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 COD Director and some of the current
and future issues and challenges facing the
City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

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 develop-
ment 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.

Many residents may not know
what CDD is and what a COD
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.

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

• City of Palos Verdes Estates
• New City Hall (smaller than the current City Hall square footage)
• City Hall parking garage
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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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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!

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

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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**Winter 2020-21**

**Citrus Concern**

Orange you glad you’re reading this article? The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a pest that acts as a vector or vector spreading huanglongbing (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. This disease will affect the health and eventually the death of the tree.

Contact the CDFA Toll-Free Pest Hotline (1.800.491.1999) 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 15 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 areas.

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

- Texting “alerts” 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 the 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 effective 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!
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.rpca.gov/1009/Civic-Center-Master-Plan.

For additional information or questions email mattw@rpvca.gov

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.

THE MAKET YOUR BUSINESS: ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWAL AND UPDATES

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 payable to “City of Rancho Palos Verdes” to the following address: City of Rancho Palos Verdes 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.

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 but 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 have a neighbor watch for and retrieve the delivered package immediately.
• Have your packages delivered at an alternate location.
• For online orders, visit https://www.rpca.gov/1118/Online-Security-Camera-Loans-Program

Make sure your vehicle is locked before starting shopping. DO NOT leave purchased items unattended while shopping.

Smart Sharing: Planning: sharing plans online

• Sharing vacation details on social media lets criminals know your absence.
• Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home and collect mail.
• Set your alarm system. Use timers on indoor lights to give the impression someone is home.

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

Don’t Attract: thieves, shoppers and hidden keys are not inviting anybody!

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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.

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?
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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 Johnston 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, Johnston 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.rpca.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.

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WINTER 2020-21

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 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.


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

Eric Alegría, Mayor
Email: eric.alegria@rpvca.gov
Dave Bradley, Mayor Pro Tem
Email: david.bradley@rpvca.gov
John Cruikshank, Councilmember
Email: john.cruikshank@rpvca.gov
Ken Dyda, Councilmember
Barbara Ferraro, Councilmember
Email: keny.dyda@rpvca.gov
Email: Barbara.ferraro@rpvca.gov
Email ccc@rpvca.gov to contact the entire City Council

CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020-21 Newsletter and Recreation Insert Contributors:
Karina Bahales, Megan Barnes, Andrew Berg, Chris Browning, Sarah Callegari, Trang Nguyen, Karen Oktad, Lauren Ramezan, Vina Ramos, Stephanie Valerie, Jesse Villalpando, Matt Waters,

Comments? Contact Matt Waters at mattsw@rpvca.gov or 310.544.5218

SWEEPING CHANGES:

HOLIDAY STREET SWEeping

Streets in RPV are swept twice a month. If one of your regular street sweeping days falls on the Friday after one 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)

Editorial

The Los Angeles County Business and Worker Disaster Help Center is a centralized call center and website providing free, 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 LA County Business and Worker Disaster Help Center in the manner that’s most convenient to you:
- Telephone: 855.258.4550 (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

TRECYCLING

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

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 2 cubic yards or more 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, townhomes 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 greener 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. The center is open to LA County residents every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information, click on https://www.lacsd.org/services/solidwaste/hhw_e_waste/default.asp

To get assistance from the L.A. County Business and Worker Disaster Help Center, visit https://lacountyhelpcenter.org/ on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

You can also contact the City of RLPV’s EDCO at 310.540.2977, or www.rpvrecycles.com for assistance with small business issues.

Have Questions?

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

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