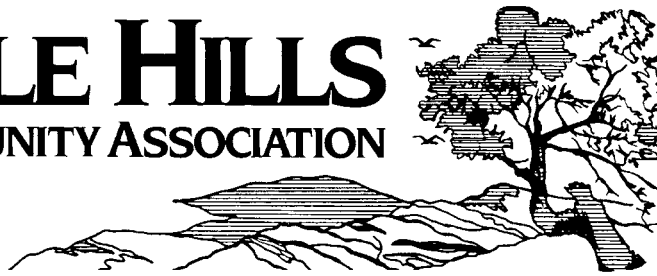


P. O. Box 4913  
Laguna Beach  
California 92652

www.lagunatemplehills.com

Winter 2013  
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# TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



PRESORTED  
STD CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ANAHEIM, CA  
PERMIT NO. 514

**Annual Meeting and Party  
Sunday, June 2, 2013  
Home of Mary and Joe Ferguson  
2155 Temple Hills Drive  
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

## Temple Hills Community Association Website



## Growing or Cutting Off a Tree to Spite Your Neighbor

*[Recent letters to the local press question whether the recently formed View Equity Committee can be fair and impartial and worry that environmental decisions may rid our community of its wooded areas. Temple Hills resident Lynn Powers offers the following perspective.]*

**M**y family and I moved to Laguna Beach about 15 years ago. The neighbor across the street moved in shortly before we did. She is a lovely woman. She spent lots of money landscaping, which included three Eucalyptus trees. The trees as they are wont to do grew quickly. And just as quickly blocked the ocean and canyon view of her neighbors (not me).

The affected neighbors asked her to cut the trees back and offered to pay the cost. Her answer: Nope. Now this is a woman who spent only several months of the year at her house; the rest of the time she rented it. Her view of the ocean and the canyon was unobstructed. And the trees made no sense in the landscaping. Again, my view was not affected; however, I was amazed that she should care so little for her neighbors.

Several years ago she called me from Pittsburgh, where she lived most of the time, to ask if I had seen the gardeners that had cut down the trees. Actually we noticed but only because of the horrible noise; however, we had no idea she hadn't hired them. She told me she knew who had hired them but wouldn't be able to prove it. She promptly put in new trees.

Fast forward to this year. She sold the house. The new neighbor was approached by the view-affected neighbors, who again offered to pay to have the trees removed. Sold. He agreed that the trees didn't add anything to the landscaping and understood his neighbors' concerns.

Today the house is as lovely as it was before the trees. There is no more animosity and no more sinister worries about who hired the gardeners.

So in ending this tale, I wish the committee well. And I hope there can be a more civil approach to our worldview. My lovely neighbor was wrong, but so was the unknown neighbor that took the law into his own hands. The morale of the story: Be a good neighbor.

— Lynn Powers

**Y**es, it is true. THCA has a website. Several times each quarter we update it with the latest news about our community. We feature planning maps, summary of city council actions that impact the community, and a library of THCA newsletters, including this newsletter. We even had coverage of the city council candidates, with statements and interviews with the candidates, so it is a great place to find current information relevant to the community. For those of us who are interested to see how this place looked long ago, you will find historic photos and information on the early days of our community.

In this world of electronic communication, we hope to eventually move away from snail-mail newsletters. For now, the written media is safe, and the written newsletters will still be sent out as usual. But please take a step into the future with us by visiting the THCA website and bookmarking it. You can find it at [www.lagunatemplehills.com](http://www.lagunatemplehills.com).

— David Raber  
*[Also, THCA is looking for help with organizing photos and material for the website and the newsletter. If you would like to help with the community website or newsletter, please email David at [david@raber.us](mailto:david@raber.us).]*

# 56-Acres in Rim Rock Canyon Acquired as Open Space

*[A goal of THCA since our initial planning efforts in 1975 has been the preservation of open space in Rim Rock Canyon. The acquisition of the 56 acres described below represents a large portion of the canyon, yet some 20 additional parcels remain to be acquired to conserve this precious jewel of a canyon that is so important to the Temple Hills community.]*

A major portion of Rim Rock Canyon and one of the most spectacularly scenic properties in Laguna Beach was preserved with the recent acquisition of the 56-acre “McGehee” property. Utilizing a State Coastal Conservancy grant from the 2000 bond measure, Proposition 12, the Laguna Canyon Foundation-facilitated purchase of the large wilderness parcel will preserve sensitive habitat and wildlife and safeguard a picturesque canyon of soaring cliffs and jagged ravines.

The property extends from Temple Hills Drive to Old Top of the World Road and west to Morningside Drive in Rim Rock Canyon. Owned by longtime Laguna residents, the McGehee family, the property was previously proposed for residential estate development. The land will be owned by the City of Laguna Beach and managed by OC Parks as part of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, whose 4,000+ acres of public land are contiguous to the property.

According to Derek Ostensen, President of Laguna Canyon Foundation, “The property has been a top-priority acquisition for many years and we are thrilled to see it permanently preserved.”



**56-acre “McGehee” property in Rim Rock Canyon. Courtesy Laguna Canyon Foundation**

Since 2002, Proposition 12 has provided grant funding for the purchase of more than 310 acres of open space at a cost of approximately \$10,400,000. The effort has been anchored by a partnership among the State Coastal Conservancy, City of Laguna Beach, Laguna Canyon Foundation, OC Parks and The Conservation Fund.

The purchases have provided crucial connecting acreage for the wilderness parks and have yielded significant public access, habitat, wildlife, and scenic viewshed benefits.

Acquisition of this property preserves one of the last remaining large parcels of developable land in Laguna Beach. Over the past 10 years, Laguna Canyon Foundation and the Prop 12 partners have acquired 11 other large properties for addition to the public wilderness.

“We’re so proud of these partnerships and how they’ve enabled us to preserve so much open space for Orange County residents. We will continue to focus on acquiring remaining open-space parcels, but going forward it’s also important that we work together as a community to maintain the land that we have, restoring damaged and destroyed habitat, and educating the public on this incredible resource,” said Max Borella, Executive Director of the Foundation. ♻️





**Steering Committee  
2013**

- Tim Black.....Legal and Group 1
- Bob Borthwick.....Planning
- Fran Chilcote\*.....Corresponding Sec.
- Ron Chilcote\*.....Newsletter
- Jamie & Stephen Crawford.....School Issues
- Dennis Eastman.....Undergrounding
- Anne Frank\*.....Archive/Historian, Group 6
- Doug & Rhonda Kinn....Block Socials & Party Com
- Charlotte Masarik.....Village issues
- Lou Novak\*.....Evacuation Plan & Pathways
- Vicky Novak.....Pathways
- Pat O'Brien.....Minutes
- Carol Olson.....Walkways
- Lynn Powers.....Newsletter
- David Raber\*.....Pathways & web site
- Jennifer Radisay.....Party Committee
- Chris Reed\*.....Invasive plants & Minutes
- Lorna Shaw\*.....Group 2 & web site
- Tracie Spence..... Welcoming Committee
- Dave Walker\*.....Group 3
- John Walker\*.....Treasurer
- Robin Walker.....Design Review & Party Com
- Dorothea Yellott.....Pathways

\*Board Directors

**Honorary Members**

Recognized for long-term service and commitment to Temple Hills

- Joe Baker
- Jan Hall
- Jim Hall
- Becky Jones
- Ben Teschner
- Mary Lou Teschner
- Kurt Topik
- Estelle Warner
- Grant Wetzel
- Marian Whitney

**Liaison**

Jeanette Merrilees .....North Laguna

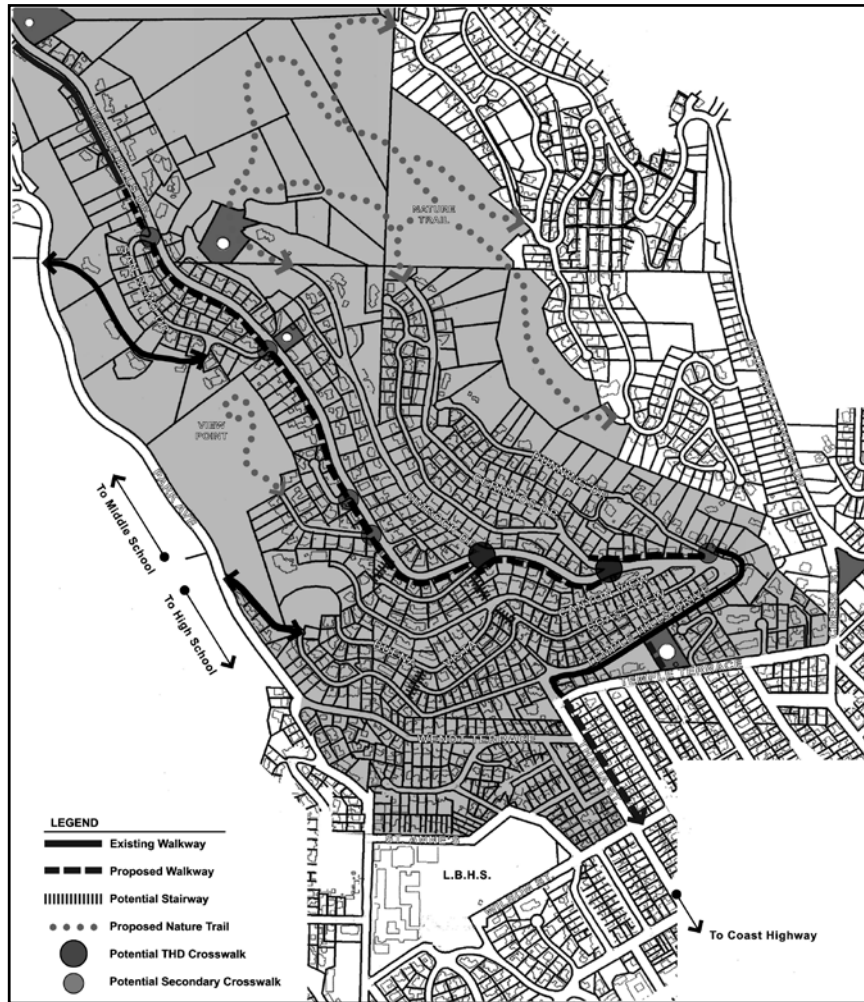
**The Coordinating Committee**

Comprised of those with major responsibilities who may meet on an emergency basis.

**Neighborhood Groups**

Temple Hills is broken into six neighborhood areas. Group Leaders focus on issues and problems if and when they occur.

**Temple Hills Community Plan**



THCA has been active in providing planning concepts for improving our neighborhoods since we were founded in 1972. This map identifies pedestrian circulation opportunities in Temple Hills. There is a proposed "safety zone" designated for pedestrians on the north side of Temple Hills Drive, connecting to existing public walkways at the top and bottom of the hill.

Major crosswalks (possibly including reflectors in the street) are shown at the THD intersections of Rimrock and Dunning Dr. These locations can serve as "traffic calming" zones. Additionally, existing and proposed trail routes are shown in undeveloped areas. The triangular lot in the upper (center) of the map is part of the recent city open-space acquisition. Other lots shown are still in private ownership. ♻️

**MEMBERSHIP APPEAL**

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

March 1, 2013

This is a special appeal to join with us this year as we celebrate our 41st anniversary. Your past support has been important and meaningful to the presence of THCA, and we very much need and appreciate your continuing support. ♻️

**THCA 2013 MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

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## Wall at 2095 Temple Hills

A recent City Administrative Design Review hearing to make modifications to the height of the wall between the driveway of the new residence and a pedestrian easement will soon be considered by Design Review. The issue before the DR is that the wall originally approved was to be low-scaled but now is proposed to be six to eight feet high, which will significantly impact the pedestrian path, cut off all down-slope views (the primary view from this area of the path), and create a sense of being hemmed in for anyone on the path. Neighbors were concerned that there was an attempt to change a DR condition imposed after lengthy hearings through a later administrative hearing. 📍

## Improvement of Arch Beach Heights-TOW Trail

Many of us who walk the trail that connects Arch Beach Heights to TOW support the efforts to make this a safe and accessible trail from both communities. As most of you know, the trail is in poor condition; it is steep with no adequate handrail, full of loose dirt that is very slippery, and pitted with an uneven surface. The trail is especially unsafe after it rains or when the weather has been very dry and the dirt turns to powder. Small children, young cyclists, parents with strollers, the elderly and others in the community cannot or have a very difficult time navigating the trail in its present condition. When my children and I walk the path, we often slip and I'm concerned that someone will get seriously injured. — Karen Schwager

[At its Feb. 12 meeting, the City Council approved funds for designs leading to upgrading this trail.] 📍

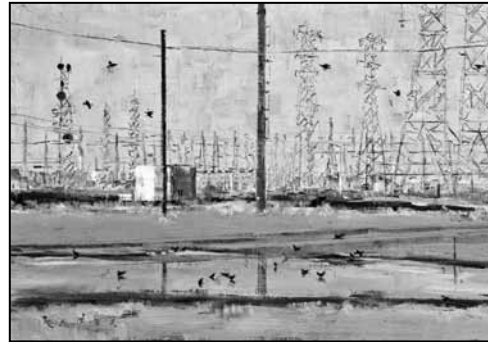
## Neighborhood Alert

Temple Hills used to have a network of Neighborhood Watch people, especially during the 1970s when we experienced a rash of burglaries. Since then we have had little trouble, but we were alarmed by an emergency call to homes, a police presence, and a police helicopter circling overhead in late January. Stu's News Laguna, February 1, 2013, reported the sighting of a burglary suspect who apparently eluded a manhunt in the Temple Hills area. LBPD officers responded to the 1700 block of Thurston Drive for a suspicious person in the area — a possible burglary suspect. As officers arrived, a man was seen trying to hide against a planter in the driveway of one of the homes. As he saw the officer's vehicle, he got up and ran through the yards, over a fence and was lost by the officers. A perimeter was set up and Huntington Beach PD sent over their helicopter to help in the search.

On Tuesday morning a man called police, reporting that he had found a man who had been sleeping inside a shed on his property in the 900 block of Coast View Drive. Because of elapsed time between the sighting and the call, the police were unable to find him and there were no other calls from residents in the area thereafter. 📍

## Kudos to a Temple Hills Artist

For decades we have been a subscriber to the magazine *Southwest Art*. We started subscribing years ago after summering near Jackson Wyoming where we discovered many galleries catering to Western Artists that were often featured in its pages. As I sat down to read the December 2012 issue, I noticed that our neighbor in Temple Hills, April Raber, was featured in its pages. The article describes her reputation as being established as a landscape painter, but, since being in California, she has transformed, depicting the beauty of the man-made environment as well. Two lovely



paintings are illustrated in the article—one, entitled "birdbath," is absolutely stunning, and is of birds and a power grid in Long Beach, the other a colorful and unusual view of a bridge in Northern California. The article mentions that her paintings are regularly juried into shows, including the Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational. We look forward to seeing much more of your work, April. — Fran Chilcote 📍

## Chair's Message

I have recently been pondering the value of THCA membership. My own reasons for becoming active were to get to know my new neighbors and neighborhood. I moved here a few years ago from Santa Monica, another city with a real sense of itself, a city that feels good to belong to. My initial concern was the preservation of the native habitat whose beauty we enjoy daily. I am still at it, getting rid of pampas grass and other invading exotics that spoil the native look and diversity. How delighted I was when the city announced last month the purchase of the real Temple Hills whose magnificent limestone cliffs tower over Rimrock Canyon. They are home to nests of the red-tail hawk and the great horned owl whose screech and hoots punctuate the day and night. Our thanks go to THCA members who have worked hard for this over the years. There's more support needed to secure the remaining open space, and by working as an organization, we can be more effective. Politicians take note of numbers.

Temple Hills lacks any kind of a park or close-by attractive off-road walking experience. Most residents complain about the dangers of walking Temple Hills Drive with all those cars thundering up and down. If a good number of us present the city with a cohesive plan to improve the situation, we will find an ear and get action. Your Board of Directors has such a plan and invites your support. Be sure to join THCA and become a part of it. When you are feeling like enjoying a walk, admiring the views or escaping from a fire, think about improving and preserving our neighborhood. And do come to the mid-afternoon annual meeting and party on Sunday, June 2. — Chris Reed 📍

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