

FEB.12, 2021 SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# SEASIDE MATTERS



The Torrance Beach winter sky captivates Seaside photographer Pam Combar. Can you spot the flying pig and cow?



## ZOOM GENERAL MEETING

Wed. Feb. 17th - 7:00 to 8:45 PM

**Councilman MIKE GRIFFITHS**  
will speak on the **EFFECTS** of **ZONING**  
**BILLS** on the **SEASIDE** area

For the meeting link and more info go to:

[WWW.SEASIDENEIGHBORHOODASSOCIATION.org](http://WWW.SEASIDENEIGHBORHOODASSOCIATION.org)

# SNA President's Message

Do you value your ability to live in a single-family (primarily R1 zoned) neighborhood like Seaside? You may be forced to live among new multifamily units, in your neighborhood, without your oversight or permission. Concerned? **Join us to find out more details.**

That California, and in particular, LA County, lack affordable housing is well-documented. California needs 1.3 million more affordable rental spaces to meet current demand.<sup>(1)</sup> 32% of renters spend more than half of their household income on housing.<sup>(2)</sup>

The State's answer to the housing crisis has been to decree that all jurisdictions add affordable housing. The Daily Breeze's <sup>(3)</sup> recent report shows that between the years 2013- 2020, Torrance awarded 0 building permits for very low and low income housing, and 5 for moderate income housing. Low income housing is "affordable for households earning 51-80% of the area's median income," which in Seaside is \$61,500.

Torrance City Councilman **Mike Griffiths will address the State's dictates with regard to housing**, and in particular how that affects Seaside, at **SNA's upcoming (and first-ever) ZOOM General Meeting on Wednesday, February 17th from 7:00 to 8:45 pm.** Councilman Griffiths has created a statewide coalition of city leaders whose intent is to return housing decisions to local (City) control, while supporting the creation of affordable housing in underdeveloped cities.

**Please come to this meeting** and become informed about this issue, which already has had an impact on our neighborhood and our city.

Never ZOOMED before? No problem. Just click on the Zoom link given on our website (see below.) The Zoom link will direct you to 'Download and run Zoom' and then 'Run from your browser.'

(Virtual) Hugs and Good Health to All,  
Tricia Blanco

[www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org](http://www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org)

(1)<https://chpc.net/resources/2020-statewide-housing-needs-report/#:~:text=While%20California%20has%20made%20some.million%20more%20affordable%20rental%20homes.>(2)

<https://calhsng.org/resources/affordable-housing-101/why-do-we-need-it>

(3)<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2021/01/31/report-card-california-cities-counties-failing-again-on-affordable-housing-goals/>

## GIVE AND GET GROUPS

Facebook groups in which people exchange items, give items away or sell good used items at a reasonable price have exploded during the pandemic. Many of the groups have become caring communities offering physical and social support to participants. **Donna Barinowski (Zakon Ave.)** started *South Bay Treasure Hunt* in 2012 as a way to recycle usable goods while raising money for her Dad's Alzheimer's care. She notes that through her group, she's made lasting friendships with wonderful neighbors whom she would not have otherwise met. Two other interesting groups are *Buy Nothing Torrance (So.)*, and *South Bay Pantry*. The *Buy Nothing* group is part of a national movement whose stated purpose is to "Give, receive, lend, share and show gratitude ...where the true wealth is the connections between real neighbors." *South Bay Pantry* began a year ago in response to the pandemic. Through its posts, members connect to give and receive help for themselves and for others deserving people.



It's been a long, sad and often boring 12 months for work- and stay-at-home residents of all ages. And yet, many of us made lemonade out of the pandemic lemons through creative and caring activities. Here's a few survival ideas used throughout the neighborhood.



## PUZZLES

Puzzle-loving South High grads **Asher Straton** (Cal Poly SLO) and sister **Gabrielle** (USC) are back home studying for now. Activity nights with their extended family include Jackbox online games. Hardest puzzle the Stratons have ever completed? A 1000 piece of a white bear in a blizzard. (Just kidding!)

## PARTYING APART

Safe celebrations have gone on, even during lockdowns. **Diane Krause's (Doris Way)** company Christmas party involved Door Dash delivery of Mexican Riviera meals to almost 2 dozen employees within a 30 minute time period, and then eating together online. Another resident's business ditched the party this year and spent the allocated money on rent, college tuition and other provisions for needy families and friends that their employees nominated. And who can forget **SNA's** fun and festive online **Jingle and Mingle** holiday gathering?

## WRITING POETRY

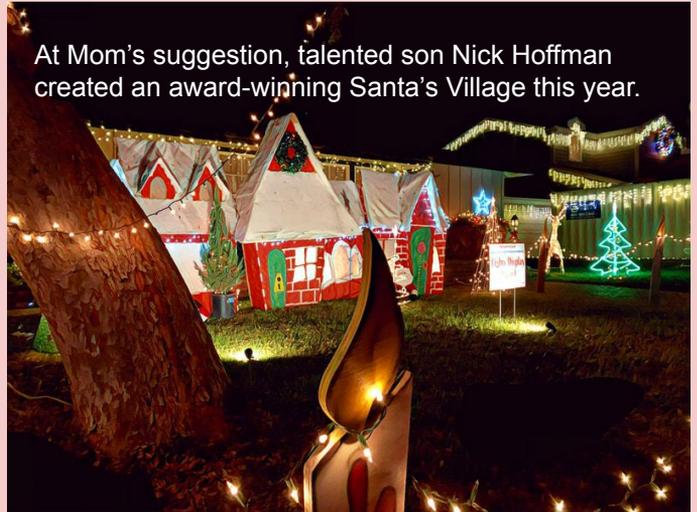
**Lauren Gay Cotner (Vanderhill Rd.)** this year published two books of poetry that she wrote in the 70's. Created as a love letter to her daughter, Lauren hoped that Lily might see that they aren't really that different. (The poems) "made me feel the vulnerability of days past," the author related. "And they helped me during the difficult time of the lockdown." You can find [Journey... so it begins](#) by Lauren Gay on Amazon and at 'the nu shuz' shoe store.

# HOLIDAY LIGHTS & A SIGN

## TIME FOR A SIGN?

The SNA Board approved SNA member **John Blanco's (Gaycrest Ave.)** proposal to form an SNA Sign Committee to develop a marker or sign to demarcate the entrance to Seaside Ranchos. It will be artistic, perhaps reflecting the 'seaside' in our name and stating the history of the community. John suggests placing it on the meridian at Robert Rd., just off Pacific Coast Highway. It will be similar to the 'Hollywood Riviera' sign on Palos Verdes Blvd. and Camino del Campo, he says, only, of course, BETTER! Like-minded residents interested in getting in on the ground floor of this project may email John at [johnblanco@gmail.com](mailto:johnblanco@gmail.com).

At Mom's suggestion, talented son Nick Hoffman created an award-winning Santa's Village this year.



The 2020 HOLIDAY LIGHTS DISPLAYS in the Seaside area were perhaps even more appreciated than usual, as the pandemic lockdown severely limited access to other holiday events. **Sabrina Terzian's (Doris Way)** family laminated LA County 'Stop the Spread' posters, which SNA hung every where. The Holiday Lights Committee (HLC) (Communications Chair is **Mike Short of Bindewald Rd.**) worked with the City to prepare for the event. This year the SNA-HLC noted many fewer walkers than usual and much less trash, which was attributed to there being very few home sellers. For 2021, the SNA-HLC asked the City to consider the following: switch Emergency Access Lanes to alternate street sides each year; have TPD target unsafe drivers and enforce vending ordinances; improve signage so there are more internal directional signs and more exit signs; and consider a parking permits system. Also for 2021, publicist **Isela Blair (Sharynne Lane)** is setting up social media sites to allow residents to 'take control of the narrative' and answer questions. Examples: How many public toilets? None. City funding? None.

Newcomers the Albitz family won with their first display ever, 'FAO Sharynne.'



Son Colin helped dad Peter Guerreiro precisely affix 1000s of bulbs on their Ellinwood Dr. winner.



# New School Board Member Reflects on First Months in Office

## **DR. ANIL MUHAMMED:**

“We have a great Board and staff that is very student-centric. In the months since I assumed office, the Board has focused on a number of issues, specifically the return of TK-1 grade students on Feb. 1 and 2nd graders on February 11th. Equally important, the Board has been very adamant about following all health and safety guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. On this note, many of us have engaged in direct communication with state, county, and local health agencies for latest updates on school reopening as well as access to vaccines for educators. In other news, the Board approved the first-ever Spanish-English Dual Immersion Program at Carr and Torrance Elementaries.



Dr.Mohammed and Family

This program promotes high academic achievement and competitive advantages in later years. Looking ahead, I hope we can quickly allow vaccines for all teachers, staff, and administrators who've all been working hard during these challenging times.”

# From West High to TUSD Superintendent

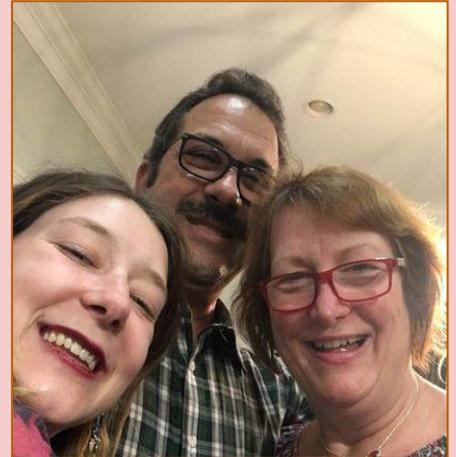
**Dr. Tim Stowe** grew up in Torrance, went to West area schools (Victor, Bert Lynn, West High) and has spent his whole career with TUSD. He began teaching at North High in 1992. I worked for him when he was known as the “very-techie Mr. Stowe,” Vice Principal at Richardson Middle School in the mid-90s. Many promotions later, Dr. Stowe was selected interim Superintendent of TUSD In July 2020. His appointment is for 2 years. He and his wife live in South Torrance and have children who attend Richardson Middle School and South High.

Dr. Stowe intends that good communication with the community be a hallmark of his tenure. To that end, he’s invited the neighborhood association Presidents to meet him via Zoom on Friday, Feb. 26th at 10 am. On the agenda are pandemic related priorities and precautions that the District is taking to bring students back to school safely. I will attend, and will ask him whether the pandemic affected enrollment in 2020. Neighbors, please write me other questions you’d like answered.  
**TRICIA BLANCO, President**

# This Family “Plays” at Home



Kimmy, Perry & Cindy Shields



Even during lock down, the irrepressible **Shields family (Macafee Road)** wants to entertain you! Debuting March 5th at 6 pm and running until March 31st at 11 pm, they're presenting a short play which they are recording at home. The play *Snickerdoodle* features actor//teacher/dad **Perry**, comedienne/actress/mom **Cindy** and actress/singer/daughter **Kimmy**, who presently plays the main character of Nonnie on the TV series *Insatiable*.

*Snickerdoodle* is part of a pay-for-view online offering of 7 new short plays under the banner of Pick of the Vine, Little Fish Theatre's annual presentation of its best short play submissions. [www.littlefishtheatre.org](http://www.littlefishtheatre.org)

## Is the Hillside Overlay Being Enforced?

Have you noticed neighbors building higher and bigger remodels in the Hillside Overlay area? The [Hillside Overlay](#) district was created in 1997 to reflect our area's development issues due to the unique topography.

At the City Council meeting on January 26, 2021, Riviera Homeowners Assn. defended a 97 year old woman whose adjacent neighbor had already received approval from the Planning Commission for a .60 FAR ([floor area ratio](#)) build that included a roof deck, plus 2 balconies! Houses on both sides of the home would lose privacy, light, and view. Due to RHA's efforts, the Council rejected the build.

It appears that two neighbors in the Seaside area may be facing the exact same threats as the aforementioned homeowner. The flags have gone up at 22602 Linda Drive and at 22644 Gaycrest Ave. Both proposed two-story homes list the same owner and the same builders, and the home designs are very similar. Both exceed the Overlay .50 FAR and include walls that block views and light, and balconies that impinge on privacy. SNA strongly supports **Onorio and Maria Marsella, 22638 Gaycrest Ave.**, and **Charlie and Tamie Peck, 22602 Linda Dr.**, who have begun a letter writing campaign to the Planning Commission to stop these proposals from becoming a reality. Please write to Planning Manager Oscar Martinez <[OMartinez@torranceca.gov](mailto:OMartinez@torranceca.gov)> to insist that the Hillside Ordinance be enforced. To contact Onorio: [onorio.marsella@gmail.com](mailto:onorio.marsella@gmail.com)

## WILL YOU BE OUR VALENTINE?



The Seaside Neighborhood Association is an all-volunteer group that aims to connect neighbors with each other, and to educate and represent our area when local and state issues affect us.

Presently our activities include monitoring City Council, facilitating the Holiday Lights Displays period, reporting on schools and the TUSD School Board, advocating for local control in zoning bills plus enforcement of the Hillside Overlay Ordinance, and advertising for local businesses and City and locally run programs of all kinds.



# BE OUR VALENTINE



We also celebrate people and have fun too, by way of Scholarship Awards, Green Thumb Awards, holiday get togethers, Heroes Park “weeding Saturdays” and our incipient Welcome to Seaside sign project.

If you appreciate our efforts, and want to keep connected with your neighborhood, then **right now, this very minute, JOIN SNA!** We can’t represent you or even inform you if we don’t have your input and your email address.

And let us know what else you’d like from the Association. We have a Suggestion Box on our website just for that purpose, or you can write us at [seasideneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com](mailto:seasideneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com) Come grow with us!

# We Our BUSINESS PARTNERS!

The SNA is grateful for our Members and Business Partners who sponsor the Seaside Neighborhood Association's programs. Their generosity helps make this possible, and we invite you to thank and support them. Please visit our website for information on how to become a Business Partner.



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**Join and/or Renew your SNA Membership!**

Your membership dues go towards the SNA Scholarship Award, Green Thumb Award, Holiday Lights Award and neighborhood events. The SNA is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 and your donations are tax deductible within the law. All memberships are valid for 1 year from time of payment. Contact our Membership V.P. Jenna Christensen, at 310-920-9387, if you're not sure when your membership expires. To pay by credit card or PayPal, click the link below. *To pay by cash or check, please mail or drop of your dues to SNA Membership, 4621 Moresby Drive, Torrance 90505. [DONATE](#)*