

# RANCHO PALOS VERDES

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

## LADERA LINDA PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER:



Ladera Linda is the Spanish translation of beautiful hillside. As the site of the former Ladera Linda Elementary School, it has been a City park since 1982. Its 1960s modular buildings have reached the end of their useful life expectancy, and received an F grade during a 2013 City infrastructure report. In response, the City began extensive public outreach, as part of a 2014-15 Parks Master Plan update and initial drafting of a Ladera Linda Master Plan, to identify the best use for the three beautiful terraced areas to serve the recreational needs of the community. In short, the City is looking for the best ways to make Ladera Linda live up to its name.

Public outreach ranged from dozens of meetings with individuals, small groups, interested parties, Staff, and HOAs, to multiple large-scale public workshops and Council meetings. A Master Plan and schematic design was approved by the City Council in August 2019. Facilitated by the renowned architecture and design firm of Johnson Favaro, the approved design significantly reduced the square footage of the existing buildings' footprint, retained the park's existing low-key neighborhood feel, maintained existing popular elements such as the paddle tennis and basketball courts, playground and lower field, and addressed adjacent neighbors' concerns about view, noise, security and other key quality-of-life issues.

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## THANKS FOR WEIGHING IN ON THE RPV CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY!

The results are in! More than 2,300 RPV residents completed the Citizen Satisfaction Survey in late December and January. We can't thank you enough for taking the time to give the City your feedback on everything from public safety, to City communications, to emergency preparedness, the future of the Civic Center site, and more. Your input will go a long way toward helping the City enhance programming and make decisions to better our community!

The results of the survey were presented to the City Council on February 16.

We don't have enough room to print all the survey results in this newsletter, but here are some highlights:

The overwhelming majority of respondents (95%) rated the overall quality of life in Rancho Palos Verdes as "good" or "excellent," with 63.9% reporting quality of life in the City "stayed about the same" in the past few years.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON RAMZI AWWAD, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Congratulations and welcome to Ramzi Awwad, who was recently promoted to Public Works Director after serving as Deputy Director since September 2020. Prior to coming to RPV, Ramzi worked for Arlington County, Virginia. Ramzi recently took the time to answer some questions about his work experience, current projects and the challenges Public Works faces during a pandemic.

You recently moved here from the Washington DC area. Tell us about your experiences working there.

I started my work there as a Transportation Engineer, where I responded to a variety of transportation operations and safety concerns.

For the majority of my time there, I was a key member of the team that developed the County's infrastructure CIP including roads, sidewalks, bridges, trails, stormwater drainage, streams, sanitary sewers, and water mains. I was responsible for delivering the infrastructure CIP on-time and under budget.

What qualities should an effective PW Director possess?

There are four qualities that immediately come to mind.

The first, and most important in my opinion, is leadership. To me, leadership is having a vision for what the organization will be and how the organization will get there; and the ability to organize people towards achieving that vision through common goals, even when people have different ideas about how things should be done.

Another is the ability to motivate staff to be their best and help develop them so that they increase

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## APPLE OF MYRPV EYE: MYRPV APP UP & RUNNING!

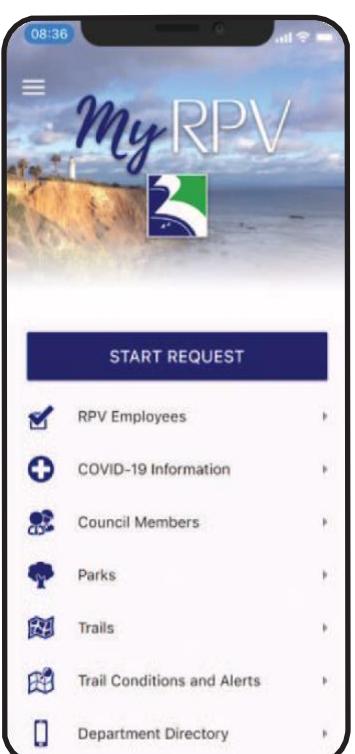
The MyRPV app is up and running and available to provide information whenever and wherever you are. MyRPV provides Rancho Palos Verdes residents, businesses, and visitors access to City Hall 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via their smartphone or tablet. Submitting service requests has never been easier! Simply open the app, select an issue, take a picture, and tap submit — the app sends the issue directly to City staff. You can also track the status of your request or send a message to City staff.

MyRPV offers quick access to relevant City information—from City Council meeting agendas and videos to information on how to get in touch with City departments, visit parks, trails, and more. You can also get push alerts in real-time from the City that allows the app to send you notifications.

The free MyRPV app can be downloaded to your iOS or Android device from the App Store or Google Play by searching "MyRPV."

Although you cannot currently report graffiti through MyRPV, the City is looking to add the ability to the app in the future. In the meantime, you can still report graffiti through the previous app, which has been renamed "RPV Clean."

We encourage everyone to install the new app and browse, test it out and let us know what you think! We would like to hear from anyone who has ideas on making it better or more user-friendly. To submit your thoughts or feedback, please email us at [appfeedback@rpvca.gov](mailto:appfeedback@rpvca.gov).



ECR-WSS

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City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

## ONE YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC

Update and Information on Vaccination

## We are all in this together, RPV.



It's been over a year since the COVID-19 public health crisis hit Southern California and altered life as we knew it.

Watching as panicked shoppers cleaned out the shelves at local grocery stores, then-Mayor Cruikshank and Mayor Pro Tem Alegria wanted to send a message to residents assuring calm and providing clear, credible information amid the chaos.

That first message turned into a daily online newsletter providing residents with the latest public health updates, resources and services available to help navigate our new reality. Now published weekly on Thursdays, the City's COVID-19 Community Updates continue to share up-to-date coronavirus news and resources for seniors, renters, landlords, small business owners, school parents and all residents. If you haven't signed up for the newsletter, you can do so by subscribing to the Breaking News listserv at [rpvca.gov/notify](http://rpvca.gov/notify). Be sure to also visit the City's online hub for COVID-19 resources, [rpvca.gov/coronavirus](http://rpvca.gov/coronavirus), and follow the City on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

As we reflect on the past year, our thoughts are with the families of the more than 50 RPV residents who tragically lost their lives to this virus. Let us honor their memory by taking the necessary precautions to slow its spread. Wear a face covering (or two). Avoid gatherings. Check on your neighbors. Show you care. Know that your actions impact your entire community — for better, or worse.

The City continues to advocate for the state and county to make vaccinations available to as many residents as possible. You can find the latest information on eligibility and make your appointment when it's your turn at [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com). If you don't have internet access, you can call L.A. County's Call Center at 833.540.0473 between 8 am and 8:30 pm seven days a week.

If you are a senior who has been having a hard time making a vaccine appointment, we hear you and we share your frustration. Keep trying. Appointments are extremely limited, so be persistent and vigilant to better your odds. Check [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com) early in the morning, and have a family member or trusted friend check the website for you and try to make an appointment on your behalf to have the best chance of getting one. Kaiser Permanente is offering the vaccine to eligible non-members and members alike. Appointments can be made by calling 1.833.574.2273 (check with Kaiser to make sure appointments are available for your tier).

You can also sign up to be notified when it's your turn to receive your vaccine by registering at [MyTurn.ca.gov](http://MyTurn.ca.gov). If you don't have internet access or an email address, call 1.833.422.4255 for assistance.

Thank you, RPV, for showing your resilience, caring and community throughout these challenging times. The City is here for you and always available for your questions and concerns. We are still #RPVTogether.



## CRIME BUSTER CORNER



HOA  
SECURITY  
CAMERA  
GRANT  
PROGRAM  
EXTENDED

SECURITY CAMERA  
GRANT PROGRAM

Looking to cause trouble in RPV? Smile, you might be on camera! The City of RPV is excited to announce that the City Council has allocated additional funds for the HOA Security Camera Grant Program. With continued efforts to enhance public safety, the City is extending the grant program to allow HOAs and neighborhoods to purchase Flock Safety license-plate reading cameras for the purpose of monitoring neighborhood entrances.

Security cameras are proven deterrents and effective tools in crime prevention and crime-solving efforts. Flock Safety's mission is to eliminate non-violent crime. This is possible with crime-fighting technology that provides coverage for the entire neighborhood. When a crime occurs, Flock Safety automated license plate reading cameras give law enforcement the actionable evidence needed to solve crime.

Information regarding the program and Flock Safety can be found on the City Website. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and may close at any time as they will be accepted only until the budget limit has been reached.

Please note that the City has a special partnership with Flock Safety and that this program must be initiated with staff first. All formal HOAs within the City of RPV are eligible to apply for the grant program. Neighborhoods without a formal HOA are also eligible to apply.

The application form is available on the City Website and can also be received via email. Staff is readily available to answer any questions and provide assistance during the application process. For questions, more information or to submit an application, please email [mbright@rpvca.gov](mailto:mbright@rpvca.gov).

## GREAT PENINSULA TAKEOUT



Help support local restaurants and participate in the Great Peninsula Takeout! Join our community in this "Takeout Tuesdays and Takeout Thursdays" initiative by posting on social media and inviting friends and neighbors to order takeout!

Visit [rpvca.gov/openforbusiness](http://rpvca.gov/openforbusiness) for a partial list of businesses, compiled by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the other Peninsula Cities. Are you a Peninsula restaurant offering takeout, delivery, curbside pickup or drive-through service? Let us know! Email info to [mbright@rpvca.gov](mailto:mbright@rpvca.gov).

Help support local restaurants by ordering a delicious meal on Tuesdays and Thursdays!

## RAMZI AWWAD (Continued from page 1)

their abilities and skills over time. One thing I've learned over my career is that no one person can do it all—which is why it is so important to develop staff.

The ability to build effective working relationships with a variety of partners and stakeholders, both within and outside the City, is critical. A public works department relies on a variety of partners to effectively accomplish its mission.

Finally, exceptional communication skills. To be successful, I believe that a public works director needs to be able to communicate on a variety of matters to a variety of audiences—adapting the messaging depending on the audience.

The country is still struggling through a pandemic. How is Public Works dealing with the challenges posed by such a unique and challenging situation?

We are thinking of new ways of doing business to deal with these challenges. An example is that when we closed the front counter to face-to-face services, we came up with creative ways to continue to provide right-of-way permit services uninterrupted—through email and curb-side service. There is a silver lining that comes with these challenges; we have found ways to become more efficient and we are learning to be more flexible in how we operate.

What are the biggest future Public Works challenges you see facing Rancho Palos Verdes?

One of the biggest future challenges I see is effectively maintaining the City's assets under an environment of increasingly constrained budgets with greater demands for services.

Another major challenge is traffic management throughout the City. Complaints about traffic are becoming increasingly common.

Also, Public Works will play a key role in some complex capital improvement projects including Civic Center, the Ladera Linda Park and Community Center, the Portuguese Bend Landslide Remediation and the Western Avenue Traffic Congestion Improvements and Beautification.

Finally, I think the increase in visitors to the various attractions in RPV will continue to have impacts on Public Works through increased operations and maintenance demands.

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

I would like residents of RPV to know my philosophy as a Public Works Director: Everyone deserves a solution to their issue, or a thorough explanation as to why the solution they desire cannot be implemented. This is such a wonderful and special community and I feel fortunate to be able to work here and do everything I can to make the Public Works Department the best it can be.

One of RPV's proudest accomplishments has been the acquisition of well over a thousand acres of open space. What do you see as PW's role in maintaining and improving this beloved community asset?

PW's role is partnering with various stakeholders in maintaining this asset. We value the relationship we have with Recreation and Parks, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and other community partners to maintain this unique community asset. PW does take a lead in some aspects, such as traffic impacts on Preserve parking,

Favorite Movie/Favorite Book/Favorite TV show?  
Favorite Pro Athlete and/or pro-team? Hobbies?

I'm a big fan of the Indianapolis Colts pro football team and the Indiana Pacers pro basketball team (from when I lived in Indiana). I'm also a fan of Purdue college basketball (my alma mater), but not so much Purdue college football because that is just too depressing!

My biggest hobby is jiujitsu (although I haven't been able to practice since the pandemic started). It is a fun sport and a great way to stay in shape—I recommend it to anyone.

I also like to spend my free time training my dog. She is a Czech/East German Shepherd (google it) named Kira. She's fun to train—among her best tricks are walking backwards upstairs and downstairs. She's also very good at finding anything I hide.

Anything else you want to share about yourself?

Did I mention that I love dogs? All dogs— all sizes, shapes, and ages. I actually pretty much love all animals.

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE A FIREPROOFED HOME

Being ready for a wildfire starts with maintaining adequate defensible space and by hardening your home. Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass and weeds. Wildfires spread by a combination of a moving flame front and the wind distribution of burning embers. Burning embers can be carried more than a mile from the fire, so even homes located far away from the actual flame front are vulnerable to ignition.

Go to [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) for general information on home hardening and [www.rvca.gov/emergency](http://www.rvca.gov/emergency) for information on City specific emergency preparedness activities.

The graphic below shows 8 ways to fireproof your home.



Property owners in high-risk wildlife zones are expected to maintain their properties free of hazardous or nuisance vegetation year round, and properties shall have brush cleared by June 1, when the Los Angeles County Fire Department begins inspections. Owners found to be non-compliant will be assessed fines, and clearance costs performed by L.A. County will be assessed to the parcel's property tax bill.

Please get your property ready for the summer by performing preventive fire maintenance. Los Angeles County Fire Department has designed the "Ready, Set, Go!" program (<https://fire.lacounty.gov/rsg/>) to walk property owners and residents through the steps to take to ensure they are prepared in the case of an approaching wildfire. To Download Ready! Set!Go! Brochure visit [http://fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ready-set-go\\_051420.pdf](http://fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Ready-set-go_051420.pdf).

## LADERA LINDA (Continued from page 1)

After some delays the project entered a land use permit/CEQA planning entitlement stage early this year. On February 23, 2021, the Planning Commission approved, with conditions, a Conditional Use Permit, Variance, Major Grading Permit and Site Plan Review for the construction of the new Ladera Linda Community Center and Park, landscaping, ancillary site improvements and associated grading. The Planning Commission's approval of the project was appealed by the City Council and will be considered on April 6. If approved, Johnson Favaro will continue with developing construction ready documents.

### Want To LEARN More?

For Staff reports, including the August 20, 2019 Council approval of the Master Plan, Planning Commission reports, and Ladera Linda-related documents go to <http://www.rvca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan>. Go to the City's Notify Me page to sign up for future updates and meeting notifications. Email [mattw@rvca.gov](mailto:mattw@rvca.gov) for more information.

## CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY! (Continued from page 1)

The top five most serious concerns respondents said they would like to see the City do something about were:

1. Crime
2. Wildfire prevention/emergency preparedness
3. COVID-19 pandemic
4. Conservation/open space preservation
5. Impacts to neighborhoods of visitors to parks and trails

The top five issues respondents said they would like to see the City Council pay more attention to were:

1. Crime
2. Trails and open space
3. Traffic safety
4. Senior services
5. Environment/sustainability

The top three local environmental concerns among respondents were:

1. Ocean/beach pollution
2. Impacts of chemical dumping off the coast
3. Wildfire hazard

To read the full results of the RPV Citizen Satisfaction Survey, visit [rvca.gov/citizensurvey](http://rvca.gov/citizensurvey). If you would like to request a print copy of the full survey results, please contact Senior Administrative Analyst Megan Barnes at [mbarnes@rvca.gov](mailto:mbarnes@rvca.gov) or 310.544.5226.

## IT TAKES A PENINSULA VILLAGE



## Palos Verdes Peninsula Village

• Stay Settled • Stay Connected • Stay Engaged

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village creates a sense of community for older adults to continue independent living. Members and volunteers foster friendships and opportunities to engage while helping one another.

PVP Village has been serving its members throughout the Covid-19 crisis with a calendar of virtual social opportunities, continuing transportation to essential appointments, computer help and referrals.

For information about this dynamic and caring community of friendship and support, contact Executive Director Marianne Propst to participate in a Zoom Information Session. You also may call for an informal chat or to arrange a socially distant visit.

Call 310.991.3324, email [peninsulavillagepvp@gmail.com](mailto:peninsulavillagepvp@gmail.com) or visit [www.peninsulavillage.net](http://www.peninsulavillage.net), for more details.

## CIVIC CENTER PROGRESS: SURVEY RESULTS



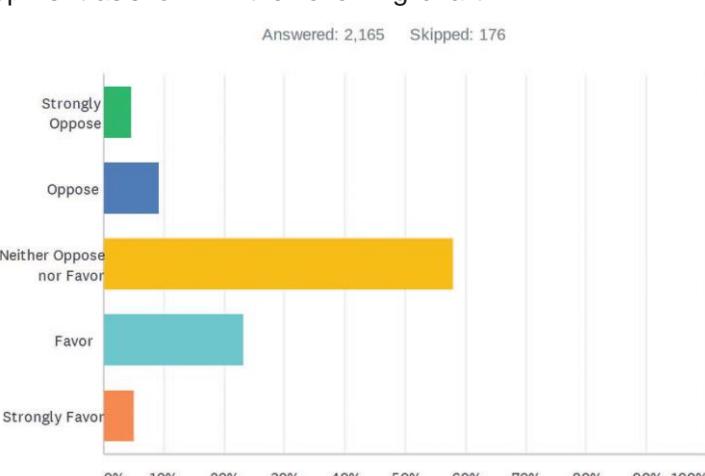
Several Civic Center questions were included in a broad Citizen Satisfaction Survey that was distributed in December, 2020.

The City has been actively pursuing a Civic Center Park Master Plan since 2017. Since that time a survey has gone out to all residents, the Civic Center Advisory Committee (CCAC) was formed and has met monthly, and an open house was held in 2018.

On October 15, 2019 the City Council approved a program document for the site which included a number of components including a new City Hall, Council chambers, Sheriff substation and medium fire station, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), community center, trailhead facilities, extensive landscaping and open space, and a computer training room. The City Council recently directed Staff to begin the process of hiring a project manager to help guide the City through this challenging and complex process.

The survey results showed that significant outreach still needs to be done for this project to raise awareness and public involvement. Overall, more respondents supported the project than opposed it.

More than half of survey respondents said they were "not at all familiar" with the current Civic Center Mast Plan project, and 57.97% said they "neither oppose nor favor" redevelopment of the Civic Center site. Twice as many respondents said they "favor" or "strongly favor" redevelopment of the Civic Center site than those who said they "oppose" or "strongly oppose" redevelopment as shown in the following chart.



The top five amenities respondents said were likely to cause them to visit the Civic Center were:

1. Special events (such as Fourth of July)
2. Public performances at a small amphitheater
3. Hiking
4. Restaurant
5. City services (e.g. permits)

Be informed and be part of this exciting and important community process. Sign up for email notifications. Send your ideas to Staff. Read up on the project at the City's website.

Go to <http://www.rvca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan>. Email [mattw@rvca.gov](mailto:mattw@rvca.gov) for more information and sign up for future updates and meeting notifications at the City's Notify Me page at <https://carranchopalosverdes2.civicplus.com/list.aspx>.

## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

RPV is open for business and in the market for jobs. We are currently seeking qualified candidates to fill vacancies for full-time and part-time positions in multiple departments throughout the City!

Interested in learning more about available positions, City Departments, and the recruitment process? Once a month, Human Resources and the hiring Department will host an open-to-the-public Zoom information session. Visit <https://rpv.gov/672/Recruitments> to view the schedule for upcoming information sessions and to view previously recorded sessions as well!



## TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977, [www.rpvrecycles.com](http://www.rpvrecycles.com)

March and April 2021: No Changes

May 2021: No service Monday, May 31, 2021, Memorial Day. Services for all routes (Monday through Friday) will be delayed by one day.

June 2021: No Changes

Regulations for Hours for Trash Cart/Can Placement and Storage: 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 pm on collection day. Empty carts cannot be left on the street overnight. Containers have to be stored on the side or back of the property, at a location that is substantially screened from view from the public or private street right-of-way. Please help keep your neighborhood attractive and aesthetically pleasing.



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, please call EDCO and 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

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## CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



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## GREEN CORNER



Earth Day is April 22. In celebration, the City is planning on hosting recycling events celebrating reuse, reduce, recycle and repurpose. However, due to COVID-19 one or more of the events may be cancelled. Please look for updated status information a couple of weeks prior to each of the events.



## FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

### COVID-19 Precautions



Do not attend if you have

1. Any COVID-19 symptoms
2. Been asked to quarantine
3. Recently traveled internationally



Wear a face covering



Stay in your vehicle with windows closed, if possible

The next shredding event is **tentatively** scheduled for Saturday April 17, 2021 from 8 am-11 am at RPV Civic Center located at 30940 Hawthorne Blvd. Please check the City's website and Nextdoor email announcements to learn if the event is happening.



Certified shredding trucks will confidentially shred all documents on site.

This event is offered exclusively to RPV/EDCO's residential customers. Please bring proof of RPV residency such as a recent utility bill. If you are not an RPV resident, you will be turned away!

This is a Shredding Event Only. There will be no mulch available and no electronic waste collection. Instead, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 and ask for a free limited electronic waste collection.

Additional safety precautions will be taken for your safety and the safety of event staff. Wear a mask, stay in your car with the windows rolled up, and leave the material in your vehicle.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONIC WASTE ROUNDUP



The PV Peninsula's Annual Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Waste Roundup is **tentatively** on Saturday, May 1, 2021, from 9 am to 3 pm at RPV Civic Center (30940 Hawthorne Blvd.). Please check the City's website and Nextdoor email announcements to learn if the event is happening. Additional safety precautions will be taken for your safety and the safety of event staff. Wear a mask, stay in your car with the windows rolled up, and leave the materials in your vehicle.

For more information, including what to bring visit the County website [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org) or call 1.888.CleanLA.

Event cancelled? Can't make it that day? The Gaffey SAFE center located at 1400 N. Gaffey Street in San Pedro is a permanent HHW & E-Waste collection center that is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm to LA County residents. For inquiries, call 800.238.0172 or [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com)

## DON'T BRUSH THIS OFF EDCO'S SPRING BRUSH CLEARANCE EVENT

Get your property ready for the summer by performing preventive fire maintenance. EDCO's spring brush free excess green waste collection event helps you dispose of excess vegetation growth, overgrown bushes and shrubbery, and trimmed trees in your backyard, canyon, and elsewhere on your property without having to rent bins, or incur additional costs for hauling the green waste material away.



Find your regular collection day below and then see your brush clearance day. Plan to complete your brush clearing before your designated day.

### Regular Trash Day Brush Clearance Day

Monday	Saturday, April 17
Tuesday	Saturday, April 24
Wednesday	Saturday, May 1
Thursday	Saturday, May 8
Friday	Saturday, May 15

You will receive more information from EDCO in late March. If you have any questions call EDCO at 310.540.2977, or [www.rpvrecycles.com](http://www.rpvrecycles.com).

