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First Friday Sept beach party!!!

Sept 5, 2024



Lt Jason Faris joins First Friday Potluck for a Q&A

1) First Friday: Yep, This Week, This Friday!!!! September 6th, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

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New location by the ramp, more space and easier to get to. No glass, and if anyone were to show up with something to drink in a very non-specific container, well, nothing I would personally know anything about... Keep it really low key both so we don't inadvertently promote booze on the beach but also just to help the city out since they are asking the world at large to respect our local laws and such.

As usual, we will have tables, napkins, utensils, plates, cups, wine openers (opps...)

2) Fabulous summer into fall: The volleyball tournaments were excellent, the ocean has been generally calm and warm, Labor day is behind us, and we are past the main summer crunch. We have some real heat for a bit now so weekend crowds likely to persist but all in all, I'm looking forward to a very pleasant fall. Yay!

3) Ice cream social and Hallie Jones for City Council: We had a great evening last Friday with about 40 of our neighbors checking out and meeting Hallie Jones. Personally, I found her sharp, focused, and very involved and knowledgeable about the working of the council and the city. She expressed a strong commitment towards finding the middle, productive ground towards moving forward with a number of core issues for our city and it's various communities. Check her out at:

<https://www.hallieforlaguna.com/>





4) Illegal Immigrants: Happened again. Early morning, about a dozen people, gasoline spill, water closed for the better part of a day due to the gasoline. Apparently this happens fairly regularly up and down the entire Southern California coast with little to be done about it. The people are gone within a couple of minutes so almost no hope of catching them, cameras wouldn't really give useful info, and it is too irregular to make permanent placement of radar picket ships worthwhile. Expensive for the city to clean up everytime. This sucks. Story in the LA Times:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-09-05/suspected-migrant-smuggling-boat-lands-at-victoria-beach>

5) Police Citizen Academy: This is something that Lt Faris highly recommended to me (and I did sign up!!!). The Laguna Beach Citizen Academy provides a great way for members of the Laguna Beach community to learn more about the police department and get engaged in their community. The Academy is a 12 week low stress course designed to foster better communications between police personnel and citizens. Academy instruction includes the history of Laguna Beach, police department, investigations, enforcement, accident, investigation, driving under the influence, investigations, gangs, narcotics, neighborhood, watch, crime prevention, crime, scene, investigation, police, canine program, and volunteer programs.

Information:

<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/government/departments/police/neighborhood-services/community-programs/citizen-police-academy>

Next class starts Jan 2025, and typically meets on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 PM at the community and suzy Q Center.

Signup:

<https://secure.rec1.com/CA/city-of-laguna-beach/catalog/index/2dd72f153f65040bbb52b80768e4938e?filter=c2VhcmNoPUNJVElaRU4IMjBBQ0FERU1ZJmRheXNPZIRoZVdlZWsiNUl3JTVEPTE=>



6) Petition to stop the exploitation of Laguna’s Natural Resources: This is a petition that one of our neighbors asked me to share. Basically it points out that there are a lot of people creating guides with the purpose of popularizing all these many areas of our town that are just not equipped to support the mass of people that can be reached with today’s social media technology. We’ve all seen the many and mostly negative results and costs of these trends and it is not getting better.

I don’t actually agree with the stated goal of the petition itself which is to create local law that would fine people who create these guides -I suspect this would fundamentally violate the first ammendment principle of free speech but I do support the general idea of having that discussion and finding ways to minimize the effort put out to bring ever more people here.

https://www.change.org/p/stop-exploitation-of-laguna-beach-s-natural-treasures-for-social-media-popularity/psf/promote_or_share?allow_actions=true

7) Another scam: I got this email recently that was pretty devious, had all the right logos, colors, etc., totally looked legit:

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Dear Wells Fargo Customer,

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activate your account at your earliest convenience. If you need any assistance, please visit our website or contact customer service.

Click this link to verify your account: [\[https://somelink.com/index.php/?verify\]](https://somelink.com/index.php/?verify)

Thank you for your trust and support!

Wells Fargo

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I really try to be observant about potential scams but they come in so many different forms that I find occasionally, I come REALLY close to activating some link.... In fact, that did happen recently and I had to quickly change all my microsoft/google passwords.... Stay sharp on this stuff!!!!



8) Non Emergency Police number: 949-497-0701 x2

This really should be in your contact list so you can easily call it up when needed. The police really count on us to give them a heads up if we see anything we have a question about. Totally ok for it to be something that turns out to be benign but chances are if you see something that made you consider giving a call, then the rule of thumb is to go ahead and call.

It does feel fairly confronting to most people but the problem is that unless you practice a bit and get ok with it not being a big deal, then it is highly likely (in my experience anyway) that when you really do see something, that the second guessing puts the call on pause and the opportunity to have a meaningful intervention is lost.

I've had many conversations with the police where I have been assured that they really want the "just in case" calls because it means they might have the chance to catch something before it becomes a bigger issue.

See something, Say something!

9) Local honey: Did you know there are beehives in the canyon? Turns out that honey bees played a major role in populating Laguna Beach in the 1800s. Specifically, they played a very strong part in Mormans being a strong component of the areas initial settlers in the 1800s. A number of Mormon families were fleeing from

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Honey Bees were not native to North America and had been introduced from Europe prior to the civil war. As they became established on the west coast, their honey made from coastal sage became very popular on the east coast and Europe. There was such a strong market for that honey that it was possible to make a decent living by homesteading some land on the southern California coast, setting up some hives, and selling the honey to passing wagon trains going down to San Diego for shipment.

Many of the names we see around town like Geoff and Thurston apparently come from these Mormon settlers.

And some of the hives still persist to this day. In fact, I stopped at one the other week and decided to buy a dozen bees to see if I could try my hand at a hive and making some honey. But the beekeeper gave me 13 bees, I tried to return the extra one but he told me to keep it as it was a free bee.....

That's all for now!

Diver Dave signing off...

:)

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