



# Newsletter



Winter 2014

## PVE 75<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION – THANK YOU!

*It takes a village...perhaps a city... with outstanding volunteers to organize a year of tribute to Palos Verdes Estates on its 75th Anniversary.* The aim, from the beginning of planning, was to offer a variety of events and activities for residents in historical venues, throughout the City, from May through October. The lovely Tea at La Venta Inn in May was coordinated by Nancy Guenther and Phyllis Sherwood and stayed true to 1930's style in both venue and décor. The July "Afternoon in the Plaza" offered a wine tasting, food samplings from local restaurants and entertainment with a Spanish flair; Nancy Bolton and Maureen Banasky turned the historic Malaga Cove Plaza into a scene reminiscent of 1930's. Lori Carlson and Virginia Butler also organized an elegant evening of friends and fun in October, at the Palos Verdes Golf Club, which was enjoyed by all.

Community events also included

- Recreation Days that opened the City's Palos Verdes Golf Club, Palos Verdes Stables, Palos Verdes Tennis Club and Palos Verdes Beach & Athletic Club concessions to all residents.

- A series of lectures on historical events in Palos Verdes Estates, organized by Monique Sugimoto, Sylvia Richardson and the PV Library District.
- An outstanding art exhibit coordinated by Palos Verdes Art Center artist Don Crocker which was graciously displayed by the Malaga Cove Library.
- A family fun Harvestfest and Oktoberfest, organized by the Lunada Bay Homeowners Association and chaired by Robin DeBaal.

Special thanks to Treasurer, Lacy Marlette, Sponsor Chair, Janet Earl and former Mayor, Ruth Gralow for their commitment and countless hours of support. Thanks also are extended to our wonderful sponsors and donors without whom these events would not have taken place. Finally, much appreciation goes to all our event Chairpersons and Committee Members who played both large and small roles in the success of our year-long celebration. It was a pleasure to honor Palos Verdes Estates on its 75th birthday knowing the best is yet to come! Happy Birthday Palos Verdes Estates.

Sharon Ryan, 75th Celebration Chair

### Palos Verdes Estates City Council

Mayor ..... Ellen Perkins

Mayor Pro Tem ..... Rosemary Humphrey

Councilmember ... James F. Goodhart

Councilmember ... George F. Bird, Jr.

Councilmember ... John Rea

Website: [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org)

Email City Hall at: [CityClerk@pvestates.org](mailto:CityClerk@pvestates.org)

Regular City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 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 7:30 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 and the City Website at least 72 hours before the meeting. For more information call City Hall at (310) 378-0383. Fax: (310) 378-7820

# HOLIDAY SAFETY

Accidents can happen. Here are some quick and easy tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season:

## AT HOME

- Don't overload electrical circuits.
- Make sure decorations are not blocking doors and passageways.
- If you have a fireplace, woodstove, or use gas logs/furnace, be sure you have an operable UL approved carbon monoxide detector.
- Keep candles, Yule logs and Menorahs away from drapes, trees or other flammable objects.
- Extinguish all candles before leaving home or going to sleep.
- If you have a Christmas tree, be sure it is mounted on a sturdy base that cannot be easily tipped.
- If you have a real, live Christmas tree, place it in water or wet sand to keep it green. If the tree is an artificial tree, make sure it is flame resistant.
- Never place wrapping paper in, or near, your fireplace.
- Keep large displays and holiday gifts out of view through windows and doors.
- When someone comes to your door, don't be afraid to ask questions and request identification. Sometimes criminals will pose as couriers delivering gifts. It's also not uncommon for people to go door-to-door and ask for charitable donations when there is no charity involved.

## IN THE CAR

- Always wear a seatbelt and use child safety seats.
- Get a good night's sleep before starting on the road for a long drive.
- Never get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol.
- Avoid driving alone, or at night. If driving at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Keep all doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.

- Do not leave packages or valuables in plain view in your car.
- Locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask security to escort you.

## HOLIDAY PARTIES

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Use alternative transportation, or have a designated driver, if you have consumed alcohol.
- Refrigerate foods that require cold storage.
- When cooking meats, use a thermometer to ensure the right temperature.
- Leftovers should not be left out for more than two hours at a time.

## TRAVELLING

- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Have a neighbor or friend watch your home.
- Have your mail and newspaper deliveries stopped, or picked up by your neighbor or friend.
- **Request a "Vacation Check" through the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department by going to the City's website at [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org) and typing in "vacation check" in the top right search box.**

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency: 911
- Palos Verdes Estates Police Dept. (310) 378-4211
- LA County Fire Dept. Station #2 (310) 373-6539

Hazard and crime prevention begins with you. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for you and your family.

# Holiday Events and Services on the Peninsula



## Santa Visits PVE

**S**anta will visit Lunada Bay Plaza on Thursday, December 18th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., where children of all ages can also enjoy playing in real snow and make fun holiday crafts.

Santa will be at Malaga Cove Plaza on Wednesday, December 24th at 6 p.m. to hear last minute requests of boys and girls.

## Christmas Tree Pick-Up

**T**he City's waste hauler, will once again provide FREE Christmas tree removal. Service will be provided on your normal weekly trash pick-up starting December 26, 2014 through January 16, 2015. Trees will be removed from your

regular trash removal area. Be sure to remove all tree stands, lights, ornaments and other decorations. Lightly flocked trees are acceptable. For more information, please contact Athens Services at (888) 336-6100.



## PV Transit Will Offer FREE New Year's Eve Rides

**P**V Transit will offer its annual FREE New Year's Eve transportation service on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. This service will be provided from 6 p.m. December 31, 2014 until 2 a.m. January 1, 2015. Advance reservations, one-way or round-trip, may be made beginning December 22nd by

calling (310) 544-3710, M-F between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Residents may also call for same day service from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. by calling (310) 544-3710. For additional information, call PV Transit directly at the number above.

**We hope you have a safe Holiday Season!**

# Rainy Season Preparation

As we endure the water drought and welcome precipitation during the upcoming rainy season, it is also important to take steps to avoid unintended consequences of water. Please be prepared as the rainy season approaches by following these guidelines:



- *Keep trees trimmed to reduce foliage.*
- *Clean rain gutters, swales and drainage pipes on your private property.*
- *Inspect roofs, gutters, window caulking and insulation, and repair if needed.*
- *In case of electrical failure, be sure to keep large flashlights and extra batteries on hand and keep utility contact numbers close by.*

To help alleviate flooding when heavy rains occur, consider obtaining sandbags that can be purchased at any home improvement store. Empty sandbags are also available 24/7 in front of the Police Department, with sand available on the empty lot, just west of the Fire Department.

Mindful of the drought, please also turn-off irrigation sprinklers when it rains and consider utilizing rain barrels for the collection of irrigation water.

For storm-related concerns, please contact the non-emergency Police Dispatch line at (310) 378-4211.

## Business License Renewals Due January 1, 2015

Business licenses are required for anyone doing business in the City of Palos Verdes Estates. Annual business licenses will expire December 31, 2014. Please renew your business license by January 31, 2015 to remain in compliance with the municipal code and to avoid late penalties. If you are currently licensed, you will receive a renewal notice by mail in mid-December 2014. If you do not receive a license renewal, or are a new business, please contact or visit the City's Finance Department at City Hall, or call (310) 378-0383. New applicants must complete an application which is available on-line on the City's web site.

Renewal forms should be mailed to, or returned at, City Hall. All pertinent information on the renewal form must be fully completed and include a signature of an authorized representative of the business.

In 1993, Council authorized home occupation businesses under certain limited conditions. If you operate any business from your home, you need to secure a home occupation business license.

Please call the Finance Department for more information at (310) 378-0383.

# FIRE & PARAMEDIC SERVICES



On March 6, 2007, by over a two-thirds majority, voters approved the City of Palos Verdes Estates Fire and Paramedic Services Special Tax - a parcel tax for 10-years based on the size of properties (not the assessed value) to cover the costs of the paramedic and fire services provided within Palos Verdes Estates by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LA County). This important annual revenue source is nearly \$4.5 million, to provide by contract, emergency medical and fire response.



Paramedic and fire services are integral to the quality of life and safety in Palos Verdes Estates. Although Fire Station 2 at City

Hall (340 Palos Verdes Drive West) is our main station, emergency services are additionally received from other stations on the Peninsula, as needed, depending on the location and size of the incident. The second primary station is Fire Station 106 located at 27413 Indian Peak Road.

Residents are always welcome to visit Fire Station 2 for tours and to see the equipment. Some important service statistics of interest include:

- Fire Station 2 includes a 3-Person Engine and 2-Person Paramedic Squad.
- Fire Station 106 includes a 4-Person Quint (truck w/water pump), 3-Person Engine

and 2-Person Paramedic Squad.

- Emergency Medical (Paramedic) calls annually total approximately 525 or 76% of all calls.
- The Fire & Paramedic Department coordinates closely with the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department and plays a central role in emergency preparedness and disaster recovery planning.
- The LA County contract benefits the City from economies of scale gained as being part of a wider regional fire district that can share resources as, and when, needed.
- Fire services play an important role in coordination of proactive fire prevention services.



For the past twenty (20) years, the City's paramedic and fire services contract with LA County has been solely funded through a voter approved Special Parcel Tax. The tax is, and has been, applied to both residential and commercial properties and supports a core municipal and safety service that has no alternative funding source. Because paramedic and fire services is 40% of the City's General operating costs, the underlying tax revenue source is essential to community's quality of life and safety. In past elections, voters approved the tax with over 80% support - a margin that exceeds the 2/3 voter requirement. ***The parcel tax will be scheduled for renewal by a vote of residents in March, 2017.***



**PALOS VERDES  
HOMES ASSOCIATION**

## **91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**

**A**ttention all Property Owners! Have you returned your ballot?

Your help is needed to establish a quorum for the Annual Meeting of the Palos Verdes Homes Association on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 8:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers of PVE City Hall, 340 Palos Verdes Drive West. Please sign and return your ballot by mail as soon as possible, or fax it to the PVHA office at (310) 373-9115, or scan/email to: [annualmtg@pvha.org](mailto:annualmtg@pvha.org). All property owners are invited to the January 13th meeting. Issues will be discussed formally, and informally, and refreshments will be served. For further information, call the PVHA office at (310) 373-6721.

The Palos Verdes Homes Association was established in 1923 and is now in its 91st year of continuous service.



## **Recycling – It’s the Law!**

In Palos Verdes Estates, it is very easy for residents in single family homes to recycle. Our waste hauler picks up mixed waste and transports all trash to their state of the art material recovery facility, where recyclables are separated from the trash. Did you know that California Assembly Bill (AB) 341 also requires businesses that generate four or more cubic yards of garbage per week and multi-family dwellings with five or more units to recycle? For everyone, a minimum of 50% of all trash must be recycled and diverted away from landfills for reuse. Let’s all do our part to encourage more recycling at home and at work. Recycling reduces the materials headed to our landfills, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, conserves resources and moves towards a more sustainable future.



## **HARRY H. BRANDEL, JR. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

**A**re you a student majoring in, or intending to major in, architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land use planning or fine arts?

Scholarship applications will be available in

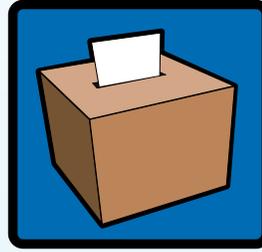
January 2015. Completed applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Contact the Palos Verdes Homes Association for further information at (310) 373-6721.

# 75<sup>th</sup> Merchandise Still Available



**M**erchandise commemorating the City of Palos Verdes Estates 75th Anniversary is now on sale at City Hall. Available merchandise includes anniversary hats and visors for \$10, collared shirts for \$20, t-shirts for \$10, commemorative pins for \$10. Wearing these anniversary items is a great way to show community pride. They make great gifts during the holidays too. To purchase these items, please visit City Hall (340 Palos Verdes Drive West). Merchandise can be purchased between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Accepted forms of payment are cash or check. For more information, please call the City at (310) 378-0383.



## Poll Workers Needed

**T**he City's Municipal Election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2015. Voters will cast their ballots for three (3) Members of the City Council. Please consider volunteering to play a vital role in this democratic process; become a poll worker. It is also a great way to see your neighbors! Poll workers are paid \$80 for the day (Poll Inspectors, \$100) and will also be compensated for attending a training session. You can serve as a poll worker if you are a registered voter, or a high school senior with parental and school administrator's written permission. No experience is necessary. Contact Vickie Kroneberger, City Clerk/ Executive Assistant, at City Hall (310) 378-0383 x2251, or by email [Cityclerk@pvestates.org](mailto:Cityclerk@pvestates.org), for more information on how you can help provide this valuable community service on Election Day.

## Fire & Weed Abatement



**Y**ears of drought and overgrown vegetation in the City's parkland areas creates a challenge relative to fire safety. The dry and dense condition of vegetation that is close to homes in the parklands ignites concerns, and can inhibit the Fire Department's ability, for fighting and

controlling fires and minimizing damage to structures.

Like the other cities on the peninsula, Palos Verdes Estates is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) due to the wildland-urban interface where the backyards of homes abut dense stands of native-naturalized vegetation in canyons and open space areas. In turn, brush management is needed annually to reduce fire hazards around structures.

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# Fire & Weed Abatement

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Concurrently, the City also has a responsibility to protect sensitive biological resources. Brush management activity must therefore be accomplished in a manner that both reduces fire hazards and minimizes impacts to undisturbed native or naturalized vegetation.

This year, and consistent with the Fire Department’s requirements, the City has significantly increased defensible space in the parklands around homes through its annual brush clearance program by clearing brush, trimming low hanging branches and removing dead trees and vegetation. Community residents, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Agriculture Department have noticed the difference and expressed their appreciation for the improved fire safety measures.

Going forward, the City plans to provide greater fire protection by supplementing the annual brush clearance program with additional efforts in 2015 and 2016. In future years, the program will further improve fire safety and defensible space by clearing weeds and brush in more remote locations in parklands. A byproduct of the brush clearance efforts will also be an improved sense of openness through the City’s parklands.

For information about what you can do to prevent the spread of fire, please call the Fire Department at (310) 373-6539.

# BICYCLE SAFETY ZONE LAW IN EFFECT



As of September 16, 2014, the California “Three Feet for Safety Act” took effect, that requires drivers to give bicyclists, traveling in the same direction, three feet of clearance when passing. This new law improves safety by giving bicyclists more space on the road. According to the new law, if traffic or roadway conditions prevent motorists from giving bicyclists three feet of space before passing, drivers must slow to a speed that is reasonable and prudent and only pass when three feet of clearance is available. Please drive safely.

## Council Agendas Available

To enhance service to residents, City Council agendas are posted at City Hall, 340 Palos Verdes Drive West, the Golf Club Pro-Shop, 3301 Via Campesina and 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](http://www.pvestates.org). If you are interested in receiving the Agenda via email, please subscribe; click on “Join E-News” on the homepage.

# PUBLIC INPUT AT CITY MEETINGS



**W**e'd like to hear from you! All City Council, Planning Commission, Traffic Safety and Parklands Committee meetings are publicly noticed; the meeting schedules are posted on the City website calendar ([www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org)), and agendas for each meeting are posted a minimum of 72 hours in advance on the website and on City bulletin boards located at City Hall, Malaga Cove Library and the PV Golf Club (adjacent to the pro shop). Public input on topics of interest is welcomed and encouraged.

The City provides numerous ways for public input.

Written communication can be sent via email to [cityclerk@pvestates.org](mailto:cityclerk@pvestates.org) or by mail to City Hall. When you wish to address an item that appears on any meeting agenda, transmit your correspondence to the City by the close of business on the Thursday preceding each meeting. This correspondence will be

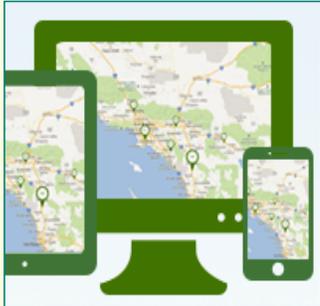
included with the public materials that are prepared for review and consideration of the item. Correspondence received after publishing the meeting materials will also be distributed at the meeting; however, in that it was not included with the published materials for the public, it will be stamped "not reviewed."

"Communications from the Public" is another effective means of sharing information and opinions at City Council, Planning Commission, Traffic Safety and Parklands Committee meetings. Under this heading on meeting agendas, the public may address the Council, Commission or Committee on any topic of interest that is not on the posted agenda. Although no action can take place at the meeting, the topic may be placed on a future agenda for consideration. Also, the public may verbally comment on any item listed on the agenda at the time it is discussed. Every member of the public is provided up to three minutes to verbally share their viewpoint.

Of course, you need not wait for a meeting to contact City Hall. Your input is always valuable and the City welcomes the opportunity to listen to your concerns and opinions. If you have any questions regarding the process please contact City Hall at (310) 378-0383.



## SCE Outage App Now Available



For many City residents, telling a friend “I’m in the dark” has literally meant that the power was out. The lights were off because

Southern California Edison (SCE) electricity had stopped working. SCE tracks outages with three metrics: the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), and Average Frequency of Momentary Interruptions (MAIFI). SAIDI measures the *amount of time* the average SCE customer was without power for more than five minutes (called a “sustained outage”) in a given year. SAIFI is the number of times the average SCE customer experienced a sustained outage in a given year. According to SCE’s own metrics <https://www.sce.com/nrc/reliability/reports/palosverdes.pdf>, Palos Verdes Estates outages in all three categories reached a peak in 2011, and outages in the City well exceeded SCE’s system-wide averages. The reason? A 40-year old and unreliable infrastructure that necessitates replacement.

Following the City Council strongly and repeatedly expressing its complaints to SCE, City representatives joining with other South Bay cities in meetings with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and SCE officials, and an increasing number of residents voicing their

dissatisfaction with the reliability of power, SCE commenced with capital improvements to their infrastructure. In calendar year 2014, as the fourth year in a ten-year multimillion dollar plan for the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula, SCE will have spent approximately \$635,000 in infrastructure improvements specifically in Palos Verdes Estates. Over the past four years, SCE has replaced more than 400 utility poles, 78 miles of underground cable and other work, according to Marvin Jackmon, SCE spokesperson. Concurrently, SCE has initiated new and better communications systems to notify residents of scheduled and unscheduled outages. One such improvement is a SCE “app” for smart mobile telephones. The app, available at [www.sce.com/mobileoutage](http://www.sce.com/mobileoutage), provides the public with a simple means of reporting outages and an interactive map to clearly see where outages are occurring.

Although all the reliability and notification problems encountered by residents are not completely resolved, great strides have been made toward addressing both, and the City has been assured more is planned. City and SCE officials continue to meet to discuss necessary improvements to the timing and notification of outages and about improvements to the reliability of power. Residents are encouraged, in the meantime, to download the SCE app to stay informed of outages as they occur.

## DATE REMINDERS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2014** – CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015** – PALOS VERDES HOMES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL (CITY COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED).

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015** – CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED.

*City Council meetings resume to the regular schedule of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of every month beginning January 27, 2015.*

## CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2014** IN OBSERVANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2015** IN OBSERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015** IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015** IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS' DAY

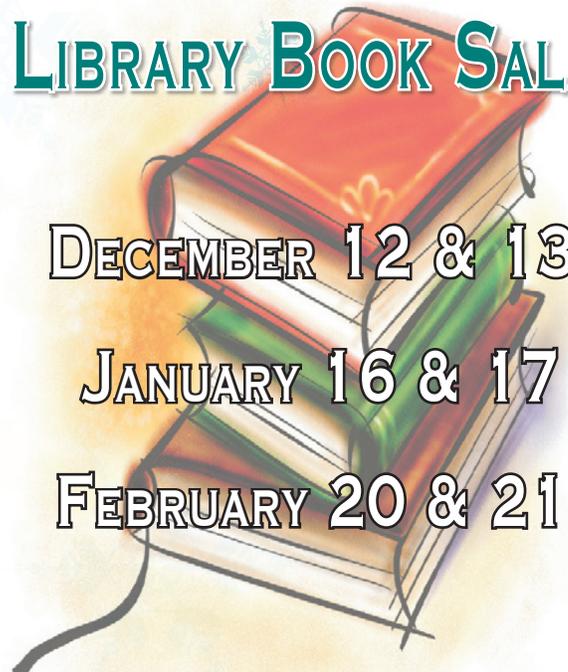
TO CONNECT WITH THE CITY, THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (310) 378-0383 AND WEBSITE IS [WWW.PVESTATES.ORG](http://WWW.PVESTATES.ORG).

## MALAGA COVE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

DECEMBER 12 & 13

JANUARY 16 & 17

FEBRUARY 20 & 21



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

PRRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TORRANCE,  
CALIFORNIA  
PERMIT #137

**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**  
**Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274**

CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES

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