

THE

# RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s—October 2011



RHA Co-presidents  
Judy Brunetti and  
Janet Kaplan

## President's Message: School Budgets Cut, Private Fundraising Fills Gap

Fall marks the return to school for millions of students across California. For the approximately 3,200 public school students in the Riviera, programs and classes this year may be affected because of the cumulative effects of state budget cuts and cost-saving measures of the last three years.

The Torrance Unified School District receives 93% of its funding from the state of California, but the district has seen \$56 million dollars cut from state funding since 2008, according to the TUSD website. In the face of the decreasing revenue, the TUSD has had to lay off more than 400 employees, many of them teachers, and had to eliminate some programs with expensive equipment or instruments. The straight academic, book-learning classes are funded, but extra-curricular and hands-on classes may not be.

Several parent and school groups have been working to privately support programs and build back the number of teacher hours. Riviera Elementary has had several fundraising events to hire hourly teachers to supplement classroom instruction. According to the Riviera Elementary Bring Teachers Back website, The PTSA, faculty and parents have raised \$98,044 dollars since November 2010, which will pay for 2,292 hours of instruction. Christie Forshey, Riviera principal, says their priorities were for "technology instruction, science labs, art and music programs, PE coaching and field trips," all of which they can now offer in the fall of 2011.

## RHA General Meeting



Torrance City Councilman  
Cliff Numark

Don't forget to calendar the RHA general meeting on **Wednesday, October 12, 7PM** at Richardson Middle School cafeteria. The topic will be "The State of the Hillside Overlay Ordinance," and the speaker will be City Councilman Cliff Numark. Mr. Numark will discuss the decision-making process of the planning commission and city council in hillside cases, and where it seems to be heading in the future. He will take questions from audience members, or you can email your question in advance of the meeting to [president@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org). Be part of this important discussion!

Also on the agenda will be the results from the neighborhood survey of issues and concerns taken in August / September.

Doors open at 6:30 PM. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Richardson Middle School Cafeteria  
23471 Nancy Lee Lane (off Newton)

Richardson Middle School is also heavily dependent on PTSA funding, booster clubs and corporate sponsors. Principal Chad Mabery told us, "Shrinking state funds allow us to operate at a very basic level. Local fundraising has given us resources we otherwise would not have, such as new computers, LCD projectors, document cameras, science lab supplies, physical education equipment and art enrichment programs." Richardson technology teacher Joe Petito flatly states "I would not be able to teach the Introduction to Engineering class without significant corporate and private donations and contributions. At Richardson, we are always looking to make contact with people in industry to support our programs, especially non-academic programs like vocational arts, music and applied business." He stressed the value of these activities, saying that the hands-on vocational and mechanical programs are "the kinds of programs that get students into the job market and cut the unemployment rate among young people."

South High principal Scott McDowell told us that their fundraising focus is on extra-curricular programs. "Nearly 100% of our activities programs are funded by private fundraising. This includes all athletics, cheer, choir, band, theater, robotics, speech and debate, etc. Basically, if it is extra curricular, it's supported mostly by private fundraising. When you combine all of our programs it ends up being several hundred thousand dollars per year ... I am happy that we have so many students and parents working very hard to fund these programs."

Public school students need our help more than ever. If you are interested in helping local schools with donations, equipment, or materials, contact the administration or PTSA at Riviera Elementary, Richardson Middle School or South High School.

## **Marshall Stewart, 1923-2011**

The Hollywood Riviera lost its longest-lived resident on September 5th. Marshall Stewart moved here in 1929 when he was six years old; his family occupied the third house built in the Riviera on Via Linda Vista. He became a local historian and has written several books about the Hollywood Riviera. He often recounted the time when you could take the Red Car trolley down Catalina Avenue all the way to downtown Los Angeles, and had many fond memories of the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club. He even recalled the time it burnt down in 1958, on the spot still known as "Burnout Beach". We will miss this kind and generous gentleman.

## **\*\*South High Standout\*\***

Alex Hattori, 14, incoming freshman at South High, placed in the top 10 at the national yoyo championship in 2011,

Google his name to see some amazing yoyo tricks on Youtube.

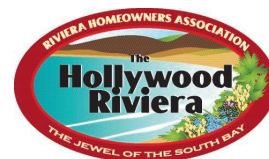
*Go Alex!!*





## Outstanding Landscape Award

Presented by the Riviera Garden Club and  
Riviera Homeowners Association



Bill and Roxanne Glenn,  
5617 Via del Collado

Nestled between neighboring Melaleuca trees (*Melaleuca quinquenaria*) and an Olive (*Olea europaea*), the Glenns with the help of Dave Mata – Villa Hermosa, have created a home blooming with exquisite color and bursting with detail.



You are welcomed by a gently bubbling fountain set upon a flagstone and grass patio. The riot of color is everywhere; cascading beneath the Austrian Tree Fern (*Cyathea Cooperi*), Dragon Wing Begonia (*Begonia 'Dragon Wing Red'*), purple Scaevola (*Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters'*) and common geraniums (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) are in abundance. The raised planter walls enclose the entry beautifully and are filled with Flax (*Phormium tenax 'Bronze'*), Lady Washington Geraniums (*Pelargonium x domesticum*), Variegated Hebe (*Hebe 'Variegata'*), and Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis hybrid*). The ever-finely yet intoxicatingly fragrant Madagascar Jasmine (*Stephanotis floribunda*) has made itself quite at home filling multiple pots. Several topiaries are placed throughout the landscape along with terra cotta pots filled to the brim with red Trumpet vine (*Distictus buccinatoria*), Begonia and variegated ivy. Whimsical wrought iron baskets are overflowing with colorful annuals at every turn.



The sun-drenched rear yard plays host to multiple overflowing succulent urns and plantings. Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) softens the walls that lead to a cascading waterfall, pool and fire pit surrounded by Flax, Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos flavidus*) and Hebe.



The home was built in 2004 by Jan and Dan Beck of Argon Development, Inc. and purchased by the Glenns in 2010. The Glenns have quickly created a lush, relaxing retreat and invite everyone to drive by at Christmas to enjoy their holiday decorations.

—Text by Janet Hart, Pictures by Julian Chasin



## Summer Fundraiser Drops Volunteers in the “Soup”

At the Riviera Village Summer Festival in June of this year, parents and community volunteers manned a dunk tank to raise money to pay for part-time teachers at Riviera Elementary school. Participants paid five dollars to throw three softballs at a target attached to a moveable seat. When the pitches were on target, the sittee was dunked in a large tank with a very satisfying “sploosh!”

Parent volunteers Rob Stahl, O.D., and Randy Rovegno organized the dunk tank activity. When asked “Why a dunk tank?” Both Stahl and Rovegno said “It was fun, easy and successful!” Stahl noted, “TUSD now allows individual schools to pay for teachers on a part-time basis. We were able to raise \$1,952 in one weekend, which will pay for a part-time teacher for three weeks in the upcoming school year.”

Volunteers who got dunked included City Councilman Bill Sutherland, and Torrance Unified School Board members Don Lee, Mike Wermers and Al Muratsuchi. All were happy to be dunked for the sake of education.



John Stalder, Riviera Dad, at the dunk tank booth



Al Muratsuchi, School Board member, happily awaits an inevitable dunking.



RHA volunteers Janet Kaplan and Judy Brunetti supervise as an enthusiastic Roadrunner dunks his friend.

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local merchants who  
support the RHA!



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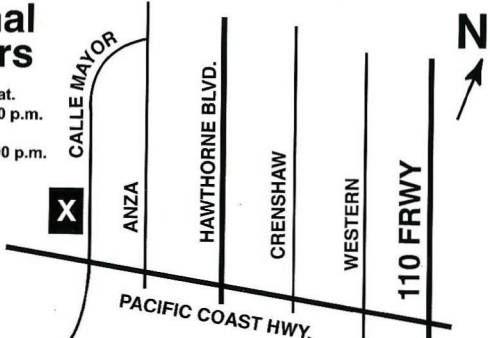
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## ~ COMMUNITY CALENDAR ~

### **Madrona Marsh Reception**

Artist reception for Stephen West on Saturday, Oct. 22, 1-3 PM at Madrona Marsh, 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance. Animal guests from South Bay Wildlife Animal Rehabilitation Center.

### **Palos Verdes/South Bay Sierra Club**

Wednesday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> is the PV-SB Sierra Club Quarterly Meeting. Topic "The San Andreas Fault: How could it affect our lives?" Guest speaker is David Knight Lynch, PhD. 7-9 PM in the community room of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library, 701 Silver Spur Road, Rolling Hills Estates.

### **Torrance Centennial—Lights, Camera, Action!**

Celebrate the Torrance Centennial at Wilson Park on Sunday, Nov. 6. We will be spelling out the words "Torrance 1912-2012" with flashlights as the Goodyear Blimp takes photos of the event! Registration is \$5.00, and you get to keep the Pelican brand flashlight! Download the application at [www.torrancecentennial.org/events/lights-camera-action](http://www.torrancecentennial.org/events/lights-camera-action). Walk-in registration is at the West Annex of City Hall.

### **Turkey Trot Run**

The Harry Sutter Memorial Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run will be held on Nov. 24 at 8 AM. The starting point for the three-mile run is the Sam's Club parking lot at the Torrance Crossroads Center in Torrance. Call to register and receive a sweatshirt at Community Services Department, (310) 618-2930.

### **Bicycle Route Links South Bay Cities**

The South Bay Bicycle Masterplan Initiative is well underway. The public can review the complete master plan at [www.southbaybicyclecoalition.org](http://www.southbaybicyclecoalition.org). Contact your local officials if you have comments or concerns about the plan. To learn more, go to [www.savethestrans.com](http://www.savethestrans.com)

# Membership Form

## Join the Riviera Homeowners Association for 2011-2012

Membership runs from September through 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. Please fill out the form below and make checks payable to "Riviera Homeowners Association" and mail to RHA Membership, PO Box 1074, Torrance, CA 90505. Or you can renew online through our Paypal System on our website at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org). Information is never shared with any third parties.

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 2011-2012 (September through August)**

*~Additional contributions are always welcome!~*

Please take the following brief survey. We want to know what you feel are the most pressing issues in our community. The RHA will review the results of this survey in October. For each question please respond on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being of NO importance to you and 5 being of HIGH importance to you. Please circle each number. You do not have to be member to answer the survey and send in your results. You can also take the survey online at [www.hollywoodriviera.org](http://www.hollywoodriviera.org)

- |                                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) Hillside Overlay Ordinance .....                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2) Noise (aircraft, traffic, leaf blowers, etc)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3) Rooftop Decks .....                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4) Traffic And Safety .....                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5) View impairment from trees .....                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Please write in any other comments or issues you are concerned about:

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2012 Scholarship Awards

The RHA college scholarship awards are given to graduating seniors in the Hollywood Riviera. Awards are based on academic excellence, participation in school and extracurricular activities, teacher recommendation and/or financial need. Interested seniors can get application information from South High counselor Brian Polun. If you do not attend South High or if you have questions, please read the information on the RHA website (click "scholarships") or contact RHA scholarship chair at [scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org). Applications are due March 1, 2012.

## RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2011-12 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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Second VP (Membership) Judy Brunetti 310 378-5616

Secretary Judy English 310 378-0361

Treasurer Cindy Constantino 310 376-1845

Webmaster/Photographer Julian Chasin 310 737-6314

City Council Observer Richard Root 310 375-1594

Newsletter layout by Judith Nicole Brunetti

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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 through their email:**

[president@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org)

[traffic@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:traffic@hollywoodriviera.org)

[webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:webmaster@hollywoodriviera.org)

[photog@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:photog@hollywoodriviera.org)

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[scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org)

[treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:treasurer@hollywoodriviera.org)

[dues@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:dues@hollywoodriviera.org)

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## The Riviera Reporter

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