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First Friday MOVIE night!!!!, Politics (kinda), Various thoughts... :)

11/3/25



City cleans up the beach :)

1) **First Friday:** Going to be a really good one! The Steve and Marisa have once again offered us the use of their private beach area at Old Ladies Cove for our First Friday Potluck. This may be the last one of the year, depending on ocean, temperature, and sand conditions, so it will be a great opportunity to attend if you can.

AND it will be a movie night (Yea!!). The plan is to show some local underwater footage while waiting for it to get actually dark enough to do the main features. Then, Mike Roy will entertain us for a few moments with photos of his recent trip to Africa. Mike is a skilled photographer and I'm sure the pictures will be amazing.

To top it off, we will then play "My Octopus Teacher" for the main feature. What could be better than watching something like that with the ocean literally lapping at our feet in the background (well, maybe the foreground)?

As usual, we will have plates, napkins, wine openers, both eating and serving utensils, cups, etc., provided. Bring something to share (food or drink), something warm, etc., and enjoy good company and all the rest.

Access will be through a gate just above the city equipment shed on the beach stairs at Sunset and Victoria (or you can walk around the point), 5:30 on.

See ya there!

2) **Beach Cleanup:** The area by the ramp was a mess after the storm the other week. I was out of town and a few people were wondering why the city didn't take care of it. The truth is that we do have resources for a lot of those kind of things but it relies on the locals raising the issues with the city to make them aware. In this

So note to selves: See something / Say something! Some of us know explicitly who to call in the city but anyone can just use the "Ask Laguna" app (yep there is an app for that!) or google it on the web. Works pretty well and they seem to be genuinely responsive.



Also, keep the non-emergency police number handy for anything more immediate. If you are wondering about something not looking right or of concern, call it in! The police REALLY like getting heads up about things and don't mind checking something out.

Non-Emergency Police: 949-497-0701 x2

3) Dogs off leash: This is a hot topic the last month or so. It seems that there has been a lot of enforcement lately, which has caught a number of people off guard, sometimes with the result of warnings or tickets. I know quite a few people are pretty ticked about this state of affairs. It was never much of a problem before. And a number of us are a bit steamed about the ramped-up enforcement...

Here's the thing - The police are not actually the issue. The problem is that there are a couple of people living somewhere along the beach who appear to be on a mission to deter people from letting dogs off-leash on the beach and report almost everything they see.

The police have the job of enforcing code and law regardless of personal opinion. Dammed if they do respond to the complaints and also, dammed if they let it slide since it is basically under somebody's microscope.

Some have wondered about making the beach an off-leash area. The problem is that it would just attract a lot more people outside of the community, so not much can be done about it as far as I can see. Unfortunately, there is no good solution, but to be careful about it! And be thankful/appreciate that we at least have such a wonderful place to do those walks!!

4) Speaking of Police: I've had a couple of interactions lately with the police department. One of note was a parking ticket that for several reasons really should not have been issued -or at least gone with a warning. My first reaction was to be pissed that it happened at all (not to me but one of our neighbors). And the second was the same feeling as I ran into several roadblocks with the police department as I tried to help get it taken care of. But I learned a couple of things:

- The police no longer have any authority or power to fix an errant ticket. Too many complaints/lawsuits etc. about favorable or unfair treatment and so on to the point that the entire ticket process is now farmed out to an outside organization. So don't beat on them too hard when they decline to do anything about a bad ticket - Their hands are tied.
- Don't expect to get anywhere by trying to dig into why the officer did or didn't handle it differently. These guys may not always make the best decisions. Still, to the management's credit, they are very strong about trusting the training and integrity of the officer's actions and giving them the scope to handle things without micromanagement or backseat driving. Slower to deal with specific issues but more likely in the end to produce proactive and competent people in those positions.
- I ran into Chief Calvert today. It was an interesting conversation, as it reminded me of the main takeaways from the Citizens Police Academy I attended a few months ago. It was absolutely stunning how many different divisions and departments and people it takes to run a modern police department. I was extremely pleased with the level of genuine care, integrity, and commitment that the officers and personnel I met seemed to possess. Even with all the personnel we have, it basically comes down to the city being divided into just, I believe, four patrol zones (24/7). When something big and very immediate happens, there are only a few cars spread throughout the city to jump on it. More are available over time, but the fact that I have usually gotten a very fast

department. Other areas like parking enforcement only have a couple of people for the whole city so those responses do sometimes leave something to be desired, something to look at going forward.

- The other big thing I remember from that academy was how much every part of the many different jobs in policing were singularly focused on safety. Our safety, the officer's safety, even the criminal's safety. It was a very striking and strong impression and certainly changed some of the lenses through which I see those interactions.

5) Building Community: Today was a good day.... As I went around the city this morning, I ran into random people I did not know -a manager at a store, a construction worker on a deck, a customer at a restaurant -and in these random conversations, they all ended up talking about and being very conscious of building community in their lives and neighborhoods. It's super cool and very encouraging that this is happening among all the chaos and noise of the larger world. Probably the only thing that might ultimately be the way out of some of the stuff going on that we can't directly do anything about.... A strong, healthy local community does make a difference!

One of the things said to me that I really liked was that the guy said he started every day with the affirmation:

"Today is going to be a good day"

And taking a moment to appreciate it. Nice!

6) Politics (kinda): Well, don't know if this actually qualifies as political but couldn't resist the label since it would be such a sketchy thing actually to dive into these days!!!! Actually what was on my mind since I am in the middle of a completely stalled remodel is that I am surprised that there has not been a much greater focus within the city on fixing our municipality code and design review process.

Seems that it is so conflicting and lacking in specific guidelines or paths to success that it is never predictable as to what can or will be approved or not.... Perhaps something to ask an AI engine to clarify! Anyway, certainly something that I hope the city council can rebuild as other cities occasionally seem to manage to accomplish. If the rules are clear and you follow them, it should be a rubber-stamp approval. (We all have our fantasies!!!!)

7) Services List: I've been compiling a list of all the recommendations or people I've seen around the area for contracting, plumbing, electrical, window washing, etc.. I'll get it up on the web page shortly but in the meantime, if you need a few contacts to check out in any of those kinds of directions, give a holler and I can send it to you.

8) Email recovery options: Periodically, one of us ends up losing their email account which is a massive pain to deal with. This can often be prevented by setting up some recovery paths. This usually involves setting up a backup email account or using someone else's account, and/or contact phone number, etc.. so that if you ever got locked out of your account, you could still access it indirectly to fix the problem.

Don't know how to do that? Like almost everything else these days, of course the answer is ChatGPT! (or any other AI engine). Most of the web search engines are also incorporating AI as well but the point is that this is the kind of thing that these AI things are really incredibly good at (most of the time...). Give it a try. (or call Diver for assistance.... ;)

9) Music Party: Those evenings have been a major fun and interactive party. We've been doing those every couple of months this year so maybe sometime in December. Stay tuned!!

More than enough for now. Oh, wait!!! Totally forgot to mention that the water is still 66 degrees!!! November!!!! Yahoo!!!!

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See ya in the sand, water, street, wherever:

Diver Dave signing off: :)



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