



Laguna Woods WOOD WORKS

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CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS



WOOD WORKS is published by the City of Laguna Woods and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Laguna Woods welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding WOOD WORKS. Please call or write:

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Census 2010

Census 2010 is right around the corner. Make sure you are counted — complete the 10-question survey when you receive it in March and mail it back as quickly as possible. If you do not mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker who will ask you the questions from the form. The 2010 Census will decide how billions of dollars of state and federal funds are distributed to local governments over the next ten years. The information is also used to distribute Congressional seats to states and decide what type of community services will be provided. Laguna Woods needs your help to assure that we receive appropriate funding and services.

Many modern scams involve obtaining personal information, so remember the following tips:

- ★ If a U. S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and badge before answering any questions. However, you should never invite anyone you do not know into your home.
- ★ Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to any-

(Census continues on page 2)

Alert Laguna Woods!

During the recent storms, the City used its telephone alert system to notify residents about flooding and street closures. This system is used to provide residents immediate information about a disaster, hazardous or public safety situation. The call is sent out automatically to all telephone numbers in the system. If you have a telephone number that does not list your address, it may not be in the system. If you are on the telephone when the call comes in or are using dial-up Internet, you also will not receive the call. If you are not home and do not have an answering machine, you will not receive the call.

If you did not receive a call in January, please contact us at (949) 639-0512 so we can check to see if your address and phone number are in the system. The information you provide will be kept confidential and will not be shared with telemarketers or research organizations.

Safety in the Kitchen



- ◆ Keep flammables away from the cooking area and appliances in your kitchen. Don't place towels, potholders, pizza boxes or paper bags on the stove or near hot appliances.
- ◆ Clean any grease build-up from the stove, oven and exhaust fan regularly. Cooking grease and oil ignite easily and burn rapidly. Use a lid or bigger pan to smother a small pan fire. Do not use water or flour on a grease fire. It will make the fire bigger. Do not try to carry a burning pan outside or to the sink. You could accidentally spread the fire. Keep a lid, baking soda or an ABC fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen.
- ◆ Avoid reaching over the stove for anything while cooking. Store frequently needed items in other areas of the kitchen. Don't store cookies or other treats near the stove. It might tempt little children to climb on the stove. Keep young children and pets away from cooking areas entirely.
- ◆ Keep pot handles turned inward, out of the reach of children and pets. Keep appliance cords up on counter tops too. Check those cords regularly for frayed or broken spots. Replace damaged cords or appliances.
- ◆ Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen for some reason, turn the heat off and take something with you to remind you that you have something cooking.
- ◆ Shield yourself from steam when uncovering food, especially microwave servings. Steam can cause serious burns.



Laguna Woods Green Homes Program

In March, the City of Laguna Woods will roll out its voluntary green homes certification program. The purpose of the program is to encourage residents to incorporate sustainable appliances and building practices into their homes to promote the environmental health of the community. In today's economy, the real estate community also tells us that "green certified" homes are doing better in the market. Not only are they viewed as environmentally friendly, but they also save occupants money on their utilities.

The Laguna Woods Green Homes Program is available for all residential units, existing or new. The program is specifically designed to meet the unique circumstances found in multifamily developments.

Homeowners may apply for proposed certification at three levels — Green, Star Green and Star Green Plus — based on points for particular environmental improvements.

At least two practices in each of the following categories must be met for all levels of certification:

- 1) Energy Use Reduction
- 2) Water Use Reduction
- 3) Air Quality Improvement
- 4) Waste Reduction

Accomplishing the initial Green certification level is possible if a residence contains energy-star appliances and if high-efficiency lighting and some minor retrofits to save energy and water are completed.

The Star Green and Star Green Plus levels require actual building improvements, such as double-pane windows, attic insulation and heater/air-conditioner improvements. Given the differing housing styles and governance models, not all homes in the City will be able to attain the Star Plus level.

Certification at the Star Green and Star Green Plus levels requires City staff to inspect and certify improvements; there is a \$25 application fee for these levels. Basic Green certification can be accomplished by submitting an application and providing some documentation, and there is no application fee required. Certificates and certification stickers, which can be displayed in windows, will be awarded.

Additional information and applications are available at City Hall and on the City's website www.lagunawoodscity.org. 🌳



Census, continued from page 1

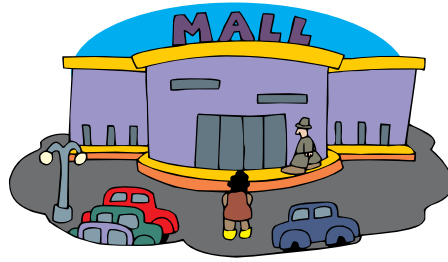
one, even if they claim they need it for the Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as salary or income range, it will NOT ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations.

★ Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person. However, they will NOT contact you by e-mail, so be on the lookout for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that says it is from the U. S. Census Bureau.

Any personal data you provide to the Census Bureau is protected under federal law. 🌳

Citywide Zoning Modification Project

Zoning laws serve several functions. To begin with, they protect existing businesses and residences. For example, in a region without zoning laws, a company could build a factory in the middle of a residential zone, potentially impacting the quality of life for residents.



Zoning laws ensure that land use is consistent within a specific region and that conflicting uses like heavy industry and residential housing are kept isolated from each other for the convenience of all.

Many cities also use zoning laws to protect their look and feel. For example, a law could restrict construction in an area to a certain height or number of stories, or it could block the construction of big-box stores within a particular neighborhood. Zoning laws are also used to ensure that neighbors do not infringe on each other with new construction. For example, most zoning laws require the footprint of a new structure to be significantly smaller than the lot it is built on, ensuring that people do not, for example, build homes that block the access of neighbors.

The Laguna Woods general plan land use designations and zoning districts are divided into four categories: residential, commercial, open space and urban activity center specific plan. The current zoning districts were adopted in 2003 and, with the exception of the specific plan district, reflect a transfer of regulations in place prior to the City's incorporation.

State law requires that the zoning code be consistent with the City's general plan. Current zoning designations, while in conformance with current general plan land use designations, are not identical. This is sometimes confusing to property owners and residents. In addition, there are land use districts in the current zoning code that may not relate to current and potential development in the City. At its November 18, 2009 meeting, the City Council directed staff to proceed with a review and update of the land use designations in the City's zoning code, as well as those in the general plan land use element, if required.

The zoning code of the City of Laguna Woods is found in Title 13 of the Laguna Woods Municipal Code. These sections of the code govern the development of property in the City by controlling two aspects of land use. First, the uses permitted within a given zoning district are identified; and second, the amount and type of building that may be developed on a parcel of land is regulated. Every parcel in the City of Laguna Woods has a zoning classification. In addition to district regulations, some parcels of land may also be subject to special procedures or planning such as use permits or specific/community plans.

Changes to property zoning or land use designation may be initiated by: 1) the property owner of record and/or an individual or company that has a contract to purchase the property or 2) the local governmental agency (city or county).

The City Council has directed staff to review current zoning district and land use designations and to make recommendations for modification, utilizing the following timeline:

- Identify the purpose of existing zoning districts and proposed modifications (Jan.)
- Compare current City zoning to that of neighboring communities (January-February)
- Identify issues that need to be addressed (January-February)
- Notify property owners of the process and solicit input (February–mid-April)
- Establish definitions/standards for proposed new districts (March-May)
- Survey existing properties and propose modifications (March-May)
- Discuss process to date with Land Use and Design Review Committee (August 12) >

- Modify Code language and draft corresponding General Plan Land Use Element modifications (August-September)
- Environmental Review (August-Nov.)
- Land Use and Design Review Committee review of draft ordinance and environmental review (December 9)
- Public hearing and first reading of ordinance (December 15)
- Second reading of ordinance (Jan. 19)
- Ordinance effective (February 19) 🌳

Polystyrene Food Take-Out Containers

According to the California Coastal Commission, expanded polystyrene (EPS), commonly known as Styrofoam, is a principal component of marine debris. A California Integrated Waste Management Board report notes that “in the categories of energy consumption, greenhouse gas effect and total environmental effect, EPS's environmental impacts were second highest, behind aluminum.” This material takes a long time to decompose in the environment and has been documented to cause starvation in birds and other marine wildlife. In addition, EPS is difficult to recycle because of its light weight and low scrap value. Most recycling programs, including the City's, do not accept polystyrene.

The City congratulates the following businesses for doing their part to help the environment by not using polystyrene take-out food containers:

- Arco Gas Station AM/PM
- Jack in the Box
- Jersey Mike's
- Leisure World Service Station (Mobile)
- Mothers Market
- Moulton Auto Spa
- Papa John's Pizza
- Starbucks
- Stater Bros Market
- Subway
- Vons Market 🌳



United States™ Census 2010



CITY HALL

24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Plan Counter Hours: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
OC Public Library: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (949) 639-0500
Fax: (949) 639-0591
Website and E-mail Links:
www.lagunawoodscity.org


CITY COUNCIL


Milt Robbins, Mayor
Bert Hack, Mayor Pro Tem
Cynthia Conners, Councilmember
Marty Rhodes, Councilmember
Bob Ring, Councilmember


Leslie A. Keane, City Manager

Get Connected to City Services

Attend City Council Meeting

 3rd Wednesday of each month,
2 p.m., Laguna Woods City Hall,
Council Chambers, 24264 El
Toro Road. Cablecast live on LW
Communications Channel 31.

 **Visit the City's Website**
www.lagunawoodscity.org

 **Call us** at (949) 639-0500
TTY phone at (949) 639-0535



Tune In
Channel 31



Write To Us

City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637



Send Us an E-mail

cityhall@lagunawoodscity.org
Share your thoughts and ideas.

Apply to Serve on a Committee
Call the City Clerk's office at (949) 639-0500.

City Meeting Schedules

- ❖ City Council 3rd Wednesday of month 2 p.m.
- ❖ Community Services Committee 4th Wednesday of month 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Public Safety Committee..... 2nd Wednesday of month... 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Land Use and Design Review Committee.... 2nd Thursday of month..... 9 a.m.

Meetings are held at City Hall, 24264 El Toro Rd., Laguna Woods CA (949) 639-0500.

Meeting schedules are subject to change.