Police Files

Airbnb rental ‘party house’ is busted for drugs and stolen mail in South Laguna

Detectives received a tip early Thursday morning referencing possible drug and fraudulent activity being conducted at a residence in the 31000 Block of Virginia Way. Officers proceeded to conduct surveillance, before contacting several subjects in front of the residence, which led to a search of the entire residence.

According to LBPD Spokesperson Sgt Jim Cota, “Officers found heroin, needles, and what looks like meth, although it’s still undetermined, if in fact, it was actually meth.”

“Inside the residence it was basically a ‘crash party house.’ Many of the people inside did not know each other,” said Sgt Cota.

Rented through Airbnb, the officers found that the person who is renting the house was not at the premises at the time.

Seven people were contacted – one occupant was not arrested and was released. Five people, between ages 25 and 35, were taken into custody, and the sixth suspect was transported to Mission Hospital because of a medical emergency.

“The suspect that went to the hospital, heroin was found in his underwear,” said Sgt Cota. “We may have just saved his life.”

None of the suspects are from Laguna, but they are from Orange County.

“We got a hold of the homeowner and he came to the house and was very appreciative of the PD and the involved officers. He works in Laguna Beach,” said Sgt Cota.

The suspects checked into the house on Tuesday as an Airbnb rental. The house – which is listed as a 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom “quintessential 1930s Laguna Beach cottage” – rents for $350/night, according to an active listing on the website. The rental has a 5-star rating from past renters, and has a bonafide short-term housing permit through the City.

“I am very pleased our officers and detectives were able to stop this criminal activity from continuing and possibly saving a life at the same time. This rent house was being used for criminal activity, so it needed to be shut down,” said Sgt Cota. “The Laguna Beach Police Department is fully committed to its citizens and pleased with the outcome that resulted in five arrests.”

Besides being busted for drugs, the suspects were also found to be in possession of a large quantity of mail that was not their own. “Inside the premises, literally handfuls of local Laguna Beach residents’ mail was seized,” said Sgt Cota.

“LBPD will get a hold of each person and individually let them know,” said Sgt Cota. All the suspects that were taken into custody are currently being held at LB Jail. Charges are pending.

Canine capers: beloved pitbull Brody has bolted twice, quite the charming escape artist, tail wagging and all

Dogs just want to have fun, that’s Brody the pitbull’s story and he’s sticking with it. According to LBPD’s Facebook Page, “With the help of our community, officers reunited our most recent escape artist, Brody. So far this week he’s effectively escaped his secured household, twice. Lucky for him we know where he lives.”

Click on photo for a larger image

Brody, the friendly pitbull, is home again thanks to LBPD

Perhaps his name should be changed to Houdini.

LBPD Spokesperson Sgt Jim Cota said that they received a call Thursday morning stating that, “Brody was loose, he wanted to go for a walk but couldn’t. He scratched his way out the window.”

An officer went to the area of the home and found Brody. They went to the house to see how he may have gotten out.
Gate & Garden Tour of South Laguna

Friday, May 4
11 to 4

A self-guided walking tour of 10 private gardens, from fancy to fanciful, in charming South Laguna. $45 in advance $50 day of tour

For advance ticket purchase locations in the SLMR visit LagunaBeachGardenClub.org

Brody, a known escape artist, enjoys his canine capers with LBPD

“He got creative and pushed an interior sliding window open,” Sgt Cota said.

Eventually he was released to the dog walker, which is perplexing since the dog seemingly broke free to walk himself. Nonetheless, Brody was released and noted for his congeniality, quite the charmer.

“Brody is our favorite little pitbull. He’s super nice,” said Sgt Cota.

Number of rescued elephant seals drastically increases, PMMC urgently needs donations

By DIANNE RUSSELL

The Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) reports that the number of their marine mammal patients has significantly increased in the past few months, and the center is in desperate need of supplies to meet this growing challenge.

Just two days ago, Public Relations Coordinator for PMMC, Krysta Higuchi, told Stu News, “It’s been all hands-on deck at PMMC for the last few weeks. Since March 20, we have rescued 24 northern elephant seals, 10 California sea lions and one Guadalupe fur seal. Sometimes all three of our rescue trucks are out at once. We are now going through what resources we have four times as fast as before. Any donation helps in any amount: Pedialyte, gas cards, light Karo Syrup (regulate glucose levels and increase calorie intake) toilet paper, copy paper or donations for fish (1 pound of fish = $1).
garden with ocean views. Fun is in the air at this year’s tour takes place on the “Eve of Cinco de Mayo” and offers margaritas and Mexican fare, fresh refreshments, plein air painters in several gardens, and a raffle of prizes from local artists and businesses.

LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
or email Nancy Englund at www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
for more tour and ticket information, visit
recommended.
sunglasses, and cameras are
sunscreen, brimmed hats,
Comfortable walking shoes,
available along the route.
water, and restroom will be
assist tour goers. A rest stop,
bus leaves Arabella at 2 p.m.
the walking route. The last tour
attendees from Arabella Laguna
will continuously shuttle
areas.
registration and reception
Historic Cottages, 506 N Coast
starting point: Arabella Laguna
will be available at the tour’s
Nursery. On May 4, $50 tickets
Tides Inn, and Dana Point
Laguna Drug, Laguna Nursery,
and available at
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
and at Laguna Beach Books,
Laguna Drug, Laguna Nursery,
Tides Inn, and Dana Point
Nursery. On May 4, 550 tickets
will be available at the tour’s
starting point: Arabella Laguna
Historic Cottages, 506 N Coast
Hwy, which is the location of the
registration and reception
areas.
On May 4, from 11 a.m., buses
will continuously shuttle
attendees from Arabella Laguna
to the first garden in South
Laguna and back at the end of the
walking route. The last tour
bus leaves Arabella at 2 p.m.
Volunteers will be on hand to
assist tour goers. A rest stop,
water, and restroom will be
available along the route.
Comfortable walking shoes,
sunscreen, brimmed hats,
sunglasses, and cameras are
recommended.
For more tour and ticket
information, visit
www.LagunaBeachGardenClub.org
or email Nancy Englund at
NEnglund@LagunaBeachGardenClub.org.

PMMC needs help for rescues
What’s really alarming is the drastic increase of elephant seals we’ve seen, our average used to be 20 a year. 2018 is the second year in a row with these high numbers, we are collaborating with other rehab centers and scientists in our field to see if this will become the new normal,” Higuchi said.

Elephant seal pups are born in early winter from December to January and are born at about 75 pounds. In their first four weeks of life, they generally should double that weight.

“Our center is seeing animals come in under birth weight, very weak, very emaciated, and very lethargic. The animals are so weak that they get caught in the current and just drift far south. And for a variety of reasons, they are not strong enough to fight the current,” said Higuchi in the PMMC Facebook post.

Recent PMMC rescues include Sunbeam, a male elephant seal pup, who was found Tuesday, April 3, at 20th St near Newport Pier; Glasgow, an 81-pound elephant seal found starved and lethargic on the sand at Baby Beach in Dana Point Harbor on Sunday, April 1; and Roma, 84 pounds, found at Cottons Point in San Clemente, also on Sunday.

Recent rescues, Sunbeam, Glasgow, and Roma
While elephant seals generally experience the same ailments and rehabilitation times as sea lions, they are larger and require more medicine, nutrients, fish and qualified technicans in marine mammal medicine, which in turn increases expenses.

“It costs upwards of $3,000 or more to rehabilitate just one elephant seal patient during its stay at Pacific Marine Mammal Center,” said Keith Matassa, executive director of PMMC.

PMMC is currently going through over 200 pounds of fish per day and 20 bottles of Pedialyte (unflavored Pedialyte is a key ingredient used to hydrate critical patients). They say that these numbers will likely skyrocket to at least 300-400 pounds per day within the next few weeks once all the elephant seal patients begin eating on their own, and the rescue numbers continue to increase.

The center has partnered with NOAA to figure out why this is happening. They are grateful for their expertise and support during this stressful time.

Donations will help critical patients, like Sunbeam, Glasgow and Roma receive the necessary medical treatment necessary to return them to their ocean home.

For more information or to donate to PMMC, go to www.pacificmarinemammal.org.

Real Talk presents discussion group on Empowering Youth, our Underestimated Treasure
Real Talk Laguna Beach will present Empowering Youth, our Underestimated Treasure, on Wednesday, April 18 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Susi Q Community Center, located at 380 Third St. This event is free and facilitated by Dr. Ding-Jo Currie and Ridvan Bruss.
Downtown Specific Plan update will be discussed on Wednesday, April 18 at 6 p.m. at City Hall

The City of Laguna Beach will continue its efforts on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) Update on Wednesday, April 18 during the Planning Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall (505 Forest Ave).

South Laguna Community Garden Park let friends and supporters know this week that “our most important garden founder is gone. Morrie Granger died suddenly this last Monday.”

Ann Christoph noted in her email, “Everywhere you look at the garden there is something that Morrie did, but the most important of all was that he found the garden property and convinced Paul Tran to allow us to build the garden there.

“The parties, the potlucks: Morrie loved the community and helped to bring us all together. Let’s stay together.”

Tom Joliet recalls, “I remember using railroad ties for the garden stairs. Morrie would shave the earth with a shovel and the board he placed there by eye, always measured to be perfectly level.”

Services have yet to be planned. However, members of the community are urged to attend the So Lag Community Garden Park’s upcoming Potluck on Sunday April 29 (Potluck between 3 and 6 p.m. The park is located on Eagle Rock Way and Coast Highway. There’ll be live music, kids games and neighborly fun.

I am sure there will be an acknowledgement of all of Morrie’s contributions,” Ann Christoph noted in an email.

Gale “Morrie” Granger, PhD, pioneer in arthritis research, was a board member and early grant recipient of the Arthritis National Research Foundation (ANRF). In 2014 he was honored at ANRF’s annual Meet the Scientists reception and a research grant was named in his honor.

The Gale Granger Fellowship of the Arthritis National Research Foundation is awarded to the scientist funded by ANRF whose work most closely follows Dr. Granger’s life work in Immunology and Inflammation.

Dr. Granger was a Professor of Immunology at UCI for 40 years.

His life-changing research, and his contribution in enhancing the lives of locals through his support of the South Laguna Community Garden Park, cannot be underestimated.

A tribute from Sally Coffey

“Morrie...What an extraordinary human being! I thought of him as “The Godfather of South Laguna.” Generous, kind, charitable, helpful and hilarious. When he heard of a maintenance problem I was experiencing I would come home to find that my fence was repaired or my Community Garden plot was rebuilt.

“His dedication to eradicating arthritis through his work with the National Arthritis Research Foundation was his passion.

“He was a founder of the South Laguna Garden Park. It was he who secured the use of the property on which we now farm and which has created a unique and close-knit community.

Click on photo for a larger image

Photo courtesy SoLag Community Park

Morrie with his wife Barbara

Click on photo for a larger image

Photo courtesy SoLag Community Park

Morrie at a fundraiser for the Garden

Click on photo for a larger image

Photo courtesy SoLag Community Park
City Hall
City staff will present draft amendments to the Downtown Specific Plan for discussion with the Planning Commission. The focus of the presentation and discussion will be on MIG’s recommended draft amendments to portions of Section V Land Use Districts of the existing Downtown Specific Plan document. Specifically, the focus of Section V review will cover topics such as: the intent and purpose of land use districts, permitted land uses/required entitlements, permit processes, findings and special findings for certain uses, allowable changes in permitted use category per City Council resolution, and definitions.

Other topics pertaining to property development standards, special planning and/or design criteria will be reviewed and discussed at a subsequent Planning Commission meeting. A copy of the Section V draft amendments is available to review on the project webpage (link included below).

Additional meetings will occur in 2018 to review draft amendments to other sections of the plan. This meeting and future meetings play an essential role to obtain input from the community and direction from the Planning Commission, and to identify the City’s priorities for the future of the Downtown. For more information on the Downtown Specific Plan Update please contact Wendy Jung, Senior Planner, at (949) 497-0321 or visit www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/cd/planning/mjrplanginitv/downtown_specific_plan_amendment/default.htm.

Harvest: It’s The Ranch’s fine dining side
Review and photos by MAGGI HENRIKSON

The Harvest vibe is one part earthy and downhome, and one part refinement and elegance. It’s a nice mix as you sit in the big lodge space and look out at all the green surrounding this pristine canyon location. The chef’s creations reflect that mix too, as locally sourced ingredients blend with Asian, European, and Americana influences.

I love visiting The Ranch at Laguna Beach and feeling like I’m on vacation, even if it’s just for lunch. And, of course, lunch at their Harvest restaurant is a perfect topper to a round of golf! Last weekend, I enjoyed a full two days (and nights) there and was delighted to partake of several meals worth noting.

My second favorite fish in the whole world is branzino, which is a European sea bass. (My first favorite is fresh-caught Atlantic striped bass, but that’s for home cooking, and a whole other story) I’ve seen branzino as a special at only a few restaurants, so I was very happy to find it right there on the menu at Harvest.

The thing about branzino is that the whole fish is mild and sweet, right down to the skin. It’s roasted or grilled and served whole, with head and tail, as is more customary in Europe than in California. Chef Kyle St. John has interpreted the Whole Branzino dish at Harvest served with spiced lentils, chorizo, blistered tomatoes, and salsa verde. So good, I had it two nights in a row!
was light and citrusy, and just melted on the tongue.

Click on photo for a larger image

Hamachi Special

On the lunch menu, my skinny selection—due to low carb count—goes to Harvest’s fabulous Grilled Salmon Salad. The perfectly medium-rare chargrilled salmon is served with mixed baby greens, artichokes, Greek olives, pickled onions, and feta cheese drizzled with red wine vinaigrette.

Click on photo for a larger image

Wild Mushroom Pappardelle

On the lunch menu, my skinny selection—due to low carb count—goes to Harvest’s fabulous Grilled Salmon Salad. The perfectly medium-rare chargrilled salmon is served with mixed baby greens, artichokes, Greek olives, pickled onions, and feta cheese drizzled with red wine vinaigrette.

Grilled Salmon Salad

Go ahead and work up an appetite on the lovely Ranch golf course, then feast on fine dining with a view at Harvest. You will be happily satisfied with a day well spent.
not eligible to volunteer unless accompanied by an adult or guardian. Online reservations required at: www.lagunacanyon.org/activities. For questions, call (949) 497-8324 Mon-Fri or (949) 923-2235 Sat-Sun.

Geology Hike
Sat, April 14
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon of unspoiled canyon views and learn about the geology of this area. This will be a 3.5-mile hike over steep and uneven terrain (600-ft. elevation gain). Bring water, hiking shoes (hiking poles suggested), snacks, the field guides of your choice, and a sense of adventure! Ages 15 and up. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area (West side of the 133, just south of El Toro Rd intersection). For questions, call (949) 497-8324 Mon-Fri or (949) 923-2235 Sat/Sun. Parking: $3/vehicle.

Where’s Maggi?
Where can you find this water pump?
Maggi thinks maybe a few others have noticed it. Be a winner, and beat Maggi at her game! Submit your answer to: maggi@stunewslaguna.com. The photo quiz will be solved in the next issue, and we’ll let you know the winners.

Two more kids are accepted to OCSA, we hear
Luca Luhan, age 11, has been accepted into the Visual Arts Conservatory at Orange County School of the Arts. Luca says, “I cannot wait for the school year to start! I am so stoked I will be able to continue doing what I love to do everyday as an OCSA student. Art is such a big part of my life and I know I will continue to grow under the guidance of the teachers at OSHA. It is my dream that one day people will walk into a gallery and enjoy my art on display.”

Parents Jenn and Jason Luhan say, “He was just three years young when he began what most would consider scribble scrabbling, drawing onto a large piece of paper. After a year, often having added just one simple mark of color at a time, he eventually called it finished. He referred to it as his ‘masterpiece’, a word he could barely pronounce at the time – proof that only the artist knows when their work is complete, which is something his amazing art teachers at Anneliese Schools continued to teach him over the years.

“As Luca’s parents, we are so proud and excited for this opportunity. Luca feels so grateful and lucky!”

And Thurston’s Wyatt Beckley is also on his way to OCSA
Another talented Thurston student who made the cut to join OCSA is Wyatt Beckley. Wyatt began playing guitar with Mrs. Sand at TOW in fourth grade in the after-school program. He continued to do so in fifth grade. From there, he began taking private lessons and he joined a band that practices on Saturdays, as well as the TMS band. He primarily focuses on guitar, but also plays the baritone, the saxophone, the drums, the keyboard, and the bass guitar. He is a member of his school’s Jazz Band and enjoys all

Free Legal Clinic
Seaside Legal Services
Providing professional legal assistance to seniors age 55+ who cannot afford counsel. Attorneys Jane Fulton and Leslie Lindgren provide help and/or referrals for family law; health-related issues; consumer problems; conservatorships; housing; elder abuse; bankruptcy; wills and power of attorney. Must be an OC resident with proof of residency. Call first to make an appointment, 949-715-6104. No walk-ins.

Additional events at the Susi Q
See movie schedule at www.susiq.org.
Intermediate Ballroom Dancing
Mon | 1:30-2:30pm | Intermediate | $7 per class – Drop-ins welcome!
Waltz, Rumba, Swing, Watusi, ChaCha, Country two-step, Fox Trot.
No partner required. Instructor: Candis Davis
Health Insurance Counseling (HICAP)
1st & 3rd Mon | 9am- Noon | Free
Providing assistance and objective information to help seniors and disabled persons make informed decisions about health care coverage, Medicare benefits and supplemental insurance plan options. Sponsored by the Council on Aging. Call 949-464-6645 for an appointment.

More Susi Q events below

Laguna Lido Oceanfront $2,350,000
“True professional. He actually provided more services than promised.”
FK McAfoose
Global Luxury
www.Mcafoose.com

Free Legal Clinic
Seaside Legal Services
Providing professional legal assistance to seniors age 55+ who cannot afford counsel. Attorneys Jane Fulton and Leslie Lindgren provide help and/or referrals for family law; health-related issues; consumer problems; conservatorships; housing; elder abuse; bankruptcy; wills and power of attorney. Must be an OC resident with proof of residency. Call first to make an appointment, 949-715-6104. No walk-ins.
If you love hiking, lace up those boots. The backcountry and wilderness areas offer you 18 miles of hiking trails through 2,400 acres of native wilderness, mostly the endangered coastal sage scrub plant community. For energetic backpackers, there are three environmental campgrounds, one in the canyon and two at the higher elevations. The higher trails offer beautiful vistas of the mountainous backcountry, geological formations and the Pacific Ocean. Exploring the lower trails offers hiking through riparian woodlands with oak and sycamores along the seasonal Moro Creek. Whether you trek the high or low trails or both, you will see native plants and animals that call this park home.

LitFest takes place tomorrow: Be there
Laguna’s first LitFest takes place tomorrow, Saturday, at the Laguna Beach Library between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Library is located at 306 Glenneyre. The event is free and the public is welcome to drop in for all the sessions or just a few. Wyatt at the OCSA registration on Wednesday evening Wyatt will be in the Classical and Jazz Guitar Center at OCSA next year as a ninth grader. The application process was grueling, says mom Randi. “Wyatt prepared every single day for three to four hours an evening. He had to learn new songs and play them from memory, as well as learn a favorite of his own selection. He also had to teach himself how to sight-read, which he did by using two different textbooks, all on his own (as his parents have no musical talent whatsoever).”"Wyatt says, “The hardest part was from the time I applied in October until March when I would finally audition for the program.”

Wyatt says there was another wait of several weeks until the good news arrived. Wyatt says he is thrilled to be continuing his musical education in such a prestigious program.

Crystal Cove State Park
The event is free and open to the public and

Field Science Saturday
Sat, April 14
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Help learn more about Moro Canyon’s Ecosystem and become a citizen scientist alongside Crystal Cove Conservancy and collect data on ecological research and monitoring projects in the park. Meet at the Bemis Environmental Study Loop at PCH inland at stoplight School-State Park follow the signs to the Campground/Moro day use.) $15 day use fee.

Beachside Chat
Sat, April 14
Noon – 3 p.m.
Stop by Ranger Alex’s Beachside Chat table and learn about some of the fun and interesting animals that live at Crystal Cove State Park. Find Alex and her bounty of nature props near the Historic District Education Commons by the Beachcomber Cafe. Park in the Los Trancos lot (PCH inland at stoplight School-State Park follow the signs to the Campground/Moro day use.) $15 day use fee.

Tidepool Walk to Pelican State Park
Sat, April 14
2 p.m.
Enjoy a 0.2 mile walk at Crystal Cove State Park where a volunteer will lead a guided tidepool walk to Pelican Point and help identify animals and describe some awesome kinds of music (except country music, he is quick to add).
Learn about our local nature. Join Great Blue Heron. For a directory you hike the trails, which go from State Park follow the signs to the Marine Protected Area. Taking or /05/CrystalCove_Trails_Map.pdf map, visit (PCH inland at stoplight School-right at kiosk to first lot.) $15 day use fee.

12-acre Historic District
Sun, April 15 Noon – 2 p.m. Take a walk through the renovated 12-acre Historic District at Crystal Cove State Park. Former life-long resident Laura Davick will share stories about the colorful past of the Cove including the history, its rescue, and the plans for restoring the remaining 17 cottages. Park at Los Trancos parking lot then cross PCH at the signalized intersection and walk across the marked pathways and meet at the bluff top clock of the overnight rental check-in cottage. $15 day use fee.

Love birds?
Bring a pair of binoculars and look for feathered friends who have adapted to Crystal Cove, as you hike the trails, which go easy to strenuous. Among the birds you might spot: Anna’s Cassins kingbird, American Kestrel, Black-Bellied Plover, Black Phoebe, Brown Pelican and the Great Blue Heron. For a directory of birds, visit www.crystalcovespatepark.org/birds-of-crystal-cove. For a trail map, visit https://occrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CrystalCove_Trails_Map.pdf.

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. releases documentary: 50 Years of Preservation; A time capsule of the Laguna Greenbelt
The documentary, 50 Years of Preservation, which chronicles the history of how the Laguna Greenbelt was established, will premiere at the Susi Q Community Center on Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the large multi-purpose room. This film is a community effort. Over 65 people contributed to its creation, and 16 eyewitnesses, who were involved in the Greenbelt’s unique establishment, were interviewed, making it an important repository of historical information for future historians.

The main star of the presentation is, of course, Jim Dilley, bookstore owner (“Dilley’s”) and founder of the Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. (LGB) in 1968. Dilley’s determined planning has motivated thousands of people to support the creation of what has evolved into a 22,000-acre wilderness preserve surrounding Laguna Beach.

In the film, Elizabeth Brown, President of LGB, describes her first meeting with Jim Dilley, and how she quickly became a dedicated participant in the vision of an open space buffer around the city. She, like Norm Grossman and Ron Chilcote, who are now vice presidents at Laguna Greenbelt, Inc, became invested in this effort for the long haul.

Dr. Eva Eger, the “Ballerina of Auschwitz,” speaks at evening of Holocaust remembrance at the Chabad
The Chabad Laguna Beach invites the community to an evening of Holocaust remembrance with Dr. Eva Eger, the “Ballerina of Auschwitz,” on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. In 1944, sixteen year old Edith Eger was sent to Auschwitz where she endured unimaginable experiences, including being ordered to dance for the famous Dr. Josef Mengle. A thriving Holocaust survivor, acclaimed clinical psychologist and expert in trauma recovery, Dr. Eger is an inspiring speaker, human dignity advocate and author. Her book, The Choice: Embrace the Possible, is a powerful, moving memoir, and a practical guide to healing.

Dr. Julie Lythcott-Haims presents at LBUSD
On Wednesday, May 2, the Laguna Beach Unified School District invites the community to LBUSD Presents: Julie Lythcott-Haims at the Laguna Beach High School Artists Theatre.

The event will feature a keynote presentation from New York Times bestselling author Julie Lythcott-Haims, formerly the dean of freshmen at Stanford University, discussing strategies for raising children to become independent, resilient, and goal-oriented adults.
**Don’t Be a Water Hog**

*By DIANNE RUSSELL*

The poet W.H. Auden once said, “Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.” Unfortunately, we’re not guaranteed either one, and it’s no use whining about it once our water supply dwindles. It’s an essential element for all life on earth, and, at the very least, deserves a little respect, now before it’s too late.

Mayor Kelly Boyd is asking residents to help retain the title of Most Water Wise City (for the fifth year), by taking part in the Annual Wyland National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation, and we need unite in our efforts.

Just click on www.mywaterpledge.com to make a pledge – it takes literally just minutes.

To save water, what would you give up for a day? Washing dishes, taking a shower, or laundering your clothes? (Hogwash, you say!)

These are three of the five biggest water wasters in our homes (Maggi already covered toilets): dishwashers, showers, and washing machines.

Most of the people I queried on the subject said they’d rather give up washing clothing for a day. It’s assumed that’s a chore more people don’t do daily anyway, but we do take showers and wash dishes every day (maybe). However, all three of these potential water wasters bear scrutiny.

**Laguna Beach Business workshops bust out the business moves – next one is April 19**

The next “Open for Business” workshop will be hosted by the City of Laguna Beach on Thursday, April 19 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Laguna Beach Community Center, 380 Third Street.

“One of these meetings are an excellent way for prospective businesses to get an overview of our City’s processes,” says Planning Commission Chair Susan Whitin.

**Laguna Canyon Road**

There are many activist milestones in the resistance to development, but two are particularly demonstrative: The Tell project built by Mark Chamberlain and Jerry Burchfield, and The WALK. This document allows the reader to relive the building of the Tell and the power of a unified effort of The WALK (organized by Harry Huggins & Charles Michael Murray), which held November 11, 1989. Audiences hear the voices of Lida Lenny, Bob Gentry, Little Crow and thousands of others protesting in the streets and calling for the creation of what would eventually become tens of thousands of acres of protected habitat.

Retired Congressman Jerry Patterson discusses some of the back-room politics with Larry Ulvestad (LGB Emeritus) that were significant in the state Capitol and in Washington approvals of the Orange Coast National Park. Although it failed to pass on a technical issue, those efforts rolled on to even greater success for the Greenbelt.

Other showings of the documentary are planned over the coming months. To view the trailer, visit www.lagunagreenbelt.org.

Susi Q Community Center is located at 380 Third St, (949) 464-6645.

**Merkel the Doxie dog is ready for a new adventure**

Merkel is a seven-year-old neutered male Doxie who is seeking a new adventure alongside a new owner and home. Any home will fit his needs, for he is easily adaptable. He is full of life, and the perfect size to hold in your hand.

Nancy Goodwin, shelter director, hopes to see Merkel adopted soon.

**Earth depends on water, take the pledge**

An age-old question – what uses the most water, an automatic dishwasher or hand-washing dishes? Obviously, some people don’t have a choice, it’s the old-fashioned method or nothing.

As per www.treehuggers.com, the average faucet flows at two gallons per minute. So, if you can successfully wash and rinse 54 pieces of dishware, you’ve got about 4.4 seconds of washing dishes? (Obviously, some people don’t have a choice, it’s the old-fashioned method or nothing.)
Energy Star-rated dishwasher uses four gallons per cycle. These numbers indicate that it’s possible to be more efficient when hand washing, but it’s difficult. Can you successfully wash and rinse a soiled dinner plate in just over a cup of water? Doing an entire load of dishes by hand in four gallons of water is roughly equivalent to doing them all in the same amount of water you use in 96 seconds of showering (using a showerhead that emits 2.5 gallons per minute). But a 96 second shower isn’t the norm. The average American shower lasts about eight minutes and uses around 17 gallons of water. If you don’t want to switch to super quick military-style showers, there are smarter low flow shower heads on the market that use less water by utilizing pressure to give the feel of more water. Most low-flow shower heads average about 1.6 gallons per minute.

Now to the chore many people could skip for a day. Laundry. Most high-efficiency washers use only 15 to 30 gallons of water to wash the same volume of clothes as older models (29 to 45 gallons per load). The most efficient washers use less than five gallons per cubic foot of capacity. Of course, other factors include changing the water level to accommodate the size of the load, which many machines do now on their own.

Juicy the pig is not a water hog

The take-away on conservation:

Dishwashing – Hand-washing or automatic: Provided you don’t often run your dishwasher when it’s only half full of dirty dishes, or unless you are very miserly with your water use (or have an old, inefficient dishwasher), the automatic dishwasher is likely to be more efficient. It’s possible to use less water by hand-washing your dishes, but it’s not easy.

Showering – Take shorter showers and switch to a low-flow shower head, if you haven’t already.

Laundry – High-efficiency washing machines are becoming the norm with their 15-30 gallons of water usage per load. Much like dishwashers, factors such as load size contribute to how much you stretch your water usage.

Ultimately, the choice is ours to pull in the reins on water usage. Luckily, we don’t have to give up any of these probable water wasters, even for a day. Just by making a few adjustments in our daily habits, hopefully, we won’t be considered water hogs.

The Annual Wyland National Mayor’s Challenge for Water Conservation, which runs April 1 - 30, is a non-profit national community service campaign to determine which leaders can best inspire their residents to make a series of informative and easy-to-do online pledges at www.mywaterpledge.com to use water more efficiently, reduce pollution, and save energy.

For Laguna Beach to win again, the Water District needs you to pledge!

More love for libraries from local authors and school librarians: They’re also a place to have fun

I went to high school in Laguna in the 50s. At the time, the history instruction both here and elsewhere focused mainly on men, on battles, on government activities. I didn’t miss “women’s history,” because I didn’t know such a thing existed. But I haunted the library and read voraciously the biographies of great women. Along the way, I developed a passion for history, not in the classroom but in the library. It’s not too much to say that I read most of the biographies I could get my hands on.
Flash-forward a few decades. I went on to get a doctorate in history from Stanford University with an emphasis on American women's history. In fact, the field began to take off just about the time I entered grad school, a very lucky bit of timing. Flash-forward a bit more and in 2000 Oxford University Press published my American Women’s History: A Student Companion. In the foreword I acknowledge the role played in my life by the Laguna Beach Public Library, as it then was. Libraries are key to the survival of a democracy and key to my own happiness!

--Author Glenna Matthews

In our increasingly noisy world, it has become more important to seek out quiet places where we can hear ourselves think. As a girl growing up in Eugene, Oregon, I spent many rainy afternoons at our downtown library selecting various books with tempting spines and titles, then piling them on a table to select which ones to check out based on careful readings of first paragraphs and pages.

As a parent, I whiled away many adventorous afternoons with my young daughters, selecting the maximum number of picture books to carry home like pirates' treasure. There's magic in finding a book you never knew existed simply by pulling it off a library shelf.

Libraries and their collections belong to all of us – they are truly democratic institutions – full of knowledge for all who seek it."

--Poet Ellen Girardeau Kempler, who also provides this quote from Albert Einstein: The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.

School libraries: Now often a place to have fun

The library at LBHS is the hub of the school. Students come all day long to study, use the printer, borrow textbooks and chromebooks, etc. During lunch and break we usually have at least 200 kids in here socializing. It's a very fun and comfortable place to hang out.

--Krisy Landgraf, LBHS Library Media Assistant

I hope that the students at El Morro Library think of our library as a welcome, fun, and inspiring place.

I love reading to classes weekly and encouraging students to find great books available to check out. I am open at most recess times for any students to come and read, check out books, take quizzes on the books they've read to earn points, collect a prize earned, research or work on a project, draw, or just come in and chat.

--Christina Price, El Morro Library-Media Specialist

LBL Annual Poetry contest, renamed “John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest”, deadline is on April 30

April is National Poetry Month and Laguna Beach Library will be accepting submissions for its 20th annual Community Poetry Contest all month long. This year’s theme is “Seascape Sonnets.”

To honor the memory of late local poet and former contest Master of Ceremonies, John Gardiner, the contest will heretofore be named the, “John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest.” Friends of Laguna Beach Library are donating a paving stone in his honor to be installed in the library’s butterfly garden.

John Gardiner leaves behind a rich legacy. He was a dramatist, teacher, activist, and author of twelve collections of poetry. John was a performer, and a perfectionist and a lover of Shakespeare. He died on the morning of Tuesday, October 24, 2017, of a heart attack while driving on Laguna Canyon Rd.
In addition to performing at local poetry readings, slams and workshops in Laguna Beach for the past two decades, John regularly toured in a music-infused Shakespearian show called "Shakespeare's Fool." He teamed up with Jason Feddy. Together they mixed rock 'n roll music along with reggae and acoustic based tunes, performing ten songs and ten speeches from the Shakespeare canon.

### How to enter John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest

Throughout the month of April, entrants may submit up to three original poems. Poets of all ages are invited to enter. All poems must be submitted by the end of April 30. All poems must include: Name, Contact information (phone or email), and Grade level (or Adult). Original poems cannot be returned.

Entrants either physically deliver poems to Laguna Beach Library (363 Glenneyre St) or email entry to ocpl.lagunabeach@occr.ocgov.com (include name, contact information, and grade level or adult).

The top three winners in each category will be awarded gift certificates for Laguna Books, courtesy of Friends of Laguna Beach Library. Winning poets are also invited to read their winning poems to the public at the annual Recognition of Winning Poets to be held at the Library on Saturday, June 2.

Winning Poems will be published in the 20th Annual Poetry Booklet. Those interested in submitting cover art for this year’s booklet, contact the library.

DUI enforcement operations are planned next weekend,
starting at 4:20 p.m. on 4/20

Officers from the Laguna Beach Police Department’s DUI Enforcement Team will be deploying next weekend to stop and arrest alcohol and drug-impaired drivers in the Department’s ongoing traffic safety campaign.

DUI Saturation Patrols will deploy Friday, April 20, between the hours of 4:20 p.m. and 3 a.m., in areas with high frequencies of DUI collisions and/or arrests.

This date, 4/20, is associated by many as, “national holiday for cannabis culture.” Researchers examined a quarter-century of national data and found a 12 percent increase in the relative risk of a fatal traffic crash after 4:20 p.m. on April 20 compared with identical time intervals on control days.

Additionally, the risk to teenage drivers is even higher on that day and the risk of crash involving drivers under 21 years of age was 38 percent higher.

DUI charges aren’t only about alcohol

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving, which now accounts for a growing number of impaired driving crashes.

Studies of California drivers have shown that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol. Everyone should be mindful that if you’re taking medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter, drinking even small amounts of alcohol can greatly intensify the impairment affects.

Hand over your keys if you are impaired in any way

Law Enforcement emphasizes the preventable nature of drunk driving, reminding everyone that all it takes is a little planning ahead. Designate a sober driver or call a cab. But whatever you do, don’t drink or use drugs, and drive. The cost of a ride home is cheap.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions and other expenses that can exceed $10,000, not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this DUI operation is provided to the Laguna Beach Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to ‘Report Drunk Driving – Call 9-1-1’.

For further information, contact Lieutenant Tim Kleiser at (949) 464-6655 or tkleiser@lagunabeachcity.net.

Boys & Girls Club will host “racy” 18th Annual Art of Giving Gala on May 12

Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach is proud to present its 18th Annual Art of Giving Gala – “And We’re Off!” – on Saturday, May 12 at Montage Laguna Beach. The event will be Kentucky Derby-style themed soiree.

Invitees are encouraged to dress to impress and pull out all of the stops when selecting a suit or dress for the big night. It is a chance for every female to express her inner Southern Belle, and every guy to get just as decked out as the ladies.
The Boys & Girls Club's 18th Annual Art of Giving Gala on May 12 will be a night of "racy" fun.

Guests will start the evening on the Montage lawn with tasty morsels and signature Southern cocktails. The evening will continue with an elegant dinner and rousing live auction followed by dancing to some live music that will make guests feel like they are partying it up at the Downs.

This promises to be one of the events of the year, and a chance to generously support the Club and its some 2,000 youth members and families. Proceeds raised at the 18th annual Art of Giving Gala go directly towards empowering children of all ages to reach their full potential, no matter their financial situation.

For more information about the Gala including tickets or table sponsorships, contact Michelle Ray Fortezzo at (949) 494-2535 ext. 7584 or by email at michelle@bgclaguna.org, or visit the Club website at www.bgclagunabeach.org.

LOCA presents Public Art Walking Tour and Student Banners Show, both on Thursday, April 19

LOCA Arts Education invites art lovers to two events in Laguna on Thursday, April 19. A public art walking tour is from 4 - 6 p.m., followed by a separate student gallery reception from 6 - 8 p.m.

Local architect Donna Ballard will lead the easy walking tour through Heisler Park, and share fascinating facts about the many artist-designed benches and sculptures in the City collection.

Attendees will gather at the amphitheater on Cliff Drive near Jasmine.
Public art in Heisler Park
The gallery reception will feature more than 17 silk banners, painted by students of Laguna Beach High School, as taught by LOCA instructor Olivia Batchelder. The banners feature botanical themes and measure an impressive five feet each.

LBHS students and their banners
The exhibition is on view April 19 through 22 at Forest and Ocean Gallery, 480 Ocean Avenue. Both events are free. For more information, visit the calendar pages at www.LOCAarts.org or call (949) 363-4700.

Laura Tarbox will offer investment advice at the Laguna Beach Senior Center on April 20 and 27
Laura Tarbox, a UCLA graduate with 37 years of investment and financial planning experience, will speak at the non-profit educational event, “It’s Your Money!” on Friday, April 20 and 27, at 1:30 p.m. at the Laguna Beach Senior Center.

These sessions are part of a series on Financial Planning, with a focus on finding the right advisor and how to think about your overall financial plan.

Tarbox, who founded her own wealth advisory firm in 1985, focuses on true, fee-only financial planning (including estate and tax planning, charitable giving, insurance and retirement optimization) for the total financial well-being of her clients. She will talk about how to find the right advisor, along with comprehensive financial planning, and how to develop a healthy investment philosophy.
Laura Tarbox will be presenting two sessions of “It’s Your Money!”

Laura Tarbox is one of the earliest pioneers of the financial planning profession. Her company, Tarbox, is recognized as one of the top wealth management firms in the country. The Laguna Beach Senior Center is located at 380 Third Street and no RSVP is required. “It’s Your Money” is a program moderated by Peter Kote, founder of the workshop series and the not-for-profit www.FEELinControl.org which complements the workshop series with articles and outlines for each.

Free paint/E-waste drop-off and shredding event this Saturday, April 14 at City Maintenance Facilities

Residents and businesses are invited to participate in the annual free drop-off event to dispose of unwanted paint, batteries, CFL bulbs, and E-Waste on Saturday, April 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Maintenance Facilities, 1900 Laguna Canyon Road.

Get rid of your E-waste this weekend

Free shredding service will also be available on site. This service is sponsored by the City and Waste Management.

For more information, including a detailed list of acceptable E-Waste items, please visit www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling or contact Liz Avila at lavila@lagunabeachcity.net.
Annual Charm House tour on May 20 will feature lovely homes – and a hidden-away organic farm

The Village Laguna Charm House Tour, an annual celebration offering guests the opportunity to view iconic areas of Laguna Beach, will take place on Sunday, May 20, with buses leaving continuously from noon to 3 p.m. in front of the Festival of Arts grounds, 650 Laguna Canyon Rd.

Parking is directly across the street, $3 all day.

Johanna Felder, president, notes, “It is gratifying that on each annual tour, we see familiar faces; new guests are equally enthusiastic. Our Village Laguna Board is pleased to help other nonprofit organizations financially, and this tour helps us achieve our goal. We’ve got a great mix of houses this year.”

As in past tours, there are many variables which make a home appropriate for the designation “charm house”: its gardens and general authenticity of what best represents the quaintness and charm of Laguna Beach are important – but unique contemporary and modern homes are also included, organizers say.

This year, five specially selected homes will represent the best of Laguna Beach, and the focus will be on homes in and around Bluebird Canyon.

A view of the hidden-away organic farm included on the tour

“Our tour is including another addition to the lovely homes,” Jahn Levitt says. "As a special treat, we are excited to offer our guests a tour of Laguna Beach’s one-and-only organic farm, plus refreshments.

"The tour of the organic farm, which is set into a hillside with sweeping views, will add the special touch to make our tour especially interesting and educational for all guests.”

Tickets are now on sale for $50 presale, and will cost $60 on the day of the event. They can be ordered through PayPal at the Charm House tour website at www.villagelaguna.org/charm-house-tour.

Alternatively, tickets may be purchased by sending a request and check to Village Laguna Charm House Tour, Post Office Box 1309, Laguna Beach, CA 92652, or at any of the following outlets: Copy & Print Center, 240 Beach St; Cottage Furnishings, 802 S Coast Hwy; EGO Salon, 32880 Pacific Coast Hwy #40; Monarch Bay Plaza, Dana Point; Fawn Memories, 384 Forest Ave; or Laguna Beach Books at “Old Pottery Place” 1200 S. Coast Hwy.

For more information, call (949) 472-7503 or go to the website at www.villagelaguna.org/charm-house-tour.

Laguna's Carl St.Clair and Pacific Symphony bound for Carnegie Hall in salute to Philip Glass, April 21

By TIMOTHY MANGAN
Carl St.Clair and Pacific Symphony are about to make a big trip, in case you hadn’t heard— a trip to Carnegie Hall. Conductor and orchestra have been invited to perform at the venerable venue on Saturday, April 21, in the final program of a series celebrating the 80th birthday of American composer Philip Glass. It will be the first time performing there for both St.Clair and Orange County’s 39-year-old symphonic ensemble.

St.Clair has been in Carnegie many times, of course, both as a listener (he remembers hearing Herbert von Karajan’s last concerts there with the Berlin Philharmonic) and as a would-be participant during his years as an assistant conductor with the Boston Symphony, which has long made regular appearances at the hall. But as it happened, he was never asked to step in when the orchestra was visiting New York, not even in rehearsal.

“Knowing at least some of the great conductors who have stood on that particular podium, you are very honored that you are taking the same place.”

A similar honor will be bestowed on the orchestra when it performs in the auditorium that has been hosting the world’s most celebrated ensembles since the 1890s. “I think somehow or other, part of those performances and those musical spirits are still reverberating around the hall and in the hall,” St.Clair says. “So it is definitely like going to a musical sacred space. It’s the kind of place you put on your best clothes and you do your best. Just the nature of being there, you want to do that out of respect for everything that’s come before you, to contribute to that.”

The Carnegie program is a significant one, and testament to a long friendship dating to the early 1980s, when conductor and composer met at the Cabrillo Music Festival and immediately “hit it off.” St.Clair conducted Glass’ music through the years—including the West Coast premiere of the mammoth Symphony No. 5—and invited Glass to be the featured composer in the 2006 American Composers Festival. Though the busy composer ultimately had to decline the offer, it was then that St.Clair heard of an evening-length piece that Glass had in mind about the life of Ramakrishna, the 19th-century Indian mystic.

Nearing a piece to sustain critical interest for the second of two opening concerts at the new Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in the fall of 2006, St.Clair thought of Glass and his Ramakrishna piece, but now asked him for a work half the originally intended length so that it would fit on a program with the Beethoven Violin Concerto played by Midori. Thus was born “The Passion of Ramakrishna,” given its premiere on September 16, 2006, now fashioned as a 45-minute work for orchestra, chorus and soloists. Later that season, St.Clair conducted the work with the Nashville Symphony (co-commissioners) but subsequently it was not performed widely. In 2011, St.Clair was finally able to nab Glass for the American Composers Festival and revived the piece and recorded it.

When Carnegie came calling and asked St.Clair to propose a program for its Philip Glass festival, “Ramakrishna” naturally came to mind. St.Clair added “Meetings Along the Edge,” a Glass collaboration with the Indian sitarist Ravi Shankar, and Shankar’s Sitar Concerto No. 3 to complete the program. It highlights an important moment in music history—when Glass met Shankar in 1965 and turned to minimalism. Anoushka Shankar, Ravi’s daughter, will solo in the concerto; “Ramakrishna” will have its New York premiere. This is no coals-to-Newcastle agenda. (Before the orchestra goes to Carnegie, the entire program will be performed three times in Orange County, April 12-14.)

“The Passion of Ramakrishna” tells the story, in brief, of his life, death and transfiguration. The libretto is made from his own words and those of his followers. Ramakrishna’s part is sung by the entire choir (the Pacific Chorale), which gives his words an otherworldly feel. The parts of his followers are sung by soloists, lending them a human, everyday dimension.

“He writes beautifully for the voice,” St.Clair says of Glass in this work. The words are set to music with an almost invisible naturalness, one syllable per note, in the rhythm of normal speech. The compass of these melodic lines also mimic the rise and fall of spoken word. St.Clair says that the chorus loves singing the piece, which isn’t always the case with new
In the orchestra, Glass’ minimalistic thrum provides a trance-like euphony and regularity, a musical Zen state in keeping with Ramakrishna’s wisdom. But the music also features moments of power, grandeur and wonder, and Ramakrishna’s death becomes operatic in scope.

In performance, St.Clair has shown himself a strong advocate for the work, at home and at ease in music requiring large forces and dramatic emotions. He has his own way with the minimalist style as well.

“When I approach Philip’s music – you know it can be very rhythmically patterned, if you will – I just approach it like any other piece. I approach it like Mozart, with phrases and rubatos. I don’t feel strapped by rhythmic repetitiveness. I don’t think he feels his music needs to be yoked with a metronomic quality about it.”

We ask St.Clair if he’ll be nervous stepping out onto the Carnegie Hall stage for the first time on April 21.

“No. When I’m surrounded by the soloists we have and the Pacific Chorale and the great musicianship of the Pacific Symphony, I’m not alone, you know. I have a lot of help and a lot of people who are of like mind and heart. So it’s not about being nervous. It’s more about wanting and willing that what we do there in New York accomplishes why we’re really there, which is to celebrate the life of Philip.”

Glass and Shankar perform with Pacific Symphony, Pacific Chorale, and Carl St.Clair, conductor, at Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall on April 12-14. The cost $35-$206. For more information, call (714) 755-5799 or go online at www.pacificsymphony.org.

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**How to meet tax deadlines to avoid extensions, penalties and interest**

**By Loreen Gilbert**

The mid-April tax-filing deadline is fast approaching. Unfortunately, many taxpayers are not ready to file their final returns. Typically, individual taxes and returns are due April 15. However, when the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday of Emancipation Day is celebrated on Monday and tax returns are due on Tuesday.

So in 2018, your 2017 taxes are due on Tuesday, April 17.

What are the implications as well as the potential benefits for extending our tax returns until the ultimate deadline of September 15 for corporations and October 15 for individuals?

If you own a business with a December 31, your taxes were due on March 15. If you did not file your return, you should have filed an extension. And if your corporate returns are not in good order, it will be tougher to then get your personal returns done by the standard April 15 deadline.

For individuals, many people need more time to make sure their returns are accurate and therefore need to file an extension. However, filing an extension on either your business or individual return does not exempt you from penalties and interest on taxes due. The federal penalties amount to .5 percent per month on outstanding taxes. In addition, the interest amounts to the federal short-term interest rate plus three percent compounded daily. The federal short-term interest rate is determined and posted every three months.

State taxes also impose their own penalties and interest, which vary by state, so check your state taxboard for details.

If you owe taxes, even if you are not ready to file your tax return, make sure to pay the estimated taxes due in order to avoid penalties and interest.

So how many taxpayers file for an extension? Over 10 million people in the US file a tax extension each year. And according to www.filelater.com, filing an extension may even lower your chances of being audited. While no one really knows how the IRS determines which taxpayers will be audited, many people believe that auditors fill their required quotas before the October deadline.

No one enjoys paying taxes or filing their tax returns, but paying Uncle Sam on time, whether you file an extension or not, makes a lot more sense than paying taxes and penalties later.

Loreen Gilbert is the Founder and President, WealthWise Financial Services and also serves on the Executive Board of National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), representing more than 13 million women business owners in the US. Gilbert is an ambassador for Opportunity International, a micro-lending organization helping mainly women in third world countries to start or expand a business.
City Manager’s Update

Grand Re-opening of Thalia Street Beach Access - The City of Laguna Beach invites the community to a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, April 17 at 4 p.m. for the re-opening of the newly renovated beach access at Thalia Street.

Disposal of Sandbags - Residents can dispose of filled sand bags at the Act V Lot, 1900 Laguna Canyon Road. Residents can also dispose of up to 10 filled sand bags by scheduling a bulky item pickup which are provided free three times per calendar year.

To schedule a pick-up, contact Waste Management at (949) 642-1191. Filled sand bags should not be placed in the trash or recycling carts. Storage and re-use of the sandbags is recommended at least through the end of April.

Southbound Coast Highway Lane Closure on Friday, April 13 - From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, April 13, the Montage Resort landscape contractor will be closing the number two lane of southbound Coast Highway to trim trees. The closure will begin at the northern limits of the resort property and extend to the southern limits of Treasure Island Park.

For more information, please contact Deputy Director of Public Works, Dale Schuck at (949) 497-0735.

Southern California Edison Pole Replacement - From 10 p.m. on April 15 to 7 a.m. on April 16, Southern California Edison will be replacing an Edison pole at the northeast corner of the intersection at Cleo Street and Sleepy Hollow Lane. Cleo Street, west of South Coast Highway to Sleepy Hollow Lane, will be closed during the work. Emergency vehicle access shall be maintained via Sleepy Hollow Lane as approved by the Fire Marshal. The traffic signal at the South Coast Highway and Cleo Street intersection will be affected by the outage with a four-way red flash initiated during the work.

Free Paint/E-Waste Drop-off & Shredding Event on Saturday, April 14 - Residents and businesses are invited to participate in the annual free drop-off event to dispose of unwanted paint, batteries, CFL bulbs, and E-Waste on Saturday, April 14 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Maintenance Facilities, 1900 Laguna Canyon Road.

Free shredding service will also be available on site. This service is sponsored by the City and Waste Management. For more information, including a detailed list of acceptable E-Waste items, please visit www.lagunabeachcity.net/recycling or contact Liz Avila at lavila@lagunabeachcity.net.

Downtown Specific Plan Update - Review Portions of Section V: Land Use Districts - The City of Laguna Beach will continue their efforts on the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) Update on Wednesday, April 18 during the Planning Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The Planning Commission will review and discuss MIG’s recommended draft amendments to Section V: Land Use Districts of the existing DSP document. Topics covered include: the intent and purpose of land use districts, permitted uses/required entitlements, permit processes, findings and special findings for certain uses, allowable changes in permitted use category per City Council resolution, and definitions.

A copy of the draft amendments are available to view on the City’s website: www.lagunabeachcity.net. For more information on the Downtown Specific Plan Update project, please contact Wendy Jung, Senior Planner, at (949) 497-0321 orwjung@lagunabeachcity.net.

City-Wide Track & Field Meet - The City of Laguna Beach will host the annual Boys & Girls Track Meet on Friday, April 20 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Laguna Beach High School. All children born in or after the year 2003 and residing in Laguna Beach or attending school within the Laguna Beach Unified School District boundaries are invited to attend.

Please register online by Thursday, April 19 at https://secure.rec1.com/CA/lagunabeach/catalog/schedule?eventid=trackmeet.

Bluebird SOCWA Lift Station Odor Control Improvement Project – Community Meeting - Water Quality staff will be holding a community meeting to present and discuss the subject project on April 19, at 6 p.m. The project will address the odors surrounding the City’s sewage lift station located at the corner of Calippe Street and Glenneyre Street.

The presentation will cover the proposed project with details on the layout and aesthetics of the new facility. Please join as staff will be seeking input from the community. For questions, please contact Hannah Johnson at hjohnson@lagunabeachcity.net.

Laguna Beach Literary Festival - The public is invited to a free day of readings panels, workshops and craft talks with some of California’s finest writers, hosted by Laguna Beach Poet Laureate Kate Buckley. This special event will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Library, 363 Glenneyre Street.

This program is funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach. For more information, please visit http://lagunabeachliteraryfestival.com.

Call to Artists – City Council Chambers Banners - The Arts Commission is inviting artists to submit designs to replace banners in the City Council Chambers. The competition is open to Laguna Beach residents ages 18 and older. Entries must be submitted to the reception desk at the Community and Susi Q Center, 380 Third Street, by May 14 at 5 p.m. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach. For full guidelines and an entry form, please visit http://lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/art.

Sunset Serenades and World Music - Friday evenings from May 4 - June 8 at 6:30 p.m., the Arts Commission will present free concerts at the Heisler Park Amphitheatre with a variety of music genres.

This year’s schedule includes:
5/4: Jackie Menter Trio - Classical
5/11: Jack Benny - Eclectic/Acoustic Pop trio
5/18: The Phil Gough/Alan Deremo Project
5/25: Maestro Lazaro Galarraga and Friends - Afro Cuban
6/1: Gamelan X with Mayang Sunda - Indonesian
6/8: L’Esprit D’ Afrique – African

City of Laguna Beach...it’s NEVER easy!
This program is funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.