

THE

Riviera Reporter

Newsletter of The Riviera Homeowners Association

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



RHA Presidents Tim Youngern and Roberta Blowers

The Presidents' Message to Fellow Homeowners ROOFTOP DECKS plus What The Mayor Says About Them:

If you are in favor of rooftop decks and want an ordinance with VERY limited guidelines or if you are opposed to rooftop decks and want them banned, and you want to be heard, then you should attend a City Council meeting or any Planning Commission meetings regarding rooftop decks to voice your views. The Planning Department will be scheduling a meeting very soon. Call them at 310-618-5990 to learn the date.

This will be the last time to do so, because the City Council will vote very soon on whether to ban rooftop decks altogether or to set an ordinance that will allow rooftop decks with minimal limitations. You can also email the Planning Department at: glodan@torrnet.com

Riviera Homeowners Association presents

The First Annual Gingerbread House Contest!

Come join the fun and creativity and Holiday Cheer!



Contest will be held at the Riviera Homeowners association's Holiday Meeting at Richardson Middle School Wednesday, December 10th 7:00pm To enter please phone Barbara Guidry at 310-373-1944 or email to

Gingerbread@hollywoodriviera.org

Entries must be no larger than 20x20 inches and delivered to Richardson cafeteria between 5:00-6:30pm the day of the event.

Don't miss out on prizes, music, refreshments, performances and all your friends!!!

RHA GENERAL MEETING

Holiday Program

"Monday Night Live" — a ladies A Capella quartet.

Riviera Elementary Chorus

Richardson Middle School Chorus

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

7 PM - 9PM

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

Attending the City Council hearing on October 21st, 2008, where rooftop decks became an issue (Item 13A), made us realize that rooftop deck information should be a topic.

All the council members made good points regarding rooftop decks, but the Mayor summarized them best.

Rooftop decks can affect privacy which is something to which every homeowner in Torrance should have a right. (continued)

The Planning Department has been working on drafting the guidelines for an ordinance allowing rooftop decks for the city and plan on presenting it to the City Council in a month or two, (December or January). Now is your chance to let the City know how you feel about rooftop decks.

The City Council needs to hear what you want, because the City Council seemed to be voting that October night in favor of the rooftop deck before them, with a vote of 4 to 3.

Noes: Scotto, Furey, Numark.

Ayes: Barnett, Rhilinger, Sutherland, Brewer. Would you be comfortable with a rooftop deck next door to you?

The Mayor discussed his views on rooftop decks. We transcribed this quote from the public access-<http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/2372.htm> from the October 21, 2008 City Council Hearing, Item 13A: If you want to see the full transcription of what the Mayor said go to www.hollywoodriviera.org

Mayor Scotto: “Speaking of the Rooftop decks, . . . I got involved in rooftop decks and spoke to so many different people in the city about rooftop decks to discover that the majority of people I spoke with are adamantly against rooftop decks . . . and with the people who are going to live there [with a rooftop deck], they are making promises not to make noise or have parties up there or all those things . . . People . . . might sell that home [with the rooftop deck], or whatever might

happen, they are going to have parties at night and . . . bring lights up there. Parties will have music up there . . . Believe me, if it is there, they will use it . . . A rooftop deck is designed for one thing and one thing only. You are going to get up there . . . You are going to have music up there . . . You are . . . going to bring chairs up there. You are . . . going to bring lights up there . . . You are not going to sit out there at night in the dark. It just does not work. And if you do all of those things, you are just going to be imposing on your neighbors. And to make the argument . . . that sitting at a deck and making noise is the same thing as sitting in your back yard is not true. It just is not true. You have fences, you have walls, you have homes that block all of the sound. On the deck, you are above everything. It will travel . . . My point is that when you are above everything that is around you, you are going to impose on your neighbors. Believe it or not, it happens. And now, to say that it is [a] small [rooftop deck], and they won’t do that. Who is to say that they won’t bring a TV up there and watch a football game? Who to say that does not happen? I mean, you create it, and this will happen. And I think that we are going to go down this dilemma with rooftop decks here pretty soon with hearings and you are going to find out that a lot of people are going to come forward that live next to homes [with rooftop decks] and they are going to bring horror stories. And I am telling you that none of the stories are going to be good. None of the stories are going to be that you are looking at your neighbor and waving at them up there and that you are happy about the fact that they are looking down into your back yard. It doesn’t work . . . because that rooftop deck will now be able to look down three neighbors, down four neighbors, and you will create a problem . . . the next person will come with another rooftop deck and another one is going to come up and before you know it, you are going to set that bar . . . You’ll rarely see me talk so long about something . . . So I am saying that I am worried about rooftop decks because you are going to start seeing a lot more homes [with rooftop decks] . . . and these roof top decks do create, futuristically, problems that we won’t be able to control.”

Village Palos Verdes Project



Village Palos Verdes is starting a major exterior renovation on January 12, 2009, with construction material arriving the week before. These repairs include the replacement of all roofs, exterior siding, windows, sliding glass doors, some front doors, garage doors exterior painting of the entire complex. See their website - <http://www.villagepalosverdes.org>.

Coffee Cartel, Crema Dolci, Ortega 120 Restaurant and Molly’s Skin Care Boutique provided prizes for our October meeting. Our winners: Pam Popovich, Karen Lent, Bobbie Davison and Lorele Muldoon.

Newsletter of the Riviera Homeowners Association

Beyond the Garden Gate



Historic House /Kelly & Mario Vargas



Romantic Hideaway - Joei & Les Sheckman



Water House -Mary Lou McCammack

The Riviera Garden Club presented their Fall Garden Tour on October 18th. The weather was perfect. Nearly 500 people attended. Homeowners, docents, and attendees had a wonderful time. More photographs are available at www.rivieragardenclub.org

Dry Stream - Diana & Jerry Smith



Waterfall - Donna & Chuck Crews



Environmental - Shelby Houston & David Turner




Hopitality - Shelly & Mike Lubinsky



Mediterranean - Kelly & Reinhart Behrens

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

Membership Form

JOIN the Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) for 2008

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 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.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Do you receive emails from us? If not, and you would like to be on our list, please provide us with your email address:

Email: _____

☐ \$25 Annual Membership for 2008-09 (Sept.-Aug.)

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

Riviera Landscape Award

October 2008 Zan and Paula Huling

The original magnolia tree was planted in the parkway on Susana by the Hulings' almost 30 years ago. It thrived but eventually the sidewalk and retaining wall buckled. When the City took down the large tree (in July of this year) the Hulings' decided it was an opportune time to re-landscape. They carefully repositioned the 12 large boulders that were part of the original yard, working them into a sinewy pattern among new plantings, grass and retaining wall. The enhanced plan includes six Magnolia Little Gems, lirope and pitisporum and provides much more privacy than the old linear pattern did. The City replaced the old Magnolia with a Tristania Laurina. An original olive tree still graces the edge of the yard. Small colorful plantings and orange roses add an updated flavor. Congratulations to Zan and Paula for a re-do very well done!



Zan and Paula Huling - 23521 Susana Avenue



Jim Coleman 259 Calle de Audulcia

November 2008 Jim Coleman

Jim Coleman remodeled his Audulcia house last year. He completely redid the front yard and the front of the house in warm tones of beige with stacked stone planters and a white picket fence. Interestingly, instead of having the fence be a barrier to the street, it is planted on both sides, tying in the whole picture with papyrus, fountain grass and flax. The varied green palette was enhanced with dashes of color: some pink and purples including purple princess and lavender. Berry Harmon of Harmon's Landscaping helped Jim with the re-landscaping. Tenants currently occupy the property and it is a testament to the thoughtful planning and planting of this landscape project that a year later the visual impact is still strikingly fresh and attractive. Drive by and see this pleasant oasis in the upper Riviera.

Riviera Homeowners Association 2008-9 Officers and Directors

Co-President	Roberta Blowers	310-930-1322	Landscape Chair	Karen Lent	310-375-6539
Co-President	Tim Youngern	310-373-4981	City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	310-375-8729
Treasurer	Voc Gregorian	310-710-9080	Traffic Liaison	Mike Guidry	310-373-1944
Secretary	Sam Sandt	310-408-5370	Mailing Chair	Diane Miltimore	
Immed Past President	Pamela Maran	310-375-1423	Webmaster/Photographer	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314
Newsletter Editor	Geneva Martin	310-378-9767	Scholarship Chair	Gayle Taylor	310-375-7038
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The Riviera Reporter

P.O. Box 1074 - Torrance, CA 90505

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