



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

Southwood Membership Drive 2021

It's time for our annual membership drive for 2021! Yes, 2020 is almost over – thank goodness! In an effort to keep up with the times, we are very happy to announce we now offer a way to join online from our new website www.southwoodhomeowners.com/join!

We have many households who renew every year and we sincerely thank you! If you haven't joined as a member yet, we invite you to take the leap! Every household in the Southwood area receives a monthly newsletter regardless of membership status and part of the dues goes towards printing and delivery costs.

In addition to monthly newsletters, your membership dues and donations support a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating high school student who attended our Southwood schools, as well as substantial gifts to Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle Schools. We also sponsor candidate forums for our local mayoral, city council, and school board elections.

Southwood Homeowners Association is the longest continuously running homeowners association in Torrance – 44 years and counting! Help us keep this association going strong by becoming a member.

There are now 2 ways to join:

- Online - Go to our website www.southwoodhomeowners.com, select Membership, then Join. You will have the option of securely paying via your PayPal account or your credit/debit card.

OR

- By Mail - Fill out the form below and mail it back with your check payable to "Southwood Homeowners Association". For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in this month's newsletter. Simply apply a stamp and drop it in the mail.

Southwood Homeowners Association, Inc.
Membership Application



4733 Torrance Boulevard, #155
southwood.homeowners@gmail.com

Annual Dues run from January through December. New members' voting rights begin 30 days after receipt of dues.

Please check appropriate category (only one fee is required per address):

Voting Member – Residing within the Southwood Area: \$20.00

Non-Voting Member – Residing outside the Southwood Area: \$25.00

Yes, I want my Membership Card: Let me know if I can help (observer, special events):

Name of Member(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address (please **PRINT**): _____ Phone: _____

Optional donation to support SHA scholarships, school gifts, etc.: \$ _____ (Thank you!)

Additional Comments: _____

(We never share your email, etc. with any third parties. Emails used for monthly newsletters, voting and occasional notices.)

November Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
11.10 & 11.17
11.3 & 11.24 – no meetings

Torrance Planning Commission Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
11.4 & 11.18

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. via Teleconference
11.9

Craft Delight

Sponsored by Torrance Library

12 p.m. via Zoom
11.4 & 11.18

Connect online with fellow crafters to discuss your current craft projects via Zoom video conferencing. To join, send an email to DFiedler@Torranceca.gov or call 310.371.2075 for more information.

After School in the Parks

Designed for children in first through fifth grades, the program is held at various Torrance parks Monday through Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The program is offered in 3-week sessions and the cost is \$207/Torrance residents; \$227/non-Torrance residents. Registration is required with November dates to be announced. See www.torranceca.gov and select “Services”, then “After School Club” for more information.

Virtual Recreation Center & Resources

The Torrance City Recreation Division has created a virtual recreation center with resources for new and creative ways to stay busy, active, and engaged all while staying socially distanced. Go to www.torranceca.gov/services/virtual-recreation for links to the following:
Fitness for adults/kids
Crafts for kids
Exercises for your brain (adults/kids)
Senior Recreation resources
National Virtual Travel

TPD National Night Out Video

In normal times, the Torrance Police Department celebrates National Night Out (annually on October 6) by participating in meet and greets with Torrance residents to convey new information and to listen to concerns, all while enjoying some refreshments. However, since that was not possible, they instead put out an informative 15-minute video on their YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/TPDCommAffairs.

The video entitled “Virtual National Night Out” goes over answers to questions submitted by residents. Some of the topics discussed include trends in traffic violations since COVID-19, police philosophy on interacting with the homeless, fraudulent EDD checks being mailed to residents’ homes, and how the TPD Mental Evaluation Team responds to emergency calls.

Also, as part of TPD’s Strategic Plan, they have increased their community engagement and utilization of social media to facilitate communication with residents.

Airport Noise Monitoring Suspended

The Torrance City Council voted not to renew the contract for the costly systems that monitor airport noise. Therefore, effective October 1, 2020, Webtrak and the Noise Abatement system will not be operational. The Noise Abatement office will continue to log complaints via phone and email, and will share that log with the Airport Commission, but will not have the capability to determine if a complaint resulted in a violation. After a 3-month trial period, the Noise Abatement office anticipates bringing information to the Airport Commission in the first quarter of 2021 to reassess the need for a Noise Abatement system.

If you would like to file a complaint regarding aircraft noise, you may call the Noise Abatement office at 310.784.7950 or email the office at Noiseabatement@torranceca.gov.

Noise Abatement staff will need the time and date of the disturbance, what kind of disturbance (loud aircraft, curfew violations, etc.), and location of the disturbance (address, hundred block or cross streets and city). Making a complaint does not require your name, address, or phone number.

Scanning Southwood

We would like to welcome the following new neighbors to Southwood!



John and Jen VanderVennet and their kids Nikki and Nathan (Ladeene)

Sean and Emily Nowling and their kids Madeline, Sam, and Aaron (Lenore)

John Blumetti and Lorena Narez-Blumetti and their kids Ethan, Lilliana, Taylor, Jacob, Jaelyn, Isabella, Isaiah, and Jaxon (Carmen)

Please don’t be shy! Let us know if you have moved into our neighborhood anytime this past year so we can welcome you in our newsletter! Simply text/email your name as you’d like it to appear (individual names as above, or “The Smith Family” works too) along with your street name.

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

Board of Education Observer Report

By Kim Nokes

At the School Board Meeting on October 5, the Board recognized the outstanding Employees of the Year for 2020 - 2021:

Danielle Fawcett - Learning Center Teacher; **Saundra Baker** - Middle School Teacher, Madrona Middle School; **Vicki Hildreth** - Activities Director, South High School; **Daniel Murray** - Adult Education ESL Teacher, Griffith Adult Center; **Allyson Bader** - Program Specialist, Special Education; **Jill Tomita** - Office Assistant, Arlington Elementary School; **Jacquelyn Miller** - Licensed Vocational Nurse, Casimir Middle School; **Theresa Hollis** - School Staff Assistant II, Torrance High School; **Patrick Lujan** - Adult Education Instructional Assistant Computer Science, Hamilton Adult Center; **Tania Kalemkiarian** - Staff Assistant, Educational Services/EMB.

Get the latest news and information from the Torrance Unified School District at their website www.tusd.org. Or, let the latest news come to you via email by selecting "Subscribe" on the home page. Also, find the links to attend School Board meetings via Zoom under "Board", then "Board Meeting Schedule".

City Council Meeting Highlights

By Jane Roseman

The following are highlights from the October 6, 2020, Torrance City Council meeting:

- Sign up for Torrance Alerts at www.torranceca.gov. Also, sign up for earthquake alerts at www.Earthquake.ca.gov. This website is a consolidation of all California earthquake resources in one place. It has the first early warning system in the country and is statewide. It will give California residents crucial seconds to take cover and hold on before the quake is felt. Ground motion sensors detect the quake before a human can feel it. The annual Shakeout Drill was October 15 at 10:15 a.m.
- October 4-10, 2020, was Fire Prevention week. Residents should have a fire extinguisher(s) on hand and have a kitchen safety plan – the number one cause of fires is in the kitchen, specifically while cooking. Everyone in the house should know and practice a home fire escape plan, and know how to dial 911 or the local emergency phone number. Be aware of your surroundings and respond when the smoke alarm sounds.
- The Torrance Fire Dept. has created virtual tours of Fire Station 1 on Crenshaw Blvd. Go to the city website at www.torranceca.gov, select "Government", "Fire", then "Communications and Public Affairs Division". The tour links are at the bottom of the page. TFD would like your feedback via their social media sites.
- The Council approved a change from commercial to residential on a conditional use permit for a 15-unit residential condominium development at 18333-18419 Western Avenue. The city is mandated to provide affordable housing.
- Playgrounds reopened October 2, 2020. The city worked hard to get new signage up quickly with only one day's notice. The Del Amo Fashion Center opened October 7, 2020, at 25% capacity. The outdoor eating areas in Downtown Torrance will most likely be permanent.



New Businesses in Torrance

Randy's Donuts

Randy's has been making donuts for over 60 years and it will be opening its sixth location right here in Torrance. The opening is expected in early November. It will be located at 23330 Hawthorne Blvd. (near Olive Garden Restaurant).



Amazon Warehouse

The old Costco site on Skypark recently sold for a record \$581 million dollars (twice the average price per square foot than is usual for the area). Amazon will be leasing the space and using it as a warehouse with about 12,500 sq. ft. for office and reception space.

Coyote Sightings Increase

If you follow postings on Nextdoor online, you are seeing more reports of coyote sightings. Be sure to always report a coyote sighting to the city as well. Torrance City is deciding whether coyote trappings should be year round as opposed to just October through February. Making sure they have the most accurate information will help them make the best decision. Here are the options for reporting:

- Call the 24-hour Coyote Hotline at 310.618.3898
- Fill out the [Coyote Sighting Survey](#) found at the city website under "Community Services"
- Use the free MyTorranceCA app

Torrance Homeless Count Climbs 42%

The homeless count that took place in January 2020 showed an increase of 42% over the previous year. The count was 270 unsheltered and 52 sheltered for a total of 322. Last year, the total count was 226.

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