



# Newsletter

April 2011



## LA Energy Upgrade Program – Now Available

The South Bay Environmental Services Center, in conjunction with the City of Palos Verdes Estates, presented a workshop on *Energy Upgrade California and Water Reliability 2020* to the residents of PVE on February 23, 2011.

Energy Upgrade California is an exciting new program that helps Los Angeles County homeowners make upgrades to reduce energy use, conserve resources and create more comfortable and efficient homes. It also stimulates the economy by creating new jobs and putting contractors back to work. Funding for this program is available through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as well as state dollars and a surcharge on residents' utility bills.

Currently, homeowners with detached single-family homes are eligible. New construction and renters are not eligible. Non-residential buildings and large multi-family (five or more units) residential buildings will be added to the Program later.

There are two upgrade packages available:

1. **Basic Upgrade Package: Seal and Insulate.** Step one is to focus on the house building shell – making sure it is insulated, sealed and safe. There is a \$1,000 incentive from Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas (SCG) Company in LA County for completing this project.
2. **Advanced Package: Options to Save Even More.** Reduce energy usage even more, with additional options, rebates and incentives – start with a home energy assessment. The Advanced Package will lead to energy usage reductions of 10%-40%, verified through a professional home energy assessment. Rebates and incentives range from \$1,250 (for 10% energy savings) up to \$4,500 (for 40% energy savings) within the SCE and SCG service areas in LA County.

The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) serves as the Call Center for the Energy

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### 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](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 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

# LA Energy Upgrade Program – Now Available

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Upgrade California in LA County Program. Homeowners are encouraged to call SBESC or drop in and speak with a staff member and use one of the Center's computers. You may also visit [www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org), or the City's website, [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org), in the "News" section for more information.

For more ways to save water, energy, money, and the environment, please contact SBESC directly at (310) 371-7222, or visit them online at [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com). SBESC is located at 15901 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 400, Lawndale, CA.

Stay tuned for the City's June issue of the newsletter to learn more about Water Reliability 2020.

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## Avoid Getting Taken by Contractors

The affluence of our City has negative consequences when our residents fall victim to unscrupulous contractors. Often times, residents pay inflated prices, pay deposits for work that is never done, or do not get the quality workmanship they deserve. By following these simple tips, you can minimize your risk of being taken by contractors:


- Always get three bids for projects over \$500.
- Choose a contractor who has done high quality work for someone you know.
- Be suspicious of contractors who offer a reduced price if you have the work done quickly.
- Make sure the contractor gets a City permit, if required. You can quickly check with City staff at (310) 378-0383 if a permit is needed. Permits are not expensive.
- Be wary of contractors who approach you and have "noticed" your paint, driveway, fencing or home needs work.
- Check the contractor's license online with the State Licensing Board at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

City staff cannot recommend, or comment on the quality of contractors, but can discuss your proposed project to help point you in the right direction, or to let you know if something does not seem right.

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## Malaga Cove Library Book Sale

April 15 & 16 • May 20 & 21




# Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Disposal



The Palos Verdes Peninsula's next Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)/Electronics

Waste (E-Waste) Disposal will be held **Saturday, May 7, 2011** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall/City Yard located at 30940 Hawthorne Boulevard.

Improper disposal, such as pouring HHW down the drain, on the ground or placing in trash, can potentially be dangerous to both humans and the environment. Properly dispose of your HHW and E-Waste. Use this time to clean out your garage and/or gardener's shed, and help the environment. Some accepted items include: Computer Monitors, CPU's, Printers, Telephones, TV's, Microwave Ovens, Cell Phones, Printers, Fax Machines, Paint, Solvents, Used Motor Oil and Filters, Anti-Freeze and other Automotive Fluids, Pool and Garden

Chemicals, Fluorescent Lights, Asbestos, Old Medicine, Sharps/Needles (in secure container), and Batteries (Household and Car). Visit the County website [www.lacsd.org](http://www.lacsd.org) for more information, or call 1-888-CleanLA.

Also, remember, the City of Palos Verdes Estates accepts electronic waste Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City Yard (found at the lower level of City Hall, adjacent to the Police Department). Drop-off is for electronic waste only. For safety reasons, please park on the street in front of the building (parallel to Palos Verdes Drive West).

You may also drop-off both HHW & E-Waste year round at the Gaffey SAFE center located at 1400 N. Gaffey Street (opposite the DMV), which is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Latex paint may also be disposed of at Lunada Bay Hardware located at 2216 Via Anacapa in Palos Verdes Estates.



## Bulky Trash Pick-up - Saturday, April 30th

Palos Verdes Estates' annual Special Refuse Collection (bulky trash) is scheduled for **Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Items should be placed at **curbside no later than 6:00 a.m.** Please note: Any items placed at the curb after 6:00 a.m. will not be taken.

The City's waste hauler, Athens Services, defines special refuse as furniture, appliances, water heaters, refrigerators (compressors removed), stoves, sinks, lawn furniture, doors, windows,

screens, mattresses, beds and rugs. Unacceptable items include: construction waste, green waste, hazardous waste and electronic waste. You may contact Athens Services directly if you have construction waste and are in need of a temporary debris box.

Please contact Athens Services at (888) 336-6100, or visit [www.AthensServices.com](http://www.AthensServices.com), for more information.

# City Council Seeks Volunteers for City Commissions and Committees

The City is currently accepting applications from interested residents for appointments to the Planning Commission, Parklands Committee and Traffic Safety Committee. Appointments are for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2011. The meeting schedule for these committees is listed on the bottom front page of this newsletter.

The deadline for applications is **Friday May 6, 2011**. Applications are available at the City Hall offices or on the City's website (visit [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org) and go to "I Want To..." then click "apply to serve...." to print a copy of the form). Questions about applications, or this process, may be directed to the City Clerk's office at (310) 378-0383.



## 2011 Youth Swim Lesson Program at PVBAC

The City and the Palos Verdes Beach and Athletic Club (PVBAC) are pleased to announce that the Club has expanded its 2011 summer swim lesson program and will offer enrollment to non-members at the PVBAC pool. Program details are as follows:

### Three-week Swim Lesson Sessions; Tuesday – Friday (12 lessons/session)

**Session 1:** June 21 through July 8

**Session 2:** July 12 through July 29

**Session 3:** August 2 through August 19

Lessons are provided for children of all skill levels. Lessons are 30 minutes in duration; beginning at

10 a.m. with last session beginning at 12:30 p.m. No recreational swimming is available; this is a lesson program only. PVE resident, non-member cost is \$180/session. Class enrollment will be capped at ratios of 1 instructor per 6 students and space is limited.

Program flyers with detailed lesson information, participant regulations and registration / waiver forms will be available in person at the PVBAC, City Hall and the City website ([www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org)) beginning Monday, April 25, 2011. The first day for registration will be Monday, May 2nd. The Beach Club will handle all registrations and payments.

## Palos Verdes Stable Summer Camp



The Palos Verdes Stable is once again offering its annual horse camp program from June through August for children

ages 7-11. The program offers children an opportunity to learn safe riding skills, while increasing their self-confidence. Class capacity is limited, so please reserve your space soon. For more information, you may visit the stable at 4057 Via Opata, or call (310) 375-9322.

# Palos Verdes Independence Day Celebration

## *Celebrating Fifty Years*

The Committee for the Palos Verdes Independence Day Celebration, Monday, July 4, 2011 on the grounds at Malaga Cove School, is gearing up for this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. The committee is seeking new volunteers this year to fill several positions including the Children's Bicycle Parade, Face Painting and Family Games. The committee meets monthly from February through June.

### *About the Palos Verdes Independence Day Committee*

The Palos Verdes Independence Day Celebration

Committee was founded in 1962 by PVE resident volunteers. It continues to be funded by private donations from Peninsula residents and is supported by the City of Palos Verdes Estates. The goal is to applaud American values, celebrate our nation's independence, magnify our heritage of freedom and promote patriotism. The celebration has now become an annual community tradition where volunteers work together to provide a day of family fun, and to renew a sense of appreciation for our independence. For more information, visit [www.pvjuly4.org](http://www.pvjuly4.org). To volunteer, contact Devon Hardwick at (310) 346-1650, or [Devonhardwick@hotmail.com](mailto:Devonhardwick@hotmail.com).



## Considering Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PEV)? Important Information...

Southern California is a potential mecca for plug-in electric vehicles (PEV), but would-be owners of the cars will have some key choices to make before that first in-home charge. Southern California Edison wants to help consumers make the right choices when pursuing a plug-in vehicle. Some of these are:

- Is your home's electrical panel and wiring configured to enable you to charge the battery in your car?
- What is the best rate plan on which you should charge your vehicle?
- What is the best time for you to charge your vehicle?
- Do you need to hire an electrical contractor?

A good first step is visiting [www.sce.com/pev](http://www.sce.com/pev) and navigating to SCE's "Plug-In Car Rate Assistant." This site helps estimate the cost of fueling a PEV, and the impact charging a PEV is likely to have on your electricity bill. The rate assistant helps customers make informed decisions about PEV rate plan enrollment. It provides estimated cost comparisons based on ZIP code, daily power usage, vehicle type, miles driven per year, gasoline price and recharging preferences (on- or off-peak).

Once you have decided on your charging needs, it is best to consult with a licensed electrician to make sure your home's electrical system is adequate for the added load. Permits will be required for any upgrades to your electrical system, which will ensure the work is done per Building Code standards. SCE and the City have been working together to make the entire process as smooth as possible.



## Vacation Checks Offered by the Police Department

Did you know the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department will provide periodic surveillance of your home and property while you are away on overnight travel?

To participate in this program, visit the City's website at [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org) and go to the Police Department page. Once there click "Forms" then

"Home Vacation Check" to complete your online request. This information is maintained within the Police Department so that our officers may provide extra patrol to your home while you are away, which includes checking on any activity at your home. For more information about this service, please contact the Police Department directly at (310) 378-4211.



## PVE's Disaster District Program (DDP) – Officially Implemented

In March of this year, the City of Palos Verdes Estates dedicated the sixth and final emergency preparedness container in the community – creating a cache of supplies available to registered Disaster Service Workers as part of PVE's community wide disaster preparedness program known as the Disaster District Program.

These specially trained volunteers will play an integral role to support response and recovery operations during a disaster. They will perform such tasks as providing patient care and triage, completing damage inspection reports, assisting with emergency communications, and disseminating public information within the community. The equipped containers will help the volunteers fulfill their role during a disaster and serve as a key milestone in the implementation of the Disaster District Program (DDP).

Another component of the DDP is the Neighborhood Amateur Radio Team (NART). When normal

communications systems (phones, Internet, etc.) may become significantly overwhelmed and ultimately ineffective during a disaster, NART provides the City with a useful communication tool through Ham Radio communication. NART is an imperative element to the City's disaster preparation efforts, and is made available through committed volunteers.

While a key component of the DDP is the involvement of community volunteers, it is important to stress that a number of steps have been taken to ensure that City employees understand their role during a disaster. City employees have received training in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This training not only will help provide for the effective management of a disaster, it will also increase the City's likelihood of receiving federal and state reimbursements following a disaster.

The City's Emergency Operating Center (EOC) has been updated with equipment and supplies and

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# PVE's Disaster District Program (DDP) – Officially Implemented

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several table top drills have been conducted to help prepare for a disaster. The City has also taken action to pre-designate vendors in a disaster which will abbreviate the process of acquiring equipment such as, cranes, tractors, debris removal equipment and the like.

The recent earthquakes in Japan should give your family reason to pause and consider whether you have taken sufficient steps to prepare for a disaster. The City has posted an easy-to-follow individual readiness plan for PVE residents. You can read more about the plan by visiting our city website at [www.pvestates.org](http://www.pvestates.org) and clicking on the Disaster Preparation link.

If you have questions, would like additional information, or would like to volunteer to become a Disaster Service Worker, please contact the Police Department's Community Relations Officer, Laurie Slawson, at (310) 378-4211 or by email at [lslawson@pvestates.org](mailto:lslawson@pvestates.org). Also, to learn more about serving on PVE's NART by becoming a licensed Ham Radio operator, please contact the head of PVE NART, Bryant Winchell, at [bryantcw@cox.net](mailto:bryantcw@cox.net).

While virtually any resident can volunteer, if you were former a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, you would be perfectly suited to serve as a PVE Disaster Service Worker!



## Emergency Survival Kit (Backpacks) Available

Two-person deluxe emergency survival backpacks are available for purchase through the Police Department for \$78 each. Kits contain mostly personal safety items such as water, food bars, gloves & goggles, first aid kit, radio, flashlight, batteries, etc. They are designed to sustain two people for a minimum of three days. For an exact list of contents, or to place your order, please contact the Police Department's Community Relations Officer, Laurie Slawson, at (310) 378-4211 or by email at [lslawson@pvestates.org](mailto:lslawson@pvestates.org).

## 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](http://www.pvestates.org). If you are interested in receiving the Agenda via email, please subscribe; click on "Join E-News" on the homepage.

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*City Hall will be closed Monday,  
 May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.*



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