

# Torrance Tribune

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## Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals .....	8
Classifieds .....	4
Crossword/Sudoku .....	4
Film Review .....	2
Legals .....	9
Pets .....	6
Real Estate .....	10-12
Sports .....	5
TerriAnn in Torrance .....	7

## U.S. Ship Patrols the Ocean



The guided-missile destroyer USS Stockdale (DDG 106) transits through the Pacific. Providing a ready force, supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific, William P. Lawrence is operating as part of the John C. Stennis Strike Group and Great Green Fleet on a regularly scheduled 7th Fleet deployment. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Emiline L. M. Senn.

## Council Appoints Two Workforce Investment Board Representatives

By Cristian Vasquez

A recommendation by Torrance City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson to appoint Kirk Rossberg and Glen Grindstaff to represent the City of Torrance with the South Bay Workforce Investment Network Board was approved by the mayor and city council during the July 26 council meeting.

Rossberg [owner of Torrance Bakery] and Grindstaff [from L-3 Communications] will represent the city via the two business sector seats on the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. At the moment the Board is made up of 50 members, who represent the cities of Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Lomita and Torrance.

“For the past year, efforts have been underway to realign the City of Torrance employment and training services with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), and to allow for continuity with the other cities in the South Bay,” states the staff report signed by Economic Development Director Fran Fulton. “The Torrance City Council voted unanimously on Sept. 9, 2014 to approve a transfer to SBWIB, and staff coordinated the request to the State of California Employment Development Department to approve the transfer.”

The EDD approves such transfers based on the policies and procedures that oversee and govern the statewide operation of Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). Through the policies established by the Workforce Investment Act, the EDD has the authority to address all local workforce investment boards, as well as the America’s Job Center of California, and any training providers seeking to offer “services to individuals whose training is funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA),” states the WIA rules and procedures.

The SBWIB is dedicated to providing policy guidance that will lead to the creation of an environment conducive for individuals to fulfill their maximum career potential. In addition, the SBWIB aims to overcome all and any workforce development challenges that may arise in the cities it represents, and their respective labor pool.

“Central to this objective is collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders including business, labor, education, social services, philanthropic organizations and community-based agencies,” states the SBWIB website.

These efforts include working with the SBWIB, Inc., a 501 (c) 3, that was established in 2000 as a non-profit corporation that functions behalf of the South Bay Workforce Investment

Board. SBWIB, Inc. administers training and employment opportunities through the four One-Stop Business & Career Services centers, one of which is located in Torrance, at 1220 Engracia Ave. [Carson, Gardena and Inglewood host the other three office locations].

Serving the cities of Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Lomita, Torrance One-Stop offers career services such as: assessments, career counseling, computer workshops, training, career workshops, job club, Internet job search, career resource library, job placement assistance, labor market information as well as phones, faxes, computers and copiers.

Also available are business services such as: help with developing recruitment strategies, **See City Council, page 3**

## Council Approves Contract for Transit CNG Modifications

By Cristian Vasquez

A unanimous vote of approval by the Torrance Mayor and City Council awarded a contract to EFS West of Valencia for Design Build Services Transit Compressed Natural Gas Garage Modifications in the amount of \$865,333, from July 19-July 18, 2017.

The approval, which took place during the July 19 council meeting, includes as 5 percent contingency in the amount of \$43,267, as well as a 10 percent project management fee [\$86,533].

“The Torrance Transit Department maintains and operates a fleet of 63 active buses,” states the staff report signed by City Manager LeRoy J. Jackson. “These

operations serve both the City and throughout various surrounding communities.”

At the moment the City of Torrance Transit Department is in the process of replacing all of its diesel-powered buses with alternate-fuel vehicles. The effort is part of an on-going Fleet Modernization program that selected to use Compressed Natural Gas [CNG], which also necessitates the retrofitting of the maintenance facility in order to allow for the onsite maintenance of the new CNG buses. With 29 CNG buses in its fleet, the Transit Department is preparing to add 24 more CNG-powered buses for a total fleet of 53.

**See Transit Modifications, page 3**

## Weekend Forecast

**Friday**  
Partly  
Cloudy  
71°/64°



**Saturday**  
Sunny  
71°/64°



**Sunday**  
Sunny  
72°/64°



## Finance

### Summer Travel: 3 common Credit Card Myths Busted

(BPT) - As temperatures rise, so do the number of Americans planning to get away. In fact, three-fourths of consumers plan to pack their bags this summer and head out on vacation, according to recent surveys.

If you are like most, you plan to fund at least a portion of your summer travel on a

credit card. According to Experian, credit cards are used more often than cash or debit cards across all types of vacation purchases.



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“When used responsibly, a credit card can be a great way to help keep your wallet secure, reduce fees and make the most out of rewards while traveling,” says Mikel Van Cleve, director of personal financial planning with USAA Bank. “However, there are some common myths about credit cards and travel that may keep some consumers from maximizing their card’s benefits.”

Van Cleve sets the record straight about three common travel-related credit card myths:

Myth No. 1: Don’t notify your credit card company

When it comes to whether you should tell your credit card company you’re embarking on a trip, some banks say yes, others say no. Van Cleve recommends always taking the extra precaution to let your bank know where you will be traveling if it’s for more than just a quick trip, especially if you’re traveling somewhere new or overseas.

Adding travel notifications can help minimize the chances of your account being blocked or flagged for unusual activity. It will also allow your bank to better monitor your account and notify you if there is any suspicious activity while you are away.

Van Cleve explains that several banks, such as USAA Bank, allow you to skip the phone call and alert them of your travel plans through their mobile app or online account.

Myth No. 2: Foreign transaction fees are unavoidable

Most credit cards charge a fee for foreign

transactions when traveling abroad, but Van Cleve says that you do not have to settle for this added expense. Banks, like USAA, and some credit card companies have eliminated foreign transaction fees for some of their cardholders.

Van Cleve recommends checking with your card provider to see if your credit cards of-

fer no foreign transaction fees. While it may seem like a small cost to pay, he notes that these fees - which range from 1-3 percent of your purchase - can quickly add-up during a week-long trip away.

Myth No. 3: Last minute travel changes will always cost you

Nervous that your trip may get canceled last minute? In addition to zero-liability protection in the event your card is lost or stolen, Van Cleve explains that booking travel with a credit card is a smart way to protect yourself from other unpredictable events.

Some credit cards offer trip insurance and will refund you for the cancellation. For example, USAA’s VISA Signature card offers cardholders trip cancellation and interruption insurance that will reimburse you up to \$1,500 for purchases made on the card.

Before booking your trip, Van Cleve recommends familiarizing yourself with your credit card’s full range of perks. You might even be eligible for hotel upgrades, delayed baggage insurance, price protection, priority boarding, rental car discounts and more.

Disclosures:

Restrictions apply. See the USAA Credit Card Guide to Benefits.

Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies.

Credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. •

## City Council

from front page

marketing/publicizing of position(s), identifying required skills/skills testing, generating qualified applicants, screening resumes and applications, prescreening applicants (interviewing), reference/background checks, referral of finalist and profiling positions.

“On March 16, 2015, the California Workforce Investment Board sent a letter to the City of Torrance and the City of Lomita, formally approving the application for the local workforce investment area modification,” indicates the staff report. “On April 7, 2015, the Torrance City Council, based on recommendations by the City Manager, adopted a resolution to become a member of the SBWIB, and also approved Amendment No. 7 to the Joint Powers Agreement of the SBWIB.”

The Joint Powers Agreement outlines the responsibilities that each member city is held accountable for when part of the South Bay Workforce Investment Area. As of July 1, 2015, the SBWIB has been managing the federal monies that have been distributed by the state in order to provide baseline-services to the City of Torrance.

“With the City of Torrance being part of the South Bay WIB, it allows for continuity with other cities in the South Bay,” concludes the staff report.

For a schedule on resources and workshops available at the One-Stop Center, persons interested can visit the website at: <http://www.southbay1stop.org/#!calendars/c1pv2> or they can call 310-680-3830. •



In order to serve on a City of Torrance Commission, a 2 hour Commission Certification Class must be completed.

**The next Commission Certification Class is Offered on:**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2016**  
**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**Nakano Theatre**

Register online at:  
<http://www.torranceca.gov/CommissionerCert.htm>  
 Or call the City Manager’s Office at 310-618-5880

## Transit Modifications

from front page

“In order for the buses to be properly maintained, the current Transit facility will require several safety retrofits to bring it up to the National Fire Protection association (NFPA) code 52 and code 30 Repair Garage Standards,” states the staff report. “The proposed project will meet current and projected CNG vehicle maintenance needs.”

The city developed and advertised a Request For Proposal [RFP] on Feb. 3 and hosted a job walk of the site on Feb. 9. By March 7, which included nine maintenance bays within the transit maintenance facility. Included in the scope of the work are fall restraints for all of the bays and two, one-ton overhead cranes. The city received three RFPs from different contractor and design groups, including: Clean Energy from Newport Beach with a \$920,000 price tag; Diversified Project Services International [DPSI] from Long Beach at a cost of \$749,000 and EFS West of Valencia [\$566,833].

The selection process for the proper RFP was based on 100-point scale that measured: the understanding of the project and scope of work and completeness [20 percent]; qualifications of proposed project team [20 percent]; relevant projects of proposed project team members [15 percent]; the firm’s qualification and experience with similar projects [15 percent]; the project schedule [10 percent]; and the cost and cost effectiveness [20 percent].

“A three person RFP evaluation panel comprised of vehicle maintenance and facility construction managers from Fleet, Torrance Transit and General Services,” states the staff report. “The evaluation team reviewed each proposal based on a 90 minute presentation from each company, written proposals and

written responses to additional clarifying questions from the initial presentations.”

EFS West was identified as the best proposal because they provided what the panel considered the most thorough methodology to remove gases at ceiling level; EFS also proposed the installation of ductwork into each ceiling pocket in every maintenance bay in order to remove gasses [the panel noted that no other vendor made such a proposal despite the existence of at least 15 pockets in each bay]. The EFS West proposal also assured completion within 130 days, in comparison to 160 and 165 days from the other two proposals. Lastly, the EFS West team has extensive experience in industrial construction, in addition to CNG maintenance facility modifications.

“EFS West has a high level of experience in similar projects in the local area, completing maintenance facility modifications in Montebello, Rancho Dominguez, City of Los Angeles (2), Long Beach, Los Angeles County MTA, San Bernardino, Newport Beach and others,” states the staff report. “The EFS option is determined to have the lowest energy cost. Exhaust fans would operate only when gas is detected.”

The staff report also stated the DPSI proposed a system that provides continuous ventilation instead of exhaust fans, which is expected to raise energy costs by \$15,000-\$30,000 a year. In addition, the panel review believed that the expanded ventilation system proposed by EFS gives the Transit Department a better value. In the 100-point evaluation scale used by the RFP panel, Clean Energy scored 77.6 percent; DPSI earned a 75 percent while EFS West garnished 91 percent. •

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## Metro reminds you to pay your fare.



# Metro Briefs

SOUTH BAY

### Metro Reminds You to Pay Your Fare

Each year, Metro loses hundreds of thousands of dollars to riders who don’t pay their fares. Help us keep our fares low and maintain a balanced budget by remembering to pay each time you ride a Metro bus or train. Failure to pay could result in a fine of up to \$1000. For a list of fares and to apply for a reduced fare, visit [metro.net/fares](http://metro.net/fares).

### Mobile Customer Center

Metro recently launched a mobile customer center that will provide services to seniors in underserved areas throughout LA County. Services will include intake of reduced fare applications and selling fare for TAP cards. To learn more about this program, visit [metro.net/mobilecustomercenter](http://metro.net/mobilecustomercenter).

### Metro Bike Share Now Open

Metro launched its bike share program July 7, with up to 1000 bikes at up to 65 stations throughout Downtown Los Angeles. Bikes are available 24/7/365 and are a fast, fun and affordable way to get around. Try Metro Bike Share in the months of August and September and get half off each 30-minute ride! To learn more, visit [metro.net/bikeshare](http://metro.net/bikeshare).

### Sign up for TAP Card Balance Protection

Give yourself peace of mind by registering your TAP card to protect its balance. In the unfortunate event that your card is lost or stolen, you can report it and your balance will be restored. To register, visit the new [taptogo.net](http://taptogo.net) or call 866.TAPTOGO.



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