



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

March Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
3.10, 3.17 & 3.24
3.3 & 3.31 – no meetings

Torrance Planning Commission Meetings

7 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
3.4 & 3.18

TUSD Board Meetings

7 p.m. at 2336 Plaza Del Amo
3.2 & 3.16

Henderson Library

Toddler time

10:30 a.m., Tuesdays
4805 Emerald St.

Los Cancioneros Master Corale's Masterpieces for the Living

3.8, 7-11 p.m.
James R. Armstrong Theatre
3330 Civic Center Dr.

Torrance Firefighters Association 48th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

3.14, 4:30-8:00 p.m.
Ken Miller Rec. Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.
Tickets available at door (\$7 adults,
\$5 children under 8)

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Free Screening of *Ocean's Eight*

3.18, 10:30 a.m.
3301 Torrance Blvd.

For information on these events +
MANY more events, go to
www.torranceca.gov

Message from Your President

March 3, 2020, is called the Presidential Primary Election, but there are many other state and local measures and candidates as well. Plus, this is the first election where LA County is participating in the new system created by the Voter's Choice Act passed in 2016. The goal of the act is to provide voters more flexibility on when and how they cast ballots. Here is a summary of what I found regarding the new voting system:

- LA County is one of 15 counties participating in the Voter's Choice Act. However, we are the only county that will not be sending every registered voter an actual ballot in the mail. So, if you didn't request an absentee ballot by February 25, you will need to go to a Vote Center to vote.
- You can cast your vote at any Vote Center in LA County over a period of days. You should have received a booklet of Vote Center Locations. Note that the sites closest to Southwood (Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle Schools) **open on Saturday, February 29**, as opposed to some that open earlier on February 22.
- If you have a vote by mail ballot, you can either mail it in, or drop it off at any vote center or at a secure ballot box. After some searching, I found the secure ballot box locations closest to here are at Henderson Library and Torrance City Hall.
- You can fill out an **Interactive Sample Ballot** beforehand on a mobile device or computer. Once you've completed your selections, a Poll Pass (QR code) is generated. Then, at the Vote Center, you can scan the Poll Pass to transfer all your selections onto the Ballot Marking Device. Visit LAVote.net/ISB.
- The Ballot Marking Device is a new voting machine that claims to have easy-to-follow instructions to guide any voter through the voting process. This machine was demonstrated at our City Council Candidate Forum on February 5 and some thought the scrolling was not intuitive and therefore people might not scroll properly to view all their choices. So, be sure to understand how to scroll.

We hope the new voting system works smoothly! Please take the time to review the candidates and ballot measures and be an informed voter!

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Southwood Homeowners Association

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424.226.6428

southwood.homeowners@gmail.com

[Facebook.com/southwoodHOA](https://www.facebook.com/southwoodHOA)

Census 2020

The U.S. Constitution requires a complete count of the nation's population every 10 years. Census data impacts decisions at the national, state, and local levels – from congressional representation to the annual allocation of more than \$675 billion. These resources are essential to the well-being of our neighbors and to the support of our schools, hospitals, fire departments, and more. As a community, let's take part in this effort to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Beginning in mid-March 2020, forms and notices will be sent out. You can respond to the census by answering a handful of questions online, by phone, or by mail. It's easy for you to be counted.

Scanning Southwood

On Monday evening, February 10, at approximately 8 p.m., a couple was accosted by three men. The incident occurred on Talisman (close to Scott Street). The men wanted anything of value, but all the couple had on them was a cell phone. Fortunately, the couple was not hurt physically, but you can imagine the emotional trauma that can result from such an event. The police were notified and took a report.

Please be careful and be mindful of strangers in our neighborhood. If you have any doubts, call the police and report them.

If you have news to share related to births, deaths, marriages, new jobs, just moved in, moving away, etc., please let us know. Call us at 424.226.6428 or email us at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com.

President's Message (con't)

City Council Candidate Forum Recap

Southwood HOA hosted a City Council District 2 Candidate Forum on February 5 at Anza Elementary. We had a great turnout with 89 in attendance! After some brief association meeting business, the forum began. The two candidates, Geoff Rizzo and George Chen, answered many questions submitted by the audience. After the forum, people were able to approach the candidates and other District 4 and 6 candidates for a meet and greet. Also, one of the new



District 2 candidates George Chen and Geoff Rizzo

Ballot Marking Devices was there for people to try out and to have their questions answered. Thank you to the Southwood Board members for all their help, Rosie Wider our moderator, and Glenna Marshall for the home baked cookies!

SHA Has a Website!

We are excited to unveil the new Southwood Homeowners Association website! Emi Morimoto did a wonderful job creating a well-organized, stylish website highlighting many scenes around Southwood. We hope you find it informative as you can find our newsletters, past association meeting recaps, the membership form and more on the website. The website is a work in progress and we hope to add more features soon. Check it out at southwoodhomeowners.com!

Laurie Craig, SHA President

City Council Report

- Torrance Tourist Agency's target audience will be China, India, and Japan; focus on increasing dollars spent through day and overnight visits to Torrance
- Torrance received a state grant to fund a Welcome Center at the Del Amo Mall; goal is to open June 2020
- Census 2020 will start April 1, 2020, and will determine how money is allocated; for each person identified, \$2,000 per year from the Federal government is allocated. Visit 2020census.gov.
- Concerns were addressed about Sacramento issuing rules, laws, and propositions that affect our neighborhoods. The number of residential units for different uses mandated for cities by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is increasing. Inland Empire has more land, but they do not want all the units/population. The push is to have the units in Coastal areas, but there is concern that the safety of residents will be compromised. The final allocation will be in the Spring. Cities can appeal in July.
- Council voted to adopt a resolution opposing the current draft unit allocation
- Councilman Rizzo requested Council concurrence to form a task force from the Community Development Department to review SB 50 and develop contingency plans for the City to be ahead of the curve for future similar legislation

Board of Education Observer Report

The Torrance Board of Education recently reviewed the District's 2018-2019 School Accountability Report Card (SARC). By February 1 of each year, every school in California is required by state law to publish a SARC.

The SARC includes:

- School Demographics
- Enrollment
- Facility Conditions
- Fiscal Reports
- Parent Involvement
- State Test Scores (STAR, CAHSEE, Physical Fitness Test)
- College Prep (AP, SAT, ACT)
- Career Technical Education
- Teacher Credential Information
- Curriculum and Text Books
- Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

During the previous school year, Torrance scored within the two highest performance levels in all areas. In addition, the District scored at the highest level on the indicator for Graduation Rate. The Overall Graduation Rate for TUSD is 95.3%, while the Graduation Rate at West High School is 98.4%.

The District is also required to prepare a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) which describes how they intend to meet annual school-specific goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address state and local priorities.

SARCs for all Torrance schools are accessible via the SARC website at <http://sarconline.org/>. The SARC Achievement Presentation is available on the TUSD School Board website at <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/tusd/Board.nsf/Public>.

Thank you to all who have joined the 2020 Southwood Homeowners Association

This list is based on dues received from 1.8 to 2.4. Additional names will be listed in April's newsletter.

Shawn Carroll	Diana Johnson*	Tad & Sandi Schmitt
Al & Elaine Castillon	Shirley Keas	Rob & Arda Searles
Larry & Michelle Corrao	Mike & Chris Klein	Betty A. Sessions
Dick & Debbie Cunningham	Ted & Patricia Leavenworth	Nirav & Kajal Shah
Sue Enoch	Robert & Ruth McMillen	Ken & Deborah Slater
Carol Eubanks	Shirley Naito	Michael & Misook Song
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Marla & Glen Gunderson	Susan Griffith & John O'Brien	Jim & Jodi Watkinson
Mits & Saeko Gushiken	Mitchell Ogi	Greg & Cheryl Wilton
Dan & Ann Hall	Earlene A. Parsons	Bill Wright
Deborah Koch & Glenn Ito	Pat Sanders	

*Charter Members

School Events

Here are some school events open to the public this month. (Contact school for ticket information.)

- Anza Elementary School STEAM Fair (aka Science Fair) 3.8, 6-8 p.m.
- Jefferson Middle School Students vs. Staff Basketball Game, 3.17, 6:15 p.m., West High School (WHS) Gym
- West Area Choir Festival, 3.3, 7-9 p.m., WHS Performing Arts Center (PAC)
- WHS Band Pops Concert, 3.4, 7-9 p.m., WHS PAC
- WHS Spring Musical "Shreck", 3.26 & 3.27, 7-9:30 p.m., WHS PAC

Beach Cities Health District Project

The Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) has proposed a \$537 million project to demolish their existing 11-acre campus (on Prospect between Diamond and Beryl) and construct a 420-unit assisted living structure. Torrance residents who reside just east and downwind are concerned about the conditions during the 15-year construction phase such as exposure to toxic air contaminants and increased traffic with an estimated 30,000 heavy haul truck trips. Plus, the supersized assisted living building which surrounds more than two-thirds of the elevated site and rises 70 to 120 feet above the surrounding homes, will forever change the character of the community and sets a dangerous new precedent for overdevelopment.

For more information about the residents' concerns, see the Torrance Redondo Against Overdevelopment website www.traonews.org.

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