

# The Riviera

## HOMEOWNERS NEWSLETTER

BULLETIN NO. 4

JANUARY, 1969

Dear Members and Residents:

### OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY RATED "BEST EVER" BY RESIDENTS

Universally, the Riviera Homeowners' Association "old fashioned Christmas party" held last month in the Parkway School Cafetorium was described as a complete success. It is hoped the evening's festivities will serve as the format for similar holiday parties in the years to come, according to Riviera Homeowners' Association Prexy, Ted Baciu. Yolanda Hall, party chairman, estimated that in excess of 200 youngsters participated in the evening's program which included story-telling, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa Claus (who brought a brimming bag of favors), and refreshments.

The turnout of youngsters and their parents filled the Cafetorium to capacity, and Mrs. Hall described the Yule program as a "huge success" from the standpoint of Riviera residents participation and support. Along with the favors distributed by Santa Claus to the youngsters, several door prizes and a Christmas tree were awarded to adult ticket holders. Riviera Homeowners' Association extends its thanks to the following firms and organizations which contributed to the party's success:

- \*Hermann's Fine Meat, a five-pound ham
- \*Safeway Store, a \$5 gift certificate
- \*Howard's Market, a wine gift with two glasses
- \*Harbor Savings, 200 candy canes
- \*Toy Circus, assistance and discount in purchasing favors
- \*Girl Scout Troop 214, cookie decorations
- \*Morgan Moore's Stationers, cups and napkins

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One of the highlights of the evening was the performance of the Bravo Singers, directed by Mrs. Glen Holzhausen. The Riviera Homeowners' Association donated \$25 to the group, and Mrs. Holzhausen has indicated the funds will be utilized in the singers' uniform fund -- most likely to purchase red sweaters.

### JANUARY MEETING TO DISCUSS THWARTING HOME BURGLARIES

Protection of the home against break-ins, a gut-issue concern of every Riviera resident, is the topic of the January Riviera Homeowners' Association meeting. The evening's program, which begins at 8 p.m. Monday, January 6, in

• **Issues and Information of Importance to the Riviera** •

the Cafetorium of the Parkway School, will feature representatives of the Torrance Police Department.

During planning meetings between Riviera Homeowners' Association representatives and Torrance Police Department Police Captain John W. Maestri, it was decided a combination program would be most informative, therefore the January meeting was structured to include the following:

- Showing of a Torrance Police Department film, "Locked Doors"
- A brief presentation by Torrance Police Department Sgt. Robert Armstrong and a representative from the Bureau
- A question-and-answer session during which the audience can query Sgt. Armstrong and a representative from the Bureau

The planning discussions with Captain Maestri (who unfortunately will be unable to participate in the meeting) brought forth the request from the Police Department that neighbors be observant of unusual activities in the immediate vicinity of their houses. At no time have police officials suggested that area residents attempt to use force of any sort. Rather, law enforcement personnel emphasize vigilance by homeowners in the form of recording unusual activity (such as autos, trucks, unfamiliar persons, or activity in unoccupied houses) is valuable in apprehending suspects after a crime of this nature has been committed and reported.

Therefore, residents are asked to jot down license numbers or physical descriptions of persons in the event a typical break-in is later reported. "Police investigations depend heavily upon the information neighbors can provide," stated one Torrance Police Department officer. Residents are asked to be specially observant of the two houses on either side of their home and the five houses directly across the street.

Break-ins in many instances are directly related to teenagers and young adults addicted to narcotics who require as many as 2-4 burglaries a day to support their habit. They strike during the daylight hours many times when homeowners are shopping, when all members of the family are working, and on weekends when occupants have left for several days. As an example, it is believed burglars recently opened a garage door, drove a small panel truck into the garage, closed the garage door, and thereupon proceeded to loot the unoccupied house before fleeing in the truck.

In addition to discussing an informal, but effective, neighborhood surveillance system, the meeting will also outline means whereby homeowners can protect their homes against forceable entry through the use of locks and other devices. The Parkway School is located at 220 Via Riviera, Torrance. The public is invited to attend.

#### DELAY OCCURS IN REPORT OF RIVIERA CRIME STATISTIC

Last month the Riviera Homeowners' Newsletter outlined plans to publish a statistical breakdown of the Riviera crime picture provided from the computerized files of the Torrance Police Department. Joe Kirner, Riviera Homeowners' Association special project committee chairman, indicates the rush of the year-end business (he was responsible for planning and organizing the upcoming January meeting and also shouldered responsibility for the Christmas decoration contest) has caused a delay.

Kirner is now hopeful that the February issue of the newsletter will publish a tabulation for each of the four reporting districts comprising the Riviera area.

SCHOOL VANDALISM, PARK MISCONDUCT 3PARK NEIGHBORHOOD AND TFD ACTION

Following recent acts of vandalism and other misconduct at Los Arboles Park, the Torrance Police Department has assigned increased surveillance after dark to the area. The concern is generated by wanton acts such as destruction of signs, lighting and shrubbery, and also by reports that the park area has become a rendezvous point for hippies and a potential drug troublespot. The Riviera Homeowners' Association has been approached by several interested parties to aid in the erection of a fence downslope which would make rapid flight from the scene difficult and would aid in the apprehension of suspects who police and residents observe.

Hand-in-hand with this undertaking, Riviera Elementary School Principal, Richard Brown, last month issued an open letter to parents wherein he made the following statement:

"It's time we came to grips with a problem that we have at Riviera, one that parents can help with. It's vandalism at the school and at the park next door. We don't have many major incidents, but we do have a lot of petty things happen (writing on walls, putty in locks, climbing on roofs) that are annoying and take extra custodial and maintenance time. "Probably of greater importance than the damage done is the attitude that youngsters develop when they do these things and get away with them. It goes farther than pride in the school, as we see evidence of these things happening in many places both public and private. The school just happens to be under less observation during the hours it is not in session."

Not too many days following Mr. Brown's statement a surprised resident found three (equally surprised) neighborhood youngsters taking a sizable number of light bulbs from his outside Christmas decoration. In previous years bulb theft has been a major irritation for homeowners and it appears the past year was no different because when the homeowner asked the youngsters to replace the bulbs, they had six excess bulbs in their pockets -- presumably taken from a neighbor's decorations. By comparison to the activity at the park, the latter incident can be classified as a youthful prank (thre three youngsters apologized the next day), however, parents would be well-advised to heed Mr. Brown's four suggestions which will assist, he believes, in curbing such activities. These suggestions are listed as follows:

1. Know where your children are and what they are doing. Let them know that you trust them but also be realistic enough to know that they are just kids and will behave like kids in certain types of group situations.
2. If you see any child with a piece of school equipment (even a baseball) make sure it is returned to school or report it to the school.
3. If you observe or hear about any major acts of vandalism (entering a room, breaking windows) report such acts to the Torrance Police immediately.
4. If you observe or hear about any minor acts of vandlism, report it to the school.

Mr. Brown closed his letter with the following statement: "The most important character trait we can help children develop is that of being considerate of others. This includes a consideration of the property of others, both public and private. A community of parents working together can do a great deal. I enlist your help."

## RESULTS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Although the judging required some difficult decisions, Christmas decoration chairman Joe Kirner has announced the winners of the annual contest for Riviera residents sponsored by the Riviera Homeowner' Association. The original plans to award five prizes (sweepstakes, religious, door decoration, cartoon and best lighting) were modified somewhat by the judges after viewing the home decorations, and the following six awards were made:

- 1) Sweepstakes, Mr. Mrs. Vincent Metzger, 326 Camino de Las Colinas
- 2) First place, Mr. Mrs. Vincent Metzger, 326 Camino de Las Colinas
- 3) Second place, Mr. Mrs. Sam Whitson, 336 Calle Mayor
- 4) Third place, Mr. Mrs. Ralph Brogdon, 330 Camino de Las Colinas
- 5) Door decoration, Mr. Mrs. Harley T. Cunningham, 868 Calle de Arboles
- 6) Most effective use of lighting, Mr. Mrs. Frank Desmond, 425 Via Los Miradores

Chairman Kirner extended his thanks to the judges who, in addition to himself, were: Ford Dealer Leon Ames, Mr. Mrs. Jack Harpster of the Daily Breeze, and Mrs. M.L. (Pat) Wiley, Riviera Garden Club. The importance of entering the contest beforehand was underscored by Kirner, who noted that several attractive outdoor decorations were not lighted when the judges' caravan toured the neighborhood and therefore these exhibits could not be considered for awards. The absence of religious and cartoon themes prompted the afore-noted change in categories, Kirner added.

Winners will be awarded commemorative plaques, with the Sweepstakes winner receiving, in addition to a plaque, a gift certificate to a local store of their choice.

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MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: JOIN (OR RENEW) RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP NOW

There's no better time to become a part of, and support, the growing activities of the Riviera Homeowners' Association than right now. Make a New Year's resolution this week to clip the coupon below and join or renew your membership for 1969. Please fill out the coupon below and return it to Richard Hall, P.O. Box 1074, Torrance, California 90505. If you are a member with your 1969 renewal already mailed, please take the coupon to your neighbor and ask him to fill it out. He'll thank you!

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSED IS \$5.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE.

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Thanks is extended to the members and leaders of Riviera School Cub Scout Webelos Den, Pack 718-C for performing the flag ceremony at the November meeting.

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