



# CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • 30940 HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275 • WEBSITE: WWW.RPVCA.GOV • 310.544.5200

## DOUBLE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### ROBERT MOYA, FINANCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Robert Moya became the City's Deputy Director of Finance on November 11 after 20 years of diverse experience at the City of Orange. Shortly after settling in, Robert answered some questions about his experiences in finance and how he spends his time outside of work.

#### Congratulations and welcome. What motivated you to come work for the City of RPV?

I'm honored to join the City of Rancho Palos Verdes as the Deputy Director of Finance. I was drawn to this role because of the City's reputation for strong community involvement and its commitment to fiscal responsibility. After years in public service, I felt that my experience in local government could make a real difference here. I'm looking forward to bringing my expertise to help the City continue to meet its financial goals and to work on meaningful projects that benefit our residents.

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### VANESSA GODINEZ, HUMAN RESOURCES & RISK MANAGER



Vanessa Godinez recently became the City's Human Resources & Risk Manager. Vanessa took some time to answer some questions about herself and the role of Human Resources in Rancho Palos Verdes.

#### What first led you to a career in City Government?

After working in the private sector for more than 15 years, I wanted to contribute to more than a bottom line. I was looking for a sense of purpose, to contribute to the public good. My husband, who is also in public service, encouraged me to take the leap in 2015 when I joined the City of Hermosa Beach. I realized right away that city government was where I belonged.

#### Tell us about your past work and educational experiences and how they prepared you for your current position as RPV HR Manager.

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## LANDSLIDE MOVEMENT UPDATE



As we head into what is forecasted to be another wet winter, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes continues to see promising signs of progress as we navigate the Portuguese Bend landslide emergency. Thanks to highly productive dewatering wells that have relieved water pressure by removing tens of millions of gallons of groundwater, the average rate of land movement slowed to 3.3 inches per week by late October 2024. At its most destructive peak over the summer, movement averaged up to 13 inches per week in some areas. While we are hopeful that this

significant deceleration will continue, the landslide complex as a whole is still moving approximately 25 times faster than it was in October 2022.

To prepare for the winter months, the City implemented a multi-pronged "winterization" strategy consisting of filling fissures, lining the Altamira, Kelvin, Portuguese, Ishibashi, Paintbrush, and Klondike Canyons with a protective material to prevent rainwater from getting into the ground, and repaving vulnerable streets in the Seaview neighborhood.

The City continues to urge Southern California Edison and SoCalGas to restore electricity and natural gas to the hundreds of residents who have been without service since the summer as soon as it is safe to do so. About \$1.9 million in emergency relief grants has been distributed to impacted residents who can seek up to \$10,000 to cover critical expenses such as purchasing supplies, home repairs, temporary housing and other related costs due to land movement or utility interruptions. This program was made possible by \$5 million from Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, which included \$2.8 million for individual assistance, and \$2.2 million to help the City's ongoing landslide response and stabilization efforts.

City Staff and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services are reviewing applications submitted for the historic Voluntary Property Buyout Program announced in October 2024. Established with \$42 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the program is intended to help eligible homeowners in the landslide area relocate to safer areas by offering a fair market value for their properties based on pre-disaster appraisals. Properties acquired by the City through this program will be permanently converted to open space and deed-restricted, protecting the community from future redevelopment risks in these vulnerable areas.

While the landslide crisis dominated local headlines in 2024 and took a heavy toll on our community, this emergency has brought out the best in us and made us stronger than ever. We are #RPVTogether.

For the latest landslide updates, visit [rpvca.gov/landmovement](http://rpvca.gov/landmovement).

## FOCUS ON THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES FOCUSING ON THE ROLE OF A CITY DEPARTMENT



The purpose of the Community Development Department is to ensure the orderly physical development of the community by upholding the goals and policies of the City's General Plan through the issuance of land use entitlements and permits for improvements and development of private property. From the preservation of views to wildlife management, the Community Development Department tackles a wide range of issues that impact the quality of life of the City's residents and businesses.

The Community Development Department's Planning, Building and Safety, Code Enforcement and View Restoration Divisions work together to further interpret and implement the City's municipal code regulations. City Staff works closely with project stakeholders and interested parties through the development review process to ensure that a proposed project complies with applicable Zoning, Subdivision and Building Code requirements while remaining compatible with neighborhood character.

The Community Development Department also coordinates with local and state agencies on issues facing the region including housing, transportation, coastal development and sustainability efforts.

Please visit the Community Development Department's homepage on the City's website ([www.rpvca.gov](http://www.rpvca.gov)) for more information and services including, but not limited to, online permitting and inspection scheduling.



## CLOSURES AHEAD!



As we approach colder and wet weather conditions, make sure to check [rpvca.gov/trailalerts](http://rpvca.gov/trailalerts) before heading out on a hike! The Palos Verdes Nature Preserve is subject to closure during wet conditions as trails get muddy. This protects the sensitive habitat by ensuring water-logged areas can adequately dry out and enhances public safety if trails become slippery. Be one step ahead and subscribe to the "Palos Verdes Nature Preserve" listserv to get notifications via e-mails and/or updates on upcoming meetings, projects, and trail conditions.



Trail Conditions & Alerts



Palos Verdes Nature Preserve Notify Me Listserv

## UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS: BOOK ONE TODAY!



### Street Food of Hong Kong Demonstration

Get in the spirit of Lunar New Year as Phoebe Chow of More Than Bread will demonstrate popular street food items of Hong Kong as well as share the history of street foods!

Saturday, Jan 11 @ 11 am - 12 pm  
Peninsula Center Library (adults)

### Genealogy Drop-In

Need help with your genealogy search? Drop by with your questions and librarians will help.

Saturday, Jan 25 @ 10 am - 11:30 am

Peninsula Center Library, Purcell Room



### "Her Traveling Shoes" w/Ina the Sunshine Storyteller

Join us as Ina, the Sunshine Storyteller, presents "Her Traveling Shoes" featuring true stories of four courageous Black women who spoke up and travelled for love, adventure, fame and fortune. Stories include profiles of civil rights activist Georgia Gilmore, pilot Bessie Coleman, athlete Wilma Rudolph and poet Amanda Gorman.

Saturday, Feb 15 @ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Peninsula Center Library, Community Room (For all ages)

### Living History Museum of African American Heroes

Children portray African American Heroes in a museum-style event.

Join our young presenters, who portray their heroes from African American history! Learn about well-known and lesser-known leaders, scientists, artists, and civil rights leaders, as the children demonstrate the impact their heroes have had on the lives of all Americans.

To learn about how your child in TK - 8th grade can portray a hero at this event, contact Laura Henry at [lhenny@pvlid.org](mailto:lhenny@pvlid.org)

Sunday, Feb 23 @ 2 pm - 4 pm

Peninsula Center Library (For all ages)

### PV Reads presents author Piper Huguley & Book signing

Friday, Mar 14 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Peninsula Center Library

## HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

EDCO 310.540.2977, [www.rpvrecycles.com](http://www.rpvrecycles.com)

**December 2024:** There will be **no trash collection** on Wednesday, December 25 and a one-day service delay for the remainder of the week (for example, Thursday routes will be collected Friday)

**January 2025:** There will be no trash collection on Wednesday, January 1 and a one-day service delay for the remainder of week routes.

Questions? Call EDCO at 310.540.2977 or [www.rpvrecycles.com](http://www.rpvrecycles.com). Please place all containers at the curb no later than 7 am on your collection day.

**Regulations for hours for trash containers placement and storage:** Containers cannot be placed at the curb until after 4 pm the day before collection day. Empty carts must be removed no later than 10 pm on collection day.

**Empty containers cannot be left on the curb overnight.** Containers must be stored on the side or back of the property, at a location that is substantially screened from view. Proper care and placement of your container helps keep your neighborhood attractive and aesthetically pleasing. Contact EDCO about excess holiday trash collection: December 26, 2024 through January 15, 2025.



## HOLIDAY STREET SWEEPING



Streets in RPV are swept twice a month. Regular street sweeping days are not scheduled for December 25 or January 1, so there will be no changes to the street sweeping schedule. 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!

## ROBERT MOYA (Continued from page 1)

### Tell us about your prior work experience.

I have over two decades of experience in public administration, primarily with the City of Orange. During my time there, I worked across various departments—including Economic Development, Finance, Human Resources, and Public Works—which gave me a broad perspective on city budgeting, project management, and operational oversight, from managing city properties to long-term planning. This diverse experience has equipped me with the tools to navigate the unique challenges cities face in financial management.

### What qualities and skills are needed to be an effective Deputy Finance Director?

An effective Deputy Finance Director needs a combination of analytical skills, strategic vision, and strong leadership abilities. In Rancho Palos Verdes, balancing growth with sound financial stewardship requires someone who can manage rising costs, communicate financial strategies clearly, and collaborate across departments. A key part of the role is providing reliable support to the Finance Director, ensuring continuity and strength in decision-making. Additionally, adaptability, attention to detail, and a proactive approach to maximizing financial resources and pursuing innovative funding are essential to building a foundation for a successful and sustainable future for the City.

### Directors and Deputies work closely together in all Departments. How do you view your role in working with Finance Director Vina Ramos?

My role as Deputy Director is to support our Finance Director Vina Ramos in carrying out the depart-

ment's vision and goals. Collaboration is key, and I see my role as one that reinforces her leadership while ensuring that we are implementing effective strategies across our financial operations. I'm here to contribute my insights, keep projects on track, and maintain open lines of communication so that we can work seamlessly together for the City's benefit.

### How are you enjoying the job so far?

It's been a fantastic experience so far! The team here is very dedicated and welcoming, which has made the transition smooth. I'm excited to dive deeper into projects and get to know more of the community and my colleagues. There's a lot of potential here, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it!

### Favorite movie/favorite book/favorite TV show? Favorite athlete and/or team? Hobbies?

**Favorite movie:** "Good Will Hunting" – A powerful story about perseverance and self-discovery.

**Favorite book:** *Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway – I appreciate Hemingway's depth and honesty in this classic.

**Favorite TV show:** "Better Call Saul" – The storytelling and character complexity are impressive.

**Favorite athlete/team:** Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers – Kobe's "Mamba Mentality" and dedication inspire me, and I've been a lifelong Lakers fan.

**Hobbies:** Outside of work, I enjoy playing piano and bass guitar, producing music, and spending quality time with my family. I also love going to concerts and cheering on the Lakers whenever they play.

# Need a Lift?

**Dial-A-Ride services** are available on the Peninsula for seniors and people with disabilities (residents only)



**Palosverdes.com/pvtransit/**  
or call **(310) 544-7108**

## VANESSA GODINEZ (Continued from page 1)

I began my Human Resources career in the private sector in 1998 before serving as the Human Resources Manager in Hermosa Beach from 2015-2024. I believe my work experience in both private and public organizations has helped me become a well-rounded HR professional. In 2016 I earned my master's in business administration (MBA).

### What are some of the main functions and responsibilities of an HR Manager?

- 1) Recruitment and retention: Hire qualified candidates that fit the organization and retain the talent we hire.
- 2) Employee relations and recognition: Develop programs for employee engagement and recognition, create a positive work environment.
- 3) Compensation and benefits management: Offer health benefit plans and pay competitive salaries based on comparable cities, considering the City's financial health and market surveys.
- 4) Training and development: Offer training for skills, development, and compliance.
- 5) Compliance: Stay up to date with local, state, and federal labor laws; ensure all safety protocols are current and in compliance, and recording keeping is well-documented.
- 6) Employee wellness: After the COVID-19 pandemic, we all experienced a rise in mental health awareness. It is important that we provide our staff with resources to enhance physical, emotional, and mental health.

### What qualities should an effective HR Manager possess?

**Confidentiality and discretion:** Trust and discretion are important to maintaining confidentiality and ensuring staff feel safe sharing information.

**Communication skills:** Ability to provide clear oral and written communication; this includes active listening to staff's needs and concerns.

**Integrity and ethical judgment:** Integrity is key to any HR professional. I hold myself to a high standard when it comes to integrity and ethics, so I expect the same of my staff.

**Empathy and emotional intelligence:** Taking time to listen to our staff, listen to their perspectives and handle sensitive issues with patience and care.

**Leadership and strategic thinking:** As an HR Manager, I aspire to gain the trust of our staff, management, and community.

**Adaptability and flexibility:** Working in HR, every day is different. Being

flexible keeps my day busy and exciting.

### Are there any HR-related changes or improvements you would like to see implemented or considered in RPV?

In the short-term, I would like to implement more electronic-based forms and streamline our processes, which will help us to be more efficient and complete tasks in a shorter time-frame. I'm excited to be a part of a team developing a wellness program for our City staff where they can tap into resources that can help them and their families.

### Looking forward, what are the most significant City personnel challenges you anticipate?

Recruitment and retention is key. Finding qualified candidates has been a challenge for many organizations, not just local government. We continue to advertise on social media platforms, networking groups, and professional associations to find qualified candidates. So, if you're interested in joining our amazing RPV team...here's my recruitment plug, check out our career opportunities at [governmentjobs.com/careers/rpvca](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/rpvca)

### What would you like the residents of RPV to know about you?

I love working with people. Growing up, I aspired to be a teacher. My passion was to make a difference in people's lives, help them, teach them. I am grateful to City Manager Ara Mihanian for giving me the opportunity to join this awesome RPV team as the Human Resources and Risk Manager and serve this beautiful community.

### How do you enjoy spending time away from work?

It's the simple things in life that make me happy, like dinner or breakfast dates with my husband, family dinner time at my parents' house, going for walks, and the "occasional" trips to Starbucks and HomeGoods. My guilty pleasure is binge watching episodes of the television show "Friends".

My husband Cesar and I have been married for 23 years and we have three amazing sons, Andrew, Adam, and Aiden. Growing up I enjoyed watching sports with my father, now I enjoy watching sports with my three sons, everything from baseball, football, basketball, and Formula 1 racing. We're an LA Dodgers family, so we held many watch parties at our home this postseason. Prior to me joining the RPV team, my family and I would visit RPV parks/trails and go for walks. Now as a member of our RPV City team, I continue to visit our parks and am proud to be a part of an amazing and beautiful City.

**The City of Rancho Palos Verdes**  
*Your search ends here!*

# We're Hiring

- Principal Civil Engineer
- Deputy Director of Recreation & Parks
- Administrative Assistant
- Associate Planner
- Permit Technician

For more information regarding these exciting career opportunities, please visit our website:  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/rpvca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/rpvca)

## PREPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS



*The winter months are a time of joy and celebration, but when the right safety steps aren't taken when cooking and decorating, they can become tragic. Avoid a disaster this holiday season by following these safety tips:*

1. When cooking, you should avoid wearing loose or dangling clothing, never leave cooking food un-attended or near small children or pets and keep anything flammable away from cooking surfaces and heat sources.
2. When decorating, you should choose decorations that are flame resistant, replace any light strings that are worn or broken, and plug all outdoor decorations into circuits with a ground fault circuit interrupter to avoid potential shock. Remember to place Christmas trees at least 3 feet away from heat sources, like fireplaces and space heaters, and in a location where they do not block exits.
3. When using candles, you should keep them at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, on a sturdy surface, and turn them off when you leave a room. Consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles, but do not add the risk of a house fire.

We at the City of RPV hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!



STAY CURRENT WITH LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Legislative Corner will inform you on what's inside every bill tracked by the City. Local, state-wide, and national elections and issues are always in motion so there's no better time to be an informed citizen. Go to the Legislative Corner, your one-stop destination for the latest news, developments, and updates on legislative matters that affect the City of RPV. The corner will keep you informed and engaged in the decision-making process that shapes our community.

**SCAN HERE**

TO VIEW OUR LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM & BILL SUMMARIES

# GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: ANNUAL BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL AND UPDATES

What business is it of yours? Good question, but if it is your business and it's in RPV, you need a business license.

## Business License Renewal Process

Business license renewal applications are due prior to commencing operations and expire each December 31. In mid-December, City staff will send the 2025 business license renewal applications to all currently licensed businesses. This application should be completed and returned with payment to City Hall by January 31, 2025. Upon receiving a completed renewal application and license tax payment, a 2025 Business Tax Certificate will be viewable/printable on the e-Trakit online portal. Penalties will be assessed on any license application received on or after February 1, 2025, 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:

- Online:** File on-line by going to the City's website at <https://etrakit.rpvca.gov/eTRAKIT/>.
- By mail:** Return the application and your check made payable to "City of Rancho Palos Verdes" to the following address:  
City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
Attention: Business License  
30940 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
- In person:** You can also pay your renewal in person at City Hall, within the Community Development Department.

Questions: Contact the Business License Coordinator at 310.544.5301. For additional information, please refer to Chapter 5.04 of the City's Municipal Code at [https://library.municode.com/ca/rancho\\_palos\\_verdes](https://library.municode.com/ca/rancho_palos_verdes)

## 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

**David Bradley, Mayor**  
Email: [david.bradley@rpvca.gov](mailto:david.bradley@rpvca.gov)

**Paul Seo, Mayor Pro Tem**  
Email: [paul.seo@rpvca.gov](mailto:paul.seo@rpvca.gov)

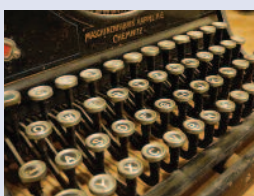
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**Steve Perestam, Councilmember**  
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Email [cc@rpvca.gov](mailto:cc@rpvca.gov) to contact the entire City Council

## CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES NEWSLETTER



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**Winter 2024-25 Newsletter and  
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## GREEN CORNER



### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycling your Christmas tree is easy. Curbside tree collection will take place on your collection day from December 26, 2024, through January 15, 2025.

- Please remove all decorations including ornaments, tinsel, lights, and tree stand.
- Flocked trees are acceptable and will be recycled.
- Trees longer than 6 feet must be cut in half.

If you live in a multi-family complex, please contact your management company or HOA for the designated tree drop-off location.



### SB 1383 MANDATORY ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION

SB 1383 is a state law that requires every resident and business to recycle organic waste in an effort to reduce methane emissions.

Residents and multi-family complexes must recycle all organic waste, including paper, cardboard, yard materials, food scraps, and food-soiled paper by placing them in their organic (green) bin. Residents can request a Kitchen Caddy from EDCO to conveniently transfer food scraps from the kitchen to the organics cart or compost pile. Multi-family complexes are also required to arrange for organic and recycling services (paper, bottle, aluminum, cardboard, etc.) If you are not recycling your organic or your other recyclable items, you must contact EDCO at 310.540.2977 to arrange for services now.



All businesses are required to arrange for organic waste and recycling services. 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. 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](mailto:publicworks@rpvca.gov)

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE PROGRAM



The Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection Program (HHW) gives Rancho Palos Verdes residents a legal and cost-free way to dispose of unwanted household chemicals that cannot be disposed of in regular trash collection.

Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of at the Gaffey S.A.F.E. Center. They are open to LA County residents every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. To dispose of old paint, expired medicines, automotive oil, used electronics, and more, go to the Gaffey Safe Center located at 1400 N. Gaffey, San Pedro. For more information please visit: [https://www.lacsd.org/services/solidwaste/hhw\\_e\\_waste/default.asp](https://www.lacsd.org/services/solidwaste/hhw_e_waste/default.asp).

