

THE RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 1999

General Meeting: Don Lee & Water Rates

WHEN: Wednesday November 17, 1999 - 7:00 PM

WHERE: Richardson Middle School Cafeteria, 23751 Nancy Lee Lane

INFO: (310) 378-2499 Evenings, (310) 543-4980 Weekdays

AGENDA: 1. City Council Member Don Lee: Live & Uncensored !!! Don is willing to take on all comers in a no-holds-barred, bare-knuckled question and answer session on any subject from the audience.

2. Did you know that on the average, Riviera residents pay higher rate (per CCF) than Torrance Water Dept. customers? Representatives from California Water Service Co. will present facts on their upcoming merger with Dominguez Water Co. and how that merger will affect our costs and service.

Kim Emery

Membership Drive

It's that time of year again. Without your membership dues, the RHA cannot continue to provide the expanded services we have recently undertaken. In fact, this could be your last newsletter as the cost of mailing about 3,400 newsletters five times a year to every residence in the Hollywood Riviera has become prohibitive. Historically, we have only mailed newsletters to current members. During the past couple of years or so, we have worked very hard to make the RHA a meaningful organization that adds value to the Riviera by doing new things like:

- Adding new events such as the "Red Tile Roof Historical Homes Tour"
- Presented "The 2nd Annual RHA 'Free' Concert-In-The-Park".
- Increased high school scholarship donations.
- Gave large donations to schools & organizations.
- Polled residents regarding view impairment by trees so we can gather a consensus for further action.
- Aggressively followed proposed developments and moderated discussions between developers and residents.
- Monitor Hillside Overlay cases and keep membership informed.

- Added more yearly newsletters with higher quality in both terms of content and production and mailing it to every residence in the Riviera.
- Became involved in Riviera traffic monitoring and mitigation issues.

We must be doing something right, as we had over 800 new members / renewals last year, an increase over our normal count. Our future plans include providing a draft plan for mitigation of trees and view and soliciting further resident opinions, increased RHA visibility, maybe even an RHA homepage for current information dissemination, and increased number of community events and concerts, plus even more progress on traffic, development and tree / view issues. However, our expenses are in excess of our revenues. We cannot pursue these items unless we have the resources that are a result of increased membership income.

Due to the increased costs of producing a high quality newsletter on a regular basis, please note that after this edition, we will only be sending the Riviera Reporter to members who have paid their dues. **So send in your dues at this time, so you can continue to receive this newsletter. Please support the R.H.A.**

STREET PAVING

How does the surface of your street appear? Is it smooth as glass? Or, does it contain, as many Riviera streets do, potholes, tree roots and general degradation? Many of you have asked "When is my street scheduled for repair / resurfacing?" Unfortunately the complete answer is too long to appear in this Newsletter as it is contained in the Street Index of the City's "Infrastructure Plan". According to Mr. Brooks Bell, Street Services Director, this 35 page plan contains the listing of all streets slated for either rehabilitation / repairs by the Engineering Dept. or slurry seal / repaving by the Street Dept. in each of the upcoming fiscal years. If the City receives favorable bids, as happened this year, some streets from upcoming years are moved forward in time. The 1999-2000 plan has 79 streets, the 2000-2001 plan contains 91 streets, and the 2001-2002 plan has 63 streets.

A partial listing of streets that we have been questioned about recently are as follows: Year 1999-2000: Slurry Seal: Paseo de la Estrellas, Paseo de Granada, Calle de Madrid, Calle Castellana, Paseo de Felipe. Year 2001-2002: Street rehabilitation: Paseo de Gracia (PCH to Via La Circula), Paseo de Las Delicias (PCH to Camino Del Campo). Slurry seal: Paseo de Las Tortugas.

For a listing of where your specific street sits in the Infrastructure Plan, please call the Street Department at (310) 781-6900. If you feel that the condition of your street is hazardous or warrants sooner attention than the present plan specifies, send a written request to



The Prez Sez...

Well, this is the last column I will be writing for this newsletter and I am doing so

with some mixed emotions. On one hand, I am extremely pleased with the growth and progress that the Riviera Homeowners Association has made during my terms, and I hate to be giving that up. On the other hand, I am embarking on some new adventures as Candidate for Torrance City Council in 2000. One door closes another door opens, so they say.

First, I would like to thank & acknowledge all of the volunteers who have served on the RHA board over the years. During the past nearly four years, we have made great strides in making the RHA a "value added" organization by completing some of the following items: Adding new events such as the "Red Tile Roof Historical Homes Tour" & Annual

New Prez Message

I thank the Board for allowing me the opportunity to complete Glenn's term as President. This board is truly dedicated to meeting the Riviera's needs and Glenn's shoes will be hard to fill. Eleven years ago when my wife Linda and I made our first home in a small apartment in Riviera Village, we knew we wanted to someday buy a home here and raise our family. For five years we lived on Newton Street, where we made many friends. And then just this May, a week before our

RHA "Free" Concert-In-The-Park"; Increasing high school scholarships & large donations to schools / organizations; Polling residents regarding view impairment by trees so we can gather a consensus for further action; Aggressively following proposed developments & moderating discussions between developers and residents; Adding more yearly newsletters with higher quality in both terms of content and production; and Becoming involved in Riviera traffic monitoring and mitigation issues.

I am most proud of the fact that we have been able to attract and retain high quality, talented people for the RHA Board of Directors. I welcome the new President, **Morgan Tookey**, and know that we have left him a viable and thriving organization.

So, I am signing off for the last time, in here, anyway. For those reading this of whom I have had the pleasure to get to know, I should mention that

second son was born, we moved to our new home on Calle Miramar.

I think most of you will agree with me that while many neighborhoods around Los Angeles have changed with the times, the Riviera has held on to those qualities that make it stand out as a fine place to live and raise a family.

I hope you will join us in the upcoming months as we continue to preserve and maintain our special area where the foothills of Palos Verdes meet the blue

during the past years I have had several other 'jobs' in addition to my RHA duties including: Founder & President of growing engineering consulting firm located in Torrance; Chairman - City of Torrance Planning Commission; City of Torrance Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation Commission; Chairman - USC School of Engineering Dean's Circle Associates; Leadership Torrance - South Bay; youth sports coaching ... in addition to my main job being husband to the beautiful & talented **Lisa** and father to **Devin** (9), **Spencer** (6) and **Amanda** (6).

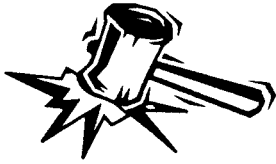
Torrance will be facing great challenges in the new millennium where an experienced leader like myself, with this record of successful activities, will be required on the City Council. I understand the concerns of the Hollywood Riviera and will be an advocate for your issues. Again, thanks to all, and I look forward to seeing you around the Riviera! *Glenn Tanner*

Pacific Ocean. When a large development was proposed and traffic conditions increased near our previous home, I was told there was nothing that could be done. But I contacted **Glenn Tanner** and the RHA and they vigorously worked towards mitigating over-development and promoting traffic calming. This is a proud legacy of adding value to the area by the RHA and I hope to continue it in the future.

Morgan Tookey

What's Up In the Neighborhood

PLANNING DEPARTMENT



The following locations inside the Hollywood Riviera and/or Hillside Overlay District are scheduled for Public Hearings or have they have recently been held:

- 234 Via Pasqual. City Council denial of appeal and approval of a precise plan of development for a single story addition.
- 232 Via Alameda. Planning Commission approval of a waiver for yard setbacks.
- 335 Via El Chico. Planning Commission approval of a precise plan for a second story addition.
- 444 Calle de Castellana. Planning Commission approval of a precise plan for a one-story addition over an existing garage.

The development review committee would like to thank the following for their support: **Josie and Rubin Vanderpass, Acosta family, Anagnost family, Bob Donaldson, Plungas family, Doug Shepardson, Herb & Candy Funk, Barbara Tapp, Bruce Burkett, Trudy Ponder, Jane Aull, Ann Ferrelli, Jim Gates, Tom Penland, Johnny Tai, Mark Danzinger, Tom Brewer** of Southwood Riviera HOA, the **Null brothers** plus the **Carioka & the 1,450** area residents that signed letters, attended hearings, and rallied in support of the Planning Commissioners decision to deny the **Begonia Development** design.

CONCERT IN-THE-PARK



In the second of our ongoing series, the Riviera Homeowners Association staged the another free Concert-in-the-Park during June at Los Arboles ("Rocketship") Park. Opening the concert was the Dixieland group "Kermit Welsh & His Dixie 6". Headlining the concert was local rock band "Upper Hand". A crowd of about five hundred people attended the event and braved the cool, late spring, weather. The RHA wishes to extend thanks to **Gene Barnett** and the City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Department for providing the venue, stage and power. The RHA Board again wishes to thank **Ruth Vogel** who directed the event.

R.H.A. BOARD MEMBER JIM VOGL RETIRES

Long-time RHA Board of Directors member, Col. O.J. (Jim) Vogl has unfortunately retired from the Board due to health reasons. Jim was the editor of the "Riviera Reporter" newsletter for many years and oversaw the articles, content, and form of the newsletter. The current RHA Board publicly recognizes Jim's outstanding contributions and thanks him profusely for his generous time and service to the Riviera Homeowners Association.

NEW R.H.A. BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED



President **Glenn Tanner** announced that the following appointments to the RHA Board have been made: **Morgan Tookey** (Calle Miramar), President. **Nancy Conger** (Paseo de la Playa) has joined the Board in the role of liaison for undergrounding utilities. **Ted Lieu** (also Paseo de la Playa) has joined the board and will serve as Hospitality Chair. Ted also serves on the City's Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation Commission. The former Hospitality chair, **Chela Cowden** (Calle de Arboles), has volunteered to our Newsletter Editor. **Jennifer Tai** (Calle de Aragon) has been appointed RHA Marketing Director. Appointed officers will serve until the next election for that position.

1999 R.H.A. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



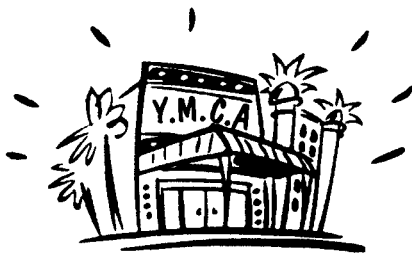
Monica Ravizza (Via Los Altos) was awarded the 1999 Riviera Homeowners Association Scholarship. Monica was selected based on her outstanding accomplishments at South High

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What's Up In the Neighborhood *Continued*

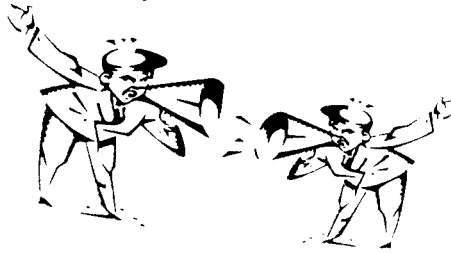
School. She earned a 3.76 grade point average while participating in numerous school and community activities —plus while working part-time. Monica is enrolled at UCLA and plans to pursue studies in Psychology and Environmental Science.

Y.M.C.A. EXPANSION SLATED



The Torrance – South Bay YMCA has begun its fourth major development and expansion program. Since its inception, the YMCA has provided our area with comprehensive youth, family, and senior programs. In order to continue delivering high quality programs, the "Y" has embarked on a \$4 million expansion program to build new facilities to allow implementation of expanded programs. About one-half of this goal has been raised to date from corporate sponsors, but the "Y" needs your help in raising the remaining funds to allow completion of the new facilities by the year 2001. Please contact **Lynda Black**, Riviera Area Development Coordinator at 310-375-0744 if you would like to participate or donate.

DEBATE ABOUT IT



South High School has established a new debate team. During their initial year, they were able to engage forty students to compete a variety of individual events ranging from extemporaneous speaking to original oratory. Not only does the new team provide self-confidence and critical thinking skills, it gave the students a chance to excel in academic competition. Their strong showing during the first year resulted in numerous trophies and the respect from schools with long histories of debate teams. Did you know that South High is the only High School in Torrance that has a debate team? However, to compete in tournaments is expensive. Tournaments have squad entry fees starting at \$200, plus travel expenses. With your support from RHA membership and donation funds, it is the RHA's pleasure to help fund the South High Debate Team! The debate team needs school judges. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Margaret Esfahani** (310-533-4356), the Debate Coach, Teacher, and Riviera resident. You can debate about it, but this is one team we all should support.

Doug Holker

STRAIGHT "POOP" FROM THE RIVIERA REPORTER

Resident **Kay Roberts** has asked us to reprint this article ... It is imperative that those residents

walking their dogs in the Riviera clean up after their animals. Not only is it impolite to expect other residents to clean up after you, it is also against the law. That's right, City of Torrance Municipal Code Section 41.1.7 states that animal owners must remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, any deposits left on a public or private property. Infraction penalties range from \$25 for the first offense to \$100 for the third. In keeping our lovely area in better condition, it is important to publish this information in an effort to encourage all owners to pick up after their animals.

CITY OF TORRANCE "PROPERTY OF THE MONTH"

The City of Torrance's Environmental Division has recently implemented a "Property of the Month" program. Categories include Industrial, Commercial, Retail, and Residential Properties. **Linda Cessna**, Manager of Environmental Programs, has asked the RHA to sponsor a "Hollywood Riviera Residential Property of the Month" for December 1999. Properties are to be selected using criteria including architectural design features, compatibility with surroundings, appearance & landscaping, upkeep & maintenance, plus being a general credit or landmark for the neighborhood. As of this writing, nominations for this award are in progress. The RHA board will review these candidates and a recommendation for selection will be made to the Environmental Department prior to their December 2nd meeting.

Editors Note: We apologize to **Doug Holker** for not including his "Rain Report".

It will be included in the next issue.

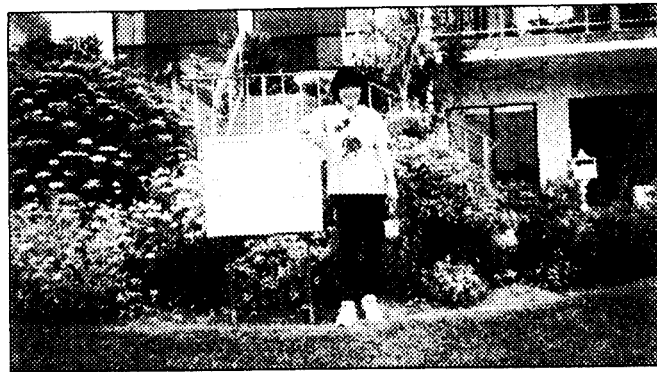
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HISTORICAL HOMES TOUR



As you may know, the RHA is planning a tour of the original historical, Spanish style home built in the area circa 1928. The upcoming "Red Tile Roof" Tour of Historical Homes is presently scheduled for the Spring (May) of 2000. Did you know that the last tour of the historic home in the Hollywood Riviera was held in 1973? That was over 25 years ago, so it is definitely time to see these beauties again. But to implement this tour is a HUGE task and can only be done with the support and cooperation of the neighborhood !!! We estimate it will take about 60 people to staff the homes during the tour and provide the needed support services. The core committee is hard at work now planning the steps to accomplish this overwhelming project. WE NEED YOUR HELP !!! Please contact Nan Clancy, Kathryn Joiner, Nancy Conger, Kim Emery, or Tom Penland of the committee if you are available to assist. We have a variety of needs such as sponsorship, publications, artwork, parking logistics, utilities, hospitality, floral, advertising, and docents. All are important and without your support we will not be able to have this tour.

Riviera Landscape Award Winners

June 1999
Mary Kido
328 Calle Mayor



July 1999
Jim Malina &
Suzanne McMillan
4610 Paseo
de Las Tortugas

August 1999
Gerri Everist
301 Mesa Grande



September 1999
Val & Scott Teter
115 Via Anita

October 1999
Robert &
Elizabeth White,
441 Via Linda Vista



Ruth Vogel, Mary Lenihan, Ethel Sellars, Virginia Schneider

Traffic Calming Update

The City Traffic Planners presented the Traffic Calming proposal to the City Council on August 8. The proposal asked for approval for the following traffic measures around the Newton Street area: 1) installation of diverters at the Newton St. / Ocean Ave/244th Street intersection to prevent flow-through traffic between Hawthorne Blvd and Vista Montana, 2) installation of a diverter at Ocean and 242nd Street, 3) removal of the existing left turn restrictions at Vista Montana and Newton St, 4) removal of the left turn restrictions from northbound

Hawthorne Blvd. to Newton St., 244th St., and 242nd St., 5) installation of all-way stop controls at the intersections of Newton St. / Harlee Lane and Newton / Highgrove Ave, 6) installation of a set of chokers on Newton St. in the vicinity of Richardson Middle School, and 7) implement as a two-phase project. Phase 1 would be the evaluation period for six months and the preliminary installations of the above mitigation measures, with the exception of the removal of the left hand turn restrictions (# 3 & 4). Phase 2 would be the transition from preliminary to permanent installations,

depending upon the first period assessment.

From the first presentation on Traffic Calming at the RHA General Meeting in December 1997, to the approval at the City Council in August, the RHA faced many challenges in working with both the residents and the City. As a result, we were able to obtain the approval for traffic measures that would help keep our streets safe.

Johnny Tai

Riviera Homeowners Association 1999-2000 Officers And Directors

President	Morgan Tookey	213-623-777	Airport and C.H.A.T.	Jim Gates	373-7640
1st Vice President (Programs)	Kim Emery	378-2499	Traffic	Johnny Tai	714-791-1465
2nd Vice President (Membership)	George Jaresko	375-1097	Immediate Past President	Glenn Tanner	378-4446
Treasurer	Heather Hintzen	378-7388	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
Secretary	Benson Black	375-0744	Planning Commision Liason	Paul Beaudoin	373-0829
Newsletter Editor	Chela Cowden	375-8949	Scholarship	Virginia Levanas	375-0424
Hospitality	Ted Lieu	373-0271	Director Emeritus	Jim Vogl	792-8138
Historian	Tom Penland	378-5126	Underground Utilities	Nancy Conger	373-9867
Landscape & Concert	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Historical Homes Tour	Kathryn Joiner	373-3023
City Council Liaison	Dean Reuter	373-1627	Historical Homes Tour	Nan Clancy	514-3455
Mailing	Shirly McNair	378-5557			

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