

The

RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—November 2006

From the President...



As you can see, there's been a change! Michael Cotton has retired, and the RHA has a new President. I thought, in this first column, that perhaps I should introduce myself to all of you.

My name is Pamela Maran, and my family has lived in the Riviera since the mid-1950's when we bought our home in the area just above Riviera Elementary School and happily moved in to the new development. My parents were founding members of St. Lawrence Martyr Church, and I attended grammar school at St. Lawrence and high school at Bishop Montgomery, although I also attended the local public schools, Riviera Elementary and South High during the summers as education was the highest priority for my parents. After four years at USC, I moved away to attend graduate school in Arizona and then went on into the wide world to try my fortunes. As many of us have done, I eventually came home to provide companionship and care for my

Mother who, sadly for me, passed away at the end of September.

As you can well imagine, I have seen some big changes in Torrance since the days when we played miniature golf at the Putt-Putt Golf Course on PCH, got our milk from the dairy on Hawthorne Boulevard and manure from the hardware store conveniently located next to the dairy. All of the wide open fields are gone and what once seemed like endless space is now at a premium. Buildings of all kinds have proliferated like rabbits and the landscape once dotted with one-story homes is now a much more complex affair.

The one thing that has not changed is the charm and tranquility of the Riviera section of Torrance. The tree lined streets where I rode my bicycle as a child are essentially the same now as they were then. As I write to you from my girlhood home, it occurs to me that our neighborhood remains an oasis and refuge from a too busy world, and we are all very fortunate to have been able to live in this exceptionally lovely place.

The organization that binds us all together is the Riviera Homeowners Association, which was founded in the mid-1940's. It is by joining together that we have the power to preserve the character of our neighborhood and to make it a safe and happy place to live. I hope that all of you will consider becoming more involved with the RHA and that I will see you at our upcoming meetings.

I also hope to be a good President, and the better I know you, the better chance I will have of doing so! If you have any particular concerns that I can help you with, topics that you would like to see covered at our meetings or new ideas that you'd like us to consider, please feel free to give me a call. I look forward to meeting you and working with you.

RHA Annual Holiday Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 7:00 pm—9:00 pm

RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

Students from Riviera Elementary School, Richardson Middle School, Riviera Hall Lutheran School, and South High School will perform a holiday program.

Mantovani Marker Rededicated



Juanita Mantovani's sister (Pamela Maran) and her mother (Marie Watson) pose next to the newly renovated monument on August 28th after planting flowers. Mrs. Watson, who lived in the Riviera for over 50 years, passed away less than a month after this photo was taken, just prior to her 94th birthday.

We are pleased to announce that the bronze plaque honoring the memory of Robert and Juanita Mantovani has found a new home in the southeast corner of the triangle park bordered by Calle Miramar, Via Estrellita and Paseo de las Delicias in the lower Riviera. The memorial was originally created by the RHA and dedicated by the City of Torrance to the Mantovanis, both dynamic local activists, in a ceremony attended by the Mayor and City Council in June of 1994, when the former Parkway Elementary School site was developed and part of the land was reserved in perpetuity for public use.

Several years ago, the memorial was removed by Riviera Beach Colony for refurbishing and subsequently disappeared. When it was found in June of this year, the RHA had the plaque restored, the City of Torrance offered a permanent location for it, and the plaque was mounted on a beautiful piece of Palos Verdes stone. It was rededicated by family members for public viewing on August 28th, the 18th anniversary of the couple's death.

In addition to being talented educators and committed

environmental activists, Bob and Juanita were very involved in the RHA in the 1980's when Bob served as President (twice), First Vice President, and finally as a Director and Juanita filled in as secretary and newsletter editor. The Mantovanis, long-time residents of the Riviera, were killed in a catastrophic accident in 1988 when they were in their early 40's.

Mark your calendars

2006-2007 General Meetings

December 13 2006

March 21 2007

May 16 2007

All meetings are on Wednesday at Richardson Middle School.

City Council Outreach Meeting
April 17, 2007, South High

Concert in the Park
September 9, 2007, El Retiro Park

Long-time Board member passes away

RHA Board member Dick Rector, a resident of the South Bay since 1955, passed away on September 1st. Dick served as the Underground Utilities Chair for the RHA for many years, and was also involved with the Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club and the Waleria Businessmen's Association. He will be greatly missed for his generous spirit and his sense of humor. We offer our condolences to his daughter Pam and his extended family.

Did you know?

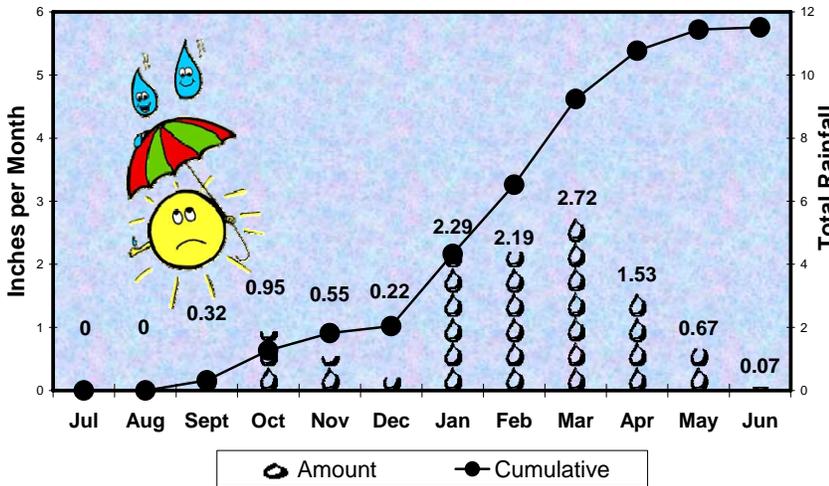
The area now known as the Riviera was developed by the Clifford Reid Corporation in the 1920's. Previously, the property had been owned by the Huntington Land Company, acquired by them as part of the land given to railway companies for creating rail transportation to an area. The look and feel of the original Hollywood Riviera, a mile square tract of land, was found by Reid to be very similar to the French Riviera which he had visited on a European vacation. (Source: Marshall E. Stewart)

City Council Outreach

On Tuesday night, next April 17, 2007, the Torrance City Council will hold a meeting at South High School. This is one in a series of "outreach meetings" scheduled by Mayor Frank Scotto. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. This will be a regular City Council meeting with a somewhat abbreviated agenda so that members of the South Torrance area will have an opportunity to speak with the mayor and council regarding items of local concern.

Riviera Rainfall Report

2005-2006 Riviera Rainfall



Hollywood Riviera experienced a normal rainfall for the period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. We had total of 11.51 inches compared to the average 14 inches, which was significantly less than the 30+ inches a year ago! The Riviera had a total of 40 days when it rained over the past year.

The year started off as a typical Southern California Mediterranean climate where we had no rain throughout the summer until the end of September. Some Tropical depressions moving up from Baja produced two days of spectacular lightening storms. Remember waking up at 3am to the Thunder? October and November produced six days of precipitation, enough to open the ski resorts. December was very dry with only two days of minimal rain (.22"). The New Year brought in some heavy rain/snow. Several feet of snow fell in the Sierras and caused numerous avalanches, closing 395 and causing numerous fatalities in the mountains. After the heavy rains at the beginning of the year, it tapered off until the middle of February. Most of the storms traveled further north and Oregon had above average snowfall. The Riviera had two good storms in late February when it rained 2.19 inches. Compared to over 10 inches in February the year before, when two days produced over 2 inches each, this winter was mild.

The Riviera weather experienced typical months during March and April when it rained 2.72 and 1.53 inches, respectively. Those months experienced the most days of rain with 8 and 9 days. We finished the year with two minor days of rain in May and June. Since June 8th it has not significantly rained in the Riviera. The summer has been quite pleasant with minimal fog, numerous warm sunny mornings and comfortable temperatures. When inland temperatures reach into the triple digits, the Riviera's Mediterranean climate remains temperate.

This year the Farmers Almanac predictions showed a return to a mild, normal rain year. I think they were spot on. Next year the Climate Prediction Center says a weak El Nino is looking increasingly more likely. In its monthly diagnostic discussion, which was released this September, the CPC says: "Recent conditions (weaker-than-average easterly winds over the central equatorial Pacific) and warming trends in observed oceanic conditions support a continuation of ENSO-neutral conditions for the next one to two months, with weak warm episode (El Niño) conditions likely by the end of 2006."

Bottom line, keep your umbrellas handy! -Doug Holker

Riviera Little League Alumni

On Opening Day, Saturday March 3, 2007, the League will unveil a bronze plaque honoring Maurice Wilson, the builder of Wilson Field, which is the home of the Riviera Little League. The League has had many temporary signs commemorating Mr. Wilson's contribution but has never erected something that will stand the test of time. We hope that Riviera Little League alumni will be there to retell the history of building of Wilson Field and their remembrances of Maurice Wilson.

I look forward to seeing you on Opening Day at 10:00 am. Please call at 310-543-2375 with any questions.
 Scott McClure, President,
 Riviera Little League

The speed limit is ... still 25 mph!

Just a friendly reminder: we all need to pay attention to our driving speeds as we zoom around our neighborhood on our narrow streets. It's so easy and fun to barrel down the hill at more than 25 mph, sliding effortlessly around the many curves. But, particularly with schools in session and more vehicles making use of street parking, we all need to take a look at our speedometers and err on the side of caution! Close to our schools, the speed limit is 15 mph

Wanted: Enthusiastic Candidates

The RHA is currently seeking applicants to fill the following Board positions: Secretary, Hospitality Chair and Mailing Chair. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the RHA, please give Pamela Maran a call at 310-375-1423.

“Last Hurrah of Summer” draws record crowd

What do you get when you combine a lazy Sunday afternoon at El Retiro Park, great weather, a top Zydeco band and outrageously good Cajun food? A fabulous time!

This year’s ‘Ninth Annual Concert in the Park’, focusing on a celebration of the culture of the South, featured music by Lisa Haley & the Zydekats and Cajun food from Rajin’ Cajun. With a special appearance by ‘Exhibit A’, a Zydeco dance exhibition and dance lesson taught by Karen Redding, dancing, games for the kids, and hot dogs and sodas provided by the Riviera Sportsman’s Club. The event lived up to its promise of being a fun-filled end to summer for the whole family.

Not only did the concert boast record attendance, with most arriving early and staying until the very end, but the event was expanded from its original low-key picnic format to include participation by a variety civic organizations including the El Retiro and Walteria Libraries, Riviera Garden Club, Save Historic Old Torrance, Torrance Fire Department, Torrance Police Department, Torrance Historical Society and Museum, and South Bay Energy Savings Center. A philanthropic flavor was provided by the Salvation Army, who accepted donations for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and the Jr. Girl Scouts, who sold lemonade and cookies to aid victims of Hurricane Rita.

Going forward, the annual concert will be held on the Sunday after Labor Day, which next year falls on September 9th. Mark your calendars now! If you would like to help with next year’s concert, please give our Special Programs Chair a call.



RHA homeowner chatting with RHA board member at the Concert in the Park.



Torrance fire fighters were a big hit.

Congratulations 2006 Scholarship Winners!

The RHA would like to congratulate our four 2006 scholarship award winners. Each was presented \$500 at our June 2006 general meeting. The award winners, pictured here with Michael Cotton, are:

- James Gilbert, South High, attending UCLA, studying engineering
- Nicholas Heisey, South High, majoring in engineering at Cal
- Connie Huang, South High, attending UCLA, studying biology
- Nicholas Herzik, Chadwick, a pre-med major attending Williams College in Williamstown, MA.



2006 scholarship winners with former RHA president Michael Cotton.

2007 Scholarship Reminder

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. To date, we have awarded \$19,000 to 30 scholars.

Applications are not due until early 2007. However, it's never too early to plan ahead! Interested seniors can get

application information from their college counselor at South High. If you have any questions, or if you wish to apply and you do not attend South High, please contact Gayle Taylor, RHA Scholarship Chair.

RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006-2007

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).
- Continuing Member**—Modifications and/or comments.
- New Member**—Please fill in information.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- 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 2006-2007: \$ 25 .00

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 2006-2007 business year began on 9/1/06 & ends on 8/31/07. Annual dues received during this period are counted toward the 2006-2007 year. The RHA does not share any personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing & delivery.

Riviera Landscape Awards



July 2006 - the Nichman family at 4608 Newton Street

Paul and Jean Nitchman have created a beautiful country garden that harmonizes with their "colonial" style home. It delightfully combines the texture of foliage plants with the color of roses, geraniums, guara, daylilies and more. Note the sidewalk parkway strip that provides an appealing approach through soft set flagstone in gravel surrounded by low growing plants and shrubs.



August 2006 - Wendell and Cindy Johnson. at 316 Via Bonita

Welcome to Wendell and Cindy Johnson. This is a brand new house and garden that has quickly settled into the neighborhood. Chris Canaday of Masterpeace Gardens has created a sophisticated border of color, form and texture that meanders around the entire corner. It is a wonderful flowing blend of salvias, dodonarea, kangaroo paws, daylilies, penstemon, flax and stately liquid amber trees.



September 2006 - Sherry Holladay at 649 Via Los Miradores.

Sherry met the challenge of taming an unruly slope of boring ivy head on! She terraced her hillside overlooking Calle Mayor with pressure treated timbers and planted a robust assortment of grasses that gracefully catch the wind, as well as lavender and iceberg roses.

Landscape Awards are presented by Ruth Vogel for RHA and Ginnie Schneider for the Riviera Garden Club

Visit The RHA Website at www.hollywoodriviera.org . Officer email contacts are available at the website.

Riviera Homeowners Association 2006-7 Officers & Directors

President	Pamela Maran	310-375-1423	Past President	Doug Holker	310-378-8984
1st Vice President (Programs)	Darcey Earhart	310-529-1870	Scholarship Chair	Gayle Taylor	310-375-7038
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Bob Hoffman	310-378-7108	Traffic Liaison	Mike Guidry	310-517-1019
Secretary	OPEN		City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Treasurer	Art Wong	310-795-0289	Underground Utilities	OPEN	
Newsletter Editor	Geneva Martin	310-378-9767	Planning Commission Observer	Steve Gerhardt	310-614-0258
Webmaster	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314	Historian	Suzanne French	310-375-1390
Landscape Chair	Ruth Vogel	310-375-4702	Mailing Chair	OPEN	
Hospitality Chair	OPEN		Programs Coordinator	Pamela Maran	310-375-1423
Immediate Past President	Michael Cotten	310-791-1985			

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, and promote the Riviera community in our newsletter.

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