

Friends of the Village Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

 Laguna Woods Village

September/October 2011

FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE WANTS...  ..YOU

OUR OCTOBER 6 MEETING IS DEDICATED TO YOU.

**PLEASE JOIN US AND PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING
YOUR OWN FUTURE.**

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE
OF OUR VILLAGE:**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- **WHAT'S WORKING FOR YOU AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED?**
- **WHAT ISN'T?**

**WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE FOV TO PRESENT AT ITS GENERAL
MEETINGS IN 2012?**

***THE INFORMATION GATHERED AT THIS MEETING WILL BE SHARED
WITH THE APPROPRIATE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.***

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US; COME MEET NEW PEOPLE, ENJOY
REFRESHMENTS AND BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DOOR PRIZE!!!**

OCTOBER 6, 6:30 PM, CLUBHOUSE 5

VILLAGE PASSES BUDGETS FOR 2012

by Mary Robertson

The 2012 Business Plans have been approved by the Mutuels and GRF at their September board meetings. The following are key points in the United, Third and GRF budgets.

GRF increased its monthly assessment for residents by \$8 while Third Mutual reduced its assessment by \$8, keeping the 2012 monthly assessment the same as this year. United increased its assessment by \$6, resulting in an overall increase of \$14 in 2012.

The 2012 fees include a 3 percent pay increase for union employees and a 2 percent increase for non-union employees for 2012. The management fee (for Associa, including the PCM general manager) increased by 14 cents per manor per month.

GRF's increase was due mainly to the City's new franchise fee for cable TV plus a contingency for retransmission fees. For 2012, each resident is paying the following for their GRF amenities, which include all the recreational activities, security and street maintenance:

Security	\$29 per month
Cable TV	\$27 per month
Entertainment	\$31 per month
Landscaping	\$13 per month
Maintenance	\$46 per month
Reserves.....	\$30 per month

Comparing the expenses of the two housing mutuels (United and Third), the following shows what residents are paying for the maintenance of their manors and landscaping. In looking at the costs, it should be noted that United has less acreage of landscaping than Third and United has more in manor maintenance as the housing mutual maintains both the inside and outside of the manors while Third Mutual maintains only the outside.

Manor Maintenance:	United	\$88 per month
	Third.....	\$85 per month
Landscaping:	United	\$67 per month
	Third.....	\$72 per month

Items of interest in the housing mutuels' budgets: In United's 2012 budget, contribution to its replacement reserve fund was increased by \$2 and included two new projects - electrical sidewalk lighting and landscape revitalization. In Third's budget, landscaping was reduced by 11 percent (\$660,000), reducing shrub bed maintenance, mainly on the slopes. Tree maintenance will also be reduced.

The following chart shows how the monthly assessments have changed over the past five years for United, Third and GRF:

MONTHLY ASSESSMENTS FROM 2008 -2012			
	United	Third	GRF
2008	\$297	\$328	\$205
2009	305	336	216
2010	307	336	216
2011	319	353	200
2012	325	345	208
Percentage Increase from 2008-2012	9%	5%	1%

Note: United residents pay an additional amount for their manors' property taxes in addition to the amount shown above. Third residents in two and three-story buildings pay an additional amount for extra services (laundry, elevator, recreation room) in addition to the amount shown above.

HOLIDAY PARTY!
DECEMBER 1, CLUBHOUSE 5, 5:30 p.m.
NO-HOST BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES AND GOURMET DINNER
WITH WINE BY JOLANDA
PREVIEW THE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT BY RON & SHOKO
ROBBINS AND VOCALIST RESA:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6quMykwFBW4>
START PLANNING YOUR TABLE OF 8 OR 10 AND
SIGN UP: [HOLIDAY DINNER FLYER.doc](#)



**Message from the President
by Maxine McIntosh**

A number of times friends here in the Village have told me about the pleasant experience they always have upon returning from a trip. Whether they have

been gone for a week or for months, they have a true “feel good” moment as they drive through our gates. My husband and I have also experienced something similar as the gate guard waves to us – a feeling of “Ah, we’re safely home again”.

You know, just taking a drive through the Village can be a warm and very entertaining experience. United Mutual has a little more than 7 miles of streets while Third Mutual has almost 14 miles. On a Village drive, residents can discover the many beautiful green belts along all those streets. Ambling along, it is entertaining to notice the different colors and varieties of flowers and shrubs with which some residents have filled their planter areas.

One can park at the Towers and walk into that beautiful lobby. At this time, reservations could be made for the Sunday Brunch held twice each month. While there, it can be quite a nice experience to stroll through the Asian garden laid out at the rear of the buildings.

When I was a child my grandmother lived with my family. I remember how very much she enjoyed being taken out for a Sunday Drive. If you miss doing that and you don’t want to go too far – drive around our pretty Village.

Oh! Don’t forget to stop by the stables as well. Just pull up a chair in the breezeway and watch the activity. Horses are being groomed, exercised in the turn outs or ridden toward the trails. It is so relaxing and peaceful to be there.

Before too long, the new golf-starter building will be finished, providing some pretty views toward the mountains. Yet the Club House II views will still be very nice as well. Residents will be able to include stops at these amenities while out for a drive.

If you find that you are choosing to drive less often these days, you can especially appreciate the 25 mph speed limit in our Village and the absence of traffic jams.

Membership News

Starting January 1, 2012, FOV’s membership year will coincide with the calendar year. Dues for the year will still be \$15 single and \$20 double.

Send your check for 2012 to Elinor Chaum at 3312 San Amadeo, Unit #B and mark it “FOV Membership Renewal.”

If you’re not sure what your membership status is, call Elinor at 472-8980. A form for new members is available at the end of this Newsletter and at www.friendsofthevillage.com.

The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village

by Pat Wilkinson

“When it rains, it rains pennies from heaven.”
Remember that old song?

What do you do with the pennies and other coins you collect and plan to “do” something with? One of our residents, who recently passed away, had instructed her daughter to give hers to THE FOUNDATION OF LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE. There were two containers and the total from the two came to over \$40.00 – a not inconsiderable sum.

How simple is that? And it’s a gift that keeps on giving. One of our residents in need will be the beneficiary.

We are pleased to say that we are now in the 21st Century and have an interesting and informational website
www.lagunawoodsvillagefoundation.com.

.Donating is even easier now – use your credit card on our website. Questions? - please call 949-268-2246 or email us at: thefoundation@comline.com

So when you hear it raining, don’t run under a tree – send your donations to The Foundation of Laguna Woods at P.O. Box 3279, Laguna Woods, CA 92654 or contribute online on our website. Thank you so much!

My Life Is Falling Apart; Film At 11

by Jan Marshall

www.authorhumoristjanmarshall.com

First: I could not find the invisible tape.

Then I stubbed my toe on the refrigerator and now the fridge is suing for unlawful contact after it warned me repeatedly to “Step Away from the Refrigerator, Chunkette”

I learned that my old car was being recalled for being the only one in my mutual that was not a Toyota so I hurried to complete chores.

At the bank, the line was so long I had to re-shave my legs. The teller looked at me suspiciously, then abruptly shut her window. The next clerk was counting on his fingers just like I do so I felt comfortable. He urged me to stop placing threatening photos of Bonnie and Clyde on my checks, and I agreed to desist if

he would just deposit some currency from his account into mine *every once in a while*. I did not hear his response but the guard who escorted me out of the building suggested I bank by mail with an off shore financial institute or he said something about an institute. I forget.

Learning that Post Offices soon may be closing forever I drove to the main branch. I took a number that either was for the next postal person or bagels. One employee was filing her nails, two others were playing post office and giggling. A man in uniform looked at his watch and me every 2 seconds because it was close to 5 PM. He then suggested I buy my stamps at the machine. That sounded sensible.

I inserted my dollar bills and they were promptly rejected. Being rejected by a beauty contest (as *if* that is *even* a remote possibility) is one thing but a machine? I tried again. No luck. Not even an explanation such as “it’s not you, it’s me”. It is the *not knowing why* that still haunts me. How will I become a better person or a proper inserter without clarification?

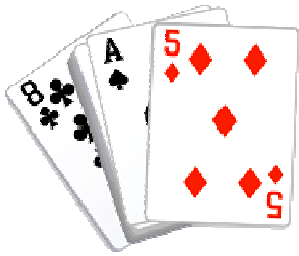
I realize this was just one bumper day in a lifetime of joy. These wounds will heal. I believe there will be other banks and equipment that will find me suitable. In the scheme of things I do have so much to be grateful for since wine and chocolate are deemed healthy. I have mentioned this previously without a suitable answer, but I must keep asking *why oh why* can’t they prove that crisp bacon and margaritas with salt on the rim truly promote longevity. I do not want to live in a world of exclusion and discrimination. I know only too well how that feels, thanks to bigoted money devices, humorless bankers and ice boxes, too.

I need unconditional love; something that has never turned me down or vice-versa. A margarita (the *drink!*) with rumaki sounds just perfect. So delicious and comforting; perhaps I’ll have two margaritas, thereafter the urgency on finding a magic tape dispenser with a *beeper* may no longer be the lead wish on my bucket list. This day may turn out swell after all.

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Bridge is a Hit in Laguna Woods Village

by Eleanor Nelson



If you love to play bridge, you made the right choice when you moved to Laguna Woods, California. "We are the third largest bridge club in America,"

says Sybil Barzilay, former club president.

The numbers confirm this. In February, 2011, 4,387 people met in the bridge room. An additional 3,265 met in the main dining room.

The Laguna Woods Bridge Club, whose slogan is "Remember – Be Kind!" is housed at Clubhouse 7; the newest facility in the Village. There is a large lobby, a bridge room that accommodates 64 tables of bridge, and a large main dining room.

The bridge club offers bridge for people of all ranges of bridge skills. There are bridge lessons, daily games, pre-game lectures, black points and special games, a monthly newsletter and computerized scoring. Supervised novice games are particularly attractive to beginning players on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

But the bridge scene at Laguna Woods wasn't always this attractive.

"We used to play in the basement of Clubhouse 4," recalls John Adams, current club president. "There was mold down there; it was dark and musty, and the restrooms were small," he recalls.

But change took time. Money was set aside to build a new clubhouse more than ten years ago. Finally, in 2005, Clubhouse 7 was built. "At Clubhouse 7, we've tried to create a more attractive area" says Adams.

The attempt has been successful. Not only is the Laguna Woods Bridge Club the third largest bridge club in the country, but it is only second in size to our Village's golf club.

"The Laguna Woods Bridge Club is a real asset to the community," says Barzilay.

Third Mutual Discontinues Chargeable Services

Effective January 1, 2012 PCM will only respond to **emergency** requests, such as a major water leak. In that case, the resident will be billed for the service, including a \$10 service charge, cost of materials used and prorated labor. PCM will provide names and numbers of approved vendors, and residents will be responsible for completing repairs to their manors.

As always, when in doubt or when help is needed, call Property Services at 597-4600.

!!! CAST YOUR VOTE !!!

Third Mutual ballots are due

October 3 by 5:00 p.m.

United Mutual ballots are due

October 5 by 1:30 p.m.

Headphone Amplifiers Available

Headphone amplifiers are available in all clubhouses and at the community center.

If you have had trouble hearing the speakers at meetings, plan to arrive a little early, go to the office and request one of the amplifiers.

Be sure to have your Village ID card with you as you will be asked to leave it at the office until you return the headphone.

Looking for fun things to do and a great way to meet new people? Check "Trip Notes" each week in the *Laguna Woods Globe* - a full page listing of activities planned by various clubs in the Village.

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"/> Refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Up and Clean Up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Flyers | | |

Mail your membership dues to: Elinor Chaum, 3312 San Amadeo, Unit #B

Friends of the Village
Newsletter

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