DISASTERS DON'T PLAN AHEAD - YOU CAN

Disaster can happen at any time, often with little to no warning. The widespread devastation caused by a catastrophic disaster has the potential to cut you off from the rest of the world for several days. Following a disaster, emergency responders will arrive on the scene as soon as possible to assist you, but it may take some time.

The time to start thinking about what to do in an emergency is before it happens. By following some simple guidelines, you can help prepare your family, neighborhood, business, or school to be better prepared and self-sufficient after the next disaster.

WHERE ARE THE WHALES?

In anticipation of the upcoming Whale of a Day, three hidden whales are swimming in this newsletter. Enjoy your search for miniature versions of the Earth's largest creatures.

SPOTLIGHT ON NORMA SALDAÑA

Norma Saldaña supervises Open Space Management staff and operations in her position as Recreation Supervisor. She has had a busy two years with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes from helping to kick-start the new Park Ranger Program to dealing with the challenges of operating City trails and beaches during a pandemic. Norma took time to talk about the many hats she wears at RPV.

LA COUNTY FIREFIGHTER

JONATHAN FLAGLER: IN MEMORIAM

On January 6, 2022, Los Angeles County Firefighter Jonathan Flagler tragically lost his life while bravely battling a house fire in Rancho Palos Verdes. Tributes have poured in for this devoted husband, father, uncle, friend, and hero who died serving the community that raised him. He was born at San Pedro Hospital, grew up in an unincorporated area that was later annexed to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, and attended San Pedro High School. He lived in his childhood home in Eastview until 2009, when he moved to Orange County. Flagler was a 21-year veteran firefighter who spent most of his career in the City of Vernon before he joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department in October 2020 and began working at Station 85 in Miraleste. The City is exploring options for a permanent memorial in RPV. His heroism and selfless devotion to others will not be forgotten.
WHAT'S THE 211?

211 LA Connects Residents with County Services

211 LA is the hub for residents looking for all types of health, human, and community services in Los Angeles County. 211 LA provides information and referrals to services that best meet individual needs, through a 24-hour 2-1-1 call line, and through website and chat services. It also provides an online community calendar, connecting people to local events that offer services and community connections. Special programs provide outreach and education, service navigation, and care coordination to assist people with accessing and obtaining services.

211 LA maintains and updates LA County’s official comprehensive database of over 50,000 health and human services, including mental health, older adult, disability, veteran, and youth services.

211 LA is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1, or visiting 211la.org. 211 LA’s purpose is to link people to community services, so that everyone in LA County can survive, thrive, and be empowered, no matter their situation or background.

For program details and to download an application packet, visit rpvca.gov/211.

NORMA SALDAÑA

Tell us about the Rangers and your role.

In 2019, the City began its first Park Ranger Program after 10 years of contracting out enforcement services. Bringing the program into the Recreation and Parks Department allowed the City to more directly control the inspection and enforcement of the Parks. The program consists of four full-time Parking Enforcement Rangers.

The City owns and manages an extensive trail network, including the 30 miles of trails within the Point Vicente Nature Preserve. Park Rangers patrol, educate, enforce, and provide public safety assistance on City trails. Education and rules enforcement is especially important in the Nature Preserve to protect the sensitive species and their habitats.

This is a lot of ground to cover! Park Rangers receive invaluable support from our management partners, partnering agencies, and a host of volunteers who build and repair our trail system as well as additional eyes and ears in the City’s open spaces, and do so much more.

You started in 2020 right before COVID shut down trails. Tell us how you and your team has dealt with that unexpected event and other challenges.

It was a challenging start. The role of Park Rangers drastically changed gears to shaping behavior and preserving public safety within open space areas to keeping the public out of open space areas for public safety. Like most trail managers in Southern California, RPV experienced a surge of increased trail use when trails reopened in May 2021, with use increasing at popular trailhead areas, such as those near Del Cerro Park.

Rangers also increased public education and worked with the City’s habitat manager, PVPLC, to monitor for damage to natural resources resulting from the increased use of the Nature Preserve.

What do you see as the future of the Open Space Management Division in RPV? What are the management and operational goals you’d like to see put into action?

I see continued popularity of the City’s trails and natural areas, and the continued need for public education and enforcement to balance nature resource protection with public enjoyment of the City’s amazing natural resources. A goal I would like to put into action is increasing public involvement in management of the City’s open space areas.

Another goal is increasing opportunities for local youth to learn about the City’s natural resources. Park Rangers have had the opportunity to mentor with the Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout Troops, and the Los Serenos de Point Vicente Docents offer public hikes throughout the City’s trail system.

How do you enjoy spending time away from work? When I’m away from work, I enjoy hiking and exploring local trails and learning the local history of the San Gabriel Mountains.

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

My favorite books are written by local historian, John W. Robinson, on the subject of the San Gabriels.
If you’re looking to start a career in public sector, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes is hiring and interested in hearing from you! To view our current job opportunities, visit our careers page at [www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/rpca](http://www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/rpca).

If we aren’t currently recruiting for a position that fits your career path, click on Menu located in the top left hand corner of our careers page, and complete a Job Interest Card. You’ll receive an email notification each time a position opens with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes whose category matches one of the categories you’ve chosen. Thank you for your interest in employment with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

**HOUSEHOUSING QUESTIONS? WE’VE GOT HOUSING ANSWERS! RPV HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE AND Q&A**

Last year, the City embarked on a comprehensive process to update its state-mandated Housing Element for the 6th Cycle, which covers the 2021-2029 housing period. Below is a shortlist of frequently asked questions collected as part of the City’s public outreach efforts along with staff responses:

**Q: What is a Housing Element and why is it important?**

A: All California cities are required to adopt a comprehensive General Plan to guide land-use planning decisions. The Housing Element is a key component that provides an analysis of a community’s housing needs for all income levels.

**Q: How much new housing is needed and where will it be constructed?**

A: The Housing Element serves as a framework for the City to determine how to meet its state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation of zoning for 647 new housing units through 2029. A list of 45 potential housing sites was included in the initial draft of the housing element. The vacant and non-vacant sites are located throughout the City’s commercial corridors and residential areas.

**Q: What is the status of the RPV Housing Element Update?**

A: City Staff is working with representatives from the State of California’s Housing Community Development Department (HCDD) to prepare a final draft of the housing element to present to appointed and elected officials as well as interested parties and members of the public. The final draft will include all comments from the public hearing process and critical feedback received from the City Council. The City Staff will present the final draft to City Council at a later meeting. To learn more about the Housing Element, locations of proposed housing sites, upcoming meetings, participation options, and how to sign up to receive more information, please visit the Housing Element homepage at [rpca.gov/housingelement](http://rpca.gov/housingelement).

**CIVIC CENTER PROJECT (UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT)**

New project management that is! After a thorough search, Griffin Structures (Griffin) was selected as the Civic Center Project Manager on February 15. While the intent is to have Griffin onboard until the end of construction, the initial focus is on Phase 1 of the project: Initial Project Document Review, Preliminary Site Planning, and Geotechnical Investigation.

The City also entered into an agreement with the renowned architecture firm Gensler to work on site planning. Gensler has an in-depth understanding of the site due to its facilitation of the program document process.

Want to learn more and get involved? Go to [rpca.gov/civiccenter](http://rpca.gov/civiccenter) to see Civic Center documents and be linked to CCAC reports. Go to [rpca.gov/notify](http://rpca.gov/notify) to receive official notifications and updates or contact mattw@rpca.gov for more information.

**SPRING CRIME CORNER**

Public safety is a top City priority. Protecting yourself and those around you begins with learning what to do, how to prepare and react, and becoming connected in your community.

**Fourth Quarter Crime Report: Focus on Thefts and Burglaries**

From January-December 2021, there were 400 Part I Crimes in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Part I Crimes are classified by the FBI and fall into two categories: violent crimes and property crimes, which include burglaries, thefts, and arson. Residential burglaries and petty thefts remained relatively constant compared to previous years, but there has been an increase in vehicle burglaries and grand thefts. Many of the vehicle burglaries involved items left behind in visible places, while many of the grand thefts were the result of valuables being left in unlocked vehicles. Remember to always lock your car and bring your valuables with you or lock them in your trunk.

**MAKE TAXES LESS TAXING**

**FREE TAX PREP HELP AT HESSE PARK**

Do tax documents make you break out into a cold sweat? Well, gather those forms with confidence, because help is available! AARP Foundation Tax-Aide South Bay is offering FREE federal and state income tax preparation services to low-to moderate-income taxpayers in RPV.

In-person appointments with IRS-trained and certified volunteers at Hesse Park are available on Fridays through April 15, 2022, from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Appointments are required. No walk-ins will be accepted. AARP membership is not required.

To make an appointment and learn more about this service, visit [taxaidesouthbay.org](http://taxaidesouthbay.org) or call 310.544.5260.

**DISASTERS**

(Continued from page 1)

Create a plan by discussing the following questions with your family, friends, or household to kick-start your emergency preparedness:

- What is my family/household communication plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation supply kit?
- Do I need to update my emergency preparedness disaster supply kit?

**BE INFORMED**

It is important to know what disasters and hazards could affect your area, how to get emergency alerts, and where you would go if you and your family need to evacuate. Make sure your family has a plan and practices it often.

- Get AlertSouthBay alerts by texting “alerts” to 888-777.
- Download the MyRPV App to your devices to stay connected and get updates from the City by following RPV on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For additional information and resources, please contact Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator at [Jvillalpando@rpca.gov](mailto:Jvillalpando@rpca.gov) or 310.544.5209.

**PAGE 5**
This service is offered exclusively to RPV/EDCO’s residential customers. Plan to complete your brush clearing before your designated day. You may have heard that effective January 1, 2022, Californians are now required to separate organics waste, such as leftover food and kitchen scraps, from their trash and place it in their green waste bin. SB 1383 required to separate organics waste, such as leftover food and kitchen scraps, from their trash and place it in their green waste bin. EDCO will collect and recycle them. Additionally, bring your unwanted electronics such as TVs, computer monitors, CPUs, printers, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players, and answering machines. EDCO will collect and recycle them. The next shredding event is scheduled for April 2020. Bring your personal and private documents, such as birth or death certificates, social security statements that you want confidentially shredded to RPV Civic Center (City Hall) in the overflow parking lot. 30940 Hawthorne Blvd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at RPV Civic Center, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd. Clean out your garage and/or gardener’s shed, and please remember to bring a tarp to cover your material. Please bring proof of RPV residency such as a recent utility bill. Please bring proof of RPV residency such as a recent utility bill.

BUS(T) A MOVE ON PV TRANSIT

Earth Day is April 22nd. In celebration of Earth Day, the City is hosting recycling events celebrating reuse, reducing, recycling, and re-purposing. Let’s make it easy being green!

SHREDDING, E-WASTE, AND MULCH GIVEAWAY-OH MY!

The PV Peninsula’s Annual Household Hazardous Waste /Electronics Waste Roundup is on April 2, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at RPV Civic Center, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd. Clean out your garage and/or gardener’s shed, and help the environment. Visit the County website www.lacrd.org or call 1.888.CleanLA for a list of allowable items. This event is open to all Los Angeles County residents.

HOU SEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE ROUNDUP

The City Council approved an agreement with EDCO to provide organics waste collection to residential customers (single-family, and multi-family dwellings) after April 1. A public hearing is scheduled for the March 15 City Council meeting. For more information on multi-family organic waste collection, please contact Lauren Ramezani, Public Works Senior Administrative Analyst, at lauren.ramezani@rpvca.gov. Prior to the City’s implementation of organics waste collection, a robust outreach campaign will be conducted. Please stay tuned for updates.

GREEN CORNER

Earth Day is April 22nd. In celebration of Earth Day, the City is hosting recycling events celebrating reuse, reducing, recycling, and re-purposing. Let’s make it easy being green!

SHREDDING, E-WASTE, AND MULCH GIVEAWAY-OH MY!

The next shredding event is scheduled for April 2020. Bring your personal and private documents, such as birth or death certificates, social security

HOU SEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE ROUNDUP

The PV Peninsula’s Annual Household Hazardous Waste /Electronics Waste Roundup is on April 2, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at RPV Civic Center, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd. Clean out your garage and/or gardener’s shed, and help the environment. Visit the County website www.lacrd.org or call 1.888.CleanLA for a list of allowable items. This event is open to all Los Angeles County residents.

THE (RE)CYCLE OF LIFE ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING COMING SOON

You may have heard that effective January 1, 2022, Californians are now required to separate organics waste, such as leftover food and kitchen scraps, from their trash and place it in their green waste bin. SB 1383 aims to reduce methane emissions by diverting organics waste from landfills for other uses like compost, mulch, and renewable energy. What does this mean for RPV? On January 18, 2022, the City Council approved an agreement with EDCO to provide organics waste collection to residential customers (single-family, and multi-family dwellings) after April 1. A public hearing is scheduled for the March 15 City Council meeting. For more information on multi-family organic waste collection, please contact Lauren Ramezani, Public Works Senior Administrative Analyst, at lauren.ramezani@rpvca.gov. Prior to the City’s implementation of organics waste collection, a robust outreach campaign will be conducted. Please stay tuned for updates.