she does, this is what I *am* willing to do for the moment.

A) If you hear a rumor that alarms you, tell me. I will check for accuracy or turn it over to one of our investigative reporters (Wudwud and Burnbaum) AKA Sol and Yetta.

B) Difficulty with a community issue? Let me know. May not always be resolved but it couldn't hurt to share. Hey, *whadda ya want?* Saint yes; Miracle worker no! At least you will not be alone with it.

C) Having a bad day and need an arm around you? Consider me your village "hug therapist". (Limited to one hug *above the waist* per day).

DISCLAIMER: I reserve the right NOT to hug *hooligans!*

P.S. If Sean Connery is your brother-in-law, I will pick him up at the airport *whatever* the circumstances.

Budget Time is Here...

By Pat Whitson

It's budget time again! It seems to come around all too often. All three housing mutuals - United, Third, and 50 (The Towers), and GRF (The Golden Rain Foundation) are in the planning stage now.

GRF is responsible for our shared amenities, ie., clubhouses, swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses, horseback riding stables, buses, public landscaping, security, recreational activities and the entrance gates.

The budget requirements for each mutual and GRF are different. United Mutual is a co-op and certain interior features are included in its budget because they are taken care of by the Maintenance Department at the mutual's expense. These include GE refrigerators, washers, driers, and dishwashers and certain interior

plumbing problems. Residents of United Mutual pay for these services in their monthly fees.

Third Mutual and Mutual 50 are Condominium Associations. As such, no interior features are covered by the associations and the difference is reflected in the members' monthly fees.

GRF's responsibilities are paid for by all residents. Our monthly assessment includes the cost of maintaining all of our public facilities, and GRF prepares a budget each year to determine the upcoming costs. That amount is divided by the number of housing units in Laguna Woods Village, and that amount becomes a part of our assessment.

Our budgeting process is quite lengthy. It requires several months of careful scrutiny. The treasurers of GRF and of each housing mutual board, with their committees, and with the Financial Department of PCM plan the year's budget. It is scrutinized and revised, scrutinized and revised, and scrutinized and revised again until it is approved by all boards.

This is an overview of what is involved in the budgeting process that is taking place now. Specific items that are included in the budgets and how the amount for each was determined will be included in future editions of this newsletter.

Pilot Recycling Program Update **By Shari Horne**

The recycling Pilot Program has collected 62 tons of recyclables in 14 weeks, an average of 4½ tons per week.

The program is being provided at no cost to us and has been extended through September 24, 2009. If successful, the City will work with the Village to expand the program citywide.

A quick note to all clubs and organizations: Please discontinue using Styrofoam when serving refreshments; use plastic or cardboard instead. Styrofoam is so lightweight that a ton is a huge amount worth very little, yet it lasts forever in the landfills and oceans.

Stage 1 Water Alert in Effect **By Mary Robertson**

We have to cut back 20% on our water usage. Landscaping irrigation has already been cut back, which may result in brown lawns in some areas. Some landscaping has also been replaced with California-friendly plants.

All residents are asked to conserve every possible drop of water!

Start by fixing those dripping faucets and and leaking toilets.

Use commercial car washes and shorten your shower time.

Capture the tap water when waiting for hot water and use it for plants, etc.

Run your dishwasher and washer with full loads only.

“Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together”
- Woodrow Wilson

Friends of the Village Membership

Name _____

2nd Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

\$15.00 Single \$20.00 Double

I would be willing to work on these committees:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Board Meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up and Clean Up | |

Mail your membership dues to: Myra Norman, 3312 San Amadeo, Unit #C



Nooks and Crannies

By Norm Salzberg

This column will describe one of my favorite spots in the Village in each issue of the Newsletter. There are public areas throughout the Village where one can find respite from daily activities, chores and television. Some venues have scenic views, cooling breezes, shade, comfortable benches or tables and chairs, and are generally quiet. Whether you want to read, write (as I often do), meditate, socialize with a friend or spouse, or listen to an iPod or Walkman, there's a nook or cranny not too far away. A few have dedicated walking paths.

For starters, do you know about the covered patio at the Par 3 golf course? It's next to the Starter Building

off Del Lago East, between Gates 7 and 9. The patio commands a view of the First Hole and the little lake and fountain daunting golfers at holes two and eight. Several varieties of waterfowl occasionally frequent the water hazard areas. Visitors leave magazines including National Geographic on the tables for others. A water fountain, soda machine and restrooms are right there.

For golfers wanting to sharpen their short game, a round costs only \$3.00. Golf carts are not allowed; bring a pull cart and extra balls for the two water holes.

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● **Future Reminiscing**

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● "It is good to have a past that is pleasant to reflect upon.

● Take care to create such a gift for your future."

● Mattie Stepanek

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● Submitted by Mike Hayes

● "You might remember this little guy... he wrote poetry that was exceptionally insightful, and he died in 2004 at the

● age of 14, of a form of muscular dystrophy."

● <http://www.mattieonline.com/>

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