

THE

Riviera Reporter

Newsletter of The Riviera Homeowners Association

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



RHA Presidents
Tim Youngern and
Roberta Blowers

President's Message: Are you a good neighbor?

Recently I saw a bumper sticker that said "COEXIST" on it. It made me think about our great community that we live in here in the Riviera. I feel very lucky to have some of the best neighbors that live around me. Some of my neighbors do so much more than "COEXIST".

The big question is: Are you a good neighbor?

Here are examples of some of the neighborly things that I have seen or am involved in: Some neighbors share with each other the fruit off of the trees and flowers that they grow in their gardens and share some of the treats that they bake in their homes. A neighbor even walks another neighbor's dog when that neighbor has been too ill to do so. One of us even retrieved another neighbor's dog that got loose and was wandering the street, and returned the neighbor's precious pet receiving words of heartfelt gratitude in return thinking the worst luckily never happened. One neighbor

RHA GENERAL MEETING

First Meeting of the Year

Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm

LeRoy J. Jackson, Torrance City Manager, will be speaking on the history of Torrance

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

There will be a prize drawing for all members paying dues at the meeting, as well as another prize drawing for all members who pay by October 31.

puts out and brings in their neighbor's trash bins for trash day because it has become more difficult for the neighbor to do so themselves. Many neighbors visit as they walk by during their daily walks and many neighbors honk, wave and smile as they drive by.

One important neighborly thing that I and some of my close neighbors do is to trim our bushes and trees to make sure that neighbor's views are maintained to be enjoyed on a regular basis. Some of us even coordinate together on the same day to trim our trees for each other, actually go to each others property to double check that the trees are trimmed well enough for their wonderful views to remain. Many of my neighbors and I do this routinely and other neighborly things that make this great neighborhood so extra special.

What saddens me is recently I have received many phone calls, emails and had many discussions with people in our Riviera community about loss of views. I have visited many homes here that have problems with their neighbors regarding losing their wonderful views, whether small or large views, always very special to them, to trees and bushes not trimmed by their neighbors. I have been told that many of these neighbors even refuse to trim their bushes and trees. Some have even planted them purposely to spite their neighbors. These negatively affected neighbors have even offered to pay to have them trimmed, and still the neighbor refuses to allow or do so. The premise to "COEXIST" is to do to others what you would want done to you. I want to remind you that you would not want that done to you if you were the neighbor with the view being blocked by another neighbor's trees or a structure.

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We are so lucky to live in an area that was built in a very special way to allow so many beautiful views of the ocean, city, mountains and more. One of my friends even used a very good analogy in describing and comparing many of our homes having been built in such an organized fashion to allow so many views to that of the many tiers that can be seen on a wedding cake. You disturb one of those tiers and it can cause a domino effect and can cause many adverse impacts especially when remodeling our homes and growing trees and bushes on our properties.

Why can't you as a neighbor, visit a good deed on your neighbors and go outside and trim your trees and bushes so as to not affect your neighbor's views and view corridors?

Remodeling our home can be something great when keeping in mind our neighbors and following the Ordinance. Keep in mind that you would not want your view taken away or blocked by someone else's remodeled home or trees. Do more than just coexisting. Do the neighborly thing and reach out and pay forward an act of kindness to your neighbors by trimming your trees and not taking away your neighbor's views and privacy with a poor remodel of your home. So, I ask again: Are you a good neighbor?

Co-President, Roberta Blowers

Four Fox Sightings on Vista Montana

- Do not feed the foxes.
- Make sure your dog or cat's rabies vaccinations are current.
- Do not leave pet food or water outdoors, especially at night.

There have been four sightings of red foxes living on Vista Montana. The first time I saw one crossing the street in the evening was in the middle of summer. It paused long enough for me to get a very clear look at it and confirm that it was a red fox, crossing about halfway up the hill. Labor Day weekend I saw two of them crossing Vista Montana closer to the top of the hill at about 7 p.m. One neighbor saw a fox on Montana in August. Another neighbor told me he saw a whole family of them cross Montana earlier this summer.

Their natural diet would consist primarily of small rodents that they find on the hillside, such as mice and rats. Therefore they provide some benefit to the community in the form of rodent control. However, if these foxes get access to pet food left outdoors (accidentally or intentionally) the result will be: the foxes will increasingly approach close to homes looking for pet food, they will have larger litters because of the increased calorie in their diet, and we will have a growing population of foxes. Ultimately the result would be tragic and likely fatal conflicts between pets and the foxes.

Although foxes would not be expected to attack most pets, if they become accustomed to pet food, they may seek to "defend" their right to it. If the population grows enough, they could become hungry enough to attack small pets for food. Riviera residents need to join together to keep these animals wild, to keep them hunting rodents, and to keep their population small and geographically limited. We do not want them to be accustomed to approaching houses seeking food, which would put them closer to pets and people.

Although we have not had a confirmed rabid fox detected in Los Angeles County in recent memory, foxes are the third most commonly detected rabid animal in the state of California. In LA County, the most commonly detected rabid species are bats. Since foxes eat small mammals, foxes can be exposed to rabid bats and then become rabid themselves.

Dr. Emily Beeler, DVM, Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control

Focal Point on Aging

The Focal Point on Aging is an information and referral program where older adults, caregivers, and their families can obtain access to aging services in the community. The Focal Point program is housed in the Russ Nolte Annex, located at 1339 Post Ave., adjacent to the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center in downtown Torrance. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and walk-in's are welcome. For more information call 310-320-1300.

The Focal Point provides ready access to a full range of available services, including: transportation, housing, Meals-On-Wheels, health care, companion care, Medicare, social and legal services, HMOs, and more.

RHA logo "Jewel of the South Bay" merchandise available at www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA

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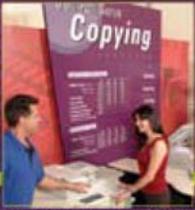
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The next Newsletter will be in December. Place your ad before the end of November 2009.
For more information, call 310-710-9080 or email treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org

Torrance City Council Adopts Water Conservation Ordinance

On March 24, 2009, the Torrance City Council adopted Water Conservation Ordinance #3717. See <http://www.torranceca.gov/PDF/WaterConservationOrdinanceNo3717.pdf>

On July 21, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution #2009-70 declaring a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage in accordance with the City's existing Water Conservation Ordinance #3717. See <http://www.torranceca.gov/PDF/WaterConservationResolution2009-70.pdf>

This action was necessitated by a third consecutive drought year in California and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) declaring mandatory cutbacks in deliveries of imported water supplies. MWD currently provides two-thirds of the City's annual water requirements.

The Level 1 activation places further restrictions on water use including:

- No watering between the hours of **9 a.m.** until **5 p.m.** (changed from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.)
- Watering limited to **3 days per week** (changed from unlimited days per week but still no restrictions on which days)
- Water no more than 15 minutes per station (remains the same)
- No excessive water flows or runoff (remains the same)
- No washing down of exterior surfaces (remains the same)
- All leaks must be fixed within **7 days** (changed from 15 days)
- Washing of vehicles, boats, etc., only with a bucket or hose with a positive shut-off valve (remains the same)
- Fountains and other water features must use recirculating systems (remains the same)

All other permanent water use restrictions remain in place per the Ordinance.

In addition, the Resolution calls upon all customers to reduce their water usage by an additional 10% to stay within our mandated reduction targets from MWD and help maintain regional water reserves in the event that there is a fourth consecutive drought year in 2010.

For more information and water-saving tips. See <http://www.bewaterwise.com/>

For frequently asked questions on the City's water conservation policies, see <http://www.torranceca.gov/PDF/FAQWaterConservationPolicies7-23-09.pdf>

Words on Wheels - Home Delivery

Words on Wheels is home delivery of Torrance Library materials. Are you or is someone you know a resident of Torrance who cannot get to the library? Would you like library books and/or listening materials delivered to your home?

The Torrance Public Library has volunteers who will deliver the materials you like-books (including large print), audiobooks (cassette or CD), and music. Based on your interests, your volunteer will select material and will schedule a regular delivery and pick-up time. Talking books and machines from the Braille Institute are also available-we can register you.

Volunteer

Do you have a few extra hours a month? Do you have transportation? Become a volunteer for the Torrance Public Library's Words on Wheels (WOW) service and bring the enjoyment of reading and listening to those in our community who are unable to visit the library.

Sign Up

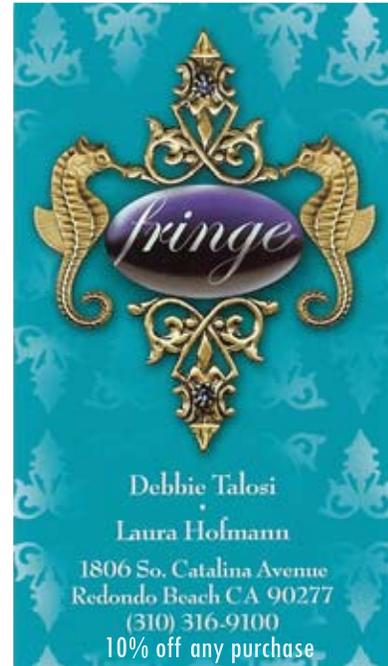
To sign up, or for more information, please contact the Words on Wheels Coordinator at (310) 618-5950.

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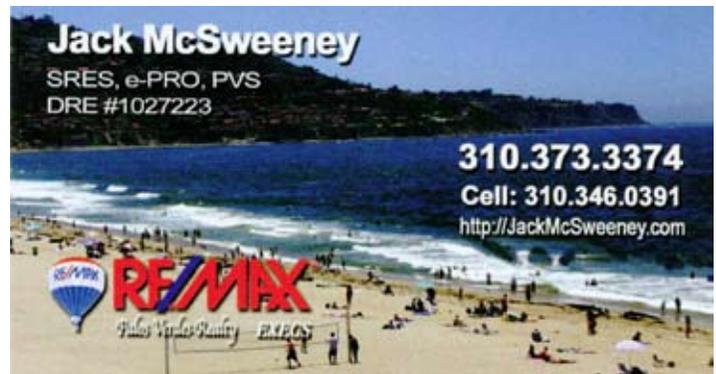
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Pick one day a month & walk to the Riviera Village to meet a friend for coffee, lunch or dinner

RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB LANDSCAPE AWARD

by Shelley & Karen; pictures by Julian

The Riviera Garden Club takes the cake in July! The Club used proceeds from their 2008 Garden Tour to redesign and replant several Torrance City projects. Ric Dykseul consulted with the RGC on low water designs. The El Retiro project was replanted by a group of Club members with help from the City. The new look corresponded with the reopening of the Library in July after a earthquake retrofit and refurbishing. The refreshed library with new shelving, carpets and service desk was worth the wait and effort. The redesigned planters bring out the best in the 1950's architecture. Plantings include flax, sages, blue oat grass and succulents. Drive by and check out the look (and a book).



July 2009 - El Retiro Library,
126 Vista del Parque – Planter Re-Do

Take warm tan shingles, add lots of bright white trim and a distinguished eyebrow window and you have a touch of Cape Cod right in the midst of a lovely traditional Riviera street. Another eye catching Ric Dykseul landscape design is chosen for the June award. Liz and Juan Gutierrez, and their two children, Daniel and Julia, have lived in their Via del Valle upper area home for 15 years. They just moved back in a year ago after gutting the house and bringing it back to life from the ground up. The shingled bungalow shows off a tidy green lawn and the path to the front door is bordered with swishing color of dwarf germander, Santa Barbara daisy, garnet penstemon, purple salvia and blue cranes's bill geranium. Different varieties of roses are sprinkled amongst the colorful landscaping. A Burmese honeysuckle sits to the side of the front porch. Large concrete pads in the driveway with grassy divides link the main lawn to the side yard grass and plantings.



June 2009
Gutierrez Home, 5336 Via del Valle

The Sardies moved to this highly desired close- to- the -beach street (Camino de Encanto) from North Redondo a year ago after they finished building this new Spanish style home. Therese and Lyle love to garden and planned and executed their own landscaping plan front and back. Their planting melange includes small colorspots of azalea, begonias and marigolds among sago and queen palms. Standouts are the tall red cordyline. Agapanthus and a variegated purple flowering veronica. Small boulders add spots of interest here and there. The neat front yard has roses beyond a low middle wall and a diamond patterned tiled walkway leading to the gated courtyard which is shielded from the street. The Sardies offer a new lovely home and landscaping to the lower Riviera – thank you Therese and Lyle and welcome to paradise!



May 2009
Lyle and Theresa Sardie, 424 Camino de Encanto

Sign up for the RHA E-Mail Alert

Get periodic emails notifying you of RHA meetings, events, and occasional community notices.

Don't miss out!

Look for this sign on the RHA website:

Click here to sign
up for the RHA
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Visit our website at:

www.HollywoodRiviera.org

Membership Form

JOIN the Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) for 2009-2010

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.

Membership 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 the 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

(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.)

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\$25 Annual Membership for 2009-10 (Sept.-Aug.)

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

Visit The RHA Website at www.hollywoodriviera.org.

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

president@hollywoodriviera.org newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org
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Newsletter of the Riviera Homeowners Association



The Riviera Homeowners Association Board

enjoyed meeting everyone who stopped at our booth at the Annual Riviera Village Summer Festival.

We would especially like to thank our sponsors for the raffle prizes:

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Bikes were donated by Voc Gregorian & Hermosa Cyclery

Surfboard winner is pictured with board members on left. Bike winners are pictured on right.

Concerned about Helicopter Noise?

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of helicopters flying over the Hollywood Riviera. Some of our residents have complained that they cause too much noise. One of our residents has studied this issue and created a website with more information and a petition to the Mayor and City Council of Torrance, asking for their help in getting helicopter operators to reduce the noise. If you are interested in finding out more or adding your name to the petition online, you can visit the website at www.helicopternoise.com. Or, if you do not have access to the Internet, you can call Richard Root, at 310 375-1594.

Riviera Homeowners Association 2009-10 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	Community Liaison	Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Treasurer	Voc Gregorian	310-710-9080	Traffic Liaison	Mike Guidry	310-373-1944
Secretary	Judy English	310-378-0361	Mailing Chair	Diane Miltimore	
Newsletter Editor	Geneva Martin	310-378-9767	Webmaster/Photographer	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314

The Riviera Reporter

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