

THE

# Riviera Reporter

Newsletter of The Riviera Homeowners Association

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—February 2009



RHA Presidents  
Tim Youngern and  
Roberta Blowers

## RHA GENERAL MEETING

Meet with the Mayor

*Mayor Frank Scotto and Councilman Pat Furey talk  
about rooftop decks and answer your questions*

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

7 PM - 9PM

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

### The Presidents Message:

We have an important opportunity to let our point of view be known. We are hosting the Mayor and Councilman Furey at our February 25<sup>th</sup> homeowners meeting. This is the current, most important rooftop deck meeting to attend if you are concerned about rooftop decks and or want to hear more up to date information from the City Council meetings.

The Mayor and City Council will be recommending (and in the near future voting on) whether to ban rooftop decks or to draft a different rooftop deck ordinance based on a great deal of the information gathered from this meeting.

It became clear after meeting with the Mayor and each of the City Council members plus speaking

to the Planning Department, that the Mayor, most of the City Council members and the Torrance Planning Department have been receiving some correspondence regarding rooftop decks. However, the Mayor and City Council are asking for residents from all of Torrance to come to this meeting to gauge what the residents want. They would like to bring the residents up to date about rooftop decks and make a decision based on the resident input. They all said that they really need even more residents letting their opinions be known, and hope that this meeting will enlighten them more. We feel this City Council is open to finding out what the citizens of Torrance want.

Please continue to send letters regarding rooftop decks to:

The Planning Department at [glodan@torrnet.com](mailto:glodan@torrnet.com),

The Mayor at [fscotto@torrnet.com](mailto:fscotto@torrnet.com)

The City Council members at [gbarnett@torrnet.com](mailto:gbarnett@torrnet.com), [tbrewer@torrnet.com](mailto:tbrewer@torrnet.com), [pfurey@torrnet.com](mailto:pfurey@torrnet.com), [cnumark@torrnet.com](mailto:cnumark@torrnet.com), [srhilinger@torrnet.com](mailto:srhilinger@torrnet.com), [bsutherland@torrnet.com](mailto:bsutherland@torrnet.com)

If you miss this meeting, your message might not be heard and things may not go the way that you prefer. If you cannot attend, be sure to send correspondence to the Mayor, City Council, and Planning Department to let them know your wishes.

We look forward to seeing you at our February 25<sup>th</sup> homeowners meeting.

RHA Future Meetings: April 22nd and June 24th  
Annual Riviera Village Summer Festival: June 27-28, 10 to 6

## Recent New Restaurant Additions in the Riviera Village



### Dolce Vita 1718 Catalina, 310- 844.7462

Side walk tables and red umbrellas are an inviting entry to this new European –style delicatessen. Dolce Vita was established in the Riviera last summer by Melanie Strauss, a recent transplant from Frankfurt, Germany.

Dolce Vita is open 6 days a week (closed Monday) from 9am to 7 pm with a German chef and an entire made-from-scratch menu. You can choose from a selection of omelettes, hot and cold sandwiches, spaetzle or bratwurst. They additionally have a variety of over 80 imported Artisanal cheeses, authentic German foods and European pastries and delicacies.

This is another special spot to stroll into for a meal, snack or dessert and coffee. Melanie says she has not had a moment of home-sickness since being here; she loves the Riviera and the appreciation is mutual.



### Turquoise 1735 Catalina , 310-373-3234

Another restaurant opened late last year almost across the street from Dolce Vita. Turquoise is a Mediterranean, organic and natural foods restaurant. The menu has vegan, vegetarian and meat dishes and specializes in kabobs. You will also find hot and cold tapas and specialty salads.

The owners of this new restaurant are from Palos Verdes. Hamid and Fatemi Shazi have a restaurant background and have introduced Persian tastes to this new eatery.

Turquoise has a turquoise color theme, of course, and has a unique updated design. They are open for dinner during the week and dinner and lunch on the weekends. What a pleasure to have a new and unique restaurant in the Riviera! (On the corner in the old Finley's spot.)

### Yellow Vase 1805 Catalina, 310-373-0013

A beautiful treasure to the Riviera, the Yellow Vase is a café, flower boutique and bakery. The owner, Morgan, is a South Bay resident who runs the business with help of her children and staff.

The food is wonderfully delicious and the inside and outside restaurant space has a warm, unique European feel (better than the Europeans do it however!). The flowers in the shop are overseen by Brooke, a high-end flower designer. Her gorgeous creations add energy and vitality to the café. Yellow umbrellas, large yellow dinner platters and yellow accents carry out the theme.

You will find the Yellow Vase at the former Duxiana location. Treat yourself - don't miss out on having a latte, a yummy treat or brunch or lunch here!

*Karen Lent - Landscape Chair*



PLEASE JOIN THE SOUTH HIGH PTSA FOR OUR NEXT CAMPUS CLEANUP DAY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009  
DRINKS AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED  
ANY QUESTIONS - CONTACT KEITH MUSICK

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
MEET US IN THE MALL  
note2musick@yahoo.com

## Newsletter of the Riviera Homeowners Association

### RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB LANDSCAPE AWARD

We have decided to include the Riviera Village in our landscape selections, as these businesses are very important to us.

**December 2008 Dennee's Garden Shop**  
219 Avenue I, Riviera Village, 310-540-0437

Welcome to the new Dennees' Garden Shop – a beautiful addition to the Riviera. The outdoor store is a serene spot adjacent to Dennees' Furniture store on Avenue I.

Dennees' has been a fixture in the South Bay for over sixty years. Beginning in 1945, Lloyd Dennees' on Hawthorne and El Segundo Boulevards was run by Dave's parents for almost 40 years. The business moved to the Riviera in 1983. (Interestingly, Lloyd Dennees' started as a Goodyear store, later added televisions and continued evolving.)

Dave grew up in Inglewood and played high school sports. He and his wife live in the Riviera. Dennees' is a three generational business, Dave's three daughters help run the stores which now include the Garden Store plus a showroom they opened ten years ago in Santa Ynez.

The new Dennee's Garden Shop is a lovely mix of fountains, plants, furniture and yard art.. Not completely finished yet, Dave wants this new space to be a "feel good gathering spot." Come down and take a stroll through this interesting space and enjoy this unique new spot in Riviera Village.

*Karen Lent - Landscape Chair*



*Daughters Michelle and Monique at Dennee's*

### RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PROGRAM AND FIRST ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Thanks to the Riviera and Richardson Choruses as well as "Monday Night Live" for the holiday music. Special thanks to Joe Petito for setting up and Karrie Willett, Lisa Allen and Laura Savitz for coordinating the music.

The Gingerbread Contest was a big success. We didn't have a lot of entries but the ones we had were beautiful. The winners are: Heather Robinson, Max and Ava Hampel and Georgetta Magnus.

Many expressed interest in participating next year. The RHA would like to thank Barbara Guidry for her help and Dr. Horvath of Richardson for helping in distributing flyers and offering the cafeteria. We look forward to continuing this event next year.

*Above: Gingerbread houses and winners*

*At right: Riviera Chorus in matching t-shirts plus Richardson Chorus in blue robes*



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



Melanie Strauss  
Owner

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The next Newsletter will be in April. Place your ad before the end of March 2009.  
For more information, call 310-710-9080 or email [treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org)

## Membership Form

### **JOIN the Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) for 2008-2009**

*Your dues are an important contribution to our community. They allow us to provide scholarships to college bound students and donations to elementary and middle schools. They are also used to sponsor general meetings in the Riviera on topics important to our community. They finance this newsletter and allow us to keep members informed on important issues being discussed in the City. Your dues allow us to thank the City when they are doing a great job and to express our concern when our property interests are impacted. If you are not a member, please consider joining. It is a small sum, well invested.*

**M**embership runs from September thru August. Since our new membership and business year has begun, it's time to join or renew your membership in the Riviera Homeowners Association today and help support the interests of our community. Membership dues are only \$25 a year. Please fill out the form below or update mailing label on reverse, enclose your check payable to "Riviera Homeowners Association", and mail to RHA Membership, P.O. Box 1074, Torrance, CA 90505. Or, you can renew or join online through our PayPal system-it is quick and secure! Go to our website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

*(Please note: Your street and/or email address are never shared with any third parties, and are used only for the purpose of notifying our members about upcoming events and other important information.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive emails from us? If not, and you would like to be on our list, please provide us with your email address:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Annual Membership for 2008-09 (Sept.-Aug.)

Additional contributions are always welcome!  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Newsletter of the Riviera Homeowners Association

## ***El Retiro Library Refurbishment***

*El Retiro Library will be closed for approximately 3 months in late spring for renovation. Currently the target date is late April. Southeast Library was closed to public on Monday, January 5th. El Retiro is scheduled to begin when Southeast is finished. The branch library refurbishment has the following objectives: Safety: install seismically safe shelving and upgrade the electrical systems; Efficient Library Use; Energy Efficiency; Aesthetics: new carpet and new front service counter. This project is being paid for by the City of Torrance.*

## **City of Torrance rated as one of the safest cities**

In the most recent CQ Press survey (2008), the City of Torrance was rated the 4th safest city in Los Angeles County and the 23rd safest city in the United States with populations over 100,000. Note also that the crime rate for Torrance is well below the national average. In this study of 378 cities, the national average was weighted at 100. The City of Torrance came in at 43.98, or 56 points below the national average.

## **2009 Scholarship Awards**

The RHA college scholarship awards are given to graduating seniors in the Hollywood Riviera. 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 Co-President Roberta Blowers.

## **RHA board to sponsor team at American Cancer Society Torrance Relay for Life**

The Torrance Relay for Life will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26th.

\* Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer.

\* Remember loved ones lost to the disease.

\* Fight Back. Raise money and awareness in order to put an end to cancer.

The RHA board is forming a team. Please call Pam Popovich at 310-375-8729 to participate. Check out <http://www.relayforlife.org/torranceca>

## **Riviera Homeowners Association 2008-9 Officers and Directors**

Co-President	Roberta Blowers	310-930-1322	Hospitality Chair	Nancy Mansfield-Staudt	310-378-5334
Co-President	Tim Youngern	310-373-4981	Landscape Chair	Karen Lent	310-375-6539
Membership	Judy Brunetti	310-378-5616	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

Our mailing list did not get updated for the December mailing with the latest paid member list. We apologize to those whose dues were paid and hope you find your status correct with this issue.

## **The Riviera Reporter**

**P.O. Box 1074 - Torrance, CA 90505**

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