

THE

Riviera Reporter

Newsletter of The Riviera Homeowners Association

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—SEPTEMBER 2008

The Prez Say



RHA Presidents Tim Youngern and Roberta Blowers

Change, is a word that we are hearing often currently in the news, which also applies to our Riviera Homeowners Association.

We have new board members to announce and two co-presidents that were elected to take on the challenging position of president. The President's position will be shared by two people, Dr. Roberta Blowers, and Tim Youngern, and we would like to introduce ourselves.

Dr. Roberta Blowers, a graduate of UCLA Dental School, after 20 years of managing a busy dental business, and five years after buying her home in the Riviera took a sabbatical. That is when her passion for the Hollywood Riviera grew. That is when neighbors and active community members experienced first hand how she managed community meetings. Roberta brings her high integrity and professional demeanor to the Riviera Homeowners Association. Her organizational skills, ability as moderator in group meetings, didactic reasoning and managing experience that has helped her in her business will cross over to her co-presidency.

Tim Youngern will share the duties and responsibilities of representing all of

you in the Riviera as co-president. Tim is service oriented, and brings honesty and trustworthiness to the Riviera Homeowners Association. After high school, Tim enlisted in the Army. After his tour of duty, Tim changed uniforms and joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Tim worked a variety of assignments from the jail, night watch patrol, burglary detective and retired last month as a Sergeant. Tim's military and law enforcement background will be an asset to the Riviera Homeowners Association.

We have new board members to announce and many thanks to those who are handing off the torch. We would like to thank Pamela Maran for the excellent job as the previous president. We would also like to thank Art Wong and Judy Brunetti for their outstanding volunteer service to our organization. We would also like to thank Ruth Vogel for so many years of being the voice of reason and calm and for going to such a large number of the planning commission hearings and city council hearings and being so involved with helping people in our community. We look forward to their continued support and friendship.

We would like to welcome and introduce Voc Gregorian (Treasurer), Diane Miltimore (Mailing Chair), Karen Lent (Landscape Chair), Nancy Mansfield Staudt (Hospitality Chair), and Sam Sandt (Secretary) to our board. The tasks ahead will require their energy and enthusiasm and we look forward to working with them.

We both have really noticed the value of living in the Riviera. We have taken on an active role in attending planning

Join or
renew your
membership
now

commission and city council hearings. We have reviewed years of past newsletters to gain a real appreciation of this association and two issues always seem to come up. The Hillside Overlay Ordinance and the tree issue. We know there is no perfect solution to these issues. We will strongly support the letter and spirit of the Hillside Overlay law and are accepting suggestions on the tree issue. We don't believe we need to challenge conventional notions of how we live in the Riviera. We have seen some of the questionable results of that in the surrounding beach cities. The Riviera is a jewel unto itself and worth protecting and maintaining. The ocean breezes, mild temperature, and the awesome beauty should not be taken for granted. The people, homes, and scenery are exceptional. We will dedicate our term to enforcing the hillside laws, working on the tree issues, and maintaining our small piece of heaven. Please come join us at our General Meetings, so that we can see each other again or get to meet you for the first time. We look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting on October 22, 2008, at Richardson Middle School Cafeteria from 7PM to 9 PM.

Next General Meeting
October 22
Water Wise Planting

Newsletter of the Riviera Homeowners Association

Riviera Landscape Award



Left to Right: Mike Wilson, Bill Beverly, Mary Lenihan, Tony Baker, Ruth Vogel, Carol Roelen, Frank Scotto, John Bauman and Gene Barnett

Mary Lenihan and I have been the Riviera Homeowners Association Landscape Award Co-Chairs for 17 years and we have had a lot of fun giving out our “Outstanding Landscape Award” to about 141 Riviera residents since 1991. We presented our last award in June at a City Council meeting to 8 key people who helped a little parcel of land become a lovely neighborhood pocket park that came to be known as the “The Begonia Triangle.” This is that sweet story.

Once upon a time, there was a family named Bauman, who owned a nursery called the Palos Verdes Begonia Farm. The Begonia Farm was originally located on PCH, but in 1961, the Bauman Family moved to land at the intersection of 242nd St. & Newton Street in the Walteria section of Torrance, now part of the Riviera. Part of the property the Baumans purchased included a small triangle shaped lot in the middle of that intersection and as the story goes, the City was eventually going to straighten out Newton St. & turn this lot into a part of Newton St. & then give a corresponding piece of Newton to the Begonia Farm as a contiguous part of their property. This exchange never happened & the triangle lot was too small to do anything with. Old folklore has said that cars & motorcycles would drive right over & through the lot and someone actually made a ski jump with a ramp so that cars and motorcycles could actually come down Newton, hit the ramp & take air before landing...do a wheely sort of thing. Anyway, that little parcel of land had a separate deed attached to it & when the Bauman family closed their nursery in

1997, they talked with their attorney, Bill Beverly, who handled the sale, about donating that little parcel of land to the City. He convinced the City to take the land as a gift. This did not happen overnight, but was finally formally accepted by the City Council in Dec. 1999. Bill was then President of Torrance Rotary Club & Rotary was looking for civic projects & they were going to participate in developing it into a park. Sounded like a great idea & for a year or so some folks would come out & weed, but in the meantime Bill left Rotary & so the lot just continued to sit there.....

Then, in August, 2002, nearby resident, Carol Roelen, took it upon herself to write a letter to Gene Barnett, who was then Director of Parks & Recreation, & she proposed a pocket park there with drought tolerant California native plants, that would be waterwise & easy to maintain. Carol’s ideas included a meandering, decomposed granite pathway & a bench for a peaceful sitting area. She also proposed in her letter that Tony Baker, a local native plant designer and landscaper, who created the excellent Madrona Marsh native plant garden, be hired to create “a pleasing park setting for which the neighbors and the City of Torrance could be proud.” In 2005, the green light was given to Tony who designed the ultimate plan & installation & under City contract maintained it for the first year. But that is jumping ahead & it is still 2002.

Carol’s letter to Gene Barnett had

come to just the right person, as Gene brought this idea to the attention of the City powers as a project worthy of their consideration & support. “Gene was a master at providing opportunities to accomplish these kinds of things...his great strengths were to encourage City & community interests to work together to turn visions into reality & make things happen.” & indeed he did! Even though to quote Gene, “the wheels of government move at glacial speed.”

Now it is about 2004 & after all the necessary governmental approvals were in place, Gene threw the ball to Mike Wilson, who was and is Park Services Manager. Mike caught the ball & ran with it, helping to pull it together, meeting with & helping to coordinate all the different governmental & community pieces of the project that were necessary to come together to accomplish the goal & make the dream come true. Important pieces of this project were also handled by 2 very fine Park Services Supervisors, Geno Centofanti and Danny Hylands.. They oversaw putting in a solar drip irrigation system, the meandering pathway, a low curb along 242nd St. & steps from 242nd St to the park. After the planting was completed, the City returned & provided a bench & trash receptacle.

And the Begonia Triangle pocket park was finally completed in 2006. The 8 award recipients are underlined in the story and each brought something important to the table and with our City and community working cooperatively, together took an empty lot that was an eyesore, & turned it into a little treasure. Please make some time in your busy day to stop by & see it up close *Ruth Vogel*



More pictures of the Begonia Triangle pocket park available on our website.

Membership Drive

We are going through our annual membership drive and need your support. Please join for the first time or renew your membership now so that the Riviera Homeowners Association can increase its ability to help with our community and the people that live here.

Our association provides the following benefits:

- Provides scholarships to college bound students
- Provides donations to elementary and middle schools
- Conducts candidate forums
- Tracks traffic issues
- Monitors Hillside Overlay Issues and keeps members informed
- Sponsors General Meetings in the Riviera on topics important to our community
- Assists City in sponsoring the annual Concert in the Park
- Counsels and advises residents of this community in protection of their property interest in the community (per by-laws)
- Maintains observers at meeting of boards, committees and chambers of local governmental bodies so that members may be informed (per by-laws)

You get all this and more for the small tax deductible fee of \$25 per year. Support your neighbors, your community, and this organization. Please join now.

RHA GENERAL MEETING

Landscape Designer Gina Bush speaks on planning a low-water yard.

The featured speaker for our first general meeting of 2007-2008 will be local landscape designer, Gina Bush. Gina wants to save us from noise and gas pollution, so she creates landscapes that don't require leaf blowers or gas lawn mowers. One of her environmental landscapes was awarded a landscape of the month award and will be featured on the Riviera Garden Club's Garden Tour on October 18th. This landscape is both low water and easy maintenance

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

7 PM - 9PM

**Richardson Middle School Cafeteria
23571 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)**

Door Prizes

*Save December 10 for Holiday meeting
Entertainment including Riviera & Richardson Choirs
With Ginger Bread House Contest*

TUSD Ballot Measures

Recently, the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to place two measures before voters on the November 4th, 2008 ballot. If approved, Measures Y and Z will fund the facility renovations that have been identified at each of our local schools.

Specifically, Measure Y would fund core academic school facility renovations, including: Repairing damaged walls, floors, and foundations; Replacing worn-out roofs, plumbing, and lighting systems; Repairing faulty drainage systems, hardscapes, and other safety hazards; Removing asbestos and other hazardous materials from school sites; Providing classroom technology needed to prepare students for the workforce; Renovating outdated classrooms and science labs; and Replacing Hull Middle School.

Measure Z would fund the renovation of facilities that support learning, extra-curricular activities, and ensure student safety, including: Renovating worn-out physical education facilities, playgrounds, and fields that serve the entire Torrance community and Constructing music/art classrooms and science labs at schools that do not have these facilities

By law, funds from Measure Y and Z must stay in Torrance and may only be used for the specific projects listed in the District's detailed facility master plan. Measures Y and Z require independent citizen oversight and mandatory independent annual audits. No funds can be used for administrator salaries, school operations, or student programs.

Vacation Security Checks by TPD

Did you know that the Torrance Police Department (TPD) offers Vacation Security Checks to all Torrance residents? You read it correctly. They do, and it's free!

While you are away on vacation, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation.

This is a free, but invaluable service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance.

To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to the TPD Web Site: www.torrancepd.org and click on either the "Online Services" tab or the "Crime Trends and Prevention" tab. The information requested on the form will be entered into the TPD dispatch system so that the Patrol Officers will be notified at the beginning of their shift and be reminded to check your residence while you are away.

If you have any questions regarding this service, you can contact the TPD Community Affairs Division at 310-618-6391/2.

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Please support these Riviera Village Merchants
who have donated to improve the quality of our newsletter.

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The next Newsletter will be in December. Place your ad before the end of November 2008.
For more information, call 310-710-9080 or email treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org

Beyond the Garden Gate

Peek behind the gates of unique private
Gardens in the beautiful Hollywood Riviera

Presented by

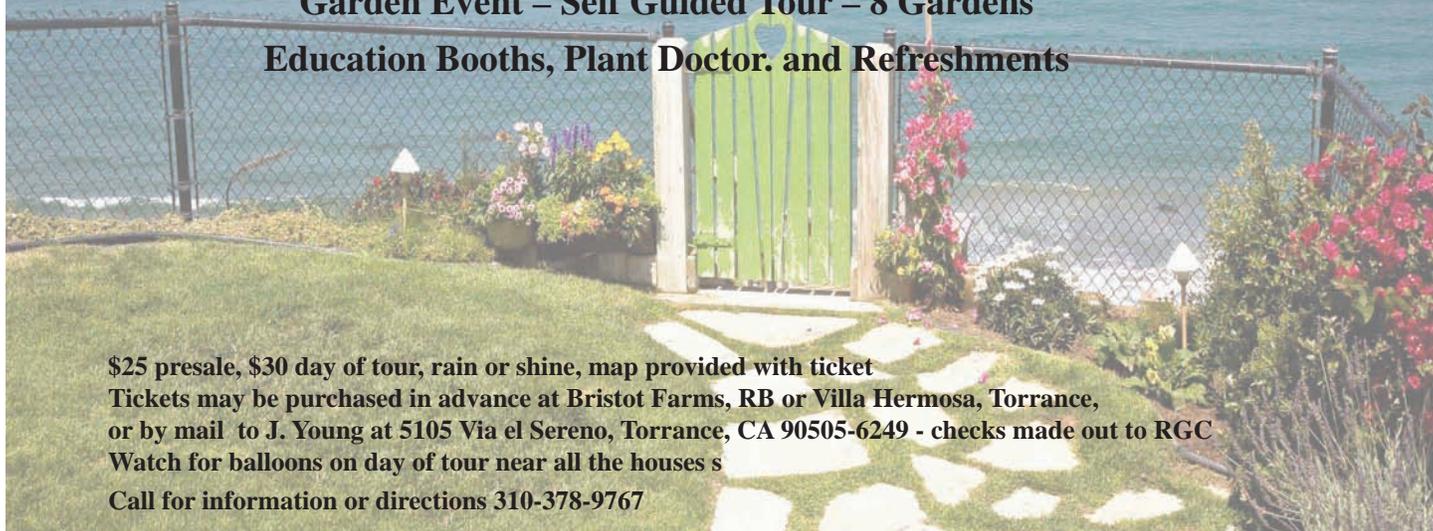
Riviera Garden Club

Saturday, October 18, 2008

10 am to 4 pm

Garden Event – Self Guided Tour – 8 Gardens

Education Booths, Plant Doctor, and Refreshments



\$25 presale, \$30 day of tour, rain or shine, map provided with ticket
 Tickets may be purchased in advance at Bristot Farms, RB or Villa Hermosa, Torrance,
 or by mail to J. Young at 5105 Via el Sereno, Torrance, CA 90505-6249 - checks made out to RGC
 Watch for balloons on day of tour near all the houses s
 Call for information or directions 310-378-9767

RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008-2009

If the information on the mailing label is correct,
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- Continuing Member**—mailing label per-
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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 2008-2009: \$ 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 2008-
 2009 business year began on 9/1/08 & ends on 8/31/09.
 Annual dues received during this period are counted
 toward the 2008-2009 year. The RHA does not share
 any personal information with anyone for any purpose
 other than newsletter processing & delivery.

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2008 Scholarships



Left to Right: Nicholas Cincotta, Chrystopher Propster, Noboru Emori, and Mathieu Gonin

Congratulations to our 2008 RHA Scholarship Winners and South High Graduates.

Check your sprinklers

It is good that many of you are watering early, but occasionally those sprinkler heads break. Please check your sprinklers occasionally to make sure you aren't wasting water.



Don't put your trash containers out too early

Reminder that the Torrance Municipal Code says that no trash containers should be in the street or alley before 6 pm on the day before collection and must be removed within 12 hours after being emptied. There have been complaints about trash containers out early. You can be cited.

Thank you to the City of Torrance for a great Concert in the Park

RHA logo "Jewel of the South Bay" merchandise available at www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA
Visit The RHA Website at www.hollywoodriviera.org. Officer e-mail contacts available on website.

Riviera Homeowners Association 2008-9 Officers and Directors

Co-President	Roberta Blowers	310-930-1322	Landscape Chair	Karen Lent	310-375-6539
Co-President	Tim Youngern	310-373-4981	City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Treasurer	Voc Gregorian	310-710-9080	Traffic Liaison	Mike Guidry	310-373-1944
Secretary	Sam Sandt	310-408-5370	Mailing Chair	Diane Miltimore	
Immed Past President	Pamela Maran	310-375-1423	Webmaster/Photographer	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314
Newsletter Editor	Geneva Martin	310-378-9767	Scholarship Chair	Gayle Taylor	310-375-7038
Hospitality Chair	Nancy Mansfield-Staudt	310-378-5334			

The Riviera Reporter

P.O. Box 1074 - Torrance, CA 90505

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