



CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

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

SPOTLIGHT ON KARINA BAÑALES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER



Karina Bañales began her tenure as Deputy City Manager on June 1, after serving in a similar capacity with the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Karina recently took some time to answer some questions about herself and the many hats she's worn in her career.

What led you to a career in city government?

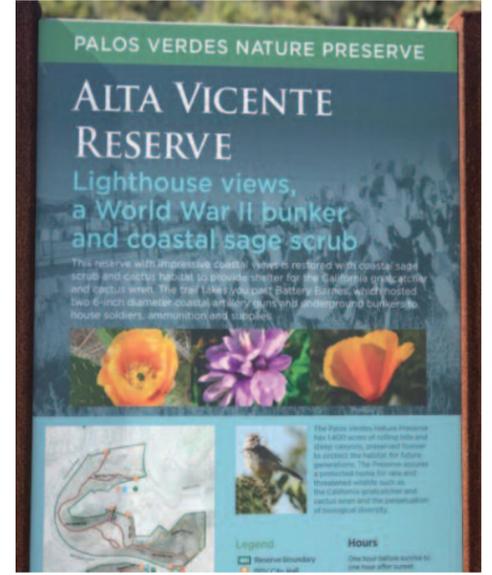
I love working with people! From the age of ten through my college years, I was in student government. I held the positions of secretary, class president, senator of public affairs, and student government president. I lobbied at California's State Capitol for college students with varying socio-economic status to pay and attend school through grants and scholarships. I worked as a professional intern at the State of Hawai'i Capitol compiling both House and Senate bills on behalf of the Women's Legislative Caucus, writing floor speeches on legislative bills, and assisting with the House and Senate legislative digest.

I knew early on that I desired to work in the public sector; I just didn't know at what level of government.

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A HIKE YOU'LL LIKE: TRY ALTA VICENTE RESERVE

Looking to take a Palos Verdes Nature Preserve hike without having to hassle with parking, traffic, and where to find a bathroom? Look no further than Alta Vicente Reserve, a 55-acre under-utilized natural gem that wraps around Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall. Alta Vicente Reserve, which includes Pelican Cove, has magnificent ocean, Point Vicente Lighthouse and Catalina Island views, wonderful native habitat, and abundant creature comforts such as ample parking, public restrooms, water fountains, and socially-distanced picnic areas. Stroll Tovemoor, Prickly Pear, North Spur, and Nike Trails and soak in the wonder of the Peninsula's rich history and natural beauty. Catch a glimpse of WW II era bunkers and other historical artifacts or connect to a number of other trail systems, perfect for everything from mellow strolls to hard-core hikes. Go to rpvca.gov/trails for more information and safety protocols. Beat the crowds and enjoy a beautiful day at Alta Vicente Reserve.



COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATES: STAY INFORMED!



When the coronavirus public health crisis hit Los Angeles County in March, the City began putting out daily COVID-19 Community Updates to provide residents with the latest public health guidance, local case numbers, information on closures and community resources. Due to resident feedback and a change of pace in developments, the online update is now weekly. COVID-19 Community Updates are distributed on Thursdays, but any major announcements in between will be shared with the community. As always, thanks for reading, and don't hesitate to reach out to the City for information!

If you haven't done so already, sign up for COVID-19 Community Updates by subscribing to the Breaking News listserv at rpvca.gov/notify.

A webpage on the City website with coronavirus updates, resources and information is continuously being updated at rpvca.gov/coronavirus

Be sure to follow the City on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

DEALING WITH DEL CERRO: ADDRESSING PRESERVE-RELATED TRAFFIC, SAFETY AND NOISE CONCERNS



Crowds and traffic congestion at the popular Burma Road entrance to Portuguese Bend Reserve are nothing new, but social media awareness and the limited public options caused by COVID-19 have worsened the situation.

At its August 18 and September 1 meetings the City Council directed Staff to address these concerns by exploring and implementing potential mitigation measures over the next two months. Ideas include:

- Install temporary signs/red curbs to prohibit parking along a portion of Crenshaw Blvd. on a trial basis.
- Expand social media and public outreach campaign to educate and re-direct visitors to alternate locations such as Alta Vicente Reserve.
- Look at parking alternatives for the entire Preserve. Reach out to all Preserve-adjacent HOAs to determine what challenges they're facing.
- Install gates at Burma Rd. and Rattlesnake Trails-two of the most utilized access points to the Preserve. These gates will limit after-hours access to the Preserve.

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DON'T GO FISH (OR POACH): ENFORCING MPA RESTRICTIONS



The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Open Space Management (OSM) staff have observed and received reports from the public of poaching from the tide pools within the Marine Protected Area (MPA) at Abalone Cove, a designated no-take zone. Since late June, the City has observed over 60 MPA violations, educated 119 fishermen about

legal fishing access outside of the MPA zone, and stopped an estimated 1,000 individual specimens from being taken. These species include turban snails, mussels, hermit crabs, purple sea urchins, opal eyes, isopods and starfish. OSM has been working closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Los Angeles Marine Protected Areas Collaborative Team to correct violations and to educate visitors.

New signage has been updated and replaced along all legal access points within the MPA, including Abalone Cove, Terranea, and Pelican Cove. Staff and volunteers have signed up for Tidepool Patrols to monitor tide pools during extremely low tides to share resources about what is and isn't permitted in MPAs. The City is also working on updating information on the City website and will soon be releasing a short video about MPAs, filmed by RPVtv.

ECR-WSS

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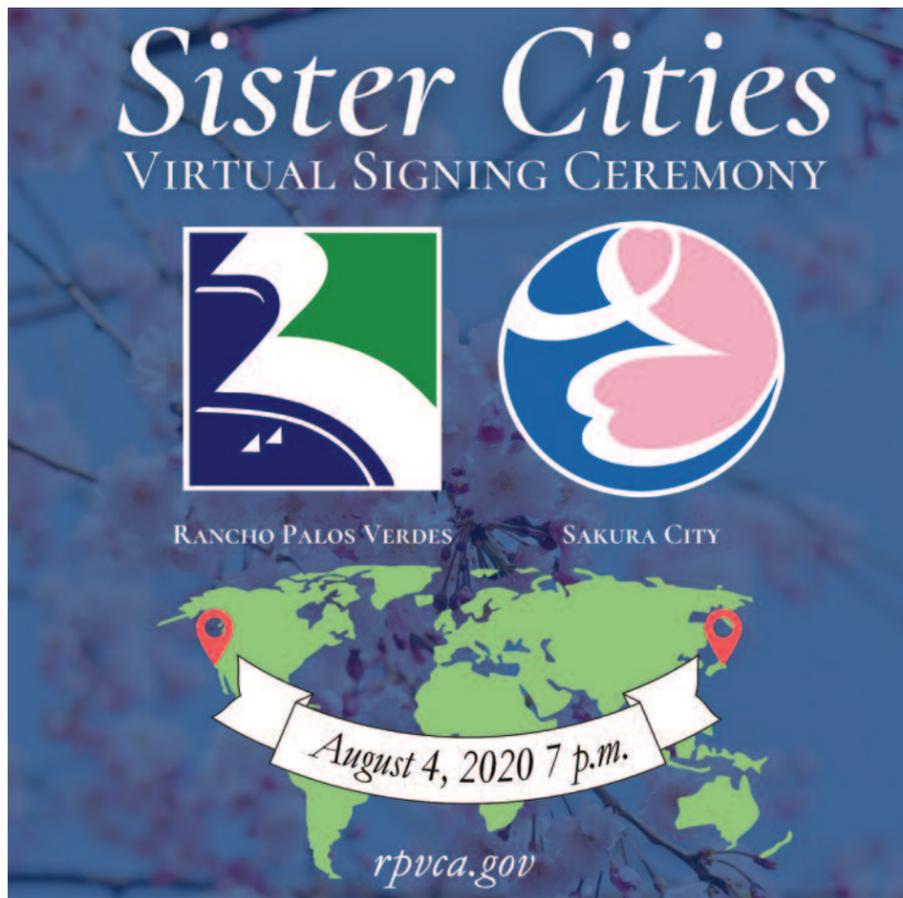


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PALOS VERDES PENINSULA VILLAGE CONTINUES TO BUILD COMMUNITY



PVP Village has been serving its members throughout the COVID-19 crisis with a calendar full of virtual social opportunities, continuing transportation to essential appointments, computer help including Zoom and Facetime, grocery shopping, handyman help and referrals. For more information about this dynamic and caring community of friendship and support helping older adults remain in their homes as they age, contact Executive Director Marianne Propst to arrange for a phone or Zoom discussion, or a socially distant visit at 310.991.3324. Go to www.peninsulavillage.net for more info. More than ever, it truly takes a village.



8,777 kilometers and two continents couldn't keep these two sisters apart. Since 2001, more than 300 students from two middle schools in Sakura City, Japan, have attended Miraleste Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes, enabling students from both cities to attain a stronger cultural understanding and appreciation of both countries. To ensure a continued strong cultural bond and lasting friendship, the RPV City Council agreed to pursue a Sister City relationship with Sakura City. On August 4, regular meeting, the City Council officially recognized and welcomed Sakura City as a "Sister City" during a virtual ceremonial signing event.

RPV SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on businesses throughout California and the United States. While RPV has a relatively modest commercial presence, local businesses have been hard hit. To support local businesses, the City Council approved temporary financial assistance on April 7, 2020, creating a one-time refund of the 2020 Business License Tax (BLT). In an effort to increase the number of eligible small businesses, the City Council removed the requirement that a small business must have a "brick-and-mortar" location in order to be eligible to receive a refund. Businesses must be located in RPV with less than \$1.5 million in 2019 gross receipts to qualify for the refund.



Since the implementation of the BLT refund program, the City has received 14 requests and issued refunds totaling \$4,939 as of August 12.

We encourage businesses in need of assistance to visit <http://rpvca.gov/288/Business-License-Information>.

APPSOLUTELY COMING SOON! CHECK OUT RPV'S NEW MOBILE APP!

The IT Department is currently working with GoGov on a new and appsolutely-improved mobile app. The new app will improve and streamline the overall user experience of City residents and visitors. Users can submit service requests, receive updates from City Staff, and enhance their access to important City information. The GoGov app also offers integration with the City's current internal systems including CityWorks and Trakit.

The mobile app, which is scheduled to launch in October, will be rolled out in stages, starting with its core functions and then adding more features and integrations in the future.

KARINA BAÑALES (Continued from page 1)

Tell us about your educational and work experiences.

Upon graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a degree in Political Science, I went on to work at Six Flags Magic Mountain as their Human Resources Supervisor. I worked closely with the State Department and Social Security Administration Department to develop their Visa Work and Travel Program. I had the opportunity to travel to 18 countries over two years to recruit and hire university students in their junior and senior years to work for Six Flags. I found working for these governmental agencies rewarding, and I decided to go back to school and earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne.

While earning my degree, I recognized that my end goal was to work for a municipal government.

I worked for the cities of South San Francisco, San Gabriel, Jurupa Valley, the County of Riverside, and Palos Verdes Estates. My experience in local government includes Human Resources, City Clerk's Office, governmental and legislative affairs, community relations, and risk management.

Many of our residents may have a general idea what a City Manager does, but may not know as much about the role of a Deputy City Manager. Tell us about your role as Deputy City Manager and how you and City Manager Ara Mihanian work together?

A Deputy City Manager (DCM) provides leadership and assists the City Manager in day-to-day operations to achieve unified outcomes for the betterment of the community by working closely with and listening to the residents. Also, the DCM has oversight of the administration and operations of local and regional services with an emphasis on delivering excellent service. Most importantly, the DCM position assists the City Manager in carrying out City Council goals and policies while preserving the community's quality of life.

As Ara's Deputy City Manager, it is my responsibility to provide ongoing assistance and support by maintaining a collaborative environment between him, the department heads, and the City Council. Together, we share a similar vision and understanding for the community which is due to our years of experience on the Peninsula.

What qualities and attributes should an effective Deputy City Manager possess?

An effective Deputy City Manager should possess strong leadership and communication skills, be collaborative, innovative, and have the ability to listen and build consensus among City staff and the community.

What are some of the projects you are excited to be working on for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes?

I recently accomplished my first assigned project which was to form a "Sister City" partnership with Sakura City, Japan. This required collaborating with various RPV divisions and their staff, bi-weekly meetings with Sakura City officials,

and hosting a virtual signing ceremony. Similar to RPV, this was my first-time establishing a sister city relationship and I am grateful to have had the opportunity.

Another project is the development of a Civic Center. The idea of creating a space for civic engagement, planning, policy and public programming is exciting to me. It is the epicenter where City staff, residents, business owners, and elected and appointed officials join to become the Rancho Palos Verdes community.

You joined the City during the middle of a global pandemic. How do you feel the City has done dealing with COVID-19?

Rancho Palos Verdes has maintained an exemplary level of communication regarding COVID-19 among its residents and business community. I was pleased to see how responsive the City is to community concerns pertaining to COVID-19, including the value placed on Staff safety.

As a Deputy City Manager, you will be faced with community issues that span a wide spectrum of topics. How would you effectively approach these issues?

I find it important to understand our community and its individuals and groups. My approach is to familiarize myself with an issue and ensure that I have all the information so I have a better understanding of what needs to be addressed. Having an open line of communication and open collaboration from the start is critical.

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

I will be deeply committed to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and its residents. I will exemplify public service through leadership, embrace the City's commitment to equity and inclusion, and complement and support a highly effective and engaged Executive Leadership Team.

As Deputy City Manager, what are some of the City Council goals you would like to be involved in?

I would like to be involved in the following goals: identifying economic development opportunities to enhance retail establishments, re-establish the Bi-Annual Leadership Academy for residents, and achieve 91% of RPV Employees saying RPV is "a great place to work."

How do you enjoy spending time away from work?

Pre-COVID-19, I would spend time with family, friends, and working out. During COVID-19, I enjoy cleaning and organizing my house, watching movies from home and cooking.

What activity have you missed the most during COVID-19?

Definitely spending time with my family. I grew up surrounded by my cousins, aunts and uncles-enjoying carne asada on weekends, hanging out at my parents' house and watching relatives play soccer.

Favorite book, movie, type of music/sport etc...?

My favorite sport is soccer. I enjoy playing, coaching, and watching soccer. I have volunteered as an AYSO soccer coach and coached competitive club soccer for years.

YES, WE HAVE NO ELECTION!



The General Municipal Election, previously scheduled for November 3, 2020, has been canceled. This is the first time in the City's history that an election will not be held to fill open seats.

On June 2, 2020, the City Council called for a General Municipal Election to be held for the election of two members of City Council. The nomination period began on July 13th and ended on August 7th, with only two candidates nominated – incumbents Mayor Cruikshank and Mayor Pro Tem Alegria, for the two open seats.

Per Elections Code 10229, when this occurs, the local agency (City Council) is authorized to appoint to each office those nominated as though they were elected at a municipal election. This appointment also causes the previously-scheduled election to be canceled which yields an approximate savings of over \$100K.

During the August 18, 2020, City Council meeting, the City Council appointed John Cruikshank and Eric Alegria to take office and serve exactly as though elected at a municipal election for a full term of four years. They will be sworn into office during the December 1st Regular City Council meeting. Congratulations Councilmembers!



EDCO'S FALL BRUSH CLEARANCE

Do your part to help prevent brush fires! EDCO's bi-annual brush clearing event can help you dispose of your excess vegetation growth, overgrown bushes and shrubbery, and tree trimming free of charge. Schedule to complete your brush clearing before your designated collection day. Use your green carts, personal cans and tied bundles and leave them at the curb.



Regular Trash Day	Brush Clearance Day
Monday	Saturday, October 3
Tuesday	Saturday, October 10
Wednesday	Saturday, October 17
Thursday	Saturday, October 24
Friday	Saturday, October 31

Brush clearance will take place rain or shine. If you have any questions call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or go to <http://www.rpvca.gov/327/Recycling-Programs>

ADA PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY COMING YOUR WAY

In keeping with its ongoing efforts to serve all members of the community, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes is updating its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan and self-evaluation. The accessibility plan provides a comprehensive approach to access for individuals with disabilities to City facilities, programs, services, activities, and events.

The City is seeking input from interested parties, and individuals with disabilities to help address and prioritize current and future needs. Your comments and opinions are important to us and will provide valuable information regarding how the City of Rancho Palos Verdes can better serve individuals with disabilities. The City is working on a survey to get your input. More details coming.



CRIME BUSTER CORNER



PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is a top City priority, and the City is committed to help you become educated, prepared, and connected.

- Community updates: please subscribe to the City's official Nextdoor page and sign up to receive public safety alerts with the City's email listserv
- Community connectedness: join a local Neighborhood Watch group or download the free Ring Neighbors app

FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS

Tips to Avoid Vehicle Burglaries:

- Always lock your vehicles whenever not in use
- Close and lock all windows
- Keep your valuables, such as your purse, wallet, or bag, with you or secure them out of sight and stored away
- Do not display items of value in your vehicle: place them in your trunk or keep them covered
- Remove valuables, packages, garage openers, mail, or other devices from sight

Tips to Prevent Residential Burglaries:

- Lock all windows and doors, including backyard, side, and garage doors
- Keep all curtains closed at night or when no one is home
- If you are away, leave house lights on or set them to turn on at intervals
- Set up a security camera system with video and audio
- Notify trusted neighbors if you will be away for an extended period

If you see something, say something! We encourage you to call the Lomita Sheriff's Station at 310.539.1661 if you see any suspicious persons or activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The City encourages residents to connect with their neighbors and community and practice good public safety. Community safety is a community endeavor! So join your local Neighborhood Watch.

The RPV Neighborhood Watch has been running for over 28 years, and continues to be a successful grassroots community-run organization.



To see if you are in an existing neighborhood watch covered area, or to join RPV Neighborhood Watch, please contact Gail Lorenzo – Founder of the Neighborhood Watch – at rpvnw@ix.net-com.com.

If you would like to organize your own neighborhood watch or learn more about public safety programs, please email Administrative Analyst Shane Lee at slee@rpvca.org.

DEL CERRO (Continued from page 1)

- Investigate additional alternatives for enforcement of parking.
- Investigate parking reservation, pay systems, and an analysis of parking limitation systems (for Del Cerro area specifically).

These measures will be carefully monitored and adjusted in the following months to provide relief to this beleaguered neighborhood. If you plan on visiting any of the 12 wonderful reserves in RPV, please be respectful of the neighbors, obey all posted signs, and follow appropriate social distancing and safety protocols. To stay informed on matters related to the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve sign-up for the Breaking News and Palos Verdes Nature Preserve listservs at rpvca.gov/notify. For information on the quarterly Preserve Public Forums, visit <http://www.rpvca.gov/705/Quarterly-Public-Forum-Meetings>

