

Love Laguna Beach!

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by Cheryl Kinsman



What's inside:

◦ **Village Entrance parking—but what do we do with the city maintenance facility?**

• **Disposing of liquid wastes safely. It's easy. It's free. And it's the environmentally friendly thing to do!**

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your constructive comments on ways to make it better.

Do you know someone who should be receiving this update? Please e-mail me their name and e-mail address and I'll add them to the list!

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Parking at the Village Entrance requires a move of the city maintenance facility. But where do we move it?

It's no secret to anyone who has been around Laguna Beach for more than a few days that one of our critical needs is parking in our downtown area. That is particularly true during our summer festival season, but parking is and has been a problem for many years in many seasons. I have been working hard to get more parking in downtown for the three years I have been on the City Council—in fact, such parking is one of my top priorities.

I believe that it is important that parking be close to downtown and the festivals, and that parking be available to us year round in convenient places that people want to park and walk.

Part of the solution to our parking problem is a proposed parking garage at what is known as the Village Entrance. The Village Entrance is the area next to City Hall and across the street from the Laguna Playhouse and the Festival grounds.

Unfortunately, sitting on that space now is the City's maintenance facility, which is also sometimes called the "Corporate Yard." Our city maintenance facility is the place where our city employees maintain city vehicles, store city materials, and to do the "behind the scenes" activities that keep our city beautiful.

Our city maintenance facility is a deteriorating place to work—it is an over-50 year old collection of corrugated metal buildings that are functionally obsolete and both environmentally and financially unsound.

In order to put a parking structure in place of the current city maintenance facility, we must first move that maintenance facility. There are two plans currently being put forward for the ultimate location of the maintenance facility. Those plans are:

- 1) Temporarily move the city maintenance facility to another location. This relocation will be for an unknown cost, and will last until a new parking garage can be built. We must then attempt to move the city maintenance facility back underneath the new garage.
- 2) Build a new city maintenance facility on the back portion of the Act V lot in Laguna Canyon. Move the maintenance facility to that new location when the construction is complete, and then build a new parking structure at the Village Entrance.

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I strongly support the second alternative of moving the maintenance facility to Act V. I believe it provides the following advantages:

- 1) We will end up with more year round parking where we need it—near downtown and near the festivals—under the second proposal versus the first.
- 2) Under the second alternative, we will only need to move the maintenance facility once, avoiding the costs of constructing a temporary facility and avoiding the disruption and additional expense that comes from moving twice.
- 3) We will end up with a maintenance facility of adequate size to handle the anticipated load.

I believe there are severe problems with the first alternative. Clearly, having to move the maintenance facility twice is one problem. Others include:

- 1) The current maintenance facility sits on 1.77 acres. The new parking facility will sit on 1.4 acres. Downsizing the new facility by approximately 17,200 square feet will seriously compromise the functionality of the maintenance facility.
- 2) The ceiling height of the new parking garage structure will be too low to handle the maintenance yard functions.
- 3) There is a large sewer pump station which sits in the exact middle of the site. The sewage pump station cannot be moved and will require an extensive and expensive ventilation system if employees are going to be required to work next to it. A sewage pump station is exactly what it sounds like--a place where raw sewage is collected and then pumped out of town to the sewage treatment plant.

There will be a hearing on October 22 before the Orange County Planning Commission that will be the first step in placing the maintenance facility at the Act V lot. The next evening, October 23rd, there will be a similar hearing on this same issue before the Laguna Beach Design Review Board at the Laguna Beach City Hall.

I believe these two hearings are important to Laguna Beach. They will help us get more and more well placed parking, and they will help us to replace the maintenance facility which is in bad need of replacement. I hope to see you at the hearings.

Disposing of old household electronics and household liquid wastes in Laguna is easy, fast, environmentally friendly. And best of all, it's free!

That old computer or television set that you no longer want can contain up to 6 pounds of environmentally unfriendly metals and chemicals.

Those old paint cans rusting in your garage contain things that should not go into landfills.

Maybe you are tempted to find a place to put them just to be rid of them.

Avoid that temptation. Now there's an easy answer!

The City of Laguna Beach contracts with Curbside, Inc., to pick up electronics equipment and miscellaneous liquid waste products such as oil, oil filters, batteries, paint, pesticides, cleaning fluids, flammable fluids, etc. If you have items such as these for pickup, call Curbside at (800) 449-7587 to schedule pickup. Curbside will drop off a plastic container in which to place unwanted materials.

This is an environmentally friendly way to get rid of that environmentally unfriendly household hazardous waste that has been cluttering your garage, and best of all, there is no extra charge for this service for Laguna Beach residential trash pickup customers.