

# The RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—APRIL 2006 EDITION



## THE PREZ SEZ...

RHA President,  
Michael Cotton

*It has been my honor to serve for nearly five years as President of the RHA. The RHA will be electing a new President in June.*

It is fitting that one of my final duties will be to facilitate the upcoming Mayoral Candidate Forum at our next general meeting on May 10th. I really enjoy this event and I hope you join us and the candidates. This is a great opportunity to get to know them.

We will be taking questions from the audience, so you may be able to get your question answered directly. You can also submit questions for the candidates at:

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

Also, please take time to read the RHA board's position on the upcoming Torrance Unified bond measure (Measure T). The board has voted to support this increase in property taxes to fund TUSD school's facilities modernization..

I for one see this as the last resort. The problem of deteriorating school properties has not been addressed by politicians representing us at the local, county and state level. I have repeatedly heard that Torrance has been "ripped off" by 1970s-era legislation that takes money from our city and re-distributes it disproportionately to other school districts based on formulas that are not fair and have not been adjusted in decades.

Shame on those who have been elected to represent our interests. Why have the taxpayers of this City had to bear this burden as our schools are disintegrating? We are clearly not being served by those who represent us. I plan to take my frustrations out at the ballot box this June. If you are an incumbent at the state, county or local level and have not addressed this issue, you will not get my vote. I believe that money exists at the state, county and local level that could be better spent on school repair than some of the many wasteful programs our tax dollars are spent on. An ex-

## RHA GENERAL MEETING

### MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

BE AN INFORMED VOTER!

Dan Walker & Frank Scotto Will Answer Your Questions...

Questions will be taken from the audience at the forum or you may submit them in advance to email: [mayorquestions@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:mayorquestions@hollywoodriviera.org)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006

7:00 PM—9:00 PM

RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

**\*RHA MERCHANDISE RAFFLE WILL BE HELD\***

ample of waste is the \$23 million in taxpayer dollars spent to "educate" voters on the need to pass another bond to provide state taxpayer paid universal preschool (Sacramento Bee, March 14, 2006).

This money was spent by the state commission set up to oversee the Prop 10 school bond money voters approved in 1998 spending. Taxpayers should not be paying for this type of campaign. That money could be put to use on school infrastructure. This is the same crowd that is telling us that we do not spend enough on our schools. I resent having my tax

dollars spent to tell me that I do not send enough of my tax dollars to the state.

That being said, we are now in a critical situation with our school properties in Torrance. I tend to trust local bond oversight much more than I do those folks in LA County or Sacramento.

Our schools are important to our quality of life and our property values. This measure will make a difference for our schools, our neighborhood and our children. In turn, they will make the future of the Riviera shine even brighter as the jewel of the South Bay.

## WANTED: PROFESSIONAL EVENT PLANNER!

Help the RHA plan our annual Concert in the Park.  
If you think you're the right one for the job please contact:  
Ruth Vogel at 375-4702 or send an email to:  
[concert@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:concert@hollywoodriviera.org).

## RHA BOARD SUPPORTS TUSD’S BOND MEASURE (MEASURE “T”)

Measure T is the Torrance Unified School District’s proposed bond measure to modernize all TUSD school campuses. If passed, Hollywood Riviera neighborhood schools will receive nearly \$40 million to pay for badly needed facilities upgrades. A few highlights of scheduled projects include:

- upgrading electrical and telecommunications systems
- renovating and/or replacing aging classrooms, restrooms and other facilities
- updating fire and smoke alarm systems, windows, exterior plaster, paint and roofs
- repaving of all hard surfaces and play areas
- new science labs (Richardson) and updated library facilities

The RHA board endorses this measure & encourages Hollywood Riviera residents to support Measure T

Riviera Elementary is earmarked for \$4.7 million, Richardson Middle School \$5.6 million and South High \$28.4 million. The cost for Measure T is not to exceed \$60 per \$100,000 assessed property value (not market value) per year.

The RHA board endorses this measure and encourages Hollywood Riviera residents do their own research (links provided in this article) and support Measure T on June 6th or by absentee ballot. The key reasons we support the TUSD modernization efforts are: (1) TUSD infrastructure upgrades will bring our school facilities up to par with surrounding South Bay communities (who in many cases have passed multiple bond measures in recent years to upgrade their facilities), (2) Modernization will help maintain TUSD’s position as a top school district in California, and, (3) Our cash-strapped and under-funded school district has no other sufficient means of accomplishing such an extensive and badly-needed modernization.

For the complete RHA position statement on Measure T, visit our website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org/Measure T](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org/Measure T). Visit TUSD’s website at [www.tusd.org](http://www.tusd.org) for more information on Measure T including TUSD’s “Facilities Improvement Master Plan” and “Frequently Asked Questions”. You may also stop by any Torrance school office for this information.

### RHA’S NEW HISTORIAN—SUZANNE FRENCH

THE RHA welcomes Suzanne French to our team! She & her husband, Jon, have lived in the Riviera for 7 years. But Jon’s family has lived here since 1951 (about the time the picture below of Riviera Elementary was taken). The Frenches have a 2 1/2 year old son & another one on the way. Her first major responsibility will be to organize the wealth of historical material that the RHA has already accumulated. Once the RHA’s historic collection is sorted & catalogued it will be available to the public at El Retiro Library.

*If you have any Riviera-area “historic” items that you would be willing to donate (or let her copy), please contact Suzanne at 375-1390 or [historian@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:historian@hollywoodriviera.org).*

## A BIT OF RIVIERA HISTORY....TOTO WE’RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE!



Riviera Elementary School—circa 1950’s

### RIVIERA ELEMENTARY

- Opened in 1952
- Sits on 10 acres
- Land bought in 1950 for \$25k
- Construction cost \$595k
- Named for the Hollywood Riviera area which it serves
- Nickname/ Mascot: Roadrunners

*Thank you to Riviera residents, Laura Medina & Kelly Evans of Re/MAX Palos Verdes, for submitting this photo.*

## PAY YOUR DUES & RECEIVE YOUR FREE STICKER!

Did you know you can pay your RHA Annual Dues anytime during the 2005-2006 membership year (September to August) & still receive your complimentary Hollywood Riviera "Jewel of the South Bay" sticker?



## RHA MERCHANDISE: DISPLAY YOUR RIVIERA PRIDE!

RHA Merchandise is available at [www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA](http://www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA). It's a win/win situation! With just a click of the mouse you can purchase high-quality merchandise and support your community. There's a large selection to choose from including shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mug, canvas tote bag & baseball cap.

## RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2005-2006

If the information 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.

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- Please add me to your email alert system for important updates

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

\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Make checks payable to "RHA" & mail to:

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

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

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

Additional RHA Decals (\$3.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(One free decal is included with paid dues)*

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

### RHA STICKER:

- Save Postage! I'll pick up my sticker at the next General Mtg.
- I can't wait! Please mail my sticker to me (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for faster delivery).
- No thank you! I don't want a sticker—save it for another member.

### Membership Renewal Guidelines:

Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment info above your mailing address. The RHA business year coincides with the school calendar. The current 2005-2006 business year began on 9/1/05 & ends on 8/31/06. Annual dues received during this period is counted toward the 2005-2006 year. The RHA doesn't share any personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing & delivery.

## PROPOSED OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

For nearly a year, the Torrance City Council has wrestled with defining a new ordinance to address recreational vehicle, trailer and other oversized vehicle parking on city streets. The goals of the proposed ordinance are to: (1) **Increase traffic safety**—Oversized vehicles and trailer parking on residential streets impede traffic, especially on narrow streets. They also create visual obstacles that reduce sightlines, reducing safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, (2) **Improve community esthetics and livability**— Simply stated, oversized vehicles are eyesores.

The current Torrance parking regulation – TMC 61.6.4, the 72 hour parking limit – is easily skirted and it is very easy for oversized vehicle owners for park on city streets indefinitely. To address this parking issue, the Torrance Traffic Commission is proposing a permit system that limits on-street parking for oversized vehicles. The key elements to the proposed ordinance (as of March 28, 2006) are: (1) Oversized Vehicle Parking Permit (OVPP), good for 24 hours, is required to park an oversized vehicle on a city street,(2) For oversized vehicles registered with the City, applicants may request no more than 3 consecutive OVPPs (a total of 72 hours of parking to load and unload) at one time, and no more than 24 OVPPs within any 90 day period (about 96 OVPPs per year), (3) For out-of-town visitors (vehicles not registered with the City), applicants may request no more than 14 consecutive OVPPs at one time, and no more than 30 OVPPs per calendar year.

Current oversized vehicle owners who register their vehicles with the City by end of year will receive an OVPP that allows them to be "grandfathered" to prior municipal codes. Except for the "grandfathering" provision, the RHA board is in favor of the proposed oversized vehicle parking restrictions. We agree with the Traffic Commission's goals of increased traffic safety and improved community esthetics and livability. For more details about oversized vehicle parking, visit the Torrance Community Development Department's "Traffic and Transportation" page at [www.torrnet.com/370.htm](http://www.torrnet.com/370.htm). If you would like to convey your views on this matter, contact Ted Semaan, Transportation Planner of the Community Development Department at [cddtraffic@torrnet.com](mailto:cddtraffic@torrnet.com) and they will become part of the official record. For the latest developments on the proposed ordinance, call the Transportation Planning Division of the Community Development Department at (310) 618-5990.

# 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
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Landscape Chair	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Mailing Chair	Diane Kuhn	375-6367
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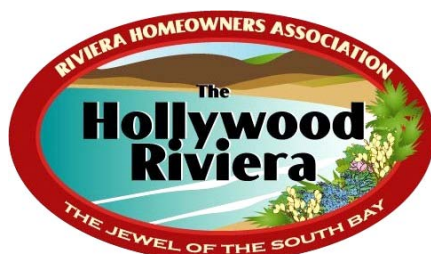
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THE FOLLOWING RHA OFFICERS CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH THEIR EMAIL:

president@hollywoodriviera.org  
historian@hollywoodriviera.org

newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org  
landscape@hollywoodriviera.org

secretary@hollywoodriviera.org  
concert@hollywoodriviera.org

scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org  
membership@hollywoodriviera.org

## RIVIERA LANDSCAPE AWARDS

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



**FEBRUARY 2006- THE WALKER RESIDENCE  
201 PASEO DE SUENOS**

February's Landscape Award was presented to Jon & Shannon Walker. Gently, curving borders feature Lavatera, Lavender, Mexican Sage, Penisetum Rubrum, Daylilies & Primroses.



**MARCH 2006—THE BEHREN RESIDENCE  
245 PASEO DE GRACIA**

March's Landscape Award was presented to The Behrens Family. Their garden is a stunning new Mediterranean landscape, designed by local Landscape Architect Miriam Rainville to complement their Spanish style home. Its brimming with over 40 varieties of mostly drought-resistant perennial flowers, shrubs & trees flanking a courtyard style entry with a flagstone path & a lovely bubbling urn.



**APRIL 2006—THE KALENIAN RESIDENCE  
309 CALLE MAYOR**

April's Landscape Award was presented to Krikor and Georgette Kalenian. Borders of seasonal color are filled with Iceland Poppies, Pansies, Salvia, Lobelia and Snapdragons that artfully frame their rustic stone fish pond