



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

October Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings
6:30 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
10.8, 10.15, 10.22, & 10.29

TUSD Board Meetings
7 p.m. TUSD Board Room
2336 Plaza del Amo
10.21

Community Emergency Response Training

Are you prepared for an emergency? The Torrance Fire Department is offering free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes to help community members be ready and prepared if City resources are stretched to their limits and additional help is a long way off.

Over a thousand community members have attended the three day academy held at the Torrance Fire Station at 1701 Crenshaw Blvd.

Session Schedule

- 1: Fri, 25 October 8:00am - 5:00pm
- 2: Sat, 26 October 8:00am - 5:00pm
- 3: Sun, 27 October 8:00am - 5:00pm

Participants must attend all three classes to receive a completion certificate, and as a bonus, participants will receive a backpack filled with emergency supplies.

For more information and to sign up: <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-manager/office-of-emergency-services/cert>

Message from Your President

The good news is someone has stepped up to be our Newsletter Editor! A big shout out and thanks to Jill Villalpando for taking on this task and allowing us to continue the 47-year tradition of delivering hardcopy newsletters!

The bad news is we haven't found a Recording Secretary yet. We usually meet the first Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at my house or on Zoom. If you're thinking about it at all, come join us for our next friendly, informal board meeting and check it out! (Contact info at bottom of page.)

Laurie Craig, SHA President

Assemblyman Muratsuchi Town Hall Recap

On Saturday, September 7, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi held a Town Hall in the Torrance Council Chambers. He reviewed three areas of concern for our community – prioritizing our educational system, homelessness, and crime.

As the Chair of the State Assembly's Education Committee, Muratsuchi's goal is to protect K-12 education funding. Muratsuchi co-authored bill AB247 which is now Proposition 2 on the November ballot to create a 10 billion statewide bond funded by the state general fund, not by extra taxes. The bond would fund much needed renovations to K-12 schools and community colleges.

Concerning the increasing numbers of unhoused people in our city and state, Muratsuchi stated the number one cause is the cost of housing. While the state is pushing for more housing to be built, he does not agree with the state's recent legislation to force statewide zoning laws (i.e. SB 9) and is in favor of cities' retaining local control.

Muratsuchi is a former prosecutor who did not support Prop 47 in 2014. This year, he is endorsing Proposition 36 to hold repeat offenders accountable. A third theft crime would be charged as a felony.

One of the more contentious issues at the meeting was Muratsuchi's introduction of bill AB 1825 – the California Freedom to Read Act which prohibits public libraries from banning books because of the topic or content unless it qualifies as "obscene". The bill would require every public library jurisdiction to create a publicly accessible collection development policy which would include a process for community members to share their concerns.



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Anza Repave Update

Anza Ave. from Del Amo Blvd. to Sepulveda Blvd. is currently being repaved. In Spring 2025, Anza Ave. will be repaved from Sepulveda Blvd. to PCH.

This project is not just about resurfacing the roads. Other scheduled maintenance includes addressing issues like ponding, tree replacement, and curb and gutter repairs.

In addition, the traffic signals from Del Amo Blvd. down to Carson St. have been upgraded. For example, upgrades include new video detection systems, safety lighting, pedestrian push buttons, installing emergency vehicle preemption systems, and new street name signs.

City of Torrance Live City Webcam

Torrance has a new webcam offering residents and visitors a stunning, real-time view of Torrance. Now, whether you're at home or on the go, you can take in the breathtaking sights of our city.

Nestled at Los Arboles Park, fondly known as Rocketship Park, the webcam captures the most picturesque angles of Torrance. With a 24/7 live feed, you can enjoy the vibrant activity and natural beauty that makes Torrance a special place to live. Tune in and experience the pride of Torrance from anywhere!

<https://www.torranceca.gov/services/parks/live-stream-from-rocketship-park>



Torrance Adds New Friendship City

By Andrea Reilly

Back in January 2024, Councilmember Jon Kaji proposed initiating the friendship city process with two cities in Japan – Oshu, Iwate Prefecture and Bizen, Okayama Prefecture. These cities are the hometowns of recently signed Los Angeles Dodgers superstar players Shohei Ohtani and Yoshinobu Yamamoto respectively. On August 8, Torrance signed a Friendship City Agreement with the City of Bizen. The ceremony took place at Torrance City Hall with Torrance Mayor George K. Chen and Bizen Mayor Takeshi Yoshimura attending.

Through friendship city relationships, Torrance hopes to continue fostering the growing demand by the Dodger Japanese fanbase who visit Los Angeles and establish Torrance as a destination for baseball fans everywhere. This should bring increased sales tax revenue and strengthen Torrance's position in attracting additional sports teams and new investments in advance of the 2028 Summer Olympics. It will also potentially allow for Torrance Little League teams to establish relationships leading to youth baseball exchange programs.

Torrance has one sister city, Kashiwa Chiba Prefecture Japan. Sister city relationships require approval from both cities' respective city councils. Friendship city agreements can be made between mayors through a memorandum of understanding that endorses the link between the municipalities. Friendship city relationships can lead to sister city status.

Now, Torrance has four friendship cities: Hwaseong in South Korea, Changhua and Tainan in Taiwan, and Bizen in Japan. The friendship city effort with Oshu, Iwate Prefecture Japan, is still in progress.

Commission on Aging Report

By Sue Harrison

At the September 3 meeting, the program director of H.E.L.P.



(Helping Elders Live Productively), Grace Farwell, presented the free resources, services, and referrals the organization provides to seniors. This includes friendly phone calls and visits, as well as help with light chores, groceries, and technology. The goal is to combat social isolation and loneliness.

Volunteers include student interns, college students, and anyone interested in helping out. For more information about services or volunteering, call 310.533.1996 or visit the website: help4srs.org.

H.E.L.P. is also sponsoring the following free classes at the Torrance Main Library this fall (see the [Library Calendar of Events](#)):

- 10.11 Senior monitoring devices (life alert)
- 10.17 Senior scams
- 10.21 Fall prevention and home modifications
- 12.13 Long term care

School Board Report

By Kim Nokes

School Board Meeting highlights from 8.19.2024 and 9.3.2024:

- Recognized the Invention Convention winners. TUSD won more awards than any other school district in the nation.
- Adopted a resolution proclaiming September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Adopted a resolution proclaiming September and October as PTA Membership Enrollment Months.
- Presented the “Portrait of a Graduate” outlining the essential elements and skills that every student should obtain prior to graduation.
- Appointed Student Board Members for the 2024 – 2025 school year: Chelsea Salazar, Dillyet Benyam, Cara Kim, and Angelina Quiroz.
- Introduced Dr. Stephanie Lewis as the new Adult School Director.

Torrance Annual Scaredown

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024
- Time: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Location: 1266 Sartori Ave



Get ready for a spooktacular evening at the 7th Annual Scaredown in Downtown Torrance! This family-friendly Halloween event is set to bring chills and thrills with activities and attractions for all ages.

What to Expect:

- Trunk-or-Treat: Kids can dress in their costumes and enjoy trunk-or-treating along Post Avenue. Car trunks will be decked out in Halloween decor, offering treats for the little ones.
- Haunted Boo-Tique: Browse through spooky vendors offering Halloween crafts, treats, etc.
- Live Music and Dance Party: Groove to live music and join in on the Thriller dance party, and show off your best zombie moves.
- Dead End Alley: As the sun goes down at 6:12 p.m., the ghosts will come out to play in Dead End Alley.
- Tarot Card Readers: Curious about what the future holds?
- Spooky Selfie Ops: Capture the night with some frightful photo opportunities. Make sure you’re looking your spooky best!
- Spooky Food & Specialty Drinks: Enjoy Halloween-themed food and drinks at various bars and restaurants in Old Torrance.

This event is not just for kids; it’s a hauntingly good time for the whole family! It’s a celebration of community spirit and local culture reminding us why we love being part of this amazing community.

Thanks for joining Southwood HOA!

This list is based on dues received from 8.15 to 9.12.

Madan Murali
Vidya Parthasarathy

Haven’t joined/renewed yet?

Please go online at southwoodhomeowners.com/join to either print a membership form and mail in, or join online.

FREE Football Shuttle to SoFi

It’s that time again! The NFL season is right around the corner and Torrance Transit is offering affordable rides to SoFi Stadium during the preseason. For just \$4 round trip, you can park and ride a bus from the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center at 465 Crenshaw Blvd. (just south of Del Amo Blvd.) to SoFi Stadium. Boarding begins 3 hours before game time. For more information, go to: <https://transit.torranceca.gov/>.

Words of Wit-dom

It seems like every time opportunity knocks, I’m out back taking out the trash.

Walk a mile in my shoes, but...
Buy me a new pair

As you wander through life,
whatever be your goal...
Keep your eyes on the doughnut,
But never on the hole.

If you’re pushing 60 that’s exercise enough!

Why are the words “this is none of my business” always followed by the word “but “?

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