

RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2003-2004 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Riviera Website	Julian Chasin	373-6314	Planning Commission Liaison	OPEN	
Landscape & Concert	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Historian	Austin Woodward	375-6390
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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The Riviera Reporter

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2003

The Prez Sez...



So how was your summer of active optimism? Did you take that vacation? Did you listen to great music? Did you plant a new garden? My family and I succeeded in having a great summer and I hope all of you did as well. Do you think our collective efforts are working? The economy is showing more signs of increased growth so something is going right out there. I hope to add to the expansion of the economy by expanding our kitchen this fall. Every little bit helps!

In the midst of all this active optimism, I was able to further develop our working draft document outlining the findings of our "mansionization" workgroup. This document is currently receiving input from more expert sources including board members, residents, and city staff. While timing may not allow us to make this the topic of a general meeting until early 2004, we hope to present some of our findings prior to that meeting. This important issue is being considered thoughtfully. As always, we appreciate any insight and information you might have. Please take advantage of our new email address system by emailing me at: president@hollywoodriviera.org. If you are looking for a great way to cap your summer off I strongly

RHA GENERAL MEETING:

Due to scheduling conflicts our next general meeting will be held on November 5, 2003

2003-2004 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of the year again. Your membership dues are very important. They help defray the cost of our newsletter along with the cost of our general meetings on important issues to the Riviera, scholarships and donations to Riviera Schools, and the upcoming Concert in the Park, plus our other community projects.

encourage you to join us on Sunday, September 14th for our annual Concert in the Park. The concert will be at El Retiro Park and will feature great music, great food and great neighbors. We have been averaging attendance of around 200 people the last few years and it has grown to become quite a happening event. There is plenty of room to lay out a blanket and some beach chairs and enjoy the event. There will be activity coordinators sent by the City of Torrance; paid for by the RHA, who will be helping organize games for the kids. The Riviera Sportsman,s Club will be selling beverages and hot dogs. We have included a flyer within this newsletter that you can post on the refrigerator to remind you to keep the date. Bring your family and your friends and enjoy the last weekend before school starts again. It is free for everyone, whether you are an RHA member or not or even a resident of the Riviera.

This concert is a wonderful example of the type of effort the RHA makes to strengthen the bonds of community within our neighborhood. These efforts, along with our holiday concert, newsletters, general meetings, and our scholarships directly support

our community. All of these efforts are made possible by your membership dues.

I respectfully remind you that 2003-2004 membership period dues are now due. Each September, corresponding to the school year our annual \$20 membership dues must be renewed. Please read the membership cycle explanation above the membership form on the back inside page of this newsletter for more details.

If you have been receiving our newsletter for some time and have not yet been in the habit of sending in your dues I would encourage you to take a moment now and send in your membership renewal form. In a neighborhood as blessed as ours I realize that, for most of us, the effort of writing a check and putting it in the mail is more of a barrier than the financial burden of the \$20 dues. For that reason I ask you to take a moment right now and tear off the pre-printed membership form, write a check and put it in the included pre-printed envelope. You can feel good knowing you support our efforts to improve the neighborhood and add a little more sparkle to the Hollywood Riviera, jewel of the South Bay.

UPDATE ON THE 310 AREA CODE



While I was putting the last newsletter together, I called the numbers listed below to object to the 310 split. I recently received a very nice letter from our Congresswoman Jane Harman in response to my calls. For the past several years she has been fighting to avoid a split of the 310 area code. There are steps that can be taken to avoid a split and she and the people listed below have been working diligently to make this happen.

One suggestion is to assign a separate area code for cell phones, faxes and pagers as is done in New York; it works there - it can work here too. Federal officials are claiming that the public doesn't care about the split. If you care, please take a moment and write or call one or all of the following:

1. State Sen. Debra Bowen - 310-318-6994
2512 Artesia Blvd., Redondo Beach CA 90278
2. Rep. Jane Harman - 310-643-3636
2321 Rosecrans Ave. Suite #3270,
El Segundo CA 90245
3. PUC President Loretta Lynch - 415-703-2782
505 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco CA 94102
4. PUC Complaint Line - 800-649-7570

Chela Cowden, Editor

VISIT THE RHA WEBSITE AT: www.hollywoodriviera.org

Join the over 300 Riviera neighbors who have subscribed to the RHA Email Alert to learn about upcoming happenings via your own Email Inbox. Simply visit the RHA website and click on "Join Our Email List" for simple instructions on subscribing to this valuable, *free service*.

Julian Chasin, Webmaster



President Michael Cotton presented scholarship winners at the last General Meeting held in June to: Adam Taylor, Jason Lee, Andrew Herzik and Melissa Albrecht.

2003 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

At the June meeting, the RHA presented scholarship awards of \$500.00 each to:

From South High School:

- Melissa Albrecht, going to UC Davis
- Jason Lee, going to Johns Hopkins
- Adam Taylor, going to UC Santa Barbara

From Chadwick:

- Andrew Herzik, going to Middlebury College

Scholarships are based on academic excellence, participation in school activities such as student government, work experience, athletics, teacher recommendations, and community activities.

WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

THE REJUVENATION OF TORRANCE BEACH

Been to the beach lately? If so, you've witnessed the fruition of several years' planning and effort to make Torrance's stretch of beach the envy of all Santa Monica Bay.

Hungry? Check out the new snack shack. It was going to be a simple remodel job, but you know what can happen when you start peeling away the walls. There was so much deterioration to the structure that it had to be torn down and started over. Remember the old steps that were crumbling into Pompeiiian-class ruins? Replaced with a beautiful sleek design for making your grand weekend rendezvous with your jogging buddies. If your vehicle of choice or necessity is a wheelchair, you now have an ADA-compliant ramp with all the appropriate grades and landings. During the makeover, buried remains of the old Redondo Beach Club unexpectedly had to be excavated and removed. Prefer a clean ocean to swim in? Unseen but much appreciated, new pollution removal devices will filter out and remove much of what heretofore flowed from our streets into our precious seas. Wait, there's more: Miramar Park is in the process of getting a newly seeded grass area and in weeks to come will be furnished with new benches, a refurbished porpoise statue, and other long-awaited improvements. Newly planted Japanese black pines were chosen for consistency with the existing pines; their low-growing nature will beautify without obstructing views from nearby structures.

Perhaps the most exciting development is the installation of native plant habitat such as coastal buckwheat and sages. These and other plants will nourish the local bird and butterfly species, notably the depleted El Segundo blue butterfly. You can start to see the beginnings of this replanting effort along the new vehicle ramp which descends to the snackbar and lifeguard building. As time goes by, numerous agencies and local volunteers will be working together to sustain and expand this restoration of our wild, golden Californian heritage. The effort along the Torrance bluffs will soon be accompanied by a nearby 2 acre demonstration project in Redondo Beach to replace the ice-plant there with natives also.

There will be numerous opportunities for volunteers to get involved with these projects and educational opportunities for nearby schools whose students can witness a true reversal of the degradation visited on our local coastline. Come see for yourself and enjoy our local glories on this unsurpassed edge of our continent.

Submitted by Julian Chasin

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SOME INTERNET RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT:

- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission: <http://www.santamonicabay.org> (click on Programs and Projects)
- LA County Dept of Beaches and Harbors: <http://beaches.co.la.ca.us>
- City of Torrance Engineering Dept: <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/city/dept/eng/enghome.html> (click on Environmental Programs)
- The Urban Wildlands Group: <http://www.urbanwildlands.org>
- PV/South Bay Audubon Society: <http://www.lmconsult.com/pvaudubon/index-f.html>
- Calif Native Plant Society: <http://www.sccnps.org/>
- California Coastal Commission: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov>
- and our very own RHA web page on recent beach developments: <http://www.hollywoodriviera.org/Beach/>

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



Plant restoration



The new ramp



Hydro seeded turf



The new lifeguard/police station/snack bar

→

TAKE NOTE OF THE DATE. COME AND HELP CLEAN UP OUR BEACHES!

SEPT. 20TH
9 am to Noon

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.

RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2003 - 2004

If the information on the mailing label is correct, 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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.

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.

Amount paid:
 \$20 (annual) + \$____ (Other) = Total \$____
 Check # _____ Check Date _____

How did you learn of the Riviera Homeowners Association?

Comments: _____

STORM DRAINS PROJECT

A year long construction project by LA county has just commenced and will affect certain streets in the Riviera over the upcoming year. According to Dick Perkins, Torrance Engineer, the county will be installing a new storm drain system that will run from portions of Palos Verdes thru parts of southwest Torrance. During construction, which began July 28th, portions of Newton, Vista Montana, Anza, Paseo de las Tortugas, Hawthorne Bl., Via Valmonte, etc. will be closed as the road is excavated and the new 4 foot to 7 foot diameter wide piping is installed. The Riviera streets will be affected in the second half of the project.

While placing the new pipe along Vista Montana, one lane will remain open with a flagman during daytime construction. We will provide updates in our newsletter to alert residents ahead of schedule before possible disruptions--i.e. school commuting to Richardson via Newton/Vista Montana and school commuting to Riviera Elementary via Vista Montana and Paseo de las Tortugas. This is a very important project that we even discussed two years ago in the Traffic Commission and the county is using a well known contractor so things should run smoothly and on time.

You can see the map by visiting <http://www.torrnet.com/city/dept/eng/eng-home.html>. Go to Divisions on left margin. Click Project Design and Construction, then click PV-Walteria storm drains.

Submitted by Morgan Tookey

OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE AWARDS



The May Award was presented to Jolee and David Levendusky at 4438 Newton Street. Their spring garden was lush and glorious and packed with many colorful perennials including penstemons, iceland poppies, pansies, lavender, statice, violas and snapdragons. Vega Landscape Service and Jesus Bega have created their 5th winning Riviera landscape!



In June, the Landscape Award was presented to Denise O'Neil at 4114 Paseo de las Tortugas for her cute, cottage garden complete with white picket fence, arbor and rambling roses.

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



The August award went to Kelly Lynch and Jill Fenske at 112 Via Estrellita who call their garden and home "Berkeley at the Beach." They have created a delightfully naturalistic landscape that perfectly complements the Arts and Craft style of their remodeled home. Enter through a cedar arbor and meander down a chunky stone path into a garden filled with the grasses and perennials that are typical of this style and embrace simplicity and a harmony with nature.

The Riviera Homeowners Association
presents the

6th Annual Free

Concert in the Park

Sunday, September 14th

2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

El Retiro Park

Vista del Parque

This year we proudly present the
Country and Rock Music of

**Debra Lee &
Trigger Happy**

Bring your dancin' shoes!

This band ***ROCKS!***

Bring a picnic...

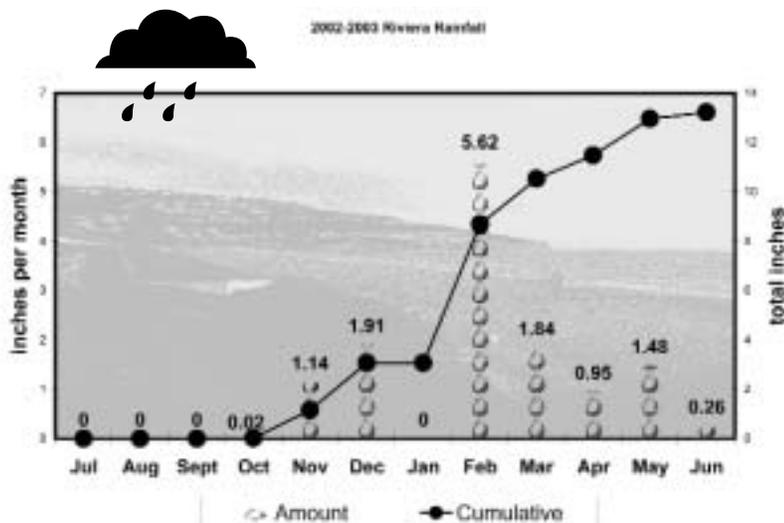
Bring the family...

Bring the neighbors!

Hot dogs and refreshments will be
for sale. All proceeds benefit the
Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club

With thanks for the cooperation of the
Torrance Parks & Recreation Department

MORE WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:



RAINFALL IN THE RIVIERA

The rainfall for the July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 period was back to normal. Where the year before we had a record low of 4.25 inches, this year we had 13.22 inches. Recognizing that the rainfall is different depending on your location in the Riviera, these measurements were taken on Via Los Miradores. The instruments were upgraded this year to a Davis Rain Collector II. It made it a little easier than going out and checking the rain gauge at midnight during a storm to get the measurement. The year started off slow. Feb '02 - Oct '02, we had a total of less than 1 inch of total rain. Finally in November we had four rain days resulting in 1.14 inches. By December, we had six days of rain for a total of 1.91 inches. It brought a good snow base to our mountains. However, it was short lived because we had no measurable rain in January, normally our wettest month! February came thru strong and we had the greatest amount of rain in a single day, February 12th when it rained 3.27 inches. With more than another inch falling the day before and the day after. February's total was 5.62 inches. We had another healthy rainstorm in March, when it dumped 1.77 inches. It rained only one day in April for almost an inch and then two good days in May for about one and a half inches. We had a few freak showers in June that carried over to July, but that will be in this year's rainfall measurements. We had an average rainfall for 2002/3. This year predictions show a return to a neutral phase away from an El Niño. I think we will have at least an average rainfall this year (we have already had .3 inches this summer).

Doug Holker

COASTAL GARDENING IN THE RIVIERA

Ric Dykzeul gave a very informative presentation and answered questions from an eager crowd at the last general meeting held in June. Mr. Dykzeul spoke at length about all the issues we have to deal with here in the Riviera, and everyone was busy taking notes. He also distributed a flyer touching on all the points people should keep in mind for gardens.

Ric, a noted landscape designer and consultant, was the plant buyer for the Begonia Farm Nursery for 20 years.

He can be reached at:
(310) 530-9102



RicDykzeul attracted a good turnout at the June General Meeting.

MEMORIES

The June 21st memorial service for Bill Geissert brought a flood of memories for your Historian – most notably of how my wife and I happened to become Riviera residents.

In 1954, I took a job with Union Oil Company at its headquarters in downtown L.A. Moving back here from out-of-state, Rosalie and I (both Pasadenans) decided to rent in Manhattan Beach. I joined a carpool that started in PV, meandered up the coast (this was before the Harbor Freeway) got to me in MB and then headed for L.A.

Some months later, one of the carpool members, Bill Geissert, mentioned that, if we were interested in buying a place, there was a new tract going in near his home in the Riviera. We found a lot that had a marvelous view. We bought, and moved in a few months later in 1955 when the home was completed.

Soon after we moved in, Bill's wife, Katy, came calling to enlist Rosalie's aid with a project she was engineering: I think it was a cooperative nursery school for our young children. Well, that was the first of a host of community activities that Katy Geissert got us involved in.

Katy got Rosalie into the League of Women Voters, and that led to a study of city planning, which led to a planning commission appointment, which led to a post with the Planning Department where she wound up after several years in a key assistant director's post. As for me, Katy got me into the Ken Miller for Mayor campaigns, and then into her own campaigns for City Council and Mayor, and much more recently into work for the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, which sponsors annual series at the James Armstrong Theatre and other events.

In looking back, I have come to the conclusion that Katy – probably the Riviera's most distinguished citizen – was one of the most remarkable individuals I have know in a long, long lifetime. She certainly had a big impact on our lives. Katy is no longer with us. Neither is Rosalie, my wife and partner of 50 years. But their impact on the community lives on as do the memories also.

Austin Woodward