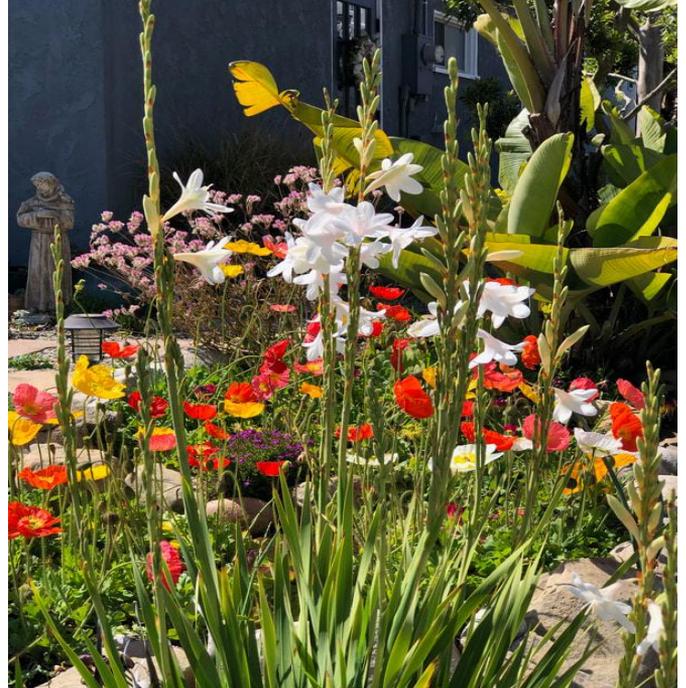


MAY 5, 2021 SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# SEASIDE MATTERS



So much love was poured into the gardens of these two Landscaping Award homes. In Brian Anderson's on Milne Drive (above), poppies flourish in memory of his Mom. Below, Joan Johnson (Carol Drive) honored her gardener husband Larry with a flowery fountain display, while a bunny rests in front of sign.



View more stories and photos of our Spring Green Thumb winners!

[https://www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org/green\\_thumb\\_awards.html?fbclid=IwAR0odgGw-3IKoBdhB-xjiRCBGJvgyQinAMWPhh53vtA69ZKa-OFH3gYnq1E](https://www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org/green_thumb_awards.html?fbclid=IwAR0odgGw-3IKoBdhB-xjiRCBGJvgyQinAMWPhh53vtA69ZKa-OFH3gYnq1E)

# SNA President's Message

When I rather boastfully mentioned to my dear husband John that I had just gotten off the phone from a Zoom session with State Senator Ben Allen, he asked, "So now SNA has moved from local issues to State problems?"

Fair question. When I became involved with SNA around 7 years ago, our focus was very local. We spent years working on the Holiday Lights Displays and broadening our Scholarship, Landscape and Lights Awards programs. Similarly, we extended our footprint in Seaside to include lots more neighborhood participation, lots more communication between Seaside and the City, and lots more fun community activities.

Meanwhile, huge sociological and economic movements in our Country and our State continued apace. Today, Seaside is unavoidably enmeshed in residential zoning changes purporting to ease our State's lack of affordable housing. The reasons for that lack are varied, including loss of jobs during the pandemic, the proliferation of homeless and mentally ill citizens with few appropriate facilities, some working poor spending up to half of their income on rentals, a surge in immigrants fleeing violence and poverty in their home countries, the larger number of formerly incarcerated people sent home, the impact of student debt on housing sales, etcetera, etcetera.

So yes, now SNA's focus has moved from solely local issues to State and national problems. You will find two pages in this edition of Seaside Matters dedicated to already-in-effect and pending housing ordinances that completely change our primarily R1 (one unit intended per lot) neighborhood.

You may notice a call to involvement in neighborhood groups like this one, and City government also, as well as in bigger-picture groups promoting local control of zoning and truly affordable housing. That's because in a democracy, 'we the people' must navigate the boat, not just jump on for the ride.

I'll end this essay with a huge shout out to every person in Seaside who is working to improve our community, whether they might be a volunteer, a City or school employee, or an elected official; and whether I agree with their 'politics' or not, or get along with them or not.

Thank you! Bless you! I see you! -Tricia Blanco, President





## SENATOR BEN ALLEN MEETS WITH ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

Neighborhood and Homeowners Association leaders Amy Josefek (Riviera HA) and Marc Danziger (Southwood HA) coordinated an April 29th Zoom meeting between **State Senator Ben Allen, 26th (our) District**, and Torrance Neighborhood Association Presidents to register each neighborhood's **opposition to Senate Bills 9 and 10**. Representing Seaside, I illustrated how density in our area will NOT result in affordable housing by describing a 900 sq. foot bungalow on my street (Gaycrest) that just sold for over a million dollars. Other HOA leaders highlighted that additional infrastructure and police will be needed to handle more people; that ADUs and JADUs are already increasing our areas' density; that the pandemic precipitated the end of workers moving into cities to be near their jobs; that density will cause people of color who bought into R1 zoned areas lose hard-fought generational wealth; and that zoning laws are best left in the hands of local officials who intimately know each city's needs and wishes. Senator Allen agreed that zoning laws should be



### SENATE BILL 9

Ends single-family zoning to allow 6 units where one home is now standing.  
EXAMPLE: SB9 allows an existing lot to be split into two lots, PLUS the existing home can be split into two homes, PLUS owner can add an ADU and a JADU.

### SENATE BILL 10

Local governments can override any restrictions that were previously enacted by a local voter initiative. 14 units of luxury apartments would be legal on ANY street, including residential, that is within a mile of a bus stop.

-continued-

a local decision. He also said that because of historic racist zoning practices such as redlining, proponents of SB 9 and 10 have called local control a 'racist' construct. He suggested that if **Senator Bradford, District 35**, were convinced to support local zoning, those criticisms could be greatly diminished.

## GRASSROOTS GROUPS SUPPORT LOCAL ZONING

*California Citizens for Local Control*  
<https://localcontrolca.com/>  
Created by Torrance's own Councilman Mike Griffiths, this volunteer and non-partisan group has thus far recorded the support of 430 elected officials to local control of zoning laws in California. You may join the many Torrance volunteers who, since 2020, have been calling Cali city officials daily on behalf of *CCforLC*.

*Livable California*  
<https://www.livablecalifornia.org/>

This well-organized nonprofit "advocates for equitable, livable communities and truly affordable housing."

*United Neighbors*  
<https://www.unitedneighbors.net/>

Their charts clearly depict what may happen if unrestricted multi-family housing proliferates in previously R1 areas.

# SNA 2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Danny Ma of Anza Ave. is ranked #7 in his South High School class of 450+ students. During his high school years he earned Honor Roll every semester, while also participating and /or holding leadership positions in Orchestra, Cross Country, Track and Field, Interact Club and California Scholarship Federation. His volunteer services included time helping at Torrance Memorial Medical Center and accompanying The Young Artists Orchestra of Los Angeles for community events. He is now working on the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America, The Eagle Award. Among his many academic and participation awards, Danny earned Commended Scholar (PSAT), President's Volunteer Service Award, and was a National Advanced Placement Scholar. Danny's future fields of study, Psychology and Neuroscience, will direct him towards a career in the medical health field. Danny will be attending UC San Diego.

Danny Ma



Patrick Melia



Patrick Melia, Draile Ave., presently has a 4.17 GPA and has taken predominately AP and Honors classes while attending Bishop Montgomery High School. His classes focused on the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.) As a School Ambassador, he represented BMHS at open houses and recruitments, and devoted many hours working with exchange students. He represented Torrance in Junior Lifeguard competitions, and also found time to work as a Lifeguard, an after school Child Care Aide and as a Camp Counselor. Patrick was selected to the Daily Breeze All Area Swim Team, and earned the US Life Saving Lifeguard of the Year Award. The American Legion South Bay Post 184 chose Patrick for participation in its prestigious leadership and citizenship program, California Boys State. He hopes to pursue an engineering related field with the US Navy and focus on ocean related careers. He was nominated for the US Naval Academy and US Merchant Marine Academy by Congressman Ted Lieu. Patrick Melia will attend the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

# “Newby” School Board Member Reflects on First Months

**Jasmine Park:** “Despite the frustrations adapting plans in light of ... evolving guidance, seeking to balance the valid, but often conflicting concerns of different groups, and struggling to identify clear, effective, and accessible means of communication in a wholly virtual environment, I have been encouraged and inspired by our educators, staff, leadership, parents, and, of course, my fellow board members. Their love for our students and heartfelt desire to do everything within their power to support them has been a true blessing to witness.



I am also hopeful, seeing a deep yearning to ensure TUSD prioritizes equity, and believe we will be able to initiate and sustain programs and policies that enable *all* of our students to thrive and succeed.”

## CIVIC MINDED PEOPLE WANTED by Mario Obejas, Traffic Commissioner

### ARE YOU CIVIC MINDED AND FAIR?

There are openings on the Civil Service, Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation, Library, and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

Incumbents are term limited, meaning they *will* appoint new people to these posts.

Would you like a fair person to represent you on these Commissions? The surest way to make that happen - if you are that fair person- is to apply, rather than hope for someone else to do so.

Most Commissions meet only once a month. It's a good way to 'stick your toes' into the waters of civic involvement, without drowning in the commitment.

### THE DEADLINE TO APPLY TO BE A COMMISSIONER IS MAY 6TH, 5:00 PM.

1. Fill out and Submit the Application <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/commissions>.
2. Request the Commission Certification online training. Complete the training before the May 6th 5:00 p.m. deadline.
3. Request an appointment to be interviewed. You call the office of the Mayor at 310-618-2801 and tell them, "I've applied for a Commission, I'd like to be interviewed."
4. If you're appointed, you'll be asked to complete the ethics and sexual harassment prevention and education training before your first meeting, and thereafter every 2 years. They are also online.

## Somebody Special in Seaside

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting **Giuseppe “Joe” Quirico**, 94 years old, who lives with his daughter Mimi and son in law Onorio Marsella on Gaycrest. At 17 years of age, Giuseppe enlisted in the Italian army and served with the 2nd Corps of the 5th American Army. That service gave him the opportunity to come to America, under the sponsorship of an uncle in Ohio.

In Ohio, Giuseppe, now “Joe,” learned the skills of embossing and engraving for a greeting card company. In 1961, Joe and his wife moved to the South Bay, where they raised their family. Unfortunately, on one of his last days before retirement, Mr. Quirico lost his left hand to an embossing machine. Yet that did not prevent him from becoming an accomplished painter during his retirement years.

In 1992 Joe enrolled in his first Oil Painting class at the TUSD Adult School campus. He became a fixture at art classes, and continued studying year round until 2019. His paintings are displayed, gallery-style, at the Marsella home. His daughter Mimi added this comment about her Dad: “I most admire him because he has always overcome all of his life challenges with a fighting spirit. He never gives up.”

-Tricia Blanco



Joe  
Quirico



## Special Seaside Somebodies, part 2

**Garrett and Melissa Wright** are dedicated community activists who lead by example. Presently, they are both City Commissioners. Melissa has served for 10 years on the Civil Service Commission, which reviews Civil Service job classifications and testing plans, and serves as an appellant board on matters such as below standards job performance. The Civil Service Commission is a demanding appointment. The Commissioners do considerable file reading before their bimonthly meetings, to be acquainted with the cases.

Garrett has been an Environmental Quality Commissioner since 2015. That Commission deals with a wide range of environmental issues, including oil site maintenance, animal control, beautification awards, community noise control, energy conservation, property nuisances, and property maintenance.

Both the Wrights believe very strongly that people “have to be involved with their community.” And in the case of Garrett, the Seaside neighborhood has been his community since birth! His parents, Dean and Audrey Wright, bought their home on Moresby Drive in 1952. Garrett and his four older brothers were raised there, and soon after he and Melissa were married, in 1985, they purchased the family home. They have two children, Chelsea and Mason, and two grandchildren.

During her children’s school years, Melissa’s community activism took the form of PTA involvement, including stints as PTA President at all three of their children’s schools (Seaside, Calle Mayor and South.) Garrett was kept busy as a PTA husband whose claim to fame may be that he built the Clubhouse that used to grace the Kindergarten play area at Seaside. Both Wrights were also on the Board of the powerhouse TUSD fundraiser group the Torrance Educational Foundation, which since 1992 has provided millions of dollars to schools.

Very dear to her heart is Melissa’s role in shepherding a strip of land previously destined to be a continuation of Lomita Blvd. to its rebirth as Seaside Heroes Park. For their commitment to recognize three local heroes and dedicate the new Seaside Heroes Park in their honor, Melissa Wright and June Lee were recognized as Torrance Citizens of the Year in 2012.



As recent retirees, the Wrights are attempting to visit all the National Parks in the U.S., while somehow keeping up with grandkids’ ‘firsts’ and volunteering commitments!

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.

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

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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](#)*