

SOUTHWOOD



Homeowners Association Newsletter

Southwood Membership Drive 2020

Another year has flown by and it’s time for our annual membership drive. We have many households who renew every year and we sincerely thank you! If you haven’t joined as a member yet, we invite you to take the leap! Every household in the Southwood area receives a monthly newsletter regardless of membership status and part of the dues goes towards printing and delivery costs. The newsletter helps communicate what is happening in our city and especially in our Southwood community.

In addition to monthly newsletters, your membership dues and donations support a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating high school student who attended our Southwood schools, as well as substantial gifts to Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle Schools. We also sponsor candidate forums for our local mayoral, city council, and school board elections.

Southwood Homeowners Association is the longest continuously running homeowners association in Torrance – 43 years and counting! Help us keep this association going strong by becoming a member.

Please fill out the form below and mail it back with your check payable to “Southwood Homeowners Association.” For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in this month’s newsletter. Simply apply a stamp and drop it in the mail!

Thanks for your support!

Laurie Craig, SHA President

Membership Application

Southwood Homeowners Association, Inc.
4733 Torrance Blvd. #155, Torrance, CA 90503

Annual Dues run from January through December. New members’ voting rights begin 30 days after receipt of dues.

Please check appropriate category (only one fee is required per address):

- Voting Member – Residing within the Southwood Area \$20.00
- Non-Voting Member – Residing outside the Southwood Area \$25.00

Yes, I want my Membership Card: Let me know if I can help (observer, special events):

Name of Member(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address (please **PRINT**): _____ Phone: _____

Optional donation to support SHA scholarships, school gifts, etc.: \$ _____ (Thank you!)

Additional Comments: _____

(We never share your email, phone or address with any 3rd parties. Emails used for voting and occasional notices only.)

November Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
11.5 & 11.19
11.12 & 11.26 – no meetings

Torrance Planning Commission

7 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
11.6 & 11.20

TUSD Board Meetings

7 p.m. at 2336 Plaza Del Amo
11.12, Tuesday

Senior Citizens Holiday Arts & Craft Sale (Torrance Community Services Department)

11.9, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.

Seussical (South Bay Conservatory)

11.15, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
James R. Armstrong Theatre
3330 Civic Center Dr.

Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding Event (City of Torrance)

11.16, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
3031 Torrance Blvd.

- Free paper shredding
- Drop-off limit of 8 boxes or bags per vehicle
- No books, 3-ring binders, large clips, or magazines

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair (Torrance Craftsmen's Guild)

11.16 & 11.17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
3330 Civic Center Dr.

SHA on Facebook

Throughout the month, notices about things happening in our city are emailed to SHA. These notices often arrive too late to print in the newsletter, so they are posted on the SHA Facebook page. Check out these current events at facebook.com/SouthwoodHOA.

Message from Your President

Besides the elected board positions announced in the September newsletter, there are quite a few appointed positions that have been filled by either current board members, or other association members.

First, I would like to thank the people who have come forward recently to fill some of our vacant positions: Charise Mirabal – Facebook Page Editor, Erin Shaw – Environmental Quality Commission Observer, Pat Lewis – Auditor and Parliamentarian, Jane Roseman – City Council Observer.

Also, many thanks to the people who have been filling our other appointed positions: Kim Nokes – TUSD Observer, Donna Spreitzer – Historian (previous president and now valued advisor), Joseph Nadarajah – Newsletter Advertising Coordinator, Carolyn Finkenbeiner – Newsletter Distribution, Emi Morimoto – Newsletter Editor, Val Clark – Newsletter Out of Area Delivery, and Mitch Levine – Scholarship Coordinator.

We still have some observer positions open: City Council (2nd Observer; you may simply view a recording of the City Council meeting anytime at the city website), Parks & Recreation, Planning Commission, Airport Commission, and Traffic Commission. If you are interested in occasionally observing any of these meetings, let us know. Not much is required – after you attend a meeting, just shoot us an email with a brief summary. We also have Hospitality open – someone who arranges for light refreshments at one or two association meetings per year. Contact me at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or 424-226-6428 if you can help us out.

Finally, as required by our bylaws, an audit was performed at the end of our fiscal year. Pat Lewis, our auditor, presented the Audit Report for the period March 1, 2019 (the day after our last audit), to August 31, 2019 (end of our fiscal year). She concluded that all government forms have been filed, and the financial records of the Southwood Homeowners Association have been examined and found to be correct.

Flu Shot: Your Best Bet for Avoiding Influenza

Reviews of past studies have found that, on average, the flu vaccine is about 50% to 60% effective for healthy adults who are between 18 and 64 years old.

Even when the vaccine doesn't completely prevent the flu, it may lessen the severity of your illness and the risk of serious complications. The flu vaccine is your best defense against the flu, but there are additional steps you can take to help protect yourself from the flu and other viruses. These steps include the following:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer on your hands if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth whenever possible
- Practice good health habits – get plenty of sleep, exercise regularly, drink plenty of fluids, eat a nutritious diet, and manage your stress

You can also help prevent the spread of the flu by staying home if you do get sick. For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov/flu.

Torrance Board of Education Observer Report

Megan Wareham, a math teacher at JH Hull Middle School, was recently recognized as one of the 16 best teachers in Los Angeles County. Ms. Wareham, a Torrance resident, has been teaching for 13 years. She will advance with the other 15 Los Angeles County finalists to compete with other teachers from around the state for the title of California Teacher of the Year. From there, she will have a chance to compete in the National Teacher of the Year contest next spring.



Want to know more about the Torrance School Board? The Torrance Unified School District Board of Education meets twice monthly and meetings are open to the public. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are located in the boardroom of the Educational Materials Building (EMB) at 2336 Plaza Del Amo. The current Board of Education members include:

Don Lee, President
310-297-2050 ext. 202
lee.don@tusd.org

Terry Ragins, Vice President
310-323-6259
ragins.terry@tusd.org

Betty Lieu, Clerk
213-820-8862
lieu.betty@tusd.org

Jeremy L. Gerson, Member
310-729-3688
gerson.jeremy@tusd.org

James Han, Member
213-447-1187
han.james@tusd.org

Board of Education agendas and meeting minutes are available for study at all school sites, City libraries, and on the tusd.org website. Additional information on agenda items is available on the website.

Free Rain Barrels – Help Conserve Water

Rain barrels capture water from a roof and hold it for later use such as on lawns, gardens, or indoor plants. Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property (United States Environmental Protection Agency). It's a great way to conserve water and collect free water to use in your landscape!

When: November 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: West High School Student Parking Lot,
20401 Victor Street

Program Guidelines:

- Must be a Torrance resident
- Limit 2 per household while supplies last
- Must be mounted and installed underneath a rain gutter/downspout
- Rain barrels will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis after 11:00 a.m. regardless of reservation



Register at www.sbesc.com/calendar/events/rain-barrel-distribution-torrance-3, or call 310-371-7222.

Torrance Refinery MHF Update

Remember the explosion at what was then the ExxonMobil Refinery in February 2015 where ashes fell from the sky? The explosion blew a 40-ton chunk of metal into the air that landed only 5 feet from tanks containing modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF).

Researchers at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) have found that MHF is not significantly different from its very toxic predecessor, HF, which if released, can form a ground-hugging cloud that may drift for miles causing death and injury. MHF is used at just two refineries in California – the Torrance Refinery and the Wilmington Valero Refinery.

The SCAQMD had been considering a rule to require a phase out over several years, or an increase in safety measures. But on September 6, the SCAQMD Governing Board decided to drop the rule-making process in exchange for the refineries implementing a series of voluntary safety measures.

If you are concerned about MHF at our local refinery, you can get more information at the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance website, www.traasouthbay.com.

Hobby Lobby at Toys R Us Location

According to a spokesperson at the Torrance Building and Safety Department, Hobby Lobby in late August 2019, received city approval to begin tenant improvements at the vacated Toys R Us location, 22035 Hawthorne Blvd.

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