



1538 Post Avenue • Torrance, CA 90501 • (310) 320-6054

May 10, 2004

Dear OTNA Member:

Happy Spring! Each May, OTNA brings you a presentation on Gardening — this year is no exception. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 19th**, at 7:00 PM in the Bartlett Center, when Melissa Paltin of Armstrong Garden Center talks to us about *Creative Plant Selections for Various Garden Themes & Pest Management Options*. She will bring along some new and different plants, and suggest different ways they can be used — in any garden. She will also discuss different methods of managing pest problems, including organic, conventional and biological pest control methods. She will bring samples! Melissa is a California Certified Nurseryman, a qualified landscape consultant for Armstrong Garden Center, and knows her "stuff!" She has eight years nursery experience, seven being with Armstrong's. See ya' then!

On an entirely different note, part of my "job" is to keep you informed on local resources available, recent legislative acts (proposed or pending), and fun "to dos!" So . . . here's a small sampling of each:

Local Resources

Senior citizens, and their families, have greater access to information through the community's *Focal Point on Aging Program*. Focal Point on Aging is an information and referral service where older adults, care-givers and their families can obtain information and access to aging services, including transportation, housing, Meals-on-Wheels, health care, companion care, Medicare, social and legal services, HMO's and more. The all-volunteer staff is trained to receive telephone or in-person inquiries, make an accurate initial assessment of a person's needs and refer that person to appropriate services. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

Recent Legislation

Last year we told you about Assembly Bill (AB) 1160, which was endeavoring to expand upon the already-in-place AB 1866. If you recall, AB 1160 would allow the state to preempt local control on land use matters and infringes upon the rights of R-1 property owners in an attempt to dictate the specific requirements of local zoning ordinances applicable to *every* neighborhood in the state. Well, it died, but . . . it's resurfaced as AB 2702. This bill is not the way to solve housing problems! To quote Assemblyman George Nakano, "This bill would inequitably impact many homeowners in the South Bay who would see the value of their homes erode as second units crowd communities." I think we can all agree that we don't want to lose more local control to Sacramento, or lose any more of the charm of our historic neighborhood due to oversized condo units. To stay abreast of proposed or pending state legislative or other actions, which would limit the ability California communities have to address land use and other issues in a manner that reflects the issues unique to our community, sign-up for the League of California Cities New Citizens for Local Control (CLC) Information Services. Details are enclosed.

Fun "To Dos"

Join the Torrance Historical Society for a Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Torrance on Sunday, May 30th — 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, leaves from the Museum (1345 Post Avenue), and . . . it's free!

Debbie Hays
OTNA President