

The Riviera Reporter

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2003

The Prez Sez...



I write this at a time of great sadness for our

Nation. The tragedy of the shuttle Columbia has moved many to reflect those events in our lives that act as our collective national markers. Depending on your age they may include: the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, President Kennedy's assassination, John Lennon's murder, the assassination attempt on President Reagan, the shuttle Challenger disaster, September 11th, and now the Columbia's demise. I speak on behalf of the entire RHA board in extending our deepest condolences to the shuttle crew's families. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them at this time of tremendous personal loss.

I experienced an eerie déjà vu as I watched the footage of the shuttle's wreckage streaking downward against a clear blue sky. I instantly traveled in my mind back in time to my living room in San Diego where I was attending college in 1986. That same clear blue sky with the horrific image of the shuttle exploding. My roommates and I stood in front of the television in stunned silence. This time I am standing in the family room of my home in the Riviera and it is my children who are with me. "Daddy, what's wrong? What is that on the TV?"

We all feel an increased level of

RHA GENERAL MEETING:

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2003 – 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off Newton Street)

AGENDA: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Are you prepared for any local emergency? Come and get tips from our panel of experts.

anxiety right now. World events seem certain to draw our nation to more military action soon. I write to offer you an opportunity to turn that nervous energy into productive action.

I have found that focussing my time in a new volunteer effort is an outstanding release for this energy. It also brings its own reward: a feeling of achievement. I can usually think of a number of reasons why I do not have time to volunteer, however, when I look back at the times I have made the effort, I am never sorry I did it. For those with children, what a wonderful act to role model for them.

Whether at a local hospital or library, your place of worship, your child's school or athletic field, a local charity or non-profit group, our community has numerous worthwhile organizations which would benefit from your participation and from which you would benefit greatly. The Riviera Sportsman's Club, The Torrance League of Women's Voters and of course, the RHA are all wonderful local outlets for volunteer efforts.

The RHA has a number of positions open for election. I encourage you to contact either myself or any of our board members (phone numbers are on the back of this newsletter) if you are interested. If not the RHA, please consider volunteering your time somewhere.

At a time when events outside of our control seem to weigh us down, together we can act to improve our world, our nation and even our own little neighborhood, the jewel of the South Bay: the Hollywood Riviera.

Michael Cotton

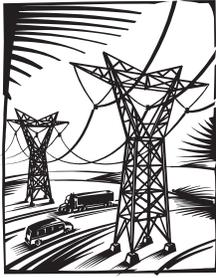


**TO THE HEROES OF
THE COLUMBIA**

SHUTTLE:

**WE WILL NEVER
FORGET YOU!**

WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:



OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Here are the winners for the months of December and January.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

District 1 was chosen by the city to proceed as the first district, due to its uniqueness. Eighteen of the 27 lots in this district are on leased land. It has a small compact size and only one side of the street will need to be underground, therefore it does not entail working with adjoining lots either behind or in front of each property.

Although the improved property owners pay the property taxes, the project has been stalled since January 2002, when the city attorney required the approval of the owners in fee of those lots.

After several meetings with the Engineering Department, on November 27, 2002 the city attorney revised petition instructions and created a Waiver of Proposition 218 Right to Vote for the owners in fee. The Waiver acknowledges the establishment of an underground assessment district that includes the 18 properties that the fee owners own. The waiver waives their rights to vote on the proposed assessment. This waiver was created to remove any liability for the fee owners.

The instruction for Petition Signatures has also been modified to reflect that the parties responsible for paying assessments will be the lessees and their signatures will be required on the new petition.

As of December 2, 2002, the fee owners have not responded to this waiver. Two thirds of the 18 lessees have signed the previous two petitions and want the assessment. The city only requires a 60% positive response. Under Proposition 218, those property owners who do not want the assessment district will be required to pay for it if the majority (over 50%) desire the assessment.

Please direct your questions for District 1 to Nancy Conger at (310) 373-9867 or e-mail: bnassoc@earthlink.net.

District 4, represented by Dick Rector, encompasses approximately 250 houses. Due to the recent death of his wife in June, the project had been put on the back burner. Now, Dick is back in full swing and working on petitioning the area. Dick can be reached at (310) 378-5615.

Nancy R. Conger, District 1 Rep.



The December award was given to Coligny Couderc, 137 Via La Soledad. This festive holiday landscape was especially beautiful at night with small twinkling lights on all trees and shrubs and dramatic landscape lighting highlighting an abundance of red poinsettias, grouped in masses along the driveway, entry and everywhere. Compliments for this exquisite display must be given to Villa Hermosa who provided the design and labor.



The January award was presented to Armand and Jean Vasquez, 236 Vista del Parque. Their landscape represents a beautiful and creative solution to a serious drainage problem. Greg Abramo of Unique Environments in Redondo Beach carved a meandering dry stream bed in a diagonal swath across the front of their property. This stream bed, filled with rocks and magnificent Sonora Gold boulders will divert all rain and water runoff to the driveway and then downhill and away from their foundation. Instead of sod, Greg hydroseeded red fescue which will resemble a meadow and will grow quickly in the shade of many mature trees whose large roots were carefully saved during all the construction. Other landscape highlights are Japanese Maples, campanula, azaleas, princess flowers, orchid trees and hundreds of daffodils, which should be coming into bloom shortly.

The Landscape Awards are presented by: Ruth Vogel, Mary Lenihan, and Virginia Levanas for the RHA and Ethel Sellars for the Riviera Garden Club.

RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

If the information on the mailing label is okay, please indicate by marking the appropriate box below.

- Continuing Member – mailing label personal information is accurate.
(NO NEED TO FILL IN PERSONAL INFORMATION BELOW)
- Continuing Member – See modifications and/or comments below.
- New Member – see information below.

Amount paid:

\$20 (annual) + \$____ (Other) = Total \$____

Check # _____ Check Date _____

Name: _____

Comments: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

RHA Membership Renewal Guideline

The Riviera Homeowners Association has been working to improve the way we track and report our membership dues activities. Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment information right above your mailing address.

The RHA's business year begins in September and ends in August; it is meant to coincide with the school calendar year. The current 2002-2003 business year began on September 1, 2002 and will end on August 31, 2003. Annual dues received during this period will be counted toward this period. We hope this guideline helps you to better understand the dues payment message included in each newsletter.

Enrollment Form

Also, please review the membership enrollment form below. If you are renewing your membership and all of the information on the mailing label is accurate, mark the appropriate check box and submit your dues. Space is provided for modifications or new enrollment information should you need it.

We hope that those of you who have e-mail addresses will include them so that we can communicate upcoming events and share news quickly and efficiently. The RHA does not share this or any other personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing and delivery.

We will continue to try to improve these administrative functions in order to better serve you.

The Torrance Public Library Foundation presents

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH ONE OF THE PREEMINENT THINKERS OF OUR TIME

Dr. Kevin Starr

State Librarian of California

“The Library of Tomorrow”

Thursday, March 6, 2003, 7 p.m.

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, Community Meeting Room
3301 Torrance Blvd.

Drawing upon the illustrious history of California libraries, Dr. Kevin Starr will explore the current information explosion and its impact on you and your library of tomorrow.

Dr. Starr is a distinguished historian, professor at the University of Southern California, and noted author of the series “Americans and the California Dream.” He has served as Allston Burr Senior Tutor in Eliot House at Harvard University; City Librarian of San Francisco; columnist for the *San Francisco Examiner*, and a contributing editor to the Opinion section of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Dr. Starr's writing has earned him a Guggenheim Fellowship, membership in the *Society of American Historians*, and the Gold Medal of the *Commonwealth Club of California*.

This event is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact the Torrance Public Library Administration Office at (310) 618-5889.

THE RHA WEBSITE IS GROWING!

We recently added a list of all recent scholarship recipients, and it's becoming a great place to check out winning landscapes of recent years. It's a good idea to surf to it if you want information on upcoming RHA events, or wish to read the Riviera Reporter newsletter. And it's easy to remember:

www.hollywoodriviera.org

Do you have ideas of general community interest? Submit them to:
webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org

Julian Chasin

OUR APOLOGIES

Due to processing and mailing errors beyond our control, some Riviera residents did not receive their December 2002* newsletter. Also, these newsletters were missing the dues payment information. Check your label on this issue for your current payment status.

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion these errors may have caused.
*If you would like a copy of the last newsletter, you may pick one up at El Retiro Library.

RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2002-2003 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Michael Cotton	791-1985	Immediate Past President	Morgan Tookey	213-680-6568
1st Vice President (Programs)	Heather Hintzen	378-7388	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Darilyn Pilapil	375-9939	Scholarship & Landscape	Virginia Levanas	375-0424
Treasurer	Andrea Perez	378-2744	City Council Liaison	Mary Taylor	378-6673
Secretary	Amy Graham	375-8640	Traffic Liaison	Johnny Tai	791-7465
Newsletter Editor	Chela Cowden	375-8649	Underground Utilities	Nancy Conger	373-9867
Riviera Website	Julian Chasin	373-6314	Planning Commission Liaison	OPEN	
Landscape & Concert	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Historian	OPEN	
Hospitality	Pam Popovich	375-8729			

The Riviera Reporter

P O BOX 1074 • TORRANCE, CA 90505

Please look above your name & address for your dues payment status. Your dues help us to provide scholarships, put on community events such as the Concert in the Park, and promote the Riviera community in our newsletter.

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SCHOLARSHIPS



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

If you live within the Riviera Homeowners Association boundaries, please see your high school counselor to obtain an application for this year's scholarship awards.

Virginia Levanas

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS:

"Continue stressing the importance of picking up after ones' animals. Also, stress the importance of stopping at stop signs – people often sail right through, both old and young."

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In accordance with our bylaws, the Board of Director elections will be held at the May general meeting. Officers are elected on alternating two-year terms. The positions available are: 2nd Vice President (Membership), Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Hospitality, and City Council Liaison.

We encourage members to consider running for office. If you would like to be nominated for a position, please call one of the following members of the Nominating Committee: Doug Holker, Heather Hintzen, or Johnny Tai. Their phone numbers can be found above.

FORMER RIVIERA RESIDENT: TEACHER OF THE YEAR

In October, Connie Baumgardt Blackburn was chosen San Diego County Teacher of the Year (one of 30,000 teachers). Connie was then selected to represent San Diego in the State competition. In January 2003, she received the honorarium of State Teacher of the Year (one of 308,000).

Connie Baumgardt Blackburn attended Riviera Elementary School from Kindergarten through 8th grade. She graduated from South High, El Camino College, California State University Dominguez Hills and received her Master's from California State University Los Angeles.

She now lives in Poway, California along with her husband, two children and five dogs. She teaches at Escondido Union School District.

Congratulations Connie!

Our neighborhood is full of interesting people who have led and are leading fulfilling and varied lives. We invite you to share your experiences .