# SEASIDE MATTERS

Newsletter of the Seaside Neighborhood Association (SNA)

In response to quarantines imposed to stop the spread of COVID-19, signs of hope, solidarity and humor have sprung up throughout Seaside.

## Inside this Edition:


- March Election Results
- Torrance Homeless Plan and Survey
- SNA Scholarships & Holiday Lights Committees
- Torrance City grocery delivery for Seniors
- Seaside Residents' responses to the pandemic


**To get daily City of Torrance updates on the City's responses to Covid-19, sign up for Torrance Alerts at https://www.cityoftorranceca.com/**

# Homeless Task Force

**REPORT BY DOMENICA MEGERDICHIAN,**
**MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE, OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

The Social Services Commission met jointly with City Council in October of 2019. At that time City Council directed the City Manager to create a Homeless Task Force, to establish a formalized Homeless Plan and hire a consultant in this effort, and to look into the creation of a Safe Parking Program. The Homeless Task Force had begun facilitating community Input Sessions in person and via an online survey when the ransomware attack limited access to our website. We will host the survey again, as well as schedule more Input Sessions. Staff also did extensive research on Safe Parking Programs, identified some funding and partnership opportunities with service organizations, and will revisit this issue and bring an item to Council.

Along with residents, the homeless population has been greatly impacted by the closure of all the public facilities, gyms, and recreation opportunities that they depend on. Service providers are receiving special training on how to protect themselves and the clients they serve. 1,200 shelter beds have been created throughout LA County to increase access to safe shelters for this population- but we have over 50,000 homeless people across LA County.

I'd be remiss to not mention the City's Toiletry Drive that began March 9 with the goal of providing hygiene products to be distributed to the needy by the service providers in our community. With facilities closed to the public due to COVID19, we plan to hold or extend the toiletry drive when we are open to the public and are able to host donation boxes at various facilities. Will also keep you appraised of when that happens.

**CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW TO VISIT SNA'S *FACEBOOK PAGE* ,THE SNA *WEBSITE* AND *SEASIDE HEROES PARK FACEBOOK PAGE* FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

FACEBOOK PAGE

SNA WEBSITE

HEROES PARK FACEBOOK

# Council Elections & Ballot Measures

**REPORT BY AURELIO MATTUCCI, CITY COUNCILMAN & SEASIDE RESIDENT**

As many of you might have noticed, Torrance conducted its first District Election. Many wondered why they didn't have any Council Members to vote for, and others only saw two candidates even though there were a total of 6 candidates running for 3 different districts. *The reason is this:* Torrance, back in June of 2018, was divided into 6 districts. Seaside is now called District 5 and will not see an election until March of 2022. Only Districts 2, 4 and 6 voted in March. However, everyone voted on the Ballot Measures.

**Measures J and Q Did Not Pass.** This measure would have made the City Treasurer and City Clerk positions appointed positions instead of the current elected positions. So, we shall continue to elect our City Treasurer and City Clerk every four years. Next election is in 2022.

**Measure U Passed.** This measure was simply to extend the time allowed to fill a vacancy of an elected official from the current 30 day to 60 days. Unfortunately, we may still have only 30 days for this election cycle to fill the vacancy caused by the District 2 race which made George Chen go from his at large seat to a District Seat, making his at large position vacant. So we will have to fill the remaining 2 years left on his term within 30 days of April 14th, when the new council members are scheduled to be sworn in

**Measure X Did Not Pass.** This measure was set to increase our Sales Tax from the current 9.5% to maximum allowed by State Law of 10.25%. The increase would have only gone into effect if another agency tried to increase our current sales tax, but voters didn't seem to trust Government with yet another Tax Increase and voted it down 58.36% NO to 41.64% YES. This was in my opinion the toughest choice as a Yes would have increased taxes but would guarantee that those taxes would be spent in Torrance, but a No was a message to our local & State politicians that we need to be more prudent with people's money and most people are tired of being taxed to death.

**Council Elections:** in District 2, incumbent George Chen beat incumbent Geoff Rizzo. District 4 saw newcomer Sharon Kalani victorious over former City Clerk Sue Herbers. incumbent Mike Griffiths (District 6) beat new resident Andrew Deblock by a wide margin.

## Contact Information for the City of Torrance

The City is still working to fully get all computers, email and servers back online after a March 1 ransomware attack. Visit the City's temporary website at www.cityoftorranceca.com for information for businesses and residents regarding COVID-19 and new City regulations. Also, please sign up and urge your neighbors to sign up for TorranceAlerts. You'll receive updates and emergent information as it occurs. Go to TorranceAlerts at www.cityoftorranceca.com.

## Help a Medical Professional?

Nia Masui (Milne Drive) is an ICU nurse at Little Company of Mary. Her mother says Nia's unit is mostly in need of N95 masks since they are assigned 1 per night .At this point they are reusing disposable masks. They could also use whatever medical personal protective attire anyone has, such as gloves, goggles, masks, gowns etc. For further information, you can get in contact with the Masui family at Masueez@sbcglobal.net

**TORRANCE CARES** is intended to support **Torrance Residents** including: seniors (60 years of age and older), those with disabilities, and with underlying health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic; so they can be successful in their "Safer at Home" efforts. The Torrance Cares 2-Go Care Package provides an 18 pre-selected essential grocery and sanitary items that are sourced from an area grocer.

**Limit 1 order per household, per week, while supplies last.**
**Care packages will be delivered by City Staff to this at-risk population once a week for $70.**

**HOW DO I PLACE MY ORDER?**
Call us: **310-618-6339 (Monday -Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.) or Submit Online.**

(Below left) Everything's coming up azaleas at the Johnson's on Carol Drive. (Right) Flags to denote solidarity line Sharynne Lane.

# Holiday Lights Planning Committee

**Report by Mike Short, Committee Communications Liaison and Seaside resident:**

A Holiday Lights 2020 Planning Committee has been formed with the intention of working with Torrance City to address residents' concerns about the 2020 season. At present there are 12 members of the committee. Four topics have been identified and assigned ... Parking, Torrance Police Liaison, Traffic, and 'Night Walkers,' i.e., residents who walk the area and keep a log of traffic, congestion and vendor issues.

Members of the committee attended the Torrance City Council meeting on Feb. 25th. Item 9E on the agenda was "City Manager – Debrief on 2019 Seaside Ranchos Holiday Lights Display". The minutes of that meeting are online, against item 9E is a link to the meeting video of 9E; http://torrance.granicus.com/MinutesViewer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=13657.

A motion made by Councilman Goodrich "To ask staff to have discussions with the neighborhood association, and reconvene the 'Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee (CD&E)' at the appropriate time", passed unanimously. At the next meeting of the Council CD&E on April 7th the Holiday Lights are on the agenda. However, all Council Committee meetings hav been cancelled for the present time.

The Holiday Lights Committee remains happy to receive new members and hear residents' suggestions for potential improvements over 2019. Contact : mshort@gmail.com

# Scholarships Selection Committee

**Report by Kelly Wedel, College Scholarship Selection Committee Chair:** SNA received 17 outstanding applications from Seniors in high school who live in the Seaside community. The Selection Committee consists of five SNA members with experience in education and community organizations.

We use a rubric to compare the students' weighted GPAs, academic achievements, letters of recommendation, community and school involvement and financial needs. The winners' families should also be members of SNA. Our scholarships are entirely funded by Individual/Family Memberships and our Business Partners. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GENEROUS BUSINESS PARTNERS!! Contributions to SNA are tax-deductible, as we are a 501-c3 charity. An Individual/Family Membership is only $20. See our web site to join.

# Seaside Residents Share Strategies for Coping during the Quarantine

**Have a CRAZY HAIR DAY!** by **K Gregory-Hsu (Reynolds Drive)** Also, our neighbors check in for both health status and for needed supplies. Whoever makes a grocery run, they can grab an item or two for someone else. Badminton, Frisbee, paddle ball, bucket tosses are great ways to play in your yard to get exercise and sunshine.

**Pam Jensen (Carol Dr.)** I'm fortunate to help my 94 year old Dad stay safe and fed at home, while getting him out for a bit of fresh air and short walks. I'm learning to use ZOOM video conferencing so I can keep in touch with my real estate clients.

VEGETABLE GARDEN THERAPY by **Bob Solomon (Reese Rd.)**

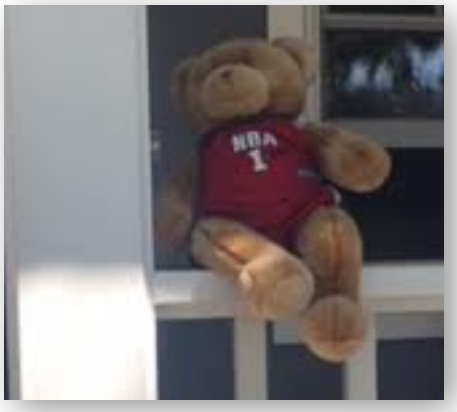
Now is the perfect time to take your mind off beer viruses, get a little fresh air, and invest in some yummy summer veggies. Order or pick up some seed or plants now before the panic hits this segment too. I put in Tomatoes, Onions, Radish, Rhubarb, Bell Pepper, Anaheim Pepper, Eggplant, Lettuce, Zucchini, Summer Squash. Go heavy on the Tomatoes, especially the Grape and Cherry varieties, they do the best in this climate, and will produce fruit well into the Fall.

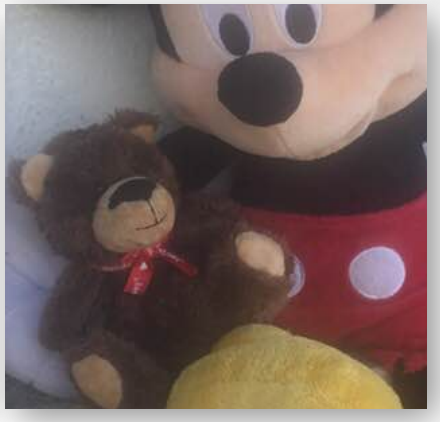
**Deanna Cowell (Reese Rd.)** notes that since she can't do all her usual volunteer work, it's a good time to ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE!

# Seaside Coping Strategies, Part 2

**FAMILY YOGA** keeps the stretched-out Terzian boys (on Doris Rd.) from stressing out!

**Have you gone on a Bear Hunt?** Bears and other stuffed animals of all shapes and sizes are waiting at windows, affixed to fences and propped up on porches, ready to be discovered by explorers, young and old. Can you find the plush friends below in our neighborhood?





# Our 2020 Business Partners

Visit www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org to become a Business Partner

YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

BOB'S THE BUILDER

# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Please welcome our newest Business Partners!

Southwood Pre-School and Blaine's Nutrition

Arash Bakhtari I Riviera Orthodontics

Ralph Barton & Martin Rocha I Nothing Bundt Cakes

Jenna Christensen I Engle & Volkers

Steve Carroll I Carroll Property Inspections

Pam Jensen I RE/MAX Estate Properties

Carl Dispenziere I D.D.S.

Joe Wilson I Wax Junkies Auto Detailing

Jodi Lazor I Ceejay's Place for Flowers

Kirk Jensen I Jensen Relocation

Mexican Riviera Family Restaurant

Bob Solomon I Bob's the Builder

Paula Henges I EmbroideMe, Torrance

Mark Hebson I Farmers Insurance

Duffy Humbert & Beverly Wurth I Dream Dinners, Torrance

**Owner Len Ingalls** says that **Southwood Preschool's** two week quarantine closure, beginning Friday, March 27, marks the first time he has closed the school's doors (outside of holidays) since its founding in 1969.

Board Certified Naturopathic Doctor and **owner of Blaine's Nutrition Center, Luis Ramos** (Linda Drive) suggest Vitamins D and K may keep our defenses up during this virus period. And, "Wash your hands. The virus seems to be easily emulsified by soapsuds." Blaine's is presently serving customers on line.

The coronavirus pandemic is affecting small businesses in a variety of ways. From loss of business to working remotely, things are changing fast during the COVID-19 outbreak and businesses are being forced to adapt. Many of our Business Partners in compliance with Governor Newsom's mandate have closed their doors or are open on a limited basis, working remotely or virtually, offering take-out only, etc. We encourage you to shop locally and support those above who support the SNA.

Please call ahead for days and hours of operation.

*Together we will get through this and come out stronger on the other side.*