



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

Southwood Membership Drive 2025

Southwood Homeowners Association is the longest continuously running homeowners association in Torrance – 48 years and counting! Help us keep this association going strong by becoming a member.

Benefits of Membership

- Keep informed and vote on important issues that affect our neighborhood via occasional emails
- Receive the e-version of the monthly newsletter in its full color glory
- Support the monthly hardcopy newsletter delivered to every door in Southwood
- Support candidate forums for mayoral, city council, and school board elections
- Support a \$1,000 scholarship to a Southwood West High School senior
- Support generous gift donations to Anza Elementary and Jefferson Middle Schools

There are 2 ways to join:

- **Online** - Go to our website www.southwoodhomeowners.com, select Membership, then [Join](#). You will have the option of securely paying via your PayPal account or your credit/debit card.
- **By Mail** - Fill out the form below and mail it back with your check. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in this month’s newsletter. Please apply a stamp and drop it in the mail.



Southwood Homeowners Association Membership Application



Please mail completed form and check to Southwood Homeowners Association, 4733 Torrance Blvd. #155, Torrance, CA 90503. Or, join online at www.southwoodhomeowners.com/join.

Annual Dues run from January through December. New members’ voting rights begin 30 days after receipt of dues.

Please check appropriate category (only one fee is required per address):

- Residing within the Southwood Area – Voting Member \$20.00
 Residing outside the Southwood Area – Non-Voting Member (to cover mailing costs) \$25.00

Checks payable to “*Southwood Homeowners Association*”.

(SHA is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(4) organization. Membership fees/donations are generally not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.)

Let me know if I can help (observer, special events):

Name of Member(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address (please **PRINT**): _____ Phone: _____

Optional donation to support SHA scholarships, school gifts, etc.: \$ _____ (Thank you!)

Additional Comments: _____

We never share your email, etc. with any third parties. Emails used for monthly newsletters, voting, and occasional notices. Contact us at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com or 424-226-6428 or www.southwoodhomeowners.com/contact-us.

In Loving Memory

Val Clark of Carmen Street passed away September 11, 2024. Val really was the one who was responsible for creating the amazing, close block of neighbors on Carmen Street. She was one of the original Southwood HOA board members, serving on the board for 47 years (1976-2023).

She was a beacon of love, kindness, and service throughout her life. Her legacy of service to her community will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her. She touched lives with her generosity, her vibrant spirit, and her unwavering support. She will truly be missed.



Paradise Park Community Input

The Paradise Park major renovation project is ready to solicit input from the Southwood residents. The first of three outreach events will be held at the park on November 9. As of this writing, no additional details were available. We will email SHA members with updates, otherwise check our website or facebook pages: www.southwoodhomeowners.com [Facebook.com/southwoodHOA](https://www.facebook.com/southwoodHOA)

Audit Report

Lynne Woike presented the Audit Report for September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024. It was concluded that all government forms have been filed and the financial records of the SHA have been examined and found to be correct.

Excellence in Arts

This is a free event on October 27, 2 – 4 p.m., at the Toyota Meeting Hall at 3330 Civic Center Dr. There will be live performances and exhibitions honoring the 2024 recipients.

City Charter Amendments on the Ballot

Torrance City Council is proposing amendments to the City Charter through Measure TC on the November 5 ballot. The last comprehensive update to the City Charter was in 1973. These amendments were presented at four public hearings earlier in the year. Measure TC will not increase taxes. Below is an impartial analysis of the primary amendments to the Torrance City Charter that would be adopted if a majority of local voters approve Measure TC, which would:

- Provide for transparency and require the City Council and all City boards, commissions, and committees to act in a manner that promotes public participation;
- Increase public disclosure obligations for lobbyists and campaign finances;
- Restrict the use of official influence for partisan, political, or financial gain, including “revolving door” constraints on former City officials and “anti-nepotism” restrictions for current City officials to appoint relatives to salaried City positions;
- Establish regular ethics training requirements for certain City officials;
- Modify the terms and conditions of employment, appointment, and removal of the City Manager and the City Attorney, and specifically, make both positions at-will employees that serve at the pleasure of the City Council;
- Remove certain residency requirements for appointed officers;
- List the modern duties of the City Clerk;
- Clarify the role of the independent auditor and audit;
- Define a minimum wage compensation structure for councilmembers; *
- Outline the process for making claims for damages and commencing actions against the City;
- Detail the City Council’s power to create, combine, suspend, or eliminate advisory boards, committees, or commissions, and remove and fill vacancies on majority vote;
- Provide for the continuance of certain existing items, including existing boards, committees, and commissions;
- Collect and expand on general provisions and definitions in Article 1;
- Eliminate dated references to the Board of Education (now the independent Torrance Unified School District), the Airport Fund, and the miscellaneous provisions in Article 12; and,
- Make other minor revisions to reform usage to modern standards and renumber provisions consistent with the proposed amendments, including adopting general neutral terminology throughout the Charter.

*Councilmembers have made \$100/month for 68 years in Torrance. Measure TC raises salaries to ~\$2800/month (given the current minimum wage of \$16). For more information, go to: <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-clerk/election-information>.

TUSD School Board Candidates

This November, 3 TUSD School Board seats are up for election – Areas A, B, and E. Southwood overlaps with 2 of these areas. Area B includes the Southwood residents west of Anza Ave. and only has one candidate – incumbent Jasmine Park. Area E includes the Southwood residents east of Anza Ave and has 3 candidates. We asked the 3 candidates (in alphabetical order below) to respond to 2 questions in order to get to know them better.

Why are you running and what are your qualifications?

Charles Deemer: I've chosen to run for School Board at this time to provide a long-term view for the Board's direction. I'm a TUSD graduate & attended El Camino College along with Long Beach State. I've spent 45 years in the Accounting/Bookkeeping fields along with 29 years as a stockbroker. Both occupations provide me the knowledge for analyzing budgets & Government Codes.

Tony Yeh: I am running for Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) Board Member because I care deeply about the future of our children. As a father, former student, and active community member, I have the knowledge to improve our schools and support families. With two children in TUSD, I understand what's working and where we need improvement. Having lived in Torrance for 34 years, I'm committed to enhancing our education system.

My qualifications include a B.A. in International Studies and a minor in Computer Science from UC Irvine. I have founded the UCI Alumni LA Chapter, served as Vice Chair of the Torrance Planning Commission, and held leadership roles in local organizations like Kiwanis and the PTA.

Dave Zygielbaum: Our children deserve a safe, high-quality education that fosters academic excellence and empowers them to achieve their dreams. As a father and child homicide prosecutor with over 15 years' experience, I understand the challenges of today's schools. As Vice President of the Torrance Education Foundation and Vice Chair of the Torrance Civil Service Commission, I can effectively advocate for the resources and programs our educators and students need to succeed. (Please learn more at DaveZyg.com.)

What would be your priorities if elected?

Charles Deemer: In no particular order, my priorities would be to work with Assemblyman Muratsuchi to finally get a permanent funding mechanism for SCROC so that our High School students can earn a vocation while still attending High School, fully upgrading TUSD to being able to offer AA/AS degrees transferable to Cal State & UC as Juniors, & dig through the State Education & other Codes for new monies to permit TUSD to broaden its High School offerings for those students not considering or able to attend college.

Tony Yeh: My priorities are:

- Safety: Ensuring safe classrooms and updated policies. Make sure no little boys' in the little girls' bathrooms or dressing rooms and vice versa
- Life Skills: Adding practical skills to the curriculum.
- Teachers' Housing: Dedicating a portion of property dedicated for teacher housing.

Together, we can build a better future for Torrance students.

Dave Zygielbaum: Keeping Our Children Safe: I will enhance school safety through community involvement and preparedness, prioritizing safety daily. I am proud to have the endorsements of both the Torrance Firefighters and Torrance Teachers Associations. Strong Parental Partnership: I will advocate for parental involvement, transparency, and a well-rounded curriculum, ensuring our schools empower every child to succeed while honoring parents' voices. Expand the Early College Program: Broadening this program will help students earn college credits, reduce tuition costs, and prepare them for the workforce. Increase Enrollment and Attendance: We can boost enrollment and reduce absenteeism by enhancing outreach and fostering community partnerships.

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