

# The RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—June 2008

## *From the President... Thoughts for summer*



As I sit down to write to all of you, three things come to mind: General Meetings, neighborhood concerns, and things to do over the summer.

I think that our General Meetings were excellent this year, although I wish that more people had attended all of them. They are, after all, free and we are now serving refreshments which I hope will entice a few more of you to come early. Topics this year included the Hillside Overlay Ordinance, Neighborhood Safety, local History (coming up) and a Candidate Forum. We also had a Christmas Party that was a lot of fun. I had hoped to have a General Meeting covering local environmental concerns, ways to save water and Native plants/Native gardens, but all of that will have to wait for next year! I have been attending meetings of the South Bay Green Task Force and am happy to report that there is lots going on locally that will improve all of our lives.

During the past two years since I became President, most telephone calls and emails that I have received from members have had to do with two things: enforcement of the Hillside Overlay Ordinance and overgrown trees. Everything else seems to be going along pretty well. I would encourage all of you to work with your neighbors on both issues.

If you are planning to remodel, live in the overlay zone, and will be negatively impacting your neighbors under the terms of the Hillside Overlay Ordinance, it is really much better and easier in the long run to include them in your planning early on so that views, light, air and privacy are not taken away. If you have trees that are growing up and negatively affecting your neighbors' views, it is really much kinder to trim them when requested to do so, although Torrance has no ordinance to force this. It seems to me that when someone's view is taken away, they are impacted emotionally as well as financially, which needs to be balanced against one's own privacy concerns and love of one's trees.

(continued on page 2)

## **Residents Fight Proposed Jet Fuel Sales at Torrance Airport**

As you may already know, jet fuel is currently banned for sale or storage at the Torrance Airport. Recently the Torrance Airport Commission has been considering the lifting of this ban and allowing jet fuel to be sold at our airport. At this point, jets are permitted to fly in and out of the airport, but the fact that they cannot refuel has limited the attractiveness of Zamperini field as a destination for jets and their owners. Proponents of keeping the status quo are concerned that if we have fuel for them, we will have many more. The fact that they are significantly noisier than small planes and that they tear up the runway because of the speed at which they land and take off are also of concern.

In April, an Airport Commission sub-committee recommended lifting this ban, and at the subsequent April meeting of the Airport Commission this recommendation was made to a standing room only crowd, the overwhelming majority of whom opposed the lifting of this ban. The subcommittee has received over 200 questionnaires opposing the sale of jet fuel as well as several letters and emails. The Torrance Homeowners Associations Coalition representing over 15 Homeowners Associations officially opposes lifting this ban, and several HOA Presidents have spoken before the Airport Commission opposing this change. In addition, the Lomita City Council has written a letter to the Airport Commission opposing this change and Assemblyman Ted Lieu has officially stated his opposition to jet fuel at Torrance.

However, despite the negative reaction by the community, the Airport Commission has placed an item on their June agenda requesting that the City of Torrance hire a consulting firm to further investigate the sale of jet fuel. If the Airport Commission passes this item, the Torrance City Council will be asked to spend funds to support this issue.

If this issue is of concern to you, please plan to attend the next Airport Commission Meeting on June 12 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Commission Meeting Room in the City Hall West Annex. If you can't attend the meeting and you would like to comment, please contact Shant Megerdichian of the Airport City Staff at 310-784-7908 or smegerdichian@torrnet.com) or any of our City Council members at 310-618-2801.

**28th Annual Riviera Village Summer Festival**  
**Saturday, June 21st from 10 am to 7 pm**  
**Sunday, June 22nd from 10 am to 6pm**

## **From the President...Thoughts for summer**

*(Continued from page 1)*

A number of cities have successfully implemented tree trimming ordinances to restore original views when neighbors have been unresponsive, but do we really want to go there? I have heard so many stories of neighbors not working together, and it really makes me very sad. The net result of not working with your immediate neighbors on these issues seems to be that you become alienated from them and the neighborhood becomes fragmented, which really serves no one in the end. Even if you win, you lose.

On a lighter note, we have some great programs coming up this summer for the whole family. The City of Torrance is sponsoring three movie nights and three concerts over the summer. See article for details. The events closest to us will be a movie night at DiPortola Park (August 2nd) and our annual Concert in the Park at El Retiro Park (September 7th), which is growing year by year into a larger and larger affair. This year we plan to have Bluegrass music, Food and a Craft Fair!

Lastly, I hope that all of you will be safe this summer! When you go on vacation, be sure to let your neighbors know, and also give the Torrance PD a call so that they can keep an eye on your home as well. Make sure that you put a vacation hold on your mail and on your newspapers. The Torrance PD is working to have a vibrant Neighborhood Watch program, which will be the basis for a vibrant Disaster Preparedness program. If you are interested in information, contact Services Officer Luz Aceves of the Torrance PD at 310-618-6392 and she can help you start Neighborhood Watch on your block.

Have a great summer! I hope to see you around the neighborhood, at our History Event, our Movie Night and at our Concert in the Park!

## **Flying the American Flag**

Days over the summer when the American flag is typically displayed include Memorial Day (just past), the 4th of July and Labor Day. We show our patriotism when we fly the flag, but did you know that there is correct etiquette with regard to flying and taking care of the American flag?

Here are some basic tips:

- 1) The flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset.
- 2) The flag should not be flown after dark unless it is properly illuminated, either by a dedicated spotlight or if there is sufficient local lighting to make the flag easily visible at night.
- 3) The flag should be taken down if it rains.
- 4) The flag should never touch the ground.

For more information about flying the flag, taking care of it, and disposing of flags that are worn, go to: [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org) or [www.usa-flag-site.org](http://www.usa-flag-site.org).

## **Nominations for 2008-2009 RHA board**

These nominations will be presented and voted on at the June 18th meeting.

Presidents: Roberta Blowers, Tim Youngern  
1st Vice President (Programs): Pamela Maran  
Treasurer: Voc Gregorian  
Director (Landscaping): Karen Lent

## **Mark Your Calendars for Free Summer Fun**

The City of Torrance, in collaboration with Homeowners Associations throughout Torrance, will be offering three free movie nights and three free concerts 'in the park' this summer, to enrich the cultural and recreational opportunities for Torrance residents. The movies, tied into the library program "Read the Book, See the Movie" will all begin at dark. Below is a schedule of events:

Saturday, July 19, Central Region Movie, Greenwood Park

Sunday, July 20, North Region Concert, Columbia Park: Classic Rock, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 2, South Region Movie, De Portola Park: a family movie about a spider trying to save a pig from becoming dinner.**

Sunday, August 10, Central Region Concert, El Prado Park: Swinging Through the Decades, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 16, North Region Movie, La Romeria Park: a classic '70s musical that takes place at a '50s high school sockhop.

**Sunday, September 7, South Region Concert, El Retiro Park: Bluegrass, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

The family movie on August 2nd and the 'Concert in the Park' on September 7th will be sponsored in part by the RHA and will be at parks very close to home. All events are free, and open to all Torrance residents. Mark your calendars and plan to bring the whole family. Be sure to bring a blanket or lawn chair. It should be a great summer of entertainment!

Madrona Marsh and the Metropolitan District will offer a Protector del Agua class on water efficient landscapes on Saturday, June 21, from 9 am to 1 pm at Madrona Marsh.

## **RHA logo items at**

[www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA](http://www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA)

There's a selection of merchandise to choose from including shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, canvas tote bags & baseball caps — all of which prominently display our new "Jewel of the South Bay" logo. A portion of the proceeds go to RHA

## Riviera Landscape Awards



April – Marilyn van Oppen and Anne van Oppen McKinney at 23648 Susana Ave



May – Pam Popovich at 421 Camino del Campo



May- Roger & Lee Solley at 440 Via Linda Vista

Jim and Marilyn van Oppen have been low water gardeners for fifty years. Way back in the 50's, they trekked out to the Theodore Payne Nursery in Sunland/Tujunga and planted their entire property with California native plants. This new front garden is a lively mixture of natives and drought resistant plants mainly started from cuttings and seeds, including Australian and South African protea and leucadendron. Anne van Oppen McKinney designed and planted this garden as a living memorial to her father who passed away last year

Pam's lovely garden, designed by Ric Dykzeul, is a mixed tapestry of mature azaleas and camellias highlighted by unusual coral bells, Serbian bellflower, pittosporum tobira, begonia richmondensis, variegated fortnight lily and punctuated by a graceful Japanese maple. The handsome paver driveway and winding, lighted walkway creates an inviting and welcoming entry.

This is an informal, hidden garden sitting low beneath a raised curb side beam. It features a colorful, mixed planting of geranium, agapanthus, orange lilies, violas and iceberg roses. A nostalgic playhouse with a matching red tile roof nestles into a corner of the garden at the end of a sweeping lawn.

*Pictures by Julian Chasin,  
Description by Ruth Vogel  
The Landscape Award is presented by Ruth Vogel and Mary Lenihan, RHA, and Shelley Lubinsky, Riviera Garden Club*

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### RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2007-2008

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If the information on the mailing label is correct, please indicate by marking the appropriate box below and updating label on opposite side:

- Continuing Member**—mailing label personal info is accurate (no need to fill in personal info).
- Continuing Member**—Modifications and/or comments.
- New Member**—Please fill in information.

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- Please add me to your email alert system for important updates

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### PAYMENT DETAILS

Make checks payable to "RHA" and mail to:

**RHA Membership  
P.O. Box 1074  
Torrance, CA 90505.**

Or use *PayPal* at our website

Annual Dues 2007-2008: \$ 25 .00

#### Membership Renewal Guidelines:

Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment info above your mailing address. The RHA business year coincides with the school calendar. The current 2007-2008 business year began on 9/1/07 & ends on 8/31/08. Annual dues received during this period are counted toward the 2007-2008 year. The RHA does not share any personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing & delivery.

## Torrance Planning Commission Forms Hillside Overlay Committee

An *ad hoc* committee has been formed by the Torrance Planning Commission to study ways to more smoothly implement the Hillside Overlay Ordinance. The committee, comprised of Steven Busch, Harvey Horwich and Ray Uchima, all of whom have served as Planning Commission Chair, will meet on alternate Wednesdays from the Planning Commission. Meetings will commence sometime in July and will be open to the public, from whom input will be solicited. For further details, including the meeting location, contact Gregg Lodan at the City of Torrance Planning Department, 310-618-5990, toward the end of June

**RHA GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 18, 2008 7 PM**  
**Richardson Middle School Cafeteria**

### Local Riviera Historian to speak

The featured speaker for our final general meeting of 2007-2008 will be local historian, Marshall E. Stewart. Mr. Stewart's uncle, Clifford Reid, developed the first Riviera homes. Mr. Stewart knows everything there is to know about the Riviera. His book on the Riviera has been sold at the Torrance Historical Society. Come learn about the history of the Riviera, from the days when native peoples roamed the local hills to the early development in the 1920's and the development explosion in the 1950's. Refreshments will be served, so come early.

**There is still time to renew your current year membership. Your dues help defray the cost of our newsletter along with the cost of our general meetings (highlighting important issues to the Riviera), college scholarships, school donations and the annual Concert in the Park**

Visit The RHA Website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

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

[rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:rhapres@hollywoodriviera.org)     [newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org)     [treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org)  
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## Riviera Homeowners Association 2007-8 Board

President	Pamela Maran	310-375-1423	Immediate Past President	Michael Cotton	310-791-1985
1st Vice President (Programs)	Darcey Earhart	310-529-1870	Scholarship Chair	Gayle Taylor	310-375-7038
2nd Vice President (Membership)	OPEN		Traffic Liaison	Mike Guidry	310-373-1944
Secretary	Roberta Blowers	310-930-1322	City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Treasurer	Art Wong	310-795-0289	Planning Commission Observer	Steve Gerhardt	310-614-0258
Newsletter Editor	Geneva Martin	310-378-9767	Historian	Suzanne French	310-375-1390
Webmaster/Photographer	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314	Mailing Chair	OPEN	
Landscape Chair	Ruth Vogel	310-375-4702	Special Programs Chair	Pamela Maran	310-375-14
Hospitality Chair	Judy Brunetti	310-378-5636			

## The Riviera Reporter

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

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