



NEWSLETTER

North Torrance Homeowners Association

www.ntha.org

October 2008

General Meeting Oct. 23

North Torrance Library

North Torrance Library and McMaster Park Construction

*by Steve Frame, Senior Librarian
North Torrance Branch Library*

Mind our dust! The City of Torrance started a project to drill in McMaster Park in September 2008. From September through at least December, and perhaps into January, the South entrance into McMaster Park is closed.

The single lane entrance to the library and park at the corner of Artesia and Yukon has been transformed into a two lane driveway. As a result of widening the driveway, parking directly behind the library is no longer available. Library patrons must now park in the McMaster Park parking lot.

When entering the driveway, please be careful. There is a very sharp turn into the driveway and another sharp turn into the parking lot.

Don't let the construction keep you away from the library. There is still plenty of parking in the McMaster Park lot.

PROGRAMS

The Fall Pajamarama story time began September 22 and runs through November 24. Come by for fun evenings stories in your PJ's at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings.

Family Story Time began September 23 and runs through November 25. Join the groups for stories, songs, and fun Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Wacky Wednesday takes place the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Join Youth Services librarian Pat Higley for stories, crafts, and fun.

The Mother-Daughter Book Club meets on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Please call for meeting dates.

The Mystery Book Discussion Group meets the first Monday of each month (no meeting in December). Join Senior Librarian Steve Frame for some serious detecting!

This fall the Torrance Public Library made an important change to its renewal policy. Now nearly all library materials may be renewed twice rather than one time. Perhaps most importantly, library patrons may now renew videotapes and DVDs twice. The library hopes this change to the renewal policy will make checking out and returning materials much more convenient. Telephone renewal at (310) 618-2785 or Internet renewals at <http://www.torrcnet.com/Library/5465.htm>. **North Torrance Library (310) 323-7200.**

From the President . . .

by Robert Rudolph

It is with great pleasure that I've accepted the position of president of the North Torrance Homeowners Association. Through the efforts of our past president and now City Councilman Pat Furey, the NTHA has developed a reputation of high achievements representing the issues that affect our area of the city. Congratulations Pat on your election successes. You served our community well and now the entire city can experience the greatness you have to offer.

The NTHA does make a difference. We have roughly 9,000 home owners in our portion of the city and when we flex our muscle we have proven to be very successful on the issues we have addressed.

Through our newsletters and general meetings, we will continue to bring our membership up to date on current happenings in our area and within the City of Torrance. Our Association's October 23rd general meeting will feature a debate on the Torrance School Districts Bond Measures Y and Z. Mayor Frank Scotto will be one of our guest speakers addressing the bonds. The meeting takes place at the North High Library starting at 7:00 p.m.

Torrance School Bond Issues

Dr. Michael Ernst
School Board President

Mayor Frank Scotto
Mayor, City of Torrance

Thursday, October 23rd
North High School Library
7:00 p.m.

From the Outgoing President

For the last eight years it has been my honor to serve as the president of this homeowners association. I have enjoyed advocating on your behalf to improve communications with our local government to improve the quality of our lives.

Thanks to your unprecedented support I was fortunate to be elected to the Torrance City Council. I am grateful for the many friends I have made through my efforts on behalf of the association. And, in my new role I will continue to look out for my North Torrance friends and neighbors.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have about our neighborhood and our city.

Lastly, I ask that you give Robert Rudolph, your new president, the same friendship and support you have to me. He has given a great deal of his time and talent to our board and I am certain he will do a great job on your behalf.

Patrick Furey

Involvement in the Homeowners Association

We encourage all of you to get involved in our association. You, too, can be involved in an organization which has a direct effect on the quality of life of our city and neighborhood. Please plan on attending our October 23rd meeting at the North High School library and invite your friends and neighbors to attend with you. Your attendance and involvement in our association insures its continued success.

Torrance Development & Issues

At your direction we have maintained a continuous dialog with other homeowner associations in the city concerning development and other 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, because of our efforts all active homeowner associations in the city now receive notices of all hearings before all commissions and city council affecting ALL areas of the city. We will make an effort to keep you informed of all significant development proposals and other 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!

North Torrance Homeowners Assoc. Financial Statement

As the duly appointed auditor, I have reviewed the books and records of the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

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, 2008.

Elly Wijaya, auditor

Balance forward July '1, 2007:		\$1,287.76
Receipts:		
Memberships	\$1,388.00	
Donations	252.00	
Total Receipts:		1,640.00
Disbursements:		
Postage and Mailing	246.00	
Newsletter Printing	189.66	
Refreshments	106.07	
Bank Charge	0	
Misc.	0	
TUSD Insurance Surcharge	90.00	
Non Profit Fee	20.00	
P.O. Box Rental	70.00	
Donations		
North High School	250.00	
JROTC	250.00	
Readership Torrance	100.00	
Receipt Books & Mailing Seals	0	
Signs	270.00	
Website Fee	0	
Contest	258.25	
Total Disbursements:		1,849.98
Balance on Hand June 30, 2008:		\$1,177.78

Submitted by Gail Cole, NTHA Treasurer

Coyote Sightings in Torrance

Although there have been no reports of coyotes in the North Torrance area, residence of South Torrance have reported four sighting of two coyotes, one of which killed a pet cat.

Coyotes are a ubiquitous animals. They can live almost anywhere, in urban areas particularly where pet animals are left outside at night or food is left outside.

In North Torrance we have opossums, squirrels, raccoons, crows . . . all wild animals. It is not impossible for a coyote to be included in this list if conditions are right for their needs.

No not feed wild animals and keep your pets in at night.

Gene Drevno Honored

On Friday, September 5th at 10 a.m. the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education hosted a dedication ceremony for the District's Community Day School in honor of former Torrance City Councilwoman Gene Drevno who passed away recently.

Gene Drevno has a long history of public service and dedication to the City of Torrance and the students of Torrance Unified School District. A former TUSD employee of thirty years, she served the children of Torrance with commitment and passion. She continued to support TUSD through her tireless work with the Torrance Education Foundation.

Most recently Ms Drevno became the classified union appointee to the School District's Personnel Commission. Ms Drevno was the recipient of many awards and honors including the Association of Torrance School Administrators Golden Apple.

The school is located at 2991 Washington Avenue.

NTHA Membership Renewal

To our loyal North Torrance Homeowners Association members: Please check the label on the front of your newsletter to see if it's time for you to renew your membership.

In reviewing our records, we are finding that some of our members are not renewing their membership in a timely fashion. If you missed your renewal date, you can pay your dues at our next **General Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2008**. Please note that our membership dues are now \$10.00 per year per family or \$100 for a lifetime membership.

Please remember to spread the word to your neighbors about the North Torrance Homeowners Association. Their attendance at our general meetings and involvement in our association has a direct effect on the quality of life in our city and neighborhood.

Torrance Police Offer Vacation Security Checks

Did you know that the Torrance Police Department offers Vacation Security Checks to all Torrance residents? They do and it's free.

While you are away on vacation, officers will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any suspicious circumstances.

This is a free but invaluable service provided to Torrance residents. To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to the TPD Web Site: www.torrancepd.org and click on either the Online Services tab or the Crime Trends and Prevention tab.

If you have any questions regarding this service, you may contact the TPD Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or 6392.

Welcome New Members

Our newest members this period are David and Mary Matson.

It's Time For A Change

Did you know that daylight time begins on March 9 and ends on November 2nd. Daylight time begins in the United States on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. On the second Sunday in March, clocks are set ahead one hour at 2:00 a.m. local standard time, which becomes 3:00 a.m. local daylight time. On the first Sunday in November, clocks are set back one hour at 2:00 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1:00 a.m. local standard time. These dates were established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, 119 Stat 594 (2005).

Not all places in the U.S. observe daylight time. In particular, Hawaii and most of Arizona do not use it. Indiana adopted its use beginning in 2006. In 2009, daylight time begins on March 8th and ends on November 1st.

Many other countries observe some form of "summer time", but they do not necessarily change their clocks on the same dates as the U.S.

Daylight time and time zones in the U.S. are defined in the U.S. Code, Title 15, Chapter 6, Subchapter IX - Standard Time.

A History of Daylight Time in the U.S.

Although standard time in time zones was instituted in the U.S. and Canada by the railroads in 1883, it was not established in U.S. law until the Act of March 19, 1918, sometimes called the Standard Time Act. The act also established daylight saving time, a contentious idea then. Daylight saving time was repealed in 1919, but standard time in time zones remained in law. Daylight time became a local matter. It was reestablished nationally early in World War II, and was continuously observed from 9 February 1942 to 30 September 1945. After the war its use varied among states and localities. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 provided standardization in the dates of beginning and end of daylight time in the U.S. but allowed for local exemptions from its observance. The act provided that daylight time begin on the last Sunday in April and end on the last Sunday in October, with the changeover to occur at 2 a.m. local time.

During the "energy crisis" years, Congress enacted earlier starting dates for daylight time. In 1974, daylight time began on 6 January and in 1975 it began on 23 February. After those two years the starting date reverted back to the last Sunday in April. In 1986, a law was passed that shifted the starting date of daylight time to the first Sunday in April, beginning in 1987. The ending date of daylight time was not subject to such changes, and remained the last Sunday in October. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed both the starting and ending dates. Beginning in 2007, daylight time starts on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.

Tell Your Neighbors

About NTHA

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 Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. and have them join then.

Remember to spread the word to your neighbors about the North 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: \$10.00 per year per family

Lifetime Membership: \$100

Membership Year: July 1 to June 30

Make checks payable: **NTHA, 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 help.

Board of Directors

Robert Rudolph, president	371-9569
Rita Anderson, secretary	515-2787
Gail Cole, treasurer	329-1916
Cindy Annuli, membership	283-0708
Paula Killebrew-Mason, membership	515-7827
Frances Romero, director at large	329-6527
Terry Furey, director at large	515-6313
Jim Harrison, director at large	371-2917
Glen Terry, director at large	323-2250
Helen Doyle, council observer	323-5435
Fred Casstevens, newsletter	323-1395

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
Street Dept. / Refuse / Sewers	781-6900
Environmental	618-5929
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.

North Torrance

Homeowners Association

P. O. Box 7218

Torrance, California 90504

