

# THE RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940's



RHA Co-Presidents  
Judy Brunetti and  
Janet Kaplan

Happy New Year, Riviera residents!

We've noticed a lot of construction and renovation in the area lately. Could this be signs of a recovering economy? Wouldn't that be

great news?

On the topic of construction, some residents were very disappointed with the Torrance City Council's recent decision to approve the plans for the development of a Rock 'n Brews Beer Garden restaurant on the site of the former Oliver's at Palos Verdes Blvd. and PCH. Many people testified at the council meeting of their concerns about noise, traffic, parking, late hours of the restaurant, and possible loss of property value for homes near the site. Nonetheless, the council voted unanimously, with a number of conditions, to approve the construction. We are waiting to see the result. Will it become a favorite diner, or the noisy neighbor you cannot abide? Stay tuned.

Not to be forgotten in the new year is the subject of vegetation and its impact on our precious views. This will re-emerge as the prime focus of our February RHA meeting with a presentation by David Wahba, planning director and "view expert" in Rolling Hills Estates, which has a very successful tree/view ordinance. Mr. Wahba is a former Riviera resident who is very familiar with our situation in Torrance. He will explain how their ordinance came about, how residents can file a "view equity" claim, and how view disputes are resolved in RHE. We think this could be a model for us in the Riviera.

Also the same evening, on a lighter note, will be a presentation by local author Bill Sewell, author of a new novel of international espionage, "Nonofficial Asset." Mr. Sewell, is a security expert and a former contractor for the CIA, will discuss his experiences and how those contributed to his book. There will be time for questions and copies of his book will be available for sale and for him to sign.

As always, we are interested in building our RHA membership, so if you have not yet renewed or if you are new to the area, please take advantage of the application form in this newsletter. You can also join online at [www.hollywoodriviera.com](http://www.hollywoodriviera.com), or join in person at the meeting. If you would like to become more involved in the community, we are looking for new members for our RHA Board of Directors, either in a big or small capacity. Please email [president@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org) and one of us will get back to you. Best wishes for a great year in 2013!

## **NEWSLETTER POLICY CHANGE**

If you are a paid RHA member or if you pay this month, you will continue to get the full RHA newsletter. If you have not paid this year, you will get a postcard reminding you of upcoming meetings. We are moving to this two-tiered system in an effort to make more money available for the scholarships and community programs that we sponsor.

## **RHA GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 6, at 7 PM**

All homeowners in the Riviera are invited to our general meeting at the Richardson Middle School Cafeteria, 23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance CA 90505.

The program will feature two terrific speakers: David Wahba, Planning Director of Rolling Hills Estates, to speak about trees and views, and local author Bill Sewell, writer of the best-selling new novel: "Nonofficial Asset."

Doors open at 6:30. Public welcome.



## Outstanding Landscape Awards Presented by Riviera Garden Club and Riviera Homeowners Association



### **Karen and Chris Fitzpatrick Mackenzie, Devin and John 459 Calle de Castellana Redondo Beach, CA**

This beautifully maintained cottage garden is bursting with color throughout most of the year and it is a true gift to the neighborhood. Its mix of perennials provides the structure/bones of the garden and seasonal color. Various annuals provide vivid color year round. The planting includes: Salvia, cosmos, multiple rose bushes, agapanthus, foxglove, stock, day lily, black-eyed susan, zinnia, pansy, papyrus, and impatiens.

Photo by: Karen Lent  
Text by: Janet Hart



### **Mike Johnson and Thai Ha 437 Via El Chico Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

On a street less travelled, an artful expression of unity weaves through this garden. The larger, uphill share of the garden is defined by a low stone-faced wall interspersed with large Asian ceramic pots. The garden plane - meticulously covered with multi-colored pebbles sets the artworks' stage. A Japanese maple punctuates the entry to the garden and a curved, stone path leads you through a display of three large bronze sculptures. Each sculpture supports a unique representation of unity and co-existence. The largest sculpture "Where Cultures Meet" by Benjamin Victor is also installed, in an even larger scale, on the campus of CSU Dominguez Hills. (<http://www.csudh.edu/communityandfriends/pictureart.shtml>) This water-wise, uphill portion of the garden is offset with a calming rock waterfall and pond on the downhill share of the garden. (Some rocks were transplanted from Vietnam) This space is planted with another Japanese maple plus low-lying juniper, convolvulus and red apple ground covers. The garden is tied together by the use of minimal planting, assorted rocks, juxtaposed wet and dry landscape, and deeply expressive artwork. The landscape was designed by the homeowners and installed with assistance from Paradise Landscape.

Photo by: Julian Chasin





# Membership Form

Join the Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) For 2013

Your dues are an important contribution to our community. They allow us to provide scholarships to college-bound students, and donations to elementary, middle and high school programs. They are used to sponsor general meetings in the Riviera on topics important to our community. They finance our newsletters and communications, and allow us to keep members informed on important issues being discussed in the City. Your dues allow us to thank City Hall 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 to 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, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be on our email list, please provide us with your email address.

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

\$ 25 dollar annual membership for 2012-2013 (September through August)

\$40 dollar membership for two years 2012-2014

Additional contributions are welcome!  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Riviera Reporter**  
P.O. Box 1074 Torrance, CA 90505



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**Riviera Homeowners Association Mission Statement:**

1. To maintain and enhance the quality of life in the Riviera, and to support projects with that goal.
2. To encourage and promote the participation of residents in community and civic activities.
3. To bring matters that are important to our residents to the attention of city officials, and to work toward a resolution of these issues.

If you are a college-bound senior who lives in the Riviera, does NOT attend South High School but would like to be considered for our RHA scholarships, please go to [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org) and click on the link for "Riviera Scholars" to get the application form. Mail it to our PO Box 1074 by March 1 to be eligible for a \$500 scholarship.

**Riviera Homeowners Association 2012-2013 Officers and Directors**

Co-President Janet Kaplan	310-780-9641	Treasurer Paul Popovich	310-375-3592
Co-President Judy Brunetti	310-378-5616	Assistant Program Chair Cindy Constantino	310 -245-0140
Membership Chair Julie Garbe	310-378-5831	Online Editor/Photographer Julian Chasin	310-737-6314
Secretary Judy English	310-378-0361	Community Liason Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Hospitality Chair Nancy Mansfield-Staudt	310-378-5334	City Council Observer Richard Root	310-375-1594
Landscape Chair Janet Hart	310-373-6507	Immediate Past President Roberta Blowers	310-930-1322

**Visit the RHA Website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org). The following RHA officers can be contacted via email:**

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