



# SOUTHWOOD

## Homeowners Association Newsletter

### April Calendar

#### Torrance City Council Meetings

6:30 p.m. Virtual or at  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
4.11 & 4.25

#### TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. Virtual or at TUSD Board  
Room, 2336 Plaza del Amo  
4.17

### SHA General Meeting in May

The Southwood HOA board is planning a general meeting for mid-May. As always, all Southwood residents are invited to come (being an SHA member is not required). Besides honoring our SHA Scholarship winner (TBA), we will have speakers from various city departments. Stay tuned!

### Legacy Partners Project Approved

The proposed apartment complex on Carson and Del Amo Circle was approved by the Torrance City Council on March 15. This will be a 5-story, 200-unit luxury apartment complex with 70% studios and one-bedroom units, and 30% two-bedroom units. A parking structure will provide 2.2 parking spaces/unit. For more information and visuals, go to our website under "Events and News", "[Current News](#)".

### Support Ballot Initiative

### to Bring Back Local Control of Zoning!

As of January 2022, Senate Bill 9 (SB9) allows multi-unit housing on any single family lot in the state of California with no recourse for neighbors or city officials! Let's fight back!

**Who:** Our Neighborhood Voices: A grassroots coalition of community advocates, elected officials, and Californians

**What:** They are raising money to support a November 2024 ballot initiative to restore and protect local control of land-use and zoning

**When:** Now is the time to donate to fund professional signature gatherers!

**Where:** Go to [ourneighborhoodvoices.com](https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com), click "Donate"

#### Why:

- To preserve our single-family neighborhood!
- To prevent up to 6 units of housing on a single-family lot
- To prevent negative impacts on street parking, water & power resources

Anything you can contribute will help!

If you'd like to mail in a check, please make the check out to:  
"Brand-Mendoza-Candell Tripartisan Land Use Initiative"  
and mail to:

Brand-Mendoza-Candell Tripartisan Land Use Initiative  
312 Clay Street, #300  
Oakland, CA 94607

Thank you, Laurie Craig, SHA President



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424.226.6428

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## Environmental Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is accepting nominations for the Climate Smart Award Program. Nomination forms can be found under the [Environmental Commission page](#) on the city website. Nominations will be accepted through April, and the awards will be distributed from May to June. The categories for the award are Energy, Water, Youth, Community, and Business. Please fill out a form if you have a person/organization in mind that has shown environmental stewardship.



## Green Bin – No Compostable Bags

As of January 1, residents have been asked to put all food trash and soiled paper trash in the green bin along with grass and garden trimmings.

You may have wondered if you could put your food trash in a compostable bag first in order to keep the green bin clean. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Torrance Sanitation Manager Chris Kuebert explained, “Compostable bags are not allowed as they don’t break down at the same rate as the organic material thus creating compost of a lower grade. Please refrain from using compostable bags as the end processor facility does not have the proper machinery to break down bags.”

One option is to use an unlined paper bag to store the food waste until it is time to put the bag in the green bin. For more information on what is allowed in the green bin, go to [City of Torrance Residential Trash and Recycling page](#).

## Update on Airport Noise Issues

Source: Seaside Neighborhood Association Newsletter (Feb/Mar )

Strong grassroots leadership has kept the issue of mitigating excessive airport noise top of mind for city officials.

On February 14, Torrance’s General Services Director Shant Megerdichian convened with representatives from half a dozen HOAs/Neighborhood Associations to review their complaints. As the Airport generates a significant stream of income for the city, there is a lot of pressure to garner residents’ support while pacifying pilots and flight schools.

A draft Letter of Agreement regulating take off ramps and days and times of touch and go practice was not acceptable to the residents present because it would be voluntary, with no consequences for non-compliance.

Additional resident suggestions included landing fees; requiring the use of non-leaded gasoline; the exclusion of violation-prone aircraft; and no additional flight schools. For further updates, see the posts under <https://hollywoodriviera.org/>.

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## BCHD Project Update from TRAO

Torrance Redondo Against Overdevelopment (TRAO) is a grassroots group of residents who oppose the oversized Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) project (at the site of the former South Bay Hospital on Beryl and Prospect). The BCHD project would create a Healthy Living Campus with a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE).

Currently, BCHD is working with a private developer to finalize their application for a Conditional Use Permit and Design Review to the City of Redondo Beach. According to BCHD sources, they plan to submit in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023.

The controversial project then goes to the next decision maker – the Redondo Beach Planning Commission. The commission will schedule hearings to solicit public input and to review the project to ensure it complies with Redondo Beach municipal code and design guidelines that include compatibility with neighborhood character, mass, and scale. The project cannot move forward without this approval. Note: BCHD may also need permits from the City of Torrance for grading work on Torrance property that runs along the eastern border of the project.

A few things to know:

- The private developer would own 100% of the RCFE on public land.
- As currently planned, the city block-long RCFE structure would tower 100 ft. over Torrance homes, near Towers Elementary.
- Due to the height of the structure, construction noise would exceed federal thresholds, causing significant impacts to surrounding residents.

Attending and commenting at upcoming Redondo Beach Planning Commission hearings will be critical. For latest updates and actions, subscribe at [TRAOnews.org](http://TRAOnews.org).

## School Board Report

By Kim Nokes

At the March 6 Torrance School Board Meeting, the board congratulated **West High School's Academic Decathlon Team** for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the recent county competition, and wished them good luck at the state competition. The team will be traveling to Santa Clara to compete at the state level at the end of March. Two other South Bay high schools also finished in the top 5 at the county level – Palos Verdes Peninsula High School (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Redondo Beach Union High School (4<sup>th</sup>).

Here are some mid-year highlights from Superintendent Dr. Tim Stowe:

The City of Torrance rose float was designed by **West High student, Ruth Pinchaent**. Her design, "For the Love of Nature", won the President Trophy at the 134<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade in Pasadena on January 2, 2023. The President Trophy recognizes the float with the most outstanding use and presentation of flowers. It is an exciting honor for Torrance to win as we competed against floats with much bigger budgets and decorating teams!

TUSD recently extended a warm **welcome to two separate delegations from Asia**. Torrance High hosted the mayor and city council members from our Friendship City in Hwaseong, Korea, and North High hosted a delegation of more than 40 representatives from our Sister City in Kashiwa, Japan, for a 50th Anniversary visit. Both delegations had the opportunity to tour the campuses and interact with our high school students studying Japanese and Korean. The visits gave everyone an opportunity to learn more about school structures, celebrate our diverse cultures, and strengthen friendships in our global society.

Dr. Stowe added that many of our schools have been featuring **student activities on the schools' social media pages**. He encouraged all community members to take a moment to check out what has been happening at our neighborhood schools, and give them a like, follow and/or comment of encouragement. Also, be sure to follow our [TUSD Facebook](#) and [TUSD Instagram](#) for more highlights.

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## City Librarian Meet & Greet Recap (3.15.23)

Heather Cousin, Torrance's new City Librarian, shared little-known library resources and upcoming improvements to the Torrance libraries.

- Check out and borrow California State Park Passes for up to 3 weeks.
- Several free workforce development platforms are available to help with job training, test preparation, and professional development. Go to the library home page, click Resources, then [Career Pathways](#).
- Grants from the California State Library will fund:
  - New furniture for some of the libraries
  - New programs inclusive of families with neurodivergent children
  - Events to be hosted on the Main Library plaza
  - "Open Plus" to be offered at El Retiro where patrons use special library cards to enter the library during expansion hours

Go to <https://youtu.be/dBXO4g1BEPE> to watch the recording.

## Thank you for joining SHA!

This list is based on dues received from 2.9 to 3.15.

Michael & Misook Song  
Mike & Chris Klein  
David & Michelle Rand  
Mike & Charla Baker  
Michael & Donna Bosack  
Henry & Naomi Endow  
Monica & Alfred Hagan  
Tarun & Monidipa Sharma  
Patrice Watanabe

### Haven't joined/renewed yet?

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

## Celebrating Centenarians

Do you have a friend or family member celebrating their birthday of 100 years or older?

The City of Torrance would like to honor your loved one's wealth of experience and longevity through its Centenarian Program, administered by the Recreation Division and Commission on Aging.

Participants or their loved ones must submit their application no less than two months prior to the Centenarian's birthday and the honoree must be a resident of the City of Torrance. The Centenarian will receive a venerable certificate and Centenarian Coin from the City at a future City Council Meeting. For more information, please call 310.618.2930.



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