



The
RIVIERA REPORTER
 NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—December 2007

From the President...

"You get the government that you deserve."



About two months ago, I was having a discussion with a long-time family friend

when she said that to me. It was a statement that really caught my attention. She said that people get the government that they deserve. When I asked her what she meant exactly, she said that if people don't involve themselves in their governments, whether at the local, state or national level, or in their communities, then they are by default leaving all of the decision making up to someone else. They deserve what they get, whether they like it or not, because they haven't participated.

I had never really thought about it before, but it made a lot of sense to me.

It's so much easier to leave the doing of things in our communities, cities, states and yes, at a national level, to someone else. We assume that 'THEY' should do something about the situations that we don't like, be it the traffic on PCH between Hawthorne and Crenshaw, the water that

chronically collects at the corner of Calle de Felipe and Paseo de Pablo, or the folks that speed down Calle Miramar having mistaken it for the Indianapolis 500. We all have our pet peeves, some being more irritating than others, some being neighborhood issues and some being city-wide issues. How many times do we assume that the big "THEY" should take care of it for us without ever considering that "THEY" may not know about it or know that it is important to us?

Residents of the Riviera actually have an organization that can help them with both the neighborhood issues and the city-wide issues and that organization is the Riviera Homeowners Association. We're here to watch out for the neighborhood and to take action when it's needed. The one thing missing is YOUR participation!

I know that all of you are busy. Many families in the Riviera are two-income families these days, which puts time at a premium. However, by being involved with the RHA you are helping to preserve the heritage and value of our neighborhood for yourselves and your children. And, there is more than one way to be involved.

At a minimum, pay your dues. \$25.00 per year is really not that much. It's less than the price of four discount movie tickets. If you pay your dues and would like to be a little more involved, come to our general meetings, held on the third Wednesday of October, December, February, April and June at Richardson Middle School. We try very hard to have speakers that will deepen your knowledge of and appreciation for the community in which you live. If you would like to donate a little of your time, consider helping a Board Member or filling one of our vacant Board positions. We can always use the talents and ideas of more people!

If you have areas of concern, call me or write to me. I can't help you if I don't know that something is a problem. And, if something is a big enough problem for enough of you, we should be letting our City government, which is very responsive, know.

We'll be having a holiday party on December 12th. I hope to see lots of you there! And . . . Happy Holidays!

Save Water By.....shortening your showers by one or two minutes.
 Daily Savings: 5 gallons

Come One! Come All!

RHA Holiday Party - Open House

When? Wednesday, December 12, 6 to 8 pm

Where? Richardson Middle School Cafeteria

Why? Just for fun!

Drop by for some holiday cheer, music and treats
 Visit with your neighbors, Bring the kids (Santa might be stopping by)

Riviera News

The Riviera Homeowners Association invites Riviera residents to submit articles of interest for inclusion in the newsletter. Submissions are subject to editing and will be published at our discretion.

Snowed in at El Retiro Library

Wednesday, Dec 19, 4 pm

El Retiro Library becomes a mountain chalet for an afternoon of snowy stories, crafts, and activities! Come join the fun at this youth activity.

2008 Scholarships

The Riviera Homeowners Association 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. Interested seniors can get application information from their college counselor at South High. If you do not attend South High or have questions, please contact Gayle Taylor, RHA Scholarship Chair, at: scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org.

Our Pines Are Dying

What can we do?

Sadly, many Riviera residents are losing their large, old Monterey pines. The trees are seriously threatened by an epidemic of "pine pitch canker", a fungal disease. This fungus was recently introduced to California from the southeastern United States and is carried from tree to tree by several native insects including the Monterey pine cone beetle, twig beetles and engraver beetles. There appears to be no way to save them. As they are located on the City's easement, the City has been having them removed and replaced, of course, with much smaller trees.

Noting that Crape Myrtles have been planted in a number of locations, some neighbors on Camino del Campo (which has been especially hard hit) met with Judy Emerson, the manager of Torrance's Streetscape Division and a staff arborist to discuss other replacement choices, especially outside of the overlay district.

The Streetscape Division is very interested in increasing the tree canopy in our neighborhood. They share our concerns and are eager to be part of the solution. To that end, the department is working on the development of a master plan: identifying dying (or dead) pines and determining the best tree for the affected location.

If a resident will be having a tree replaced, he/she can contact the Streetscape Division at 310-781-7900 to learn what tree species has been recommended for that specific location.

Some day, perhaps our streets once again will be lined with lovely, large trees. Let's hope we'll be around to enjoy them. *Pam Popovich*

Hillside Overlay Ordinance

The Hillside Overlay Ordinance will always be a topic for discussion. The ordinance was last amended on January 11, 2000, with the Torrance City Council voting to delete the hardship requirement. This action was taken after the City Attorney's office deemed the subsection to be unenforceable.

If you would like to see the recommendations of the last RHA review, go to the mansionization article in the March 2004 Riviera Reporter on line.

If you would like to know what the current version of the ordinance says, go to the Torrance website at <http://www.tornet.com/1692.htm>

Hillside Ordinance discussed

The Hillside Overlay Ordinance proved to be of interest and sparked a lively discussion at our most recent general meeting in October. Following

a presentation by Joe Buck, a retired attorney and long-time resident of the Riviera, questions were taken from the floor and attendees debated the merits and demerits of the current version of the ordinance and its enforcement. It was proposed that the Board consider forming a committee comprised of Board members and residents to take the matter under further review.

If you are interested in letting the Board know your thoughts on this matter, contact President Pamela Maran at 310-375-1423 or by email at rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org. We'd love to hear from you. *Pamela Maran*

Membership Drive

It's that time of the year again

Your membership dues are very important. Our association is only as strong as its members. Without your membership dues the RHA cannot continue to provide the programs and services we have proudly undertaken. The dues 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. In the past, we have only mailed newsletters to members, but we feel it is important that all residents are informed on the issues. Please support the RHA by sending or paying via **Pay Pal** your \$25.00 annual dues today and by coming to the meetings.

Join RHA'S e-mail list!

Our email distribution is used to notify residents of dates or issues important to the Hollywood Riviera. All of your personal information is kept private and will not be distributed to anyone. To register go to: www.hollywoodriviera.org and click on "Join Our Email List".

Riviera Elementary

Riviera Elementary Fun Run

The Riviera Elementary PTA will hold our annual "Fun Run" in February of 2008. We have decided to have a "Leap Year" event on Friday, February 29th! It sounds like a long way off, but it will be here before you know it! We are currently soliciting any type of donation to help make this year's event a success. All sorts of items are needed, for instance, donations of water, paper, printing and copies, and of course, cash contributions! Any and all donations are truly appreciated and recognized!

In the beginning of February, family and friends will be asked by students to sponsor them for the run. All donations are accepted, so please consider sponsoring a runner with a lump sum donation, or a per lap donation. If you would like more information about this event, please contact one of the Fun Run chairpersons: Kristie Wakefield at kristiewakefield@verizon.net or 310-373-7375 or Laura Robinson at kurt.laura@verizon.net or 310-375-0767.

All donations to Riviera Elementary PTA are tax deductible. The PTA relies on our annual fundraisers to support programs for the children such as; art, music, PE, library, computer lab, and so much more! We thank you in advance for your support for the children.

Kristie Wakefield

Professional Learning Communities come to Torrance Elementary Schools!

On November 13th the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education approved Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for all seventeen Torrance elementary schools. The purpose of PLC is to increase students' academic achievement by creating a collaborative school culture focused upon student learning. The faculty believes all the students at Riviera will benefit from the PLC model. You may be familiar with the term PLC since all Torrance middle schools implemented the model in September of 2006. Now all elementary schools will be implementing the model as well.

Beginning January 9, 2008, and continuing every Wednesday for the remainder of the school year, Riviera Elementary School will be ending 45 minutes early at 2:23 p.m. Kindergarten will still get out at the same time at 1:55 p.m.

Riviera Elementary Drop off and Pick up Routes

Please avoid driving up Paseo de Arena. For those coming up the hill, please use Calle Miramar rather than Avenida Atezada. After dropping off, continue down Avenida Atezada, do not make a U-turn and come back up past the school. And remember to be careful around our children.

Help decorate the Torrance Rose Float

There's still time to sign-up, and be a part of the magic!

The Torrance Rose Float Association still needs decorators for Saturday, December 1st, and Saturday, December 8th, from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM -- the bus to Decoration Headquarters departs from, and returns to, Wilson Park -- it will be back by 4:00 PM. Because there is a need for decorators on these two days, the Rose Float Association Board has waived the usual bus fee!

Other dates are also available for decorators. A simple phone call to Cindy Wells at 310-375-1206 can get you on a bus to Decoration Headquarters!

Our City's 2008 Rose Float entry will honor the Torrance Sister City Association with their "Festival of Flowers" float. The parade theme will be

"Passports to the World's Celebrations." The Torrance float will depict a traditional Japanese garden with a red bridge, large fans, some kimono-clad ladies, a huge torii gate, butterflies, and birds. The float will mark the 35th anniversary of the Sister City affiliation between Torrance and Kashiwa. If you'd like to see a sketch of our float, visit:

<http://www.fiestaparadefloats.com/2008RoseParade.htm>

Also, there will be over 10,000 hot pink Princess roses in the gardens on the Torrance Float. You're invited to purchase a rose vial which will adorn the float. Each vial will carry the name of someone special as designated by the donor or you can just donate a rose vial. You may contact Mary Hoffman at 310-538-4014 for further information on the vials.

Holiday Safety Tips

Neighborhood Watch Alert

Over the past two months there has been an increase in residential day time burglaries in the City of Torrance. The Torrance Police Department is asking the community to be extra aware of people in the neighborhood acting suspiciously. For example, people loitering or going door to door, possibly using a soliciting scam to see whether or not the residents are home. Keeping within the "Neighborhood Watch" philosophy, where neighbors watch out for each other, the Torrance Police Department is asking for you to call the police when you see any suspicious activity.

With the holiday season soon approaching, criminals will be out in full force. The Torrance Police Department believes that together with increased patrols and our constant watch over our neighborhood for any criminal element, we can keep the City of Torrance safe. Their main goal is to protect our families and belongings.

The Torrance Police Department emergency number is 911 and the non-emergency number is 310-328-3456.

Provided by Mike Guidry

City of Torrance News

Torrance Is Going Green!

The City of Torrance is encouraging everyone to conserve energy and other resources and to help Torrance to go green!

Since signing the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, the City of Torrance has begun taking tangible steps to help reduce levels of greenhouse gases.

Green Waste Recycling is being expanded to include 900 homes per route. In addition, the City Council has approved the addition of Tuesday and Thursday routes, which are being added to the existing Monday and Wednesday routes. Call 310-781-7900 for more information.

Green Building and Architectural Design Guidelines have been adopted by the City Council. These are designed to help homeowners make remodels more environmentally friendly by identifying new ideas, materials and technologies. Copies are available through the Community Development Department by calling 310-618-5990.

“Pride in Torrance” awards, given annually by the Environmental Quality Commission have recognized:

- Virginia Hilker for her work spearheading the Sierra Club campaign to make Torrance a “Cool City”.
- The Torrance Neighborhood Association for accepting Mayor Scotto’s challenge to “Pay It Forward” by setting up a Neighborhood Clean-Up program and sponsoring three cleanups since November 2006.
- Starbucks for their efforts in recycling coffee grounds in gardens.
- Daniel Coffee and Arohi Sharma, members of the West High Environmental Club, for their efforts to educate the public about the problems caused by polystyrene.

General Plan Update

The City of Torrance began an update of its General Plan in February of 2005 and is now preparing the Draft General Plan document which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2007. Upon its completion, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (D-EIR) will then be prepared, after which both drafts will be made available for public comment through workshops with the Planning Commission, with revised drafts anticipated by the summer of

2008 for consideration by the City Council. If you are interested in submitting questions or providing feedback contact the General Plan Division staff at 310-618-5990.

Strategic Plan Update

The City of Torrance began the process of updating the City’s Strategic Plan, essentially a statement of how the community envisions the Torrance of the future, in January of 2007. This year, in coordination with the General Plan update, the City is hoping to create another update to the Strategic Plan to ensure that the original elements continue to reflect the community’s vision, goals and aspirations. To that end, the firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin & Associates has been enlisted to solicit comments from citizens.

If you get a telephone call from them and are asked to participate in a survey about the City of Torrance, this is legitimate (don’t hang up!) and the City would value your participation. You can also submit comments through “Contact Us” at www.torrcnet.com; please indicate “Strategic Plan Update” in your comment.

Provided by Pamela Maran



Excellence through Teamwork Don't be a star on our cameras!

The Torrance Police Department reminds you to follow the rules to ensure your safety. Traffic congestion has become a concern around schools nationwide, particularly during times when parents are picking-up or dropping-off their children. It is their goal to make this process as safe and smooth as possible. You can help by obeying all traffic laws and parking restrictions.

Starting with the 2006/2007 school year, the Torrance Police Department began using video cameras to tape violations around our schools. Parking citations are then mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle. You can help by NOT picking-up or dropping-off in the following areas:



Driveways Crosswalks No Stopping Zones Red Zones Handicapped Double Parked

Provided by Mike Guidry

Riviera Landscape Awards



September - Dot Barclay and Diana Barclay Crane at 202 Via Anita



October - Shelby Houston and David Turner at 4704 Paseo de las Tortugas



November - Barney Little with his gardener & his children at 328 Avenida Atezada

This is a garden that never holds still. It first was lovingly created by mother Dot and has evolved under daughter Diana's artistic eye and care into a textured botanical tapestry. The surrounding slopes and sidewalk strip are covered with a profusion of shrubs, perennials and grasses that provide bold and vibrant color combinations. Many plants are creatively anchored with broken terracotta pots. With too many plants to single out and always a work in progress, this is truly a gardener's garden. Don't miss it!

Pictures by Julian Chasin

Descriptions by Ruth Vogel

Landscape Awards are presented by Ruth Vogel and Mary Lenihan, RHA, and Shelley Lubinsky, Riviera Garden Club

This newly landscaped garden began when the original house was completely remodeled. By completely removing the lawn, landscape designer Gina Bush developed the front garden into a drought resistant modern style, which correlates beautifully with the contemporary ranch architecture of the home. Trees, shrubs, ground covers and ornamental grasses show how foliage textures and colors can combine for beautiful effects. Crape Myrtle, non-fruiting Olive trees and Hopseed Bush serve as visually anchoring points that seem to divide separate areas of Gazania, prostrate Myoporium, Rosemary, Ajuga, Dymondia and Ceanothus ground covers. Agave, Phormium and Cordyline contribute structure, texture and dramatic form.

Perched above a busy street with incredible views, this garden showcases an exuberant planting of Richmondensis Begonia, Lobelia, Potato Vine, Canna and Mexican Sage which provides lively color most of the year with enough evergreen leaf structure in between. Lots and lots of color was the owner's main request and Pedro Gutierrez (310-200-1146) has provided it. He removed 1 foot of original soil and replaced it with premium top soil and Gro-Mulch, which provides rich nutrients. As a result very little fertilizer is required and the plants are thriving. All gardeners should take note of this highly recommended procedure. The key to a healthy garden is the quality of the soil.

RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2007-2008

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" and mail to:

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

Or use **PayPal** at our website

Annual Dues 2007-2008: \$ 25 .00

Membership Renewal Guidelines:

Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment info above your mailing address. The current RHA fiscal year runs from September to August.

Happy Holidays from the RHA
Don't miss our Holiday Party, December 12
6 to 8 pm, Richardson School Cafeteria
Entertainment & Refreshments

Help Wanted: ASAP

The RHA is currently seeking applicants to fill the following Board positions: **Membership, Secretary and Mailing Chair**. This is a great chance to learn more about Torrance issues, especially Riviera issues. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the RHA, please give Pamela Maran a call at 310-375-1423

**RHA 2007-2008
 General Meeting
 Schedule**

December 12
 February 20
 April 16
 June 18
 Wednesdays at Richardson

**RHA logo items at
www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA**

There's a selection of merchandise to choose from including shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, canvas tote bags & baseball caps — all of which prominently display our new "Jewel of the South Bay" logo. A portion of the proceeds go to RHA

Visit The RHA Website at www.hollywoodriviera.org

The following RHA Board Officers can be contacted through their e-mail:.

rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org
membership@hollywoodriviera.org traffic@hollywoodriviera.org landscape@hollywoodriviera.org
scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org dues@hollywoodriviera.org photog@hollywoodriviera.org concert@hollywoodriviera.org

Riviera Homeowners Association 2007-8 Officers and Directors

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | Pamela Maran | 310-375-1423 | Immediate Past President | Michael Cotton | 310-791-1985 |
| 1st Vice President (Programs) | Darcey Earhart | 310-529-1870 | Scholarship Chair | Gayle Taylor | 310-375-7038 |
| 2nd Vice President (Membership) | OPEN | | Traffic Liaison | Mike Guidry | 310-373-1944 |
| Secretary | OPEN | | City Council Observer | Pam Popovich | 310-375-8729 |
| Treasurer | Art Wong | 310-795-0289 | Planning Commission Observer | Steve Gerhardt | 310-614-0258 |
| Newsletter Editor | Geneva Martin | 310-378-9767 | Historian | Suzanne French | 310-375-1390 |
| Webmaster/Photographer | Julian Chasin | 310-373-6314 | Mailing Chair | OPEN | |
| Landscape Chair | Ruth Vogel | 310-375-4702 | Special Programs Chair | Pamela Maran | 310-375-1423 |
| Hospitality Chair | Judy Brunetti | 310-378-5636 | | | |

The Riviera Reporter

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