

# The Riviera Reporter

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2004

## The Prez Sez...



Howdy Neighbors,

We are back in the swing of things again. How was your summer? Our family had a great vacation in June to Yosemite. We also scheduled a trip in early September to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, but Mother Nature had other ideas: Hurricane Frances. Instead, we settled for a two-day trip to Disneyland. It was great and a lot less expensive than the jaunt to Florida for a week. Speaking of expensive, we are nearly half way through our kitchen remodel. My wife, Erin, is amazing; she is running a household with three kids (four if you count me) with a temporary kitchen made up of a tabletop electric burner and a microwave. She cleans dishes by hand in the garage sink, makes the kids' lunches for school while simultaneously picking out tile and designing kitchen cabinet layouts. I have met high level corporate CEOs with less multi-tasking acumen than her. She is the reason our household functions.

On another note, I spent a lot of time this summer speaking on behalf of the RHA to the City Council. I spoke out in favor of the 45 day moratorium on development of residential projects with greater than two units. I was very pleased when that measure eventually passed. I also was prepared to speak out strongly against the proposed Riviera Colony condominium

## RHA GENERAL MEETING:

**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, October 20, 2004 – 7:00 P.M.

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

**AGENDA:** MANAGING GROWTH IN OUR CITY

Scheduled participants include: City Council members Hope Witkowsky and Ted Lieu; Developer Doug Maupin; and a representative from the League of Women Voters, plus more.

project on PCH and Camino de las Colinas. The project was submitted with two significant variances for height and FAR (size). The plan was approved by the Planning Commission, however just moments before the developer, Doug Maupin was to present the plan (in response to an appeal) to the City Council, he decided to request a delay. He used that time to confer with myself and the impacted neighbors. He then presented a revised plan that complied with all height and size ordinances. It was a great example of a developer working with the neighborhood and within the framework of the City's building ordinances. I ended up speaking to the City Council in favor of the new, revised compliant project.

In line with all of the action at City Hall, the RHA board thought it would be beneficial to gather up some experts on the subject of development in our City and ask them to share their thoughts and take questions from our residents. I want to invite all Riviera residents to our first general meeting of the year, Wednesday, October 20th, 7p.m. at Richardson Middle School. We are extending invitations to developers, City Council members, City Planning Commissioners, and a representative from the League of

Women Voters. I hope you will join us. Your input is crucial. We all want our neighborhood, the Hollywood Riviera, to continue to shine...like the jewel of the South Bay.

*Michael Cotton, President*



## BEEN TO THE RHA WEBSITE ?

Come take a look for the latest updates on the Riviera or a look back at past issues. It's a great place to check out winning landscapes of recent years and get information on upcoming RHA events. Do you have ideas of general community interest? Submit them to: "webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org".

*Julian Chasin, Webmaster*

# WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE AWARDS



The Outstanding Landscape Award for May was given to the **Rognlien Family at 187 Via Los Miradores**. Their spacious corner lot is screened from the street by rows of coppery, Hopseed Bush, with a colorful border of grasses, Mexican sage, Phormium and a rose garden set off by a handsome brick walkway. Interesting note: with city permission the Rognliens re-routed their front entry and address from Calle Mayor to Via Los Miradores.



The Outstanding Landscape Award for June was given to **Pam and Mark Martis at 116 Via Estrellita**. Their lovely, original Spanish home and garden is framed by an aged and gnarled Nesophilia tree. Their border is filled with Pentas, Lantana, Bougainvillea, Papyrus, Banyan shrubs, Phormium and Yarrow.



The Outstanding Landscape Award for September was presented to **Kathy Yandell and Fred Powell at 316 Via Colusa**. This varied and colorful cottage style garden sits back from the street and high above a broad, velvety expanse of green lawn shaded by mature trees. Highlights of this lively border are Kangaroo Paws, tall Dahlias, Gloriosa Daisies, Iceberg Roses, Ivy and Cranesbill Geraniums, and huge pots of Coleus by the front door. Interspersed are a garden angel and fence fragments. Don't miss the striking wooden Harry Potter Witch on the porch beam. Kathy is the owner/operator of Inner Gardens.

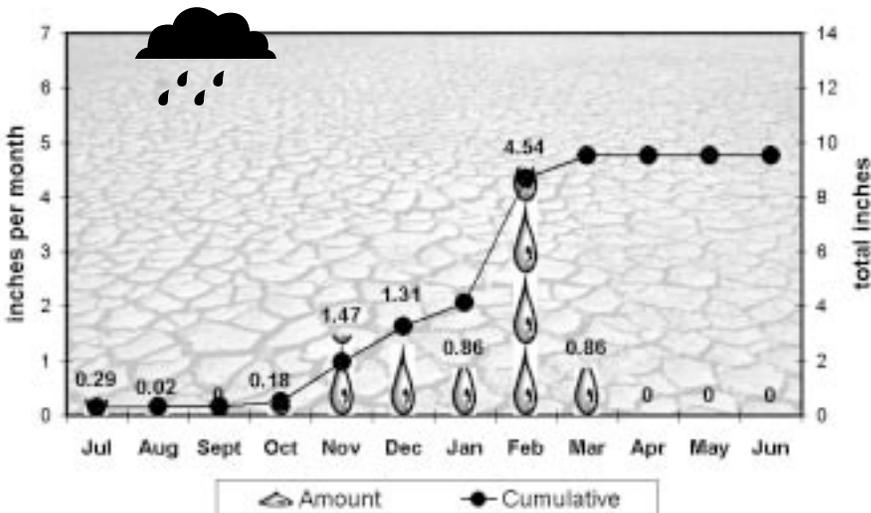
*The Landscape Awards are presented by: Ruth Vogel, and Mary Lenihan for the RHA and Toni Sargent for the Riviera Garden Club.*



The Outstanding Landscape Award for July was presented to the **Rocchio Family at 155 Via La Circula**. Their newly remodeled ranch style home is framed by a large Brazilian Pepper tree and 3 white Birch trees, with a border of Society Garlic, Lavender, Salvia Chiapensis, and Iceberg Roses.



The Outstanding Landscape Award for August was presented to **Pamela and Jim Quinn at 263 Calle de Andalucia**. Their drought resistant, Mediterranean style garden is highlighted by Jerusalem Sage, Lavender, Pennisetum Rubrum, Westringia, Mexican Sage and Bougainvillea.



## RIVIERA RAINFALL 2003/4

The rainfall for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 was below normal. Last year we had 13.22 inches (Normal is about 14 inches) and this year we only had 9.53 inches. Recognizing that the rainfall is different depending on your location in the Riviera, these measurements were taken on Via Los Miradores. I calibrated the Davis Rain Collector II with help from John Sellars. Disparity of rainfall in LA was not more evident than last year, on November 12th, when some cities in the LA Basin had 7-9 inches of rain over a five-hour period. During that same day, the Riviera had 1.15 inches

The year started off fast, with three days of monsoonal rains in July and one in August. The winter rains were often but not too heavy (about 3 inches). There were 17 days of rain in the Oct-Dec timeframe. This mitigated the potential for heavy mudslides after an unforgiving fire season. It was also good for an early ski/snowboard season. There was minimal amount of

rain in January. February was the strongest month: 4.54 inches with 2.94 inches in just one day (2/25). It rained three more days in March and we have not had any rain since then. That's six months of no rain!

We had a below average rainfall for 2003/4. This year predictions show a return of an El Niño condition, which could mean a wetter winter. I hope we will have at least an average rainfall this year.

*Doug Holker*

# MORE WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



## CONCERT IN THE PARK 2004

It was a beautiful day; Mother Nature was good to us. The sounds of blues and the laughter of children wafted through the air. A good time was had by all who came to listen, relax, visit and picnic in El Retiro Park on September 12th. This was the seventh annual Concert in the Park hosted by the Riviera Homeowners Association. Thanks to Margherite Vetrano who directed the event.



**SAVE  
THE DATE!  
DEC. 8TH**

The RHA will present the Annual Holiday Children's Concert on December 8th at the Richardson Middle School Cafeteria at 7 p.m.



## HOME TOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The RHA is seeking volunteers to help plan a home tour, but we need your help. We have a variety of needs such as sponsorship, publications, parking logistics, hospitality, floral, advertising and docents. All are important and without your support we will not be able to have this tour.

Please contact Heather Hintzen if you are able to assist.

# EARLY RIVIERA AIRFIELD



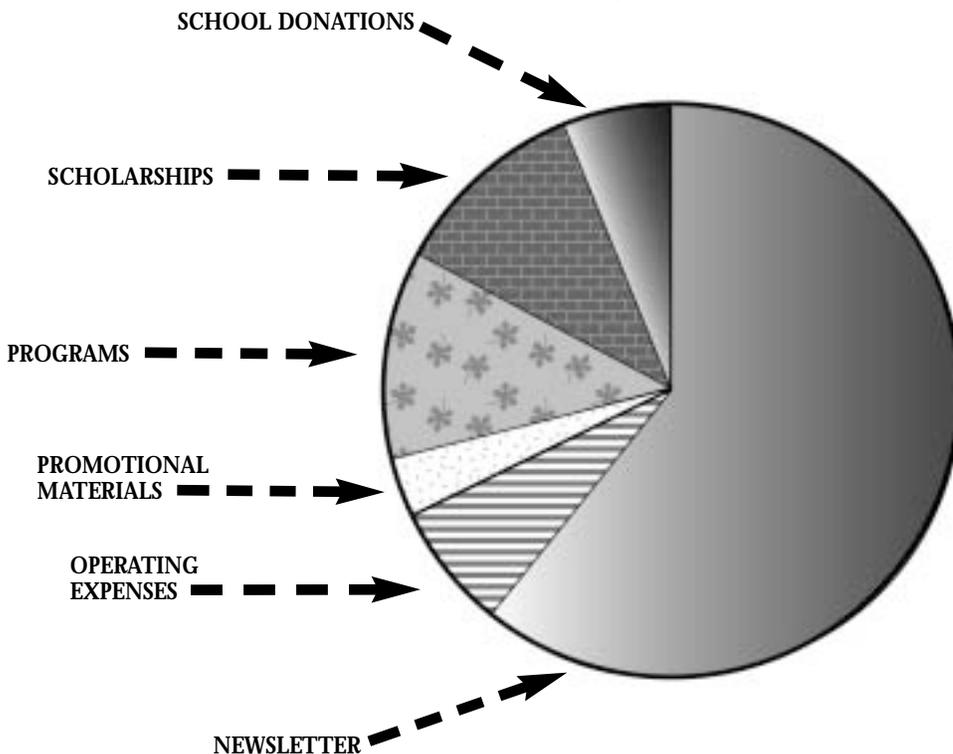
This rare old photograph, said to come from the files of the photo studio that provided publicity pictures for the original Hollywood Riviera development, shows the hilltop site near the Palos Verdes tree section that served as a sometime air strip and glide field. The hilltop was a popular glider take-off point circa 1932-34, but powered flights like this were more unusual.

*Austin Woodward, Historian*

## 2004-2005 BUDGET

The RHA fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31. The pie chart below is a graphic representation of the 2004-2005 estimated budget expenditures. The total estimated budget is \$16,400.00. As you can see, the majority of our budget goes toward publication and posting of the newsletter. For more detailed information, please contact me.

*Submitted by Andrea Perez, RHA Treasurer*



### NEW OFFICERS

Michael Cotton, President, right, stands with Diane Kuhn, Mailing Coordinator; Andrea Perez, Treasurer; and Ruth Vogel, Landscape.



### A CHECK FOR RIVIERA ELEMENTARY

Michael Cotton and Andrea Perez for the RHA present a check for \$1050.00 to Riviera Elementary School Principal, Christie Forshey to commemorate the school's 50th anniversary.

## 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 2004-2005 business year began on September 1, 2004 and will end on August 31, 2005. 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 2004 - 2005

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: \_\_\_\_\_

The following officers can be contacted through their email at the RHA:

president@hollywoodriviera.org  
newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org

secretary@hollywoodriviera.org  
concert@hollywoodriviera.org

historian@hollywoodriviera.org  
scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org

landscape@hollywoodriviera.org

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of the year again. Your membership dues are very important. Without your membership dues the RHA cannot continue to provide the programs and services we have proudly undertaken. They help defray the cost of our newsletter along with the cost of our general meetings (highlighting important issues to the Riviera), college scholarships, school donations, the annual Concert in the Park, and other community projects. Please support the RHA by sending your \$20.00 annual dues today.

## 2004 RHA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Congratulations to our four scholarship winners – Sarah Keel, Suzanne Paine, Satoru Emori and Matt Gerhardt. Each was awarded \$500 to get them started on their college careers. Sarah Keel of South High is attending Boston College. Suzanne Paine of Notre Dame Academy also decided to head east to attend NYU. Both Sarah and Suzanne are planning to study business.

The engineers of the group, Satoru Emori and Matt Gerhardt, both of South High, are staying local: Satoru is attending UC Irvine, while Matt goes from Spartan to Trojan and is now at USC.

Congrats again to our four winners! We know you're going to be excellent ambassadors of our great neighborhood. Good luck in school!

Also, we would like to remind current high school seniors that the RHA provides annual scholarship awards to graduating seniors who live in the Hollywood Riviera and are planning to attend college. Awards are based on academic excellence, participation in school activities, teacher recommendations and community service. Applications are not due until early 2005; however, it's never too early to plan ahead. Interested seniors can get application information from their college counselor at South High.

Please contact Art Wong, RHA Scholarship Chair at [scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org) if you have any questions, or to learn how to apply if you do not attend South High.



From left: Matt Gerhardt, Suzanne Paine, RHA President Michael Cotton, Sarah Keel, Satoru Emori.

Art Wong, Scholarship

