

# The RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

## From the President...



Hello, again, Homeowners! It's certainly spring here in the Riviera, with bright, breezy days that are getting all of us out of our homes. I see more and more walkers, joggers, bicyclists, dog walkers, and children playing in yards as I go about my daily routine, and it's great to see all of you out enjoying yourselves. This fine weather is certainly making it easier for me to meet more of you and hear about your concerns.

Recent conversations with some of our members have reminded me that beautiful as our neighborhood is, we still need to be concerned about safety. We have a great police department and a great fire department, both of which are extremely responsive and efficient, but they cannot be everywhere at the same time and need us to be their eyes and ears.

It is sad but true that homes and cars even in our neighborhood do get broken into, and since criminals have cars, not everyone driving in our neighborhood actually belongs here. So, it's up to each of us to be on the lookout for anything that seems suspicious or out of place and to report

it immediately to the proper authorities, ensuring that the Torrance PD and Torrance FD can do their jobs.

I was told by a neighbor just today that young people have been going door-to-door representing themselves as neighborhood children collecting money for the less fortunate when they are actually from outside the area collecting money for themselves. Be particularly careful about opening your door to strangers, especially if you are not a physically strong person. Also, be aware also that anyone putting leaflets and business cards on your front porch has to have a permit from the city; the Torrance PD will be happy to pick up transgressors.

At one time, we had a very active Neighborhood Watch program in the Riviera, and while that program still exists within the city, it has fallen by the wayside to a certain extent. Knowing our immediate neighbors and watching out for each other is actually one of the easiest and best ways to make our area of town safe. If you are interested in more information about Neighborhood Watch, brochures are available through the Torrance Police Department. The program works on a block by block basis and since the organizing elements of Neighborhood

Watch can be used as the basis for disaster preparedness within the community, I think that it's a great idea. I hope that all of you will look into it and consider bringing this program back to life in the Riviera.

Summer vacations are right around the corner, so in closing I thought I'd include a few vacation safety tips:

- Make sure that your neighbors know when you are leaving and when you are coming back. Leave a contact number with a neighbor.
- Let the Torrance PD know if you're going to be out of town for a few days. They will actually drive by to check on your property while you are gone. They can be reached at 310-328-3456.
- Be sure to stop your newspapers and put a vacation hold on your mail.
- Set lights on timers. Random timers are the best. You can also set a timer for a radio or TV.
- Make sure all of your doors and windows are locked and double-check them!

Let's all stay safe. I hope to see you at our next general meeting on May 16th and at our Concert in the Park on September 9th! Have a great summer!

## RHA to hold elections and award scholarships at May 16th meeting

The RHA will be holding elections for the following Board positions: 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](mailto:rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org).

RHA scholarships will be awarded to local high school seniors.

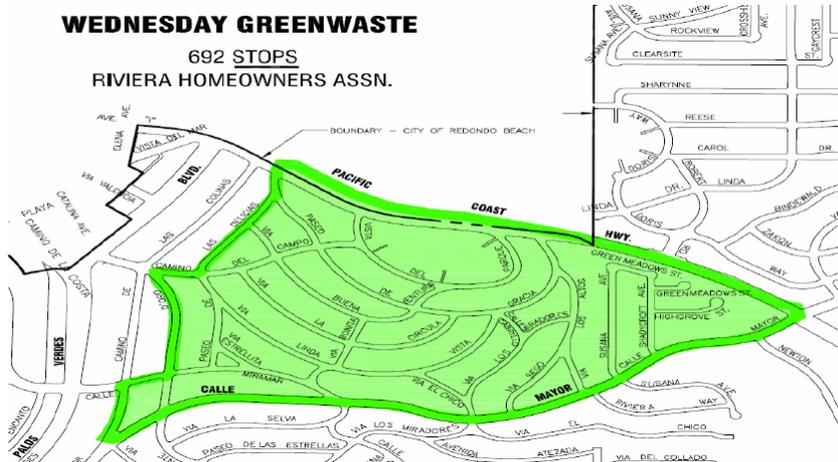
# At the March RHA Meeting Rob Beste, Torrance Director of Public Works Talked on Green Waste Pilot, Traffic Projects and Water Projects

## Green Waste Pilot

The city will soon be starting a pilot program for green waste. One of two areas selected for the green waste pilot project is in the lower Riviera, as pictured. The timing for the start of the project depends on the delivery of a new trash truck. Although thirty percent of Torrance residential waste is green waste, the city has been slower than some other South Bay cities to initiate green waste collection. Costs for additional staff, trucks and fuel are some of the reasons for the late start.

Green waste is leaves, grass, green plants, weeds, bush and garden trimmings, tree branches (limited to 4" diameter and 4' length), wood chips and sawdust. It does not include palm fronds/branches, large ice plant or succulent clusters, dirt or rocks. Since contamination of the green waste would reduce the savings, it is important to understand the definition. In reply to a general question about the effectiveness of the recycled waste program, Mr. Beste said that there were just a few regular non-compliers and that they had been contacted individually to help them understand the guidelines.

## Green Waste Pilot Program Area



## Traffic Update

At the meeting, Rob Beste of Torrance Public Works talked about road maintenance and the lack of control caused by having state highways as some of our major thoroughfares. If the city controlled state highways, such as PCH and Hawthorne, traffic signals could be coordinated more easily. The city has to negotiate terms with the state before taking on permanent additional costs. Since our meeting, the City Council approved a letter to CalTrans to initiate relinquishment of Hawthorne and PCH within the city.

Some of the larger road maintenance projects include the replacement of the water main on Sepulveda between the west city limit and Hawthorne and the planned extension of Del Amo Boulevard from Maple Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard.

We would like to thank the Torrance Public Works for their role in maintaining our roads, such as the recent pothole repairs at Calle de Arboles and Paseo de Las Tortugas, and for the landscaping at our triangle parks and medians. Contact Torrance Public Works if you know of any needed repairs, especially safety issues, at 310-781-6900 or [PublicWorkInfo@Tornet.com](mailto:PublicWorkInfo@Tornet.com)

Copy the RHA at [Traffic@HollywoodRiviera.org](mailto:Traffic@HollywoodRiviera.org) and we'll be glad to follow up on your behalf. Mike Guidry

## City of Torrance Water

Rob Beste also talked about planned changes to the Torrance Water Program. Torrance has pumping rights within the city and is considering injection of fresh water from yearly rains into the ground to increase storage of ground water, which would give the city more control over its water and less dependency on the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). Ground water could be available in a major emergency, such as an earthquake, when the ability to pump from long distances could be suspended.

Mr. Beste said that the planned changes would be unfeasible if legislation recently proposed by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California is enacted. This legislation would increase the cost that the Torrance Water Department and other South Bay water companies pay to pump water out of local ground water supplies, thus discouraging additional local ground water storage. If the pumping costs were substantially increased, groundwater pumping in the West Basin would either cease entirely or be severely curtailed; local supplies from groundwater wells would cease to operate; there would be more saltwater incursion as the injections would be smaller and it would be necessary to import more water from MWD. The proposal is completely opposed to that of the MWD and regional programs which promote increasing local resources.

Riviera residents west of Riviera Elementary School are serviced by the California Water Service Company, but would still be impacted by any change. Bob Hoffman

## Street Sweeping Day to Change

Rob Beste announced that the Riviera Thursday street sweeping day will be changed to Monday starting in the first Monday in May. Residents should receive notification in the mail.

## Funding Sought for High School Pools

Riviera resident and RHA board member Bob Hoffman is spearheading an effort to find funding to build swimming pools at the Torrance high schools. Since the Torrance Unified School District, which is completely separate from the City of Torrance, has only passed one bond issue out of the many proposed in recent years, Bob is urging the city and corporate sponsors to get involved to provide swimming pools for youth and others in the community. If you would like to join him in this effort, contact Bob at [membership@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodriviera.org)

Please let us know about events that you think the community would like to hear about. We would like to include them in the newsletter.

## City Council at South High

Interested residents, students fulfilling class assignments and an impressive complement of city staff turned out for the Torrance City Council meeting on April 17th at the South High Gym.

The agenda was tailored to provide information the Council felt would be of interest to those of us living on this side of Torrance. Mayor Scotto introduced department heads and various supervisors outlined their responsibilities. If you were in the

audience, you now know whom to contact with your concerns.

Bringing the Council meeting to Torrance neighborhoods is a laudable idea and we'll look forward to their next appearance in South Torrance.

While we're on the subject of contacting city officials, most offices are closed on alternate Fridays. This will include May 11th and May 25th.

## Riviera Area Improvements:

**El Retiro Library** will install earthquake-braced book shelving and new carpet. Electrical and wiring upgrades, including Wi-Fi (wireless access) are planned.

**El Retiro Park** will have new play equipment installed next month and trees are scheduled to be trimmed and shaped.

**Walteria Park** will have the horseshoe courts rebuilt, additional security lighting installed and the landscaping will be upgraded at Walteria Library.

## Work to Start at an Old Eyesore

Those of us who have wondered when work would begin on the old Pat's Ski Shop property at 131 Palos Verdes Boulevard should be glad to hear that construction will begin soon on a 2-story, mixed-use project with 8,325 sq. ft. of commercial space and 23 residential units. It will be gratifying to be rid of the unsightly vacant lot!

## Planning Update - Home Remodeling Applications

Riviera residents are frequently concerned about the activity of neighborhood home remodeling. The Community Development Department attests that "the number of Precise Plan applications to remodel single family homes in the Hillside Area has remained steady." 41 were filed in the last calendar year and six, to date, this year. Pam Popovich

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

**If you would like to help,  
please contact Pamela Maran  
at  
[concert@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:concert@hollywoodriviera.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](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org) and click on "Join Our Email List".

## RHA Merchandise Now Available Online at [www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA](http://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, and website.



## 48th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade

The City of Torrance is hosting the longest-running Armed Forces Day Parade in the nation. This year's parade on May 19th will honor the United States Air Force, which is celebrating its 60th Anniversary. The parade will be led by General Kevin P. Chilton of the United States Air Force, with the route running westward on Torrance Boulevard from Crenshaw Boulevard to Madrona Avenue. Come Saturday, May 19th from 1:30 to 3:30.

Other weekend activities include free concerts by the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West on Friday, May 18th at the James Armstrong Theatre (2:30 and 7:30) and Military Exhibits at the Del Amo Fashion Center parking lot south of Carson, Friday through Sunday. For more information, visit <http://www.tornet.com>

## Large trees need deep watering

With the unusually cold, dry winter just past, we'll have to be especially vigilant with watering. Large trees and shrubs did not receive their usual seasonal soaking. Keep in mind that lawn sprinklers are for lawns; the water will only penetrate a few inches. So give the big guys an extra soak. Turning the hose on a trickle and setting it a foot from tree trunks or main stems of shrubs and leaving it on for several hours will assure a deep soaking.

You can remove dead growth on frost damaged plants now. If you're not sure, cut a branch. If it's green inside, it's still alive. Brown all the way through, it's not. Or just wait for all the new growth to come out and the plant will tell you.

Diane Connell, A.C.C.N.P.,  
Plant Doctor, Riviera Garden Club

Diane is available to answer garden question on Fridays and Saturdays at



Sunflower Farms, located at 17609 S Western Ave, Torrance.

Look for Riviera Garden Club's weekly flower arrangement at the El Retiro Library.

## New Play Equipment for El Retiro Park

We have exciting news for our local children. El Retiro Park will be getting brand new play equipment in the very near future! According to Park Services Manager Mike Wilson, the new equipment should be in place before the summer. There will be "spring" animals which will make the play area visually very fun as well as new swings, slides, ladders, stairs, activity panels, climbers, climbing bars and platforms.

The old play equipment, which is made primarily from recycled materials, will be removed and recycled, and a new rubberized disabled accessible surface will be installed prior to the arrival of the new equipment. The play area will be finished with the installation of a new sidewalk to enhance disabled access and by the addition of sand. When you see them, please be sure to thank employees of the Parks and Recreation Department for this beautiful enhancement of our neighborhood.

## Sportmen's Club News

The Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen's Club's 58th year is wrapping up with participation in many Riviera activities.

The club just held its annual Easter Egg Hunt in El Retiro Park for about

125 children, and they will again participate in the Relay for Life at South High. Their team of walkers for the 24 hours of the relay aims to double the money raised last year for the American Cancer Society. You will find them at the booth on the track, or behind the grills at the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning co-hosted with the Lion's Club.

On May 26th they will have their own Pancake Breakfast at South High. Not only is this a great event that allows HRSC to see many of their Riviera neighbors but it is also a fundraiser for groups in the Riviera who sell tickets for the breakfast, with net proceeds going back to the ticket sellers. Please contact HRSC if your group is interested in selling tickets.

On June 21st the club will participate for the first time in the Richardson Middle School Promotion Ceremony, serving their renowned Funnel Cakes.

For more information go to [www.hrsc.org](http://www.hrsc.org) HRSC is always looking for more hands to help us with our many events. Mark Van Norman

## South High to again Host "Relay for Life"

South High School will be hosting their fifth annual "Relay for Life" on May 5th and 6th to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Opening ceremonies, including the survivors lap, will be held at 9 am on Saturday May 5th. At 9 pm there will be a lunaria ceremony with a survivor speaker and candles bearing the names of cancer victims. The public is invited to attend this free event.

# Riviera Landscape Awards

March 2007 – Mike Terre  
314 Calle de Arboles



This is a lovely, mature landscape with some different horticulture. The slope is covered with a beautiful blue ceanothus, "Yankee Point". Ceanothus is also known as California lilac and is a native plant. A spectacular Magnolia x soulangiana (Saucer Magnolia), often called Tulip Tree was in full bloom until the winds blew all the magnificent pink blossoms away. Masses of pink Germalton Waxflower hover gracefully above the upper slope to the left of the driveway. A dwarf Japanese maple is nestled into the entry porch shrubbery. All in all, this is a landscape full of interesting variety and texture.

April 2007 - The Bader Residence  
423 Via San Sebastian

Just 2 years old, this cottage style garden has many colorful specimens, including fuschia, scaevola, ranunculus, verbena, lantana and bedding begonias. A steep corner slope has been artfully terraced and showcases a mature Brazilian pepper tree and a lovely collection of Richmondensis Begonias, purple Lantana and a colorful display of a variety of roses. A bistro table and chairs perches on a flagstone terrace above the slope inviting an opportunity to sit and enjoy the spectacular view.

Pictures by Julian Chasin and Descriptions by Ruth Vogel



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

## Membership: the fuel that keeps the RHA running

The Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) is our community asset to communicate what is happening in our neighborhood. It provides a way for us to meet each other and promote common community interests.

Our newsletter is mailed to the almost 3,500 Riviera residences. If you are reading this newsletter, you are a member. The RHA typically receives membership forms and dues from about 700 members or 20% of residents. The dues are used to cover newsletter costs, to fund community events such as our annual Concert in the Park and to award college scholarships to local high school seniors. The requested annual dues are \$25 per year, but we would be pleased if you could pay whatever you believe appropriate.

If your name is incorrect on the mailing label, please send in the membership form below or email your corrections to [membership@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodriviera.org), so we can update our data base. More importantly, please come to the RHA general meetings to support the association and let the board know what we can do to address your concerns. Membership really is the fuel that keeps the RHA running.

Bob Hoffman

### 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.

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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.

# RHA General Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2006, 7 pm to 9 pm

**RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

**Tim Cummings from the Torrance Fire Fighters Association will answer all of your fire and safety questions from a Torrance firefighter and Hollywood Riviera homeowner's perspective.**

*How can I help firefighter/paramedics respond quicker to my house in an emergency? Why do both a fire engine and a paramedic rescue show up at my house when I just called for paramedics?*

*Do I need a carbon monoxide alarm?*

*What should I do if someone calls soliciting money for firefighters?*

*What have the Torrance Firefighters done for the citizens?*

*What do the firefighters see for the future?*

**Come to the May meeting to find out the answers to these and any other questions you have.**

Visit The RHA Website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

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

[rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org)      [newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org)      [treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org)  
[membership@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodriviera.org)      [traffic@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:traffic@hollywoodriviera.org)      [landscape@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:landscape@hollywoodriviera.org)  
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## Riviera Homeowners Association 2006-7 Officers and 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	310-373-1944
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

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