

Friends of the Village Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Laguna Woods Village

October/November 2009

*Come Celebrate The Holidays
with
Friends of the Village*



*Sunday, December 6
Clubhouse 5 at 5:30 PM
Dinner by Jolanda
(Choice of: Chicken Cordon
Bleu, Salmon or Beef Brisket)*

*No-Host Bar and Musical Entertainment
by Rush Robinson
\$25 Per Person*

*Send Dinner Reservations to Betty Williams
5042 Avenida Del Sol, Laguna Woods (598-9190)*

Deadline for Reservations is November 30

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

January 7	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5
February 4	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5
March 4	6:30 p.m. – Clubhouse 5

Reminders –

- To receive your FOV newsletter by e-mail, please contact: maryrobertson@comline.com.
- Send Letters to the Editor to lvvfriends@gmail.com or 5372-3H Punta Alta, Laguna Woods.
- Send ideas for items of interest to be included in the FOV website to pjwcrafts@comline.com.
- **BRAVO!** To acknowledge special kindnesses by a resident that have made someone happy, submit information to lvvfriends@gmail.com.

Check Out New FOV Website!

by Pat Wilkinson
www.friendsofthevillage.com

FOV has created a website just for our community! This is a place to visit – to find out what's going on – to share your thoughts – to find community sources of interest to you.

This will be an easy place for you to go for important information about the community – the issues that affect all of us – and every effort will be made to give you the truth and consequences of these issues.

Send ideas to make this website the best in the Village to pjwcrafts@comline.com.

Recreation Rule Changes

One Person's View

By Mary Robertson

It's like the Pink Floyd song "Is Anybody Out There?" has sprung to life in the Village and the answer is a resounding "Hell yes! - and we're not going to take it any more!"

Last month, the GRF Board presented a resolution to eliminate some of the rules in the Recreation Policy Handbook involving clubs. This was part of an effort by the GRF Community Activities Committee (CAC) and PCM to clean up the handbook and eliminate rules that are not enforceable. One of those rules has caused controversy.

The vote on these rule changes will be occurring at the GRF Board meeting in December. If you are interested in the outcome of this issue, plan to watch the meeting on TV 6. If you want to have a say in the decision, plan to attend the meeting. It is the first Tuesday in December at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room at the Community Center.

Current Rule at Issue

The rule at issue states that non-residents can be members of a club under two conditions: (1) the club is part of a state/national/international organization; or, (2) the person was a previous resident and member of the club. However, no more than 10 percent of a club's membership can be non-resident members.

GRF is recommending deleting this rule as it does not affect how many non-residents can attend a club function and therefore is not meaningful. Opponents to this change say it is opening our community to outsiders.

I was appointed to the Community Activities Committee in May, in the middle of its review of the recreation rule changes. I needed to catch up fast on what was going on so I sat down and reviewed the Recreation Policy Handbook (it can be found on the Laguna Woods Village website). Truth is on both sides. Here is my take on the matter.

CAC is correct when it says checking membership lists to count non-residents has no impact on how many outsiders can come in to attend a club function. Residents can invite friends into the Village and to their club event/meeting as guests as long as the club allows guests to attend its club functions.

On the other hand, by removing the membership rule, clubs will no longer have to ensure that 90 percent of their members are residents, which will mean any non-resident can join a LWV club as long as a resident is willing to sponsor him/her.

What the Membership Rule Means

Under the rule, the Recreation Department reviews the membership roster and confirms that the two conditions are met. It does not state PCM is to monitor all club functions to ensure no more than 10 percent of the attendees are non-residents.

It seems to me there is little value in having PCM monitor attendance at club functions unless there is also a limit on how many guests can attend. To actually monitor all the club functions to take head counts would require a significant increase in PCM staff and, consequently, an increase in assessments.

Other Rules Affect Facility Use

I did find there are other existing recreation rules that control when and how many non-resident guests can use our facilities. They are contained in Section III of the Recreation Policy Handbook and are not changing.

These rules differ from facility to facility, probably because they were created over many years based on resident demand for individual facilities. Here are some:

- A resident can have no more than five guests at the swimming pools.
- Guests of a resident can use only one tennis court (thus limiting the number of guests a resident can have).
- A guest cannot use the Photo Studio/Lab.
- A guest cannot use the workshops at Clubhouse 4.
- A resident can have no more than five guests in the fitness centers. A guest may be denied use of equipment if residents are waiting.
- A resident takes precedence over a guest in the gymnasium unless the guest is part of a resident team.

- Only residents may lease a garden plot.
- A resident can have no more than three guests on the golf course. The limit is one guest on weekends and holidays (until noon/1:00 PDT).

Exceptions to the Rules

As always, there are exceptions to the facility use rules above. For instance, the Saddleback Emeritus program (see article in this newsletter) provides many classes enjoyed by residents. These classes, by State law, must be open to the public so non-residents do attend them. Saddleback College provides a list of those non-resident students to PCM each semester and the recreation rules state non-residents in those classes must arrive no more than 15 minutes before class and must leave no later than 15 minutes after class ends.

Also, a club or resident can submit a request to the GRF CAC to hold a special event which includes outsiders such as a tennis or golf tournament. GRF evaluates each of these requests on an individual basis, weighing the wishes of the requester and the resident population in general.

How Best to Control Facility Use by Outsiders

The main concern of residents is to not allow non-residents to interfere with our residents' enjoyment of facilities. The issue is how best to spend our money to ensure this will not happen while still allowing residents the freedom to enjoy their friends who do not live here.

We could keep the 10 percent rule on the books, but will that meet the need? Do we want to limit the number of invited guests to club functions? Do we want to increase staff and assessments to ensure all clubs are following the rules?

Perhaps we should ensure there is adequate staff at the entry to those facilities where special rules have been created to limit non-residents and to expand those limitations when demand requires it.

All these issues are fair game for discussion.

Happy Thanksgiving





Nooks and Crannies

by Norm Salzberg

Adjacent to the visitor's parking area in front of the Village Towers complex is a delightful pond stocked with a few Koi. Tables, chairs and umbrellas around the pond make it just right for reading, relaxing or meditating. Small statues on either side of the pond and miniature waterfalls add to its charm. The setting overlooks hole number 7 of the Par 3 golf course. Water cascading into the pond from the two and three foot high waterfalls muffles traffic noises and occasional groans from frustrated golfers below.

If you have never visited the Towers, it's just inside Gate 10. There is ample parking alongside the Towers as well as limited space in front. A lobby serving both the Tower 1 and Tower 2 high-rise buildings opens to extensive dining facilities, meeting rooms, sitting areas, a garden, restrooms and a water fountain.

I wrote this column at one of the tables by the pond on a pleasant fall afternoon. What mystifies me is why this place is never crowded. One caution: please don't feed the Koi fish.

Notes from the President

by Barbara Marsh

Where does the time go when you are having so much fun? Here we are coming into Thanksgiving and the holidays are just around the corner. Our Holiday Dinner is December 6th at Clubhouse 5. I hope you are all coming to not only meet friends and have a delightful dinner, but to enjoy an evening of entertainment by Rush Robinson, who I understand is an outstanding musician. We hope you have all mailed in your checks and reservations for an evening to celebrate our six months of operation. November 30 is the deadline.

I want to compliment the residents of our community for their sensitivity in not only taking care of themselves, but in being concerned about their neighbors and friends. I am talking about the fact that we usually don't see people out among us with colds or flu because you stay home and take care of yourselves and are conscientious

about not spreading it around. They tell us the important thing to do is really wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. And aren't we lucky that we are at the age when we may not get the swine flu or, if we do, it may be a mild case. I got a regular flu shot and I hope you all got one too. If everybody is healthy we are all healthier.

We have a nominating committee working on a slate of officers that will be voted on at the January meeting. The new board be installed that night.

We decided to use our regular meeting in November as an organizational meeting. All our committees met that night to get organized for next year. A new committee is being developed to welcome new residents. If you are interested in helping, this should be an interesting and fun committee that will connect with new residents.

United is holding its election this month; be sure you send in your ballots. Your vote is important - it really does count.

A Report On Saddleback Emeritus Program

by Pat Wilkinson

We have researched this issue, and here is a report on our findings. We hope it will answer some of your questions and ease some of your concerns. It is our intent to bring you important updates in the future and look forward to hearing back from you through "Letters to the Editor."

- LWV does not receive any funds from Saddleback or the State.
- The State pays for instructors, not the facility.
- LWV receives a free instructor and the convenience of on-site classes.
- Saddleback gets the use of GRF facilities.
- Saddleback supplies a great deal of equipment to the various classes.
- Emeritus is a State-funded program administered by Saddleback.
- For over three decades, the Saddleback College Emeritus Program has existed in LWV.
- Emeritus classes are taught at 25 off-campus sites.
- Saddleback Emeritus Program has over 10,000 students - one of the largest in the State.
- State funds used to fund Emeritus are separate from other educational funds.
- The Emeritus Program must be open to the public.

LWV residents, in turn, receive up to 100 Educational Classes each semester at no cost (*some classes charge a unit and/or material fee*), and we do not have to leave the Village.

Many say an additional value is the interaction with non-residents who bring a creative vitality, philosophical differences, ideas and social interchange.

LWV residents account for 82-85 percent of the enrolled students

Presently, there are 6,007 total student enrollments in classes offered within LWV.

Total number of LWV residents enrolled; 5,776 in Spring 09 and 4,942 in Fall 09.

Total number of non-resident students enrolled: 1,112 in Spring 09 and 1,065 in Fall 09.

Due to limited State funding, there are changes taking place for 2010 registration. Catalogues will no longer be mailed and on-line registration is preferred. A limited number of catalogs will still be available at the Community Center and Clubhouses 1, 3, 4 and 5. Telephone registration (following the mailing of Registration, day and time forms) is still an option.

Non-resident class members are required to leave the facility 15 minutes after their class dismisses. Staff checks resident ID's wherever possible to discourage non-residents from unauthorized use of GRF facilities. At this time, our gate system does not offer another option.

Classes are offered for 16 weeks in the spring/fall and 8 weeks in the summer.

All instructors are highly qualified, approved by the South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) Board of Directors, and evaluated every two years.

Because the entire program is dependent on State funding, if the state reduces the funds to support this program, we could see a reduction in the number of classes offered.

To do away with this program would limit, if not terminate, all classes. The suggestion that residents would volunteer to teach is not plausible. Hiring staff or teachers would cause extremely high tuition and/or added assessments.

The program is not in jeopardy at this time.

Check the Emeritus website for more information and class listings: - <http://www.saddleback.edu/emeritus>

Ode To A Sneeze

By Jan Marshall, www.authorjanmarshall.com

The dangerous flu is here. Bathe in Purell®. Do not kiss anyone unless it's Tonto wearing a mask. Wear fashionable gloves day and night. Unless you are on your honeymoon and staying in your room 24/7, postpone *hugging*.

While every possible precaution must be taken to avoid this dangerous virus, I do, however, encourage you to catch a cold. Yes, my friends, the common cold is the very best thing that can happen to you. It simply benefits your body, which is crying out for love.

Rarely do Villagers cry. Sure, when they lose at golf or Jolanda runs out of cake, tears do flow, but not generally. That's too bad.

The truth is that a cold gives one an opportunity to revert to a childish state, to be pampered and cared for. It permits the strongest people to let go without losing face, so to speak, though there was a rumor a nose was found in Clubhouse 1, but that may just be hearsay.

Here are just a couple of documented medical examples I found in my drawers:

- One board member literally strikes fear wherever he journeys. He is a tyrant and a huge troublemaker. Yet when he is at home with a bad cold he sucks his thumb and calls his wife "mommy."
- An actress neighbor, who played the warden in prison films, permits her mate 24 hours to be sick, prepares chicken soup, allows him to moan "I'm dying, I'm dying" every hour on the hour while rocking him in her mattress size arms. The next day she makes the bed and pushes him out the door. This keeps him functioning for the rest of the year. He is often seen without a jacket on wintry days, stepping in puddles and sleeping with a wet head stuck out an open window *praying* for a relapse.

HISTORICAL FACT: The reason some battles are called "Cold Wars" is because the need for love was not met. If opposing sides could stay home and get a little cuddling... really, who feels like fighting with a runny nose?

MY ADVICE: If someone sneezes don't just say "Gesundheit." Understand that this person craves compassion. Be gentle, but no kissing. Unless you yourself feel *needy* then yes, place a lip-lock.

Rx: When you *do* catch a cold, get into a cuddly bed and collapse. Drink liquids or not. It doesn't matter whether you stand on your head singing the Hungarian National Anthem, your cold will last two to seven days or as long as you need it. That's it.

Call me in the morning. Leave your insurance information.

P.S.: Do you happen to have any extra Kleenex® coupons?

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

Follow Up On Assessment Questions

The comprehensive breakdown of Laguna Woods Village assessments that was presented at the August Friends of the Village meeting has sparked a lot of interest and questions. Two of the issues raised by residents are addressed below.

What is Surplus Recovery?

by Kathryn Freshley, Treasurer, Third Laguna Hills Mutual

Since a Homeowners Association (HOA) is a non-profit corporation, it is not allowed to accumulate operating funds in excess of expenses for long periods of time. The funds must be either placed into reserves for repairs and maintenance or refunded to the membership.

In Laguna Woods Village, each corporation generally has finished the fiscal year with expenses less than assessment revenues. Therefore, the corporation had an operating surplus. Depending upon the magnitude of the surplus, all or some of the surplus will be rolled into the next year's operations as additional revenue. This rollover is known as **surplus recovery**. Thus, the amount of association fee revenue needed to be collected from the membership for the present year will be reduced by the amount of the fund surplus from the previous year.

Often times, some of the operating surplus will be rolled into the corporation's reserve funds. This is also another form of **surplus recovery**. This action is done in order to have adequate reserves for repair and replacement of the corporation's assets, i.e., buildings, facilities and equipment. Although it is not a direct reduction in the

next year's assessment fee, over time, it will reduce the amount of annual assessment fees that are required to maintain responsible levels of reserves for the repair and replacement of the corporation's assets.

Why Do Some Members Pay a Larger Assessment Than Others?

by Paul Vogel, Treasurer, United Mutual

The answer is: Real Estate Taxes.

Taxes for condos (Third Mutual) are paid by each resident directly to the Orange County Tax Assessor. Because United Mutual is a corporation and owns the land (real estate), the tax is billed to the corporation; and then each unit makes its payment to the corporation in monthly installments.

California law (Proposition 13) sets the yearly tax rate at one percent of a unit's purchase price. As an example, the real estate tax for a unit that was purchased for \$200,000 would be twice as much as the real estate tax for a unit that was purchased for \$100,000.

Shortly after the end of each year, notice of the amount of real estate tax paid is sent to each owner for state and federal tax preparation purposes.

Friends of the Village Membership

Name _____

2nd Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

\$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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Wagon |

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