



The RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

From the President...



It's been a few months since we've had a newsletter. It's a little late to say "Happy New Year" to all of you, but I do hope that the year is going well! Our schedule for newsletters and general meetings may have felt a little discombobulated this year since there was a gap in the fall due to the untimely death of my mother and my resultant lack of availability. However, we are back on track now, having had a very successful Holiday Concert in December, and looking forward to a productive spring.

We have some exciting programs coming up in the next few months, and I hope that all of you will be able to make our General Meetings on March 21st and May 16th. All meetings begin at 7 pm, but I hope that you will

come early so that you have a chance to speak with members of the board and get to know some of your neighbors.

Additionally, we will be having a Torrance City Council Outreach Meeting in our neck of the woods at South High School on April 17th. Mayor Scotto has changed the format of the council meetings so that general comments are at the beginning. I hope that you will plan to attend and to speak up if you have concerns of which you would like the Council to be aware. This is an excellent opportunity for us to meet the members of the City Council and to let them know what we think.

Some of you have taken the time to call me with regard to your concerns, and I have been glad to speak with you. I'm still relatively new, and so I'd also like to hear from more of you with regard to your thoughts regarding the neighborhood, concerns that you

might have, and ideas that you have for the RHA. I can be reached at 310- 375-1423 or by email at rhapres@hollywodriviera.org. I hope that you'll get in touch with me if you think that I can be of help.

I've had a chance to meet or speak with a number of you in person, and am hoping that I'll have a chance to meet more of you at our upcoming General Meeting which will be on March 21st. The topic should be of interest to everyone who has yard waste. We'll be covering a pilot program in Torrance to collect green waste and giving out information about backyard composting. See you then!

RHA General Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2006, 7 pm to 9 pm

RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

Pilot Program for Green Waste Speaker: Rob Beste

Rob Beste is the City of Torrance Director of Public Works. Here is a website that describes what public works covers: <http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/96.htm> Rob's primary topic will be Torrance plans to have green waste pick up, with potential for the Riviera to be a pilot for the program.

We'd like To Meet You!

We'd like to meet you! Yes, you! Meet all of you new neighbors who have moved to the Hollywood Riviera within the past year or two. Meet all of you long-time residents who were involved with the RHA once upon a time but may not have been participating recently. Meet you parents with young children and you more senior citizens. We'd like to get to know all of you better.

I know that you are busy and you're not quite sure what the RHA does. Okay, that's fair enough. Let me tell you about us.

We're a grassroots, neighborhood organization: a coalition of neighbors who come together for the benefit of the neighborhood in which we live. We're not a strictly political organization, although from time to time we take a position on an issue that might be construed as political. Our main concern is to do things and support issues that will be good for our members.

And who are our members? Why, you are, of course. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are a member because you are within the geographic boundaries of the association. If you have sent in your \$25 dues, you are a paying member. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, we'd love it if you did because we use the money for academic scholarships to help neighborhood young people go to college, to fund our Fall "Concert in the Park" and our Holiday Concert, to pay for our newsletter and to benefit the neighborhood.

Originally, the RHA was called the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association, but with the mid-1950's came more development of homes in the area and the name was changed to the Riviera Homeowners Association to include the new neighbors. Eventually, as the locations of schools changed, the association

expanded to include an even bigger area, and at present, our newsletter is mailed to about 3700 addresses!

Many homes within the Riviera now have new owners or new tenants. We hope that you will come to our general meetings, get to know your neighbors, and get involved in our neighborhood association. We want to get to know you!

What's coming up?

The RHA will be holding elections for the following Board positions at our May 16th meeting: Second Vice President (Membership), Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Director (Hospitality Chairperson) and Director (City Council Liaison). All positions are elected for a two year term. If you would like to serve on the Board and are interested in one of these positions, or if you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Pamela Maran at 310-375-1423 or by email at

rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org .

Oversized Vehicle Ordinance Now Enforced

Enforcement of the oversized vehicle ordinance approved in the fall of 2006 has begun. The first phase of the ordinance mandates that as of January 1, 2007 only oversized vehicles owned by Torrance residents and registered with the City of Torrance are allowed to park on city streets. The second phase of the new ordinance goes into effect on July 1st when daily parking permits will be required for Torrance residents as well as vehicle registration.

Signs have now been posted at the boundaries of the city warning non-residents that they may not park oversized vehicles on Torrance city streets and violators are now being cited. As of July 1st, residents and non-residents alike

will be subject to citation and being towed if they are not in compliance with the ordinance.

To register a vehicle, you must provide a valid driver's license, proof that you are a Torrance resident and valid vehicle registration that reflects your Torrance address. For further information, visit the Community Development Department at Torrance City Hall or contact them at 310- 618-5990.

Holiday Concert Taps Local Talent

Santa Claus made a guest appearance at the RHA Holiday Concert on December 13th, and local musical talent was out in full force. The concert, which featured instrumentalists from Riviera Elementary School under the direction of Amy Wolff, instrumentalists from Richardson Middle School under the direction of Karrie Willett, an all girls' chorus and mixed chorus from South High under the direction of Liz Turner, and a jazz combo from South High under the supervision of Tom King, took place at Richardson Middle School and featured a wide variety of holiday and Christmas music. Their performances were outstanding.

The young people were dressed in their holiday best and put on a show of which all of their parents could be proud. A variety of Christmas treats and juices disappeared quickly from the back of the concert hall as the performers and audience refreshed themselves throughout the evening. It was exciting to see how many talented musicians are being developed under the direction of the excellent music teachers whose students performed. We look forward to hearing all of them again soon. And, if you missed this year's concert, be sure to note the date next year!

City Council on the Road

On Tuesday night, April 17, the Torrance City Council will hold a meeting at the South High School Gymnasium. This is part of an effort to reach out to other areas in the city by having meetings outside of City Hall. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. At the conclusion of regular business, the Council will conduct an outreach workshop. Residents will also have the opportunity to give input regarding the City's two-year budget (FY 2007-09), being developed.

Traffic Update

I'm Mike Guidry, the new traffic liaison for the RHA. I'm excited to hear your concerns and suggestions about traffic on our beautiful but narrow and curvy streets. I'll do what I can to bring your ideas to our traffic planners in the city to improve safety and flow in the Riviera.

An important traffic notice has been issued by South California Edison for Pacific Coast Highway. They will be upgrading pipes under the northbound lanes starting around Avenue I in February up to Knob Hill through May. If possible, please avoid this area during construction.

Finally, I'd like to pass on something from a beach community 2500 miles across the Pacific. In Hawaii, locals commonly slow down to let other vehicles enter or cross roadways, yielding their own right of way. They call it spreading the "Aloha". It makes little difference to the flow of traffic while easing stress dramatically. Try slowing and flashing your lights or waving to someone in one morning and see if your whole day isn't more peaceful. Aloha. Please send any comments or traffic concerns, suggestions or requests to Mike Guidry at traffic@hollywoodriviera.org.

Useful Telephone Numbers

City of Torrance

Emergency Only	911
City of Torrance - General Number:	310-328-5310
Airport Noise Abatement	310-784-7950
City Council/Mayor's Office	310-618-2801
Community Development	310-618-5990
Community Services	310- 618-2930
Library Services	310- 618-5959
Fire/Administration	310-781-7000
Police/Information	310-328-3456
Public Works	310-781-6900
Water Emergency (after hours)	310-781-7042
Torrance Animal Control	310-618-3850
Transit	310- 618-6266

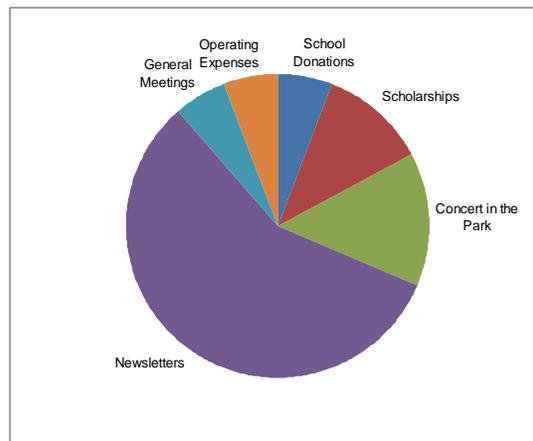
Other Non-City

Animal Control (L.A. County)	310-523-9566
Street Light Repair (Edison)	800-655-4555

City Services Cards with full listings are available at City Hall.

Where do your dues go?

Have you ever wondered how the RHA uses your dues? Look no further than the pie chart below!



Your dues finance all of the great programs that the RHA sponsors throughout the year. These programs include our college scholarship awards, our newsletter, the annual RHA Concert in the Park, and other community projects. Our fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31. For fiscal year 2006-2007, our total estimated budget is \$17,500. The pie chart shows our estimated expenses by category for this year. As in prior years, newsletter printing and mailing costs are our biggest expense. For additional information about our budget, please contact Art Wong, RHA Treasurer.

Got Tree Issues?

As the Hollywood Riviera matures, so also are our trees maturing. Originally, there were no trees on the hills, but with the development of homes and the planting of landscaping plus the elapse of 80 years, we now have some very large and beautiful trees in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, many homes that once had views have lost either partial or entire ocean and city views due to the maturing of these trees.

Although the City of Torrance does not have a tree ordinance, and therefore has no restrictions for height and width of trees, neighbors are encouraged to work with each other to resolve tree disputes on private property. Very often, with a little give and take, a tree that is blocking one neighbor's view can be trimmed to restore the view without damaging the tree. Offering to share or even assume the expense of trimming a tree that is blocking your view is one way to meet your neighbor halfway. For neighbors who agree that trees need to be trimmed but cannot agree on the amount of trimming needed, the City of Torrance provides mediation services through the Environmental Department which can be reached at 310-618-5929.

If trees on City of Torrance property need to be trimmed, you should call the Public Works Department at 310-618-5929 to let them know. They will be happy to come out to take care of their trees.

2007 Scholarships

The selection process is underway to award the four \$500 scholarships given each year by the RHA to college-bound high school seniors living in the Riviera. Applications have already been received from South High School. If you have a son or daughter who wishes to apply and attends a private school, please contact Gayle Taylor, RHA Scholarship Chair at 310-375-7038 or scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org. Applications must be submitted by April 15th. The scholarships will be awarded at our general meeting on May 16th.

Verizon FiOS Comes to the Riviera

Verizon FiOS (fiber optics) promises faster downloads and future TV connections, but make sure you understand what it offers, as there is probably no going back. The higher connection speeds may be limited by many factors, among them the speed of Web site servers you access. In the case of a power outage, phone service, including 911, will also be out unless you have a backup battery.

El Retiro Library Programs

- **St. Patrick's Day Stories & Craft** Wednesday, March 14 at 4 pm
- **Disaster Preparedness** Tuesday, April 24 at 7 pm

An evening workshop called "Together We Prepare", presented by The Red Cross, is a terrific opportunity for all of us to learn what we need to do to protect our families prior to a major disaster. While no one wants to believe that a disaster could come to their hometown or neighborhood, considering that we live in earthquake country and that in the event of a major catastrophe our fire and police resources would be stretched thin, it's really important for all of us to be disaster prepared.

Admission is free and door prizes will be awarded. Come early as seating is limited.

- **Great Book Group!** First Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am
- **Toddler time** Wednesdays at 10 and 11 am

A new session of this popular story and song program for children 18 months to three years and a caregiver will be offered at the El Retiro beginning March 28th. In-person registration is required and will begin on March 19th. For further information, call 310-618-5964.

Local Clubs Celebrate 50 years or more.

The **Riviera Garden Club** promotes and participates in civic beautification projects. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through November and again from January through May, at 9:30 am. in the Torrance Airport General Aviation Center Meeting Room, unless tours are planned. While members have historically been ladies, gentlemen are welcome to participate.

Coming up, the Riviera Garden Club will be hosting a plant sale at 5025 Lee Street in Torrance on Saturday April 14th, from 9 am to 3 pm. All are welcome!

For more information about the Riviera Garden Club and its activities, email: judyyou@verizon.net

The **Hollywood Riviera Sportsman's Club** is a philanthropic organization which raises funds to assist local groups in need, benefiting our neighborhood seniors, libraries, schools and churches. Additionally, the club has sponsored, equipped and assisted Boy and Girl Scout troops, Little League and Pony League baseball and softball teams and facilities They are well known for their fabulous "Funnel Cakes", available each year at the Frontier Days' Riviera Festival and the Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair. The Club also cooks up delicious hamburgers and hot dogs at the annual RHA "Concert in the Park". Meetings are held on second and fourth Wednesdays, September through June at 24004 Neece Avenue in Torrance.

More information can be found at their website at www.hrsc.org

Join RHA'S e-mail 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. To register to receive important notices from the RHA via email go to: www.hollywoodriviera.org and click on "Join Our Email List".

Riviera Landscape Awards



October 2006 – Cindy and Steve Dennis at 5006 Via El Sereno

The Dennises, with help from Wendy at Sunflower Farms, have created a garden that has become a wildlife sanctuary. Their stately sycamore tree is home to red tailed hawks. White-tail finches dart in and around the sunflowers when in bloom. Hummingbirds and butterflies hover amongst the many types of salvia and honeybees love the African Basil. They do not use chemical pesticides and feed everything monthly with a liquid organic tea.



November 2006 – Marianne Kopcho and Larry Peterson at 206 Vista del Sol

This couple has replaced an ever-thirsty lawn with an extraordinarily creative and stylized landscape designed by Rich Pocapalia of Sunflower Farms Nursery. Highlights are paths of Three Rivers flagstone, a ledge stone viewing deck perfect for enjoying sunsets and a rebar trellis “sculpture” with Peace Rose winding through. Artful plant combinations of at least a dozen varieties of roses, fescue, sages, weeping mulberry, coyote brush, fescues, and a variety of sages contribute alluring textures to a rich and colorful garden.



February 2007 – Gloria L. Gilmore at 115 Via Monte d'Oro

This is a lovely curbside garden that bursts with color and nicely frames a half moon driveway. It features a lush planting of iceberg roses, pansies, raphiolepis, dwarf snapdragons, artichoke and centers around a stately olive tree. Through the entry gate are spectacular, specimen size ornamental cabbages

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

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” and 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 and 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.

RHA Merchandise Now Available Online at www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA



Now you can display your community pride in what you wear and use every day.

There's a selection of merchandise to choose from including shirts,



sweatshirts, coffee mug, canvas tote bag & baseball cap — all of which prominently

display our new “Jewel of the South Bay” logo. All proceeds go

to benefit the Riviera community events, the newsletter, website, and much more.



Visit The RHA Website at www.hollywoodriviera.org

The following RHA 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 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/Photographer	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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