



CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

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

SPOTLIGHT ON ELIAS SASSOON NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



After a long career in Texas, including 25 years with the City of Dallas as Chief Engineer/ Assistant Director and most recently as Public Works Director for the City of Cedar Hill, Texas, Elias Sassoon recently joined the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Mr. Sassoon, who has multiple degrees from the University of Texas, was gracious enough to take a few minutes to share his thoughts about his experiences and his new position.

Elias Sassoon was born in Iran, the youngest of five children. He loved John Wayne movies as a boy and his dream was to come to the United States someday. When he was 17, he moved to America by himself, arriving first in New York City, and eventually moving to Washington D.C. and then Dallas, Texas where he settled and worked for many years.

Elias helped support himself while in school at the University of Texas, Arlington, by holding down a multitude of jobs including working at gas stations, restaurants, and as a tutor. Fluent in Farsi, Hebrew, with some knowledge of French and Arabic, Elias asked his co-workers at these odd jobs to help him with his English.

Elias was deeply inspired by his older brother, who was also a Civil Engineer. He said that along with the technical challenges of being an engineer, he was inspired to become a public servant and do what he could to better humanity in his own modest way by reading Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* as a youngster. To help prepare himself to serve, Elias pursued his education voraciously in Texas, earning a B.S. in Civil Engineering, an M.S. in Traffic and Transportation Engineering, a Masters in Public Administration and doing some Doctorate-level studies as well.

When asked to compare his work experience in a huge city such as Dallas versus a modest city such as RPV, Elias noted that there were more levels of complication and bureaucracy in a larger city, more diversity, and less communication. His time as Public Works Director at Cedar Hill, a Texas city of 47,000, was much more comparable. Elias noted that advance planning, maintaining solid lines of communication, and ensuring that all interested parties and organizations are included is crucial to success, whether the project is a billion dollar American Airlines Center project in Dallas or the Portuguese Bend land flow.

Elias stressed that his goal is to make sure that, "Anyone who comes to me is fully accommodated. I provide service as best as I can to everyone and try to leave people with a smile on their face." He said if you come to people and issues with a "can-do, think outside of the box" attitude, combined with solid education, knowledge of City practices, a wealth of experience, and a love for your job, then positive results will come.

When not working, Elias loves to read and follow news from around the world. He is a hard-core fan

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GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS:



The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Official Statement of Votes Cast for the November 7, 2017, General Municipal Election determined that Planning Commissioner John Cruikshank and Finance Advisory Committee Member Eric Alegria captured the two open seats on the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council. Both were elected for a full term of three years and will replace termed-out Mayor Brian Campbell and Council Member Anthony Misetich.

The total ballots cast in the City was 5,934 with John Cruikshank receiving 31.64% and Eric Alegria receiving 22.96% of the votes. Council Members Cruikshank and Alegria were sworn in at the December 5, 2017, City Council meeting.

RPV CITY COUNCIL IN ACTION!

UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2017

SEPTEMBER 5

Agreement for Design of PVIC Internal Exhibits

Approved agreement for Digiscura to complete the final design for two internal exhibits at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center.
www.rpvca.gov/Agreement_Design_PVIC_Exhibits_Staff_Report

Adoption of Los Angeles County District Fire Code

Introduced City Ordinance adopting Los Angeles County Fire Protection District Fire Code which included more restrictive building standards.
www.rpvca.gov/Adoption_Fire_Ordinance_Staff_Report

SEPTEMBER 19

Proposal for Extra Services for Design Development of Ladera Linda Master Plan

Approved proposal for extra services for preliminary design development from consulting firm Richard Fisher and Associates regarding the Ladera Linda Park Master Plan project, including safety and security enhancements. Directed Staff to conduct Phase 1 Environmental Assessment.
www.rpvca.gov/Proposal_Extraservices_LLMasterPlan_Staff_Report

continued on page 3

"CRIME" CORNER

HOW TO AVOID BEING THE VICTIM OF A RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY



Crime Corner continued on page 2

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CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
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HOLIDAY SHOPPING BY THE SEA RIGHT HERE IN RPV



Stopping by the Point Vicente Interpretive Center gift shop will make your holiday shopping experience one of a kind.

Looking for a special gift? Browse our hand-crafted jewelry and selection of whimsical holiday ornaments.

Our gift shop features décor, stocking stuffers, home accessories, and plush toys that celebrate the coastal beauty of our peninsula paradise.

Avoid the crowds at malls, then step outside, watch for whales, and enjoy the sunset!

Open 10:00am to 5:00pm daily. Closed Thanksgiving Day, December 24th and 25th, and New Year's Day. Located at 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, next to the Point Vicente Lighthouse.

ELIAS SASSOON (Continued from page 1)

of *The Big Bang Theory* and his favorite movie is *Fiddler on the Roof*. While no longer a soccer player, he enjoys racquetball and his favorite athlete is the legendary Brazilian footballer, Pele.

A devoted and proud family man, Elias has been married for 31 years with two daughters. His wife is from Northern California, and being close to family was a major impetus for his move from Texas. One daughter is in her final year of medical school and the other is studying Broadcast Journalism in Texas.

Elias concluded his interview with this observation about the journey that led him to the Golden State: "It was always my dream to come to California, but I never thought I would land in the State's most beautiful City." Rancho Palos Verdes is certainly blessed to have such a dedicated and experienced public servant.

"CRIME" CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

RING.COM SECURITY CAMERA PRODUCTS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Many thanks to the RPV residents who purchased a Ring security camera product! Over a thousand households participated in the program and the City appreciates the community's proactive role in making homes and neighborhoods safer. City Staff is eager to hear from residents about this program and encourages residents to complete an online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KB7DT8B>.

City Staff continues to work with Ring and will launch a pilot program, "Ring Safe Neighborhood," that will enable RPV residents to virtually connect with neighbors who own Ring devices in close proximity to share Ring videos and other real-time public safety alerts. By using Ring's app, residents will have a new tool to connect, engage and make the RPV community safer.

HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION SECURITY CAMERA GRANT PROGRAM

HOAs interested in making their neighborhoods safer through security cameras are encouraged to apply for the City's grant program. The City will provide a match of \$3,750 for one security camera system at an approved HOA entrance location(s). An HOA may choose to install a security system at multiple approved entrance locations. Additionally, the City will waive related permit fees. Several HOAs have



successfully applied and the installation of these cameras is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017. Contact Jacqueline Ruiz, Administrative Analyst in the City Manager's office, at 310.544.5305 or at jruiz@rpvca.gov for additional information.

I'M WALKING HERE!

DON'T TAKE SIDES-TAKE THE SIDEWALK! IMPROVEMENTS ON HAWTHORNE BLVD.

Next time you're driving down Hawthorne, take a look to the left or right to see the recently-completed sidewalk improvements. Or better yet, park your car and take a stroll. This project consisted of constructing approximately 13,000 linear feet of sidewalk along both sides of Hawthorne Boulevard from Palos Verdes Drive West to Crest Road, providing a safe, all-weather access path so pedestrians could reach 11 existing bus stops. Besides the improved sidewalks, other improvements included new bus stop shelters, access ramps, and bus benches. This project was mainly funded by the Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program with the City paying twenty percent of the total project cost.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE!

DOG PARK NOW OPEN AT EASTVIEW PARK



The Eastview Dog Park is now ready and open for business for humans and their four-legged friends. This canine-friendly, off-leash enclosure is just part of an overall facelift for this much-beloved and much-used community park located on the City's east side at 1700 Westmont Drive. The highlight is the almost-one acre dog park which features separate, grassy areas for small and large dogs to enjoy. Other improvements include enhanced and expanded picnic

areas, improved trails (including ADA-compliant trails), upgraded picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 7, 2017.

So, load your Labrador, retrieve your retriever, pack up your poodle, and stroll your schnauzer over to Eastview Park for a day of canine fun. And bring your kids too; there's also a great playground, lots of trails, and an open play area!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR BUSINESS LICENSE



While Rancho Palos Verdes is primarily a residential community, there are currently over 1,500 licensed businesses operating in the City. All business activity performed within the City requires the business owner to pay a business license tax. This includes any business activity occurring within a residential area (e.g. home office). Additionally, service providers such as contractors, gardeners, or handymen, whether based in the City or not, are also required to be licensed if they provide services within the City.

Business license applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31st. In mid-December, City staff will mail 2018 business license renewal applications to all currently-licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to City Hall by January 31, 2018. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax, a 2018 Business Tax Certificate will be mailed to the business. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2018, at 5% for each month delinquent up to 50% of the total license tax. Unfortunately, no extensions or waivers of the penalty amount will be granted.

HOW DO I COMPLETE A BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION?

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

1. Online: You can 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: You can mail in your application and payment by downloading the application on the City's website at <http://www.rpvca.gov/288/Business-License-Information>.
3. In Person: You can also complete your license application in person at City Hall, within the Community Development Department or mail it to:

Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall
Community Development Department
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

If you have any questions regarding the renewal process, please contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information about business licenses and taxes, refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code or visit the City of Rancho Palos Verdes website. Whether you're an established enterprise or a hopeful start-up, thanks for your business - we appreciate it!

DON'T FEEL THE BURN

RESIDENTIAL "NO-BURN" ALERT SEASON



The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) may issue 24-hour "No Burn Alerts" starting on November 1st for residential fireplaces and outdoor fire pits and wood stoves when stagnant weather raises fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels. Alerts will be issued only during winter months (November through February) for specific areas or the entire South Coast Air Basin, depending on forecast conditions. During an alert, AQMD requires that residents refrain from all indoor and outdoor wood burning. A list of frequently-asked questions (FAQs) about "No-Burn Alerts" is available on the AQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearts/faq>. Residents may sign-up to receive these alerts directly via e-mail at <http://aqmd.enviroflash.info/>.

RPV CITY COUNCIL IN ACTION! (Continued from page 1)

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2017

Coyotes

Council received and filed a report on measures that other Peninsula cities are implementing to address coyote issues, and directed Staff to research grant programs, raise awareness of issue, look into alternate enforcement methods and reach out to other cities to encourage countywide program. www.rpvca.gov/Coyotes_plan_Staff_Report

OCTOBER 2

Special Council Meeting regarding City's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The Council heard updates to the two plans, discussed management agreements and conservation easements and reviewed the Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) documents. Council received and filed status updates to the NCCP and HCP. www.rpvca.gov/Council_NCCP_HCP_Staff_Report

OCTOBER 3

Consideration of Possible Prohibition of Commercial Marijuana Activities

Initiated code amendment proceedings to amend Municipal Code in order to prohibit commercial marijuana activities in the City that will be licensed by the State in January, 2018. www.rpvca.gov/Consideration_Prohibition_Marijuana_Staff_Report

Purchase of SCE-owned Street Lights

Authorized the purchase of 1,799 streetlights from Southern California Edison. These streetlights have the potential to house Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras, HOA Security Cameras and cellular equipment, reducing the number of new poles needed. www.rpvca.gov/Purchase_SCE_Lights_Staff_Report

OCTOBER 17

Parliamentary Conflict of Interest Law and Recusal Procedure

The Council discussed a memorandum from the City Attorney regarding the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' and California's parliamentary conflict of interest law and recusal procedure. www.rpvca.gov/parliamentary_conflict_recusal_Staff_Report

NOVEMBER 8

Adoption of City's Emission Reduction Action Plan (ERAP)

Directed Staff to do further analysis and research on ERAP which is intended to serve as a guide to improve the City's sustainability by implementing measures to reduce greenhouse emissions over the next 20 years. www.rpvca.gov/Adoption_Emission_Reduction_Staff_Report

State-imposed standards for accessory dwelling units and small cell wireless facilities in the public right-of-way

Council approved 1) establishing a \$500,000 fund to defend City's local zoning authority; 2) forming a coalition with other Peninsula Cities and expand to other cities; and 3) investigating becoming a charter city to protect local authority and control. www.rpvca.gov/standards_dwelling_wireless_Staff_Report

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RECENT COUNCIL ACTIONS?

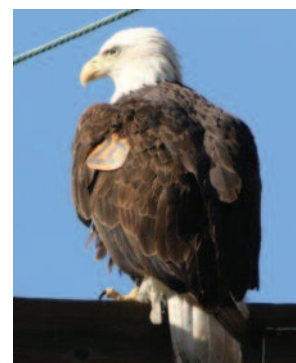
For a full list of past and upcoming City Council Agendas, including full Staff Reports and Minutes and video of Council meetings, go to the City's website at <http://www.rpvca.gov/772/City-Meeting-Video-and-Agendas>.

To receive announcements about upcoming City Council meetings, go to the City's "Notify Me" Listserv at <http://www.rpvca.gov/list.aspx> and select "City Council". You can also receive weekly updates by signing up for the "weekly administrative reports" list.

EXPLORE! HIKE! DISCOVER! FREE NATURE HIKES

Los Serenos de Point Vicente Docents lead nature hikes year-round at a variety of beautiful sites in the City.

Join us and get fit while having fun!



ABALONE COVE SHORELINE PARK

Sunday, January 14, 2:00pm • Sunday, January 28, 1:00pm

Hike down to the tide pools at Abalone Cove Beach. Learn about the fascinating marine life that lives in the intertidal zone. *Moderate to Strenuous* (Park in the parking lot of Abalone Cove Shoreline Park)

OCEAN TRAILS RESERVE (EAST PORTAL & GNATCATCHER TRAILS)

Saturday, February 17, 10:00am

Walk through coastal sage habitat along the eastern bluff of the reserve. Enjoy coastal views, see World War II sites and possible gray whale sightings. *Moderate* (Park on La Rotonda Dr. at Twin Harbors View Dr. - 1st left)

FORRESTAL NATURE RESERVE

Saturday, March 24, 9:00am

Walk through coastal sage scrub habitat. Learn about the local geology. *Moderate to Strenuous* (Park at gate on Forrestal Drive)

GENERAL INFORMATION



Wear sturdy walking shoes, sunscreen and a hat, and bring a bottle of water. All events are free to the public and take approximately 2 hours.

Any parking fees will be waived up to 45 minutes prior to the event and 30 minutes after. Call 310.544.5375 for more information or visit www.losserenos.org.

NOTE: RAIN CANCELS A HIKE!

*Following a rain, check trailalerts.rpvca.gov for closures

If you are interested in becoming a docent and leading these public hikes, visit the Los Serenos docent website at www.losserenos.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHALE OF A DAY!

Saturday, March 10th • 10am - 4pm



Point Vicente Interpretive Center, 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West

- Free Admission
- Whale Watching, Games, Crafts,
- Live Music, Museum and Garden Tours,
- Food, vendors, Kids Fun Zone, and more!!

Free Parking and Shuttle from Point Vicente Park/Civic Center

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT: JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The City's Recreation and Parks Department is actively seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals for the following positions:

- **Part-time positions:**
Recreation Leader I for various park locations and programs
- Please visit the City website at www.rpvca.gov for a detailed job description, qualifications, and compensation for this position.

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977 or
www.RPVrecycles.com

December 2017: No service on Monday, December 25, Christmas Day. There will be a one day delay in collection for all routes that week.

January 2018: No service on Monday, January 1, New Year's Day. There will be a one day delay in collection for all routes that week.

Any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com. Leave all containers at the curb no later than 7am on collection day

In accordance with the City's Municipal Code, remove all empty containers no later than 10pm on collection day. Empty carts MUST NOT be left on the street overnight. Help keep our City Streets beautiful!



CITY HALL PHONE NUMBERS



City Hall Main Line	310.544.5200
City Manager's Office	310.544.5207
City Clerk's Office	310.544.5217
Finance	310.544.5304
Community Development	310.544.5228
Human Resources	310.544.5327
Public Works	310.544.5252
Recreation and Parks	310.544.5260
Building & Safety Division	310.544.5280
Code Enforcement	310.544.5281

CITY COUNCIL

Susan Brooks, Mayor
Email: susan.brooks@rpvca.gov
Jerry Duhovic, Mayor Pro Tem
Email: jerry.duhovic@rpvca.gov
Eric Alegria, Councilmember
Email: eric.alegria@rpvca.gov

John Cruikshank, Councilmember
Email: john.cruikshank@rpvca.gov

Ken Dyda, Councilmember
Email: ken.dyda@rpvca.gov

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER

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GREEN CORNER



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

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. No need to cut the tree into smaller pieces (unless it is over 6 feet tall). Flocked trees are acceptable and can be recycled.

If you live in a multi-family complex, contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location. This location is typically in the garage area or by the recycling bins.



DECEMBER FREE HOLIDAY EXCESS TRASH COLLECTION

EDCO offers free excess trash collection for three weeks during the December holiday season (December 26th to January 15th). During that time, in addition to your weekly trash placed in the grey cart, you may temporarily place excess trash in your old standard-size cans and/or in plastic bags. No loose material will be accepted.

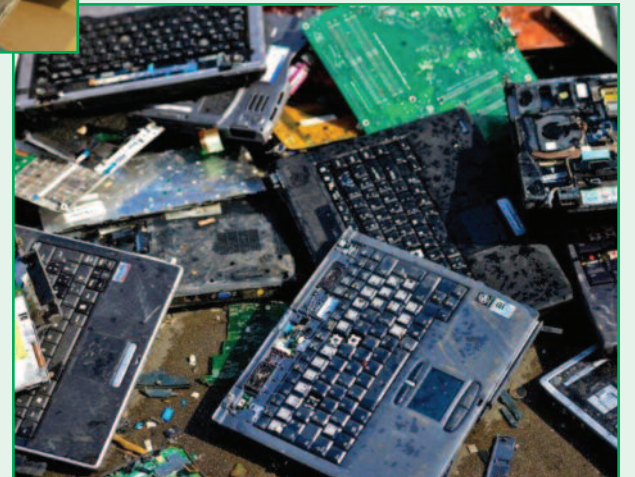


Don't forget to recycle your shipping and gift boxes by placing them in your blue carts. As for large empty gift and cardboard boxes, flatten and place them in or next to your blue recycling carts. If you are a good recycler and need more blue carts, call EDCO. They are free!

BULKY ITEM AND ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION: Was Santa good to you? EDCO offers customers free (limited) collection of bulky and electronic items such as sofas, TVs, computers, mattresses, desks, etc.

Donate your furniture, electronics, toys or appliances that are in good working condition. Contact a charitable organization.

Do not let reusable items end up in the landfill!



YEAR-ROUND PARK HOURS

Abalone Cove Shoreline Park ~ 310.544.5366
Daily ~ 9:00am-Dusk

Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park ~ 310.544.5350
Mon.-Fri. ~ 9:00am-Dusk Sat. & Sun. ~ 10:00am-Dusk

Ladera Linda Park ~ 310.544.5370
Mon.-Fri. ~ Noon-5:00pm Sat. & Sun. ~ 10:00am-5:00pm

Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC) ~ 310.544.5375
Daily ~ 10:00am-5:00pm

Robert E. Ryan Community Park ~ 310.544.5362
Daily ~ 9:00am-Dusk

Eastview Park ~ 310.544.5260
Daily ~ Dawn-Dusk

All park grounds in the City may be enjoyed from dawn to dusk.

The leash law is enforced at all City Parks. Off-leash dogs are allowed only in Rancho Caninos Dog Park at Point Vicente Park/Civic Center and at Eastview Dog Park.

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

