



RANCHO PALOS VERDES

COMMUNITY FORUM

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POINT VICENTE LIGHTHOUSE

The Brightest Beacon in Southern California

Rancho Palos Verdes has 7.5 miles of coastline that have been blessed with beautiful features: Inspiration Point, Portuguese Point, Sacred Cove, and, of course, the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse. Depending on the time of day, the season of the year and the weather conditions, the lighthouse can look like a windswept outpost or a peaceful oasis of stately palm trees. Like the other 15 lighthouses that dot the California coastline, Pt. Vicente has an interesting history, including a ghost.

Captain George Vancouver, of Vancouver Island fame, named Point Vicente for his good friend, Friar Vicente of the Mission Buenaventura. For years, shipmasters deplored this dangerous stretch of coastal water and petitioned the Lighthouse Service for a lighthouse. In 1926 their petitions were answered with the construction of the brightest beacon in Southern California, Point Vicente Lighthouse. Originally 500 watts, the present light is 1000 watts and is focused through a five-foot Fresnel lens that can be seen over twenty miles out to sea. The lens, hand ground by Parisian craftsmen in 1886, saw forty years of service in Alaska before its installation at Point Vicente.

The tower itself is 67 feet tall but the main beam of the light marks Point Vicente from a height of 185 feet above the ocean. Built of reinforced plastered concrete, it is similar to one on Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands chain. The Lighthouse was manned until automated equipment and remote control operators took over in 1971.

In 1939, when the Coast Guard took over the Lighthouse Service, a Coast Guard radio station and radio navigation beacon were added. The radio station increased in size and importance for a number of years. But with the advent of transistors, the large vacuum tube radios and the station became obsolete. The last radioman locked the doors on the station in 1980.

Point Vicente served as a beacon for years when Fort MacArthur covered the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula. During World War II, the 1000-watt light was replaced by a tiny 25-watt bulb, and black out curtains hung ready for use in all windows. The defenders of Long Beach didn't want the light to be too good of an aid to navigation for the enemy!

After the war, the endlessly rotating beam became a glaring disturbance to local residents and a hazard to motorists on Palos Verdes Drive. Keepers painted the inside of the lantern house windows with a coat of white paint to end the flash of

the beam on peninsula bedroom walls. Some think that was when the “Lady in the Light” appeared.

In the dim light through the painted windows, the shape of a tall serene woman in a flowing gown would slowly pace the tower’s walkway. Some say she was the ghost of the first lighthouse keeper’s wife who stumbled from the edge of the cliff one night. However, there were earlier ghost sightings which started just shortly after the light was put into operation. At that time, the light was covered with drapes during the day to keep the sun from causing damage shining through the stationary Fresnel lenses. (Originally, the light was not kept on during the day). At night, the drapes were pulled back and the now rotating light would cause the drapes to look like a pacing woman.

Today, Point Vicente Lighthouse still sends out its beacon across the San Pedro Channel. Automated electronic controls monitor the rotating light and activate the foghorn, eliminating the need for the lighthouse keepers.

Far from abandoned, Point Vicente is home to Coast Guard personnel who work at Integrated Support Command, San Pedro. In addition to the operational lighthouse, a remotely controlled direction finder station operates here. The equipment installed determines the bearing to any mariner calling for assistance in local waters (on a marine radio). This information is then used by the Coast Guard on Terminal Island, who direct rescue boats or helicopters to the assistance of the mariner.

Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel conduct the lighthouse tours with help from Naval Sea Cadets and the Coast Guard’s Aids To Navigation team. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a volunteer civilian arm of the Coast Guard. Composed of citizens from all walks of life, the Auxiliary performs search and rescue duty in local waters, teaches safe boating classes, conducts safety checks on recreational boats, flies air patrols and maintains a radio communications network.

Tours of the Point Vicente Lighthouse are conducted every second Saturday of each month except March. In March, the Coast Guard and the Rancho Palos Verdes Interpretive Center hold a joint open house in conjunction with the annual Whale of a Day event (usually on the first Saturday).

For information, call Lighthouse Technician Eric G. Castrobran at 310-541-0334.

THE LANDSLIDE: ZONE 2 FINDINGS

Some Background and Recent Council Action

A section of the ancient landslide area, dormant for many centuries, began moving in the lower hills above the Abalone Cove portion of the Rancho Palos Verdes coastline between 1974 and 1978. The Abalone Cove landslide movement was measured at a rate of more than one foot per year. Given this substantial land movement and subsequent damage to local infrastructure and homes, the City Council established a moratorium on new development in and around the active landslide mass. The moratorium was adopted on September 5, 1978. It prohibits the issuance of building permits, the processing of environmental documents and planning applications, and the processing of subdivision applications for all properties located in the moratorium area with certain exceptions.

Since 1980 and due largely to dewatering efforts by the Abalone Cove Landslide Abatement District (ACLAD), this area has shown no appreciable movement.

At a June 1, 1993 meeting of the City Council, City staff presented a memorandum prepared by the late City Geologist Dr. Perry Ehlig, that divided the landslide moratorium area into eight zones and suggested guidelines for permitting development in some of the zones. After considering the Ehlig memorandum, the City Council directed staff to perform any necessary environmental work that would be required to support a proposal for limited development in the moratorium area.

After years of study and environmental work, the Ehlig proposal was presented to the City Council at a January 25, 1997 Workshop. After hearing presentations by City staff and Dr. Ehlig and comments from the public, the City Council consensus was to place consideration of the matter on hold pending installation of sewers and resolution of financial issues related to bond liens on homes in Abalone Cove.

When the issue with liens was settled in 1997 and the Abalone Cove Sewer construction project commenced in late 1999, the Council began to receive numerous letters from property owners in the moratorium area designated by Dr. Ehlig as Zone 2, asking that they be allowed to develop their property. The response to the letters was that no consideration for allowing exceptions to the moratorium would be considered by Council until the sewer and drainage projects are completed.

In March 2001, the City Council, authorized the expenditure of \$30,000 of general fund reserves for a review by Cotton, Shires and Associates of existing geologic and geotechnical documents to determine whether there was sufficient

data to support the conclusions of Dr. Ehlig to allow development in Zone 2 under certain conditions.

At their meeting on May 20, 2002 the City Council received a report from Bill Cotton of Cotton Shires & Associates. At the close of that public meeting the City Council accepted the conclusions of the Cotton, Shires & Associates, January 14, 2002 Technical Review:

1. There is insufficient subsurface information to properly characterize either the depth to the base of landslide, the strength properties of the landslide materials, or the groundwater levels. Without these data, no accurate slope stability analysis can be undertaken, no reliable factor of safety can be calculated and no dependable landslide mitigation scheme can be designed.
2. One cannot quantitatively determine the factor of safety and, therefore, cannot judge the level of risk of development in the prehistoric landslide area, which includes Zone 2.
3. The factor of safety of the landslide mass that underlies Zone 2 is above 1.00, but probably is less than the industry's standard safety threshold of 1.50.
4. That the accepted geotechnical standard for residential construction throughout the City, and in the area that is within the Landslide Moratorium, is a Factor of Safety of 1.5 for slope stability. This is a common standard among geotechnical professionals and has been adopted by most, if not all, municipalities in Southern California.
5. No recognized geological agency or standard-setting body has adopted as a standard for determining whether or not to allow residential development a standard or test that is based on an inquiry as to whether or not the development of the property would "further destabilize" the area, or such similar standard. Rancho Palos Verdes declines to adopt such a standard as that applicable within its jurisdiction.
6. The conclusion noted in the Cotton, Shires January 2002 Report that the undeveloped ("vacant") lots could be developed "without further destabilizing the large regional landslide" is a conclusion that is not based on the application of the accepted standard that seeks a Factor of Safety of 1.5, but instead is based on the fact that it is feasible to construct new homes without significant redistribution of earth mass or contributing to groundwater rise. Hence, this conclusion is not based on an evaluation of the stability of the underlying geology. This response was the result of a request by the City Council that the report address the issue of whether or not the development would "further destabilize" the area.

7. Geologically, the level of risk of allowing development of undeveloped lots in Zone 2 is presently unknown. The decision to allow new building upon undeveloped lots in that area, given the unknown level of risk, is a policy decision, which must be based on a willingness to accept the unknown risk.
8. The guidelines suggested by Dr. Perry Ehlig in his Memorandum of May 26, 1993, appear to be a subjective assessment, based on his experience and intuition. However, Cotton, Shires uncovered no geotechnical slope stability analyses of Zone 2 in Dr. Ehlig's files.
9. Although a number of mitigation measures have been employed, to date no quantitative geotechnical analysis to determine the effectiveness of these measures has been undertaken.
10. It has been noted by various individuals that the apparent long period of there being no recorded land movement in Zone 2 suggests that the area is adequately stable to allow building on undeveloped properties in that Zone. Yet there is no clear evidence of the age of the landslide. Further, predicting the long-term stability of the landslide in advance of detailed surface and subsurface information is founded on ill-advised technical reasoning.

Finally, the City Council directed staff to continue to deny requests for development permits for new homes in the Zone 2 area of the Portuguese Bend landslide complex, based on the current lack of evidence that the Zone 2 area has a factor of safety of 1.5 or greater, unless an applicant submits a complete Landslide Moratorium Exclusion application that is supported by adequate geologic data demonstrating a factor of safety of 1.5 or greater of the Zone 2 area to the satisfaction of the City Geologist and the City Council, and all other required permits to develop are issued by the City.

On July 9, 2002, twelve Zone 2 property owners filed two lawsuits against the City asking for damages and injunctive and declaratory relief challenging the development restrictions imposed on their properties by the Moratorium. These cases are at the initial stages, and no rulings have occurred or are expected this year.

GRANNY FLATS AND GUESTHOUSES

They're Allowed, Just Meet the Standards

Have you ever thought it would be great to have grandma or grandpa live with you, or have live-in help? Wouldn't it be great to have a guesthouse for them to live in?

Many residents are not aware that the City's Development Code permits second units (also referred to as granny flats or guesthouses) in the City on residential property zoned for single-family residences.

Second units can allow homeowners requiring companionship or non-specialized assistance to remain in the home, and facilitate family ties between generations. In other words, a second unit makes sense for some people, and they are allowed.

Second units may be administratively approved through a site plan review if the proposed second unit complies with all applicable building, housing, zoning and site development standards, codes and regulations of the zoning district. This includes, but is not limited to:

- standards regarding height, setbacks and lot coverage
- the total floor area for a detached second unit shall not exceed 1,200 square feet; while the total floor area of an attached second unit shall not exceed 30% of the floor area of the primary residence
- the second unit must include one bathroom and one kitchen and is limited to a maximum of two bedrooms
- in addition to the standard garage requirements for the main residence, a minimum of one enclosed parking space must be provided in an enclosed garage on the property

For detailed information and additional requirements regarding second units, you can review Section 17.10 of the City's Development Code which can be accessed through the City's website at www.palosverdes.com/rpv. If you have any questions, feel free to contact a planner at (310) 544-5228.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES...

Save money on ENERGY STAR® rated products and reduce your energy costs!

If you are a customer of Southern California Edison or Southern California Gas Company, you are eligible to reserve special discount coupons for selected Energy Star products at Expo Design Center in Redondo Beach. How? Call **Energy Rewards toll free at 888-467-7776** and ask for available rebates. Be prepared to provide your service or customer account numbers from your monthly utility bill.



South Bay Energy Rewards Program is a new program sponsored by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to promote energy conservation and to provide financial incentives for South Bay residents. This is a great opportunity to purchase a new dishwasher, ceiling fan, programmable thermostats, gas space heaters, etc. at a discount.

Rebate coupons are limited, so call early and often. New rebates will be continuously offered throughout the year.

If you have any questions or comments about the South Bay Energy Rewards Program, you may contact the City Manager's Office at 310-544-5205.

2003 WHALE OF A DAY!

Saturday, March 1, from 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

This year's event will be held on the south lawn of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and at the United States Coast Guard property. Hosted by the Los Serenos de Point Vicente docents, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the United States Coast Guard, the event celebrates the Pacific Gray whales' annual migration from the frigid waters of the Arctic to the warm lagoons of Baja California.

Participating again this year will be the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Natural History Museum, George F Canyon Nature Center, Native Plant Society, South Bay Wildlife Rehab, Madrona Marsh Nature Center, Whale Watch, Marine Mammal Care Center, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and the Aquarium of the Pacific. Other highlights include children's crafts, activities and games, a marching band, whale watching, storytelling, exhibits, and craft and food vendors.

Parking will be located at Long Point (formerly Marineland). Admission, parking and shuttle service is free! Join us for a Whale of a Day! For additional information contact Holly Starr at (310) 544-5264.

PUT ON YOUR HIKING SHOES

Tour the Trails at Ocean Trails Golf Course

The Los Serenos de Point Vicente docents continue to conduct guided tours of the Ocean Trails Project. The walks begin at the public parking lot at the end of La Rotonda Drive off of Palos Verdes Drive South, in beautiful Rancho Palos Verdes. These informal guided tours take place on paved, gently sloping trails along the bluff edge and through the habitat corridor. Docents provide information about the history, geology, marine ecology and habitat restoration work of the Ocean Trails project. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and a hat and bring a small bottle of water. Tours last approximately one hour and reservations are not required. Tours are scheduled to start at 3:00 P.M. on the following Sundays: January 26, February 23 and March 23.

Docent hikes are also conducted at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park and Ladera Linda Community Center. These hikes are enjoyable for scout groups, schools, families or anyone interested in learning more about the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Reservations are required for hikes at Abalone Cove and Ladera Linda, and a nominal fee is charged. For more information, please call the hike line at (310) 377-0360, extension 309.

RECYCLE BOTTLES AND CANS

There's No Room at the Landfill

For many years, the landfill was the place to send soft drink cans and bottles. Now, these landfills are almost full and sending trash to fill up the remaining space is expensive. Obviously, using landfills is no longer the answer to getting rid of trash, recycling is the way to go and here are some of the facts:

- Last year, Californians bought more than 16 billion drinks in aluminum, glass, plastic and bi-metal containers. Ten billion of those containers were recycled.
- By weight, plastic makes up eleven percent of the waste produced by households; cans make up another ten percent.
- It takes 80 years for an aluminum can to decompose; plastic soda bottles take 450 years.

When at home use your blue recycling can. When you are at a park or the beach, place your empty beverage containers in the recycling bins, not in the trash containers.

LANDSLIDE MORATORIUM REVISIONS

Council Sets New Limit of 600 Sq. Ft.

On November 5, 2002, the City Council adopted an urgency ordinance revising the City's landslide moratorium regulations. The moratorium on land use permits in the City's landslide area—including the *Portuguese Bend* and *Portuguese Bend Club* communities—has been in effect since 1978. Until recently, the landslide moratorium regulations included provisions allowing the owners of developed properties in the landslide area to request permission (through a process called a landslide moratorium exception, or LME) to add to existing homes and construct detached garages and/or other permanent detached accessory structures with no maximum size limitation. As of early November, however, the City no longer accepts any LME application that requests to add more than 600 SF to the main house or for a detached garage and/or other permanent detached accessory structure in excess of 600 square feet. This change applies to all developed properties within the City's landslide moratorium area, with the exception of 36 developed lots at the extreme westerly end of the *Seaview* community.

If you have questions about the applicability of the City's landslide moratorium regulations to your property, please contact the Planning Division at (310) 544-5228.

RYAN PARK: THE SHIP AND THE LIGHTHOUSE

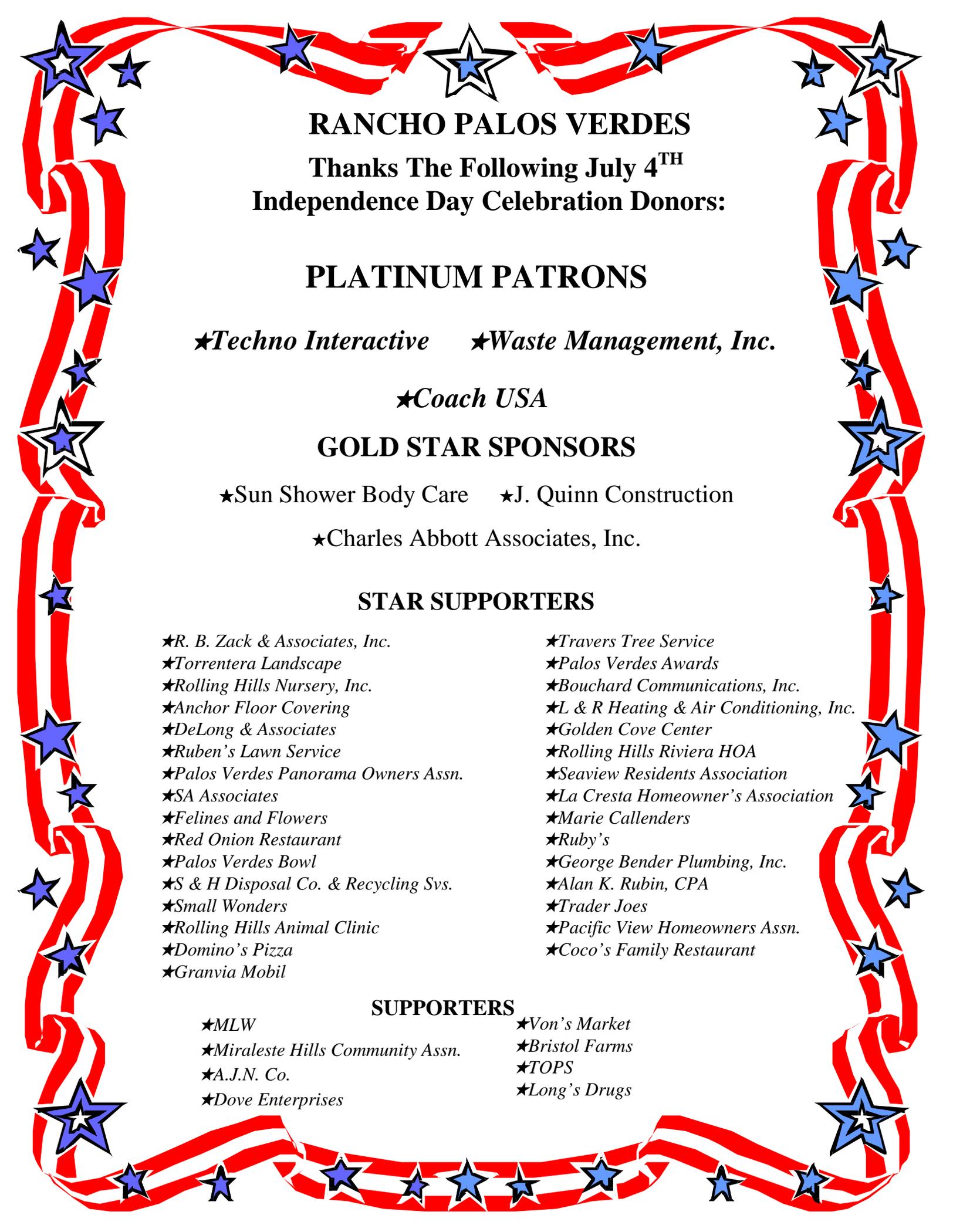
Why They Have To Sail Away!

When driving by Ryan Park on Hawthorne Boulevard you will notice that certain changes are taking place. First of all, the ship and lighthouse that thousands of RPV children have climbed up and slide down on, are to be replaced with equipment that meets the standards set forth by the American with Disabilities Act. The equipment at the park has been there for over thirty years and although it has given many hours of entertainment to youngsters, it has to be removed to meet these new standards. An audit of the playground recommended that the playground equipment be removed and replaced. Staff explored a number of options relevant to the replacement of this equipment and, initially, it was hoped that the very popular "ship" and "lighthouse" could be duplicated, however, neither item is currently manufactured.

Additionally the cost (exclusive of the design and engineering expense) to custom-make an identical ship and lighthouse would be excessive, and it is unlikely that any firm would be willing to fabricate these items because of potential liability concerns. The Council argued long and hard to save the old equipment, but there was no way to upgrade it to meet today's requirements.

In its place will be equipment that is bound to offer just as much fun as the old stuff: two custom designed ship structures, two whale spring rides, a play unit for toddlers, ten swings, and a four wheel play unit. The City has been awarded a \$50,000 matching grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to construct these improvements. As a condition of this grant, the play equipment has to be made of recycled materials and the park will be handicapped accessible with the construction of a new handicap access ramp and resurfacing of the upper parking lot.

All of this work will be completed in time for a dedication ceremony sometime next spring.



RANCHO PALOS VERDES
Thanks The Following July 4TH
Independence Day Celebration Donors:

PLATINUM PATRONS

★*Techno Interactive* ★*Waste Management, Inc.*

★*Coach USA*

GOLD STAR SPONSORS

★*Sun Shower Body Care* ★*J. Quinn Construction*

★*Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.*

STAR SUPPORTERS

★*R. B. Zack & Associates, Inc.*
★*Torrentera Landscape*
★*Rolling Hills Nursery, Inc.*
★*Anchor Floor Covering*
★*DeLong & Associates*
★*Ruben's Lawn Service*
★*Palos Verdes Panorama Owners Assn.*
★*SA Associates*
★*Felines and Flowers*
★*Red Onion Restaurant*
★*Palos Verdes Bowl*
★*S & H Disposal Co. & Recycling Svs.*
★*Small Wonders*
★*Rolling Hills Animal Clinic*
★*Domino's Pizza*
★*Granvia Mobil*

★*Travers Tree Service*
★*Palos Verdes Awards*
★*Bouchard Communications, Inc.*
★*L & R Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.*
★*Golden Cove Center*
★*Rolling Hills Riviera HOA*
★*Seaview Residents Association*
★*La Cresta Homeowner's Association*
★*Marie Callenders*
★*Ruby's*
★*George Bender Plumbing, Inc.*
★*Alan K. Rubin, CPA*
★*Trader Joes*
★*Pacific View Homeowners Assn.*
★*Coco's Family Restaurant*

SUPPORTERS

★*MLW*
★*Miraleste Hills Community Assn.*
★*A.J.N. Co.*
★*Dove Enterprises*
★*Von's Market*
★*Bristol Farms*
★*TOPS*
★*Long's Drugs*

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Leave it With The Green Waste

After the holidays, leave your Christmas tree curbside on your regular green waste recycling day. Remove the base and any ornaments, including any tinsel or garlands before putting it out for collection. There is no need to cut the tree into smaller pieces. Flocked trees will also be picked up and recycled.

For residents who live in a multi-family complex, ask your management company or homeowner association about the location of the designated drop-off—usually in the garage area or by the trash recycling bins.

“RPV CITY TALK” IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN

There's a new show airing on Cox Cable Channels 3 and 12 called “RPV City Talk” and it's all about what is happening in RPV. Each month, one of the five City Council members will host this one-half hour program that will spotlight topics and current events affecting RPV.

The pilot episode, which premiered in November, covered several topics ranging from the proposed expansion of LAX to the City's efforts to encourage residents to recycle. December's show will feature an interview with Mr. Donald Trump regarding his plans for the Ocean Trails Golf Course.

Residents with access to the Internet, can view current and past episodes on the City's website: www.palosverdes.com/rpv/CityTalk/index.cfm.

The City hopes that this program will prove to be informative and worthwhile to the community and encourages residents to e-mail comments and suggested topics to rpvcitytalk@rpv.com.

GET TO KNOW THE PENINSULA

Join Los Serenos

Do you want to learn more about the Palos Verdes Peninsula? And, are you interested in sharing your time and making a difference? If so, sign up today for the upcoming Los Serenos Docent Training that starts on Wednesday, January 22 at 12:30 p.m.

Los Serenos de Point Vicente docents are a dynamic group of trained volunteers who have the skill and talent to lead tours at several different locales, Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, Ladera Linda Community Center and Forrestal Preserve and Ocean Trails.

Training as a docent will prepare you to share the history and features of the Peninsula with individuals and groups. The curriculum includes in-depth information on the natural, cultural and geological history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the surrounding marine and terrestrial habitats. Field trips, local walks and guest speakers enhance the docent learning experience. For more information, please call the Docent Coordinator at (310) 544-5265 or visit us at our web site at www.palosverdes.com/RPV/recreationparks/docents. Become a Los Serenos de Point Vicente docent and make new friends while you make a difference.

HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Don't Miss the Truck: Leave the Can Out by 7:00 A.M.

Waste Management

December: There will be no changes. Trash and recycling will be picked up as usual.

January 2003: No Changes.

February, March and April 2003: No Changes

Ivy Rubbish Disposal

December: There will be no change in the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday service. There will be no trash or recycling pickup on Christmas Day, (Wednesday), December 25. Trash and recyclables will be collected on Saturday, December 28.

January 2003: No Changes.

February, March and April 2003: No Changes

WINTER SESSION 2003

Recreation Classes Offered At City Parks

Energize your mind, body and spirit by taking a recreation class at one of the City's parks. To register, pick a class and call the instructor. Some of these instructors have registration information at Hesse Park Community Center, located at 29301 Hawthorne Boulevard in Rancho Palos Verdes. Don't let 2003 slip away - register today!

Miss Cherie's Dance School (310) 547-5073

Tap Dance (Adult)

Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Tumble, Combo Dance (Ages 4 - Teen)

Animation Design Center (310) 290-0390

Character Design (Teens, Adults)

2D Animation (Teens, Adult)

Background/Prop Design (Adult)

Comic Book Illustration (Ages 10 – Adult)

Ann Bosma (310) 375-2064

Aerobic Dancing: Lite Impact (Adult)

Linda Edwards (310) 265-1875

Beginning Chinese (Ages 5 - 15)

Intermediate Chinese (Ages 7 - Adult)

Jacquelyn Fernandez (310) 377-2965

Exercise & Fitness (Adult)

Janusz Haka (310) 944-9550

Art Class for Kids (Ages 8 - 12)

Bonnie Kennan (310) 265-6644

Creating Healthy Relationships (Adult)

Etsuko Kimura (310) 544-1738

Feng Shui Workshops (Adult)

Karin Koralek (310) 374-6612

Yoga (Adult)

Knee Yoga (Adult/Senior)

Chair Yoga (Adult/Senior)

Jensu Mark (310) 397-6275

Tai Chi Chuan (Adult)

Mary Lyn Miller (310) 378-4417

Life and Career Workshops (Adult)

Jeanne Murphy (310) 377-8507

Ladies Exercise (Adult)

Sachiye Nakano (310) 544-1624
Bones for Life (Adult)

Walt Ordway (310) 541-4007
Amateur Radio classes (Teen, Adult)

Barry Sacks (310) 519-4622
Mommy & Me (Ages 18 - 30 months)
Wee Tots (Ages 2 ½ - 4)
Winter Outdoor Adventures (Ages 5 -10)

Suika Education, Inc. (310) 323-5221
Suika Baby Club (Ages Newborn - 3)
Suika Toddlers Club (Ages 3 - 5)

Fran Zabica (310) 521-8804
Meditate for Health & Creativity (Adult)
Stress & Anxiety Relief through Meditation (Adult)
Energy Walk (Adult)

The Recreation & Parks Department is seeking instructors for a variety of classes for all ages. If you are interested in teaching at one of the City park sites, please call the Recreation Supervisor at (310) 541-8114.

CITY COUNCIL

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