

SEASIDE MATTERS



VOTE

Special
Voting
Edition

City Elections are June 7th!

YES NO

Sales Tax Measure SST

If you're a fan, you may call the measure **Safe Strong Torrance**; if you're against it, it's the **Silly Sales Tax**. Proponent Mayor Furey states "Measure SST is modest and brings Torrance's sales tax in line with neighboring cities. It adds just 50 cents to a \$100 purchase and essentials like groceries and prescription medicine are exempt. Most sales tax collected in Torrance goes to L.A. County or Sacramento. Measure SST requires that 100% of the money stays in our City."

Councilman George Chen opposed putting the tax measure on the ballot and suggested at a Candidates Forum that the **½ cent increase will discourage consumers** from shopping here. Chen isn't swayed by visions of an infusion of tax money, saying, "There are times when we need to exercise even **more stringent fiscal discipline** to separate our wants from our most basic service requirements."



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SNA

Your hard working Board wants to do more! We're looking for "people who need people" to create a *Care and Compassion Committee*. We want Greeters to welcome newcomers on behalf of SNA, as well as Reporters to fill us in on births, deaths, and other big events that occur in Seaside. This Committee can be whatever its members want it to be. Contact us by email at seasideneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com . Thank you.

SNA co-sponsored a hugely successful City Candidates Forum on March 27. The over 300 people who attended via Zoom were rewarded by the Candidates' thoughtful responses to questions about the City's fiscal status, the ½ cent proposed tax increase, the problems with the City Treasurer department, and more. Read about the candidates in this special voting edition of *Seaside Matters*.



We celebrate our wonderful 2021 and 2022 **Scholarship Award winners** at our **General Meeting on Wednesday May 25th**. This Awards Ceremony traditionally attracts City officials, so participants might take the opportunity to ask them about the Issues. *And*, there will be cake!

**WEDNESDAY,
5/25
7:00 -8:30 PM at
Sea Aire
Golf Clubhouse**

At this same meeting, Doug Macmillan (Evelyn Dr.) will explain how his family lives 'off the grid' in the busy suburban area that is Seaside. No electric bills!
Save the planet!



We are District 5!

For the first time in this City's history, our Council members are being chosen by Districts. Council members must now reside in the district that they represent.



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COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 5



At the SNA Candidate Forum, South High grad and commercial real estate broker Aurelio Mattucci extolled his efforts to contain coyotes, house the homeless and clean up the city. The incumbent Council member is one of only two City officials to oppose Measure SST. Regarding the budget: "Our unfunded pension liabilities are a major part of our financial equation. I am a firm believer that we need to deliver on those promises, but a change in course is needed." He suggests that new City hires be given 401k programs rather than pensions.



Former Daily Breeze Managing Editor and USC adjunct prof Jean Adelsman states that "partisan divisions are tearing our nation apart." Her remedy? What she calls The Power of Purple, that is, "when red and blue come together... and get good things done." She uses the word 'dire' to describe the City's financial health, and proposes that Council start from scratch to create a new budget based on the City's actual revenue, rather than projected expenses. "No one will ever hear me suggest that we should defund the police," says her website, but she opines that TPD might reduce costs by paying civilians for select jobs.

Five Candidates for Treasurer!

That there are neither experience nor education requirements for what he calls 'a highly specialized position' bothers former

Councilman **Tim**

Goodrich, a professional risk manager, greatly. He proposes **CPR: Conduct** an independent audit; **Professionalize** the position; and **Reduce** the Treasurer's 'exorbitant pay' by revamping this job into an oversight role.

Her dismay that someone "who has essentially abandoned her job" would again run for Treasurer propelled community activist and SNA treasurer **Melissa Wright** into the race. She counts her years as Treasurer for the Torrance Ed Foundation and four PTAs, along with being CFO of Cabled Wright, as evidence of her financial acumen.

BACKGROUND ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL

RACE: Four of the candidates have stated that they are running to right an ongoing wrong that began in November of 2018 when incumbent Treasurer **Dana**

Cortez stopped working. "Cortez took an extended absence following a [June 2018 municipal report](#) that proposed reducing her job responsibilities and slashing her salary in half because of allegations she financially mismanaged public funds.

Cortez, first elected in 2010, at the time said that city officials gave in to 'half truths' that caused her stress and exhaustion, requiring the leave. Since then, Cortez has extended her

leave numerous times without any further explanation.... In response, the Council has reduced her \$200,000 salary to \$65,000 and cut back nearly all her duties as city staff have picked up the workload in her absence." (The Daily Breeze, 5/21/21)

"I've been the most outspoken Councilmember about the issues in the Treasurer's Office," says former Councilman and CEO/CFO of his own computer company **Mike Griffiths**, "and I decided to fix the problem and run for City Treasurer myself." He lists his strengths as experience, integrity, dependability (in 8 years as Councilperson he only missed two meetings) and respectability.

Glenn Rick Marshall rejects Mr. Goodrich's contention that the Treasurer job requires an expert in the field, proposing that what is needed is common sense. The Treasurer duties he wants to see restored are those in the City charter. He lead the effort to recall Dana Cortez, and wrote against SST in the voting guide.

MEET the MAYORAL CANDIDATES!

George Chen



Councilman Chen often mentions that his engineering background leads him to evaluate issues based on the facts. For example, he cites p. 5 of the Torrance Mid-Year Budget Review when he states that Torrance has a projected 13.8 million dollar surplus in its General Operating Fund, thanks to fiscally responsible actions taken by the City Council. He supports the decision to use MHF in the Torrance refinery because “If AQMD and Cal-OSHA determine that the refinery is safe to operate with their selected processes, then Council shall allow the agencies that are assigned ...oversight to make {the} decision, as they see the data in more detail than anyone else.”

“Does the city have enough cash on hand to cover unexpected expenses or revenue shortfalls, such as what was seen in the pandemic? How heavy is its long-term debt burden — pension obligations, retiree benefits, bond repayments — compared to its income? Are city revenues increasing, or decreasing, over time? The answers to these ...questions led Torrance to be rated 4th worse in the State by the State Auditor’s High Risk Watch List.”

(Source: Orange County Register, 8/22/21).

Former Councilman Cliff Numark, at a Candidates Forum, took issue with Mr. Chen by remarking that in order to arrive at the stated \$13.8 million surplus, Torrance listed over 130 vacant positions, and received a final funding infusion of \$12 million from the feds. Factoring in the reinstatement of those employees and without federal support, he says “Torrance finds its general fund in the red by millions of dollars.” He proposes a zero based budget (expenses may not exceed income) as well as a culture of cost reductions.

Cliff Numark



Around the Neighborhood

Spring Green Thumb Award Winners Display Drought Tolerant Plants



Above Left: Perry and Kathy Diangelo have lived in their home at **2230 Charlotte Drive for 9 years**. They are both from the South Bay. They raised their three children in their first home in Old Torrance. Perry, who builds residences locally, hired a landscaper he trusted, Garden Builders, to do the design and installation of their gardens. Kathy says: "You could say I had a little help in designing, but I did have certain plants that I desired." A beautiful flow of plant material includes seasonal perennials and California native water-wise shrubs for color every season. Lighting on the steps in their front and backyard areas is a safety feature. Their front porch gets a lot of sun in early mornings, so a sunshade was installed to provide comfort. The family enjoys barbecues and birthday celebrations in the backyard. Kathy's favorite time "is sitting on my front porch on a Saturday morning drinking my coffee watching the hummingbirds feed off the plants." Doesn't that sound idyllic?

Above Right: Doug and Marian Macmillan left New Zealand years ago with 2 small children in tow, to start a business here in the US. They have lived on **23007 Evelyn Road for 21 years**. **At our May 25th SNA meeting**, Doug will explain the modifications he's done on their home so that it produces no carbon emissions. Low water tolerance was the driving criteria for choosing succulents in the Macmillans' gardens, along with waterwise perennials and shrubs. Among their plants you will find New Zealand flaxes and several flowering trees favored by hummingbirds. To help the Monarch butterfly maintain a healthy population, the couple cultivates milkweed. They tried growing grapes and lemon trees, but those did not thrive. Water usage to maintain the plants is minimal. Soon, they'll add more succulents and swap the bark for colored scoria.

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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](#)*

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www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org

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