



RANCHO PALOS VERDES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • 30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275 • WEBSITE: WWW.RPVCAGOV • 310.544.5200

SURVEY SAYS!

COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY



This winter, the City will be conducting a Community Needs Survey to gauge resident opinions about their satisfaction with City operations and to identify the most critical areas for improvement, prioritization, or further investment. The results will provide data to help ensure that resources are directed to the programs and services that matter most to residents, while also providing the City with greater confidence when applying the data to make policy decisions.

The survey will be designed to gather responses from over 400 residents and will be administered online, by text, and phone in English, Korean, and Chinese. The survey is expected to launch this winter.

The survey is voluntary, but the City encourages everyone who is contacted to take part and share their honest opinions. By participating, residents will help shape the future priorities and investments of the community.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT FACTS

Did You Know? Every time the City fills a pothole, maintains a park, or funds a community program, the Finance Department helps make it possible!

The Finance team manages the City's money, from balancing the books and preparing the annual budget to processing payroll and paying City bills. They make sure public funds are used responsibly, transparently, and in ways that support the services residents rely on every day.



But Finance is about more than numbers. It's about planning for the future and keeping our City financially strong. The team safeguards the legal and responsible use of City tax funds, oversees City investments, and works to maximize income on idle funds so every dollar counts.

The team also prepares the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), the City Budget, and Monthly Financial Reports so residents can see exactly how funds are being managed and invested back into the community.

YOUR CITY's FINANCES, MADE EASY

Curious about how your City dollars are put to work? Visit rpvcagov/Finance for transparency you can see and click!

There, you can explore:

- City Budget: See the current 2025-26 budget and past years too.
- Cash Balances: Regularly updated to show the City's strong financial position.
- Checks Issued: A transparent record of City payments made each fiscal year.
- Monthly Financial Reports: Compare budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures.
- Fees, Taxes, and Business Licenses: Learn how City programs and services are funded.

The department also supports the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC), a group of resident volunteers who review City finances and policies, provide feedback, and help ensure transparency and accountability.

All these efforts have been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with awards for excellence in financial reporting and budgeting, showing the Finance team's commitment to integrity and high standards.

So the next time you drive on a newly paved street, enjoy a community event, or see a City project in progress, remember that the Finance Department helped make it happen, one careful calculation at a time.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE: COMMITTED TO YOUR SAFETY

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) advises and assists the City Council and staff to ensure that RPV develops and maintains a high state of readiness to respond to a wide variety of emergencies. The EPC has been an invaluable asset to the City:

- Supporting community readiness through its monthly message and interactions with the community at local events.
- Advising the City on ways to make information and resources more accessible and inclusive.
- Providing the ideas and guidance that have created emergency readiness projects, such as the Peninsula Equine First Aid Clinic, RPV Wildfire Home Hardening Expo, and the exploration into the development of an emergency radio station for the Peninsula.
- Reviewing and providing feedback, fresh eyes, and subject matter expertise to the City's emergency operational plans and exercises.

Learn more about the EPC at rpvcagov/epc or by attending one of their monthly meetings at 6 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the RPV City Hall Community Room (no meeting held December).



SPOTLIGHT ON AMY SEERATY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SENIOR PLANNER

This edition spotlights long-time Senior Planner Amy Seeraty who has worked for the City's Community Development Department (CDD) since 2008.

Congrats on your successful tenure with the City. Many residents may not know what CDD is and what a Senior Planner does. How would you describe the department and your role?

The City's website says that "The purpose of the Community Development Department is to ensure the orderly physical development of the community by upholding the goals and policies of the city's General Plan through the issuance of land use entitlements and permits for improvements and development of private property." However, I believe CDD's actual role goes much deeper than that, as we can only accomplish this by forging long-term relationships not only with the residents, architects, and consultants, etc., but also with other City departments, as well as other state and federal agencies. In my role I work on diverse types of projects, including permits for major, long-term projects such as Green Hills Memorial Park and Trump National Golf Club, General Plan updates, Municipal Code amendments,



including the City's code for wireless facilities on private property, and permits for new homes.

Describe your background and what led you to the planning field.

I grew up in Ventura, CA and attended UCSB as an undergraduate. I was originally planning to be an English or history major but then took a random science class and really enjoyed it. I looked into all the majors and environmental studies seemed to have an interesting combination of liberal arts and science, so I changed majors after my first year

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RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275

LAND MOVEMENT UPDATE



The City continues to explore potential revenue sources to help offset the rising costs of responding to the landslide emergency and preserving the long-term integrity of Palos Verdes Drive South. As part of this effort, the City Council recently considered a proposal suggested by residents to look into converting a portion of Palos Verdes Drive South into a toll road that would help pay for maintenance of the roadway in the landslide area. Establishing a toll facility on a public roadway involves multiple layers of legal, procedural, and regulatory approvals. The process is primarily governed by the California Streets and Highways Code and requires coordination among state, regional, and federal agencies.

On October 21, 2025, the Council considered conducting a study that would determine whether a toll road would be economically feasible, estimating the cost of operating the toll system and forecasting a net revenue estimate under different toll schemes. Rather than immediately pursue a \$25,000-\$50,000 feasibility study, the Council voted unanimously to refer the concept to the Fiscal Sustainability Subcommittee for further evaluation as part of the broader review of long-term funding options for landslide area maintenance. Council members expressed appreciation for staff's research but emphasized the importance of reviewing all potential funding sources holistically before investing in a single approach. The discussion also highlighted potential unintended consequences, such as traffic diversion to other routes and the complexity of obtaining multiple state and federal approvals.

For the latest landslide updates, visit rpvca.gov/landmovement. Get updates in your e-mail inbox by subscribing to the Land Movement E-Newsletter at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/U6po6hW>

LIBRARY EVENTS: LET'S GET ON THE SAME PAGE

Edith Wharton Book Club - House of Mirth

Friday, 1/30/26 @ 4pm
Peninsula Center Library, Purcell Room



The Four Gentlemen: Flowers, Seasons, and the Spirit of Chinese Painting

To celebrate Lunar New Year, we have invited Chinese Calligrapher Sherry Shih to talk about Chinese art.

Saturday, 1/31/26 @ 10:30am
Peninsula Center Library, Community Room

Legomania

Use your imagination to build anything you like with our tubs of LEGOs, Duplos, and Lincoln Logs.

Recommended for ages 4 and up. Come any time between 10am-12pm. No registration required. Program subject to change without notice.

Saturday, 2/21/26 @ 10am - 12pm / Miraleste Library

Living History Museum of African American Heroes

Who will YOU meet... at the Living History Museum of African American Heroes?

Sunday, 2/22/26 @ 2pm - 3pm
Peninsula Center Library



LET'S GET DOWN TO BRASS TAXES

For the fifth consecutive year, AARP's Tax-Aide program will provide complimentary federal and state tax preparation services to low-and moderate-income Peninsula residents every Friday from February 6 through April 10 at Fred Hesse Community Park. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and certified to assist in filing most tax returns in-person during appointments. In 2025, Tax-Aide volunteers successfully filed 271 returns completely free of charge.

Appointments will be available beginning in mid-January 2026. In addition to in-person services, Tax-Aide South Bay provides resources to assist tax-payers in preparing and filing their own taxes online.

For more information visit www.taxaide-southbay.org or contact AARP Foundation Tax-Aide at 888.687.2277. Appointment assistance will be available beginning in January by contacting the Recreation and Parks Department at 310.544.5260.



HOME (AND SAFE) FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is a time for celebration, travel and spending time with loved ones! It can also be a prime opportunity for crime and home fires. Report any suspicious behavior or activity to the Lomita Sheriff's Station at 310.539.1661 or call 9-1-1 for a crime in progress or any emergency.



HOME SAFETY: CRIME PREVENTION

- Keep doors and windows locked, even when you're home. Use timers or smart lights to make your home appear occupied if you're away.
- Don't advertise your gifts! Avoid placing empty boxes from expensive items on the curb.
- Be cautious with deliveries, track packages closely, retrieve them promptly, or consider having them delivered to a secure parcel locker or a trusted neighbor.
- Keep valuables out of sight from windows and store important documents in a safe place.
- Let a trusted neighbor know if you're traveling and ask them to keep an eye on your property and report any suspicious activity to Lomita Sheriff's Station immediately. You can also request a "Vacation Check" with the Lomita Sheriff's Station and law enforcement personnel will routinely check your home during the days you are out of town. Contact the Lomita Sheriff's Station at 310.539.1661 to request one.

HOME SAFETY: FIRE PREVENTION

December, January, and February are the months when home fires most often occur. Make sure you have a safe and enjoyable holiday by following these tips:

- Keep candles, fireplaces, and heaters away from anything, including Christmas trees, that can burn.
- Never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle or a running fireplace or stove.
- If you purchase a Christmas tree:
 - Select a fresh tree with needles that do not easily fall off when touched or break when gently bent. Add water to the tree stand and make sure to water the tree daily.
 - If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
 - Always unplug Christmas tree lights, and turn off candles before leaving home or going to sleep.
 - Safely dispose of trees - dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage or placed against the house.



MJHMP-CARE TO HAZARD A GUESS WHAT THAT STANDS FOR?



That's not a typo-MJHMP stands for Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, a plan that all four Palos Verdes Peninsula cities are developing. This plan will guide the cities in identifying and implementing hazard mitigation strategies and better understanding risk, while also making us eligible for state and federal grant funding for emergency planning and mitigation. Plan development is underway and a public survey has been published to gather feedback. To take the survey and find more information about the plan visit PVPready.gov.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: ANNUAL BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL

What business is it of yours? Good question, but if it is your business and it's in RPV, you need a business license.

Business License Renewal Process

Business license renewal applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31. In early-December, City staff will send the 2026 business license renewal applications to all currently licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to the RPV Business License office by January 31, 2026. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax payment, a 2026 Business Tax Certificate will be viewable/printable on the e-Trakit online portal. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2026, at 5% for each month delinquent up to 50% of the total license tax. No extensions or waivers of the penalty amount will be granted.



How Do I COMPLETE A BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL?

The renewal application is easy, takes only minutes to finish, and can be completed in one of three ways:

1. **Online:** File on-line by going to the City's website at <https://etrakit.rpvca.gov/eTRAKIT/>.
2. **By mail:** Return the completed application, printable from rpvca.gov, and your check made payable to "City of Rancho Palos Verdes" to the following address:

City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Attention: Business License
30940 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

3. **In person:** You can also pay your renewal in person at City Hall, at the Community Development Department.

Questions? Contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information, please refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code or visit rpvca.gov/biz.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

and still graduated in four years with a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies, or a B.S. in E.S!

What skills and personal qualities does a Senior Planner need to be successful?

I would say that the main skills are attention to detail, while still being able to see the big picture. These skills are invaluable not only for reviewing development projects and updating codes, but also to really understand what is at the heart of an issue. Planners need to be able to consistently manage a project from start to finish.

What project stands out for you?
In 2015 I started working on what I thought was a simple project with the City's water utility. However, it went on for several years and required me to work extensively and creatively with the neighboring property owners, as well as with the water utility staff. There were several rough patches, but I believe that by the conclusion of the process, all parties were satisfied with the outcome.

How does CDD interact with other City departments?

While the directors of all the City's departments have regular meetings to stay up-to-date with each other, there are numerous other types of correspondence occurring on a daily basis between CDD Staff and other departments. These can range from a quick text message through Teams to more formalized review processes and meetings.

What are some of the biggest challenges and goals CDD is dealing with?

I think the landslide-related work is the biggest challenge we face right now. Our director has worked tirelessly with federal and state agencies, and our Building and Safety Division staff has been really amazing with all the permits and inspections. We are also working with a consultant on updating the Safety Element and will soon be updating the Conservation and Open Space

Element, as well as the City's code for wireless facilities on private property. We are often working on Municipal Code updates to keep up with the steady stream of housing-related laws that are churned out of Sacramento.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

The only thing I can recall is a marine biologist, which is obviously very different than what I'm doing now. However, it's interesting that in my current career I have the privilege of working with developers as well as state and federal wildlife agencies, and the Coastal Commission, to ensure the protection of native habitats and the coastline.

What would you like the residents of RPV to know about you?

That I care about them and that even after over 17 years in two different divisions in Community Development, I still strive to provide what I hope to be excellent customer service. I would also like them to know that I value the relationships that I have made both here at the City and in the community, but my family is also very important to me, and I try every day to balance both.

Favorite movie/book/favorite TV show/musician? Hobbies?

My favorite movies are probably all the original Muppet movies from the 70s, 80s, and 90s. And even though I can't make it through a horror TV show or movie without covering my eyes, for some reason I find true crime TV shows relaxing. However, when I've had too much *Forensic Files* to be able to sleep at night, I also enjoy a palate cleanser such as "Bob's Burgers." As far as hobbies I enjoy tap dancing, karaoke, and dragging my kids and husband to try new foods and visit new interesting events and places. They do enjoy it, sometimes (haha). As a family we enjoy playing board games, going to the beach in the summer, visiting family in Colorado, attending community events, baking, and just hanging out with friends.

PUBLIC SAFETY

E-BIKE SAFETY

E-Bikes are a fun and convenient way for teens to get around, but safety should always come first! Whether your teen rides to school, a friend's house, or the beach, here are a few key reminders to keep everyone safe:



For Teens

- Wear a helmet! It's the law and your best protection.
- Obey all traffic rules just like any other vehicle on the road.
- Ride using hand signals, stay in the bike lanes, and avoid weaving between cars.
- Stay alert to your surroundings, and don't use headphones or your phone while riding.

Theft Prevention and Recovery

- Keep your bicycle locked to a fixed object when not in use.
- Consider attaching a tracking device (ex: AirTag) to the bicycle in a concealed location to assist law enforcement with recovery in incidences of theft.
- Save the serial number information for your bicycle. This is needed for law enforcement to enter your bicycle into a stolen property database should you become the victim of theft.

For Parents

- Know your teen's e-bike class and ensure it's appropriate for their age and skill level.
- Check the bike regularly including brakes, tires and lights, which should always be in good working condition.
- Set boundaries and discuss safe routes and curfews for riding. Ride the route with your child for the first time to get familiarized together.

VOLUNTEER: YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID



Giving back, paying forward, lending a hand, being a mensch. Whatever you call it, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department has a wide range of upcoming events that could use your help!

Our volunteer events offer more than just a way to earn service hours and support the community; they provide participants with the opportunity to learn and develop skills applicable to everyday life as well as gain work experience within the recreation and parks field.

Visit www.rpvca.gov/notifyme to sign up for email notifications about our upcoming volunteer opportunities. Interested volunteers may sign up by emailing us at volunteer@rpvca.gov.

To view upcoming volunteer events and for more information, visit our website at www.rpvca.gov/volunteer.

DON'T PASS THE BUCK, PASS THE BILL



Schoolhouse Rock made passing a bill look easy, but there's a lot to know about the bills that affect our lives. As the 2025 legislative session concluded, Governor Newsom took action on several key bills impacting our City and region. Among the most disappointing was the Governor's decision to veto AB 986 (Muratsuchi) that would have amended the California Emergency Services Act to name landslides as a natural disaster that may be eligible for disaster assistance. Because landslides are ineligible under existing law, the City and impacted residents have faced difficulty securing disaster assistance for the Portuguese Bend Landslide that accelerated last summer and caused significant damage to homes, public infrastructure, and utilities. RPV – a small city with a \$39 million annual budget - has shouldered most of the burden by spending over \$48 million since October 2022 to respond to the destructive landslide. The City will continue to actively pursue all available avenues for disaster recovery assistance.

In contrast, the Governor signed SB 79 (Wiener), which authorizes transit agencies to pursue high-density residential development on land they own or control, with minimal local government oversight or input. Although the City recognizes the need for more housing across California, SB 79 undermines community-based planning processes by allowing transit agencies to act as planning authorities. The bill permits high-density development, regardless of existing zoning, local general plans or housing elements. The City opposed this legislation and urged the Legislature to consider amendments that would preserve local input and planning consistency.

While some of the Governor's recent decisions represent missed opportunities for statewide coordination on critical issues like landslide mitigation, this year's legislative session brought some positive outcomes that include wildfire mitigation measures. AB 888 (Calderon), signed by the Governor,

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SOMEONE'S GOT TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

December 2025: No service on Thursday, December 25.



January 2026: No service on Thursday, January 1.

There will be a one-day service delay for Thursday and Friday customers. There will be regular collection for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday customers.

Questions? Call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com.

Please place all containers at the curb no later than 7 am on your collection day. Regulations for hours for trash containers placement and storage: Containers cannot be placed at the curb until after 4 pm the day before collection day. Empty carts must be removed no later than 10 pm on collection day. Empty containers cannot be left on the curb overnight. Containers must be stored on the side or back of the property, at a location that is substantially screened from view. Proper care and placement of your container helps keep your neighborhood attractive and aesthetically pleasing.

Need a Lift?

Dial-A-Ride services are available on the Peninsula for seniors and people with disabilities (residents only)



Palosverdes.com/pvtransit/
or call (310) 544-7108

CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall Main Line

City Manager's Office
City Clerk's Office
Finance
Community Development
Human Resources
Public Works
Recreation and Parks
Building & Safety Division
Code Enforcement



310.544.5200

310.544.5207
310.544.5217
310.544.5304
310.544.5228
310.544.5327
310.544.5252
310.544.5260
310.544.5280
310.544.5281

CITY COUNCIL

David Bradley, Mayor
Email: david.bradley@rpvca.gov

Paul Seo, Mayor Pro Tem
Email: paul.seo@rpvca.gov

Barbara Ferraro, Councilmember
Email: barbara.ferraro@rpvca.gov

George Lewis, Councilmember
Email: george.lewis@rpvca.gov Steve Perestam, Councilmember
Email: stephen.perestam@rpvca.gov

Email cc@rpvca.gov to contact the entire City Council.

Note: The City Council will be selecting a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem on December 2. Go to <https://rpvca.gov/citycouncil> for current information.

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



Editor: Matt Waters

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Comments? Contact Matt Waters at mattw@rpvca.gov or 310.544.5218

NO SWEEPING THIS UNDER THE RUG!

HOLIDAY STREET SWEEPING Coming Soon



Streets in RPV are swept twice a month. If your regular street sweeping day falls on December 25 or January 1, street sweeping will be swept on Wednesday, December 24 and December 31. On sweeping days, please try to remove parked cars from the street to allow for optimal sweeping of your street. Help us to make your street clean.

We're Hiring!

Park Ranger

Public Safety Liaison (PT)

Open Space and Trails Crew Lead

To Apply:

QR code

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

LEGISLATION CORNER

(Continued from page 3)

establishes a grant program within the California Department of Insurance to reduce local and state wildfire losses. The program funds wildfire prevention efforts for homes to replace roofs, comply with Zone Zero defensible space regulations, and conduct other mitigation efforts. The City supports incentives for homeowners who undertake measures to harden their homes; therefore, the City supported this bill.

Lastly, the City also supported AB 1 (Connolly), which was also signed by the Governor, and requires the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to consider whether to update the Safer from Wildfire regulations, a program focused on improving community wildfire resilience through layers of protection, to include home hardening in the regulations on or before January 1, 2030. The bill addresses the insurance crisis by improving the availability of insurance coverage for Rancho Palos Verdes residents and all Californians. These efforts reflect the City's continued commitment to enhancing wildfire safety and ensuring reliable insurance options for the community.



GREEN CORNER



HO HO HO HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

Tis the season for joy, merriment and scads of wrapping material so EDCO is offering free excess trash collection for three weeks during the December holiday season (December 26-January 16). During that time, in addition to your weekly trash placed in the grey cart, you may temporarily place excess trash in your old standard-size cans and/or in plastic bags. No loose material will be accepted. Don't forget to recycle your shipping and gift boxes by placing them in your blue cart(s). As for large empty gift and cardboard boxes, flatten them and place them in or next to your blue recycling cart(s) for collection. If you are a good recycler and need more blue carts, call EDCO. They are free!

TREE-CYCLING

It's tree-time for the holidays so keep the mistletoe hanging, but if your Christmas tree is looking brown, do the green thing and recycle it properly. Curbside tree collection will take place on your collection day from December 26, 2025, through January 16, 2026.

- Please remove all decorations including ornaments, tinsel, lights, and tree stand.
- Flocked trees are acceptable and will be recycled.
- Trees longer than 6 feet must be cut in half. If you live in a multi-family complex, please contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location.

