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GOV. KNIGHT TO RECEIVE BILL FOR TORRANCE JUDGE

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas



Torrance Herald

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City Needs Bigger Budget For 1957-58 Council Told

Special Taxes, Levies Hinted

The growing demand for services and capital improvements will mean more city employees and a bigger operating budget, City Manager George Stevens told members of the Council here this week.

"Probably this year we've reached an impasse in carrying on without more funds," he said.

The city has been operating under an "austerity program" for several years, the city manager said. The home building boom has caught up, however, and the thousands of new residents of Torrance want more services and it will take more people to provide them, he indicated.

Revenues anticipated by the city during the 1957-58 fiscal year which starts next July 1 will not increase greatly over those of the past year, Stevens said.

Permits Drop

He estimated there would be about a 10 per cent increase in valuations, a normal growth in sales taxes, but salary increases and the heavy drop in building permit fees will offset any gains there.

Several methods of raising additional revenue were offered by the city manager.

1. Raise the general tax levy from 98.1 cents to the \$1 maximum allowed. This would mean an additional \$20,000 for the budget.

2. Form street lighting districts whereby the property owners would share costs of operating the city's street lights. Torrance is one of the few cities which has paid for street light energy and maintenance out of the budget.

3. Special tax levy above the general tax rate for parks and recreation.

Special Levies

Special taxes already provide funds for operation of the city's libraries, for employees' retirement fund, and for the retirement of outstanding bond issues.

A major problem facing the city, along with other Southland cities, will be the complete ban on incinerator burning effective next Oct. 1.

"We will need a minimum of five new packer trucks and 14 more men to handle the refuse pickup when the incinerators are outlawed," Stevens said.

Ban Now Logical

The city has been able to

delay banning of home incinerators for some time because it could always point to Los Angeles and ask why the biggest city of all shouldn't ban backyard burning, too.

"Los Angeles is ready now," Stevens said. "There no longer is any reason why the Oct. 1 deadline can not be enforced."

One of the main arguments being prepared by the city manager in his request for more funds points up the fact that Torrance has been operating for several years at an extremely low level of employment.

Employment Low

A survey comparing Torrance with Inglewood, Santa Monica, Burbank, Pasadena, and Glendale shows that Torrance has less than half of the employees reported by all but one of these cities.

Burbank, with 93,000 population, has an annual salary budget of \$5,961,000 and employs 1159 fulltime employees. Burbank has 16.9 square miles to service.

Torrance, by contrast, has 87,000 population, a salary budget of \$2,600,000, and has 412 employees to service a 20 square mile area.

Only Inglewood with 58,000 population in 7.5 square miles has a smaller salary budget, according to the survey.

Future Bright

"Contrary to the opinion of many people, we are not a wealthy city in terms of assessed valuations when compared to other cities of our size in the survey," Stevens said. He did point out, however, that the rate of increase in Torrance was greater, holding out hope for a brighter future.

Councilmen will be considering the problem of finances during the next few weeks, trying to decide what to ask for in the new budget. The city manager must present a balanced budget to the Council in June, according to law.

What Do You Think?

A representative of the Torrance HERALD has been asked to sit on a committee which is studying the possibility of giving grades to children in the seventh and eighth grades in Torrance schools.

In an editorial on page 28, the HERALD takes a look at the grading situation and asks for the opinions of readers on this matter, potentially of great concern to the parents of the city's 19,000 plus students.

The HERALD would welcome your opinion on the matter.



READY FOR EASTER . . . Cynthia Beadle gets the props ready for the Easter Egg Hunt in El Prado Park. The hunt will be divided into age classes, and prizes will be awarded the most successful sleuths.

'Miss Bunny' Will Preside At Egg Hunt

Over 1000 kiddies are expected at El Prado Park for Torrance's largest and gayest Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20, at 11 a.m., according to officials of the sponsoring Torrance City Recreation Department and the Downtown Retail Merchants' Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Included in the irregularly shaped property is 90 feet of frontage on Cabrillo giving the company a total of 270 feet on the main thoroughfare. Negotiations are underway with the city for part of the property to be used for public parking.

Development plans contemplate the erection of a new body department, additional employee parking area and for general use of the expanding operations of the company.

"Purchase of this rather expensive piece of real estate indicates our faith in the future of downtown Torrance," Lorange said yesterday. "We have just completed one of the most prosperous months in the history of our business and we simply had to expand our facilities to service our many new customers."

Auto Dealer Expands Area On Cabrillo

Paul Lorange, president of Paul's Chevrolet, Inc., announced this week the completion of the purchase from M. & M. Transfer Co. of a large piece of ground adjoining the dealership's properties at 1640 Cabrillo.

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Thomas to Ask Prompt Signing

A bill which would give Torrance its own judge as an addition to the South Bay Municipal Court has been passed by the Senate and sent to Governor Knight for signature, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas reported from Sacramento yesterday.

The legislation, AB 455, had been passed by the Legislature in March, and was approved by the Senate Monday.

To Visit Knight

Thomas said he planned to visit Knight Wednesday evening or Thursday morning to urge his prompt signature on the bill.

Approval of the court has previously been granted by the Board of Supervisors, and plans to construct a \$270,000 court building between the city's police station and swimming pool on Torrance Blvd. are now in the hands of an architect. Early construction of the building is expected if Knight signs the bill authorizing the third judge.

To Appoint Judge

Two judges now assigned to the South Bay Municipal Court, with headquarters in Redondo Beach, are John A. Shidler and Otto B. Willett. A third judge will be appointed by the governor and will probably come from the Torrance-South Bay area, although it is not mandatory.

The approval of the court and a third judge will climax a

long and vigorous campaign staged by the HERALD and civic leaders for a branch of the court in Torrance.

April Breakfast Meeting to Host Planning Expert

Simon Eisner, recognized as one of the nation's foremost city planners, will be the guest speaker at the next regular monthly breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, it was announced today by Co-chairmen Robert B. Jahn and Dick Pyle. The meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, at the YWCA building, 2320 Carson St.

Eisner will discuss his beliefs as to the future of Torrance and what can be accomplished to maintain a well-balanced, progressive community. Chamber of Commerce officials have been considering a proposal for some time to contract Eisner's firm for a complete master plan of the city.

The speaker is a graduate of University of California and has been a member of the staff of the SC School of Architecture since 1946, now holding the position of assistant professor. He developed the master plan for the San Fernando Valley and was chief planning architect for Los Angeles for over seven years. He has completed master plans for Redlands, Monrovia, Buena Park, Monterey Park, Santa Monica, Palm Springs, Fresno, and many others. His book, "The Urban Pattern," is widely used in universities throughout the United States and Europe.

Finch Admitted to High Bench Practice

Attorney Robert H. Finch was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in ceremonies before the full judicial board with Chief Justice Earl Warren presiding Monday.

Finch, recently elected chairman of the Los Angeles County Republican Central Committee, is also president of Palos Verdes Federal Savings and Loan Assn.

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HURRY UP, WONCHA? . . . Johnny Osborn, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Osborn, 1122 Patronella, tries to speed up the filling of the Torrance Municipal Plunge which will open for the season this Saturday. Officials warned that Saturday swimming may be best for polar bears, since the water has not had time enough to heat. The pool will open during Easter vacation week and week ends thereafter.

POOL OPENS SATURDAY BUT IT MAY BE CHILLY

The Victor E. Benstead Plunge opens its doors for its first full season of business this Saturday at 9 a.m.

The pool will remain open every day of the Easter vacation period and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays during the spring until school closing on June 14.

Recreation officials warned that the first annual meeting of the Torrance Polar Bear Club will probably be held on Saturday and Sunday. Officials said that due to last-minute difficulties they may not be able to get the pool water warm until Monday, April 15. Early swimmers are cautioned to be prepared for chilly water.

Official schedule of pool hours until June 14 is as follows:

Monday through Friday during Easter vacation, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays, 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Holidays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The pool schedule will include no evening recreation swimming hours until next summer.

Local Mail to Be Cut--Unless

Saturday postal service and deliveries, except for special delivery letters, will be discontinued Saturday, unless Congress appropriates more money for the Post Office, Postmaster Clara E. Conner said yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Conner said she had been instructed to curtail service

unless notified otherwise before Saturday. Congress is currently pondering Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield's request for an additional \$47,000,000 for the balance of the fiscal year. If the money is appropriated before Saturday, service presumably will continue as usual.

Other services to be cut down if the money is not forthcoming include:

After April 29, no third class mail will be accepted for mailing except medicines, serums, drugs and medical supplies.

After next Monday, window service at the main post office and all stations will be restricted to 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Money order sales will be made between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After April 29, money order sales will be suspended altogether.

Hull Reported Doing Better

School Superintendent J. H. Hull, who suffered a heart attack last Friday night at a superintendents' meeting in Paramount, was reported improving yesterday at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The educator was reported in critical condition immediately after the attack, but no paralysis resulted. In his absence, Albert N. Posner is acting superintendent.

Lady Reports Stolen Gun

Someone stole a 32 caliber revolver from her trailer home, Alpha Harlow, 260111 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, told sheriff's deputies Sunday.

Keene to Leave South Bay D.A. Post on May 1

William B. Keene, deputy district attorney for the South Bay area since the office was opened three years ago, will leave his post to enter private law practice in May, he announced Monday.

The 32-year-old Manhattan Beach resident will join the Los Angeles law firm of Dryden, Harrington, Horgan & Schwartz. A graduate of the first UCLA law school class in 1952, he joined the district attorney's staff and worked in that job until he opened the South Bay office in January, 1954.

Under Keene's direction, an investigation of the collection of bail warrants in Torrance has been under way and facts in the case were presented to the Grand Jury criminal complaints committee.

Keene said he hoped to complete his investigation of the matter this week, broadening his study of the warrants collected by Jack Gee, formerly employed by the city of Torrance.

He is a member of the Redondo Beach Elks Lodge and is serving as president of the South Bay District Bar Assn. No successor yet has been named, he reported.