



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

March Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

6:30 p.m. Virtual or at
3031 Torrance Blvd.
3.14

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. Virtual or at TUSD Board
Room, 2336 Plaza del Amo
3.6 & 3.20

Places to Go, Things to See

Have you been to the **Chen Art Gallery** in Torrance? It houses a private art collection that is free and open to the public featuring several rooms of Chinese art spanning 5000 years of history. All visitors will be led on a complementary tour through several galleries of art in English or Mandarin. Visitors need to call ahead to make reservations.

Hours: Tues. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Addr: 1625 Abalone Ave., Torrance
Phone: 310.781.3808

More info: www.chenartgallery.org

How about a show at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center? This one sounds fun and entertaining: *Two Men – Two Pianos – The Music of Two Music Legends: Billy Joel and Elton John*. The amazing father and son team of Terry & Nick Davies perform the music that transcends four decades of music lovers.

Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m.
Ticket Office: 310-781-7171

www.torrancearts.org

Preserve Southwood's Neighborhood! Donations Needed Now!

The State of California got rid of single-family zoning last year with SB9. When you purchased your home, did you ever imagine the house next door could be replaced with 6 units of housing? Where will all the extra residents park? Will the infrastructure withstand the extra demand?

Now is the most important time to support the efforts of those who are fighting to bring back local control of zoning. The proposed 2024 ballot initiative sponsored by Our Neighborhood Voices (ONV) gives Cities the power to override State land-use laws.

What can you do? **Honestly, what is needed right now are donations to help fund professional signature gatherers.** Last year, the signature gathering effort was driven by volunteers (you may remember Southwood HOA collecting signatures at Paradise Park). Well, that wasn't working and ONV had to halt the effort. ONV has used the extra time to improve the initiative, spread the word, and collect donations.

Once the ONV initiative is on the November 2024 ballot, polls have shown it is projected to pass with no problem. We just have to get it on the ballot! ONV has to hire professional signature gatherers this time who have the expertise to target high-yield areas. Did you know they charge \$8/signature!

There will also be volunteers collecting signatures and you can be sure Southwood HOA will be organizing signature drives again. ONV expects to start collecting signatures by the summer.

Let's get this initiative on the ballot! Please consider giving what you can to ONV so we can collect enough signatures this time around! Even \$20 will help. If you want to bring R1 zoning back, this is our best chance and this is the time to donate.

Please go to ourneighborhoodvoices.com and click "Donate".

Thank you, Laurie Craig, SHA President



Southwood Homeowners Association
4733 Torrance Blvd. #155, 90503
424.226.6428

southwood.homeowners@gmail.com

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

www.southwoodhomeowners.com

Mozart at the Armstrong

Los Cancioneros Master Chorale, along with the L.A. Harbor College Choir and soloists from Cal State Long Beach will perform Mozart's Requiem on Sunday, March 19, 7:00 p.m., at the Armstrong Theatre.

A new work entitled "Dona Nobis Pacem" by Artistic Director Allan Petker will be premiered as well.

Tickets are \$35 adults, \$25 students. Go to LCMasterChorale.com or call the box office at 310-781-7171.

Environmental Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission discussed options for regulation of smoking in multifamily residential areas. This topic was originally researched in 2019 resulting in a Commission recommendation to City Council to adopt an ordinance banning smoking in all common areas of properties with three or more units. But due to a Cyber attack and the COVID-19 pandemic, the item was not taken to City Council as planned.

Now this item is back before the Commission and they will be deciding to either bring the item back for further discussion in a public hearing, or take no action and simply file the information.

Park & Rec Commission Report

By Ed Candioly, Commissioner

The Cherry Blossom Festival in Columbia Park has been announced to take place on March 26, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss this fun event!

Meet Torrance's New City Librarian

Virtual Meet & Greet on March 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Join us in welcoming Torrance's new City Librarian, Heather Cousin!

Ms. Cousin would like to share her plans for the Torrance Library system and hear any comments/suggestions from residents as well. In fact, if you have any particular topics you'd like addressed, please email Heather Cousin at hcousin@torranceca.gov.



Ms. Cousin is extending a special invitation to parents of Anza and Jefferson students as well.

With over 8 years of experience as a Library Director at the City of Thousand Oaks and at Simi Valley, Ms. Cousin became Torrance's head librarian in July 2022.

Please look for the Zoom link on our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page. We will also send the link via email to SHA members as the date gets closer.

Sidewalk Vending Information

In mid-January, Councilmember Bridgett Lewis reached out to the HOAs asking us to disseminate information about sidewalk vendors. An email was sent to SHA members which is too long to publish here, but here are some excerpts:

Illegal sidewalk vending has posed a significant challenge to Torrance. The city continues to receive ongoing complaints from individuals regarding the presence of persons setting up pop-up tents, tables, push carts, and other equipment to sell merchandise or food along City streets and public sidewalks.

In 2018, Senate Bill 946, also known as the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act ("Act"), was passed. Under the Act, which went into effect January 1, 2019, local ordinances may not prohibit sidewalk vendors.

The City Council is committed to researching and adopting legal and enforceable ordinances regarding *illegal* vending (vendors who are not properly permitted or violate other vending rules). Under the law, a local municipality may also adopt specific objective requirements regulating sidewalk vending time, place, and manner if the conditions are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns.

Currently, City of Torrance Environmental Quality Officers roam the city educating illegal sidewalk vendors about their inability to vend, providing educational material on becoming a legal sidewalk vendor, and answering any questions. Additionally, the city has recently developed a Vendor Task Force which conducts inspections of illegal food vendors but only operates in Torrance occasionally, as this is a county-led Health Department enforcement operation.

City staff maintains a list of all known illegal sidewalk vendors. The Vendor Task Force consistently visits the three illegal taco vendors confiscating their food and equipment. However, most operations return to the exact locations within 48 hours. The City and Council are continually examining all possible legal options to address illegal sidewalk vendors and will keep the public updated on their progress.

School Board Report

By Kim Nokes

Anza Elementary was one of 352 schools chosen as a 2023 California Distinguished School. Congratulations to Anza and to the other three Torrance elementary schools that were also selected – Arnold, Hickory, and Towers.

State Superintendent of Schools Thurmond praised the Distinguished Schools' "innovation and hard work that have helped to ensure that their students can heal, recover, and thrive – even in the toughest times."

The Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) presented the district with a donation of \$40,000 for materials for elementary school science labs and sponsorship of the District's Invention Convention.

The School Board voted to approve a Salary Equalization package. This agreement will ensure at least a 3% increase for every salaried employee. This will help keep TUSD salaries in line with peer districts.

Southwood Residents Victims of Mail Theft

Residents in Southwood are experiencing mail theft. To date, SHA is aware of six residents who have had important mail gone missing (envelopes containing valuable cards such as the Middle Tax Refund card, replacement credit cards).

If you suspect mail theft is happening to you, please let us know by emailing us or leaving a voicemail at our phone number (see contact info on front page). We are trying to gather information to help solve this problem.

FYI: There is a free tool offered by the post office called "[USPS Informed Delivery](#)". If you sign up, they will send you images of your incoming letter-sized mail via email. These are images taken during the machine sorting process (before the mail carrier take possession).

SHA Debuts a New Logo

Southwood Homeowners Association now has a logo! After soliciting for logo ideas in the December and January Newsletters, we received 16 logo designs. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort put forth from each of our submitters.

The board was drawn to this design because of its warm, neighborly feel. We hope you agree!

The chosen logo was designed by Emi Munekata Morimoto.



March 2023

Thank you for joining SHA!

This list is based on dues received from 1.11 to 2.8.

Dawn Amano
Lee & Connie Atkins
Yanhe Lue & Yan Cai
Shawn Carroll
Al & Elaine Castillon
Bob & Lisa Coleman
Tracy & Dan Crowley
Dino & Karen D'Emilia
John & Sharon Federle
Rhoda Fires
Marla & Glen Gunderson
Ritch & Silvia Hansen
Teresa Kawasjee
Delta & Kurt Natter
Kim & Jim Nokes
Earlene A. Parsons
Evan, Mary, & Cecelia Peters
Nirav & Kajal Shah
Karoline Snakenborg
David & Carole Whitehead

Haven't joined/renewed yet?

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

In Memory



Dorothy (Dottie) Miller, a longtime resident on Ocean Avenue, passed away January 17, 2023, at the age of 92. Dottie was a great neighbor to all, even beyond Ocean Avenue, and frequently hosted SHA Board meetings "back in the day" when Betty Jones was the editor of the newsletter. Dottie was the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. She shared with all of the neighbors what was happening with each of them to keep them close and connected. Dottie loved dogs and, although she lost hers many years ago, she willingly would walk the neighbors' dogs to give them a break. Dottie was honored with a Military Service at Inglewood Park Cemetery on January 25, 2023.

SOUTHWOOD NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

- ADT • Tamria Hale Murphy • Corporate Solutions Advisor • Here for any of your security needs • Residential or Business
Save up to 50% off an Alarm system and/or CCTV • SHA Member • Tamirahalemurphy@adt.com430-6227**
- ART CLASSES, CAMPS, PARTIES for kids & adults • Art Portfolio Prep • 4721 Torrance Blvd • www.ArtExperienceStudio.com365-9287**
- CORNERSTONE • Windows & Patio Doors • Replacement Experts • Entry Doors • Free Estimates • License #565275
Resident & Homeowner, Tony Szik • SHA Member • www.cornerstonewindows.com325-4700**
- DARYN T. NISHIKAWA, DDS, INC. • General, Special Care, Implant and Sports Dentistry • Private Family Practice • Accepts all PPO Insurances
Southwood Resident and Homeowner • 3556 Torrance Blvd, Suite #C • www.NishikawaFamilyDentistry.com • SHA Member.....543-1655**
- DON LEE FARMERS INSURANCE • We specialize in Home and Auto Insurance and can handle everything from the perfect home to ones that
might need a little help. • License #0533775 • SHA Member • dlee@farmersagent.com297-2050**
- FISCHER-LLC • Roofing • Exterior Painting • Seamless Rain Gutters • License #1038635-B, C-39, C-33, C-43 • Southwood Resident 60+ yrs
Licensed • Bonded • Workers Comp Ins • Liability Ins • Bill & Shelly Fischer • SHA Member534-1462**
- JIM CULLETT PLUMBING & ROOTER • In Torrance Since 1980 • S.L. #389387 • Drain & Sewer Cleaning • Pipe Locating
General Residential Repairs & Installations792-9008 or Cell: 634-8488**
- JOHN KOWAN TERMITE CONTROL • Owner Operated • Serving the South Bay over 35 years • Southwood Resident & Homeowner
www.johnkowantermite.com • email kowantermite@verizon.net • SHA Member.....540-2395**
- KIMBERLY DONER • Compass • Southwood Resident & Specialist • www.kimberlydoner.com • SHA Member
Realtor with over 115 five-star reviews on Zillow and over 65 five-star reviews on Yelp720-7933**
- MARILYN WRIGHTSMAN • SRES • KW South Bay • SHA Member • "Count on Marilyn" for all your real estate needs.....508-0464**
- MUSIC LESSONS • Piano.Guitar.Ukulele • Teaching 45 years locally • All ages • Rosine Sorbom • SHA Member316-3592**
- OAKLEY PLUMBING INC • Clog Removal • Leak Repair • Faucets • Toilets • Valves • Water Heaters • Garbage Disposals • Gas Piping
Locate & Camera Sewers • Free Estimates • Reasonable Rates • License #926402 • Bonded & Insured • SHA Member.....200-5431**
- PACIFICA COMPOUNDING PHARMACY • Specializing in individualized treatment options & integrative approaches to your healthcare needs for
nearly 40 years • 23560 S. Madison St., #112, Torrance 90505 • www.pacificapharmacy.com • email pacificacompoundrx@gmail.com ..530-0831**
- POSTAL SOLUTIONS INC • Owned & Veteran operated • Notary Public No Appt Necessary • Shipping: FedEx, USPS, UPS, DHL • Printing
Private Mailboxes & Package Receiving • Serving Southwood for 43 yrs, Arnie Goldstein • 4733 Torrance Blvd • SHA Member.....371-7184**
- SOUTH BAY FINANCIAL PARTNERS • Do you have a family with small children, own a business, or are just getting started adulting? We've
helped clients just like you. Whether you're looking to save time, want support as a DIYer, or struggle with financial decisions, we're here to
help. Learn more about our services, prices, and fiduciary duty. • SHA Member • southbayfinancialpartners.com792-4189**
- SOUTHWOOD PRE-SCHOOL • Len Ingalls • Serving Southwood families since 1969 • SHA Member540-9084**
- TAYLOR ROOFING • Roofing the South Bay since 1971 • Rod Taylor • Fully Insured • License #399009 • SHA Member378-7733**
- THE BEST HANDYMAN • Indoor & Outdoor Fix-It Projects and Renovations • Minor Plumbing & Electrical • Grab Bars • Gutter
Cleaning • Gate & Fence Repairs • Fully Insured • Reliable, Professional, & Knowledgeable • Larry Corrao • SHA Member722-6025**
- UK ELECTRIC • Licensed Electrician • Tony • License #806903 • SHA Member.....753-7079**
- VALENTINE CONSTRUCTION • Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels • Room Additions • Home Repairs • Decks & Fences • Doors & Windows
41 Years' Experience • Free Estimates • Fully Insured • License #655063 • Resident/SHA Member749-5571**
- VICTOR THE BODY MAN • Autobody work and paint • Well-known in the South Bay • Offering excellent repair work at low prices503-0566**
- WOODS ACE HARDWARE • Serving Southwood and its neighbors since 1954 • John Spreitzer • SHA Member
M-F: 8 AM-7 PM. Sat: 8 AM - 6 PM. Sun: 9 AM - 5 PM • www.woodshardware.com540-5355**

For advertising information, email southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or call 424-226-6428

All advertisers' phone numbers are in the 310 area code.

Please support the Southwood Advertisers.