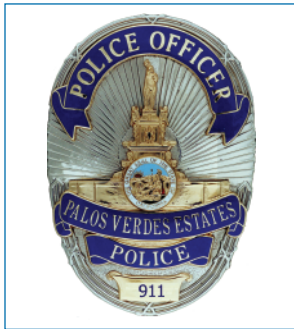




Newsletter

February 2012

Student and the Law Program



Beginning in the fall semester of 2011, the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department resurrected the Student and the Law program in partnership with Palos Verdes High School. The

main objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the criminal justice system and how it functions. This is achieved by teaching the processes, the role of the police, and the role of the student as a citizen in the system.

The course provides students with an introduction and overview of the criminal justice system operating in the United States today. Building a foundation based on the sources, philosophies, and role of law in society, this course provides a brief examination of those factors that define what constitutes a "crime", how society responds to it, and

how the criminal justice system operates around it. Students are offered a basic understanding of the administration of criminal justice through a broad survey of the origins, historical development of policing, prosecution, adjudication, sentencing and corrections in the United States. The course provides students with the tools they need to understand the processes within the entire criminal justice system.

Equipped with a basis of knowledge of all the components within the system, the students will be given an opportunity to become active participants. This course will culminate with the students being presented with an incident. Using the tools learned, they will navigate through the criminal justice system to process the incident, including a mock trial. By providing the students with a hands-on experience, they are able to put themselves in the shoes of the very people that operate within the criminal justice system on a daily basis.

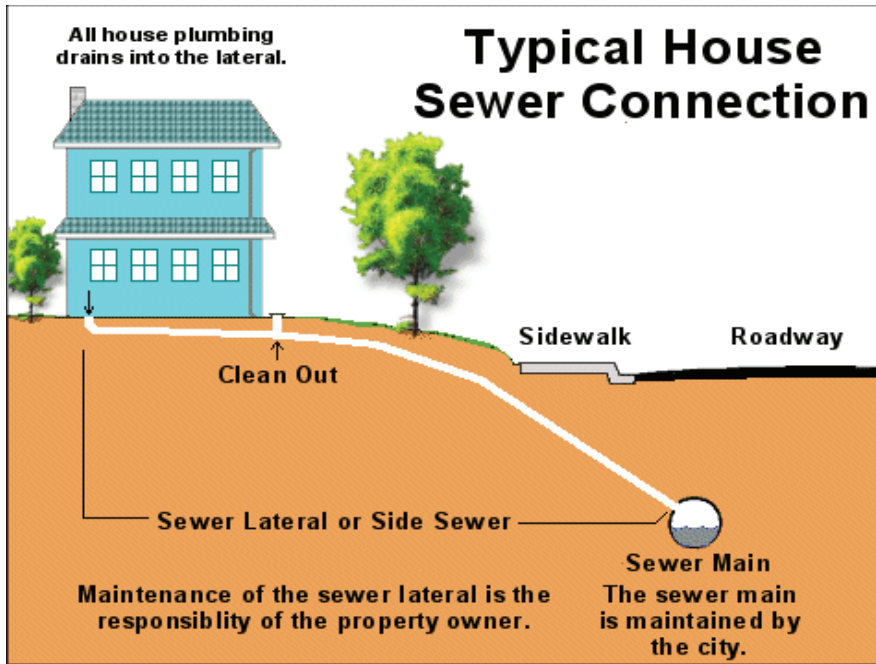
Palos Verdes Estates City Council

- Mayor..... John Rea
- Mayor Pro Tem..... George F. Bird, Jr.
- Councilmember..... Rosemary Humphrey
- Councilmember..... James F. Goodhart
- Councilmember..... Ellen Perkins
- Website: www.pvestates.org
- Email City Hall at CityClerk@pvestates.org

Regular City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for study and closed session and 7:30 p.m. for the regular agenda. Regular Planning Commission meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Parklands Committee meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The Traffic Safety Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

Meetings are held in Council Chambers - 340 Palos Verdes Drive West. All agendas for City Council, Committee and Commission meetings are posted on the City Hall bulletin boards at least 72 hours before the meeting. For more information call City Hall at (310) 378-0383. Fax: (310) 378-7820

Minimizing Sewer Overflows and Damage to Your Home



The sewer system within the City of Palos Verdes Estates is comprised of a series of underground pipes. Many are publicly owned, however the sewer laterals are entirely owned by the private property owner they serve. The laterals extend from the building to the main line within the street (or within an easement at the rear of your home). The laterals are typically 4 inches in diameter while the City's main line is typically at least 8 inches in diameter. Please understand that the private property owner is responsible for all of the lateral, including the portion that may be located within the City's right of way (under the asphalt and street landscaping).

Sewer backups can cause tremendous damage to the interior of a home. In order to minimize these, the City of Palos Verdes Estates maintains a sewer rehabilitation and upgrade program. Additionally, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Department provide continual maintenance services for the public sewers.

Unfortunately, sewer laterals are often not maintained by private property owners until a disaster strikes. It is our hope that we can provide you various means of addressing these issues and thus minimize your risk of an overflow entering your home.

The three methods we suggest are:

Maintain your lateral through proper cleaning, repair, and replacement.

Do not place improper items into the sewer or make improper connections to the sewer.

Install a backflow preventer and cleanout onto your sewer lateral.

Sewer Lateral Maintenance

The following are a variety of means to keep your lateral free flowing:

- Obtain a video of the inside of your lateral from a trusted plumber. This is very important and should not be skipped. A video should cost approximately \$250 if there is easy access to the sewer lateral through a cleanout.
- If major roots are shown on the video, have a plumber grind the roots out of the lateral.
- Once major roots are removed, or if minor roots are present, utilize a root killer on an ongoing basis.

..... *Continued to page 3*

Minimizing Sewer Overflows and Damage to Your Home

..... *Continued from page 2*

This will keep the roots out of the lateral and will not harm the vegetation/tree that creates the roots.

- If there are offsets or major breaks within the lateral, repair the problem. Many times this will require the excavation of the lateral, which can be up to ten feet below the ground surface. Make sure to get three bids for the work. Select a contractor based on value, which may not necessarily mean the lowest price. Permits are required.
- If the lateral is in severe disrepair, have the lateral replaced or rehabilitated. To replace the line, it must be dug up and can be very costly. An alternative can be the rehabilitation of the pipe by installing a liner inside the existing pipe (\$5,000 - \$10,000). Again, make sure to get three bids in either case. Permits are required.

Proper Materials in the Sewer

The City's sewer system and your sewer lateral are designed to convey water from sinks, showers, and toilets, human body waste, and toilet paper. All other items such as food scraps, paper towels, paint, oil, diapers, and grease should be disposed of otherwise.

Additionally, the sewer system is not designed to take rainwater or other water from the outside of a building. This water is conveyed separately by the storm drain system, which has much bigger pipes to take the much larger flows. It is illegal to connect any pipes conveying stormwater to the sewer system and could make you liable for overflows on other private property. Pool water is to be dechlorinated and discharged to the storm drain system.

Backflow Preventers and Cleanouts

A backflow preventer is mandated by the Plumbing Code for all new private sewer systems that meet certain criteria. The backflow preventer is designed to only allow sewage to flow one direction, away from your home and into the City's system. In the event of a clog in the City's system, the backflow preventer will stop sewage from flowing into your lateral and home. In most older homes, these were not installed. They are particularly valuable in hillside areas where a clog in the City's system will discharge into a home that is lower in elevation than the next upstream manhole on the City's system. Consult your plumber to determine if a backflow preventer is a wise investment (a typical cost is around \$2,000).

A cleanout is an access point to the sewer lateral where a plumber can clean the line, videotape the interior, or rehabilitate the pipe. Many homes have cleanouts that have been buried over the years in landscaped areas. It is very prudent to know where your cleanout is located rather than to try to find it when there is an emergency. If you do not have a cleanout, have one installed as soon as practical. The cost will vary, but an order of magnitude estimate of \$2,000 can be used. A cleanout with a rubber flap covering can also act as a relief valve if there is a blockage in the City's sewer or in your lateral.

Please note the City cannot recommend contractors, review your particular situation, or review videos, although we can help make sure the work is done correctly through the permit inspection process. Seek the input of a trusted and reputable plumber(s) to begin your sewer lateral assessment.

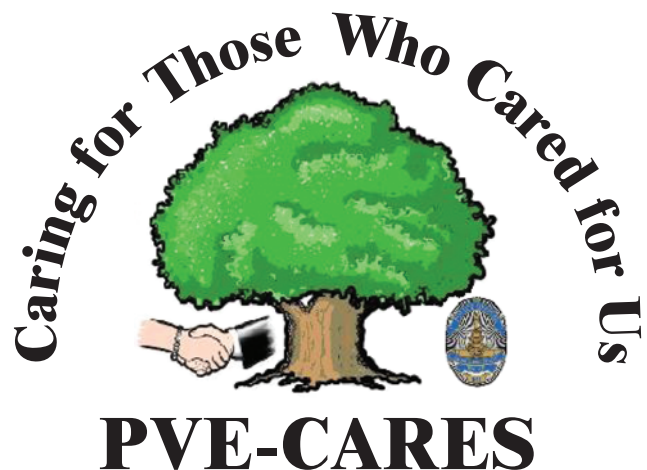
Be Cautious of Caregivers

A disturbing new crime trend has become more apparent in Palos Verdes Estates within the last few months. It has come to the attention of the Palos Verdes Estates Detective Bureau that several licensed caregivers have been embezzling money from the very people they have been hired to help. Last month, PVEPD Detectives arrested a female caregiver for elder abuse. The caregiver was hired by the family of a 90 year old Palos Verdes Estates resident. The caregiver was entrusted with the man's finances and had full access to his bank accounts. It was discovered that the caregiver was writing herself checks from the man's account and forging his signature in order to cash the checks. Over a short period, the caregiver was able to embezzle several thousand dollars from the resident.

This is just one example of a crime that has become more prevalent during these rough economic times. Residents who may be thinking about hiring a caregiver for an elderly relative should be diligent in their search. Make sure the caregiver is licensed and comes highly recommended. Most caregivers are employees of a company that is licensed by the state. Unfortunately, this does not always mean the company's employees are honest. If the company cannot provide legitimate references for the caregiver, do not hire that person. It is also a good idea to keep a close eye on your loved one's

finances. If someone has power of attorney over a relative's finances then it should be their responsibility, not the caregiver's, to ensure the assets are protected.

Many of the caregivers who are committing these crimes are in financial trouble themselves and become desperate. Because many of their clients have a diminished mental capacity (i.e. Dementia, Alzheimer's), the caregivers believe no one will ever notice the money is missing. If you have an elderly relative who is under the care of an outside party, please make sure you periodically check on them, including their finances. If you suspect that a caregiver is committing any type of elder abuse, including embezzlement or forgery, please contact the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department. Also, seniors are encouraged to join PVE-CARES. The PVE-CARES program maintains a number of resources which are available to members, including referrals, references and educational material. To sign-up, please contact the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department at (310) 378-4211 and ask for a representative of PVE-CARES.





Brandel Scholarship

The Palos Verdes Homes Association is once again offering the Harry Brandel, Jr. Scholarship, established in memory of past PVHA board member and President Harry Brandel, Jr. The scholarship is offered to qualified high school seniors, college students, and graduate students. Eligible applicants must be accepted at, or attending, an accredited college or university and plan to major in architecture, civil engineering, land-use planning or fine arts. In addition, at least one parent must be a property owner in Palos Verdes Estates or the original

Miraleste area of Rancho Palos Verdes. Selection criteria include academic achievement, essay, letters of recommendation and community activities.

Applications may be obtained directly from the Homes Association office, 320 Palos Verdes Drive West, Palos Verdes Estates, or the high school's college career center. **Deadline is March 30, 2012.**

For more information, contact the Palos Verdes Homes Association directly at (310) 373-6721.

Who needs a Business License?

The Palos Verdes Estates Municipal Code Chapter 5 requires that any person conducting a business within the City must acquire and maintain a business license regardless of where the business is based. A business license is required for any type of business, whether for profit or not. This means that any contractors or service workers assisting you with your home or property, including landscapers, handymen, housecleaners, painters, etc.,

must have a business license on file with the City. Business Licenses may be filed and paid for by visiting the Finance Department at City Hall located at 340 Palos Verdes Drive West. Application, fees and other information may be found on the City's website at www.pvestates.org. Any questions may be directed to the City's Finance Department at (310) 378-0383.

MALAGA COVE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

FEBRUARY 17 & 18 MARCH 16 & 17

Know the City’s Website - Building/Safety and Planning

We encourage you to learn more about the City and its operations by navigating the City’s website at www.pvestates.org. In this article, we are spotlighting two City departments: Building/Safety and Planning. Once on the City’s webpage, under the tab labeled “Departments and Services,” click “Building/Code Enforcement/Planning.”

building regulations. You will also find the building inspector’s available hours to answer all building related questions or concerns. Additionally, you can learn how to schedule a next day inspection. Allowable and prohibited construction hours and days are also posted. Many answers may already be addressed in the “FAQ” section of the page; however, should you need further information, please contact Building Official, Mike Ross, at (310) 378-0383 Ext. 2220.



Planning

The City’s Planning webpage offers information on specific guidelines for building and remodeling in Palos Verdes Estates. It offers you an in-depth view of the responsibilities of the Planning Commission, as well as Commission agendas and action memos from past meetings. Several informative links are also available to you in regards to allowable building coverage, building height, Neighborhood Compatibility and Miscellaneous applications. This page also has an “FAQ” section that can be referred to for any additional questions; however, should you need further information, please contact City Planner, Stacey Kinsella, at (310) 378-0383 Ext. 2218.

Building and Safety

On this page, you can access plan check requirements, building applications, an updated building fee schedule and forms related to City

Council Agendas Available

To enhance service to residents, City Council agendas are posted at City Hall, 340 Palos Verdes Drive West and the Golf Club Pro-Shop, 3301 Via Campesina, and agendas and related materials are placed at the Malaga Cove Library, 2400 Via Campesina, by the Saturday morning preceding the Tuesday evening City Council meeting. Agenda and staff reports are also available online on the City website at www.pvestates.org. If you are interested in receiving the Agenda via email, please subscribe; click on “Join E-News” on the homepage.



Mayoral Rotation

An adjourned regular City Council meeting of **Wednesday, March 21, 2012**, beginning at **7:00 P.M.** in the City Council Chamber of City Hall, the City will honor the outgoing Mayor and install a

new Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tempore. The public is encouraged to attend. There will be light refreshments following the ceremony.



2012 Junior Lifeguard and Dolphin Camp Programs

The Palos Verdes Beach and Athletic Club will be offering its annual youth swim programs for City residents beginning in March. While PVBAC members have priority on sign ups, all PVE *non-member residents* also have the opportunity to

sign up beginning February 27th. **NO CALL IN RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN.** Payment must be received at the time of sign up to reserve a spot. Space is limited. Contact the PVBAC for more information at (310) 375-8777.

Junior Lifeguard Conditioning (ages 9 to 17)

Cost: \$144 per person
Schedule: 8 week program

Monday/Wednesday
March 12th – May 2nd
Class times: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday
March 13th – May 3rd
Class times: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Dolphin Camp Training (ages 7 to 10)

Must be able to swim 50 yards freestyle w/o stopping

Cost: \$144 per person
Schedule: 8 week program

Tuesday/Thursday class only
March 13th – May 3rd
Class time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. only

City of Palos Verdes Estates
340 Palos Verdes Drive West
Palos Verdes Estates, California 90274

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Palos Verdes Peninsula,
California
Permit #137

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

City Hall will be closed on February 20, 2012 in observance of Presidents' Day

CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES

In This Issue

<i>Student and the Law Program</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Minimizing Sewer Overflows and Damage to Your Home</i>	<i>2, 3</i>
<i>Be Cautious of Caregivers</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Brandel Scholarship</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Who needs a Business License</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Malaga Cove Library Book Sale</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Know the City's Website - Building/Safety and Planning</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Council Agendas Available</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Mayoral Rotation</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>2012 Junior Lifeguard and Dolphin Camp Programs</i>	<i>7</i>



Printed on Recycled Paper