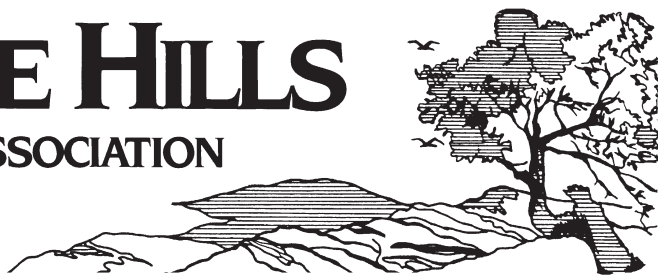


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# TEMPLE HILLS

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



www.lagunatemplehills.com

Winter 2014  
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## Speeding on Temple Hills Drive

In response to a request from THCA, the Laguna Police Department has stepped up patrolling traffic in our area. Sgt. John Falk reports that during the three-month period mid-June to mid-August this year, they clocked the speeds of 336 cars. Nine were doing 6-10 mph above the posted limit. That is nine too many, but not too bad. Monitoring speeds on the "View streets" is scheduled. Regarding collisions on TH Dr. between Thalia and Alta Laguna during the 22-month period August 2011 through May 2013, there were 16. Almost half occurred in the lower, winding section (1200 - 1900 block) while the two collisions where unsafe speed was determined to be the cause occurred in the upper, straighter section (2000-2500 block). Others were presumably the result of slow-driver reaction to problems such as cars backing out of driveways, etc. So, friends and neighbors, take the pledge not to be one of these statistics! It is impressive that the vast majority of drivers are good neighbors who keep their speeds close to the posted limits and don't "push" from behind when drivers are obeying the law and being cautious about potential hazards ahead. When walking TH Dr., however, one still feels vulnerable.

— Chris Reed & David Raber 🐾

## Local Treasure

Delicious healthy food is what it is all about, and it is in our neighborhood! Not only is the service friendly, but clients can also easily be served with a hot and fresh meal — ready to go (or be eaten at tables on the premises) — every two to three minutes. It is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and it is so popular that on a busy summer day it may sell as many as 1,000 items.

It is located in a 1960s building that once housed a meat and produce market with a corner dedicated to date shakes. (For answer, see page 2.)

## The Village Entrance: Rescinding a Vote Seeking Comprehensive Planning

An overflow crowd, including more than a dozen Temple Hills people, attended a November 12 workshop that looked at various alternatives and received the input of many of us. In March the Council had voted for a four-story parking structure that had raised both conservative and liberal concerns in town. The discussion and debate was constructive and orderly over how to implement our vision of the past 30 years to build a village entrance. The decision avoided a costly citywide vote and was the outcome of a gathering similar to a New England town meeting where decisions evolve through participatory democracy and, in my view, should be practiced more frequently in Laguna Beach.

I was especially pleased with reaching consensus rather than facing a divisive political struggle. There could have been more attention to THCA member Bob Borthwick's sensitive planning to restore Laguna Creek and design a park alongside. I often look back at plein air paintings that help us to envisage how Laguna was a hundred years ago when the creek ran alongside a rustic canyon road. There was support, however, for designing a pathway and a bike trail out into the open space of our Greenbelt. There would be a 30-foot-wide green space separating pedestrians from cars and perhaps someday there can be ways to make the entrance across from the Art Festival a more attractive site rather than the ugly parking that we look at as we come into town. It was also clear from participants that comprehensive planning is necessary to take into account all the ideas people are interested in such as citywide undergrounding of utilities, a mall on Forest Avenue, peripheral parking, and so on. There was concern that we not attract more cars into the center of town, but, in my view, this should not be solved by building a new parking structure at Act V which would not only be costly but would also further impact a side canyon of the Greenbelt that should never have been developed in the first place.

The City is purchasing 3.8 acres adjacent to the village entrance site for \$5.3 million, probably a wise decision, but it is paying way beyond the appraised value, as Alan Boinus has analyzed in his column in the *Laguna Beach Independent* (November 15, 2013), implying impropriety and mystery in the transaction. Since 56 acres were acquired recently in Rimrock Canyon for \$1.5 million and open space funds are presently exhausted, I worry how we can complete acquisition of the other parcels and leave this precious canyon in everlasting conservation.

— Ron Chilcote 🐾

## WANTED: Ecowarriors

The bad guys are pampas grass, fountain grass, artichoke thistle and castor bean. They are terrorizing the natives, driving out diversity and messing up the coastal sage shrub habitat that gives our hills their distinctive beauty. Rimrock Canyon, Laguna Canyon and Bluebird Canyon are currently in pretty good shape. Park Canyon is getting there.

I would love to train some younger folks to help eradicate invasive plants to help ensure the longevity of our vulnerable native habitat. I will train you in plant identification, how to stay free of poison oak, spot spraying of invasives and native plant reseedling. It can be a lot of fun, it's great exercise, and it feels really good to see the results. I can't tell you how many waterfalls I've discovered in the neighborhood, how much interesting wildlife I've come across and how many supportive folks I've met. There's no better way to learn about and love our neighborhood. Please email me at [chris.reed@ucr.edu](mailto:chris.reed@ucr.edu) or call me at (949) 715 5549.

— Chris Reed 🐾



## Local Boy Makes Good

David Folkenflik, whose parents Bob and Vivien live on Dunning Drive, has hit the news lately with his bestseller, *Murdoch's World: The Last of the Old Media Empires*. David is the media correspondent for NPR radio and now lives in New York. Bob and Vivien, retired faculty of UCI, are regular attendees at the annual THCA party.

— Chris Reed 🐾

**Local Treasure, continued from page 1**

Of course, we all know, this hidden treasure as THE STAND, which opened in 1975 under the guidance of Edward, a former manager of the food co-op (once located on Laguna Canyon Road). The Stand, at 238 Thalia Street, is next to the bicycle shop and between Gleneyre and Pacific Coast Highway — convenient to foot traffic but also accessible to cars (parking is available in the back as well as on the street).

Edward claims his success at The Stand “reflects the time, the influence and suggestions of others.” All food is prepared with the “highest natural ingredients without the use of

animal or animal bi-products, refined sugar or artificial ingredients.” The delicious breads are gluten free and made locally! How about a gluten-free oversized English muffin! The offerings are so many and varied that it is impossible to list them, but eight different hot soups are made daily. There are 11 different salads, five sandwiches on multi-grain bread, four pita pockets, six burritos, six tamales, nine main dishes, four bowls, lots of juices, shakes and smoothies, and that is not everything. Almost all items are under \$10, with most hearty items in the range of \$7-\$9. Give it a try if you haven’t done so already — you will love it, and let them know you saw it in the THCA newsletter.

— Fran Chilcote 🍌

**This Pathway**

Consider that in every step we take, we create the path of our own life. Each path tells a different story, and at the foundation of each story is the ground we walk on. The ground we walk on is a part of our ongoing experience, whether we realize it or not.

Several years ago, I made a decision to walk every street in Laguna from my house on Cerritos Drive. Over a period of several months, my dear four-legged friend Willow and I frequently set out to get some more Laguna on the soles of our shoes. We made many discoveries and enjoyed many adventures. There is sooo much more to our town than I could otherwise know! I gained a deepened knowing of and appreciation for this beautiful place where we are so blessed to live.

One of Willow’s and my favorite kinds of walks was when we would discover a passage that connects from one street or neighborhood to another, short or long. It might have been a culvert, a deer trail, or established path. I would experience a calming shift in the energy around and within me, and Willow became even more enlivened.

On these paths we were provided softer footfall, closer connection to the earth and surrounding nature. Sometimes the path provided a shortcut toward our destination, and provided safety by avoiding walking on trafficked streets (especially Temple Hills Drive, I might add). There was something deeply gratifying in taking a trail from Canyon Acres to Alta Laguna, and Top of the World to Arch Beach Heights, and the shorter paths, such as the one between Dunning and Cerritos. Maybe compare street walking (asphalt and concrete) or trail walking with riding on the road or in a train. Another side of life. A nice change of scenery.

The Temple Hills Community Association has long been a promoter of paths in Laguna Beach. A recent and forefront pathway concern is the long-existing pathway that connects Dunning and Cerritos Drive. This path is at the cul de sac, 1414 Dunning to approximately midway of the right side of Cerritos Drive. The Dunning property now has story poles up and is currently in the design review process. The Cerritos Drive property has recently been sold, with plans to build a family home in the near future. Soon, the path, the link, may be missing.

We have lived here 27 years, a part of our landscape being this pathway, and we are aware of the frequent use of this path, although not all path walkers are strictly Cerritos and Dunning residents. There are also many crossovers from Temple Hills Drive and beyond. Sometimes bands of children, dog walkers, walkers and joggers pass by.

This path creates a bridge between neighbors, deepening the bonds of community. It provides a safe alternative to walking a particularly precarious portion of Temple Hills Dr. Possibly, it could provide invaluable passage in the case of an emergency.

Might we raise a voice to request these two property owners to allow an easement for this imperiled path, or to contribute to the creation at an alternative path?

On behalf of the THCA, Chris Reed has been canvassing nearby neighbors regarding their interest in having a path/stairs to connect the two streets on this otherwise unused city property.

We will see where This Path takes us!

— Mary Franz 🍌

**Memories Of Laguna Beach and Temple Hills**

*[Tony and Donna L. Demetriades, 147 Hitching Post Road, Bozeman, MT 59715, were active in the early formation of THCA and in city issues. They sent the following note to residents of Temple Hills.]*

We came from Pasadena to Laguna Beach and our 1875 Temple Hills Drive house in 1963 with our three sons, Ted, Larry and Don. Tony was working in Newport Beach across from a cattle-grazed bluff where Fashion Island would one day be built, while Donna busied herself working at the On Consignment shop in town and as a charter member of the Laguna Beach Friends of the Library. Our neighbors were Jack and Joan Jensen on one side, and Earl and Gladys Cunningham on the other. Across the street we had Leandert and Flor DeWitt and Gordon and Lorna Shaw.

Our kids went to Aliso and Top-of-the-World, Thurston, and Laguna Beach High, and they built a tight little community in our neighborhood with the Jensen, Cunningham, DeWitt and Shaw children. Afternoons they would often all go to the beach, skateboarding their way down Temple Hills Drive and hitching a ride back uphill later in the day, probably with someone reading this article right now.

In those days, we “Lagunatics” were really fanatic about our town, and it took little inducement to get us to protect it with electioneering, letters to the editor and activism of all other sorts. The two of us became ardent participants in all things civic, starting with working to keep oil-drilling platforms off Laguna’s horizon (we won that one) to the “battle” and victory of prohibiting high-rise buildings along the waterfront. For many years we served on the Board of the Laguna Beach Civic League, which played a decisive role in the 1960s and 1970s in keeping Laguna a unique coastal community of artists, nature lovers and individualists as a counterweight to the industrialized, sprawling behemoths of the Los Angeles basin.

Some Laguna boosters, in those days, saw a unique opportunity in making the town the Miami Beach of California, visualizing a financially lucrative wall of 10 to 20-story beachfront hotels all along the sand from Victor Hugo’s restaurant (now Las Brisas) at the north end of Main Beach all the way to South Laguna. Picturing the havoc this would cause to Laguna’s aesthetic and cultural way of life (and the very likely loss of the residents’ beach access!), the Civic League managed to rally the city’s population to oppose this plan, culminating in the city’s acquiring the “crown of Laguna” — its Main Beach.

In 1979, we left Laguna for Bozeman, Montana, and our newly acquired Roaring Creek Ranch in a remote valley just west of Yellowstone Park. Tony taught as a professor of mechanical engineering at Bozeman’s Montana State University until his retirement in 1995, while Donna became an expert quilter while demonstrating that a Southern Californian can still walk the dogs in minus-30 weather without a



### Steering Committee 2014

- Bob Borthwick .....Planning
- Fran Chilcote\* ..... Secretary & Membership
- 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 \*..... Pathways & Group 3
- Carol Olson ..... Walkways
- Lynn Powers ..... Newsletter
- David Raber\*..... Web Site & Group 4
- Chris Reed\* ..... Invasive plants & Minutes
- Lorna Shaw \*..... Membership & Group 2
- Tracie Spence\* ...Welcoming Committee & Group 1
- Dave Walker .....Undergrounding and Traffic
- John Walker\*..... Treasurer & Group 5
- 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

### Neighborhood Groups

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

problem. In Montana, we discovered a life we never knew before—raising beautiful red angus cattle, riding our horses along the Continental Divide, breakfasting on the eggs of our range-fed chickens and enjoying the Big Sky, the grandeur of the mountains and the change of seasons. Our empty nest (if anything can be called “empty” with two rambunctious golden retrievers tugging at your sleeve) has been filled again with the wonderful people of Montana and the hospitable community of Bozeman with its university and its many

## Chair’s Message

Outside my home on the 2400 block of Temple Hills Drive, I have sidewalks on *both* sides of the street. There is parking for *three* cars, plus a fire hydrant. Rainwater drains smoothly down the gutters. The street has clean aesthetic lines. It is safe and convenient for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Now, let’s think about the following. What if all of Temple Hills Drive had a pedestrian pathway, at least on one side? What if the center line was realigned to optimize parking spaces? What if drainage was improved, potholes eliminated? Then we’d have a much safer, more pedestrian-friendly street. We would have more reason to walk to nature trails and parks, more opportunities to say hello to our neighbors and admire gardens. A recent accident involving a car hitting a pedestrian on the blind bend of TH Drive between Rimrock Canyon Road and Thurston Drive might have been avoided. Fortunately, the driver was going a cautious 20-25 mph, so injuries were not severe.

There are potential downsides. Some residents might have to alter their frontage landscaping and driveway entrances — a nice opportunity for home improvement! (I can help you with landscaping changes.) Some residents might have to give up city-owned frontage that has morphed into their own front yard — enjoyed while it lasted. By shifting the center line of the road, the impact can be distributed to both sides of the street, regardless of which side the path is placed. Such sacrifices can be approached constructively with the collective good of the neighborhood, the fun of a new yard project, and a potential increase in property value in mind.

The City engineers will hold a town meeting to solicit neighborhood input and map out a provisional plan in early 2014. You will be notified. Meanwhile, I may come knocking on your door to get the pulse of the neighborhood and gather opinions on how to get the City to give us the best possible project. — Chris Reed, THCA Chair

## Neighbors

Hi Neighbors! Our lives are often so busy we don’t get to connect with the people who live close to us. This is especially true in our neighborhood, where everyone comes and goes at different times and new neighbors move in and out. The THCA has formed a welcome committee to help out new neighbors to feel “welcomed” and even get connected with others in our area. Please email me to let me know if you have recently moved into the area, have any needs, or are wanting to make connections with others with similar interests. I look forward to hearing from you! [tracie@traciespencephotography.com](mailto:tracie@traciespencephotography.com)

Also, this is just for the members to read this link if/when you have a moment: <http://www.npr.org/2011/04/19/135546453/getting-to-know-your-neighbors-> It perfectly describes what I believe has occurred in our own Temple Hills neighborhood. I don’t think too many people actually know their neighbors. Maybe they know a long-time neighbor, but chances are they don’t know the “new” couple that moved in three years ago. This is sad. I’m not suggesting I’m going to do sleepovers with everyone (as mentioned in the article — haha) but it’s a good read and a good motivator to get us rolling in the right direction with getting refocused on going back to how things used to be. I bet you all had totally different relationships with your neighbors as children and young adults.

This is a good read for maintaining successful neighborhood associations: <http://www.fwlina.org/PDF/Neighborhood-resources-Fort-Worth-version-2.pdf>

Thanks much.

— Tracie Spence

cultural attractions.

Our oldest son, Ted, and wife, Jimmie, are now retired in Grant’s Pass, Oregon (yes, we have a son on Social Security!), and son No. 2, Larry (wife Laura, an airline attendant), is Parts Manager for the Honda dealership in nearby Billings. Youngest son, Don, who teaches philosophy at MSU, Annmarie and baby Sophia (yes, a new granddaughter!) live a few minutes away from us in Bozeman; and, to brag about our age still further, our other granddaughter, Anna, is now married and lives in Boise, Idaho.

With all our busy times, living in Bozeman in the winter and at the ranch in the summer, we so often think of our happy years in Laguna Beach, a place easily loved and sorely missed, of our Temple Hills Drive friends and neighbors, of the wine-tastings and the parties, of the view of Catalina in the sunset and the cry of the seagulls above the pounding surf. And we would like to hear from you, so please feel free to write us at [tonydeme@q.com](mailto:tonydeme@q.com) and better yet, to visit us in the Big Sky country. — Tony & Donna Demetriades



## Fabulous New Book for Nature Lovers

*Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains*, by Robert Allen and Fred Roberts (Laguna Wilderness Press, 2013), is novice-friendly and accurate, and it is chock full of gorgeous photographs that really look like what you are seeing. The print quality is outstanding. The book tells you where to go, and when. A brief browse and you’ll be hankering for the winter rains to set the spring flowering season in motion. There’s a wonderful bonus, too: Birds, insects, snakes and animals get judicious mention as well. They are frequently the pollinators of native flowers, as well as being part of the wildlife you may see when you’re out on the trail. Available for \$35 at [www.lagunawildernesspress.com](http://www.lagunawildernesspress.com). — Chris Reed

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## Time to Renew Your Membership

### Phyllis Sweeney

Former mayor and councilperson, Phyllis Sweeney, passed away on December 3. She was a friend of Temple Hills. THCA organized in 1973 around concern over a proposed 35-home subdivision on the southern hillsides of Park Canyon. Some 50 neighbors attended Planning Commission meetings to object to this project but after 12 weeks of hearings, the commission voted 5-0 in favor. The project moved to City Council where Phyllis was a member and she and others supported Temple Hills by turning the project down 5-0. She had been involved in the campaign to defeat high-rise along Laguna's beaches. She was involved in helping shape the Greenbelt around us. Temple Hills and Laguna will miss her, but we shall not forget her love and dedication to our community and all the accomplishments of which she was part. — Ron Chilcote ♻️

### Remembering Jeannette Merrilees

Jeannette Merrilees, the Laguna North Neighborhood Association (LANO) liaison to THCA, passed away on October 14 of this year at the age of 83. Jeannette and her husband, Ed, first settled in Laguna Beach in 1973. She was a graduate of Smith College, where she studied government and religion and developed a strong social conscience and an interest in politics. Jeannette taught

elementary school in a remote village in Alaska and the San Felipe Pueblo in New Mexico, as well as in La Jolla. After her children were grown, she went to law school, passed the California Bar, and practiced law.

Jeannette was a strong and outspoken advocate for protecting the public interest, especially in regards to parks and coastal access. In the City of Orange, she fought for more public open spaces and for a parks commission for the City. After she and Ed moved to Laguna Beach, she continued her activism. She was one of the leaders who worked to save a portion of coastal property in the Crescent Bay area for a public park, which is enjoyed today by both residents and visitors. Jeannette was a vigilant fighter for public coastal access. When a luxury resort was planned for the Crystal Cove area, she was the first activist in the fight to save the cottages as a vacation destination for the public. The

preservation of the Laguna Greenbelt was another one of her passions. We will miss you, Jeannette.

— Anne Frank ♻️

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