



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

January Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings
6:30 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
1.10 & 1.24

TUSD Board Meeting
7 p.m. via Teleconference or TUSD
Board Room, 2336 Plaza del Amo
1.17

Just the facts, ma'am

Are dogs allowed to be in public without a leash?

No. Per Torrance Municipal Code (TMC) Section 41.1.5, "No person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall cause, permit, or allow the same to be or to run at large upon any street, lane, alley, court or other public place, or upon any private property or premises, other than those of the person owning or having charge, care, custody or control of such dogs, unless such dog be restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length and is in the charge, care, custody or control of a competent person."

While not everyone may like this law, it was made for the safety of all of us whether human, canine, or otherwise. Some children (and adults) are truly afraid of dogs perhaps due to a bad experience. Smaller dogs can't defend themselves, sometimes resulting in horrible consequences. So, please, be a good neighbor and make sure your best friend can't escape your yard or house, and is always on a leash when out in the neighborhood.

Message from Your President

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful new year!

If you haven't done so already, please join/renew today and become a member of the Southwood Homeowners Association for 2023. You may go online to print the membership form and mail it in, or join/renew online. Go to www.southwoodhomeowners.com/join.

We have especially appreciated the extra donations that members have contributed beyond the \$20 membership fee! We also wanted to sincerely thank you for the number of very nice comments we received regarding the SHA Board and the newsletter.

We hope you find the newsletter informative and worth supporting its distribution to nearly 2,300 Southwood homes. Your membership fee also goes towards an annual scholarship, gifts to our local elementary and middle schools, as well as candidate forums for local elections.

Most importantly, however, is that by becoming a member, you may then receive occasional emails in a timely manner regarding the latest news concerning Southwood. We also send you the newsletter online so you can simply click on the links in the articles.

Laurie Craig, SHA President

Got a Business?

Advertise on the back page of the newsletter! The newsletter is delivered to nearly 2,300 front porches in Southwood ten months out of the year. Many people, especially those who aren't online, will refer to advertisers on our back page, preferring a local business with ties to Southwood.

The annual rates are very reasonable at \$100 for a one-line ad or \$200 for a two-line ad. We also offer online ads on our website "[Business Partners](#)" page for only \$25 for the year. If interested, please contact us soon!



Southwood Homeowners Association
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southwood.homeowners@gmail.com
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www.southwoodhomeowners.com

Environmental Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Quality Commission announced that the Torrance City Yard Open House will be brought back this year in June. This popular family-friendly event lets residents get up close and personal with the vehicles that make the city run (buses, refuse trucks, high-rangers, dump trucks, fire trucks, and more).

The Commission is also looking for nominations for the Climate Smart Award. The nomination form will be posted on the city website under the [Environmental Commission page](#).

SHA Needs a Logo!

Thank you to those who have already submitted logo ideas for Southwood Homeowners Association! There is still time to send in more logo art designs. We are accepting submissions up to January 5.

We would like a logo to use on our newsletter, banners, social media, letterhead, etc. We're looking to have either the text "SHA" or "Southwood Homeowners Association" as part of the logo and a design that captures the feel of our neighborhood.

Please follow these specifications:

- Logo should be in a square design format (not too vertical or horizontal)
- Use black line art (do not use red, cyan, or yellow color art)
- Grayscale-friendly design

If you have ideas for a logo, please send your art designs to southwood.homeowners@gmail.com by January 5.

City Discusses Loss of Local Control

At the December 6, 2022, City Council meeting, amendments to the Torrance Municipal Codes related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) were discussed. These amendments were driven by the recent passage in September 2022 of State Bills (AB2221 and SB897) which continue to remove local city control decisions.

The discussion centered on the public's lack of awareness of how bills such as these and SB9 (allowing up to 4 homes plus ADUs to be built on single-family lots) have been passed by the State with no way for City officials or the public to counteract these bills. The following points were made at the meeting:

- Most people have no idea what is going on with respect to these State Bills that take away a city's right to control its own land-use decisions.
- When people see multi-unit housing on a single lot, they will be calling City Hall and our response will have to be "There's nothing we can do."
- These bills come with unfunded mandates that do not consider the impact on sewers, water, electricity, police, fire, and schools that the city will be on the hook to finance.
- We need the public to speak up and tell their state representatives if they are unhappy with these bills.

Councilmember Mike Griffiths recommended going to the website OurNeighborhoodVoices.com and supporting its efforts to get a state initiative on the ballot for 2024 that takes back local control.

Board of Education Observer Report

By Kim Nokes

Teacher in Residence Program to Start in 2023

Torrance Unified is taking new steps to develop its teacher workforce. Using grant funding from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, TUSD has embarked on initiatives aimed at supporting and developing future teachers. The Teacher in Residence Program is currently in the planning stages and will officially kick-off in 2023-24. In partnership with the Alder Graduate School of Education (Alder GSE), the district will provide teacher training and coursework that enables participants to earn their teaching credential and master's degree in one year, and ultimately a potential teaching position with TUSD. Grant funds will support participants through stipends as they spend an intensive year working in the classroom and taking Alder GSE courses. Individuals with a bachelor's degree and a desire to become a teacher are encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit the Alder GSE website: <https://aldergse.edu/>.



The Don Lee Field at Torrance High School

The Torrance High School Girls Softball Team will have a brand new sports complex to call home this school year! The Board of Education named the facility after long-time Torrance resident and community leader, Don Lee. He is not only a former TUSD School Board Member and former Torrance City Councilman, he is also a former Torrance High Tartar who has dedicated decades to serving the Torrance community. Some features of the Don Lee Field will include seating for over 200 spectators, a scoreboard, and permanent structures for concessions. It will also include state-of-the art lighting for nighttime play, with integrated video capabilities for high-quality live streaming of games.

Thank you to all who have joined the 2023 Southwood Homeowners Association

This list is based on dues received from 11.8 to 12.6. Additional names will be listed in the February Newsletter.

H. S. Aharonian	Carlos Gasparini	Michael & Jovona Ludwig	Steve & Anita Sack
Judy Alexander	Heinrich & Jennifer Gerhardt	Roman & Jadine Luz	Willie Salmon
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Steven & Ameneh Ernst	Nora & Les Latner	Ram & Reyna Rivas	Ronald W. Wong
Joy & Bob Feldman	Ken & Kathy Lee	Joe & Sue Robelotto	Thomas & Kat Yeh
Carla Ferreyra	Priscilla Lewis*	Kelene Robison	Yunfeng Shao, Jinghua Zhou
Pascal & Carolyn Finkenbeiner	Steve & Margaret Lindsey	Dottie & Jon Rodman	Marlys Zotti
Monte & Jean Furuya*	Haein & Louis Vieira Lisboa	Raul & Maritza Rodriguez	* Charter Member

District 2 Community Meeting Covers Range of Relevant Topics

On December 12, District 2 Councilmember Bridgett Lewis hosted an in-person and virtual Community Meeting at the Toyota Meeting Hall from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. City department staff presented updates on current topics.

Sidewalk Vending - Bill SB946 ended the criminalization of sidewalk vendors. However there are rules vendors must follow. A permit must be retained from the City and from LA County Public Health. If both are not displayed, please report the vendor to the City (310.618.5929).

Road Projects – There are plans to redo the 405 on-ramps at Crenshaw and 182nd St. New on-ramps will be added from both northbound and southbound Crenshaw before reaching 182nd St. Also, Anza will be repaved south of Del Amo in 2023 and the traffic signals will be redone.

Auto Burglaries Up – Do not leave anything in your car.

Ebikes – Police will cite for riding an ebike on the sidewalk or if a minor is not wearing a helmet. Audience discussion ensued about the schools playing a role in communicating ebike rules along with parents educating their children.

Homeless Outreach – Most recent homeless count revealed 125 street homeless, 112 vehicular homeless, 50-60 in county-run shelters in Torrance. The 40 tiny homes facility (called “3290”) filled up 2 weeks after opening in July 2022. So far, permanent housing arrangements have been found for 11 people. City continues to look for other viable sites to build more tiny homes.

Homeless Court – The City Attorney’s Office is working with the County to establish a homeless court in Torrance modeled after Redondo Beach’s homeless court. Basically, in exchange for accepting services, the court may dismiss some charges for unhoused individuals.

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