SPOTLIGHT ON KARINA BAÑALES, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

What led you to a career in city government?
I love working with people! From the age of ten through my college years, I was in student government. I held the positions of secretary, class president, senator of public affairs, and student government president. I lobbed at California’s State Capitol for college students with varying socio-economic status to pay and attend school through grants and scholarships. I worked as a professional intern at the State of Hawaii Capitol compiling both House and Senate bills on behalf of the Women’s Legislative Caucus, writing floor speeches on legislative bills, and assisting with the House and Senate legislative digests.

I knew early on that I desired to work in the public sector; I just didn’t know at what level of government. continued on page 2

COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATES: STAY INFORMED!

When the coronavirus public health crisis hit Los Angeles County in March, the City began putting out daily COVID-19 Community Updates to provide residents with the latest public health guidance, local case numbers, information on closures and community resources. Due to resident feedback and a change of pace in developments, the online update is now weekly. COVID-19 Community Updates are distributed on Thursdays, but any major announcements in between will be shared with the community. As always, thanks for reading, and don’t hesitate to reach out to the City for information!

If you haven’t done so already, sign up for COVID-19 Community Updates by subscribing to the Breaking News listerv at rpvca.gov/notify. A webpage on the City website with coronavirus updates, resources and information is continuously being updated at rpvca.gov/coronavirus. Be sure to follow the City on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

DEALING WITH DEL CERRO: ADDRESSING PRESERVE-RELATED TRAFFIC, SAFETY AND NOISE CONCERNS

Crowds and traffic congestion at the popular Burma Road entrance to Portuguese Bend Reserve are nothing new, but social media awareness and the limited public options caused by COVID-19 have worsened the situation.

At its August 18 and September 1 meetings the City Council directed Staff to address these concerns by exploring and implementing potential mitigation measures over the next two months. Ideas include:
• Install temporary signs/ red curbs to prohibit parking along a portion of Crenshaw Blvd. on a trial basis.
• Expand social media and public outreach campaign to educate and re-direct visitors to alternate locations such as Alva Vicente Reserve.
• Install gates at Burma Rd. and Rattlesnake Trails-two of the most utilized access points to the Preserve. These gates will limit after-hours access to the Preserve.

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DON’T GO FISH (OR POACH): ENFORCING MPA RESTRICTIONS

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes Open Space Management (OSM) staff have observed and received reports from the public of poaching from the tide pools within the Marine Protected Area (MPA) at Abalone Cove, a designated no-take zone. Since late June, the City has observed over 60 MPA violations, educated 119 fishermen about legal fishing access outside of the MPA zone, and stopped an estimated 1,000 individual specimens from being taken. These species include burbot, mussels, hermit crabs, purple sea urchins, opal eyes, isopods and starfish. OSM has been working closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Los Angeles Marine Protected Areas Collaborative Team to correct violations and to educate visitors.

New signage has been updated and replaced along all legal access points within the MPA, including Abalone Cove, Terranea, and Pelican Cove. Staff and volunteers have signed up for Tidepool Patrols to monitor tide pools during extremely low tides to share resources about what is and isn’t permitted in MPAs. The City is also working on updating information on the City website and will soon be releasing a short video about MPAs, filmed by RPVtv.
**KARINA BĀNALES**

Tell us about your educational and work experiences.

Upon graduating from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa with a degree in Political Science, I began working at Six Flags Magic Mountain as their Human Resources Supervisor. I worked closely with the State Department and the Social Security Administration Department to develop their Visa Work and Travel Program. I had the opportunity to travel to 18 countries over the years to recruit and hire university students in their junior and senior years to work for Six Flags. I found working for these governmental agencies rewarding, and I decided to go back to school and earn a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Hawai’i. While earning my degree, I recognized that my end goal was to work for a municipal government.

I worked for the cities of South San Francisco, San Gabriel, Junqua Valley, the County of Riverside, and Palos Verdes Estates. My experience in local government includes Human Resources, City Clerk’s Office, governmental and legislative affairs, community relations, and risk management.

Many of our residents may have a general idea what a City Manager does, but may not know as much about the role of a Deputy City Manager. Tell us about your role as Deputy City Manager and how you and City Manager Ara Mihranian work together?

A Deputy City Manager (DCM) provides leadership and assists the City Manager in day-to-day operations to achieve unified outcomes for the betterment of the community by working closely with him and listening to the residents. Also, the DCM has oversight of the administration and operations of local and regional services with an emphasis on delivering excellent service. Most importantly, the DCM position assists the City Manager in carrying out City Council goals and policies while preserving the community’s quality of life.

As Ara’s Deputy City Manager, it is my responsibility to provide ongoing assistance and support by maintaining a collaborative environment between him, the department heads, and the City Council. Together, we share a similar vision and understanding for the community which is due to our years of experience on the Peninsula.

What qualities and attributes should an effective Deputy City Manager possess?

An effective Deputy City Manager should possess strong leadership and communication skills, be collaborative, innovative, and have the capacity to develop and build consensus among City staff and the community.

What are some of the projects you are excited to be working on for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes?

I recently accomplished my first assigned project which was to form a “Sister City” partnership with Sakura City, Japan. This required collaborating with various RPV divisions and their staff, bi-weekly meetings with Sakura City officials, and hosting a virtual signing ceremony. Similar to RPV, this was my first-time establishing a sister city relationship and I am grateful to have had the opportunity.

Another project is the development of a Civic Center. The idea of creating a space for civic engagement and computer help including Zoom and Facetime programming is exciting to me. It is the epicenter where City staff, residents, business owners, and the public can come together and appointees join to become the Rancho Palos Verdes community.

You joined the City during the middle of a global pandemic. How do you feel the City has done thus far with COVID-19?

Rancho Palos Verdes has maintained an exemplary level of communication regarding COVID-19 among its residents and business community. I was pleased to see how responsive the City is to community concerns pertaining to COVID-19, including the value placed on Safety.

As a Deputy City Manager, you will be faced with community issues that span a wide spectrum of topics. How would you effectively approach these issues?

It is important to understand our community and its individuals and groups. My approach is to familiarize myself with an issue and ensure that I have all the information and so I have a better understanding of what needs to be addressed. Having an open line of communication and open collaboration from the start is critical.

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

I will be deeply committed to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and its residents. I will exemplify public service through leadership, embrace the City’s commitment to equity and inclusion, and complement and enhance effective and engaged Executive Leadership Team.

As Deputy City Manager, what are some of the City Council goals you would like to be involved in?

I would like to be involved in the following goals: identifying economic development opportunities to enhance retail establishments, re-establish the Bi-Annual Leadership Academy for residents, and achieve 91% of RPV Employees saying RPV is a “great place to work.”

How do you enjoy spending time away from work?

Pre-COVID-19, I would spend time with family, friends, going out. During COVID-19, I enjoy cleaning and organizing my house, watching movies from home and cooking.

What activity have you missed the most during COVID-19?

Definitely being able to travel with my family. I grew up surrounded by my cousins, aunts and uncles-enjoying carne asada on weekends, hanging out at our parents’ house and watching relatives play soccer.

Favorite book, movie, type of music/sport etc...

My favorite sport is soccer. I enjoy playing, coaching, and watching soccer. I have volunteered as an AVSO soccer coach and coached competitive club soccer for years.
The General Municipal Election, previously scheduled for November 3, 2020, has been canceled. This is the first time in the City’s history that an election will not be held to fill open seats.

On June 2, 2020, the City Council called for a General Municipal Election to be held for the election of two members of City Council. The nomination period began on July 15th and ended on August 7th, with only two candidates nominated – incumbents Mayor Crunkschank and Mayor Pro Tem Alegria, for the two open seats.

Per Elections Code 10229, when this occurs, the local agency (City Council) is authorized to appoint to each office those nominated as though they were elected at a municipal election. This appointment also causes the previously-scheduled election to be canceled which yields an approximate savings of over $100K.

EDCÔS FALL BRUSH CLEARANCE

Do your part to help prevent brush fires! EDCÔS Bi-annual brush clearance event can help you dispose of your excess vegetation growth, overgrown bushes and shrubbery, and tree trimming free of charge. Schedule to complete your brush clearing before your designated collection day. Use your green carts, personal cans and tie bundles and leave them at the curb.

Regular Trash Day Brush Clearance Day

Monday: Saturday, October 3
Tuesday: Saturday, October 10
Wednesday: Saturday, October 17
Thursday: Saturday, October 24
Friday: Saturday, October 31

Brush clearance will take place rain or shine. If you have any questions call EDCÔ at 310.540.2977 or go to http://www.rpvca.gov/327/Recycling-Programs

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is a top City priority, and the City is committed to help you become educated, prepared, and connected.

• Community updates: please subscribe to the City’s official Nextdoor page and sign up to receive public safety alerts with the City’s email alerts.
• Community connectedness: join a local Neighborhood Watch group or download the free Ring Neighbors app

FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS

Tips to Avoid Vehicle Burglaries:
• Always lock your vehicles whenever not in use
• Close and lock all windows
• Keep your valuables, such as your purse, wallet, or bag, with you or secure them out of sight and store away
• Do not display items of value in your vehicle: place them in your trunk or keep them covered
• Remove valuables, packages, garage openers, mail, or other devices from sight

Tips to Prevent Residential Burglaries:
• Lock all windows and doors, including backyard, side, and garage doors
• Keep all curtains closed at night or when no one is home
• If you are away, leave house lights on or set them to turn on at intervals
• Set up a security camera system with video and audio
• Notify trusted neighbors if you will be away for an extended period

If you see something, say something! We encourage you to call the Lomita Sheriff’s Station at 310.339.1661 if you see any suspicious persons or activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The City encourages residents to connect with their neighbors and community and practice good public safety. Community safety is a community endeavor! So join your local Neighborhood Watch.

The RPV Neighborhood Watch has been running for over 28 years, and continues to be a successful grassroots community-run organization.

To see if you are in an existing neighborhood watch covered area, or to join RPV Neighborhood Watch, please contact Gail Lorenzo – Founder of the Neighborhood Watch – at rpvnw@ix.netcom.com.

If you would like to organize your own neighborhood watch or learn more about public safety programs, please email Administrative Analyst Shane Lee at slee@rpvca.org.

CRIME BUSTER CORNER

FALL 2020

YES, WE HAVE NO ELECTION!

It’s a First – Rancho Palos Verdes General Municipal Election – Canceled!

In keeping with its ongoing efforts to serve all members of the community, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes is updating its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan and self-evaluation. The accessibility plan provides a comprehensive approach to access for individuals with disabilities to City facilities, programs, services, activities, and events.

The City is seeking input from interested parties, and individuals with disabilities to help address and prioritize current and future needs. Your comments and opinions are important to us and regarding how the City of Rancho Palos Verdes can better serve individuals with disabilities. The City is working on a survey to get your input. More details coming.

ADA PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY COMING YOUR WAY

Del Cerro (Continued from page 1)

• Investigate additional alternatives for enforcement of parking.
• Investigate parking reservation, pay systems, and an analysis of parking limitation systems for Del Cerro area specifically.

These measures will be carefully monitored and adjusted in the following months to provide relief to this beleaguered neighborhood. If you plan on visiting any of the 12 wonderful reserves in RPV, please be respectful of the neighbors, obey all posted signs, and follow appropriate social distancing and safety protocols. To stay informed on matters related to the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve sign-up for the Breaking News and Palos Verdes Nature Preserve listserv at rpvca.gov/notify. For information on the quarterly Preserve Public Forums, visit http://www.rpvca.gov/705/Quarterly-Public-Forum-Meetings

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If you have any questions call EDCO at 310.540.2977, check empties carts must be removed no later than 10 pm on collection day. Carts can be placed at the curb after 4 pm the day before collection day and November 26, Thanksgiving Day. Thursday October 2020: EDCO 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com No service on Friday, December 25. Service will occur on Saturday.

Empty carts cannot be left on the street overnight. Carts must be removed no later than 10 pm on collection day. Carts can be placed at the curb after 4 pm the day before collection day and November 26, Thanksgiving Day. Thursday October 2020: EDCO 310.540.2977 or www.rpvrecycles.com No service on Friday, December 25. Service will occur on Saturday.

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. Visit http://rpvca.gov/672/Recruitments to view the schedule for upcoming information sessions and to view previously recorded sessions as well!

Seniors in the Spotlight!

RPVtv and Peninsula Seniors have teamed up to launch “Peninsula Seniors Connections.” The show covers the Peninsula Seniors’ weekly Bohannon Lecture Series. Before COVID-19, the popular lecture series drew packed crowds at Hesse Park. Now the lectures take place virtually on ZOOM every Wednesday at 10:30 am and RPVtv records one virtual presentation a month for broadcast. “We need to keep our seniors engaged and hope Peninsula Seniors Connections will help connect the community especially during the pandemic,” says Peninsula Seniors Executive Director Margie Beerschmidt. Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor John Cruikshank was the guest speaker for the kick-off show in June. The second edition featured a “surprise” tribute parade honoring former RPV Mayor and Peninsula Seniors Past President, Ann Shaw. RPVtv has been committed to bringing new content for all ages since the educational station started in 2005. “Peninsula Seniors Connections” airs daily on COX channel 33 and FiOS channel 38 at 7 am, 11 am, and 11 pm. The new show adds to the great lineup of Peninsula Seniors productions, including the award winning “Out & About” program that has been airing daily on RPVtv for years.

Survey will Say Coming Soon... RPV Citizen Survey

The City invites residents to share their top community concerns and priorities. The City is formulating an RPV citizen survey that will solicit input on a range of topics including public safety, City communications, emergency preparedness, the future of the Civic Center site, and more. In the coming months, keep an eye out for the survey in your mailbox and stay tuned for a link to complete the survey online by following us on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and by subscribing to the Breaking News listerv at rpvca.gov/notify. Questions? Ideas? Please contact Senior Administrative Analyst, Jesse Villalpando at jvillalpando@rpvca.gov.

Green Corner

Getting Rid of Bulky Items and Electronics Waste

Want to get rid of an old couch, mattress, water heater, TV or appliance? Try to donate it first. See if a charitable organization wants it or place it on Nextdoor under “free items.” If it can’t be picked up, call EDCO at 310.540.2977 and schedule a free bulky item or E-waste pickup. EDCO provides bulky item/E-waste collection up to four times a year free of charge. Do not leave abandoned items at the curb without calling first. You must call EDCO and schedule a pickup day! Please help keep our neighborhoods clean.

Used Oil, Old Paint and Household Chemicals?

If you have old paint, household hazardous waste, or electronic waste, please take them to the Gaffey Safe Center located at 1400 N. Gaffey, San Pedro. They are open to LA County residents every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. Check https://www.lacsd.org/solidwaste/swfacilities/recyclecontact/flow_e_waste/

Free Document Shredding & E-waste Collection-Maybe????

The next shredding event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 17! The event may be canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. Check the city’s website and Nextdoor email announcements to learn if the event will held or not.