



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

May Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
5.4, 5.11, 5.18 & 5.25

Torrance Planning Commission

7 p.m. via Teleconference
5.5 & 5.19

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. via Teleconference
5.3, 5.17

Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Comm.

7 p.m. via Teleconference
5.6

Look Ahead to June 7, 2022 Election

As of April 7, 2021, the following individuals have filed a Candidate Intention Statement with the Torrance City Clerk's Office. The names are listed alphabetically.

Mayor Candidates

George Chen
Cliff Numark

District 1 Candidates

Jimmy Gow
Jonathan Kaji
David Kartsonis

District 3 Candidates

Asam Sheikh
Robert Thompson

District 5 Candidate

Aurelio Mattucci

Message from Your President

Crossing guards, school bells, kids in the park – our neighborhood is showing signs of pre-pandemic life as are neighborhoods everywhere. It's great getting back to normal and I hope everyone is enjoying being out and about more.

Again this month, I'd like to use this space to write about legislation that affects our single-family housing neighborhood. This time, however, I have some good news to share. Our State Assemblymember, Al Muratsuchi, recently introduced an amendment to the State Constitution that would protect the rights of cities to control and manage their own land use and zoning (ACA 7). The amendment would shut down current and future attempts to take away local control via state legislation.

In April, we sent an email to SHA members asking if they agree that the Board should send a letter supporting ACA 7 to Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and to the appropriate State Committees on behalf of the Association. As of this writing, we have not collected all the responses. I will report the results in the June Newsletter.

If you agree with ACA 7, please send your own message to Al Muratsuchi as soon as possible. Let him know you support his legislation that would put an end to the steady stream of attempts to take away local control of zoning laws such as SB 9 and 10. You can send him a message from his website a66.asmdc.org/contact, or call 310.375.0691, or write to 3424 W. Carson St. Suite 450, Torrance 90503.

If you'd like to read the [letter](#) supporting ACA 7 sent on behalf of SHA, go to southwood.homeowners.com, click "Events and News", and select "Current News".

Here are some one-liners that made me smile:

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

Refusing to go to the gym is a form of resistance training.

Apparently, you can't use "Beef Stew" as a password. It's not Stroganoff.

Laurie Craig



Southwood Homeowners Association

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424.226.6428

southwood.homeowners@gmail.com

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

www.southwoodhomeowners.com

Scanning Southwood

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

Graduation Leis!

It's that time of year again!

Celebrate the graduate in your life with festive ribbon leis that will last forever.



West High Entertainment Unit members (Band and Color Guard) are selling leis of assorted colors and styles. Custom colors are also available upon request.

For more information, visit www.whsentertainmentunit.com/graduation-leis.

Questions? Please contact president@wheupa.org or kahanda0805@gmail.com.

TFD Ambulances

Late last year, it was announced that the Torrance Fire Department (TFD) would be taking over Emergency Medical Services Transportation from McCormick.

TFD's ambulance program is now under way and ready to serve the community. There are three rescue ambulances manned by new members of the TFD. One of the ambulances is on loan from the Manhattan Beach Fire Department until Torrance's new ambulance arrives.

Beginning July 1, it is anticipated there will be five TFD ambulances available during peak hours, two during non-peak hours.

Torrance School Board Report (3.15)

By Kim Nokes

The TUSD Board of Education passed a resolution denouncing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander sentiment. TUSD administrators, staff, students, and parents continue the important work of creating a positive campus culture at each school site that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for everyone.

Dr. Stowe, Interim Superintendent, reported that every Torrance School sent out **Good Neighbor Letters** to the community. In the letters, the school principals invited Torrance residents to "get to know their schools better as we strive to be good neighbors and keep the community informed of the latest news from our schools." Additionally, the letters encouraged neighbors to contact the schools if they had any questions:

Anza – follow Anza Elementary on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/anzaelementary), check the website at anza.tusd.org, or contact the principal at marks.barbara@tusd.org.

Jefferson – follow Jefferson Middle School on its website at jefferson.tusd.org and on Instagram at [jeffersonms.tusd](https://www.instagram.com/jeffersonms.tusd), or contact the principal at marin.yvonne@tusd.org.

West – Please visit the website tusd.org/schools/west-high-school, follow West High School on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/westhighschool), or contact the principal via email at murata.jenna@tusd.org.

To read the entire Good Neighbor Letters sent by the Anza, Jefferson, and West High School principals, go to www.tusd.org/district.

School Reopening Update

All TUSD schools have reopened for in-person instruction. Students attending school are receiving a combination of in-person and online instruction due to COVID-19 class size restrictions. In addition, some students have opted to remain in distance learning for the remainder of the school year. Campuses remain closed to the general public.

Environmental Quality Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

After receiving many comments about the noise and pollution of leaf blowers, the Commission is considering the following recommendations for City Council:

- Limit hours of operation
- Ban gas-powered leaf blowers
- Transition to all electric leaf blowers in 1-2 years

The Commission also tested electric leaf blowers with Public Works, and has concluded that leaf blowers with a longer operating life are required for regular gardening. The main concern about transitioning is the cost. The Commission will ask the South Coast Air Quality Management District for funding to help with the transition. The Environmental Quality Commission will meet next in June to discuss their final decisions on leaf blower regulations.

Torrance City Council Report

By Jane Roseman

- The City has passed several resolutions opposing State Bills that take away the City's control of zoning and impose unfunded mandates. The point was made that residents will be shocked to see what happens to our neighborhoods if these bills pass.
- Al Muratsuchi introduced a state constitutional amendment (ACA 7). If it passes, it will protect the rights of cities to control and manage their own land use and zoning. The City supports this.
- There was an update on the City's efforts to address homelessness in Torrance. Valerie Hernandez, from Harbor Interfaith Council, is the City's dedicated outreach worker. Twenty-five individuals received outreach services such as medical treatment, mental health, addiction, and substance abuse.
- The City needs to provide emergency shelter for the homeless. Depending on the issue, shelter may be needed anywhere from a few days to many months along with money for food. The Police and Fire Departments can address community concerns. For information on how to help, go to la-hop.org (Homeless Outreach Portal).
- Residents are being encouraged to shop in the city instead of online. More tax revenue will come to the city.

Stores from the Past

Remember these Torrance stores?

Newberry's – Montgomery Ward – Woolworth's – Thom McAn Shoe Store – Buster Brown's – Buffums – Broadway – Kinney's Shoe Store – Robert Hall Clothing Store – The S & H Green Stamp – TG & Y – Blockbuster Video – Circuit City – White Front – Lerner's – Farrell's Ice Cream.



White Front 1963-1974. Replaced by the Marriott Hotel just north of Del Amo Mall in the 1980's. The "Walmart Superstore" of its time!

Torrance Refinery Community Alert Siren

You have probably heard the monthly test siren on the first Wednesday of the month starting at 11:30 a.m. But, do you know what to do if a real emergency were to happen? You need to shelter in place:

- **At home:** 1. Go indoors; 2. Close all vents, windows and doors; 3. Listen for instruction on local cable and radio.
- **Driving:** 1. Continue driving; 2. Close all windows and vents; 3. Turn your radio to 1620 AM CitiSOUNDS.
- **Parked Car:** 1. DO NOT start the engine; 2. Close all windows and vents; 3. Turn your radio to 1620 CitiSOUNDS.
- Listen for the "chime" that will signal all clear.

For additional information, please call the Torrance Refining Company Community Relations at 310.212.1852.

Thank You for Joining SHA!

This list is based on dues received from 3.12 to 4.12.

Mark & Sharon Angelos
Sheri Del Signore
Debra A Hughes Fisher
Shirley Naito
Don Smith
Marilyn Wrightsman

Haven't joined/renewed yet?

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

Update from West Torrance CLO

Our West Torrance Community Lead Officer (CLO), Kenneth Gorciak, provided an update on crime in our area.

Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in vehicle thefts and catalytic converter thefts.

Due to the pandemic, suspects are often released in the field or booked at the jail and released within a few hours. Sometimes the same suspect is arrested numerous times in a week. Unless a crime is violent, suspects are usually booked and released.

In terms of crime prevention, surveillance cameras, exterior motion lighting and alarm systems are good deterrents. Of course, do not leave any valuables in your car.

The Torrance Police Department encourages citizens to follow the motto "See something, say something." Don't think you will be bothering the police. Calling in suspicious activity is crucial in keeping the Torrance community safe. The police department's non-emergency number is 310.328.3456.

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