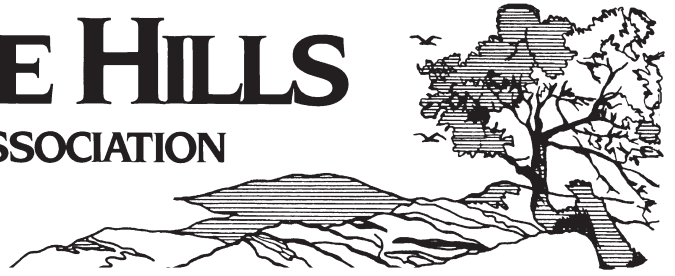


P. O. Box 4913  
Laguna Beach  
California 92652



# TEMPLE HILLS

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Spring 2014  
Volume 42, Issue No. 2

## Temple Hills Online

Have you visited the Temple Hills Community Association webpage or Facebook page recently? The community association is available via both:

Webpage..... [www.lagunatemplehills.com](http://www.lagunatemplehills.com)

Facebook..... [www.facebook.com/lagunatemplehills](http://www.facebook.com/lagunatemplehills)

What can you expect to find there? The website has the latest Temple Hills Newsletter, a section for current community issues, announcements on upcoming events, an archive of all past newsletters and board minutes, and the beginning of an archive for historic pictures of the neighborhood. Is that really snow on Temple Hills Drive in the community album headline picture? I believe it is. Yes, there are plenty of other pictures there without snow.

On the website you will also find a handy search function available to help you access what you are looking for. On the homepage look for the Search button on the right-hand side. From there you can enter a search term, such as "Party" to search archived newsletters for information about past parties. Was your picture published in one of those articles? You can also search for that by entering your name in the search box. — David Raber

## The THCA Facebook Page

The Facebook page was started just a few months ago. We wanted to provide a way to enhance communication and dialogue in the community about relevant issues. Our Facebook page will contain updates on community issues as they move through the City's review process, as well as invitations to the community parties and events (such as the City Council Candidate Forums that we regularly host). From time-to-time we will use the Facebook page to survey you on community issues.

Will you take a moment now and join the Temple Hills Facebook community by going to Facebook, searching for Laguna Temple Hills, and then hitting the "Like" button? That way you will know when something new is published. We promise that we are not going to be sending something out too often, or send something out just to send something out. We expect to post about 10-15 times each year with relevant information, so please "Like" the community page to keep up to date.

Do you have pictures, archives, or other items of interest that you would like to see published on the website or Facebook? Both the website and Facebook are being taken care of by David Raber ([david@raber.us](mailto:david@raber.us)).

## You're Invited!

We'd love to see you at our Annual Meeting on Saturday morning, June 7th, 10:30 a.m. at the home of Ron and Fran Chilcote, 1940 San Remo Drive. This will be a great time to meet some new folks and have a cup of coffee. We promise to keep the actual business portion short.

### THCA Annual Meeting

June 7, 10:30 a.m to noon

Home of Fran and Ron Chilcote  
1940 San Remo Drive

10:30 a.m social gathering

11:00 a.m meeting

Introductions and announcements

Approval of minutes (June 2, 2013)

- ✓ Financial report
- ✓ Annual report
- ✓ Election of board
- ✓ Other business



## Profile: John Walker

Although John was born in Pasadena, his parents moved to Temple Hills Drive when he was just a year old. He was in TOW's first class in 1967, and from there went on to the newly built Thurston Junior High School, and graduated from Laguna Beach High School with the class of 1980.

The out-of-doors was an important part of John's growing up in Laguna. He hiked the local hills, including a steep trail from the back of TOW down into Woods Canyon below and in a series of sandstone caves of the Topanga Formation. Sometimes schoolmates would take off down the trail during school as well as after school — although he doesn't remember how he and his friends got away with that! They also climbed the old oak trees in the park above the school, a grove that is long gone now. The wildness of the rough sandstone bluffs of Honda Hills, now the site of Alta Laguna Park and the adjacent homes just past Park Avenue, was a well-known locals hangout for kids who had dirt bikes or early homemade motocross off-roading bikes. Beach days for John's family were spent at Thalia Street and St. Ann's. And in later years, John and his friends spent their time at Woods Cove.

After graduating from LBHS, John attended Saddleback College and UC Santa Barbara where he studied history and ornamental horticulture. And the nature surrounding Laguna Beach remains a favorite for John who, after returning to live in Laguna Beach nearly nine years ago with his own family, again hikes the local San Joaquin Hills and plants acorns each fall. One particular canyon now has a new grove of (Continued on page 2.)

## Laguna Canyon Creek Restoration Plan

For the past few months, I have been working on a volunteer plan to restore and enhance Laguna Canyon Creek. This project is partially funded by the Foundation for Sustainability & Innovation, in collaboration with the Laguna Canyon Foundation.

As Laguna's original water source and scenic greenway that linked the canyon to the ocean, decades of development have left Laguna Canyon Creek in a condition of neglect and disrepair. From the Dog Park to the ocean, the creek is enclosed in a concrete channel. This channel is open to the sky in some sections, and in other locations the creek is covered and buried underground. The reach from El Toro Road to the Dog Park is natural and unpaved, but goes through private properties. Portions of this section are rustic and attractive, other portions have been narrowed and urbanized by property owners. The last section, from El Toro Road intersection to Laguna Lakes, the creek is open and natural but has been compromised by grading and roadwork that have stripped it of its beauty and visual identity. In short, a once-beautiful natural watercourse has been reduced to what many people refer to as a "ditch" or "the channel."

Cities and towns throughout the country have reclaimed and restored their creeks and rivers with native plantings, trails, and mini-parks, so that long-neglected historic waterways have become sources of beauty, recreation, and community pride. Although there are constraints due to flood control measures, Laguna Canyon Creek can be made much more beautiful and environmentally sustainable. I hope that this concept plan will foster a renewed sense of appreciation for Laguna Canyon Creek, so that we will be able to appreciate our beautiful canyon even more.

— Bob Borthwick 🐾

## Baseballs Still Flying Over the Fence Like Rockets

Having an all-star professional baseball player giving the baseball team a clinic on home runs was a real wake-up call to Joanna Culverhouse, LBHS Principal, and, hopefully, the School Board. The safety, both inside and outside the homerun fence, is the number-one issue for the neighbors on St. Ann's Drive. We have had numerous close calls with pedestrians and motorists, as well as baseballs coming within inches of hitting us in our driveways on St. Ann's. Quoting El Hathaway (former School Board President), "Prior to the realignment of the baseball field, there were no claims for vehicle or property damage." The School District has paid out more than \$20,000 in claims from baseball damage to vehicles and property and received many letters from concerned community members. My concern as a citizen and taxpayer is for public safety. I am fearful that someone is going to be injured or worse, and someone's life could be changed forever. And consequently, there would be a major liability for the School District and us taxpayers.

Baseball fields are always designed to face south so that in the afternoon the sun is not in the players' faces. I and others have observed players shielding their eyes with their baseball gloves from the sun while waiting for the batter to hit the pitched baseball. At this time, all we can do is hope that a third baseman, shortstop, or leftfielder doesn't get hit with a ball and be seriously injured or killed by a ball coming off the bat because the sun was in the player's eyes. With today's metal bats and players' better conditioning (some school districts do not allow metal bats), the ball comes off the bat much quicker and harder, which could increase the risk of injury.

The St. Ann's/Wilson/Browncroft neighborhood has collected nearly 500 baseballs since the field was reoriented in 2006. That gives 500 opportunities to strike a pedestrian, resident or motorist. This does not take into consideration the balls retrieved by the athletes and others. During some practices and games, we have even seen kids shagging baseballs in the street.

The morning after the professional baseball-player incident, to the credit of Ms. Culverhouse and Mike Churchill, they went door to door on St. Ann's/Browncroft apologizing for the reckless judgment that was made in regard to the home-run clinic. After they met with the neighbors to hear their fears they have with errant baseballs, safety concerns and other issues, Ms. Culverhouse promptly called a meeting attended by her and the assistant principal, director of facilities, the athletic director, and the two baseball coaches. Discussed were ways how the school could resolve the issues of balls going over the fence and the fire-hazard condition of the bank and the hillside that surround the field. One of the ideas they recommended was to install temporary signs warning the public of flying-baseball hazards. Another was to raise the fence.

Since the incident in January, we are still getting baseballs over the fence at an alarming rate. Trees and shrubs were marked for pruning and removal but nothing has been done to date. There have been no warning signs. We suggested moving the field 1.8 miles to Alta Laguna Park with its regulation field facing the canyon with no safety issues, and were told that would be very inconvenient for the team. Inconvenience or safety. Where do their priorities lie?

We as neighbors on St. Ann's/Wilson/Browncroft, the community, and the members of THCA can go to sleep at night knowing that the School Board has been aware of this serious community safety issue. When someone gets hurt, the School Board will know that there was something that could have been done to prevent this tragedy.

Now that we proudly have a winning baseball team, more offense has been created by way of more home runs and more practices, which lead to more baseballs over the fence. The law of averages tells us again that it is just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. As the School Board has said in the past, their priority is safety. Then they must look at all options to move on this safety issue immediately.

— Stephen Crawford 🐾

## Profile, continued from page 1

Coast Live Oaks with the tallest young trees topping out at nearly ten feet.

When John and his wife, Robin, chose to move back to Laguna, it was a big decision to leave their life in Los Angeles. Returning to Orange County brought John closer to his parents, and put their daughter, Mary Jeanne, who is a fourth-grader at TOW, in the LBHS graduating Class of 2022 — a full circle.

John's career landed him at Facilities Management at UC Irvine, which makes for an easy commute and gets him back in town early to participate in many family activities. And, while "family" activities have changed since those early days, he still appreciates the small-town atmosphere that escapes many other nearby communities. The size of the community has changed too.

Today the residential streets in Temple Hills are completely built out. John remembers when visiting friends was only a matter of crossing open-land footpaths to connect to a different street or neighborhood; cutting through neighbors' yards was a welcome practice throughout Laguna; and fences on property lines were rare. Without sidewalks, walking up and down Temple Hills Drive was as "sketchy" then as it is now. Nowadays there is more traffic on the hill, speeds have increased, and drivers have more distractions than the occasional skateboarder making broad downhill slaloms.

Laguna was a destination point during the '60s and '70s, and not the "pass-through" town it has become today due to the surrounding community development. Nine months out of the year, the sidewalks rolled up around 5 p.m., and only a handful of late-night spots kept the town alive after hours. Those were the days too when autos and appliances could be bought and repaired in town.

While Laguna has changed a great deal, John remains optimistic about the opportunities and future of this small town he still calls home. — Anne Frank 🐾

## Neighborhood Youth



One of our neighbors, Sean Whitlock, a LBHS student and part of a youth group called "Refuge," went on a mission supported by Laguna's Church by the Sea to Guatemala during his school break in February. In Sean's letter to his supporters, he wrote of some of his experiences:

*How hard it was to see "kids dying of HIV, of innocent women serving life terms in prison, orphans, ruined families in the ghettos, and hundreds of men searching through trash as a career choice. On the other hand, we were fortunate to see Mayan Village kids going to a restaurant for the first time... I saw what real poverty looks like...and so have learned to be thankful for running water and electricity. Until you feel what it is like to have nothing, it is hard to be thankful!" >*



### Steering Committee 2014

- Bob Borthwick\* ..... Planning
- Fran Chilcote\* ..... Secretary and Membership
- Ron Chilcote\* ..... Coordinator and Newsletter
- Jamie and Stephen Crawford ..... School Issues
- Dennis Eastman ..... Undergrounding
- Anne Frank\* ..... Newsletter/Archive/Group 6
- Becky Jones... Planning & Neighborhood Groups
- Doug & Rhonda Kim..Block Socials & Party Com
- Charlotte Masarik ..... Village Issues
- Carol Olson ..... Walkways
- David Raber\* ..... Website & Group 4
- Verna Rollinger\* ..... City Affairs
- Lorna Shaw\* ..... Membership and Group 2
- Dave Walker ..... Undergrounding and Traffic
- John Walker\* ..... Treasurer and Group 5
- Robin Walker ..... Design Review and Party Com

\*Board Members

#### Honorary Members

Recognized for long-term service and commitment to Temple Hills

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

#### Neighborhood Groups

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

Thank you, Sean for sharing this with us,  
— Fran Chilcote

## Storm Drain on Temple Hills Drive

The Temple Hills Drive Storm Drain Improvement Project can be viewed on the city's website at [www.lagunabeachcity.net](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net). It will be part of a greater effort to remove the flow of water as it moves down the hill. The area it encompasses will be from the intersection of Dunning Drive and Temple Hills Dr. to the intersection of Temple Hills and Palm Drive. It is projected that the project will take place over one to three months, probably this summer. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at City Hall. 🗣️



Looking across Moulton Meadows  
Photo by Charlotte Masarik

## May is Heritage Month in Laguna Beach

This is when we celebrate the history and unique qualities of our town. The Calendar of Events includes:

- **Sat., May 10, 10 a.m.-Noon:** Guided Walk of Historical Downtown Laguna. Meet at Laguna Beach Library
- **Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-Noon:** Guided walk of Crystal Cove Historic District Park at Los Trancos parking lot. Meet at bluff top deck near cottage rental office. Parking: \$15.
- **Tuesday, May 27, 7:30-9:30 p.m.:** "The 25th Anniversary of the Tell," with speaker Mark Chamberlain, presented by the Laguna Beach Historical Society. City Council Chambers.
- **Year around,** on weekends, visit the Laguna Beach Historical Society located in the 1920s Murphy Smith Bungalow, 278 Ocean Avenue, 1-4 p.m. 🗣️

## Come join us!

The Temple Hills Community Association, since our founding in 1972, has worked to improve the quality of life on our streets and in our neighborhoods, to help neighbors get to know one another, to help them interact with the City when property issues and neighborhood concerns arise, and to join together to address the bigger issues that affect us as a community.

- Over the years, working together as a community,
- we've prevented Temple Hills Drive from becoming a major regional thoroughfare joining with major streets in Aliso Viejo,
  - encouraged the acquisition of hillside open space and the establishment of mini-parks,
  - worked to facilitate safe pedestrian options,
  - fought out-of-scale development and subdivisions,
  - facilitated undergrounding in those areas of the hill where a majority of residents approved
  - provided a community voice to the City
  - fostered a tradition of great neighborhood parties.

Are there any problems in your neighborhood? We'd like to know. What are your interests? Would you like to become more involved? There are opportunities on the Steering Committee and the Neighborhood Groups. Come join with us.

## THCA Membership for 2014

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues 2014 (\$20 per household) = .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## It's Charm House Tour time again!

This annual celebration of Laguna's beautiful and original homes will take place on Sunday, May 18. The focus is on North Laguna this year, and includes historic Pyne Castle. The tour begins at noon from the Festival Grounds, and the last bus departs at 3 p.m. Parking is available across from the Festival Grounds for \$3 all day. Tickets are available for purchase at \$50 (\$60 on day of tour) at the following businesses in town: Copy & Print Center, Cottage Furnishings, Fawn Memories, Hotel Laguna, La Casa del Camino, Laguna Beach Books, Laguna Nursery, Once and Again, Rock Martin Custom Jewelry, and SALT Custom Lifestyle, from the web ([villagelaguna.org](http://villagelaguna.org)), and by mail at P.O. Box 1309, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. For more information call 472-7503. ♻️

## Local news connections

There have been lots of important local issues in the news these days with the Artists Live Work Project, a proposed storage facility at Big Bend, the Friendship Shelter's concept for permanent housing for the homeless, and the selection of an urban planner. One way of keeping up with local events (besides our local newspapers) is to consult the City's website: [laguna-beachcity.net](http://laguna-beachcity.net). There you will find the agendas, minutes, and videos of City Council meetings, which usually

meets on the first and third Tuesdays (televised live on Cox Channel 30, replayed on the following Saturday). Also available are the agenda, minutes and videos of the Planning Commission, which usually meets on the

second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (televised live on Cox channel 30), and the Design Review Board, which usually meets on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6 p.m. (also televised live on Channel 30). ♻️

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