



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

March Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings
6:30 p.m. at 3031 Torrance Blvd.
3.12 & 3.26

TUSD Board Meeting
7 p.m. TUSD Board Room
2336 Plaza del Amo
3.4 & 3.18

District 2 Candidate Forum Recap

Southwood and West Torrance HOAs jointly hosted the District 2 City Council Candidate Forum on February 7, 7:00 p.m., at Bert Lynn Middle School. We had a fantastic turnout filling up almost all of our 100 chairs plus people standing in the back.

The 2 candidates, Andrew Lee and Bridgett Lewis, answered questions from residents on topics such as safety and crime, the future of the Torrance Airport, the Metro Greenline Extension route, homelessness, and more.

If you missed the forum, the recording is available at this link: https://youtube.com/live/gq_VJzo7HSo?feature=share.

Please be sure to vote on March 5 for your District 2 City Councilmember and many other county, state, and national offices.

WANTED

A

PRESIDENT

for SOUTHWOOD HOA

Don't let Southwood Homeowners Association dissolve after 47 years!

After five years, Laurie Craig will be stepping down as president in September, but will remain on the board and will be happy to advise and assist a new leader for our Homeowners Association.

The board is a friendly, dependable, and supportive group. SHA meets once a month (excluding June and July) and plans a general meeting in the spring with perhaps an additional event for the year.

Join us for a meeting or two and see what you think. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. with some people coming in person and some joining on Zoom.

Email southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or leave a voicemail or text at 424.226.6428.



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Environmental Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Commission continues to accept nominations for the Climate Smart Award Program. Nominees can be individuals or businesses that have displayed environmental stewardship in their home or in the community. Nominations close in April. Visit the [Environmental Commission's page](#) on the city website to make a nomination.

Last year's winner was the TUSD Nutrition Services Department for their "Smaller Footprints" program which implemented the use of compostable food trays, cutlery and napkins in cafeterias, as well as separate bins for recyclables, compostables, and landfill. Additionally, food that would otherwise be thrown away is diverted to a non-profit Food Finders program.

How to Help Homeless Services

This quarter (January – March), the Torrance Village has a particular need for new socks and underwear (men's size large or xlarge), and new or gently used umbrellas.

They always need full-sized toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, full-sized bars of soap, shaving lotion, hand lotion, toothbrushes, full-sized toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products.

Drop off donations anytime in the Torrance City Hall lobby box, 3031 Torrance Blvd. or contact Nancy Wilcox to arrange a pick up, nancywilcox777@gmail.com. For monetary donations, go to www.harborinterfaith.org (dedicate gift to "Torrance Village").

Reimagine the Torrance Civic Center

The aging facilities at the Torrance Civic Center need replacement or extensive refurbishment. The City is taking this opportunity to develop a master plan for the Civic Center that not only addresses the aging structures, but also explores opportunities to efficiently utilize the Civic Center Campus.

The City is asking for your input via a Community Survey designed to capture your valuable insights on the vision, priorities, and goals that should shape the Civic Center Master Plan.

To share your input online, please visit www.torranceca.gov/our-city/civic-center-master-plan or use the QR code shown here.

Physical copies of the survey are available at any City library branch or the Permit Center.

The survey period ends February 29, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Manager's Office at 310.618.5880 or send an email to LandManagement@TorranceCA.gov.



What's the Latest on the Airport?

Torrance City Council approved a number of motions at the July 25, 2023, City Council meeting to help alleviate noise around the airport:

- Implement landing fees for all transient aircraft and flight schools with fleets of 3 or more. Robinson Helicopter exempt.
- Request a voluntary Letter of Agreement be signed by the Torrance-based flight schools for training at the airport.
- Conduct a noise study with the potential of expanding the current noise abatement monitoring system around the airport.
- Modify the hours of touch and go's, taxi back, and low approaches to only be allowed Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. No training allowed on holidays.
- Enforce Resolution 77-215, which allows a maximum of 6 flight schools.
- Enforce the early left turn requirement.
- Provide a report on phasing out of leaded gas within 12 months.

Here are some updates to the July 2023 motions since then:

- Limiting the number of flight schools to 6 meant that Sling Academy, the largest flight school and the seventh one to sign on, would not have its 2024 permit renewed. However, on January 9, the flight school won a preliminary injunction against Torrance allowing it to continue operating out of Torrance all this year. There are plans to go to trial.
- Instead of just limiting the hours of touch-and-go's, the City Council approved the banning of touch-and-go's on January 23, 2024.

Local Zoning Control Efforts Continue

Despite the end of the effort to get a proposition on the November 2024 ballot to reinstate local zoning control, there are still lawsuits in the works. In fact, one of the lawsuits has been filed by Torrance and 3 other local cities – Carson, Redondo Beach and Whittier. The premise of the lawsuit is that land use and single-family zoning are municipal (city-level) affairs and therefore cannot legally be dictated by the State according to the State’s constitution.

The initial hearing for the case took place on September 9, 2023, where the judge took information under submission. On December 7, 2023, the judge issued an order requesting further information. The next (and hopefully final) hearing will be February 29, 2024.

Two other local cities have filed a lawsuit as well – Lakewood and Rancho Palos Verdes.

To stay updated on this lawsuit and the efforts of Councilmember Mike Griffiths’ grassroots organization, California Cities for Local Control, email localcontrolca@gmail.com and ask to be on their mailing list.

School Board Observer Report

By Kim Nokes

At the January 18 and February 5 School Board Meetings, the Board:

- Recognized the West High Girls Cross Country team’s historic season. They finished as Pioneer League Champions, and went to the CIF Finals for the 7th straight year.
- Recognized the outstanding efforts of the West High Boys Cross Country team runners Andrew Quast and Ryan Hebers who both qualified for the State Cross Country Meet.
- Extended the employment contracts for the Superintendent, Chief Business Officer, and Chief Academic Officer through June 30, 2027.
- Heard an update on the Governor’s Proposed Budget for 2024- 2025.
- Accepted the Independent Auditor’s Report as of June 30, 2023.

In other District news, TUSD:

- Announced that enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten for the 2024 – 2025 school year begins on February 19 (online) and February 20 (in person) for west area elementary schools (including Anza). Visit the TUSD website to enroll or contact the Family Welcome Enrollment Center at 310.972.6280.
- Unveiled the newly updated Torrance Brand Identity and Logo. After 75 years of history with the traditional logo, the district unveiled a refreshed logo and an updated brand for TUSD.



Thanks for joining Southwood HOA!

This list is based on dues received from 1.9 to 2.6.

- Elinor Accampo
 - Dawn Amano
 - Lee & Connie Atkins
 - Laura Jean Bonin
 - Judy Brillhart
 - Greg & Diana Busby
 - Melina Curko
 - Robert & Julia Dances
 - Brian & Karen Fujimori
 - Marla & Glen Gunderson
 - Diana Johnson*
 - Thomas & Maria O'Brien
 - Andrea Reilly
 - Undine Schwarz
 - Kathy Sturges
 - Wayne & Michelle VanLerberghe
- *Charter Member

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.

Don't Feed the Raccoons!

Yes, they're kind of cute, but DO NOT feed them! You don't want to attract these critters as they have been known to wreak havoc. In fact, Southwood residents have reported raccoons ripping shingles off roofs and tearing vent covers to live under the house.

Even if your house hasn't been affected, you probably have a neighbor who is having trouble, so do not leave any pet food out, cover water sources, and keep your trash tightly sealed.

Some deterrents found online include tennis balls soaked in ammonia, spraying a garlic or cayenne pepper based solution or planting cucumbers. Who knew?

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