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Guide for
Winter fun.
It's Snow
Joke!



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

SPOTLIGHT ON KEN RUKAVINA, NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR



Ken Rukavina took over the helm of Community Development Department (CDD) Director in 2020 after most recently working for the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Ken took some time to answer a few questions about being a CDD Director and some of the current and future issues and challenges facing the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Many residents may not know what CDD is and what a CDD director does. How would you describe the department and your role?

The Community Development Department is responsible for planning, building, economic development, code enforcement and view preservation activities within the City, and provides support to the City Council and Planning Commission. The primary purpose of the Community Development Department is to provide guidance and coordination for all land planning and development activities throughout the City to promote livability and appearance and protection of its natural resources.

The Department is composed of four divisions: Planning, Building and Safety, Code Enforcement, and View Preservation/Restoration.

My role as the CDD Director is to direct and supervise the activities and functions of the department, and oversee the City's community development, economic development and housing initiatives. I also work collaboratively with the other City departments on initiatives that support City functions along with projects that benefit the community. My position reports directly to and supports the City Manager in carrying out the City Council's policy direction.

Please tell our readers about your background and what led you to the planning field.

I'm a registered civil engineer with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Long Beach. I started my career working for the Los Angeles County Flood Control

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RPV AND THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is committed to supporting residents, families and businesses as we continue on the road to recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are all in this together, RPV.



RECREATION AND WELLNESS

In recent months, the Recreation and Parks Department began offering virtual and outdoor activities that promote health and wellness and serve the social and emotional needs of the community in a safe environment, including after school enrichment, virtual art, outdoor yoga, and more! For the latest classes, events and registration information, check rpvca.gov.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

If your small business has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resources and support are available. The City is offering impacted businesses located in Rancho Palos Verdes that generated less than \$1.5 million in gross receipts in 2019 a one-time refund of their 2020 business license tax. The average refund is estimated to be \$332. Since launching the program in April, the City has issued 14 refunds totaling \$4,939. You can apply by submitting a form online, by mail, or by email.

For form links and more information, go to the Financial Assistance section of the City's coronavirus webpage: <http://rpvca.gov/1277/Information-on-Coronavirus-COVID-19>, call 310.544.5301, or email businesslicense@rpvca.gov.

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RANCHO PALOS VERDES

A TALE OF TWO SITES: LADERA LINDA AND CIVIC CENTER UPDATES

CIVIC CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

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, an open house was held in 2018, and land use restrictions were relaxed. Civic Center questions are featured in the new Citizen Satisfaction Survey, see article below.



On Sunday, October 15, 2019, the City Council approved a program document for the site which included a number of components and approximate sizes:

- New City Hall (smaller than the current City Hall square footage)
- Council chambers
- Sheriff substation and medium fire station (The LA County Fire Department and LA County Sheriffs' Department have expressed preliminary interest in funding stations)
- Emergency operations center (EOC)
- Community center

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RPV WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

TAKE THE CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN



The City of Rancho Palos Verdes wants to hear your feedback, community concerns and priorities. We're conducting a Citizen Satisfaction Survey to get your input on a range of topics, 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!

Take the RPV Citizen Satisfaction Survey by January 25, 2021 for a chance to win a prize! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rpv> to complete the survey online or access the link by scanning the QR code to the right with your camera or the QR code scanner on your smartphone or tablet.

SCAN ME

If you prefer to take the survey in print, check your mailbox in the coming days for a print version you can mail back to the City in a prepaid envelope.

Prizes include \$25 gift cards to a variety of RPV businesses. Winners will be announced on the City's social media channels and notified individually.

If you have any questions about the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, please contact Senior Administrative Analyst Jesse Villalpando at jvillalpando@rpvca.gov.



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30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275

CITRUS CONCERN

Orange you glad you're reading this article? The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a pest that acts as a carrier or vector spreading huanglongbin (HLB), a devastating disease of citrus trees. This bacterial disease is transmitted to healthy trees by the psyllid after it feeds on infected plant tissue.



All citrus and closely-related species are susceptible hosts for both the ACP insect and the HLB disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health and eventually die.

Contact the CDFA Toll-Free Pest Hotline (1.800.491.1899) to report suspicious insects or disease symptoms in your citrus trees. Help protect California agriculture from invading pests and diseases. For more information visit <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/>

SIGN UP FOR ALERT SOUTHBAY



Alert SouthBay is a multi-jurisdictional emergency notification system used by 13 South Bay cities - including Rancho Palos Verdes - to keep our communities informed about disasters and emergencies with uniform, expeditious alerts.

Alert SouthBay is an opt-in system using the Everbridge software application. Everbridge sends notifications via email, text message, cellular and landline phones. Users can subscribe to receive alerts from multiple South Bay cities. If you live in Rancho Palos Verdes, for example, but work in Torrance, you can subscribe to alerts from both cities.

Everbridge is the City's primary vehicle for emergency communication. Users can sign up by either:

- Texting "alertsb" to 888-777, which returns a link to register for Everbridge (for COVID-19-related alerts, text the keyword "cv19rpv")
- Registering online at <https://alertsouthbay.com/>
- Downloading the free Everbridge app on an iOS or Android device from the App Store or Google Play



TROUBLE CONNECTING? COX UPDATE

The City is well aware of ongoing challenges residents are experiencing with Cox Communications. On October 6, Cox provided a presentation to the City Council and the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes. The presentation included information on Cox's network investment in the community. Cox provided updates on construction to address network congestion in certain neighborhoods, discussed changes in the way households are now using their network and shared resources for residents to troubleshoot issues in their home.

Residents who continue to have trouble with their internet connection are advised to contact Government Affairs Manager Michael Hadland directly at michael.hadland@cox.com. Customers can also report problems to Customer Support at 1.800.234.3993. Additionally, links to Cox Communication's troubleshooting FAQs and videos and a Wifi Optimization Guide including a helpful Infographic and Internet Experience Customer Resources are posted to the City's website.

Additionally, residents can visit the Cox Solution Store in the Peninsula Shopping Center at 423 Silver Spur Rd, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274 for in-person assistance. Cox representatives are available there Monday-Friday from 10 am-6 pm and Saturday from 10 am-2 pm.

FINANCE AT ITS FINEST!

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

On October 26, 2020, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

This is the City's 26th consecutive year of achieving the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The award demonstrates the City's commitment to transparency for residents and the dedication of the City's staff to accurate financial reporting. Way to go, Finance!



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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 the position, the Department, and the recruitment process? Once a month, Human Resources and the hiring Department will host an information session that will be open to the public. Learn more about the position and the hiring Department, plus get tips during a Zoom information session. Human Resources will also present upcoming workshops that provide tips on completing a governmentjobs.com profile, applying for vacant positions, and preparing for a job interview. To see current job openings, view the schedule for upcoming information sessions and to view previously recorded sessions! Visit <http://rpvca.gov/672/Recruitments>



SAFETY IN READING NUMBERS: FLOCK SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM



On September 30, 2020, the Flock Safety Camera program was expanded to allow other neighborhoods to participate to participate and lease Flock Safety cameras. This expansion of the Neighborhood Security Camera Grant Program has been a great success with many HOAs participating.

The City's grant program provided 50% of the cost of each security camera leased, no more than \$1,000 per camera. The Flock Safety's license plate-reading camera system was created to reduce crime and they integrate with the Lomita Sheriff's Station to notify deputies if wanted vehicles enter your community. RPV community safety and security is important and the City will continue to explore new opportunities to reduce crime and maintain a safe and healthy place to live.

KEN RUKAVINA

(continued from page 1)

District and was first exposed to the planning field while working in the Land Development Division at LACDPW, primarily addressing flood control and land use impacts.

I then worked for the City of Rosemead where I was a member of the design review committee that met weekly to review development of tract and parcel maps and redevelopment and economic activity. This work included architectural review and setting conditions of approval for Planning Commission action. There was much overlap between engineering and planning in Rosemead and it whetted my appetite and interest in planning.

My experience in planning and land use entitlements was broadened at a national land development and transportation firm. While I enjoyed this work, I missed local government and ultimately returned to the public sector, first in Lake Elsinore and then in Palos Verdes Estates, where I was the Public Works Director/City Engineer before assuming the role of Director of the Planning and Building divisions.

What skills and personal qualities does a successful CDD director need to be successful?

Four skills or qualities come immediately to mind: empathy, customer service orientation, analytical abilities and open-mindedness. Being empathetic allows for understanding of what the resident may be feeling or going through in order to help find the best way to resolve the problem or calm a situation. In local government, we are here to serve the public who deserve a prompt response, patience, knowledge and honesty-hallmarks of good customer service. "Analytical" comes to my mind as many aspects of community development are technically detailed and complex. Lastly, urban planning entails creating livable communities and re-development to maintain vibrancy and a balance of amenities. In overseeing

community development, it's essential to be open-minded in order to be able to consider new ideas and to welcome input from others, especially the community.

Starting a new job is always challenging, but especially so given the global pandemic. How is CDD managing dealing with the adversity of COVID-19?

The CDD is managing the adversity of COVID-19 by having an amazing staff that has the qualities that I listed above. The staff is dedicated and takes pride in their work. As with other City departments, the CDD has implemented policies and procedures to protect both the staff and the public. This includes being open for walk-in appointments only, virtual planning counter hours using online tools, and performing virtual interactive building inspections using mobile devices (Google Duo, Zoom or FaceTime).

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

I am a life-long San Pedro resident and grew up a few blocks from neighboring Rancho Palos Verdes. I'm married, have two children, and a new grandson. Growing up with the beaches, cliffs and trails on the Peninsula as my playground, working in RPV is working at home and I'm happy and proud to be a part of this great city.

Favorite movie/book/tv show, musician? Hobbies?

My favorite movie is *Moonstruck* (am I dating myself?), my favorite book is a cookbook, my favorite TV show is *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (great memories watching it with the kids) or for a current show, *Chopped*, and my favorite musician is Scott Bradlee and his Postmodern Jukebox. My hobbies are playing the upright bass in the Cerritos College Orchestra (pre-Covid), weather watching (I have a degree in Meteorology too), and baking bread.

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS: ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWAL AND UPDATES

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS

Business license renewal applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31st. In mid-December, City staff will mail 2021 business license renewal applications to all currently licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to City Hall by January 31, 2021. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax payment, a 2021 Business Tax Certificate will be mailed to the business. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2021, at 5% for each month delinquent up to 50% of the total license tax. No extensions or waivers of the penalty amount will be granted.

How do I complete a business license renewal?

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

1. **Online:** File on-line by going to the City's website at <https://rpvpay.com/businesslicense>. Then, simply follow the step by step instructions.
2. **By Mail:** Return the application and your check made payable to "City of Rancho Palos Verdes" to the following address:
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Attention: Business License
30940 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
3. **In Person:** You can also pay your renewal in person at City Hall, within the Community Development Department.

Questions: contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code or visit the City of Rancho Palos Verdes website.

CRIME BUSTER CORNER

Pay it forward, and share these public safety tips with friends and neighbors Safety Tips

If You See Something, Say Something! Call if you can- text if you can't!

Safety is a shared responsibility. If you observe suspicious activity call the Lomita Sheriff's Station at (310) 539-1661 or in the case of an emergency call 9-1-1. If unable to call 9-1-1, text 9-1-1.

Don't let package thieves steal your holiday cheer! Prevent package theft by following these easy tips:

- If you are at home, retrieve the packages as soon as they are delivered.
- Arrange for delivery alerts such as a text message or email, and or have a neighbor watch for and retrieve the delivered package immediately.
- Have your packages delivered to an alternate location.
- <https://www.rpvca.gov/1118/Vacation-Security-Camera-Loaner-Program>

Shop Smart. Shop Safe.

Smart Sharing, Planning: sharing holiday travel plans online

Out of Sight. Out of Mind. Follow these easy to use tips every day to prevent theft from vehicles:

Lock all doors and close all windows, REMOVE packages, holiday gifts and valuable items from inside your car and place them in your trunk where they are out of sight. Park in locked garages if possible and set an alarm or anti-theft device. Don't forget to remove garage remotes in vehicles.

Don't Attract window shoppers and hidden keys are not fooling anybody!

Do not display gifts and valuables visible through windows and break down boxes and place them in dark trash bags Do NOT leave keys hidden outside or in fake concealment rocks. Burglars often know hot to spot the most common hiding places quickly.

Criminals will knock to check if someone will answer the door. Be alert and always make it appear someone is home by following these easy tips:

- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks occupied.
- Set different lights to turn on and off at different times.
- Lock all windows and doors, including the side and garage door.
- Use your Ring security camera device two way audio feature to speak with unknown visitors at your door.

Contact the Sheriff Department for a Home Safety Audit Check

Request Vacation Home Checks from the Lomita Sheriff's Station. Call 310.539.1611

<https://www.rpvca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3554/Sheriff-Home-Burglary-Prevention-Tips-PDF?bidId>

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

(Continued from page 1)

- Trailhead facilities, extensive landscaping and open space
- Computer training room
- Potential Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy office space.

What's Next?

Staff is researching various financing options and working on a draft budget. A financial consultant has also been hired to advise on project financial planning. Long-standing Federal restrictions on the site were recently lifted, clearing the way for adding public safety uses on the Civic Center site, but much remains to be done including environmental and entitlement review processes.

There will be an extensive and robust public outreach process including multiple workshops, presentations to HOAs, and meetings with interested parties.

What Can YOU Do? Be informed and be part of this exciting and important community process. Attend a public workshop or CCAC meeting. Contact staff to arrange for a presentation to your HOA. Sign up for email notifications. Send your ideas to Staff. Read up on the project at the City's website.

Want To LEARN More?

The program document, the October 15, 2019 Staff report, CCAC agendas and staff reports, and additional background information is available at <http://www.rpvca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan>. For additional information or questions email mattw@rpvca.gov

LADERA LINDA: PARK IN PROGRESS

For several years, progress has been made on preparing a Master Plan for a new community center and park at Ladera Linda. 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.

What's Next?

The project is now in the Conditional Use Permit/CEQA planning entitlement stage. This will involve review and approval by the Planning Commission. Once this process is complete, Johnson Favaro, following Council direction, will develop and submit construction-ready documents and final cost estimates for council's review and consideration. Like the Civic Center project, financial options are being evaluated.

Additional opportunities for public input will be available as this project moves along.

What Can YOU Do? Be informed and be part of this exciting and important community process. Attend meetings, sign up for email notifications, contact Staff with your ideas and concerns, and stay current on the project by referencing the City's website.

Want To LEARN More?

For staff reports, including the August 20, 2019 Council approval of the Master Plan, and Ladera Linda-related documents go to <http://www.rpvca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan>. For additional information or questions email mattw@rpvca.gov

To Receive Notifications About Any or All of These Projects:

Go to the City's Notify Me page at <https://ca-ranchopalosverdes2.civicplus.com/list.aspx> to sign up for future updates and meeting notifications.

SISTER CITY VIRTUAL CONNECTION

RPV and Sakura City, Japan are thousands of miles away but as close as sisters. On August 4, 2020, the City Council officially recognized and welcomed Sakura City as a "sister city" during a virtual ceremonial signing event. Since then, staff continues to meet with Sakura City to discuss opportunities to ensure a strong cultural bond and lasting friendship are sustained.

In 2021, the sister cities will invite their communities to participate in virtual webinars that embrace cultural exchange. Webinars will include preparing a traditional Japanese dish, one-on-one cooking lessons with an RPV restaurant chef, sharing Japanese folklore, and reading traditional American and Japanese folktales and folklore to children.

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THAT'S A WATER WRAP!

NEW CAL WATER PIPELINE AND PUMP STATION

Water, water, everywhere, and quite a bit to drink. Cal Water has finished its largest-ever water infrastructure upgrade: the Palos Verdes Peninsula Water Reliability Project.

Fifteen years in the making, this project involved installing seven miles of new drinking water pipeline to serve homes and businesses on the Peninsula, replacing a portion of existing pipeline, and building a new pump station on Crenshaw Boulevard on a separate electrical grid to prevent prolonged outages. Before the new pipeline and pump station went into service, 90% of the Peninsula relied on one 60-year-old pipeline and one pump station.

Both Cal Water and the City thank residents for their patience over the past two years of construction on these much-needed upgrades. This milestone will help ensure that Peninsula residents and firefighters have reliable water service for everyday and emergency needs.



HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

December 2020:

No service on Friday, December 25, Christmas Day. The Friday route will be serviced on Saturday.

January 2021:

No service on Friday, January 1, New Year's Day. The Friday route will be serviced on Saturday.

Questions? Call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com. Leave all containers at the curb no later than 7 am on collection day.



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. Contact EDCO about excess holiday trash collection: December 26 to January 15.

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

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

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



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SWEEPING CHANGES:

HOLIDAY STREET SWEEPING

Streets in RPV are swept twice a month. If one of your regular street sweeping days falls on the fourth Friday of each month (December 25) or on the first Friday of each month (January 1), it will be delayed due to the holidays. Sweeping will be performed on Wednesday, December 30 instead of December 25, and on Wednesday, January 6 instead of January 1. On sweeping days, please try to remove parked cars from the street to allow for optimal sweeping of your street. Help us to make your street clean!



RPV ROAD TO RECOVERY

(Continued from page 1)

Have Questions?

The Los Angeles County Business and Worker Disaster Help Center is a centralized call center and website providing free, one-on-one counseling and support for business owners, workers, nonprofits, tenants and landlords who have been adversely affected by the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

You can get assistance from the L.A. County Business and Worker Disaster Help Center in the manner that's most convenient to you:

- Telephone: 833.238.4450 (Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:30 pm)
- Online: LACountyHelpCenter.org
- Email: DisasterHelpCenter@lacounty.gov
- Social media: <https://lacountyhelpcenter.org/> on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

For more small business resources, visit <http://rpvca.gov/1277/Information-on-Coronavirus-COVID-19>.



GREEN CORNER



TREECYCLING



Recycling your Christmas tree is easy. Remove the base, ornaments, tinsel and garland. Then leave your Christmas tree at the curb on your regular collection day between December 26 and January 15. Flocked trees are also acceptable and will be recycled. No need to cut the tree into smaller pieces (unless it is over 6 feet tall).

If you live in a multi-family complex, contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location.

MANDATORY STATEWIDE RECYCLING MANDATES

Commingled Recycling



Businesses: All businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week are required to arrange for organic waste recycling services. Commercial solid waste includes the total amount of trash, recycling, and organics generated on a weekly basis. If you are an owner or manager of a business that is currently required to recycle organics, and do not do so, please contact your hauler immediately and/or your management company to arrange for organic waste recycling services. If you generate 4 cubic yards or more per week of trash, you are required to arrange for recycling services (paper, bottles, cans, cardboard, plastic, etc.)

Go to <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/Business/> for more info. If you are an RPV business owner or manager, and are experiencing difficulties with your hauler in implementing this mandatory regulation, please contact RPV Public Works at 310.544.5252 or publicworks@rpvca.gov.

Multi-Family Residential Complexes (including apartments, town-homes and condominiums): Multi-family complexes, with 5 or more units, that generate 2 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week are required to arrange for green waste/yard waste recycling services. Food waste diversion is not required at this time. If your landscaper is hauling your yard waste, make sure it is taken to a recycling facility and ask for documentation. These complexes are also required to arrange for recycling services (paper, bottle, aluminum, cardboard, etc.) If you are not recycling your greens or your other recyclable items, you must contact EDCO at 310.540.2977 to arrange for services ASAP.

GOT HAZARDOUS WASTE? STUCK WITH AN OLD COMMODORE 64?

To dispose of old paint, expired medicines, automotive oil, used electronics and much more, go to the Gaffey Safe Center located at 1400 N. Gaffey, San Pedro (across the street from the DMV). They are open to LA County residents every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. For more information, click on https://www.lacs.org/services/solidwaste/hhw_e_waste/default.asp

