



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

Southwood Membership Drive 2023

Southwood Homeowners Association is the longest continuously running homeowners association in Torrance – 46 years and counting! Help us keep this association going strong by becoming a member.

Benefits of Membership

- Keep informed and vote on important issues that affect our neighborhood via occasional emails
- Receive the e-version of the monthly newsletter in its full color glory
- Support the monthly hardcopy newsletter delivered to every door in Southwood
- Support candidate forums for mayoral, city council, and school board elections
- Support a \$1,000 scholarship to a Southwood West High School senior
- Support generous gift donations to Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle Schools

There are 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.
- **By Mail** - Fill out the form below and mail it back with your check. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in this month’s newsletter. Please apply a stamp and drop it in the mail.



Southwood Homeowners Association Membership Application



Please mail completed form and check to Southwood Homeowners Association, 4733 Torrance Blvd. #155, Torrance, CA 90503. Or, join online at www.southwoodhomeowners.com/join.

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):

- Residing within the Southwood Area – Voting Member \$20.00
 Residing outside the Southwood Area – Non-Voting Member (to cover mailing costs) \$25.00

Checks payable to “*Southwood Homeowners Association*”.

(SHA is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(4) organization. Membership fees/donations are generally not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.)

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. Contact us at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or 424-226-6428 or www.southwoodhomeowners.com/contact-us.

November Calendar

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. via Teleconference or TUSD Board Room, 2336 Plaza del Amo 11.7

Torrance City Council Meetings

6:30 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd. 11.8 & 11.15

SHA Business

Current board members (term ending 8.31.2023):

President	Laurie Craig
1 st VP	Carolyn Finkenbeiner
2 nd VP	Lynne Woike
3 rd VP	Sue Harrison
Secretary	Emi Morimoto
Corresp. Sec.	Val Clark
Treasurer	Glenda Fukunaga
Serg.at Arms	OPEN
Historian	Trish Valdez
Hospitality	Pat Lewis

Commission/Board Observers:

TUSD Board	Kim Nokes
City Council	Jane Roseman
Environment	John-Milo Ernst
Parks & Rec	Ed Candioly
Library	Andrea Reilly

As our bylaws require, an audit was performed at our fiscal year-end. Lynne Woike presented the Audit Report for September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022. It was concluded that all government forms have been filed and the financial records of the SHA have been examined and found to be correct.

Environmental Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Quality Commission made plans for the upcoming Torrance Environmental Fair and City Yard Open House. This is the first year since 2020 that these events can take place. No dates have been decided yet.

Legacy Partners Open House Recap

Legacy Partners, the developer of the new apartment complex proposed on the northeast corner of Carson St. and Del Amo Circle, held an open house on September 29 to share information about the project and get feedback from the community.

Approximately 35 people stopped by the DoubleTree hotel conference room to stop at the various stations set up around the room. Legacy Partners' Tim O'Brien reported that the feedback was supportive and constructive. People attending complimented the design and they liked how it fits in with the existing architecture around it. They also appreciated the fact that this will be a high-end, luxury community.

Some expressed concern that residents of the apartment complex would park in neighborhood streets, particularly Ocean Ave. Legacy Partners does not foresee this happening as there will be 2.2 spaces per unit (per Torrance's city code – which is generous compared to the more common 1.75 spaces/unit for apartment complexes). For context, the complex will have 200 units total – 70% studio/one-bedroom units and 30% two-bedroom units. Legacy Partners also pointed out that residents are seeking the convenience and security of parking onsite and would not want to park outside of the gated garage.

Another common concern was the impact on traffic in the area. The submitted traffic study is still under review by the City. The traffic study evaluated 18 intersections (far greater than a typical 5 or 6 intersections) and found that the proposed complex is expected to add 74 peak a.m. trips (less than 9 are outgoing, traveling west on Carson St.) and 78 p.m. trips (5 of which are inbound traveling east on Carson St.). Most traffic is expected to move east and north to transportation corridors, so fortunately not going west into the Southwood community.

For updated visuals of the proposed apartment complex, go to www.southwoodhomeowners.com click "Events & News", "Current News".

Assemblymember Muratsuchi Meeting

On October 6, 2022, State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi met with Torrance HOA presidents on Zoom. He shared information on four topics and highlighted his recent actions.

Middle Class Tax Refund – As you are probably already aware, the State legislature passed a bill to give \$350-\$1,050 per household.

Homelessness – In February 2022, a homeless count was taken. Torrance saw a slight decrease from 332 in 2020 to 306. Muratsuchi touted the Redondo Beach Homeless Court program where those cited for low-level citations may also get help from social workers, drug addiction counselors, and mental health counselors. Muratsuchi introduced a bill to allocate funds

(continued on page 3)

Muratsuchi (cont.)

for a statewide program modeled after the Redondo Beach program. Newsom also recently created “Care Courts” where the court can order severely mentally ill people into a treatment program.

Rising Crime – Muratsuchi met with Torrance Police Chief Jay Hart recently. Commercial burglary has seen the biggest increase in crime. Muratsuchi has introduced three bills to amend Prop 47 (the law that made \$950 or less of stolen goods a misdemeanor). One of the bills specifies that the aggregate value of stolen property over multiple arrests may be considered. Muratsuchi also sponsored AB1740 which was recently signed into law. This bill requires that sellers of catalytic converters show proof of ownership.

Housing – Muratsuchi is working with Torrance Councilmember Mike Griffiths to bring back local control of zoning and he will continue to advocate for local control.

Metro C Line Update

By Andrea Reilly

The Torrance Transportation Committee (Councilmembers Aurelio Mattucci (Chair), Jon Kaji, and Asam Sheikh) met on September 28 to review updates on the Metro C Line (AKA Green Line) proposals and schedules. There are two planned routes: 1) Right of Way (ROW) – running adjacent to freight rails behind the Galleria Mall and 2) Elevated path along Hawthorne Blvd. center medium.

The ROW proposal has three versions: a) elevated from Marine Ave. to 190th St., b) at grade with either elevated over or under road crossings, and c) trenched or below grade in most of the area from Marine Ave. to 190th St. Torrance Transportation Chair Mattucci asked the MTA to consider underground as an option. MTA explained why that might not be feasible, but would include this as an option. The Hawthorne Blvd. path has a lot of additional cost and impacts to business during construction as well as coordination approval with State transportation due to the path over the 405-freeway ramp.

The current plan is the Metro C Line connecting with the Torrance Transit Center, currently under construction on Crenshaw Blvd. Riders will connect with buses to continue to their final destinations.

The Metro C Line extension with the current funding structure is planned to be completed by 2033. A question was asked if it could be finished by the start of the Olympics in 2028. The Metro representatives said to meet 2028 would be "a heavy lift". This would require additional funding sources to meet 2028 as well as other challenges.

The City of Torrance is drafting a letter to the MTA in support of the ROW path with options (elevated, at grade, trenched, or tunnel) still under consideration.

Torrance Schools Celebrate 75 Years

By Kim Nokes

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

As early as the 1920s, Torrance had expressed unhappiness over being allied with LAUSD. The first secession drive was led in mid-1920 by local physician and civic leader Dr. J.S. Lancaster, but it never reached the ballot box.

The issue was brought to the ballot twice in the 1930s. Voters in the April 11, 1932, election turned it down decisively, 1,346 to 572.

Another drive for secession resulted in a second ballot measure vote on March 16, 1937, which also was defeated soundly, 932-378.

By 1944, Evelyn Carr, then a Torrance housewife with three small children, was ready to renew the fight. She helped organize the Torrance Parents Association, whose goal was to break free from LAUSD. She held the view shared by many that Torrance was a poor stepchild to the LAUSD, always low on the list to get help, better teachers, and facilities improvements, despite the fact that the burgeoning industrial city contributed more than its share of tax money to the district. As Carr told the Los Angeles Times in its December 15, 1944, edition, “Los Angeles has been promising us a new high school cafeteria, better shops, more classrooms, and other needed improvements for 10 years. During these 10 years, Torrance has given Los Angeles enough money in taxes and its share of State support, over and above the actual cost of operation, to build a brand-new school system, second to none...”

(“Part 2: Secession Finally Passes” in December’s newsletter)

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