

City of Palos Verdes Estates Newsletter

Newsletter

Winter 2016



Palos Verdes Estates
City Council

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Jennifer L. King

Councilmember
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Councilmember
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Year In Review

Highlights of 2015

Regular City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Regular Planning Commission meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Parklands Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., and the Traffic Safety Committee meets the first 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, Commission and Committee 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.

1 Drought & Water Conservation

Following the Executive Order by Governor Brown on April 1, 2015 calling for a mandatory statewide water use reduction, the State Water Resources Control Board released regulations that cities on the Peninsula, including the City of Palos Verdes Estates (City), reduce water use by 36%. This regulation began on June 1, 2015 and the State is developing plans to extend all conservation requirements through October 2016.

The Executive Order also required the City to turn off the irrigation of medians where the turf is ornamental and not used for recreational purposes. The medians most impacted include the Triangle Interchange located at the intersection of Palos Verdes Drive West and Palos Verdes Drive North and the lawn area immediately in front of City Hall.

The drought has affected the health of several City trees along the median of Palos Verdes Drive West (PVDW). In order to preserve trees along the medians, the City extended its water lines from the 1300 to the 2100 block of PVDW. A second phase extending irrigation lines to all PVDW medians will begin in 2016.



2 Making Public Land Accessible

In April of 2015, bulldozers and earth moving equipment were busy removing seven homes located above Bluff Cove along Palos Verdes Drive West. The City of Palos Verdes Estates (City) acquired the homes as a part of a settlement agreement in 1983. Prior to demolishing the homes, the City partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles to deconstruct the homes by removing and salvaging reusable

materials. Additionally, the City Council required that 70% of the demolition debris be reused or recycled, keeping it out of landfills. The City Council's goal with this project was to provide public, natural, open space similar in appearance to the bluffs throughout the City and now that the Bluff Cove homes have been removed, the once privately owned land is open and accessible.

3 Live Webstreaming

The City launched a new web feature to enhance public access to City Meetings in October 2015. City Council and Planning Commission meetings are now live-streamed. Meetings can be watched in real time at www.pvestates.org under City Government on the new City Meetings page by a click on "View

Live." Live audio streaming of the Parklands Committee and Traffic Safety Committee Meetings can also be heard now in the same manner. Recordings are then posted in the Available Archives section on the same page, enhanced by the ability to click-and-view on an Agenda item of interest.



4 Community Events



The City conducted a variety of helpful and informative events for residents and businesses. Among these was the Water Forum, hosted by the City and included representatives from California Water Service and West Basin Municipal Water District to discuss the mandatory water restrictions and offer tips on how to meet the required reductions in water use. The City also conducted a free paper shredding and e-waste disposal event and began

hosting a quarterly e-waste disposal program so residents can properly dispose of old computers, television sets and other electronics. The City also held its first "Energy & Environment Expo" that featured several exhibits and booths that provided information on saving energy and local efforts to be a more sustainable, environmentally friendly city. Among other things, free compost was made available to residents.

5 Three New Councilmembers



The Spring of 2015 saw three new members of the City Council. The new members were the only candidates to file for the open seats, so a city election was not required. They were sworn into their four-year terms on the City Council in March. The three new councilmembers have prior experience or contributions to local government.

Taking Care of Our Trees

Our trees are getting older and the drought is making an impact. Preservation and safety of our urban forest is a priority. In the early 1900's, a grove of Sugar Gum Eucalyptus were planted to frame the City entrance at Palos Verdes Drive West and usher in potential investors and new residents. In April 2015, due to health and safety concerns, 14 trees were removed and the remaining trees were trimmed. Six new Southern Magnolia trees were also planted to restore the original planting.

In November 2015, City staff began installing a main irrigation line on Palos Verdes Drive West to provide water to the large ficus trees that grace the Lunada Bay area. With normal rainfall, these trees do well without irrigation but the long term threat of a drought requires intervention so the community does not lose these beautiful trees.

Citywide efforts in 2015 provided trimming of over 1700 trees. Unfortunately, 260 trees were removed due to safety concerns or restoration of views. Over 100 new trees were planted to renew our urban forest. Residents can help increase our forest by obtaining a no fee permit to plant an approved street tree in front of their property. In 2016, a tree inventory will be proposed to help identify the quantity, species, location and health of our trees so that we can better manage this valuable resource.



Tree trimming and removals on P.V.Dr.W. at Via Anita



Walking path along Granvia La Costa (P.V.Dr.W.)



Mature Eucalyptus trees line Granvia La Costa (P.V.Dr.W.)

Fiscal Stability Continues

As part of the biennial (two-year) budget process for fiscal years 2014-15 & 2015-16, the City has kept its “eye on the economic ball” and maintained prudent levels of fund reserves. A review of budget estimates reveals the maintenance of a 50% reserve, an estimate of \$9 million by June 30, 2016. These reserve levels are vital for Palos Verdes Estates given its size and high dependency on a narrow band of revenue sources; primarily property tax, as PVE enjoys and fosters its status as a predominantly residential City. This being the case, almost its entire revenue source comes from Property Tax.

Most people may be surprised to know that County property tax is a shared funding source and the City of Palos Verdes Estates only receives 11 cents of each property tax dollar paid to the County. The property tax pie is cut into many pieces. It is also important to note that general City property tax does not cover the provision of Fire services which obtains its funding from a ten-year Fire Parcel Tax set to expire in 2017. So, while we enjoy a stable and strong property tax base, its ability to fund key operations is quite fragile and must be watched closely. Hence, maintaining healthy reserves is just a way of life for our City.

Financial Statements Annual Reporting Award

The City has had a long tradition of applying for and obtaining a national award for financial reporting. This was again the case for this past fiscal-year, 2013-2014 as the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the City its award for financial reporting excellence.

This award is a reflection on many key factors: Community values, City leadership/Finance staff and budget adherence by all City staff and departments. It all starts with planning, a strong accounting acumen, fiscal awareness, effective collaboration and a vision to serve the community well. The City's financial statements can be found in full on the City's website.

Internal City Enhancements Improving Service Delivery

Code Enforcement Seen as a Priority

With the hiring of a full-time Code Enforcement Officer, 2015 was a year to focus on appropriate and proactive enforcement of the City's codes and ordinances. The goal is to protect, preserve and improve the quality of life by maintaining standards and helping the public understand how best to be in compliance.

Direction to replace consulting City Engineer with staff City Engineer

In October 2015, it was decided, with Council concurrence, to bring the City Engineer position in-house to consistently meet our engineering needs. The number of capital improvement projects and day to day

need for engineering clearly justifies a full time position. HR Green will continue to provide engineering support once the City Engineer is hired in March.

Urban Forester

In August 2015, a full-time Urban Forester was hired to help manage our trees, landscape and parklands. This position gives us more focus on beautifying and keeping our community safe. Some of the many projects overseen by the Urban Forester include:

- Landscape Maintenance Contract
- Tree Trimming Contract
- Fire Safety & Weed Abatement Contracts
- Irrigation Upgrades to Address Water Efficiency

- New Landscape Plans for the public right-of-way and parklands

Converting the City Engineer and Urban Forester positions from consulting to in-house did not increase costs, but does increase service to the city.

New consultant for public services

In July 2015, HR Green became the city's contractor providing building & safety, city engineering, and public works inspection services. HR Green takes over from Charles Abbott & Associates. We are greatly pleased with the professionals who are serving our community and the ideas HR Green brings for improving service.

9 Force Main Project



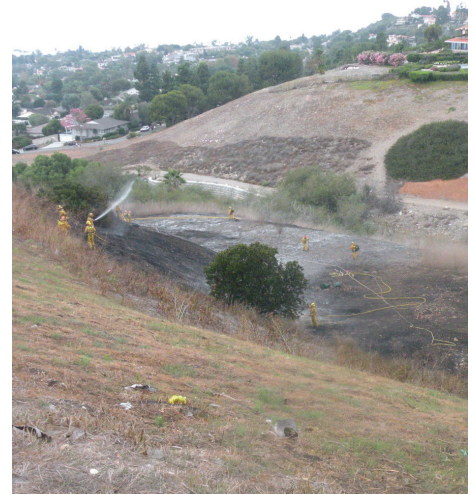
In October 2015, two sewer force main relief lines were added to connect the Paseo Del Mar and Rocky Point sewage pump stations to existing sewer outfall lines. In accordance with the Sewer Master Plan,

the Paseo Del Mar and Rocky Point sewage pump stations were upgraded two years ago. This year, the \$1.72 million project provided two new force mains to ensure sewer capacity to serve the area.

10 Weed and Fire Abatement

Overgrown or dead vegetation and trees near homes is a major fire hazard. Every year, the City removes, trims and thins vegetation within 100 to 200 feet of buildings to reduce fuel load. We also target the removal of weeds that are invading the natural parklands, increasing the risk of fire and reducing natural habitat. The fire safety efforts

in 2015 provide the best clearance seen in many years. In November 2015, an enhanced fire safety contract was approved for the Solano Canyon and eastern section of the Torrance Boundary trail. The Malaga Dunes fire in August and the Lunada Canyon fire in October, affirm the importance of the City's weed and fire abatement efforts.



11 Anti-theft dot implementation

Police officers have received training on the use of Anti-Theft crime dots. When officers recover property, they will check to see if the property was marked with the Anti-Theft crime dots. If so, the officers can quickly contact the owner and reunite them with their property. Residents are encouraged to mark

their valuable property with these Anti-Theft dots. Application of Anti-Theft crime dots is quick, simple, does not damage the property, and is only visible with the use of a black light. The Anti-Theft crime dots are available for purchase at Malaga Cove Ranch Market and Lunada Bay Hardware.



CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES



12 Crime stats

For most of 2015, the crime rate in the City remained low. Unfortunately, during the last three months of the year, we experienced a rash of burglaries. In fact, 50 burglaries occurred during this time, which made our overall crime rate for 2015 high-

er than the crime rate in 2014. However, during the first two months of 2016, the number of burglaries has dropped to three. Remember, Palos Verdes Estates remains a safe City with a low number of violent crimes and property crimes when compared to other cities in the South Bay. You can contact PVEPD for crime prevention information.

13 LA County Fire Department Stats

The LA County Fire Department plays a central role in emergency preparedness and disaster recovery planning. The Fire Department contract paid through the Fire and Paramedic Tax, benefits the City by having a large array of fire personnel and County resources at their disposal. The following is a snapshot of services provided in 2015:

2015- Services Provided

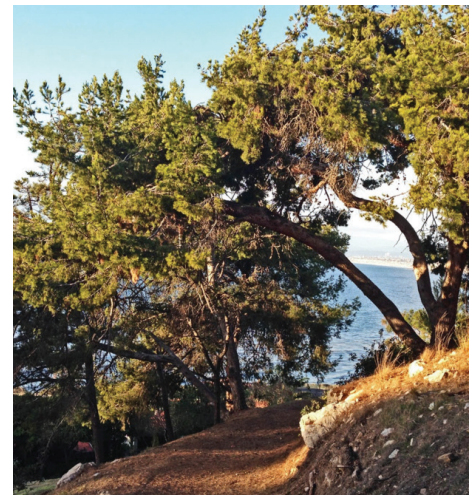
Structure fires	5
Outside rubbish fires	5
Miscellaneous fire calls	4
Rescue & Medical Emergencies	725
Hazardous Materials & Conditions	16
Miscellaneous Service calls	132
False alarm/False calls	108



14 VIPS & Parkland Ranger Progress

The first academy of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and Parkland Rangers has begun with eight residents participating in more than 20 hours of training. The graduation class is expected to be out in the

community and on our trails by mid-March. They are a welcome addition to our Volunteer Programs and will contribute greatly to the overall safety within our community and parkland areas, including the coastline.





PVE-CARES *for our seniors*

15

PVE-CARES

In 2015, PVE-CARES celebrated 15 years of community service. Implemented by the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department, PVE-CARES is a free program that supports its senior residents with free social events, educational seminars and an annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair, while aiming to keep our senior residents living more independent, healthy lives, in their homes as long as possible.

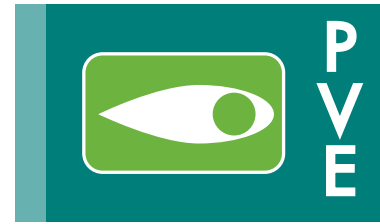
Facts: With over 13,000 residents, 24% of the City's residents are over the age of 65. In comparison, 11% of total population in California is over 65.

PVE-CARES stands for Palos Verdes Estates-Care, Assistance, Resources, Education and Socials.

10

Neighborhood Watch

In 2015, Neighborhood Watch celebrated 35 years of community support and service in Palos Verdes Estates. With over 700 members and growing, PVE's Neighborhood Watch currently has 4 elected Board Members, 6 Area Coordinators, 1 Membership Coordinator and 51 Block Captains. Since



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

1980, Neighborhood Watch has partnered with the PVE Police Department to keep neighborhoods safe with a collaborative approach to reducing crime by providing community education and awareness.

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Training & Preparedness For Active-Shooter Incidents

In light of the number of active shooter incidents that have occurred across the nation over the past couple years, PVEPD has trained all of the officers and dispatchers on responding to such critical incidents. During this past year, we conducted active shooter training at PV High School (after school hours). The



training included officers and dispatchers, as well as the principal and assistant principal of the school. This was a high stress type training that included actors, yelling, movement, and simulated gunfire. More training drills are being planned to maintain preparedness.

18 Chaplain Program

The Palos Verdes Estates Police Department has recently added a volunteer chaplain program as a resource for our residents, employees, victims and anyone else who may be in a time of need. The program is comprised of ordained clergy from established and recognized faiths within the community. Chaplains prove most valuable in situations where counseling or trauma support is needed.

The primary purpose of the Chaplaincy Program is to respond, with officers, to situations involving death, serious injuries, suicide, family crisis and domestic violence. The chaplains console family members and offer spiritual guidance and support while leaving the officer available to focus on the police investigation.

Although chaplains are affiliated with specific religions, while acting in their capacity as a police chaplain, they remain neutral and not profess any specific religion over another, or proselytize. The Rev. Dr. David Young, of The Neighborhood Church in PVE, was selected as our first chaplain. You may see him riding along with our patrol officers. He has already proven himself very useful and has consoled residents who have lost loved ones. We are looking forward to adding more Chaplains to the program!



19 DDP and NART

PVE's Disaster District Program (DDP) and Neighborhood Amateur Radio Team (NART) continue to partner with PVE PD to train and prepare for emergency response. These resident disaster service volunteers will play an instrumental role in recovery from major disasters. If you want to be part of these teams contact CRO Marcelle McCullough at mmccullough@pvestates.org.

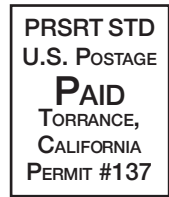
Fact: Throughout the history of amateur radio, amateur radio enthusiasts have made significant contributions to science, engineering, industry, and social services. Research by amateur radio operators has founded new industries, built economies, empowered nations, and saved lives in times of emergency.

20 City adds, improves access to council, commission and committee meetings

A cornerstone of democracy is the public meeting process. Important policy decisions are made through the exchange of ideas and sharing of information. In the City's ongoing effort to provide transparency, we took advantage of the latest technology in partnership with government service expert Granicus to implement a more robust online database and search mechanism for a range of documents and information. This includes detailed postings of City Council, Planning Commission, Parklands Committee and Traffic Safety Committee agendas, action minutes from those meetings, supporting documents and audio/video archives.



City of Palos Verdes Estates
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ECRWSS
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