

# ASK STREAMLINED CITY GOVERNMENT

## C of C Seeks City Manager; Elimination of Promotion, Sales Taxes, Council Pay

Sweeping changes in the operations and policies of Torrance municipal government, including the appointment of a city manager, elimination of salaries for city councilmen, repeal of the ten cent per \$100 assessed valuation tax for the so-called "Chamber of Commerce" promotion and advertising fund, abolition of the

### Chamber Asks Unification Of Local Schools

Directors of Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night unanimously endorsed unification of all Torrance schools, kindergarten through high school, under one administration and board of education. A campaign now is being conducted to get more than 50 percent of the registered voters to endorse the unification plan. This is necessary before the County Superintendent of Schools and the State Board of Education can pass on unification and call an election to merge the schools.

At the present time, grades kindergarten through 8th are in Torrance City School district, governed by the Torrance Board of Education and the superintendent of schools.

The high school is under Redondo Union High School District Board of Trustees, administered by the superintendent of that district.

Three new members of the Chamber of Commerce were approved at the meeting Tuesday night. They are E. L. Voltz and Sam Goldfaden, of Torrance Trailer Park, and the Lund Company, insurance agency.

### Council Agrees To Meet Union Representatives

The City Council voted last night to meet with representatives of the City Employees Union Monday night to discuss wage increases and other problems facing city workers.

Harry Young, international representative of the United Public Workers of America (CIO) was the first to speak for the Union when the Council meeting was thrown open to oral communications. He cited the requests by Torrance Local 360 of the UPW for a special meeting with the Council for the months of June, July and August, reading a telegram from A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, asking by what right did the local consider that it represented the employees.

Young pointed out that the City Council had met with the local previously and also stated that a check with the City Treasurer would show that a majority of the city workers had voluntarily agreed to a deduction of union dues from their wages.

Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. called Young's attention to the fact that all Council meetings were open to any person or group desiring to bring matters to the attention of the Council.

L. L. Crowther, president of the Municipal Employees Union, was introduced by Young, and he stated the wage differentials existing between employees of Torrance and other workers doing the same work in local private industry.

Crowther also called attention to a survey made by the city of Los Angeles from March to July of this year which showed that wages had been increased 3 1/2 percent monthly during that period, while Torrance city employees have had no raise in the past two years.

other important measures are advocated in a broad range program outlined Tuesday evening by unanimous action of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors.

Purpose of the proposed changes is to streamline the city government to fully participate and cooperate with the upward surge of development generally predicted for this area during the next decade.

The entire modernization program for handling city affairs will be submitted to an enlarged Citizens Committee composed of representatives of over 50 civic-minded organizations including a complete cross-section of Torrance residents and interests with investments here. This Citizens Committee will be invited to amend or amplify the program submitted by the Chamber directors before final adoption and submission to the voters.

Many of the items in the broad legislative program will be submitted at a special election to be called through circulation of initiative petitions, Chamber officials state. Briefly, the proposed changes approved after many weeks of consideration by Chamber of Commerce officials include:

1. Submission of an amendment to the City Charter providing for appointment of a City Manager who will be cloaked with ample authority to do an efficient job and with protection against pressures from political and special privilege groups. Specific requirements setting forth the qualifications of the City Manager are included in the Charter amendment.

2. Elimination of salaries for City Councilmen, since the City Manager will do most of the administrative work and members of the City Council will be relieved of most of the details of government which now take up so much time. It is hoped that with the elimination of such time-consuming activities, many competent civic leaders may be induced to serve on the City Council.

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### HOMER BALE LAUNCHES 200 HOME BUILDING PROJECT; \$1,500,000 WILL BE SPENT

Another \$1,500,000 housing project for Torrance, involving the building at once of 200 new homes in the northern part of the city, was launched this week when Homer Bale broke ground for his new Torrance Manor tract at 174th st. and Crenshaw boulevard.

Bale, through his company, Torrance Manor Corp., took out applications for 200 building permits, according to the office of City Engineer G. M. Jain.

The company broke ground at 10 a. m. Monday, and immediately grading operations on the streets and alleys started.

Water pipe is ready for installation, bringing Metropolitan Water District supply to the tract from 185th st. and Crenshaw Blvd.

The tract will be improved with sewers, paved streets, paved alleys, curbs and all utilities. Homes will be in the \$7,500 and \$8,500 class, with two and three bedrooms.

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### Work Starts On Parking Lots For Local Shoppers

Parking relief for frustrated patrons of the Torrance shopping district was definitely in sight this week as the City completed grading of two new parking lots.

Cooperation between the City and the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce led to the action designed to alleviate the downtown parking problem.

One of the parking areas is located on Gramercy ave. in back of the Torrance Hardware and Beacon Drug Co. The lot, having a frontage of 150 ft. and a depth of 140 ft., will hold an estimated 70 cars. Tentative plans call for employees of nearby stores and apartment house tenants to park in the rear of the lot with the remainder open to shoppers.

A second lot, 140 ft. by 128 ft., situated on the southwest corner of Cravens ave. and El Prado, will be used primarily for full time employees of the City, nearby stores and other establishments in town. It is hoped that this action will relieve the downtown congestion which has been a problem to local shoppers.

According to City Engineer Glen Jain, the lots will be oiled some time during the next week.



POWELL QUILTS . . . George V. Powell, Councilman and head custodian at Torrance High for many years, last night ended 13-years of service to the City with his resignation from the Council.

### POWELL ENDS SERVICE AS COUNCILMAN

The resignation of Councilman George V. Powell was accepted by the City Council last night.

To become effective Sept. 15, Powell tendered the resignation after stating that he would be leaving the community in a short time.

In accepting the resignation, Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy, in behalf of the Council, thanked Powell for his 13 years' service to the City and expressed regrets at his departure.

For a number of years Powell had been head custodian at Torrance high school. Following the withdrawal of Torrance schools from the Los Angeles district, Powell was transferred to a similar position at Dana Junior high school, San Pedro.

Powell's term as councilman expires in May, 1948, but his successor was not named last night.

### Vista Highland Property Owners Fight Assessment

Resolution 1858 setting Oct. 14 as the date for the first public hearing on formation of a Vista Highland Assessment district was adopted by the City Council last night.

Estimates of costs, determined by Harold A. Barnett, which would be levied on a per-foot basis, are now on file in the City Clerk's office.

Petitions are now being circulated among property owners of the Vista Highland district of the City of Torrance in an action protesting the formation of an assessment district.

The assessment in the sum of \$199,402 had been proposed for street, curb and sidewalk improvement work. According to the protest petition, signers of the original improvement petitions were under the impression that the cost would be paid out of the city's general fund and not a lien on individual property owners.

Under the proposed assessment, an estimate of a cost of \$634 would be borne by each owner of a 50-foot lot. Present assessed valuation of a 50 ft. lot in the Vista Highland district is \$3,000.

Purpose of the protest petition is to stop all proceedings leading to the formation of the assessment district.

The proposed district is bounded by Crenshaw Blvd. on the east, El Dorado ave. on the north, Juniper ave. on the west and Carson st. on the south.

## Torrance City Schools Open Classes Monday For First Time Under Control Of New Local Board Of Education

### Preparations Completed At High School For Opening Tomorrow

Torrance high school has been a busy place this past week, with plans for the opening of school tomorrow being completed, equipment and supplies put in condition and the teachers preparing for their instructional activities to start next Monday morning.

The final event of this busy week of preparation will be a complete day's schedule of classes tomorrow starting at 8:20 a. m. in the auditorium. Following the opening assembly, to be called to order by student body President Bill Morgan, a registration period is scheduled from 9:15 to 10:15 a. m. in designated rooms throughout the plant, while a full day's run of classes will start at 10:20 a. m. and continue to 1:55 p. m. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria at 12:15.

An informal faculty tea is scheduled for the library at 2:30 p. m. for a final get-together for the teachers. Miss Harriet Hardy, dean of girls, will serve as the hostess of the afternoon assisted by Mrs. Lloyd Waller and Mrs. Arthur M. Main.

Classes will open Monday morning at 8:20. The regular school day will close at 3:05 following the usual bell schedule in force for this year.

Floyd Waller, principal, has announced that the regular school bus schedule will be followed tomorrow, this being a trial run for the bus drivers, but transportation will be available for students to get to school for the first day's activities. The times and routes, as indicated in the schedule published two weeks ago, will be the one used for Friday's run.

Students should bring pen and pencil for tomorrow's activities as these will be needed for registration activities following the assembly.

The cafeteria will be open on Friday to serve hot dishes as desired by students and teachers alike. Lockers may be signed for at the student store counter and students may purchase their student membership cards at the same time and at the same place.

### Evening High School Program For Torrance Is Announced By Waller

A new evening school program at Torrance high school will be launched Monday evening, Sept. 22, it was announced this week by Principal Lloyd Waller.

The program will be under the direction and supervision of Vice Principal Arthur M. Main.

Pre-opening registration will be conducted next week to ascertain the wishes of all prospective students for regular classes on the schedule.

Anyone in the district may phone the high school office to participate in the registration, or go to the school personally Wednesday evening, Sept. 17 to register.

Regular classes will start Monday Sept. 22 and others will be scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings of each week thereafter.

Some subjects will be offered for one hour per night, two nights per week, while others may be scheduled for two hours an evening once a week. Hours will depend upon the wishes of the registrants, the availability of teachers and the nature of the subject.

While classes in woodshop, arts and crafts, machine shop, health and physical education, homemaking, typing, shorthand, basic English, bookkeeping, vocal and instrumental music, draft-

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### Opening Hours Of Schools Are Given By Hull

The opening and closing hours of Torrance schools were announced again yesterday by Superintendent of Schools J. Henry Hull.

Junior high school will open at 8:20 a. m. The closing bell will ring at 3:05 p. m.

The elementary schools will begin at 9:00 a. m. and the closing hour will be 3:30 p. m.

Buses will operate to meet these schedules and there will be a trial run Friday, which high school students living beyond the mile and a quarter limit may use to come in for registration. Students in grades 1, 2 and 3 (primary children) will have a special closing hour of 2:10 p. m.

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Torrance will enter a new phase of its existence on Monday morning, Sept. 15, when the first classes of the Torrance City School District are opened to the children of the community.

Five schools will be operated by the Torrance district, with classes opening at 9 a. m. in Torrance elementary, Fern avenue, Perry and Welteria institutions, and at 8:20 a. m. for the junior high students (7th and 8th grades) at the Torrance high school campus.

A regular schedule of classes will be carried on during the first week of school, contrary to previous plans to hold minimum day sessions, according to Superintendent Hull.

Bus routes have been arranged to take care of all students who reside more than one and one-half miles from school.

High school students residing beyond one and one-half miles from the school will be permitted to ride the Junior High (7th and 8th grades) bus to Torrance high school, it was announced.

The buses start as follows: Bus No. 1 leaves 190th st. and Yukon ave. at 7:30 a. m., travels west to Hawthorne, north to 182nd st., east to Prairie ave., north to 174th st., east to Crenshaw, north to 164th st., east to Illinois (Gramercy pl.), south to 174th st., east to Western ave., south to 182nd st., west to Crenshaw and then direct to the high school.

Bus No. 2 will start at Seaside Ranchos at 7:30 a. m., enter Hollywood Boulevard at Via Los Altos and make a circle trip, then travel Pacific Coast highway to Ward, south to Newton st., west to Hawthorne Blvd., north to Huntington ave., east to Amie, south to Torrance Blvd. and to the high school.

Bus No. 3 will start at 7:30 a. m., covering Arlington ave. to 230th, east to Eschman ave., west to Narbonne ave., south to 239th st., west to Pennsylvania, north to 236th st., east to Narbonne ave., and north to Arlington and to the high school.

Elementary routes will be identical except in North Torrance, where the Perry bus, leaving Arlington ave. and

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### Redondo High Tax Rate Less Than Suggested

The tax rate for the Redondo Union High School district for the year 1947-48 is 8945 instead of the \$1.00 maximum which was voted by the electors of the district on last July 22.

At the time the Board of Trustees of Redondo Union High School district were asking the voters to approve the proposal, they promised that if, because of increased valuation, they did not need the full \$1.00 tax rate the full amount would not be levied.

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### SCHOOL UNIFICATION PLAN TO BE PLACED BEFORE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OCT. 3

Efforts are being made by the many circulators of petitions calling for unification of all Torrance schools under one board of education and administration ready for submission to the State Board of Education at the meeting to be held in Sacramento on Oct. 3 and 4, according to Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance City Board of Education.

In order to have the petitions ready, Dr. Wood pointed out, it will be necessary for them to contain more than 50 percent of the registered vote; be submitted to and passed by the County Board of Education and to be submitted to and approved by the State Board of Education. Upon approval of the plans by the State board, the election can be called, to be held from 30 to 40 days after notice is published.

The petitions cannot be presented to the county office until after the Torrance City School district actually starts operations Sept. 15.

Dr. Wood said that he hopes that the petitions may be ready to submit to the county office the week of Sept. 15, so that they can be readied for the State board meeting on Oct. 3 and 4. He called for volunteers to assist in the winding up of securing signers, and also urged that all voters interested in the Torrance independent school program sign petitions. They are in many stores, offices and in the hands of individuals. Those in doubt as to where to find copies of the petition may call 1653 and receive this information, according to Dr. Wood.

Unification would not be effective until the opening of schools in September, 1948, and in the meantime, Redondo Union high school district will operate Torrance high school.

After July 1, 1948, if unification is approved by the voters of Torrance, all the

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BREAK GROUND ON \$1,500,000 DEVELOPMENT . . . Shown turning the first spade of dirt for the 200-home building project of Torrance Manor, 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., is Homer Bale, president of Torrance Manor, Inc. On the left is George Reed, superintendent, and on the right, Bob White, secretary of Property Management Corp., affiliated in the transaction. Bale has built nearly 1,000 homes in the vicinity of Torrance in recent years, and this project started this week is the first one inside this city. (Picture by FOTO'S UNLIMITED)

WE SELL FOR LESS WE SELL FOR LESS WE SELL FOR LESS