

THE RIVIERA REPORT

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION Spring 2000

Be Heard in Your Community - March 1



WHAT: TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2000 - 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
23751 Nancy Lee Lane

**FORUM
FORMAT:**

All 13 Candidates will begin by introducing themselves and providing brief resumés followed by questions and answers. Candidates will answer a variety of questions drawn at random. To submit your question, please complete the form provided on page four and mail it in the enclosed envelope to the RHA as soon as possible.

City of Torrance Awards Property of the Month

Following the RHA's nomination, the city of Torrance awarded its Property of the Month Award to the stately home of Robert and L'Cena Rice at 124 Via Monte D'Oro.

Unquestionably the "Crown Jewel" of the Hollywood Riviera, the Rice home was built by Riviera developer Clifford Reid in 1928, and is a masterpiece of Italian renaissance architecture.

The home is 6700 square feet and sits on three lots. Handcrafted by artisans brought over from Italy, it is distinguished by many features: the two-story entry and tower (turret), stained-glass inlaid windows, the 12 to 15 foot high ceilings in the first floor public rooms, massive handcarved and handpainted beams, as well as the magnificent handpainted ceilings. The interior

entry walls are also handpainted faux stone. Many of the original oriental rugs and furnishings remain in the house and are in impeccable condition.

The Rices, in residence since 1971, have raised three sons at their Via Monte D'Oro home. L'Cena, a former Principal of Redondo High School has hosted countless children's groups and team parties at the house.

While this magnificent home has been truly lived in, it maintains its splendor and architectural integrity.

The Property of the Month Award is sponsored by the Environmental Quality and

Energy Conservation Commission of the City of Torrance.

Ruth Vogel, Landscape



The Prez Sez. . .

PLEASE VOTE!

Well, we made it into the new millennium without the sky falling in on us. I hope everyone enjoyed their New Year's celebrations.

Torrance is facing the first city council election in over 10 years where an incumbent isn't among the candidates running. In fact, within the next 25 months, there will be an entirely new city council made up mostly of names and faces unfamiliar to the Riviera. Please take the time to vote on March 7th. Like donating

blood, it's voluntary and should lead to helping the community. Remember, Torrance City Council members do not have representative districts. Please look closely at the list of candidates. With so many names, it is easy to get confused.

For argument's sake, try looking at not only the candidate's background and qualifications, but also at what he or she has done for the Riviera, and what values will aid him or her in decision-making on future issues.

Ask yourself this question: Is this someone I would go to if I had a problem in my neighborhood? These aren't endorsements, just ideas. **Please vote on March 7th.** It's less painful than giving blood.

Also, please plan to attend the candidates' forum on March 1st. Let's show up and give encouragement to all those who have jumped in the ring and are running.

Morgan Tookey
President

RHA Membership Drive Update – The Final Stretch

We are entering the final month of our membership drive and need your contributions **now**. Our 1999 – 2000 membership drive got off to a great start and it's time to close the gap before the end of February.

Over 500 families have joined the RHA from March through December 1999. In order to meet our projected membership level of 800, we need your membership dues **now**. Time is running out. If you have not done so, please renew so that you can continue receiving this newsletter.

During the past couple of years we have strived to make the RHA a meaningful organization that adds value to the Riviera. Without your membership dues, the RHA cannot continue to provide the expanded services offered to the community: support for the Hillside Ordinance,

participation in city hearings on other issues, sponsorship of the upcoming March Candidate's Forum, survey of residents on their needs (trees vs. view impairment), continued support of the Riviera schools, distribution of scholarship awards and hosting the annual Concert in the Park.

Please sign up or renew TODAY, and join us at the next meeting. It promises to be informative and will provide you with a first hand look at the candidates running for Torrance City Council.

Finally, many thanks to those 500 families that have already contributed.

Heather Hintzen
Treasurer



Riviera Landscape Award Winners

November - December 1999

Veon & Andy Filak

514 Palos Verdes Boulevard

What's Up In the Neighborhood:

Riviera Drivers: Something to Stop and Think About



Just a quick reminder to area drivers to please **stop** completely at traffic stop signs. While the vast majority of our local drivers are obeying the rules of the road, more and more are rolling the stop signs at residential intersections. These "California Stops" place Riviera residents, **especially children**, at risk. Unlike most of Torrance, the Riviera has few sidewalks forcing everyone including our children to walk in the street at curbside. Please stop and watch out.

Additionally, beginning this

month, there has been stepped-up traffic and parking enforcement at local schools. On day one, over 70 violations were written. Again, this is being done for the safety of the community. If your neighborhood is experiencing an increase of rolling stops or speeding, you may request motorcycle traffic enforcement by contacting the Torrance Police Traffic Division at (310) 618-5557.

Hillside Ordinance Issues

On January 11, 2000, the Torrance City Council voted 6 - 1 to delete the hardship requirement from the hillside ordinance. This action was taken after the city attorney's office deemed the subsection to be unenforceable. Zoning/code controls will continue under the ordinance's precise plan and waiver requirements. The RHA

will continue to monitor hillside cases and their impact on Riviera neighborhoods.

California Water Services: No Rate Increase From Merger

Following our last RHA general meeting in November, resident Roscoe Anthony and President Morgan Tookey met with Cal Water Services manager Terry Tamble to discuss further the proposed upcoming merger with Dominguez Hills Water. It was confirmed, as stated in the Cal Water Services application to the PUC, that the water rate (CCF) charged to Riviera users shall remain at the current amount and will not increase as a result of the merger. The RHA thanks Roscoe Anthony for his assistance and expertise in this matter.

Rain Over the Riviera

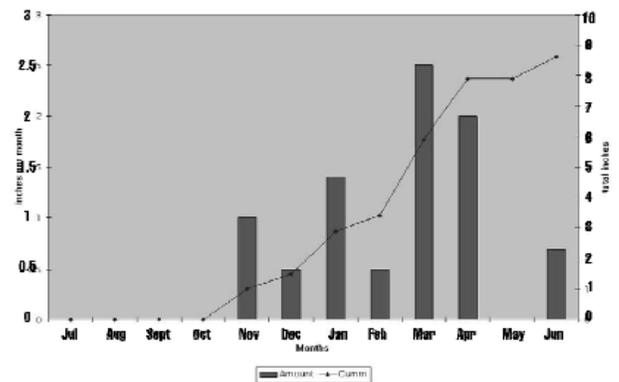
The weather forecasters were correct again. La Niña was upon us! The Riviera (measured at my home on Via Los Miradores) had a total rainfall of 8.6 inches for the period July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999. Average rainfall (measured at the LA Civic Center) for the past 121 years is 15.08 inches. When compared to the past, this last rainy season would rank about 20th, on the low end of the scale.

The lowest recorded rainfall was 4.08 inches in 1953 and the highest was 40.29 inches in 1884. The severe winter of 1983 had 34.04 inches, while 1997-1998, an El Niño year, had 30.7 inches of rain.

During 1998-99, our first rainfall did not arrive until November. There were no significant (greater than .5 inch) rainfalls from December to mid-March, when the cumulative total measured only 3.8 inches. We finally had some significant rains in late March and early April, with the heaviest (1.3 inches) occurring on April 11th. Several of us on Via Los Miradores took advantage of some fantastic Spring skiing in the Sierras at that time.

Rain was not the only significant natural phenomenon. This past year we had numerous days of heavy winds.

1998-1999 Riviera Rainfall



I can remember coming home one day and finding my son flying on top of our roof, doing his best Leo DiCaprio/Titanic imitation). One evening the winds were clocked at 55 mph!

What are we in store for this year? Wetter would be my guess. I could be wrong, but I think that's a fairly safe bet, considering that there have been only three times in the past 121 years with less rainfall.

1/28/99 Update: only 1 inch of measurable rain for the 99 - 00 season so far. This could be the lowest annual recorded rainfall for Los Angeles!

Doug Holker
Past President

RHA Membership Form

Annual Dues for 1999 - 2000:

\$20 Other \$ _____

New Member Continuing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Question for the Candidates:

(TO BE DRAWN AT MARCH 1ST FORUM)

Riviera Homeowners Association 1999-2000 Officers and Directors

President	Morgan Tookey	213-623-7777	Mailing	Shirley McNair	623-7777
1st Vice President (Programs)	Kim Emery	378-2499	Airport and C.H.A.T.	Jim Gates	373-7640
2nd Vice President (Membership)	George Jaresko	373-1097	Traffic	Johnny Tai	714-791-1465
Treasurer	Heather Hintzen	378-7388	Immediate Past President	Glenn Tanner	378-4446
Secretary	Benson Black	375-0744	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
Newsletter Editor	Chela Cowden	375-8649	Planning Commission Liaison	OPEN	
Hospitality	OPEN		Scholarship	Virginia Levanas	375-0424
Historian	Tom Penland	378-5126	Director Emeritus	Jim Vogl	792-8138
Landscape & Concert	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Underground Utilities	Nancy Conger	373-9867
City Council Liaison	OPEN		Historical Homes Tour	Kathryn Joiner	373-3023
			Historical Homes Tour	Nan Clancy	514-3455

 RIVIERA REPORTE

P O BOX 1074 • TORRANCE, CA 90505

BULK RATE
CAR-RT SORT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Redondo Beach CA
Permit No. 124