



October 2026

www.rivieraassociation.org

Riviera Association

P.O. Box 4235 • Santa Barbara, CA 93140-4235

Letter From the President

Hello Riviera friends,

As summer gives way to cooler fall breezes, I have been reflecting on several of the Riviera Association's key objectives. Our main mission is to preserve the quality of life that defines Santa Barbara's Riviera. To do that we need an active board, a connected community, and support from our local government leaders. How can you help advance that mission?

Voting is important, but it can be easy to feel discouraged or forget how much local participation matters. Voting helps our local democracy work fairly and effectively, giving residents a voice in the leaders and policies that shape our neighborhoods. In upcoming city elections,

you have a chance to help decide who will represent us and address issues that affect the Riviera. The association was proud to cohost a candidate forum in September so that you could learn more about how the candidates running for our City Council seat (District #4) plan to approach the priorities that affect us all.

Our other objectives are to complete community improvement projects, offer neighbor education events, and communicate effectively with you. We had a wonderful spring meeting where we heard from local leaders about exciting developments transforming our downtown experience. Last year, we hosted a behind-the-scenes tour of the Santa Barbara

Bowl, and we are happy to report that we are working on a follow-up tour there, as well as a tour of the historic Granada Theatre on October 21st—a true local gem. We are partnering with our Parks and Recreation Department on a Volunteer Clean-up Day at Franceschi Park on November 14th. You can learn more about these opportunities at our upcoming **Fall General Meeting on October 18th at Riviera Ridge School** or online at rivieraassociation.org/happenings. Please bring a neighbor who has not yet joined the association so they can share in these upcoming opportunities.

We hope to see you there!

Michael Erickson

Michael Erickson
2026 Riviera Association President

Riviera Association Fall General Meeting Sunday, October 18, 4–6 p.m.

The Riviera Ridge School • Battistone Hall, 911 Tremonto Road
Shuttle service to/from Mission Ridge & Tremonto parking lots

- Engage with your neighbors while enjoying great food and drinks.
- Update on the latest enhancements at Franceschi Park by Jill Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara.
- Understanding the new Zone Zero regulations approved by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Prevention.
- Latest on recent changes affecting speed safety on our streets.
- Please scan the QR code to preregister for the fall meeting.
- Join or renew your Riviera Association membership at www.rivieraassociation.org or at the meeting.



FireSafe: Rebate Pilot for Home Hardening and Zone Zero Rules

The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council recently conducted a limited pilot of a cash rebate up to \$5,000 for residents who harden their homes against fire. The pilot program will run until the end of 2027 and the Fire Safe Council is currently searching for additional funding to extend the program beyond 2027. The pilot is restricted to residents who live in recognized Firewise USA Communities. Additionally, to qualify residents must have a Home Evaluation from the Fire Safe Council and provide proof of qualified hardening projects including photos and receipts. There is currently a wait list for the rebates being maintained by the Fire Safe Council staff. Stay tuned for information on future funding. To find out more, reach out to the Rebate Program Manager, Charles Harris at charris@sbfiresafecouncil.org.

To get a free home evaluation sign up on the Fire Safe Council website at sbfiresafecouncil.org/evaluation. Alternatively, you can contact their Home Assessor, Gustavo Agredano at gagredano@sbfiresafecouncil.org.

Members of Firewise communities are now eligible for a 10% discount from the California Fair Plan on the wildfire portion of policy premiums for properties located within an official, active Firewise USA site in good standing. Reach out to your insurance broker for details. Other insurers are also offering discounts but the amount varies by company. Again, you are encouraged to reach out to your insurer to discuss the options. The growth of Firewise communities on the Riviera continues to grow, now at eight. If your neighborhood has yet to pursue the Firewise recognition now is a great time to get involved! Contact Charles Harris at charris@sbfiresafecouncil.org with questions or for more information about Firewise. A map of current Firewise communities and information on the Firewise program is available at: sbfiresafecouncil.org/firewise-usa.



FIREWISE USA®
Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks

Another step in favor of home hardening occurred this month with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Prevention voting “unanimously to adopt new landscaping requirements within five feet of homes—an area dubbed Zone Zero for millions of Californians living in fire prone areas” according to a recent article in the LA Times. These requirements apply to much of the Riviera. Per the Times, “studies show hardened houses and cleared Zone Zero improve survival and insurability.” —*Julie Chapman*

Honoring Sheila Lodge

Sheila Lodge, the first woman elected mayor in Santa Barbara's history and a longtime Riviera resident and Riviera Association supporter, died recently at age ninety-seven. An activist, environmental advocate, quality-of-life champion, mentor, slow-growth supporter, and fierce defender of reproductive rights, she devoted thirty-six years of her life to public service. Her contributions to life in Santa Barbara are immeasurable. We honor her and hope to carry forward her legacy.



Riviera Association Board of Directors

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Streets & Utilities Todd Yancey

Website Michael Erickson

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New Riviera Association Community Sponsorship Program

Become A Corporate Sponsor!

The Riviera Association invites local businesses and professional firms to become Community Sponsors and support one of Santa Barbara's most engaged residential neighborhoods.

Your sponsorship helps fund:

- Wildfire preparedness initiatives.
- Community meetings and educational programs.
- Neighborhood communications and newsletters.
- Member engagement, and
- Efforts to preserve the Riviera's unique character and quality of life.

Sponsorship Levels

Bronze Community Sponsor—\$250

Silver Community Sponsor—\$500

Gold Community Sponsor—\$1,000

Platinum Community Sponsor— \$2,500+

Why Sponsor?

The Riviera Association represents one of Santa Barbara's most established and civically engaged neighborhoods.

Sponsorship provides meaningful community visibility while supporting programs and initiatives that benefit Riviera residents and the broader Santa Barbara community.

As an example, at the Gold Level, sponsors receive:

- Logo on the Riviera Association sponsor webpage.
- Recognition in both biannual newsletters.
- Logo displayed on the sponsor slide before membership meetings.
- Logo included in membership meeting presentations.
- Sponsor materials available at the meeting check-in table.
- Verbal recognition at membership meetings.
- One sponsor spotlight in an annual newsletter.
- Dedicated sponsor display space at membership meetings.
- Opportunity to provide a promotional item or branded giveaway at Association events.

To become a community sponsor, visit rivieraassociation.org/join-now, email: membership@rivieraassociation.org, or use the QR code, right.



Private Granada Theatre Tour!

Wednesday, October 21, 2 p.m. • Limited to 25 Attendees

We are excited to share this exclusive Riviera Association members event! Please join us for a private tour of the Granada Theatre. Since its opening in 1924, the Granada has been a vital showcase for film and continues to be a hub for both cinematic excellence and a wide range of lectures from UCSB Art & Lectures and other presenters. The Riviera Association is thrilled to offer this private, behind the scenes tour to our members on Wednesday, October 21 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$20. Please wear comfortable shoes for this approximately one hour tour. An optional social hour meet-up at Benchmark will follow the tour. Register with the QR code on the left or



at rivieraassociation.org/happenings.



© Granada Theatre

Join Us for Member Volunteer Clean Up & Planting Day!



Saturday, November 14

9 a.m.–1 p.m • Franceschi Park

Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation will provide staff guidance and necessary resources, while the Riviera Association will bring coffee, water, and snacks. Come for an hour or stay as long as you can. Use the QR Code on the right to register or at rivieraassociation.org/happenings.



The Latest from El Encanto

There is a certain energy to a new season on the Riviera. At El Encanto, it arrives in the form of art and culinary discovery. On August 27th, we welcomed acclaimed British portrait photographer Andy Gotts and *The Playlist*, an evocative collection of black-and-white portraits celebrating some of the most iconic figures in music. The exhibition lasts through November 30 and can be found on the second floor of the main building and in four of El Encanto's signature suites, reimagined around Gotts' portraits of music legends, from divas to guitar gods.

The El Encanto Culinary Series continues to bring some of the world's most compelling culinary voices to Santa Barbara for intimate evenings that celebrate exceptional food and the stories behind it.



© El Encanto Hotel

This September 17, Mexico City-based chef Estrella Jafif takes center stage for the seventh installment, creating a multi-course dinner inspired by the Mediterranean and the bounty of California's Central Coast. Her celebrated cookbook, *Cocina Estelar*, will add another layer to an evening devoted to food, culture, and discovery.

For our Santa Barbara neighbors, there are plenty of reasons to make El Encanto part of your own Riviera routine. Stop in for dinner or a cocktail overlooking the city, explore our calendar of culinary events, or simply take in the gardens and the views. We look forward to seeing you soon.