



# CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • 30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275 • WEBSITE: WWW.RPVCA.GOV • 310.377.0360

## ONE-ON-ONE WITH LOMITA SHERIFF'S STATION CAPTAIN JAMES POWERS

**Congratulations to newly-named Lomita Sheriff's Station Captain James Powers! Captain Powers took some time to answer questions about his life, career in law enforcement, and crime trends.**



**Tell us a little bit about where you were brought up, your education, how you chose a career in law enforcement, and your prior assignments.**

I grew up in Artesia and graduated from St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower where I played football and wrestled all four years. I later coached wrestling there for five years. I earned my AA degree in criminal justice management from Cerritos College and a BS degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute & University.

Law enforcement was a natural fit because I was always fascinated and intrigued by the field. I taught Community Policing, Problem Solving, and Partnerships in the Community at the Sheriff's Training Academy. I am certified through the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). I also have facilitated trainings in California and several other states including Nobility of Policing, Policing at the Speed of Trust, and FOCUS-Achieving Your Highest Priorities.

I've worn many hats during my law enforcement career. Prior to my current posting, I was a lieutenant with the Internal Affairs Bureau at the Lakewood Station Service Area and the Inmate Services Bureau Business Management Unit. I served as a Sergeant with the Regional Community Policing Institute Training Bureau, the Norwalk Station and the Men's Central Jail. Before that, I was a patrol deputy/detective at the Lakewood Station and a deputy at the Men's Central Jail.

**What are the biggest law-enforcement challenges facing the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Palos Verdes Peninsula?**

The biggest challenge is keeping the crime rate low. Being responsive to quality of life concerns and addressing the perception of danger versus the reality of danger is another difficult issue, along with homelessness, mental illness, and personal safety.

**Managing budgets is always a challenge whether you work at a City or a Sheriff's Department. What are your main budgeting priorities looking forward?**

The top priority is ensuring we provide quality service to the community,

while effectively managing the deployment of personnel.

**What projects/achievements are you most proud of during your time in law enforcement?**

An incident that stands out from my time with Internal Affairs involved a veteran and getting him the help he needed to manage his quality of life. This success story was shared on ABC 7 with an interview of the veteran, his mother, and myself. At Lomita Station, I'm proud of the Sheriff's Town Hall and National Night Out, but look forward to more accomplishments in the future.

**The Ring Program and ALPR cameras are high tech devices whose use has expanded greatly in recent years. What do you see as the role of technology in crime fighting and what steps can/should RPV residents take?**

Technology has produced some great results. I monitor this very closely and utilize whatever I can to solve crime and prevent crime. The sophistication of camera technology is improving daily. A lot of residents have invested in camera systems and I encourage that. It is very valuable for law enforcement and assists us with solving crime. It can also be a deterrent for criminals and prevent them from committing crimes. If residents have not considered some sort of preventative measure, I strongly recommend it.

**Many crime indicators are down in RPV in recent years which is wonderful news. What do you attribute that to, and what are your plans for maintaining that positive direction?**

I think proactive residents practicing "see something, say something", involvement in neighborhood watch, keeping your eyes open,

continued on page 4

## SPOTLIGHT ON EASTVIEW PARK



Looking for a new park to visit? There's a hidden gem on the City's eastside, that definitely merits a visit. Eastview Park has been around for many years, but it's had a recent makeover. Upgraded walking paths, a popular large and small dog park (with grass), fantastic play equipment for the kids and an expansive lawn area are just a few of this 9.9-acre park's many attractions. Eastview is also a staffed park, with a small building where park patrons can get park information and check out games and sports equipment. Eastview Park has also been the site of recent special events including Movies in the Park and a Fourth of July Bark Party. Eastview Park, located at 1700 Westmont Drive, is open daily, one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. The Staff office number is 310.544.5269.

## LAST CALL FOR ALCOHOL IN CITY PARKS



The City Council recently banned the possession and consumption of alcohol in City facilities, which includes all parks, beaches, the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and other open space areas. Consumption of alcohol is also banned in all public places. Almost all cities in Los Angeles County and throughout the State of California already have similar bans in place, but Rancho Palos Verdes' prohibition went into effect on September 6. Prior to that date, alcohol was legal at City parks. Alcohol can still be legally consumed at locations or events that have City permission. Typical examples include indoor rentals at park sites or beer/wine gardens at special events, such as the Fourth of July or Whale of a Day celebrations. Fines start at \$100 for a first violation. For more information go to Chapter 12.16 of the Municipal Code available at [rpvca.gov](http://rpvca.gov)

## HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE "NEAR REPEAT" CRIME PHENOMENON?

*"Researchers have found that once a crime has occurred, additional crimes are more likely to occur in nearby areas within a short period of time producing a pattern called 'near repeat.' Empirical research has clearly identified the existence of both a repeat (same target, another crime) and a near-repeat phenomenon for crimes such as burglary, robbery, weapons violations and other crimes."*

-June 2018 Police Foundation Strategy Brief "Near Repeat Crime"



Learning this, staff began sending targeted messages through NextDoor earlier this calendar year to a radius of residents surrounding incidents of residential burglaries and robberies, vehicle burglaries, and thefts from unlocked vehicles, to help combat near-repeat crime patterns. In these messages, residents are educated about the increased likelihood that their neighborhood may again be affected, given safety tips, and are informed that the Sheriff's Department is available to perform home safety audits. While the City's figure of 94 residential burglaries continues to remain as one of the lowest in the past decade, the

2019 rate is trending lower with 24 residential burglaries in the first quarter and 13 in the second quarter, for a total of 37 the first half of the year. Sign up at [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com) to stay abreast of crimes happening in your neighborhood and remember to "See Something, Say Something."

ECR-WSS

Prst-STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Torrence  
Permit # 194

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275



# SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO!

## EXPLORE THE SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN



Looking for ways to enjoy nature right in your own backyard? Did you know that there are 87-acres of botanic collections, arts and cultural experiences just minutes away?

If you're the adventuring type, come enjoy the miles of trails and hikes as you explore both marked and hidden pathways. If you like to be among flowers and plants, come take a walk to discover the extensive collection of banyan trees, stroll in the newly renovated Rose Garden or marvel at the newly constructed Living Wall. For this and so much more, look no further than South Coast Botanic Garden which offers a peaceful haven and a full schedule of activities and events for all ages. The South Coast Botanic Garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., is home to unique wildlife and serves as a model of land reclamation excellence. Learn more at [southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org) or by calling 424.452.0920.

## HABITAT RESTORATION AT ABALONE COVE RESERVE



You may have noticed some interesting activity taking place at Abalone Cove Reserve this summer. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) is engaged in a three-year habitat restoration project that involves planting the bluffs with 15 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat to support the federally endangered California gnatcatcher and El Segundo blue butterfly, and repairing trails and installing interpretive signs. Invasive plant species removal began this summer and irrigation installation and planting will begin this fall. For information about volunteer opportunities, please contact [info@pvplc.org](mailto:info@pvplc.org).

This habitat restoration project is one component of the City's draft Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan which serves the dual purposes of setting aside regional open spaces for species preservation, while streamlining appropriate development and economic growth. As part of this plan, the City partners with the PVPLC to manage the habitat within the City's 1,400 acre Nature Preserve. The PVPLC's habitat management efforts include planting five acres of new native habitat annually, removing invasive species in project areas, biological monitoring, and engaging the community through volunteer opportunities. The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council will consider final adoption of the plan this fall. For more information, contact [trails@rpvca.gov](mailto:trails@rpvca.gov).

**TRUNK OR TREAT**  
 Saturday, October 26th  
 1 pm-5 pm  
 Point Vicente Park/Civic Center  
 30940 Hawthorne Blvd **FREE!**  
 Spooky Music    GAMES    Food Trucks!  
 Trick or Treating!    Bounce House

# FALL BRUSH CLEARANCE EVENT

EDCO's biannual brush clearing event can help you dispose of your excess vegetation growth, overgrown bushes and shrubbery, and tree trimming free of charge. Plan ahead. Schedule to complete your brush clearing before your designated collection day. Use your green carts, personal cans and/or tied bundles and leave them at the curb and EDCO will take them on your designated Saturday and will recycle them. Find your regular collection day below and then see your brush clearance day.



If you have any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or check <http://www.rpvca.gov/327/Recycling-Programs>

Regular Trash Day	Brush Clearance Day
Monday	Saturday, October 12
Tuesday	Saturday, October 19
Wednesday	Saturday, October 26
Thursday	Saturday, November 2
Friday	Saturday, November 9

**Palos Verdes Peninsula PVRTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**Your doorway to travel around the Palos Verdes Peninsula**

**\*OFF PENINSULA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES ONLY**

**DIAL-A-RIDE and DIAL-A-LIFT**

**(310) 544-7108**

Serving **Seniors and Residents with disabilities in Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates and unincorporated Peninsula areas of Los Angeles County.**

**FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

[www.palosverdes.com/pvtransit/](http://www.palosverdes.com/pvtransit/)



# YEAR-ROUND FIRE DANGER



Fire risk and fire containment is no longer a seasonal concern, but a year-round priority for the LA County Fire Department and City residents. All of RPV is in a high fire risk area, so prevention and planning is crucial. What can you do as a resident to be ready?

Download Cal Fire's Ready for Wildfire app on your smartphone! After downloading the app, follow the wildfire preparation checklist so that you can prepare your home and family before a wildfire strikes. Visit <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Ready-for-Wildfire-App/> for additional information.

## SMOKING PROHIBITION

Fire risk is especially high in open space areas and the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Smoking in any City park or preserve/open space area is illegal. So if we chokey on your smokey, you might get thrown in the pokey (a fine actually, but that doesn't rhyme).



# A LESS TAXING CITY

## ELIMINATION OF HOME OCCUPANCY BUSINESS LICENSE TAX

During the August 6 Council meeting, the City Council approved the adoption of Ordinance No. 623, whose primary purpose is to eliminate the annual business license tax for home occupancy businesses. This makes it clear that the requirement to obtain a business license is limited to businesses that are physically located within the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and/or conducting work in such a manner that requires their physical presence within the City.



This annual business license tax was eliminated to promote the continued growth of these individuals and their businesses. In addition to supporting our home based businesses, the City will likely experience an overall decrease in traffic by removing the need for these individuals to visit City Hall to submit payment for a business license.

The elimination of the annual business license tax for home occupancy businesses, along with several modifications to the City's municipal code pertaining to the business license tax, went into effect on September 6.

# ARE YOU READY FOR DISASTER? TAKE THE #READYRPV CHALLENGE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Did you know that Rancho Palos Verdes is the most populated California city with 90% or more of residents living in a Cal Fire-designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone?

With California's fire seasons worsening in length and severity, it is imperative that residents take steps to prepare themselves for when disaster strikes.

Put your preparedness to the test with the Ready RPV Challenge!

The contest runs during the month of September (National Preparedness Month) and ends October 12 (the final day of Fire Prevention Week). RPV residents who prepare or purchase an emergency kit, complete the Los Angeles County Fire Department's "Ready! Set! Go!" Personal Wildfire Action Plan and post a corresponding photo or video on social media with the hashtag #ReadyRPV will be entered into a drawing for a one-night stay in an Ocean View King Guest Room at Terranea Resort with either golf or spa day passes for two; plus breakfast for two at Catalina Kitchen.

For tips on preparing an emergency kit, visit [bit.ly/34bqxkd](http://bit.ly/34bqxkd)

To download the "Ready! Set! Go!" Personal Wildfire Action Plan, see [bit.ly/2ZshUD5](http://bit.ly/2ZshUD5)

For contest details, visit <http://www.rpvca.gov/1251/Ready-RPV-Challenge>

If you have questions, please contact Senior Administrative Analyst Megan Barnes at 310.544.5226 or [mbarnes@rpvca.gov](mailto:mbarnes@rpvca.gov).



# GREEN CORNER



## GO GREEN RPV

The City is committed to reducing emissions and promoting renewable and sustainable programs. To that end, the City recently launched the Go Green RPV homepage, which is designed to serve as a one-stop resource center for residents, visitors and business owners seeking information on the City's environmental programs. Specifically, the homepage includes information and resources related to:



- renewable energy improvements
- solar panel incentives and programs
- EV charging programs
- green building financing
- permit streamlining and rebate incentives
- regional efforts
- public education

To view the City's Go Green RPV homepage please visit the following link: <https://www.rpvca.gov/1220/Go-Green-RPV>

## FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING & E-WASTE COLLECTION & MULCH GIVEAWAY EVENT

**October 26 8am-11am**  
**RPV Civic Center (City Hall)**  
**30940 Hawthorne Blvd.**



The City, in cooperation with EDCO, offers RPV residents twice-yearly free document-shredding events. Three certified shredding trucks will be present that morning and will shred your documents on-site. No documents will leave the site un-shredded! This event is for RPV/EDCO residential households' use only. There is a limit of three bankers/storage size boxes (approx. size 10"x12"x15") or three paper/plastic grocery bags. Papers cannot be in binders; staples and paper clips are ok.

At the same time, date and place, EDCO will collect your unwanted electronics including TVs, computer monitors, printers, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players, and answering machines. No household hazardous waste material: no paint, automotive fluids, chemicals or expired medicine will be accepted. For more information go to <http://www.rpvca.gov/309/Solid-Waste-Recycling>

Free mulch is also available to residents while supplies last. This is a self-haul service. Bring your own cans or sturdy yard bags, and your own shovel to bag or fill your cans yourself. Limit of three cans/bags per vehicle. If you plan to haul your compost in an open truck or trailer, please remember to bring a tarp to cover your material. Proof of RPV residency required.

## GETTING RID OF BULKY ITEMS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE: CALL EDCO FIRST!

Want to get rid of an old couch, mattress, water heater, TV or appliance? No problem.



Have computers and printers that are past their usefulness?

No problem. Call EDCO at 310.540.2977 and schedule a free curbside bulky item or e-waste pickup. EDCO provides curbside bulky item/e-waste collection up to four times a year free of charge. You must call EDCO first to schedule a pickup!

## ALMOST TOO NICE FOR TRASH!

We're not just talking trash; we're doing something about it!! We're now keeping a lid on trash and recycling. Next time you're at Hesse Park or the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, check out the over 100 new trash and recycling receptacles. Compliant with Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) guidelines, these cans are more secure, less prone to spillage, and well, just better looking. But don't just admire them-make sure you put your trash and recycling inside as well! More receptacles are planned in the future.





## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Looking for a part-time job? The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Recreation and Parks Department is hiring! We are currently accepting applications for recreation leaders to work in our parks, community centers, open space areas, and programs. No previous experience is required, but candidates should have a passion for service

and the outdoors, and excellent customer service and communication skills. The Recreation and Parks Department provides high-quality parks and facilities and offers a variety of safe, affordable, and innovative programs that enhance the well-being of the community. For more information, contact the Recreation and Parks Department at [parcs@rpvca.gov](mailto:parcs@rpvca.gov) or 310.544.5260 or visit [www.rpvca.gov](http://www.rpvca.gov).

## TRASH PICKUP SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977 or [www.RPVrecycles.com](http://www.RPVrecycles.com)

**October:** No changes.

**November:** No service on Thursday, November 28, Thanksgiving Day. Thursday and Friday routes will be delayed by one day.

**December:** No service on Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day. Services will be delayed by one day for Wednesday through Friday routes. No change on Monday.

**Regulations for Hours for Trash Can Placement:** Carts can be placed at the curb after 4 pm the day before collection day and empty carts must be removed no later than 10 p.m. on collection day.

**Empty carts cannot be left on the street overnight.**

**BACKYARD SERVICE:** EDCO provides backyard service to customers at an additional monthly charge. If you have temporary or permanent physical or medical limitations, or travel out of town frequently, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 to inquire about this service.



## 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

**Jerry Duhovic, Mayor**

Email: [jerry.duhovic@rpvca.gov](mailto:jerry.duhovic@rpvca.gov)

**John Cruikshank, Mayor Pro Tem**

Email: [john.cruikshank@rpvca.gov](mailto:john.cruikshank@rpvca.gov)

**Eric Alegria, Councilmember**

Email: [eric.alegria@rpvca.gov](mailto:eric.alegria@rpvca.gov)

**Susan Brooks, Councilmember**

Email: [susan.brooks@rpvca.gov](mailto:susan.brooks@rpvca.gov)

**Ken Dyda, Councilmember**

Email: [ken.dyda@rpvca.gov](mailto:ken.dyda@rpvca.gov)

## CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



**Editors: Gabriella Yap and Matt Waters**

**Fall 2019 Newsletter and Recreation Insert Contributors:**

Megan Barnes, Andrew Berg, Chris Browning, Emily Colborn, Mary Hirsch, Katie Lozano, Karen Okstad, Louise Olfarnes (PVPLC), James O'Neill, Lauren Ramezani, Emily Rodin, Octavio Silva, Matt Waters, Yumiko Whitaker & Nancie Silver (South Coast Botanic Garden), Gabriella Yap  
Comments? Email [mattw@rpvca.gov](mailto:mattw@rpvca.gov) or call 310.544.5218

## CAPTAIN JAMES POWERS (Continued from page 1)

communicating with your neighbors and law enforcement, are all contributing factors. The sophisticated deployment of camera systems, alarm systems, and other internal tools of law enforcement have also impacted the stats.

I plan to stay on top of the technology, continue to implement it, and educate my staff and the community on new innovations. I also believe in good old fashioned communication as well. Effective communication is a key component of community policing, problem solving, and partnerships with the community. My plan is to improve and achieve an even higher level of effectiveness.

**RPV has a low incidence of violent crime, but any city can experience sudden and tragic crimes, such as the recent mass shootings in Gilroy, Dayton, El Paso, and Odessa. How ready is your station to deal with such a shocking and rapidly escalating situation?**

We are prepared to deal with any type of emergent situation. I have already reviewed our readiness, and I am very confident. I have prior experience in this particular field. I personally travelled to Virginia Tech

University after that incident and also Aurora, Colorado after the movie theater incident. I have presented publicly on the responses/actions of law enforcement, and I have also presented to school administrators regarding their roles/responsibilities. This is, unfortunately, something we have to discuss and prepare for in today's climate. Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.

**On the lighter side, how do you spend your leisure time? Do you have a favorite book? Movie? TV Show? Sports team?**

I love to hike and bike with my wife. We've been married 31 years this September. I love leadership books; my favorite is probably *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl.

My favorite movie is hard to say: I love funny movies (important to laugh), but I like action-packed movies too, such as "We Were Soldiers."

TV Shows: My wife and I enjoy watching "Dateline" and predicting the outcome.

Sports Teams: No favorites, but I enjoy baseball, and college and high school football.

## NOVEMBER 5, 2019 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION - QUALIFIED CANDIDATES



The City of Rancho Palos Verdes will hold its General Municipal Election on November 5, for three City Council seats. The City Council candidate nomination period opened on July 15, and closed on August 9. At the close of the filing period, the following five residents qualified as candidates for the November election: David Bradley, Ken Dyda, Dave Emehiser, Barbara Ferraro, and Stephen Perestam.

### LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Monday, October 21, is the last day to register to vote in the November 5 election. You will need to re-register if you have moved to a new address, changed your name, or changed your political party affiliation. Voter registration forms are available at City Hall, Hesse Park, Ryan Park, any post office, and your local library. It is important that your voter registration application be filled out completely and be postmarked or hand-delivered to the Los Angeles County elections office no later than October 21.

Your vote is important. Your vote is your voice. Be heard. VOTE!

### VOTE BY MAIL

If you would like to vote by mail this election, an application can be found on the back cover page of your Official Sample Ballot booklet which are due to be mailed to each voter from September 26 through October 15. For additional information about voting by mail, please visit the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder website at [lavote.net](http://lavote.net).

### POLLING LOCATION

On Election Day, residents can locate their polling place by using the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder website at <https://lavote.net/locator>. Voters who do not have access to the internet can contact the City Clerk's office at 310.544.5217 for assistance in locating their polling place.

### ELECTIONS & VOTER SERVICES

The City Clerk's office provides information on the City's website regarding the election and other voter services. Please visit the Elections page at <http://www.rpvca.gov/1219/November-5-2019-General-Municipal-Electi> for election updates.