

TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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P. O. Box 4913
Laguna Beach
California 92652
www.thca.info

Candidates Forum

The forum at City Hall on October 16, 2006, was a success with attendance of more than 60 persons and a healthy discussion of issues affecting Temple Hills and Top of the World. Our questions were published in the last issue of this newsletter, and many of them were dealt with during the session by the four candidates for City Council: Kelly Boyd, Toni Iseman, Elisabeth Pearson-Schneider, and Verna Rollinger. Temple Hills author and activist, Marion Jacobs, moderated the session. Dave and Jackie Walker organized refreshments. The forum was jointly sponsored by THCA and the Top of the World Neighborhood Association.

The candidates agreed on most points; there was concern about maintaining the character of neighborhoods and mitigating "mansions" throughout the city. There was agreement that the old traditional easements and walkways through the hills should be restored and/or maintained. There was consensus about acquiring open space and a concern for preserving Rimrock Canyon, which was believed to be geologically unsafe. There were promises to work on mitigating commercial aircraft noise. There was a commitment to find more effective ways to work closely with the School District to ensure compatibility of construction projects with planning criteria that guide development in the city. 📍

Cerritos Undergrounding

On November 23, 2006, the Laguna Beach City Council approved the formation of an underground utility district for the residents of Dunning Drive, Cerritos Drive, Terrace Way and Rim Rock Road (Upper and Lower). This project has been ten years in the making and is now reality. If there are no further delays, construction will likely begin in March 2007. Construction will begin on Dunning Drive and work up to Rim Rock Road. Again, without further delays, everything except the removal of existing telephone poles should be complete by the end of 2007.

— Fritz Knauss 📍

THANK YOU ALL!!

Just a note to thank everyone for making the Temple Hills Community Association party a huge success. Tom and Scott were such gracious hosts. The setting couldn't have been more magical. It was great seeing old friends and making new. The "total package" was sooo perfect. Hoping everyone had as much fun as us.

If anyone would like to help in the planning of next year's Gala, PLEASE come forward...
Looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

— Doug and Rhonda Kinn

We all deeply appreciate the effort to ensure a great party and annual meeting. Thanks especially to Rhonda Kinn for putting together the most spectacular party of THCA times and to Doug Kinn for his support and hard work; Barbara Rathbun and Fran Chilcote for handling the table and Fran for her extra efforts; Mary Lou and Ben Teschner for their usual support and involvement; Dave and Jackie Walker for their party effort; Tom Livermore and Scott Schadrick for allowing us to be in their beautiful home; Carol Olsen for leading us through the annual meeting; and Dorothea Yellot, Karen Rosenberg,

Jim Hall, and Richard Holmes for involvement in the meeting. Thanks to Council Member Jane Egly who was our speaker and to the candidates for City Council and school board as well as neighbors outside Temple Hills who joined so many of us from the bill. And to all the countless others who contributed.

INCOME REPORT ON THCA PARTY OCT. 28, 2006

Taken in at the door	\$1640
Proceeds of Book Sales at party.....	65
Plus prepaids for party	310
Total	\$2015
Expenses	\$1833



(clockwise from left) Host Tom Livermore and Party Organizer Rhonda Kinn. Kim Sheperd, Bill and Theresa O'Hare, Debra Ann Nickel. Council Member Toni Iseman with Becky and Joie Jones. More pics in the next issue!

Winning Laguna School Board Candidates' Responses to Questions from THCA

We sent the school board candidates questions about Temple Hills concerns. Their responses were emailed to those of you whose addresses we have on

record and posted on our web site at www.thca.info. Below are responses (edited for space and balance) of the winning candidates.

1. *Do you think the district is ready to institute the International Baccalaureate and would you support it during your term?*
2. *There is a perception, however untrue, that school board members and School Power parents have unusual pull in the school district. Do you have children in the district, and if you had a complaint with a teacher or a request concerning your student/s or a friend's child, how would you handle it?*
3. *Do you think that the school district should pursue another distinguished-schools designation for any of our schools? Why or why not, and if so which ones?*
4. *Nancy Blade was considered very strong at the high school in dealing with drug use and perceptions of drug use. Which of her efforts should be continued, and what would you support in this arena?*
5. *Based on the Healthy Children surveys, what do you think are the most*

- critical areas that need attention in our school district?*
6. *What social emotional programs at the school do you find most valuable?*
7. *Not too many years ago, we were facing bankruptcy, and later losing our basic aid district status. We are in excellent shape at the moment, I believe. What do you see as your fiduciary responsibility as a board member?*
8. *THCA objects to the commercialization of the schools that hang banners advertising local business. How do you feel about this?*
9. *Temple Hills residents have objected to school projects that intrude upon our views such as the gym at Thurston, the reconfiguration of the baseball field at the high school, and the backlit sign at the corner on Park Avenue. Would you support design review for such projects in future to ensure that resident needs be met?*

KETTA BROWN RESPONSES

1. After research and discussion, I have come to believe that it is a program that has great potential and could be a real asset to our students. However, I do not think that we are ready to implement it in the next year. In speaking with a number of teachers, they feel that they need more time, training and support to get this program off the ground properly.
2. I have three children in the district: a senior, a freshman and a fourth-grader. We have been lucky that we haven't really had any giant concerns with regard to teachers. I have always told my children that in life you get good bosses and crummy bosses, and you have to deal with both. The same holds true for teachers. I really feel that unless there is an abuse of power or some other overriding problem, my job is to guide and give them the tools to resolve issues on their own.
3. The process is an excellent opportunity for a school site to self-reflect. It creates the chance to look critically at a particular site's strengths and weaknesses. All sites should be assessing the efficacy of their programs regularly, but this process forces us to look deeper and see if we are truly fulfilling our mission of providing a meaningful education for all students.
4. Drug and alcohol use is not a defiance problem. Students who use drugs are doing so to cover some other problem or concern in his or her life. Humiliating and embarrassing a student is not an effective way of stemming the problem. Nancy felt that you had to deal with each instance on an individual level. You needed to build a relationship with that child in order to help him/her. She felt that a firm yet fair policy was in order. Her methods worked for both the student and the family involved. I feel that an individualized approach to the problem is still the best way to address this issue.
5. Once again, the "Youth Connect" program has much the same information as the California Healthy Kids Survey. The most pressing issue is, in my mind, the drug and alcohol abuse at the schools among the students who are using. This is not just a school issue but a societal one... You have to look at the individual child to figure out why this behavior is occurring and

(continued on page 3)

BETSY JENKINS RESPONSES

1. I am a strong proponent of instituting the International Baccalaureate program at Laguna Beach High School. This is a challenging course of study that emphasizes critical thinking and writing skills.
2. I do still have one son in the school district. If I had a problem with any teacher or other, I would go through the proper channels. The protocol is to talk first with the teacher, and if there is not resolution, to proceed then through your counselor, the principal, and finally the superintendent. Even before I was on the board, I never found I had to go beyond the teacher, as they are very responsive to parent concerns.
3. We routinely pursue distinguished school recognition at all sites. We usually choose one school each year to complete the application. We make the determination of which school based on particularly outstanding programs or events that occurred that year.
4. Nancy Blade did do an excellent job of dealing with drug and alcohol use in our schools. She began by taking out the lockers, which will not be replaced. They were evidently used as a storage place for drugs and alcohol. Students are assigned both a class set and a home set of books, so they do not need a school locker except for athletics. Our current administration is continuing to place great emphasis on curtailing drug and alcohol use among our students. We have an active Drug and Alcohol Committee that includes the superintendent, the high school principal, the Laguna Beach police, and representative teachers, parents and students.
5. Problem areas we have identified include meaningful participation of the students in decision making, and the feeling of anxiety that many of our kids report surrounding homework, tests, college placement, etc. We have used the past year to concentrate on improving these areas for our kids. At each site we have increased student participation on every level and talk with the kids in their classes about their potential to impact their school environment. Our emphasis in our district is always on the whole child rather than just test scores.

(continued on page 3)

THERESA O'HARE RESPONSES

1. I support IB providing we properly prepare and implement the program. The timetable for full implementation has already been extended, and properly so if the responsible teachers and administrators determine that more time is needed to get it right. If we rush the program, we face the risk that we will end up not only with an unsuccessful IB launch, but also a possible downgrading of our existing AP classes as resources and efforts are diverted elsewhere.
 2. It's a good thing that we have so many active and involved people, whether they are providing leadership, volunteer effort, or even just financial contributions. There is nothing wrong with treating those who work so hard to support our schools with the utmost respect — these folks are helping everyone's children. The challenge is not to somehow neutralize the parents who are such strong cheerleaders for all of our children, but to make sure that every parent and student, regardless how active, get equal respect and consideration.
- My children have benefited from the help and support of teachers and site principals — at TOW, Thurston and the high school. My hope and expectation are that every parent and child who turns to a teacher or administrator should receive similar treatment, and I would be very disappointed if that was not the case.
3. Currently, one of our schools, Thurston Middle School, has achieved this recognition. Each distinguished school receives a four-year designation. We will pursue the same for all of our sites. The benefits of such recognition include more favorable treatment of our graduates in college admissions, and community and school pride.
 4. Since 2001, I have co-chaired the Laguna Beach High School Drug & Alcohol Committee. During that time, we have taken a number of constructive steps to improve communication with parents through town hall meetings, to send alerts to parents before dances and school events, to both deter and set examples through voluntary testing, and to build a better partnership with the city through its joint participation on our committee.

One thing that has been missing is vigorous and consistent enforcement of *(continued on page 4)*



TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Steering Committee 2006

The Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee may meet for planning or emergency purposes between Steering Committee meetings, although any member may attend, and comprises Fran and Ron Chilcote, Jamie and Stephen Crawford, Richard Holmes, Rich Linting, Ben Teschner, Dorothea Yelliot.

- Joe Baker Neighborhood Watch
- Lisa Black Neighborhood Liaison
- Fran Chilcote Corresponding Secretary and Membership Records
- Ron Chilcote Newsletter
- Jamie Crawford School Issues
- Stephen Crawford School Issues
- Anne Frank Archive & Historian
- Jan Hall Social
- Jim Hall At Large
- Richard Holmes Website
- Doug Kinn At Large
- Rhonda Kinn Annual Party
- Rich Linting Treasurer
- Carol Olsen Walkways
- Jackie Parker Membership Records
- Jennifer Radisay At Large
- Nicholas Radisay At Large
- Barbara Rathbun Telephone List
- Chris Rickets Planning
- Verna Rollinger VOW
- Tracy Spencer Minutes
- Ben Teschner At Large
- Mary Lou Teschner Party Committee
- Dave Walker Undergrounding
- Grant Wetzel Open Space
- Marian Whitney Distribution
- Caroline Wright Pathways
- Dorothea Yellott Pathways

Honorary Members

Recognized for long-term service and commitment to Temple Hills.
 Bill Parrish
 Betty Swenson
 Estelle Warner

Neighborhood Groups

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

Neighborhood Group Leaders

- Group 1 Lisa Black and Bo Powell
- Group 2 Lisa Black and Marjorie LeGay
- Group 3 Dave Walker and Kurt Topik
- Group 4 Joe Baker
- Group 5 Fritz Knauss
- Group 6 Jamie and Stephen Crawford

Liaison

Linda Brown League of Women's Voters
 Jeannette Merrilees

Ketta Brown, continued

get the family involved as well. Each unique student should be evaluated independently.

6. Both elementary schools have a "Positive Behavior Program" in place that, coupled with the new elementary counseling program, have been effective in creating an environment where good behavior is the norm. When behaving in a respectful and polite manner is the standard, it creates a setting that discourages rude and offensive activities. Thurston has a similar program that encourages students to discuss problems with a "trained" mediator. In addition, volunteer seniors have a group of 10-12 freshmen whom they mentor and introduce to the high school. This program has been in place for three or four years and is still expanding. Last year the counselors at LBHS took the most challenged students based on report cards, and had lunch with them for, I believe, eight weeks. The improvement in these students' grades was amazing. CSP Youth Shelter had the idea of creating a mentoring program in which members of the community would commit to a year-long process of guiding and advising a child who was in their program.

7. We need to maintain a reserve that will provide for a smooth transition for the affected school year and buy some time to lobby Sacramento. This requires a reserve much higher than that recommended by the OCDE, but is necessary given the options. In addition, I feel that it is the board's responsibility to communicate with all the hard-working volunteers throughout the community who work to raise additional funds for our students on the best ways to utilize those funds

8. Unless the district is willing to make a substantial annual budget commitment to fund these programs without advertising on campus, I believe advertising is necessary, dictated by size and appropriateness.

9. I can however sympathize with the residents affected by the decisions. My gut instinct is that Design Review would not want to step into the middle of any school expansion/redesign process. I would hope that by working together and communicating thoroughly and effectively with the parties affected, a project could be completed to everyone's satisfaction. ♪

Betsy Jenkins, continued

6. I described several social/emotional programs in the question above. Another major step we are taking this year to support our kids' social/emotional development is known as the Individual Student Profile, an online tool that both students and parents can access to help the student understand such concepts as their individual learning style, their level of fitness and nutrition, the degrees to which they are persistent, resilient, etc.

7. Our Laguna schools are indeed in very good shape financially, due to the past years of high property taxes. We have increased spending both on the classroom level and in salaries for teachers and staff. We have a large technology budget that allows us to buy state-of-the-art computers and software for our classrooms. But I also believe the school board has a fiduciary responsibility to build up reserves when times are good, as a hedge against flattening or declining property taxes in the future.

8. I would evaluate each proposal on a case-by-case basis. I have no philosophical opposition to school groups raising money by private advertising and donations. At the same time, where that advertising is visible off campus, we need to be sensitive to its impact on our neighbors.

We are currently trying to resolve the problem of banners hanging in the baseball-field area, and I am confident we will find a resolution compatible with both the neighborhood and the booster parents. Of course, I am against the commercialization of our schools, but I am also sensitive to the important sense of the community feeling they support our schools. We want to keep community involvement in the schools while minimizing any impact on the immediate neighbors.

9. California's schools operate under different laws than cities do. We have very strict guidelines for building, which come from Sacramento. I do not think it would work to have the schools actually go through design review. However, we definitely learned our lesson in this last remodel about being sensitive to neighbors' concerns. Any future building would be approached first with a joint task force that included impacted neighbors. ♪

THCA 2007 MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Membership in the Temple Hills Community Association is Laguna's best bargain! Annual dues are \$20 per household (any lesser or greater amount is appreciated). Newsletters are mailed to every home in Temple Hills.

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Phone _____ Email _____

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If you are interested in volunteering, please call 497-2218.

Theresa O'Hare, continued

prohibitions against drug and alcohol use during the school day. Now that enforcement has intensified with the start of this school year, a significant increase in students have already been suspended for drug- and alcohol-related infractions. In addition, the longstanding prohibition against freshmen and sophomores leaving campus during lunch is now being enforced.

5. One important effort should be to improve the civility and behavior among students both in and out of the classroom. To that end, each campus has implemented programs to improve the way our students treat each other, some as simple as placing posters that remind students of the behavior that is expected in the class and when participating in student activities. . . . These small steps taken to spell out expectations and to recognize success can make a big difference over time.

6. I believe the peer-to-peer programs are the most valuable. Some examples include Juntos, Best Buddies who help with special needs, Youth Commit, Pals at Thurston, and Peer Counseling at the high school.

7. If we don't get the budget right, nothing much else is going to be accomplished. The failure to recognize and plan for the possibility of reduced revenue helped put us into a dreadful financial bind not so long ago.

Our current goal of accumulating \$8 million in unrestricted reserves is a relatively modest one. I am absolutely committed to avoiding the budgetary convulsion of the last downturn that resulted in cutbacks in our programs, neglect in maintenance and give-backs from the teachers and others. No future generation of teachers or students should have to sacrifice because those who came before failed to prepare for the rainy days that invariably will come.

8. I would evaluate each proposal on a case-by-case basis. I have no philosophical opposition to school groups raising money by private advertising and donations. At the same time, where that advertising is visible off campus, we need to be sensitive to its impact on our neighbors.

I do not want to raise money through advertising at the expense of the goodwill of the community that supports us. Where appropriate, the district should provide additional funds so that the price of community goodwill is a shared burden.

9. School projects should pass through a design review process established by the school district, not the city. The district is an independent governing body with direct responsibility to the electorate.

Neither the school district nor the public is well served if the public, rightly or wrongly, feels shut out of the process. On future projects, I propose that we take a closer look at our notice procedures to make sure that all community members who wish to comment upon a district construction project are given a full opportunity to do so ♻

THCA Annual Report

With a large attendance, our past Annual Meeting on October 8, 2005, included a presentation by City Council Member Steve Dicterow, who covered community and city issues and answered questions. This was followed by a review of revisions for Design Review. The meeting was followed by a successful Annual Party organized by Jenny Radisay and a committee of volunteers who put on a tremendous affair.

THCA cosponsored with Top of the World Association a successful candidates' forum at City Hall on Monday, October 16. Marion Jacobs moderated on

behalf of THCA and Dave and Jackie Walker organized refreshments.

The Steering Committee met in November, and reviewed issues and activities:

- There has been continuing concern over the School District reconfiguration of the high school baseball field and view blockage, and despite efforts by neighbors to meet with City Council and the School District, resolution to date has not been achieved.
- Dorothea Yellot and Caroline Wright continue to work with the city to open up pedestrian paths through easements on the hill, which have been used for more than half a century. The project has stalled with the Planning Commission.
- Efforts continue to find ways to secure privately owned open space above Park Canyon and in Rimrock Canyon. Although conservation buyers have indicated interest in preserving these lands in perpetuity, community support and funding, possibly in conjunction with city open-space funds, may be necessary.
- Our web site (see www.thca.info) has been updated with by-laws and historical information relating to our specific plan, past newsletters and space for interaction among neighbors. We need a coordinator to monitor and maintain the web site.

Two issues of the newsletter have appeared since the last annual meeting. The newsletter has been consistently published over the past 33 years and is one of the oldest civic publications in Laguna Beach.

Fran Chilcote has updated the mail list and identified owners not living in their residences. An appeal was sent to them to join THCA with dues. A letter was sent to past dues-paying members who had not yet contributed in the current year, and there was a good response. Jackie Parker has assisted with an updated assessor's list used to check against current THCA data.

— The Steering Committee, October 28, 2006 ♻

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