



# Laguna Woods WOOD WORKS

WINTER

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS

2007

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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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## Help the Planet While Enjoying the Holiday Season

Holidays are about being with friends and family and being thankful for all we have. This year, keep our environment in mind as you enter the hectic and fun holiday season by incorporating the following easy tips into your holiday routine:



- Bring reusable shopping bags with you when you shop. Using a reusable shopping bag ensures less waste is going to the landfill along with less litter on our streets and in our creeks.
- Look for food items that contain minimal packaging. Often, buying in bulk helps you get the same item with less wasteful packaging and usually at a lower cost per item.
- Use LED holiday lights. They shine brighter, last longer and use only a thimbleful of energy.
- Keep those lights shining bright when people can enjoy them by using light timers to control your outdoor holiday displays and automatically turn them off when it's time to go to bed.
- Set back your thermostat when you're sleeping or away. A programmable thermostat automates that process for you.
- Cozy fires are nice, but wood smoke produces fine particulate matter pollution that affects the health of your family, friends and neighbors. Try purchasing a cleaner-burning, low-emission hearth product.
- Spare the air and avoid crowded parking lots by riding your bike or using public transportation for your holiday shopping trips.
- Cold engines pollute more than warm ones. When driving your car, link all of your errands together into one trip to minimize cold starts. 🌲

## El Toro Memorial Walk

During the holiday season, consider a gift that will memorialize a relative, friend or pet and support your City. Purchase a memorial brick for \$100 and we will engrave it with up to three lines (up to 20 letters per line) and install it in the El Toro Parkway. Call or stop in at City Hall for further information. 🌲

**LAGUNA WOODS CITY HALL WILL CLOSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS STARTING AT 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2007 AND WILL REOPEN AT 8 A.M. ON WED., JAN. 2, 2008.**

# Safety During the Holidays

The holiday season is a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crimes. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

## DRIVING

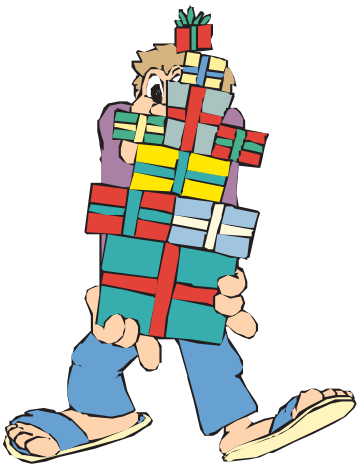
Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area. Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running. Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight. Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car. Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door. When approaching and leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

## AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (ATM)

If you use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a shopping mall, or in a well-lighted location. Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you. Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location. And, remember to take your card out of the machine before you leave.

## SHOPPING

If you shop at night, go with a friend or family member. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you do, do not "flash" your money wad. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused. Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit. Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.



## HOME

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes. When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and stop your newspaper and mail service. Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer. Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home. When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home. Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so it will not be easily knocked over. If you use lights on your Christmas tree, ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire. Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.

It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes, although no charity is involved. Ask for identification and tell the solicitor you will mail your donation.

## HOLIDAY PARTIES

Never drink and drive. 🌲🌲

# Meeting by Accident



Unfortunately, car accidents are common and stressful occurrences. If you collide with another vehicle, there are specific things you are required to do by law.

## EXCHANGE INFORMATION

The California Vehicle Code requires you to exchange information with the other driver in the collision. You must provide your name, insurance information and driver's license number to the other involved parties. If you call the police and they make a report, then the information exchange requirement has been met. The law to exchange information applies to both public roadways and private property such as inside the gated community of Laguna Woods Village and shopping center parking lots.

## RELAX

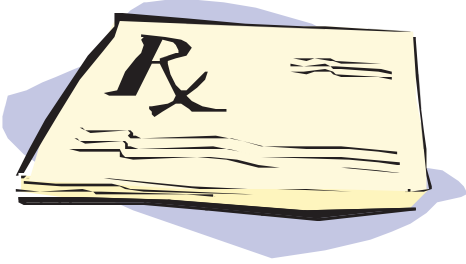
If you are involved in a collision, remain calm as you are going to need to make decisions. Move to a safe location out of the roadway while waiting for law enforcement to arrive. The officers are going to need your driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. If you are injured and want medical attention, tell the officer so he or she can request medical help.

## SUBMIT A REPORT

After the collision, if the damage is over \$750, the driver of the damaged vehicle is required to submit an SR-1 form to the Department of Motor Vehicles within ten days of the collision. If a police report is taken, you will automatically receive these forms from the DMV.

For more info, visit [ca.dmv.org](http://ca.dmv.org). 🌲🌲

# Got Medicare Part D?



Anyone currently enrolled in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan should reevaluate their prescription plan to make certain the plan continues to meet their needs in 2008. From November 15 to December 31, 2007, you can join, switch or drop a Medicare prescription drug plan. People who have HMO, PPO or SNP medical plans should check with their health

plan before making any changes.

Many prescription drug plans in 2008 have increased premiums or beneficiary cost sharing, and/or have changed their formularies. Some have reduced or eliminated “donut hole” coverage in 2008. When reviewing plans, consider whether all of your drugs will still be covered; if there is a need to switch some drugs to generic; if the out-of-pocket cost of drugs will increase; and if drugs will be subject to new restrictions such as quantity limit, prior authorization, and/or step therapy.

Anyone needing assistance reviewing their current prescription plan can schedule an appointment with a HICAP counselor by calling (949) 268-271. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) to compare drug plans online. 🌲

# What Does ‘Owner/Builder’ Mean?

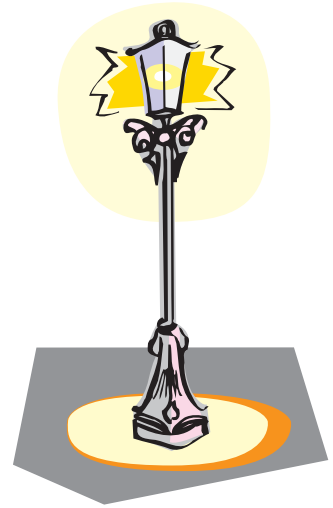
The “owner/builder” designation for a home improvement project means that the building owner elects to act as his or her own general contractor. By signing a building permit application as an owner/builder, you assume full responsibility for all phases of the project—its integrity, code compliance and workmanship. You may also be limited in your ability to file complaints against tradespersons you hire, as owner/builder, for failing to complete work or comply with codes.



As an owner/builder, your responsibilities may include the obligation to pay state and federal taxes, purchase workers’ compensation insurance and assume other legal liabilities associated with hiring employees. You may have to hire subcontractors, which could include scheduling and supervising their work. If a worker is injured on your project, your homeowner’s insurance may have to pay medical expenses and rehabilitation costs. You can also be held responsible for paying mechanics’ liens against your property from unpaid subcontractors and material suppliers.

Unless you are experienced in construction, you are advised to hire a reputable, licensed general contractor to take over all project responsibilities. When you select a general contractor, check the status of their license and determine whether or not they are required to carry workers’ compensation insurance. With the contractor’s license number, you can check their status by calling the California Contractors State License Board at 1-800-321-2752 or by visiting the Board’s website at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).”

Remember, a tradesperson who presses you to be your own general contractor (owner/builder) may not be doing you a favor. For additional information, contact the Contractors State License Board or call the City’s Building Department at 639-0500. 🌲



# Reporting Streetlight Outages in The City

If you notice that streetlights in the City are not working correctly, i.e., they are not on after dark or remain on during the day or are flickering, you can do the following:

If there is a problem with a City streetlight (on El Toro Road, Moulton Parkway or Santa Maria roadways), please provide the location and type of problem by calling the City at 639-0562.

If it is a streetlight on a main street inside Laguna Woods Village, problems can be reported by calling the City at 639-0562 and providing the streetlight identification number painted on the concrete base of each pole. Without the pole number, the City’s maintenance contractor will not be able to locate the light needing maintenance.

If the problem is with one of the SCE cement poles, you will need to provide the number that is listed on the metal strip on the pole. To report problems with these lights, call PCM’s Property Services at 597-4600.

The City is not responsible for parking lots, walkway or cul-de-sac lighting within Laguna Woods Village. To report problems with these lights, call PCM’s Property Services at 597-4600. 🌲

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS  
24264 El Toro Road  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

PRESORTED STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORANGE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 454

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

Laguna Woods Resident  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

## Get Connected to City Services



### 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.  
O.C. 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](http://www.lagunawoodscity.org)

### CITY COUNCIL

Milt Robbins, Mayor  
Bert Hack, Mayor Pro Tem  
Robert Bouer, Councilmember  
Bob Ring, Councilmember  
Brenda Ross, Councilmember  
Leslie A. Keane, City Manager  
Susan M. Condon, City Clerk

### 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](http://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](mailto: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 .....Third Wednesday of month.....2 p.m.
- ◆ Community Services Committee (CSC) .....Fourth Wednesday of month .....9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Human Relations Committee (HR) .....Second Tuesday of month .....1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) .....First Thursday of month .....9 a.m.
- ◆ Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) .....Second Wednesday of month ....9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) .....Second Monday bimonthly .....1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting schedules are subject to change.