

General Meeting Oct. 26

New Staff and Programs At the North Torrance Library

by Steve Frame, Senior Librarian

In August 2006 two new staff members started at the North Torrance Library. Steve Frame transferred from the Henderson Library to replace Phil Ross, who now supervises the Walteria and El Retiro libraries. Gail Van Vranken was promoted from Youth Services to Senior Librarian. She now works at the Southeast Library. Her replacement is Pat Higley who has worked at both the Civic Center and Southeast libraries. Please welcome our new staff to the neighborhood!

Youth Services Librarian Pat Higley will continue the North Torrance tradition of excellent programming for children.

Storytime: No registration required

Pajama-rama story time takes place every Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. (This session ends November 27)

Family Storytime takes place each Tuesday morning at 10:30. (This session ends November 28)

Mother-Daughter book discussion group: Call to register

October 19 - The Homeless Bird
November - TBA

Wacky Wednesday

Join the library for a performer or story and craft Wednesdays at 4:00 pm (ends Dec. 6)

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From the President . . .

by Patrick Furey

Since our last newsletter and general association meeting last May, a lot of things have changed in our city – most notably the mayor and three members of our city council have changed. Frank Scotto was elected mayor; Bill Sutherland and Tom Brewer were elected as council members; and Gene Drevno was appointed to fill the vacant council seat created by Mr. Scotto being elected mayor.

One of the first things Mayor Scotto did was ask staff to consider a series of Council Meetings in the community – the first being scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 in the North High School Library at 7 p.m. This will be a regular City Council meeting with a somewhat abbreviated agenda so that members of our area of town will get an opportunity to speak with the mayor and council on items and concerns relative to our neighborhoods. Please make an effort to attend this meeting to show our support to the new city leaders – and invite all of your friends.

Association General Meeting

Continuing a busy month of October, our Association General Meeting will be held on Thursday night, October 26 in the North High School Library at 7 p.m. The topic of this meeting is Emergency Preparedness.

The terrible flooding last year in Louisiana and Mississippi served to remind our board of the need for our

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**Torrance City Council
Meets at North High
School Library
Tuesday, October 24
7:00 p.m.**

**NWTHA GENERAL MEETING
Emergency
Preparedness**

*Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m.
North High School Library*

Library, from page one

Senior Librarian Steve brought the Mystery Book Discussion Group with him from the Henderson Library. The group meets to discuss mystery novels on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

The Last Good Kiss by James Crumley - Tuesday November 14

The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler - Monday January 8

Sleeping Dog by Dick Lochte - Monday February 5

Chinaman's Chance by Ross Thomas - Monday March 5

The Man who liked Slow Tomatoes by K.C. Constantine - Monday April 2

Time and Again by Jack Finney - Mon. May 7

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett - Monday June 4

For more information, call the North Torrance Branch Library at (310) 323-7200.

From the President from page one

community to be prepared in case of an emergency. We have been advised many times that in the case of a disaster, we may be cut off from help for many days and, therefore, should be prepared to sustain ourselves for several days.

Mr. Andrew Pachon, the Emergency Service Coordinator for the City of Torrance, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Pachon will advise us as to the services that will be available to us in case of such emergency and also will tell us how we can be better prepared.

Oversized Vehicle Parking

Whether you agree with them or not, in August our new Mayor and Council took the "bull by the horns" and formulated an ordinance regulating oversize vehicle parking in our city. The ordinance becomes effective January 1, 2007, and requires Torrance residents to register their oversize vehicles and limits the time they are permitted to park on city streets.

Specifically, vehicles will only be allowed to park directly in front or on the side of residents' homes. And, parking will be by permit only.

The City has not yet set the fee structure for the registration and permits. Nor, have the penalty fees been set for violations. As soon as we get that information, we will pass it on to you.

NWTHA Website

Thanks to the effort of Robert Rudolph, the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association has a website. For detailed information about our association and things going on in Torrance, check out the site at: www.NWTHA.org.

Northwest Torrance Street Improvements

In the last few months the city has started a major project in the Northwest area of the city. Specifically, the curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streets are being repaired/replaced in the area bounded by Ermanetta Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard, north of 190th Street to the 405 Freeway.

The project, which is expected to be completed by the early part of next year, took several years for planning and to arrange the financing, which is almost \$3 million. But, the finished product will certainly enhance the quality of life for our neighbors in that area of town.

Skypark Development: Trees and Parking

In a somewhat controversial decision last month, the Mayor and Council, sitting as the Redevelopment Agency, granted permission to the owners of the Skypark Development to remove a berm and some 300 trees to create more parking. The development is located on Hawthorne Boulevard south of Lomita and serves mostly as medical offices. According to the developer, the change will create approximately 200 new parking places.

As a concession to the city – and those who opposed removal of the trees – the developer has promised to replace all of the trees removed with good-sized, mature trees. In addition, they are also donating an addition 150 trees for planting throughout the city.

Ethics Committee

Earlier this month Mayor Scotto and Council appointed and eleven member "Blue Ribbon Ethics Committee" to study ethics in our city and government and to advise accordingly. The committee is made up of citizens in our community and follows up on the campaign promises made by the mayor and the newly elected council.

We are very proud that the president of our association, Patrick Furey, is one of the appointed members of this very important committee.

Is your dog licensed?

Torrance Municipal Code Section 41.3.1 and Section 41.3.2 require dogs in the City of Torrance to be licensed. Misdemeanor citations may be issued to animal owners who do not comply. Our new Animal Control officers are on the lookout!

Torrance Development Issues

At your direction we have maintained a continuous dialog with other homeowner associations in the city concerning development issues. As a result of our many meetings and appearances at Planning Commission and City Council meetings, we believe our membership's voices are being heard.

In fact, all active homeowner associations in the city now receive notices of all hearings before the commission and council in ALL areas of the city. We will make an effort to keep you informed of all significant development proposals and hearings of which we are apprised.

However, you must be cognizant that many times we receive notice of a hearing less than two weeks before the scheduled date. In those instances, we send notices to our members and residents via e-mail as far in advance as possible. So, we encourage everyone to provide us with your e-mail address, if you have one. You can contact us via e-mail at NWTHOA@socal.rr.com, and we'll put you on the list!

Involvement in Our Community

Our Homeowners' Association is proudly involved in our local government. And, one of the ways we stay involved, and getting attention from our elected officials, is through our attendance at council and commission meetings.

Please make every effort to attend the City Council meeting at North High School on Tuesday, October 24 to demonstrate to our city leaders how much we care about our local government.

Also, make sure you attend our General Meetings on Thursday, October 26. We are certain that the emergency preparedness information provided that evening will be invaluable.

For both meetings, bring your friend and neighbors so that they will be just as informed as we are.

Financial Audit Report

As the duly appointed auditor, I have reviewed the books and records of the Northwest Torrance Homeowners' Association for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2006.

From my review, it appears that the books and records have been maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Furthermore, it appears that the records and books of the Association fairly and accurately represent the financial position of the Association as of June 30, 2006.

Sincerely, Elly Wijaya, Auditor

Welcome New Members

Our newest members this period are Gary & Tami Simmons, Olivia Kinoshita, and Lisa Johnson. We hope to see you at our general meetings.

Needed: Musicians for The Rusty Steel Band

The Rusty Steel Band, a community group of musicians (all ages), are looking to recruit new members.

No previous music experience necessary. Beginners welcome! We will train and have instruments available to use. We meet for practice at the North High Band Room every Monday night from 7-9:30 PM for practice. We currently have 9 members.

We need specifically doubles and triples players, but always open to any position.

We perform at many public and private venues; Redondo Beach Pier Concerts, private parties, etc. Come and join in the fun!

For more information contact: Linda Franz, 310 371-8907.

NWTHA Financial Statement

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

Balance forward June 30, 2005	\$1,448.04
Receipts:	
Memberships	1,368.00
Misc.	40.00
Total Receipts:	1,408.00
Disbursements:	
Postage & Mailing	174.54
Newsletter Printing	207.23
Refreshments	20.00
Bank Charge	0
Misc.	0
TUSD Insurance Charge	120.00
Non-Profit Fee	20.00
P.O. Box Rental	58.00
Donations:	
JROTC	300.00
North High Grad Night	250.00
Library Children's Programs	250.00
Receipt Books / Mailing Seals	16.19
Gifts	0
Total Disbursements:	1,415.96
Balance on Hand June 30, 2006	\$1,440.08

'Nue' Sheriff in Town!

John Nue, a 22 year Torrance Police Department veteran, was named Torrance Police Chief on October 10, succeeding Chief James Herren who retired last month. Chief Nue, a graduate of West High School, is a long-time Torrance resident. In the promotional examination for chief, Nue was ranked number one out of a field of eight candidates.

Tell Your Neighbors About NWTHA

You'll be surprised at how many of your neighbors are not aware that our homeowners association exists and that we are here to serve them. One way to spread the word is to share this newsletter with a neighbor after you have finished reading it.

Please point out the membership application below, and remind them that they could either mail the application or, better yet, invite them to the next general meeting at the North High School Library on October 26th at 7:00 p.m. and have them join then.

Remember to spread the word to your neighbors about the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association. They'll be glad you did.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Property address _____
Torrance, CA 90504

Mailing address (if different) _____

Phone No. (_____) _____

Annual Dues: \$8.00 per year per family

Membership Year: July 1 to June 30

Make checks payable: **NWTHA, P.O. Box 7218
Torrance, CA 90504**

() Yes, I am interested in volunteering some time for our association. Please contact me to discuss where I can be of help.

Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association

P. O. Box 7218
Torrance, California 90504

Board of Directors

Patrick Furey, president	515-6313
Fred Casstevens vice president	323-1395
Rita Anderson, secretary	515-2787
Gail Cole, treasurer	329-1916
Frances Romero, director at large	329-6527
Terry Furey, director at large	515-6313
Jim Harrison, director at large	371-2917
Robert Rudolph	371-9596
Philip & Terry Lewis	542-8869
Helen Doyle, council observer	323-5435

Torrance 'Help' Numbers

Police Dept. Non-Emergency	328-3456
Fire Dept. Information	781-7000
Graffiti Hotline	781-7149
City Council / Mayor	618-2801
City Clerk	618-2870
Planning Dept.	781-6900
Engineering Dept.	781-6900
Street Dept. / Refuse / Sewers	781-6900
Environmental	618-5929
Cultural Arts Center	781-7150
Traffic Signals	781-6900
Water Emergencies (after hours)	781-7042

Do You Want to Be Involved?

Do you have some free time, maybe an hour or two every month? Our association is looking for folks who can give a little of their time to help our association grow even better and stronger than it is. No special skills are required other than the willingness to pitch in and help a little.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please call any of the board members listed above and say you're interested in volunteering.