
The Riviera

HOMEOWNERS NEWSLETTER

BULLETIN NO. 5

FEBRUARY, 1969

Dear Members and Residents:

YOUTH AND NARCOTICS SUBJECT OF FEBRUARY MEETING

Every area parent will want to attend the next monthly meeting on Monday, February 3, which will deal with the problem of drug usage by youths in the Riviera area. It is no secret that a large percentage of high-school-age youth in the area have experimented with some form of drugs, and the situation has been a subject of growing concern for responsible parents.

The February meeting will include presentations by Torrance Police Department representatives in addition to a film which graphically illustrates how youngsters embark upon active utilization of drugs. Included in the film are pointers for parents (a) to aid in determining whether their children are using drugs, and (b) if usage is confirmed, what steps should be taken. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations and the film. The guest speakers are:

Torrance Police Sergeant Robert Armstrong
Youth Services Officer, Don Hartell

As was mentioned in last month's Riviera Homeowners Association newsletter, the protracted use of drugs is believed directly accountable for the growing incidence of house burglaries in the area, as law enforcement officials believe full-fledged drug habits many times require their subjects to complete several burglaries daily to support the habit's costs. Although many of the drugs which high school students sample are not sufficiently expensive to lead directly to such burglaries, police officers constantly point to the danger that the controversial introductory drugs may lead to use of harder narcotics on a habitual basis.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. in the Cafetorium of the Parkway School, 220 Via Riviera. As always, the public is invited to attend and participate in the evening's program.

RIVIERA HOMEOWNER BOARD TO PROPOSE DONATION TO CIVIC CENTER FOUNTAIN

The Riviera Homeowners Association Board of Directors has voted to recommend to the general membership that a contribution of \$100 be made toward the proposed Torrance Civic Center fountain project. This Board action will be presented to the membership for approval at the next general meeting, February 3, in the Parkway School Cafetorium.

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

ZONE CHANGE FOR GASOLINE STATION ON PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY REQUEST

Riviera residents are reminded that the Torrance Planning Commission is scheduled to hold its second hearing February 5 on a requested zone change along Pacific Coast Highway to accommodate construction of a gas station. Specifically, the request of Caloil Corporation, represented by John W. Brooks, Vice-President, asks for a zone change from R-3 (limited family residential district) and R-1 (single family residential district) to C-1 (commercial) on an irregular-shaped parcel located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Vista Del Parque.

Riviera Homeowners Association has written the Planning Commission opposing the zone change, and urge that residents of the area appear at the Commission's second hearing (the first was held January 15) to voice their opinion. The Commission's session is scheduled to begin at 7.30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. If additional information is requested, residents are advised to call the Current Planning Section of the Torrance Planning Department at 328-5310, Extension 261.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS REQUIRE CITY ASSISTANCE, RESIDENT RESPECT

The narrow twisting streets of the Riviera framed with bushes and large trees are scenic features of the hillside area found in very few other areas of Los Angeles. These same features, however, create potentially hazardous driving conditions when motorists in a hurry take needless chances with their lives, our lives, and the lives of our children. There is no denying the speed of auto traffic in the Riviera has quickened significantly during the past several years--this in spite of the fact that the streets remain the same, youngsters --many with no sidewalks--dart across the streets playing and on their way to school.

The Riviera Homeowner's Association has asked the Torrance Police Department for stricter enforcement of the speed limits, but the Torrance Police Department, due to the constantly growing pressure of urgent matters, simply cannot be expected to patrol one area of the City in this manner. Therefore, we must take it upon ourselves to slow down, drive on the proper side of the street, be constantly alert for youngsters and be courteous when meeting another motorist on a narrow street. Remember it's also embarrassing to give short shrift to another motorist and moments later, while you're getting out of your car in your driveway, to have him visit the neighbors next door--or worse be the next-door neighbor!

Two requests pertaining to the Riviera traffic problem have been forwarded by our corresponding secretary, Richard Hall, to the Torrance Traffic Engineer. They pertain to: (1) Retention of the 25 mph speed limit on Calle Mayor after the street improvements are completed--the City contemplates increasing the zone to 35 mph, and (2) painting double centerlines in the immediate area of the Mesa Street and Paseo de Las Tortugas intersection where the hilly terrain creates the potential for a serious head-on accident. We'll keep you informed on the outcome of these requests.

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A new Torrance retirement plan for the city's 326 police and firemen which would replace the controversial 50-20 Plan has been approved by the City Council. A means of financing the new plan, which will cost the City \$302,000 during its first year of operation, has not been determined, however City Manager Ferraro has recommended a 6-cent boost in the overall property tax rate as an alternative to a utility users' tax on telephone, electric, water and gas service within the City.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR 1969-70 OFFICERS

A three-man committee has been established to nominate a slate of candidates for the Riviera Homeowners Association's 1969-70 business year. The nominating committee will be headed by Stanley Dunn, first vice-president, and will include Ted Baciu, president for the 1968-89 term, and John Haidinger, Executive Council member at large.

The committee will make its recommendations at the March general meeting (Monday evening, March 3, at 8 pm in the Parkway School Cafetorium) at which time nominations will be open from the floor also. The balloting will be conducted at the close of nomination and will encompass the entire slate of offices and board positions. Traditionally, installation of the new slate has been conducted during the April general meeting, and President Baciu expects to maintain this schedule.

Persons desiring to make recommendations for consideration by the nominating committee are advised to contact Stan Dunn. The present slate of officers and council members is as follows:

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President: Ted Baciu, 4201 Paseo de Las Tortugas 375-0669 (Business 371-5521 ext.205)
First Vice-President: Stanley Dunn, 505 Via La Selva 378-1490 (Business 329-1461)
Second Vice-President: Lorne O'Brien, 521 Calle Mayor 375-0707
Recording Secretary: Sidney F. Croft, 614 Comino De Encanto 373-3178 (Business 378-2263)
Corresponding Secretary: Richard Hall, 4622 Paseo de Las Tortugas 375-3248
Treasurer: Mrs. J.V. Clukey, 272 Calle de Madrid 378-5571

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dave Halstead, 374 Palos Verdes Boulevard 375-4333
John Haidinger, 4607 Vista Montana 378-1122 (Business 375-2574)
Mrs. Louis Kaplan, 111 Via Monte D'Oro 375-6636
Lloyd Cox, 4114 Paseo de Las Tortugas 378-0619
Joe Kirner, 138 Paseo De Gracia 378-7610
John Mikkelsen, 631 Via Monte D'Oro 375-6746

**A NEW BUSINESS YEAR: 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. April marks the start of the association 1969-70 business year, so clip the coupon below and join or renew your membership for the 1969-70 year. Please fill out the coupon and return it to Richard Hall, P.O. Box 1074, Torrance, California 90505. If you are a member with your 1969-70 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

TORRANCE POLICE PROVIDE STATISTICAL REPORT ON RIVIERA AREA

As discussed in previous issues of the Riviera Homeowners Newsletter, the Torrance Police Department maintains detailed statistical records concerning crime and other types of law enforcement activity in the Riviera area. The Torrance Police Department utilizes the designation of reporting districts 32, 33, 34 and 35 for the upper and lower Riviera and these four districts encompass the area within the boundaries of the ocean, Pacific Coast Highway, Hawthorne Boulevard and the Palos Verdes border. The information is stored and analyzed by the Torrance Police Department computer operation, and it is from this source that Joe Kirner, Riviera Homeowners special project chairman, obtained the following tabulation. With the assistance of Torrance Police Captain John W. Maestri, Lt. Popp and Sergeant Snyder, it is hoped that the newsletter will provide a monthly index of police activity in the area--by category.

The tabulation is doubly interesting in light of the discussion during the January meeting which forcefully emphasized the very real threat posed by residence break-ins--especially when homes are empty during weekday, day-light hours. The following tabulation encompasses roughly a three-week period from December 7 to December 28 for the four reporting districts:

- Residential Burglaries 12
- Commercial Burglaries 2
- Garage Burglaries 3
- Automobile Burglaries 3
- Auto Theft 2
- Petty Theft 4
- Robbery 2
- Grand Theft 0
- Sex Crimes 0
- Drunken Arrests 3
- Traffic Stopped 68
- Parking Violations 6
- Disturbance and Loud Noise 9
- Silent Alarms 9
- Non-injury Traffic Accidents 10
- Juvenile Problems 9
- Abandoned Autos 17
- Stolen Vehicle Checks 11
- Prowlers 4
- Suspicious Persons and Vehicles 48
- Suspicious Circumstances 18
- Hit-and-Run Accidents 2
- Traffic Miscellaneous 7
- Malicious Mischief 9
- Injury Traffic Accidents 3
- Stolen Cars Recovered 1
- Assault and Battery 0
- Domestic Problems 1
- Narcotics 0

HEAVY RAINS DURING THE PAST STORM created several erosion problems in the upper Riviera area, with slides of a relatively minor nature occurring on the upper slope of Vista Montana and also in portions of the uninhabited slope toward the easterly end of Paseo de Las Tortugas adjacent to the Palos Verdes boundary. In addition, a portion of one lot on the northerly side of Paseo de Las Tortugas slid onto an alleyway downhill partially damaging a fence. The Las Colinas Garden Club renewed its continuing campaign to combat erosion in the planted slope area on the northerly side of Vista Montana by writing the City of Torrance requesting corrective action be taken. During the storm, severe erosion occurred in this area, uncovering water pipes and requiring extensive sand-bagging. One of the club's suggestions would incorporate erosion control with a sidewalk.