



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

September Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
9.1, 9.15, & 9.22
9.8 & 9.29 – no meetings

Torrance Planning Commission Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
9.2 & 9.16

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. via Teleconference
9.8 (Tuesday) & 9.21

Torrance Adult School

Register now!
Fall Term: 8.26 – 12.10
Online registration is now open for the Torrance Adult School Fall Term! Don't miss out on this opportunity to further your education. Visit www.TASTUSD.org for more information.

Grease & Lion King at the Drive-In!

The Radium is showing two more family-friendly movies this summer.
Grease: 9.4 & 9.5, 7-10 p.m.
The Lion King: 9.11, 7-10 p.m.
2500 Redondo Beach Blvd.
\$25/ticket
See www.roadium.com/drive-in-movies/ for tickets.

Torrance Education Foundation Virtual Comedy Show

9.12, 6 p.m.
\$25/ticket
Grab dinner and drinks at Red Car Brewery to-go, and enjoy the show from your home. Visit the TEF website at www.tef4kids.org and download the [flyer](#).

For information on current city events, go to www.torranceca.gov.

Message from Your President

“Is it September already?” This is what I'd usually be thinking about now, but instead time has been passing more slowly as my days are less full than in the pre-covid era. Maybe you feel the same, or maybe things are busier for you now. Either way, I think we can all agree that things have changed for everyone. I hope you are all doing well and are taking the time to care for yourself and the others around you as well.

During the summer, we emailed the association members (about 400 of you) to vote for the next SHA Board that begins September 1st. We had 134 replies with 132 explicitly voting “yes”. Our new Board looks just like our old Board as everyone has returned for another year! Here are the 2020-2021 Board members:

Laurie Craig (President)	Glenda Fukunaga (Treasurer)
Carolyn Finkenbeiner (1 st VP)	Emi Morimoto (Recording Secretary)
Lynne Woike (2 nd VP)	Val Clark (Corresponding Secretary)
Alicia Walker (3 rd VP)	Roberta Stotesbury (Sergeant at Arms)

I'd also like to recognize our returning appointed Board members: Mitch Levine, Pat Lewis, Kim Nokes, Jane Roseman, Donna Spreitzer, and Trish Valdez.

There's room for more! We have a few commission observer positions open. As an observer, you may attend commission meetings, or simply review the minutes and report back anything of interest to the SHA Board. The open observer positions are for the following commissions: **Environmental Quality, Traffic, and Planning**. Only the Planning Commission is currently meeting via Zoom.

I wanted to make you all aware of the ongoing movement in the state legislature to strip away cities' local control of zoning laws. You may remember Senate Bill 50 (SB50) by Scott Weiner which was narrowly defeated earlier this year. Well, again, there are a host of housing bills that are currently being considered by the state that take away local control of zoning laws. It may be too late to stop these current bills from passing, but there is an effort to fight back. Please see the article on page 2 “California Citizens for Local Control”.

Take care and be careful out there!
Laurie Craig, SHA President



Southwood Homeowners Association

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Interim City Manager

The Torrance City Council has unanimously selected Torrance Assistant City Manager, Aram Chaparyan, as Interim City Manager effective October 1, 2020. Chaparyan will serve as the interim CEO of a city whose population exceeds 146,000. As Interim City Manager he will oversee 10 departments and an employee base of over 1,500. The appointment follows the announced retirement at the end of September 2020 of Torrance City Manager, LeRoy J. Jackson, after 54 years of dedicated service.

New Neighborhood Store

Plans are in progress for the old Sport Chalet building and surrounding area to be converted to a Hannam Chain Supermarket with a food court.

Census

The 2020 Census is still accepting submissions by mail, phone, and at 2020census.gov.

Are You on Facebook?



If you are familiar with Facebook and would like to help SHA, we need someone to periodically post updates to our Facebook page. The information to be posted would be emailed to you, then you would simply post it on the page. Please let us know if you can help (email at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or 424.226.6428).

Scanning Southwood

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.

California Citizens for Local Control

The California state legislature will most likely be passing bills very soon that take away local control of zoning laws for all California cities. Torrance Councilman Mike Griffiths is spearheading an effort to fight back by starting the “California Citizens for Local Control” volunteer organization. This group is busy holding Zoom meetings uniting elected city officials and residents who are determined to save local control from those in Sacramento.

The mission of the group is to reach out across the state to form an alliance of numerous city elected officials to take action via petitions, resolutions, legal action, and/or ballot initiatives. If you would like to help, please contact Mike Griffiths at LocalControlCA@gmail.com. Volunteers are still needed and appreciated!

For updated information on the bills currently being considered in the state legislature that affect our single family neighborhoods, please go to the Livable California website www.livablecalifornia.org.

City Council Meeting Updates

By Jane Roseman



June – July 2020

- Outdoor Dining Pilot Program for Downtown approved.
- City code amended prohibiting parking of oversize vehicles and trailers in parking lots of parks, airport, civic center and all other city-owned parking lots.
- Adopted resolution approving the sale and issuance of Lease Revenue Bonds. Torrance is leasing its city streets to a city-controlled entity, which will issue \$350 million in bonds in order to help pay down the city’s \$500 million pension debt.
- Council chose Option 1: Encouraging people to wear masks, but there will be no enforcement.
- DARE TO CARE program implemented: Wear a mask, wash your hands, keep your distance, SPREAD KINDNESS, not Covid-19. It’ll help open up Torrance. Information available at TorranceCA.gov/daretocare; cityoftorranceca.com. Please share your Random Acts of Kindness on Torrance’s social media.
- Councilman Griffiths thanked the approximately 30 member volunteers joining the newly named California Citizens for Local Control. The purpose is to let Sacramento know cities statewide want to retain local control of zoning laws.
- The City is encouraging residents to watch the following:
 - Council meetings shown at various times and days on CitiCABLE. Recorded meetings available to watch anytime at the city website TorranceCA.Gov.
 - Daily News Show COVID-19 at 4 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. weekends on CitiCABLE.

(See article below for channel information and streaming options.)

Torrance City Council Meetings “How to”

VIEW THE MEETING via CitiCABLE Channel 3 (Spectrum) and Channel 31 (Frontier), streaming on TorranceCA.Gov, Facebook @ City of Torrance CA Government, and YouTube Channel TorranceCitiCABLE.

PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.Gov and write “Public Comment” in the subject line. In the body of the email include the item number and/or title of the item with your comments.

PARTICIPATE DURING THE MEETING by calling 310.618.2404.

Board of Education Observer Report

By Kim Nokes

Torrance Unified School Reopening

The Torrance School Board held a special meeting on August 3 to provide a reopening status update. The Board announced that **TUSD schools/buildings continue to be closed to students/public until further notice.** Instruction will resume virtually on August 26. The Board discussed Governor Newsom's Pandemic Plan for Learning and Safe Schools. Students will be allowed to return to school when it has been determined that it is "safe" to do so. Schools located in counties, including Los Angeles, that are on the Monitoring List must not physically open for in-person instruction until their county has come off of the List for 14 consecutive days. School community members (including parents, teachers, staff, and students) can track where Los Angeles County is on the Monitoring list at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/#track-data>.

The State has also mandated that stringent rules will be in place during online and in-person instruction. 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 tusd.org.

The District website also provides the following Covid-19 related links:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- California Department of Public Health
- Los Angeles County Department of Health
- [Los Angeles County COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center](#)

Video Resource: [Talking to Kids About COVID-19](#)

School Gifts Update

Southwood Homeowners Association is proud to have presented both Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle School with a check for \$1000 each this summer. SHA membership fees help support our schools with these gifts and we were happy to be able to double our usual contribution.



Jefferson Principal Yvonne Marin was "grateful for the generosity of the Southwood Homeowners Association" and plans to use the funds to repair their Chromebooks.

Anza Elementary will use the funds on items for the health office such as digital thermometers, hand sanitizer equipment, face shields, and masks. Principal Barbara Marks expressed her appreciation, "Thank you to everyone! These items will help to keep everyone safe."



Ballad of Southwood Homes

By Hannah Sampson

The war was over. And won. He'd survived.
Happy as a fool. He was strong and he thrived.
He married and started a small, neat family.
Fine wife
Couple of kids
Some kind of dog of indeterminate breed.

Now they wanted a house under clean blue sky,
And, being a probing practical guy
He checked out cities to see what could be found:
City hall officials
Planning departments
(studied smog charts of the whole Los Angeles Basin.)

He found a city starting almost from scratch
(once mainly a commercial vegetable patch)
It was spring but they promised the house by Christmas Day.
Torrance, California
Southwood tract...
Buy your own grass or maybe dichondra seed.

He studied the costs and he checked with the man;
The house he selected was still just a plan.
(And he had to lie just a little to qualify, you see.)
GI Bill
Cal Vets
(Uncle Bill loosened up for his sister's only son.)



Hannah Sampson
circa 1979

This ballad was written by Hannah Sampson and describes her post-World War II experiences when she and her husband settled in Southwood in 1956.

His yard backed the school, viewed the PV Hills.
Soon Little League competition and athletic skills
Now and then sent a ball through a window or into the soup.
Kids playing
Parents cheering
PTA money-raising spaghetti dinners.

Though his every finger'd been a clumsy thumb
He learned to fix and he learned to plumb
In his three-bedroom home he turned from dumb to smart:
Sink washers
Room dividers
Wall-to-wall lawn and a Meyer lemon tree.

Oh, he was proud of this house he could call his own
And like some of the others he was sometimes prone
To sit on his porch with a pipe and a glass of beer...
Neighborly
Loaned out his Stillson wrenches
Borrowed a wheelbarrow and the guy next door's hands.

He and the others in the Southwood tract
Were so happy they'd had the sense to act
Buying these sturdy homes and building their equity...
Did without...
Kept up the property, even burning the midnight oil.

To be continued in next month's newsletter...

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