SPOTLIGHT ON
ELIAS SASSOON
NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

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, Portuguese and Arabic, Elias was much more comparable. Elias noted that 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, Portuguese and Arabic, Elias was much more comparable.

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.

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 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 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 of John Wayne movies.
I'M WALKING HERE!

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 15,000 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, 2015.
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://rpuyaya.com/businesslicense/. Then, simply follow the steps below:
   1. By Mail: You can mail in your application and payment by downloading the application on the City’s website at https://rpuyaya.com/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
   50340 Hawthorne Blvd.
   Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

If you have any questions regarding the renewal process, please contact the Business License Coordinator at 310-544-3501. 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!
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**

**Saturday, 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 & GRAPETRACHER 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)

**FORESTAL 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

**EXPLORE HIKE! DISCOVER! FREE NATURE HIKES**

**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)

**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 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 2**
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, HID 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 2**
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-Agenda.
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.

**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 & GRAPETRACHER 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)

**FORESTAL 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
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. Any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com.

There will be a one day delay in collection for all routes that week.

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-5:00pm 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.

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.

Comments? Email mattw@rpvca.gov or call 310.544.5218

City of Rancho Palos Verdes Newsletter

Editors: Gabriella Yap and Matt Waters
Winter 2018 Newsletter Contributors:
  Tracy Bonano, Emily Colborn, Kit Fox, Nicole Jules, Dan Landon
  Karen Otkad, Louise Ofannes, Julie Peterson, Lauren Ramezani
  Jacqueline Ruiz, Nancie Silver, Matt Waters, Gabriella Yap

Comments? Email mattw@rpvca.gov or call 310.544.5218

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.

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. Any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com.

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-5:00pm 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.

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. Any questions, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com.

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!