



# SOUTHWOOD

## Homeowners Association Newsletter

### June Calendar

**Torrance City Council Meetings**

6:30 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.  
6.4 & 6.18

**TUSD Board Meetings**

7 p.m. TUSD Board Room  
2336 Plaza del Amo  
6.3 (Recognition Meeting) & 6.17

**TOC Apalooza**

Free event, a variety of  
entertainment on three stages  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Torrance Cultural Arts Center  
6.22

**Electronic Recycling/Shredding**

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Torrance City Hall Employee  
Parking Lot off Maple Ave.  
6.1

### Celebrating America

Los Cancioneras Master Chorale presents “Glory Hallelujah, Freedom” – a concert celebrating the dreams of all people who call America home. This promises to be the most uplifting choral program this year! Selections include “Hallelujah”, “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “Cost of Freedom”, “Stand Up” (from Harriet Tubman’s acclaimed film), “We Shall Overcome”, and “We Are the World”.

Tickets are \$35/adult and \$25/student. Go to [www.lcmasterchorale.com](http://www.lcmasterchorale.com) for more information.

### Message from Your President – Don’t Let Southwood HOA End After 48 Years!

I will be stepping down as president in September. However, I would like to remain on the board as an advisor, similar to a co-president role. If anyone would like to join me in the effort to keep the Southwood HOA afloat, please contact me (see contact info at bottom of page).

One of the major tasks of the President has been to create the monthly newsletter. Instead, we would like to fill the Newsletter Editor position in order to continue this tradition. If you have an interest in being our Newsletter Editor, please contact us.

At the May 8 General Meeting, the proposed slate of officers listed below was nominated for next year’s term beginning September 1, 2024.

President	OPEN
1st VP Programs	Carolyn Finkenbeiner
2nd VP Membership	Lynne Woike
3rd VP Activities	Sue Harrison
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Glenda Fukunaga
Corresponding Secretary	Jane Roseman
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Lewis

Elections will take place in June via email. OPEN positions may be filled after the election by appointment.

Here are the OPEN appointed positions (please contact us if you are interested in filling one of these):

Auditor	Newsletter Editor
City Council Observer	Website Editor

Thank you to everyone who has sent in kind words about the HOA in the past! We hope more residents get involved so we can continue!

*Laurie Craig, SHA President*



Southwood Homeowners Association  
4733 Torrance Blvd. #155, 90503  
424.226.6428  
[southwood.homeowners@gmail.com](mailto:southwood.homeowners@gmail.com)  
[Facebook.com/southwoodHOA](https://Facebook.com/southwoodHOA)  
[www.southwoodhomeowners.com](http://www.southwoodhomeowners.com)

## New Stop Sign



A new stop sign was added on southbound Ocean Ave. at Carson St. just before reaching the service road as shown in the picture. Ed Candioty, who lives nearby, approached the City about the gridlock that occurs there before and after Jefferson school hours. Cars would fill up the service road intersection blocking traffic and making school children crossing unsafe. Hopefully, the new stop sign will keep the intersection clear.

## Paradise Park Upgrades

John LaRock, the City Community Services Director, shared plans for upgrades to Paradise Park.

- Torrance City Budget for 2024-25 includes a \$2,787,00 capital investment in Paradise Park.
- The scope of the project includes:
  - Replacement of the 2 playgrounds with new play equipment
  - Rehabilitation/replacement of the park restrooms, recreation room, and picnic shelter
  - Refurbishment of the wire frame play equipment
  - Resurfacing of tennis courts
- Over the summer, staff will hold community feedback sessions in the park for input on the playground equipment proposals.

## SHA 2024 Scholarship Recipient!

Congratulations to Kristen Sayano – our 2024 Scholarship Recipient! Kristen was honored at our General Meeting on May 8 and presented with a check for \$1,000. Here is a short biography written by Kristen:

Throughout high school, I explored and participated in numerous opportunities and found interest and joy in many of them. I spent much of my time involved in academic – especially science – and on the tennis courts for the WHS team. A few of my most memorable moments were the labs in AP Chemistry, competing in science competitions, and improving my tennis on the weekends with friends. I also enjoyed supporting younger students through tutoring, as well as tennis players by assisting in tennis coaching. I volunteered through school clubs as well, and spent my free time being with my family and friends and trying new baking recipes. Currently, I am learning how to knit!

I am so grateful that I am planning to attend the University of California, Los Angeles to study Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics for the next four years. I am very excited to continue working towards my academic goals and I am looking forward to the many experiences that will allow me to push further towards my potential. I want to thank my family, friends, and teachers who have supported me, and a special thank you to the Southwood Homeowners Association for this amazing award!



## SHA General Meeting Recap

The Southwood HOA General Meeting took place on May 8 at Anza Elementary. After some meeting business, we honored our Scholarship winner, Kristen Sayano (see article above). We then had three Torrance Police Officers speak about issues particular to our neighborhood.

Motor Officer Stewart Scott addressed ebikes and traffic concerns. A resident brought up how cars speed down Ocean Ave. Officer Scott explained the City will not put in speed bumps as they slow down emergency vehicles. Officers address ebike issues by educating minors and, for repeat offenders, issue a citation which gets the parents involved.

Community Lead Officers Joe Craft and Jeff Clark reported the most common crime is thefts from vehicles. Thefts are when something is taken from an unlocked car. Burglary is when there is evidence of a break-in. So, lock your car doors and don't leave any valuables inside!

Homelessness was also discussed in light of a new court decision coming out soon that may allow enforcement of anti-camping ordinances. The myTorranceCA app may be used to request Homeless Outreach services.

# School Board Report

By Kim Nokes

The following is a brief summary of the April 16 and May 6 meetings of the Board of Education. The meetings are available to view in entirety on the TUSD website.

- As of April 10, due to the election of Dr. Jeremy Gerson to the Torrance City Council, our Board of Education has one vacant opening in Trustee Area E. The Board will temporarily fill the seat by provisional appointment. The selected appointee will serve until the consolidated special election takes place on November 5, 2024, to identify a candidate who will finish the following two years of the remaining term.
- Our Southwood neighborhood is split between Trustee Areas E and B. Area E includes the east part of the neighborhood between Anza and Ocean Avenue. The remainder of Southwood is in Trustee Area B. Jasmine Park, the current School Board President, resides in Area B. Her term expires December 2024. For more information regarding the TUSD School Board Trustee Areas visit [www.schoolsitelocator.com/apps/torrance](http://www.schoolsitelocator.com/apps/torrance) .
- Katherine Castleberry, TUSD Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, presented an update on the District's Preschool Expansion Plan. TUSD plans to expand beyond the current TUSD preschool program, which includes state preschool classrooms located at 6 elementary schools and a special education site at Arnold Elementary. The expanded preschool program will allow 3 year olds to attend preschool at their home schools. The plan is to offer full-day, fee-based preschool at Walteria and Fern elementaries beginning in January 2025, and to open preschool classrooms at all Torrance elementaries within 5 years. The new program will also include placing students with disabilities in the general education preschool setting, and expanding the Dual Immersion program at Carr and Torrance elementaries to include preschoolers.

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## Court Declares SB 9 Unconstitutional

Five charter cities – Carson, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Del Mar, and Whitter – initiated a lawsuit in early 2022 against the State of California claiming that Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) is unconstitutional and invalid against charter cities.

SB 9 requires all California cities to ministerially approve an application for a lot split, and up to four total housing units, on a single family residential lot that meets certain specified criteria.

On April 22, 2024, Superior Court Judge Curtis Kin determined that SB 9 is unconstitutional because it doesn't provide housing restricted for low-income residents, which he said was the law's stated purpose. The ruling clears the way for the law to be invalidated in cities across the state.

## Thanks for joining Southwood HOA!

This list is based on dues received from 4.10 to 5.11.

Mary Crook  
Susan & Paul Fukuda  
Scott & Monique Griffie  
Arlo & Carol Hagen  
Lyn Shaw & David Lee

### Haven't joined/renewed yet?

Please go online at [southwoodhomeowners.com/join](http://southwoodhomeowners.com/join) to either print a membership form and mail in, or join online.

## South Bay Village – Help for Seniors

The South Bay Village is the local chapter of the national village movement. Volunteers help senior citizens stay in their own homes and remain active and independent.

The most common service provided is transportation to and from medical appointments, grocery shopping, church/social functions, etc.

Volunteers also provide assistance with home chores, errands, computer training, cell phones and electronics assistance, and pet care. Volunteers can enjoy simply playing cards or puzzles, or going for walks with the seniors.

Seniors pay annual membership dues to belong to the Village. Some community events will be arranged specifically for Village members. Seniors also receive referrals for commercial service providers, many of whom have agreed to perform their services at discounted rates.

For more information about becoming a member or volunteer, contact Ghislaine (Ges) Davis at 424.271.2304 or [info@SBVill.org](mailto:info@SBVill.org) or go to [www.SouthBayVillage.org](http://www.SouthBayVillage.org).

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