

General Meeting May 24

North Torrance Library Has a Fun Summer Planned

by Steve Frame, Senior Librarian

Greetings from the North Torrance branch of the Torrance Public Library. We're gearing up for the end of the school year and our annual Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and even adults. We hope to see many familiar faces as we look forward to another exciting slate of library programs, a very wide variety of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and other valuable materials to North Torrance residents. Please drop by and make a friend at the North Torrance Library.

Programs for children Free Homework Help for Children via Tutor.com

You have homework? We have help! The Torrance Public Library offers help from real, live tutors at the library, or in your home via the Internet! Live Homework Help is available for 4th to 12th grades and college introduction level students right from this website from 1 pm 'til 10 pm every day. The program connects students to a real live tutor. Children and young adults with a Torrance Library Card simply log on to Live Homework Help via the Torrance Public Library web-

Continued on page 3

Torrance Chief of Police
John Neu
to Speak at our May 24
General Meeting

North High School Library
7:00 p.m.

From the President . . .

by Patrick Furey

Our May General Association Meeting will feature Torrance Chief of Police John Neu as our special guest. Chief Neu will discuss the police services available to us as members of the community with emphasis on our part of town - North Torrance. He has also agreed to take questions from our members and guests about issues in our neighborhood.

Northwest Torrance Street Repairs in Progress

By the time you receive this newsletter, the street, sidewalk and gutter repairs in the area north of 190th Street, south of 182nd Street, between Ermanetta and Crenshaw will have been completed. This was a major infrastructure repair project that the city performed these last twelve months in our neighborhood and portions of South Torrance.

Obviously the residents of the affected area were sometimes inconvenienced by the work, but we all must agree that the improvements look great.

Crenshaw Boulevard Repairs are Next

On April 24th, the City Council approved the funding for the preliminary study for rehabilitation of Crenshaw Boulevard between 182nd and 190th Streets. Major street repairs are in the works for this busy thoroughfare. There is no timetable for this work at this time, but as we get more information, we will pass it along.

NWTHA Website and Email

Continued thanks to board member Robert Rudolph. Through his efforts the Northwest Torrance Homeowners' Association has a great website. For detailed information about our association and things going on in Torrance, check out the site at:

www.nwtha.org

In addition, the association maintains a list of members' email information to keep you advised of important local events and information. If you have email, please make sure we have your information so you don't miss out.

Beautification Project Reduced to Storage Area

by Fred Casstevens

For many years the northeast corner at Hawthorne Blvd. and 190th Street was an area which collected trash and looked generally unkept. The property is owned by Southern Pacific Railroad.

It is the first thing a person sees when entering North Torrance on 190th Street. I contacted the Mobil Refinery (now ExxonMobil) and they agreed to landscape the area if the City of Torrance would maintain the shrubs and trees. The agreement was reached and for many years it was kept very nicely.

Recently I noticed many pallets, concrete boxes and machinery stacked in the landscaped area. It looked horrible!

Again I contacted ExxonMobil who in turn contacted our City Attorney. They found that CalTrans was doing work in the area and decided to "store" their supplies and equipment at the site . . . without authorization from the city or the railroad. CalTrans agreed to restore the property to its original condition, including any sprinkler repair, plant or landscape damage. They also said they would not use this location in the future.

Sometimes a single voice "gets the job done"!

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 memberships' voices are being heard.

In act, 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 apprise.

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 email as far in advance as possible. So, again we encourage everyone to provide us with your email address, if you have one. You can contact us via email at nwtha@socal.rr.com and we'll put you on the list!

Welcome New Members

Our newest members this period are Derf & Monica Fredericks, Paul & Mary Miller, Deborah Schaffer, Cristina Del Rosario, and Paula Killbrew-Mason. We hope to see you at our general meetings.

Cell Phones While Driving

from TPD Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Over the past decade, cell phones have evolved from luxury items to absolute necessities for most on-the-go Americans. Consumers now use cell phones not only for business and personal calls but also to text message, take pictures, and even listen to their favorite music.

The omnipresent nature of cell phones is not, however, without a price as the *National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration* (NTHSA) estimates cell phone related car accidents are on the rise with distracted drivers causing 25% of all police-reported traffic accidents.

Concerned with the impact of cell phone use on driving safety, California lawmakers have enacted cell phone laws banning the following types of drivers from using cell phones while driving: School Bus Drivers and Transit Bus Drivers.

Due to efforts of some legislators to implement a state-wide ban on hand-held cell phone use while driving, such a ban was put into effect when law SB1631 was established. The new law will take effect July 1, 2008 giving the Department of Motor Vehicles time to update its manuals and drivers time to get used to the idea.

The new law will impose a fine of \$20 for a first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses. The infraction, however, would not result in adding a point to motorists' driving record.

Safety experts recommend that you follow these guidelines when using a cell phone in your car:

- * Use a hands-free phone
- * Keep your eyes on the road at all times
- * Never dial while driving
- * Avoid stressful conversation while driving
- * Never look up phone numbers while driving

Involved in Your Community?

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

Please make every effort to attend our General Meeting on Thursday, May 24th. It should be a very informational meeting.

And, remember to bring your friends and neighbors - so that they will be just as informed as we are.

We encourage all of you to become involved in our association. You, too, can be part of an organization which has a direct effect on the quality of life of our city and neighborhood. Your attendance and involvement in our association insures its continued success.

Library from page 1

site, enter their grade level and the subject they need help in, and within a few minutes or less are connected with an expert tutor. Students can receive help in math, science, social studies, or English. If you would like to learn more about this program, please call the Youth Services Department at (310) 618-5964 or visit any Torrance Public Library location. Visit the Torrance Public Library at the following web address to get started <http://www.tornet.com/library/11890.htm>.

Live Homework Help is funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through a grant administered by the California State Librarian, with additional funding by the Friends of the Torrance Library.

Get a Clue at Torrance Public Library this Summer!

Young detectives of all ages can join the Summer Reading Program at Torrance Public Library. Get ready for six fun-filled weeks of events for all ages including special performances, crafts, story time sessions and more! Participants check out books, read them and give a brief report. Each week they have the opportunity to earn a different prize.

Participants who read six books receive an achievement certificate and a Legoland California pass, have their picture taken, and receive an entry into our system-wide grand prize drawing. All participants receive a book bag to carry their library books and a reading folder as a record of their success.

Registration begins Monday, June 25th at all six Torrance Library locations. To participate, visit your neighborhood Torrance Library and check out books. Children can read and earn prizes through August 4th, 2007.

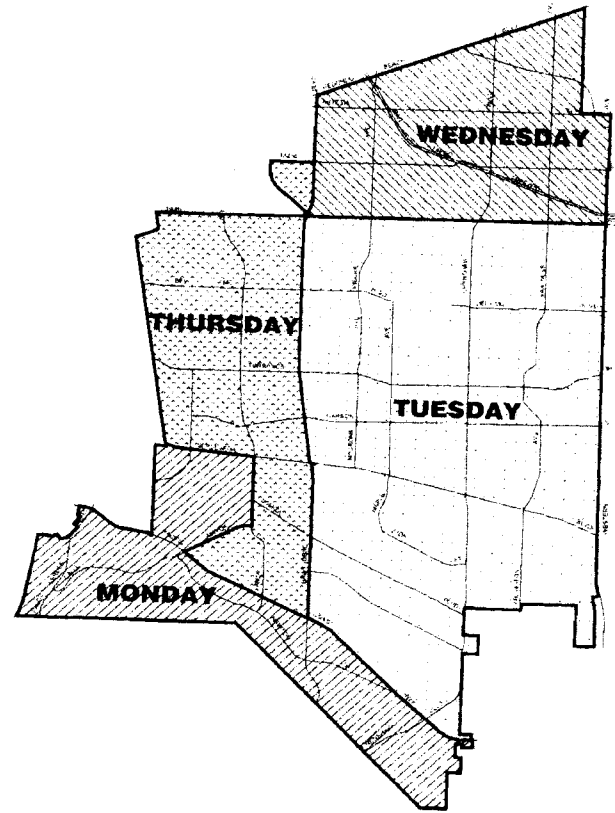
Teens entering seventh grade and above may participate in the Teen Reading Program and earn the chance to draw for fun prizes each week in which they read at least one book.

KICKOFF! Wednesday, June 27th at 4 pm, North Torrance Library 3604 Artesia Blvd. (310) 323-7200

Story and Craft programs hosted by the Youth Services Librarian take place every Wednesday at 4:00 pm, with one exception this summer, due to the Fourth of July holiday:

Tuesday, July 3	Decoder Machine
Wednesday, July 11	Puzzle Piece Picture
Wednesday, July 18	Fingerprint Fun
Wednesday, July 25	I Spy Collage
Wednesday, August 1	Performer Ken Frawley

Torrance Street Sweeping



Join Reading Partners!

Each child (preschool to grade 5) in the free program will attend a weekly half-hour reading session with a Reading Partner, a student volunteer from a local high school. The student volunteer will read with their young partners from library books. This is a recreational reading program, not a tutoring program.

To register, call (310) 323-7200 beginning June 25. Sessions will be held Thursday afternoons (July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26 and August 2 from 2:00 'til 3:30 pm. *Call early to register because space is very limited!*

Programs for Adults

The Mystery Book Discussion Group for adults takes place on the first Monday evening of each month at 6:30 pm. The book for the June discussion is the classic noir mystery *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett.

Please call (310) 323-7200 for more information and the list of books for July through December.

Beginning in June, the library will host a second meeting of the Mystery Book Discussion Group for Seniors at the Hemma Tillim Center at 3614 Artesia Boulevard the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. We will discuss the same book as the Monday evening Mystery Session, but at a time which is more convenient for many active retired local residents. Please call (310) 323-7200 for more information and the list of books for July through December.

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 May 24th 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, director at large	371-9596
Philip & Terry Lewis, directors at large	542-8869
Kurt Wiederman, director at large	538-1929
Helen Doyle, council observer	323-5435

Torrance 'Help' Numbers

Police Dept. Non-Emergency	328-3456
Fire Dept. Information	781-7000
Abandoned Vehicle Hotline	618-2344
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.