

THE RIVIERA REPORTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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September 2014



A Message from the Board

by Amy Josefek, Co-President

I recently asked a friend, who's very involved in local community affairs and his homeowners association, whether a lot of his neighbors shared his involvement. When he told me how very few were, I asked "why?" "Because they all say they're happy with the way things are," he responded. That reflects well on his neighborhood, but it didn't happen without folks working to get to that great place and, alas, it requires ongoing work to keep it that way.

It's so easy to assume someone else will take care of that!

I used to be very proud of myself for never missing a presidential or gubernatorial vote. But, it's only in the past few years (actually in the decade since I moved to California) that I've realized, while those elections are critical, it is really almost too late to influence change by then. Don't take that to mean those votes don't matter! They most certainly do! However, the decisions that truly, deeply impact most of our day-to-day lives are made, day in and day out, on the local level.

Whether it's the Mayor, City Council or School Board we elect these officials to make wise decisions that affect our quality of life....right here in the Riviera!

I've come to realize, not only can I make a difference, but also I MUST participate! If I don't, then I haven't anyone else to blame if I don't like the way something gets decided....if the school curriculum is bad for our kids....if our taxes are being raised to pay for things I don't like....if, if, if!

The Board of the Riviera Homeowners Association encourages you to join us. We welcome residents who wish to be actively involved in community issues or simply support RHA with annual dues.

Our General Meetings are open to the entire community and offer information on timely topics. As an example, on September 17th at Richardson Middle School, speakers will address the impacts of the current drought. We hope to see you there!

Look inside for membership info



A big turnout for the May General Meeting to hear crime stats and crime prevention from Torrance PD. A great chance to come together as a community.

RHA GENERAL MEETING Wednesday September 17 at 7 PM

**The California Drought is Serious!
What's in store for the State and
how can we cope?**

You're invited to our general meeting at the Richardson Middle School Cafeteria, 23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance.

The program will feature two excellent speakers: Russell Lefevre, Local Director of the Metropolitan Water District, and Laurel Woodley, botanist and professor. Mr. Lefevre will discuss the effects of the state drought on our local economy and area, and suggest ways to minimize the impact of a long-term drought on the South Bay.

Ms. Woodley will provide photos and names of drought-resistant plants and native California plants that do well with little water.

If you are looking for ways to save water and wondering how we got to this point, or if you are thinking of pulling up your lawn to plant something more drought tolerant, be sure to join us.

Light refreshments will be served, doors will open at 6:30. Come early to pick up flyers and information, buy a succulent from the Cactus Society and as always, you are welcome to update your membership with the RHA.

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Outstanding Landscape Awards Presented by the Riviera Homeowners Association and the Riviera Garden Club

Landscape Text by: Lynn Fernandez

Photos by: Julian Chasin



March 2014 - The Ota residence 4101 Paseo de las Tortugas

A small front yard and patio with Bonsai and Azaleas.



April 2014 - The Spallino residence 427 Camino de Encanto

A Spanish design home with beautiful vines and plantings.



May 2014 - The Graue residence 152 Vista del Parque

A total redesign of this garden with a web site to show how it was done.



June 2014 - The Kimmel residence 319 Monte d'Oro

Great use of ground covers to preserve steep slopes. Many varieties of Succulents.



July 2014 - The Taylor residence 23420 Shadycroft

A striking display of pink Cosmos and Iceberg Roses.



Visit
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Welcome to the Riviera Homeowners Association Weblog!

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- RHA Goodies
- RHA Membership
- RHA Officers
Community Links
- The Hillside Overlay
RHA Calendar
RHA History
Riviera Landscapes
- Landscape Awards since 1989
Riviera Reporter
- Scholarship Applications
The Riviera Reporter

May 2014 General Meeting brings news of a safer, more neighborly Riviera
Posted on August 10, 2014 by Riviera Homeowners Assoc | [RSS](#)

The May 14 General Meeting was well attended by residents, and for good reason. A rash of burglaries (and robberies) in the Riviera and nearby neighborhoods had residents deeply concerned about safety and what measures to take. A team of officers took time out to address the issue with statistics, department reactions, and advice for keeping lives and property safe.

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PCH LANDSCAPING AND FENCING COMING

It appears that there will finally be some attractive safety fencing and greenery along our section of PCH!!!

The head groundskeeper at Torrance School District, Hector Ramirez, told us that crews would start landscaping in front of South High School and be finished before start of school (Sep 4). They will be planting crepe myrtle trees and ground cover which will include Gazania flowers to beautify the sidewalk in front of the school, which has been bare since the eucalyptus trees were removed in January.

Engineer Beth Overstreet of the Torrance Public Works Department said that Project R funding to landscape and provide fencing for the south side median of PCH in front of residences was approved by Metropolitan Transit Authority on July 28, 2014 and will now go to Cal Trans and the Torrance City Attorney for final approval.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's office has also been involved with encouraging Metro to approve the funding for this project. It is expected that Cal Trans and the city attorney will also approve the project. When that happens, the city will take bids for the fencing and landscaping to be done. At a City Council meeting earlier this year, Public Works Director Rob Beste said that construction on this project would start "in the fall of 2014."

There are obviously many layers of bureaucracy involved in this project, but many residents and RHA board members have been sending letters, meeting and talking with local government officials since 2011 to make this happen.



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Tentative Schedule for RHA meetings this year
All are Wednesdays at 7:00PM

- **September 17** General meeting
- **November 5 or 12** General meeting
- **February 11** General meeting
- **April 15** General meeting

Have a topic for a meeting, especially one you'd like to present?

Email the board at president@hollywoodriviera.org

Announcements

CITY OF TORRANCE OPTIMIZED STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM



All residents should have received a brochure describing the City's new street sweeping program. It states as the main purpose: "This new system is part of the City's effort to comply with State regulations to eliminate trash, oils, grease, brake dust, plant debris and sediment from entering the storm drain system and ultimately polluting the beach and ocean."

The program is already in progress as evidenced by the new street sweeping schedule. On Mondays, the side of the street with even numbered residences are swept and, on Tuesdays, sweeping occurs on the odd numbered side of the street. Residents will be required to refrain from parking vehicles at the curb on those days. Warning signs are in the process of being placed in all affected neighborhoods.

A number of questions have arisen about signage, parking on narrow streets where there already is restricted parking and enforcement. A phone call to the Public Works Dept. gave some answers.

Q: What is the size of signs and where will they be posted?

A: The signs are 18"x12" and will be posted at the beginning and end of the block with every effort made to post on existing light poles or on property lines.

Q: What about narrow streets where parking is permitted on one side only?

A: That restriction will not be lifted. Vehicles are expected to clear the curb on scheduled sweeping days. They will not be allowed to park on the other side of the street. Think: use your driveway or find another solution.

Q: When will citations be issued and what will be the approximate fine?

A: After the signs have been posted there will be a 3 week grace period. The fine will be \$48.00. (There was no discussion of fines for repeat offenders or towing.)

For additional information contact the Public Works Department at (310)781-6900 or www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks

PALOS VERDES INN PROPERTY BACK IN PLAY

Under consideration by Redondo Beach is the renovation of the PV Inn and retail space, and construction of a mixed-use development, including 180 apartment units. A hearing is planned for November 20. To learn more, Google "Redondo Beach Legado Development". The Redondo Beach city comment period lasts only until September 20.

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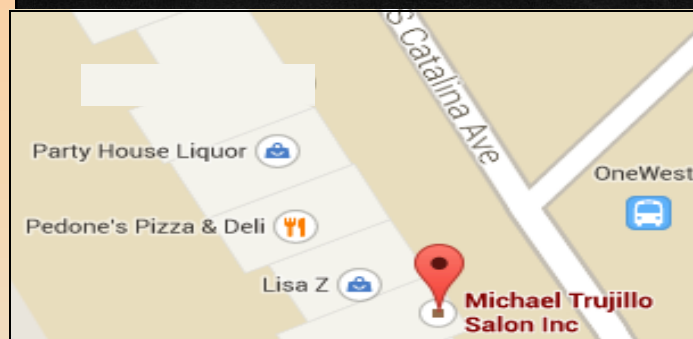


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Sunday, September 28th
4:00-6:00pm
El Retiro Park



The Riviera PTA invites you to enjoy an evening of live music with friends, neighbors, classmates and staff!

"Hack" will be performing classic rock favorites and is comprised of former Riviera Elementary dads!

Bring your chairs, blankets, and a picnic dinner for this fun event as we say goodbye to summer.

Treats will be sold by the Riviera Class of 2015!

This event is made possible by your generous donations to the Riviera PTA and with support from the Riviera Homeowners Association and the City of Torrance!

(due to parking limitations, we encourage walking)

Membership Form

Join the Riviera Homeowners Association (RHA) for 2014 – 2015

Your dues are an important contribution to our community. They allow us to provide scholarships to college-bound students, and donations to elementary, middle and high school programs. They are used to sponsor general meetings in the Riviera on topics important to our community. They finance our newsletters and communications, and allow us to keep members informed on important issues being discussed in the City. Your dues allow us to thank City Hall 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 to 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, 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.

Because the RHA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, your membership is tax-deductible!

(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: _____

If you would like to be on our email list, please provide us with your email address, or see how to sign up, below.

Email: _____

\$25 dollar annual membership for 2014-2015 (Sept. – Aug.)

\$45 dollar membership for two years (2014 – 2016)

Additional contributions are welcome! ___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 Other: _____

WHAT HAVE WE DONE!

In just this past year the RHA is proud to have presented forums to help voters decide on the newly-elected Mayor and City Council Members, a Torrance Police presentation on current crime statistics and how we can protect ourselves and homes, a talk from social networking site **Nextdoor.com** that allows us to have a safe and secure way to communicate with our neighbors (and no one else!); initiated city meetings which have resulted in the renovation of the PCH overpass at South HS, along with the sorely-needed and soon-to-be-started landscaping project there; and pushed for and received a commitment from the new Mayor to institute a cost-free template that will allow speedy resolution to future disputes over trees and views.

On your marks!

Sunday morning September 21 the Riviera will be witness to the inaugural Herbalife Triathlon, with the swim portion of the event to be held at Torrance Beach and the bike portion to ascend from the parking lot by Miramar Park, across PV Blvd and up to Calle de Arboles and along Paseo de las Tortugas.

Residents should hope to see some remarkable athletic prowess — good luck to all our neighbors who participate! The RHA also urges the city and residents to be especially safety-conscious before and during this event.

For the latest information, visit latriathlon.com

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The Riviera Reporter
P.O. Box 1074 Torrance, CA 90505



Riviera Homeowners Association Mission Statement:

1. To maintain and enhance the quality of life in the Riviera, and to support projects with that goal.
2. To encourage and promote the participation of residents in community and civic activities.
3. To bring matters that are important to our residents to the attention of city officials, and to work toward a resolution of these issues.

Riviera Homeowners Association 2014-2015 Officers and Directors

Co-presidents		Online Editor/Photographer	Julian Chasin	310-373-6314
• Judy Brunetti	310-378-5616	City Council Observer	Judy Brunetti	310-378-5616
• Amy Josefek		Advertising	Voc Gregorian	310-710-9080
• Pam Popovich	310-375-8729	Immediate Past President	Judy Brunetti	310-378-5616
Membership Chair	Julie Garbe	Treasurer	Paul Popovich	310-375-3592
Secretary	Nancy Mansfield-Staudt	Landscape	Neva Gallegos	310-738-3976
Newsletter	Pam Popovich	Hospitality Chair	(open)	
Scholarship	Amy Josefek			

Visit the RHA Website at hollywoodriviera.org! The RHA officers can be contacted via email:

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