

# The Riviera Reporter

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2005

## The Prez Sez...



Happy New Year! I hope you all made it through the Holiday Season safely. For those of you lucky enough to squeeze into our Holiday Concert last month, thanks for making it such a success. To all the performers from Riviera Elementary, Richardson Middle School and South High, thanks for your outstanding efforts. The RHA Holiday Concert has become a sentinel event for me each year. It has become the moment that the Season really takes hold of my heart and quiets the rest of the world. I hope it does the same for each of you as well.

So, the election is over and the holidays have come and gone, we can all catch our breath for a moment. OK, that's enough....back to work.

We are starting the New Year with a general meeting on Wednesday, February 16. The details are listed right above this article, on the front cover of the newsletter. We are inviting subject matter experts on two topics; Trees and Undergrounding of Utility Lines. These two topics consistently generate more

## RHA GENERAL MEETING:

**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, February 16, 2005 – 7:00 P.M.

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

**AGENDA:** TREES & UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITY LINES

Jim Osburn, City of Torrance, has agreed to come speak to us about the city's policies with respect to trees. He will bring the pamphlets that discuss the permit process for city trees. Also, Scott Gobble from SCE and someone (as yet unconfirmed) from the City of Torrance will attend and speak about underground utilities.

mail to the RHA than any others. So we will revisit these topics.

I want to strongly encourage you to attend this and all RHA general meetings. I am still a little disheartened by the lack of attendance last October when the topic of our general meeting was "Managing Growth in our City". Two City Council members attended that meeting along with other subject matter experts. I worry that the low attendance level, around 50 people, sends a message to our City Hall that Riviera residents are not engaged in municipal issues.

As President of the RHA, I am often contacted by Riviera residents to counsel them with their specific issues relating to neighborhood development, trees, views, undergrounding utilities and others. I, like all board members, volunteered for this position and I am happy to offer my assistance. My efforts often involve contacting individuals throughout city government, be it the Mayor, City Council members, Planning Commission members, the

Community Development staff, the City Clerk's office and others. While they are all dedicated public servants willing to assist all residents to the best of their ability, they (politicians in particular) are particularly attentive to organizations which represent an active block of voters. Your participation in the RHA, through your \$20 annual dues and attendance at the General Meetings, not only supports our joint efforts, but amplifies the credibility of each of us who work on your behalf with city staff to improve our neighborhoods.

We are all blessed to live in such a great neighborhood. With your continued support and participation, the RHA will work to keep it great. Together we will add to the sparkle of our little Jewel of the South Bay.

*Michael Cotton, President*

# WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## 2004 HOLIDAY CONCERT

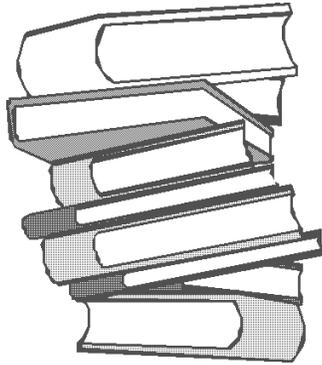
Performers from ① Riviera Elementary, ② The Riviera Instrumental Band, ③ Richardson Middle School and ④ South High regaled us with an evening of outstanding holiday music. After the performances, Santa came by, as is his custom, and distributed the much sought after candy canes!



# MORE WHAT'S UP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

## TWO MEMORIES OF THE EARLY RIVIERA

One of our neighbors, Armand La Point, had a large collection of Indian artifacts, bowls, dolls, pestles, arrowheads and baskets and he would sit us kids down and tell us about the Indians that once lived where we now lived. He told us of the Indian burial ground that was down near the Torrance Beach (it was later uncovered when they began construction on Parkway Elementary School). This of course set us on the idea to dig for tubers and we felt ambitious enough to dig horseradish. Whether they were actually horseradish or not, I will never know but we would spend hours at the task collecting all sizes from small to extra large. There was never a shortage of boxes and extra pieces of wood, so we set about constructing a roadside stand to display our vegetables. We set up our makeshift road stand on Monte d'Oro and Via Pascual, and offered our vegetables for sale. Occasionally, someone would stop and inspect our goods but we never made much money, if any at all.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT EL RETIRO LIBRARY

**February 8, Tuesday, 4 pm**

Join us to welcome the Year of the Rooster with stories, crafts, Chinese folk dancing and more.

**March 1, Tuesday, 4 pm**

"Little House In The Library: A Laura Ingalls Wilder Celebration." Stories, crafts and music.

**May 5, Tuesday 4, pm**

"Poetry In The Park". More details later.

*Submitted by Tina Chen  
El Retiro Library 375-6588*

## RIVIERA RAIN TOTALS

We are experiencing one of the wettest rain years in recorded history. At the time of this newsletter being published, we had 16.92 inches of rain and seven inches in just the first half of January. It has rained 30 days during the last three months.

The single wettest day so far was December 28th, when it rained three inches. Since Christmas, we have had 11.2 inches of rain. Rain totals are different throughout the city and the county. Flying over the area, one could see suspended sediment flowing into the ocean at all river mouths. The ocean was brown from Long Beach to Catalina Island and most of the Santa Monica Bay. The rivers, reservoirs and settling ponds are all full. The area has seen water spouts, flooding, and landslides. Mother nature is painting a landscape and using all the different media at her disposal.



Should be a good year for ground cover growth and lots of fuel for the fire season. Outlook: 81 degrees and sunny tomorrow, next week ???

*Submitted by Doug Holker, Past President*



One of our favourite places to launch a new adventure was to set out for the polliwog swamp. To us young ones, it was right out of the pages of Mark

Twain. It was just what the name inferred: it was a swamp with mounds of tules and cat tails, bunches of tall grass and the water was loaded with polliwogs. There were always planks and boards laying around (probably brought there by the older kids) and thus we would set out with poles in hand to conquer the swamp. After we grew tired of the raft, we would gather the jars which we always brought along to catch as many polliwogs as we could carry home being careful to only catch the ones that were almost developed into frogs as the young ones never seemed to survive. We enjoyed sitting at home and watching the final stages of development until they were ready to leave the water for our backyard. The frogs never seemed to get the idea that they were supposed to stay home, so it finally became as it was in the days of Egypt: the frogs became so numerous around the neighborhood that our parents and neighbors decreed that we could no longer import the little critters. But, to their dismay and our delight, they hung around for many years to come.

*Submitted by Mildred Garvey, written by her son, Robert John Garvey II*

## HELP WANTED – ASAP

The RHA is looking to fill two positions immediately: Traffic Coordinator and City Council Observer.

Join the RHA board and make a valuable contribution to your neighborhood.

Contact President Michael Cotton for more information.

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**SUPPORT  
YOUR  
LOCAL  
LIBRARY!**

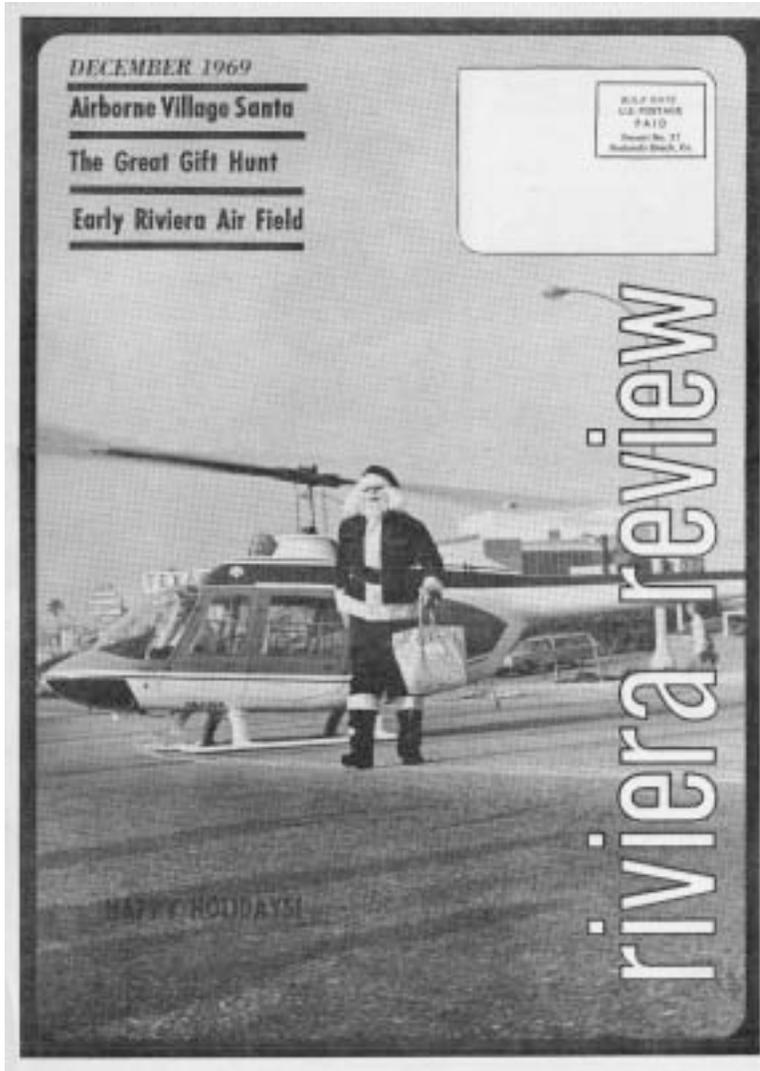
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## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

"Please watch your speed. Remember, we're driving through our neighborhood."

# DO YOU REMEMBER THE *RIVIERA REVIEW*?



Riviera Homeowners Association board members Pam Popovich (Hospitality) and Andrea Perez (Treasurer) do. The *Riviera Review* was a direct mail tabloid shopper that Pam's late husband (Andrea's father), John Popovich, created in November 1967. John had an advertising business in Riviera Village, and he used the publication mainly to carry ads for his prime client, Howard's Market, but it also featured ads for many other village businesses and a smattering of news items and features. Your Truly knows it too. I took over the monthly publication in 1969 and published it until early 1970, when I had to let it lapse due to other commitments. It never was much of a money-maker, what with the heavy overhead cost of mailing to readers in South Redondo, the Hollywood Riviera, and parts of Palos Verdes and Torrance, but it was great fun to publish and I gave it up reluctantly. (I did try to sell it, but drew no takers.)

Show here is the cover photo featured on the December 1969 issue showing Santa (played by Redondo Beach City Councilman Robert Westerfield) as he landed at the new Riviera Village Park at Catalina Avenue and Palos Verdes Boulevard in a "surprise" visit during the park's dedication festivities on December 6.

Preceding the dedication ceremonies there was a parade through Riviera Village featuring the South High Spartan Band. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Robert Reis, President of the Riviera Park Committee that raised funds for the park from private contributions of citizens and local businesses and the municipal support of Torrance and Redondo Beach, the two cities whose lines were straddled by the mini-park. The mayors of both communities spoke at the dedication, Girl Scouts served refreshments to the crowd, and then Santa made his dramatic mid-street entry in a helicopter furnished by North American Aviation.

*Submitted by Austin Woodward, Historian*

## *The Garden Report*



A blast of winter settled in on our Riviera gardens, and the soil is too cold and waterlogged to work in. Although the 80 degree mid January temps may have changed that. Nevertheless, it is time to prune the roses and get them off to a good start for this year. Prune them, then take off all the old leaves and clean away the old mulch and leaves. Give them a good spray with a lime sulphur solution or dormant horticultural spray and apply the following rose cocktail per plant (as per Ric Dykzeul, noted area landscape architect, designer and gardening teacher):

### **Rose Cocktail**

1 cup gypsum (not gypsum)

1 tbsp. each of: iron chelate, soil sulfur, epsom salts

Water in well, mulch & fertilize when green sprouts appear and then monthly till November. You should be well rewarded at bloom time. Epsom salts can be bought cheaply at drugstores. The other ingredients are available at Armstrong, Rolling Hills or Elwood Nurseries. You can also buy the pre-mixed concoction in a bag for 10 roses for about \$7 at Rolling Hills Nursery. Well worth it! Apply this rose cocktail only once a year. Happy Gardening.

*Submitted by Ruth Vogel, Landscape*

## 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

secretary@hollywoodriviera.org

newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org

concert@hollywoodriviera.org

historian@hollywoodriviera.org

landscape@hollywoodriviera.org

scholarships@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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 2005 RHA SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Attention high school seniors!

We would like to remind all high school seniors that their RHA Scholarship applications are due.

- For South High seniors, the RHA Scholarship Committee will work directly with your scholarship counselor. Your application should already be submitted to your counselor.
- If you attend another Torrance Unified high school, please have your scholarship counselor contact the RHA Scholarship Chair at the email address or phone number below. Your application should already be complete.
- If you attend a high school outside of Torrance Unified, please contact the RHA Scholarship Chair at the email address or phone number below. We will forward to you a Torrance Unified School District scholarship application form. Your application is due March 15, 2005.

To be considered, the minimum application requirements are 1) you live in the Hollywood Riviera, 2) you plan to attend college, *and* 3) you are in the top 25% of your class or have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Awards will be based on academic excellence, participation in school activities, teacher recommendations and community service.

Please contact Art Wong, RHA Scholarship Chair, at:

[scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org) or 310-795-0289 for additional details.

*Submitted by Art Wong, Scholarship*

## 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

*A very important reminder:*  
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.

# RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2004-2005 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Michael Cotton	791-1985	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
1st Vice President (Programs)	Heather Hintzen	378-7388	Scholarship	Art Wong	375-1741
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Bob Hoffman	378-7108	Traffic Liaison	OPEN	
Secretary	Amy Graham	375-8640	City Council Reporter	OPEN	
Treasurer	Andrea Perez	378-2744	Underground Utilities	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Chela Cowden	375-8649	Planning Commission Liaison	OPEN	
Webmaster	Julian Chasin	373-6314	Historian	Austin Woodward	375-6390
Landscape	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Mailing Coordinator	Diane Kuhn	375-6367
Hospitality	Pam Popovich	375-8729	Programs Coordinator	OPEN	

## The *Riviera* Reporter

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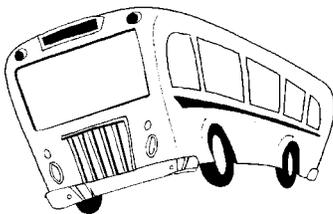
Please look above your name & address for your dues payment status. Your dues help us to provide scholarships, put on community events such as the Concert in the Park, and promote the Riviera community in our newsletter.

Dated material • Open immediately

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## CITY STUDYING RV/TRAILER STREET PARKING PROBLEMS

**THEY,RE A TRAFFIC HAZARD! THEY,RE UNSIGHTLY!  
THEY IMPEDE TRASH PICKUP AND STREET CLEANING!  
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO PARK  
ON OUR STREETS!**



These are just some of the objections to RV, mobile home, and trailer street parking that Riviera residents and others throughout the city were given the opportunity to voice in a two recent public meetings.

Although most of the attendees were opposed to street parking of the problem vehicles, others suggested solutions such as some sort of permit system that would allow limited parking. As might be expected, there are strong opinions on both sides of the issue.

Current Torrance Municipal Code stipulates that no motor or other vehicle can park on any roadway in the city for a greater period than one hour if the total weight of the vehicle exceeds 8,000 pounds. Also in the Code: no vehicles can be parked on city streets for more 72 hours without being moved.

The Community Development Department staff is summarizing comments made by residents and will forward them to the Traffic Commission when it meets on Monday, February 7th at 7 p.m. in the West Wing Commission Room, 3031 Torrance Blvd. The commission then is expected to direct staff to bring back recommendations which, in turn, may involve additional public meetings.

*Submitted by Pam Popovich, Hospitality*

## BEEN TO THE RHA WEBSITE ?

In the past year, I've taken on the task of posting online all of the RHA's newsletters. Go to: [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org) and click on the Riviera Reporter link on the left; you will find the association's newsletters going back to 1970. Browsing through this legacy of neighborhood activism and activity, you'll find references to many of the same issues that affect us today: growth, traffic, schools...you name it. You may recognize some familiar names, or come up with some ideas for improving the neighborhood that have lain dormant. In addition to providing a resource for the association, think of this extension of the website as being a place to learn of a history that you might not have known existed.

As always, if you have any suggestions for the RHA website, or contributions to submit, please email them to: [webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org). I'm especially interested in filling in the missing newsletter editions that might just be stashed in your attic!

*Submitted by Julian Chasin,  
Webmaster*