

# THE RIVIERA REPORTER



October 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



*The Prez Sez...*

**RHA President,  
Michael Cotton**

I'm excited about the beginning of another year for the Riviera Homeowners Association - my last year as President.

There's a lot happening in our beautiful community - the familiar sight of moms & dads walking children to school, local beaches have cleared out, yet the weather remains summer-like & beautiful. Of course, Doug Holker (our Past President & local rain expert) thoroughly enjoyed the uncharacteristic lightning & thunder storm we experienced last month!

The new year also brings with it some changes within the Riviera Homeowners Association organization. We have 2 new RHA Board members & we've had to say goodbye to 3 great contributors! Thank you to Chela Cowden, Amy Graham & Heather Hintzen for your contributions to RHA. You will be missed!

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Our email distribution is used infrequently to notify residents of important dates or issues.

All of your personal information is kept private and will not be distributed to anyone.

Go to the RHA website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org) and click on "Join Our Email List".

## RHA GENERAL MEETING

### TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE FORUM

#### Why You Should Attend:

The upcoming BOE election could be one of the most important in TUSD history. TUSD continues to face difficult financial times and has gone through many recent changes. This is your chance to meet the BOE candidates, hear their vision for TUSD, ask them tough questions about how they will help our schools and our community!

**Wednesday, October 26, 2005—7:00pm**

**Richardson Middle School Cafeteria**

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

#### The RHA Board is pleased to introduce our 2 new members:

**Laura Kistemaker - Newsletter Editor:** As of this edition, Laura has officially taken over designing & editing the "Riviera Reporter". Laura has lived in the Riviera for 6 years. She & her husband, Eric, have 2 children at Riviera Elementary. Laura's involvement in our school district along with her background in design & marketing are already proving to be very valuable!

**Darcey Earhart, 1st Vice President, Programs:** Darcey is responsible for organizing RHAs community programs such as the Concert in the Park & our General Meetings. She & her husband, Eric, have 1 child attending Riviera Elementary & have lived in the community for 4 years. Darcey brings with her a very beneficial background in advertising & marketing.

#### The "Riviera Reporter's" New Look:

As you can see, "The Riviera Reporter" has a new look. As RHA's main vehicle of communication with the Riviera community, we look forward to your feedback & suggestions about content & design. Please send your comments, questions or views on how we can continue to improve it to:

[newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org).

#### New RHA Logo & Decal:

We are also pleased to announce the launch of a new RHA logo & decal. When you make your \$25 annual dues payment you will receive a free decal! (See page 5 for more details).

I'm confident, it will be no time at all before you'll see them on vehicles throughout the Riviera. Everyone is going to want one! *(Continued on Next Page)*

## THE PREZ SEZ (continued from Page 1)

### General Meeting—BOE Candidates

Our General Meeting will be a TUSD Board of Education Candidate Forum. You'll get to meet the candidates and learn about their qualifications & their vision for TUSD. This is a great opportunity to become an informed voter!

Finally, I'd like to thank you in advance for your timely dues payment. Your dues & donations support our programs, scholarships, communications & promote our great community! Together, we'll continue to work to ensure that the Riviera remains "the jewel of the South Bay"!

## RHA HAS FOUR BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- Historian
- Hospitality Programs
- Secretary

If you're interested in joining our team contact me at: [president@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org)

## A BIT OF RIVIERA HISTORY...

Thanks to Mildred Garvey for this advertisement below from a 1940s (we think) promotional flyer for the Sea View development. Mildred purchased one of the original newly-built Sea View homes. Can you picture this area today?

## CHANGES IN STORE FOR TUSD by Laura Kistemaker

### New Superintendent

The start of the new school year brings a number of changes for TUSD. The Board of Education has hired a new superintendent, Dr. George Mannon. Dr. Mannon, most recently superintendent of the Glendora Unified School District, began his career in education over 30 years ago. For the past 12 years, he has held superintendent positions in several California school districts.

### Townhall Meetings

The Torrance Parents Organization (TPO) requested that the Board of Education provide the community with a more open forum for discussing district issues. To this end, Dr. Mannon and members of his staff will join members of the Board of Education at a series of townhall meetings across Torrance.

### Upcoming Townhall Meetings:

**West Area Meeting:** Monday Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m., West High Library

**South Area Meeting:** Monday Dec. 5, 6:30pm, South High Cafeteria

**Central Area Meeting:** Monday Jan. 23, 6:30pm, Torrance High Auditorium.

### Board of Education Elections

This fall also brings elections for the TUSD Board of Education. There are 3 open seats. During this challenging time for Torrance Unified it is important to become a knowledgeable and informed voter. Please see the "Mark Your Calendar" box to the left for upcoming candidate forums.

For up-to-date info on Board of Education Candidate Forums, Townhall Meetings & other TUSD activities go to the Torrance Parents Org. website at: [www.torranceparents.org](http://www.torranceparents.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**League of Women's Voters  
BOE Candidate Forum  
Wednesday, Oct. 19th—7pm  
Torrance Civic Ctr.—George Nakano**

**Riviera Homeowners Assoc.  
BOE Candidate Forum  
Wednesday, Oct. 26th—7pm  
Richardson Middle School**

**Northwest Torrance Homeowners  
Assoc. BOE Candidate Forum  
Thursday, Oct. 27th—7pm  
North High Library**

**South Torrance  
TUSD Townhall Mtg.  
Monday, Dec. 5th—6:30pm  
South High Cafeteria**

**WE NEED A HISTORIAN**  
Are you a bit of a history buff or just plain curious about this beautiful & historic place in which we live? Join our team!

## LANDSCAPE AWARDS by Ruth Vogel



**JUNE 2005—The Heskett Residence**  
5312 Calle de Arboles

In June, this cottage garden framed by a white picket fence and a row of white iceberg roses was bursting with yellow roses, New Zealand impatiens, daylilies, guara and hydrangeas.



**JULY 2005—The Crews Residence**  
356 Via Colusa

Donna and Chuck Crews have filled their terraced landscape with verbena, geraniums, kangaroo paws, coreopsis, bacopa, fibre optic grasses and a stunning Wisteria vine.



**AUGUST 2005—The Perron Residence**  
313 Camino de las Colinas

Their lovely mediterranean style home is superbly enhanced by a garden tapestry woven with creeping red fescue meadow grass, kangaroo paws, penisetum rubrum, fescure, mexican feather grass & highlighted by bold phormiums.

Landscape Award: Presented by Ruth Vogel & Mary Lenihan for RHA & Ginnie Schneider & Toni Sargent for the Riviera Garden Club

## 8th ANNUAL RHA CONCERT IN THE PARK

### The 8th Annual Concert in the Park was a rousing success!

Nearly 250 attended this year's event at El Retiro Park!!

Our thanks to Debra Lee & her band, "Trigger Happy", & the Riviera Sportsman's Club.

A very special thanks goes to the City of Torrance and the Community Services Department, led by Gene Barnett & his staff, Mike Wilson, Joyce Bell, Patsy Behan, John Jones & the Recreation Aides, who provided games & activities for the kids.

Thank you also to the Riviera community! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



**Thank You!**  
Your annual RHA dues support this wonderful community event!

## RIVIERA RAIN REPORT by Doug Holker

Wow, what a wet year! We had the 2nd wettest recorded rain year (LA had 37.25 inches). Along with the rain, came power outages, hail, mudslides, lightening storms and flooding. From July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, the Riviera had 30.27 inches.

**From July 1, 2004 to  
June 30, 2005 the Riviera had  
30.27 inches of rain!**

The year started off typical with no rain during the summer. That all changed the last 2 weeks of October when we had 4.21 inches and it rained 9 of the last 14 days!

November rain was below normal and by December, we had minimal rain for the first 26 days and then it poured for a monthly total of 5.33 inches.

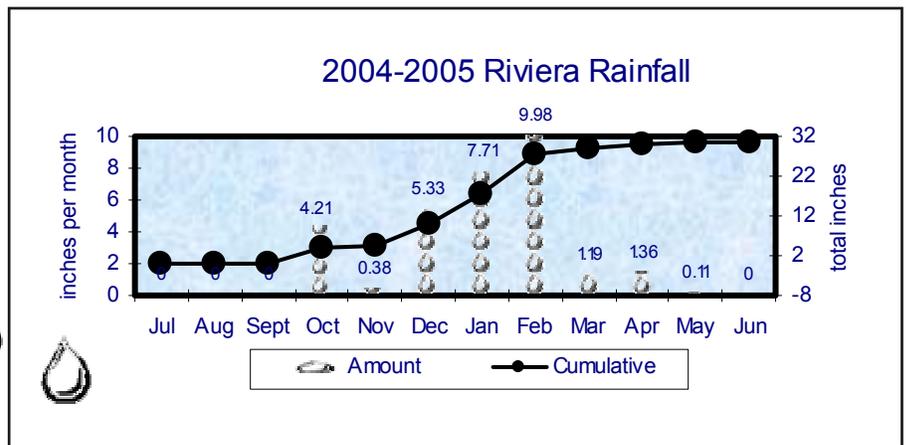
In January it rained 8 of the first 11 days, with a total of 7.71 inches. Com-

bined with the end of December, it rained over 11 inches in 2-weeks—a record (LA had 16.97 inches).

The hardest rains came in February — 8 days with storms producing nearly 10 inches of rain.

We experienced typical months during March & April. Then finished the year with 2 minor rainy days in May.

The summer has been quite pleasant - that's one of the reasons we all live here! This coming year the Farmers Almanac shows a return to a mild, normal rain year—we will just have to wait to see what Mother Nature has in store!



## UPDATE FROM TORRANCE GENERAL PLAN MEETING by Steve Gerhardt

The update of Torrance's General Plan (GP) (long-range planning document that guides land use development for the next 20 years) is proceeding through a series of public meetings before the Planning Commission (PC) with City Council adoption slated for Fall 2006.

The General Plan: 1. Establishes land use designations for private & public land, 2. Establishes policies for growth, 3. Identifies major transportation network improvements & other infrastructure priorities & 4. Enumerates other broad policies.

The City of Torrance was reviewed at several public meetings & 7 areas that need to be updated were identified - none near the Riviera. Land use options for each of these 7 areas were developed by the consultant & the planning staff & presented for consideration by the PC. The PC then re-

viewed the info presented, made adjustments & finally formed a recommendation that these land use changes be presented to City Council as part of the overall GP adoption.

Some recommended changes involved converting commercial lands to medium high residential property. In the past, similar recommended changes generated controversy when brought forward as part of development projects proposed in zones where residential uses wouldn't have been allowed without a change in zoning.

The public pointed out that a policy framework was needed for the new GP in order to make such determinations,

especially given the founding principle of a balance between residential, commercial, & industrial land uses for the City of Torrance.

With important items such as the number of units & type of housing needed over the next 20 years & the conservation of industrial lands to support local businesses unresolved, members of the PC saw the disadvantage of making specific land use changes in advance of discussing the overall policy direction regarding growth and without growth projections.

The next series of meetings will detail important aspects required to enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, shop, & play in Torrance.

**GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

October 26  
November 9  
November 30

For info on the project go to: [www.tornet.com/city/dept/planning/generalplan.htm](http://www.tornet.com/city/dept/planning/generalplan.htm) or contact Steve Gerhardt at (310)614-0258 or [goofoolio@yahoo.com](mailto:goofoolio@yahoo.com).

## NEW RHA "JEWEL OF THE SOUTH BAY" DECAL FREE WITH YOUR DUES

Our new Riviera Homeowners Association Decal will come to you in rich full-color & can be displayed on your car, truck, boat, home, forehead—whatever you fancy!

Imagine, riding up to Mammoth for the weekend & seeing a fellow Hollywood Rivierian driving next to you? It could happen!

Display this decal & show your pride for the beautiful & historic community in which we live—truly "the Jewel of the South Bay"! A special thanks to Chela Cowden, former Newsletter Editor, for creating this great decal!



## RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2005-2006

If the info on the mailing label is correct, please indicate by marking the appropriate box below:

- Continuing Member**—mailing label personal info is accurate (no need to fill in personal info below).
- Continuing Member**—See modifications and/or comments below.
- New Member**—See information below.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Make checks payable to "RHA" & mail in the enclosed envelope with this form to:

**RHA Membership**  
**P.O. Box 1074**  
**Torrance, CA 90505.**

Annual Dues 2005-2006: \$ **25 .00**

Additional Donation (indicate amount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Renewal Guidelines:

Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment info right above your mailing address. The RHA business year coincides with the school calendar. The current 2005-2006 business year began on Sept. 1, 2005 & will end on August 31, 2006. Annual dues received during this period will be counted toward the 2005-2006 year. The RHA doesn't share any personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing & delivery.

### The following RHA officers can be contacted through their email:

<a href="mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org">president@hollywoodriviera.org</a>	<a href="mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org">newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org</a>
<a href="mailto:secretary@hollywoodriviera.org">secretary@hollywoodriviera.org</a>	<a href="mailto:concert@hollywoodriviera.org">concert@hollywoodriviera.org</a>
<a href="mailto:historian@hollywoodriviera.org">historian@hollywoodriviera.org</a>	<a href="mailto:landscape@hollywoodriviera.org">landscape@hollywoodriviera.org</a>
<a href="mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org">scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org</a>	

### JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS YOUR DUES & DONATIONS ARE INVESTED BACK INTO OUR COMMUNITY:

- ☺ Scholarships for graduating seniors from South High and other area high schools.
- ☺ Sponsorship of community events like the Concert in the Park and General Meetings.
- ☺ Promotion of the Riviera community in our newsletter & on our website: [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

## RHA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2006 by Art Wong

2006 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year that the RHA has provided college scholarships to area high school seniors. To date, we've awarded \$17k to 26 scholars!

If you're a high school senior living in the Riviera, are planning to attend college (2 or 4-year programs), & attend South High, contact your college counselor for application info.

If you don't attend South, contact Art Wong, Scholarship Chair at [scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org).

Our awards are based on academic excellence, participation in school activities, teacher recommendations & community service. Applications are not due until early 2006—but plan ahead!

### RIVIERA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB SEEKING NEW MEMBERS!

All male Riviera residents with a desire to promote community improvement & fellowship should consider joining!

For more information contact:  
**Membership Chairman**  
**Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club**  
**P.O. Box 1404**  
**Torrance, CA 90505**  
**Email: [membership@hrsc.org](mailto:membership@hrsc.org)**

# RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2005-6 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Michael Cotton	791-1985	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
1st Vice President (Programs)	Darcey Earhart	465-1737	Scholarship Chair	Art Wong	375-1741
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Bob Hoffman	378-7108	Traffic Liaison	Art Wong	375-1741
Secretary	OPEN		City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	375-8729
Treasurer	Andrea Perez	378-2744	Underground Utilities	Dick Rector	378-5615
Newsletter Editor	Laura Kistemaker	378-9671	Planning Commission Observer	Steve Gerhardt	614-0258
Webmaster	Julian Chasin	373-6314	Historian	OPEN	
Landscape Chair	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Mailing Chair	Diane Kuhn	375-6367
Hospitality Chair	OPEN		Programs Coordinator	OPEN	

## The Riviera Reporter

P.O. Box 1074 - Torrance, CA 90505

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### NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

[www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

## WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO ALL THE WIRES & POLES IN THE RIVIERA? by Dick Rector

Recently, Dick Rector was appointed as the Chairman of the Undergrounding of Utilities Committee. This committee, was formed about 5 years ago with the goal of undergrounding all of those ugly wires & poles that distract from the beauty of our community. At that time, the area was divided into 7 areas, Area 4 was the most active getting over 35% of residents to approve the engineering study.

We are now looking for a Chairperson to head up each of the 7 areas. Hermosa

and Manhattan Beach have completed several undergrounding projects & we'd like to follow in their successful foot-steps.

The estimated costs of undergrounding varies from \$10k to \$25k per lot, & depends on the improvement of your view. Payments can be spread out over the course of years through your tax bill. Please direct your questions on all districts to Dick Rector at 310-378-5615 or email [dickrector@earthlink.net](mailto:dickrector@earthlink.net).

### UNDERGROUNDING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Riviera has 7 areas targeted for the undergrounding of utilities.

A chairperson is needed to head up each of the areas & help us say goodbye to all the ugly wires & poles in our beautiful community.

Contact: Dick Rector (310)378-5615 or [dickrector@earthlink.net](mailto:dickrector@earthlink.net).

## RIVIERA ELEMENTARY—FIRST IN TUSD HISTORY TO SCORE ABOVE 900 ON API!

Riviera is the 1st school in TUSD history to score above a 900 on the Academic Performance Index (API) which measures academic performance & growth of schools in California. RHA wants to congratulate Principal Christie Forshey, her great teaching & administrative staff & all of the Riviera parent volunteers!

For more information on the API and other Torrance campuses go to: [www.api.cde.gov](http://www.api.cde.gov)