



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://ourneighborhoodvoices.com) and click "Donate".

Thank you, Laurie Craig, SHA President



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[www.southwoodhomeowners.com](http://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](http://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 Candiotti, 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](mailto: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.

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## 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](https://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.

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