



# SOUTHWOOD

## Homeowners Association Newsletter

### October Calendar

#### Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference  
10.6, 10.13, 10.20, & 10.27

#### Torrance Planning Commission Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference  
10.7 & 10.21

#### TUSD Board Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference  
10.5 & 10.19

#### Shrek 2 & Ghostbusters at the Drive-In!

The Radium is showing two more family-friendly movies this fall.

*Shrek 2*: 10.2, 7-10 p.m.

*Ghostbusters*: 10.10, 7-10 p.m.

2500 Redondo Beach Blvd.

\$25/ticket

See [www.roadium.com/drive-in-movies/](http://www.roadium.com/drive-in-movies/) for tickets.

#### Torrance Theatre Company All-New Virtual Performances

All performances are on Sunday evening at 6 p.m.. This series strives to keep theater alive in our community!

Here's the lineup:

- *Chapatti*, 10.4
- *Bauer*, 10.18
- *The Velocity of Autumn*, 11.1
- *Annapurna*, 11.15
- *Beyond Glory*, 12.6
- *Driving Miss Daisy*, 12.13
- *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play*, 12.20

Tickets may be purchased at

[www.torrancetheatrecompany.com](http://www.torrancetheatrecompany.com).

For information on current city events, go to [www.torranceca.gov](http://www.torranceca.gov).

### Message from Your President

As the days get shorter and the nights fall sooner, we need to be even more mindful of our surroundings and neighborhood properties. It seems as if there have been a good number of postings on the "Nextdoor" website reporting car thefts, stolen property from cars, and videos of suspicious behavior caught on home security systems. I'd like to share something the Redondo Beach Police Department has come up with called the "9 PM Routine"; simple steps you can take to help prevent crimes of opportunity before you go to bed:

1. Remove all valuables (cell phones, computers, wallets, etc.) from your vehicle.
2. Ensure your vehicle doors and trunks are locked.
3. Check to make sure your homes' exterior doors, garages, and sheds are locked.
4. At night, turn on your exterior lights to ward off potential burglars.

Taking these steps before you go to bed can prevent you from becoming a victim of crime. Please help in spreading the word about the "9 PM Routine" with your neighbors and friends so they too can remain safe.

By the way, if you're not familiar with "Nextdoor" mentioned above, please consider joining at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com). It's a free local social networking service for neighborhoods where people post about happenings in the neighborhood, items for sale, coyote sightings, local crimes, and more.

Also, consider joining our SHA Board! We have a few commission observer positions open. The only commission currently meeting via Zoom is the Planning Commission, but perhaps more will start meeting via Zoom as well. As an observer, you may attend commission meetings, or simply review the minutes and report back anything of interest to the SHA Board. The **Environmental Quality, Traffic, and Planning** Commission observer positions are open.

As required by our bylaws, an audit was performed at the end of our fiscal year. Lynne Woike, our auditor, presented the Audit Report for the period September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020 (end of our fiscal year). It was 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.

*Laurie Craig, SHA President*



Southwood Homeowners Association

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[southwood.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:southwood.homeowners@gmail.com)

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

## City Council Meeting Updates

By Jane Roseman

- The coyote management program is transferring from the police dept. to community service dept.
- From October 7, 2019, to March 7, 2020, there were 229 reported incidents and 14 coyotes trapped. There is a 24-hour hotline for reporting with a live person (310.618.3898).
- Better statistics are needed to make adjustments and recommendations. Residents need to report sightings to the hotline or via the myTorranceCa app, not just social media so the sightings get recorded.
- The City is considering going to a 12-month plan of trapping versus a 5-month plan, but nothing has been decided. Residents should follow the mgmt. plan, especially not leaving food and water out.
- There will be no float this year, but if you make a donation to the Torrance Rose Float Association at [www.torrancerosefloat.org](http://www.torrancerosefloat.org), you can get a Rose Float mask.
- The Council would like residents to support local businesses as much as possible so they are around after COVID.
- The Council voted to adopt an ordinance prohibiting SMDs (Shared Mobility Devices) being placed anywhere in Torrance.

## Southwood Membership

Thank you to all who have joined the 2020 Southwood Homeowners Association! This list is based on dues received from 5.21 to 9.9.

Dennis & Karen Cline  
Terence & Melinda Ou  
Joseph & Linda Ritacco

Stay tuned for the November newsletter that will include the 2021 membership campaign and two ways to join – the traditional method of mailing and online!

## Housing Bills Update

In last month's newsletter and via an email sent in July to association members, we brought to light some concerning housing bills that the California State legislature was attempting to pass. The City of Torrance opposed these bills as they mostly promoted market-rate housing as opposed to affordable housing, took away local zoning control from the city, and exempted projects from thorough review. Two of the bills (AB725 and AB2345) were passed on August 31 and are awaiting Governor Newsom's signature. For more information on the current status of the bills, see [www.LivableCalifornia.org](http://www.LivableCalifornia.org).

Since this is not the first time, nor the last that the California State legislature will attempt to take away cities' local control of zoning and land use, the only way to fight back effectively is to form an alliance of cities throughout the state. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Councilmember Mike Griffiths is spearheading an effort to do just that via the formation of "California Citizens for Local Control". If you'd like to help, contact Mike Griffiths at [LocalControlCA@gmail.com](mailto:LocalControlCA@gmail.com).

## November's Vote by Mail Option

Every registered voter in California will be mailed a Vote by Mail ballot for the November 3 General Election. In-person voting locations will also be made available. Here are some interesting points about voting by mail from the LAVote.net website:

- Vote by Mail ballots are mailed starting **29 days** prior to Election Day.
- Voters must sign and date the return envelope. If the signature on your Vote by Mail return envelope doesn't match what is in the voter registration database, you will be notified by mail and asked to complete and return the **Signature Verification Statement**.
- There are multiple options on how to return your ballot – by mail (no postage necessary), in person at any Vote by Mail drop box location, and at any Vote Center in L.A. County.
- If your ballot is postmarked by Election Day and received within 17 days, it will be processed, verified, and counted.
- Track Your Ballot! Receive personalized text messages, emails, and/or automated voice messages when your Vote by Mail ballot is mailed, received, and counted by registering with Ballottrax ([www.California.ballottrax.net](http://www.California.ballottrax.net)).



## Torrance School Board Candidate Forum

There are four candidates running for two seats on the Torrance School Board on the November ballot. Hear from the four candidates during a virtual candidate forum on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Register in advance at [www.torrancechamber.com/tusdcandidatesforum](http://www.torrancechamber.com/tusdcandidatesforum).

The four candidates are Madison Laster, Anil Muhammed, Jasmine Park and Ron Riggs. Following are excerpts from Spectrum News articles ([www.spectrumnews1.com](http://www.spectrumnews1.com); search "tUSD") describing the candidates:

Madison Laster is a recent Sacramento State graduate, only two years removed from her high school graduation, who seeks to bring lessons learned from previous school board experience to Torrance.

Anil Muhammed is well-known amongst Torrance leadership circles and is an administrator at the Huntington Beach Unified School District.

Torrance native Jasmine Park has a stint with the Peace Corps, two Ivy League degrees, and a background in education technology policy to her name.

Ron Riggs is a political unknown but believes his years as a local coach and business person will boost him.

# Board of Education Observer Report

By Kim Nokes

At the School Board Meeting on September 8, the Board held a Public Hearing to obtain public input pertaining to the draft maps of district-based boundaries for School Board members. The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public input on and provide input regarding the draft maps and sequence of School Board elections beginning in November 2022. Following the September 8 and September 21 hearings, the Board will consider approval of a final map and sequence of elections. The School District is working with the National Demographics Corporation to develop a map that divides Torrance into five districts. Each district will be represented by a School Board member.



The District's current at-large election will be held as planned this November. Two seats on the Torrance Unified School District's Board of Education are up for grabs this November, as sitting school board members Terry Ragins and Don Lee will be leaving office. Beginning in 2021, Trustee areas will be adjusted in accord with 2020 Census data. In November 2022, the first three districts will hold by-area elections. Then in November 2024, the remaining two districts will hold their by-area elections.

In addition, the School Board heard public comment from the "Replace the Warrior" group who discussed the petition drive to replace the West High School mascot.

In order to get the latest news and information from the Torrance Unified School District, subscribe to receive emails, and for the link to attend School Board meetings via Zoom, visit the District's website [www.tusd.org](http://www.tusd.org).

## Ballad of Southwood Homes

By Hannah Sampson

Then, all these proud owners were taken aback?  
Their pride was dashed, their jaws went slack,  
For they now were told what a terrific error they'd made;  
Architects  
Sociologists  
Song writers...all pitied the fools in their cardboard houses!

These planners and writers in their ivory towers  
Said: "Your houses are worthless, not beautiful bowers...  
A bunch of junk...they'll crumble like boxes...  
Ticky-tacky  
Barbie Doll people  
The Tract will be a slum in no time,"  
They moaned.

Asked for alternatives to buying in a tract  
They jibbered: "Better nothing!"  
(Yep. That's a fact!)  
"The only good house must be built on your private land...  
One of a kind  
Custom built  
Individuality! Form must follow function!"

Now by song and by gossip he was constantly harassed  
Bewildered, pride hurt and too often embarrassed,  
He almost denied that he lived in his Southwood home:  
"Just a little place."  
"Oh, not far..."  
"It's a roof over our heads...let's not talk about it."

Well time's flown by – more than four decades! –  
And these homes stood the tests of time's parades...  
No two resemble each other, they're that unique.  
Trees arch over the clean wide streets  
Second stories accommodate extended families  
Individuality runs rampant, that's for sure!



Corner of Palos Verdes Blvd./Carson St.  
(<https://www.torranceca.gov/home/showdocument?id=47243>)

*Editor's Note: Conclusion of Hannah Sampson's ballad describing her post-World War II experiences when she and her husband settled in Southwood in 1956. (Part 1 appeared in last month's newsletter.) Prior to her column in the Daily Breeze, Hannah had a column in the Torrance Press-Herald in the 1960's entitled "Hannah's Harpoons". She reviewed books for the Los Angeles Times, and became a staple in the Daily Breeze, writing about her trials and tribulations as a senior in the South Bay from 1987-2001.*

And, the Barbie Dolls and Ken? Please note:  
(We never were plastic, as the "experts" wrote!)  
But, real people: flesh and good red blood and brain:  
Engineers  
Teachers  
Artists, business people, substantial citizens.

We'd learned from each other, found means to ends  
And chancy neighbors became devoted friends...  
Now, if one of us hurts, we know that help's nearby...  
Block parties  
Fireworks  
Wedding showers...

The mockingbirds lounge in the magnolia tree.  
The sea gulls utter their shrill:  
"Whoo-eee!"  
And a hummingbird sips from the Meyer lemon tree's nectars.  
And the houses stand, as with feet astride  
Facing the streets so clean and wide,  
From the "experts" dire forecast they are staunch defectors.

As to the dismal report we'd be shoddy slums,  
Just question any Southwood tract "alums,"  
Who must daily fight off buyers both serious and funny...  
We're grateful we turned only stone deaf ears  
To those ignorant "experts" who raised cardboard fears...  
For, 40 years later, our very roofs seem made of solid money!

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