

# The RIVIERA REPORTER


NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE HOLLYWOOD RIVIERA COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1940s - FEBRUARY 2006



## THE PREZ SEZ...

RHA President,  
Michael Cotton

I enjoy driving around town these days & spotting our beautiful new Riviera Homeowners' Association stickers on cars. They look great & add to our community pride. Many RHA members are ordering extra stickers for their spouse's car as well (see Page 3 to find out how to order  more).

"Public Safety & Public Works" is the topic for our next general meeting. I'm looking forward to hearing from Torrance Police Chief Herren in particular as I've recently fallen prey to the criminal element within our neighborhood.

My car was broken into right in my own driveway. The thief got away with my briefcase & my Ipod. At least one other neighbor was victimized at presumably the same time by presumably the same bandit.

The value of the items taken wasn't as great a loss as my shattered sense of security. I've been the victim of similar petty and even felonious (armed robbery) crimes. But this one really upset me. All



## RHA GENERAL MEETING

### PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC WORKS

Topics will include crime prevention, local crime, public works - including street maintenance, water, sewers, trash as well as the potential for a green waste program in Torrance.

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

James Herren, Torrance Chief of Police &  
Rob Beste, Torrance Public Works Dept.

#### RAFFLE TO BE HELD

You may be one of the lucky winners of some new RHA Merchandise (see article below for more details on what you could win)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006**

7:00 PM—9:00 PM

**RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

23751 Nancy Lee Lane (off of Newton)

my other run-ins with low-life law breakers occurred away from home, either at school or work. To think that some creep was in our neighborhood, walked up my driveway & entered my car to take my personal items just ticks me off.

I know that even our fine police department cannot stop all crime, but it really hits home when it hits your home. We can all learn more about how to help ourselves as well as help the Police Dept. do their job. Together, we can do more to protect the Riviera—Jewel of the South Bay!

The RHA is your community in action...

### PLAY A PART!

#### Historian

(long white beard not required)

#### Secretary

(you won't have to get coffee or dry cleaning)

#### Hospitality

(for this job you will have to get coffee)

#### Programs

(plan events without having to clean your house)

Interested in one of these open board positions?

Contact Michael Cotton at 310-791-1985 or  
president@hollywoodriviera.org

## RHA MERCHANDISE: DISPLAY YOUR RIVIERA PRIDE!

RHA Merchandise is available at [www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA](http://www.cafepress.com/RivieraHA). It's a win/win situation! With just a click of the mouse you can purchase high-quality merchandise and support your community. There's a large selection to choose from including shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mug, canvas tote bag & baseball cap. You can display your pride in your community & at the same time you'll fund: scholarships for local high school seniors, community events & newsletter, website costs, etc. So... are your t-shirts looking a little ragged? Need a new hat in time for spring? What about a thank you gift for your Riviera friends, neighbors or business associates?



You could win some of this great RHA merchandise at the next General Meeting!

## RIVIERA LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Landscape Awards are Presented by Ruth Vogel & Mary Lenihan for RHA & Ginnie Schneider & Toni Sargent for the Riviera Garden Club

### DECEMBER 2005—THE TYLER RESIDENCE—4502 GREENMEADOWS AVE.

December's Landscape Award was presented to The Tyler Family, Roy, Paula, Cameron & Adam at 4502 Greenmeadows. The Tylers created an enchanting Christmas light wonderland featuring all of the Holiday Season symbols from Santa Claus to the Nativity & it was all done in a magical, twinkling fashion.



#### ROSE COCKTAIL

- 1 cup gypsite (not gypsum)
- 1 tbsp each of: iron chelate, soil sulfur, epsom salts

Water in well, mulch & fertilize when green sprouts appear and then monthly until November.

You should be well rewarded at bloom time.

Epsom salts can be bought cheaply at drugstores. The other ingredients are available at Armstrong, Rolling Hills or Elwood Nurseries.

You can also buy the pre-mixed concoction in a bag for 10 roses for about \$7 at Rolling Hills Nursery. Well worth it!

Apply the rose cocktail only once a year.

**Happy Gardening!**

Contributed by Roth Vogel, Landscape

### JANUARY 2006 THE THOMPSON/CHOLAKIAN RESIDENCE 286 CALLE DE MADRID

January's Landscape Award was presented to sisters Linda Thompson & Rita Cholakian & their parents at 286 Calle de Madrid. This home has been completely remodeled with a Mediterranean touch. The softly winding borders feature Calla Lilies, Dracena Palms, Lavender with a punch of color from meandering red & white impatiens.



## A PLOT OF LAND TURNS INTO A SMALL TREASURE AT NEWTON & 242nd

What do you get when you combine the City of Torrance's Mike Wilson, native plant landscaper Tony Baker, & the community? A community park! This eager combination has provided a small treasure planted with pleasant California native plants. It's a little pocket of a park tucked away on the triangle of land at the corner of Newton & 242<sup>nd</sup>. The City of Torrance provided the arrow-shaped piece of land, followed by the installation of a solar drip irrigation system, a meandering path, a park bench & trash receptacle. Tony Baker of Natural Landscapes tenderly planted his pallet of beautiful & fragrant native plants that will attract birds & butterflies. The community contributed encouragement, positive comments, & offers of help. Come next spring, after our winter rains, lush greenery will abound, color will emerge, & the park will be filled with the twitter of birds, the hum of insects, & the uttered sounds of delight from the people who visit.

Article contributed by Riviera resident, Carol Roelen



## BEACH CITIES TRANSIT—A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO YOUR CAR!

With gas prices approaching near record highs again, have you wondered about transit alternatives in our neighborhood? Or maybe you think your kids would just enjoy exploring the South Bay from somewhere other than the backseat of your minivan? A great local resource is the Beach Cities Transit (BCT) Line 104 that runs through the Hollywood Riviera. Line 104 serves the Redondo Beach Pier, Riviera Village, our neighborhood, South High, Del Amo Mall, MTA & Torrance Transit connections. Line 104 operates 7am to 6pm Monday thru Saturday. It runs along Palos Verdes Blvd. (south of Catalina) & traverses through the Riviera along Paseo de los Reyes, Calle de Arboles, Via Colusa, Calle Miramar & Calle Mayor (towards PCH) in both directions. Fares are \$1, with discounts for seniors & monthly passholders. So, the next time you need to go to Del Amo, or want to have lunch near the Pier, why not give Beach Cities Transit a try!

Visit <http://www.redondo.org> for more details about BCT. Article contributed by Art Wong, Scholarships & Traffic Liaison

## DR. TIM MCLELLAN BRINGS JOY TO RICHARDSON

Richardson Middle School is proud to announce the newest addition to their staff—Dr. Tim McLellan. Dr. McLellan comes to Richardson after a 5 year stint as South High's Asst. Principal. He received his doctorate from USC & grew up in Torrance - attending Seaside Elementary, Calle & South. McLellan says, "being a teacher is the best job anyone can have because you can truly make a difference in the future—I love what I do!". Students & staff agree that his friendly nature makes him easy to approach & easy to work with. Article contributed by Richardson students Natasha Chasin & Emily Guidry





# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR DUES & RECEIVE YOUR FREE STICKER!

Did you know you can pay your RHA Annual Dues anytime during the 2005-2006 membership year (September to August) & still receive your complimentary Hollywood Riviera "Jewel of the South Bay" sticker. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please mail the completed form below along with your payment. Remember your dues help support scholarships for local high school seniors, community events, production of the "Riviera Reporter", maintenance of our the RHA website (www.hollywoodriviera.org) and so much more!



**Want More Stickers?** Did you already pay your dues, receive your complimentary sticker & now you want more? It's simple. Just send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with a check made payable to RHA. The cost is \$3.00 per sticker.

## RHA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2005-2006

If the information on the mailing label is correct, please indicate by marking the appropriate box below:

- Continuing Member**—mailing label personal info is accurate (no need to fill in personal info below).
- Continuing Member**—See modifications and/or comments below.
- New Member**—See information below.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your email alert system for important updates

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Make checks payable to "RHA" & mail to:

**RHA Membership**  
**P.O. Box 1074**  
**Torrance, CA 90505.**

Annual Dues 2005-2006:	\$	<b>25 .00</b>
Additional Donation (indicate amount)	\$	_____
Additional RHA Decals (\$3.00 each) <i>(One free decal is included with paid dues)</i>	\$	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$	_____

### RHA STICKER:

- Save Postage! I'll pick up my sticker at the next General Mtg.
- I can't wait! Please mail my sticker to me (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for faster delivery).
- No thank you! I don't want a sticker—save it for another member.

### Membership Renewal Guidelines:

Each newsletter has the most recent dues payment info above your mailing address. The RHA business year coincides with the school calendar. The current 2005-2006 business year began on 9/1/05 & ends on 8/31/06. Annual dues received during this period is counted toward the 2005-2006 year. The RHA doesn't share any personal information with anyone for any purpose other than newsletter processing & delivery.

## TELL US IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW DOESN'T RECEIVE "THE RIVIERA REPORTER"

Send us an email to [newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org), call one of us or drop us a note at our P.O. Box above if:

1. You know Riviera residents that don't receive the newsletter at their home (provide name & address)
2. The information on your mailing label is inaccurate
3. You are not consistently receiving the newsletter or having problems with late delivery.



## UTILITY UNDERGROUND UPDATE

We received a great response to the Utility Undergrounding project. Several residents have volunteered their services. Additionally, the project will benefit from the help of a local resident who is a utility consultant, a former Edison employee & has consulted & coordinated undergrounding in both Hermosa & Manhattan Beach. If you're also interested in getting the project to "underground" off the ground please contact **Dick Rector at (310) 378-5615.**



## GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

The Torrance General Plan Update (GPU) project is gearing back up. As of this writing, a meeting is scheduled for February 8th. This meeting is expected to be an update & summary session to get the project moving again. Subsequent meetings to discuss land use changes & policies have not been scheduled yet. If you have any questions contact **Steve Gerhardt at (310) 614-0258 or [goofoolio@yahoo.com](mailto:goofoolio@yahoo.com).**

**AT EL RETIRO LIBRARY—Wednesday, February 22nd— 4pm—OLYMPIC MANIA! A tribute to the Winter Olympics.**

# RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2005-6 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President	Michael Cotton	791-1985	Past President	Doug Holker	378-8984
1st Vice President (Programs)	Darcey Earhart	465-1737	Scholarship Chair	Art Wong	375-1741
2nd Vice President (Membership)	Bob Hoffman	378-7108	Traffic Liaison	Art Wong	375-1741
Secretary	OPEN		City Council Observer	Pam Popovich	375-8729
Treasurer	Andrea Perez	378-2744	Underground Utilities	Dick Rector	378-5615
Newsletter Editor	Laura Kistemaker	378-9671	Planning Commission Observer	Steve Gerhardt	614-0258
Webmaster	Julian Chasin	373-6314	Historian	OPEN	
Landscape Chair	Ruth Vogel	375-4702	Mailing Chair	Diane Kuhn	375-6367
Hospitality Chair	OPEN		Programs Coordinator	OPEN	

## The Riviera Reporter

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VISIT THE RIVIERA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT: [WWW.HOLLYWOODRIVIERA.ORG](http://WWW.HOLLYWOODRIVIERA.ORG)

### THE FOLLOWING RHA OFFICERS CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH THEIR EMAIL:

[president@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:president@hollywoodriviera.org)  
 [newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:newsletter@hollywoodriviera.org)  
 [secretary@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:secretary@hollywoodriviera.org)  
 [scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:scholarships@hollywoodriviera.org)  
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 [membership@hollywoodriviera.org](mailto:membership@hollywoodriviera.org)

## COOPERATION AMONG NEIGHBORS PROVIDES A CLEARER VIEW



Trees have long been a point of contention among people living in the Hollywood Riviera. But, Todd Pond of Calle de Aragon found a way to branch out among fellow neighbors & build a consensus to regain a view that was lost long ago to overgrown trees. Todd organized a multi-phased effort, starting with the removal of 6 trees & the trimming 5 more trees along Calle Miramar in the upper Riviera. The first step was to talk directly with the property owners where the trees were located & work out an agreement to either remove or trim the trees. The City of Torrance provided a list of qualified tree trimmers from which Todd solicited quotes. Then, Todd patiently walked door to door to all the homes with views impacted by overgrown trees— sometimes a block or two away. Once about 20 neighbors were in agreement to participate, Todd provided a written notice with the location of trees to be removed or trimmed, a breakdown of total cost & how much each neighbor would be asked to pay. Checks were to be payable directly to the chosen tree trimmer. This was the first of what would be 3 phases of tree removal & trimming on Calle Miramar. The final phase to remove an additional 3 trees is scheduled in the coming months. Todd Pond proved that neighbors can work together to achieve a community solution without the need for city or association intervention. A true grass roots effort among neighbors. Thanks Todd for showing us how it can be done! **Article contributed by Bob Hoffman, VP Membership**

### RIVIERA TRAFFIC ALERT—AMGEN BIKE TOUR WILL CAUSE LOCAL STREET CLOSURES— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Professional cycling comes to the Riviera on Sunday, February 26th when the Amgen Tour of Calif. will hold its final stage in Redondo Beach. The 9-lap, 76.5 mile circuit race will speed thru the western edge of our neighborhood. The start/finish line will be near King Harbor & the cyclists will race down The Esplanade into Torrance onto Paseo de la Playa. The circuit loops back north on PV Blvd & then up Catalina. Streets around the race will be closed for several hours that day, so please plan ahead. For more info **visit** <http://www.amgentourofcalifornia.com>.