

PVP Watch Newsletter - February 13, 2009

To Our Friends & Supporters:

March 3rd is Election Day and Palos Verdes Estates will be electing two Council members:

There are three candidates; Incumbent Jim Goodhart, current PVE Planning Commission Chairman George Bird and newcomer Sheryl Ianniatti. Some will recall that Ms. Ianniatti was the PVE resident whose Halloween decorations were removed by PVE from the parkway area in front of her home. It has been reported that Ms. Ianniatti intends to spend over \$100,000 in her election campaign.

The rest of the Peninsula will be only voting for LA Community College Trustees and four seats are open. The Peninsula Republican Women's Club has endorsed: Seat #2 - Lady Cage-Barile
Seat #4 – Roy Burns; Seat #6 – Josef Thomas Essavi; Seat #7 Kurt S. Lowry.

Jazz at Trump National

Need a Night of Relaxation and Joy? Join Jazz Expression Under the Stars at Trump National on February 26th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for a free night of live jazz entertainment from our talented local youth. This evening is sponsored by Trump National in support of Freedom4U, a Palos Verdes organization dedicated to bringing safe and sound activities to the young people of our community. If you are interested in participating, you need to be at least 13 years old and bring your own instrument. Participation is free. We understand that parents and other spectators are welcome. Adult beverages and snacks are probably available. For more information, please contact Freedom4U at 310.897.5043 or at awakening02@hotmail.com or visit: www.freedomcommunity.com

RPV – Affordable Housing

As some have observed, silhouette flags are in place at the corner of Crenshaw & Crestridge. What is going on is that the RPV Council has decided to build **affordable housing** units there. At it's February 10th meeting and after nearly four (4) hours of public hearing with many neighbors objecting to the proposed project, the RPV Planning Commission voted five to one in opposition to the project. Commissioner Jim Knight was in favor and commissioner Paul Tetreault was absent. The proposal will be heard by the RPV Council on March 3rd. In the past the majority of the Council has been supportive of **affordable housing**. We shall see what they decide on March 3rd. Those wishing to make their voices heard can e-mail the council at cc@rpv.com or speak at the Council meeting.

Property Tax Assessments

If you have recently received a an official appearing letter from "Property Tax Reassessment," we urge everyone to look at the documents closely. First of all, any property that might be a candidate for reassessment would have to have been purchased in the past 5 years or so. Residents who have been in their homes for 20 / 30 years or so have received letters requesting that a fee accompany the application. Click [HERE](#) to read a message from LA County Assessor Rick Auerbach.

RV Parking

Some months ago the RPV Council enacted an Ordinance prohibiting RV parking on RPV streets. Included in the Ordinance were conditions for obtaining permits for parking for preparing for or returning from trips etc. Wondering what the RV community experience is with the new rules and procedures? Is this process proving workable or this just more excessive government. Please send comments / experience, so far, to info@pvpwatch.com.

RPV Building Codes

Below is a message sent from RPV City Hall on December 3rd, 2008 to those subscribing to RPV's "list server" messages. Page 3 of the Winter 2008 edition the RPV Newsletter also contained a brief notification.

From: rpvlistserver@rpv.com [mailto:rpvlistserver@rpv.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2008 1:53 PM
Subject: New Temporary Program started in the Planning and Building Departments

New Temporary Program started in the Planning and Building Departments

In an effort to encourage property owners to obtain the necessary Planning approvals and/or building permits for improvements done without such approvals and permits, the City Council has approved a temporary program that will allow property owners to file applications with the City to obtain "after-the-fact" approval for certain improvements completed on their property without paying the required penalty fees.

Penalty fees for "after-the-fact" work are normally two times the regular fees for planning permits and three times the regular fees for building permits.

Specifically, from December 1, 2008 through May 3, 2009 residents can contact the Planning and Building and Safety Divisions to apply to legalize certain improvements on their property that were completed without Planning or Building permits. Any of the following improvements are eligible for this program: Installation of patio covers or trellises, re-roofing of an existing structure, additions not exceeding 250 square feet and not requiring a neighborhood compatibility analysis, replacement windows, installation of skylights, and installation of pools and spas.

Applications to legalize “after-the-fact” work will still be subject to payment of all applicable application processing fees, plan check fees, and building permit fees; however, as noted, through this temporary program all penalty fees will be waived. Keep in mind that all projects will have to conform to current applicable planning requirements and current building codes and will be subject to inspection by the City to verify compliance.

Please call the Planning Division at 310-544-5228 or the Building and Safety Division at 310-265-7800 for further information.

What was not reported was that at the June 17, 2008 Council meeting, Ordinance No 473 was item #4 on the Consent Calendar. For those unaware of how the Council does business, the Consent Calendar is where agenda items are placed to not incur public discussion. Consent Calendar items are usually voted on as a block motion. Council members are well prepared with reports so that they, but usually not residents, know what the intent is. Acknowledgement: Staff reports are posted on the RPV web site a day or two prior to the Council meeting. However, there is minimal opportunity for residents to obtain an understanding or voice an opinion.

Ordinance 473 established procedures and administrative penalties for violations of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code. Furthermore Ordinance 473 provides an administrative remedy for any violation of this code, including continuing violations related to building, plumbing, electrical or other similar structural or zoning issues. Click [HERE](#) to read Ordinance 473.

It seems to some of us that this but another attempt by RPV City Hall to find ways to expand City Hall and harass residents. No question that building modifications that impact construction integrity and safety should have permits and inspections. But windows, patio covers, trellises,..... PLEAZEEE how much Nanny Government do we need? The past several years many residents have upgraded their windows in an effort to improve their homes and reduce energy consumption. Wonder how many bothered with building permits? RPV residents can anticipate an aggressive effort by RPV City Hall to find un-permitted installations and assess penalty fees.

Let's hear your thoughts.... Send comments to info@pvpwatch.com

RPV IT (Information Technology) Costs

As readers will likely recall, PVP Watch has long been reporting on RPV's relationship with PV Net. During 2008 RPV paid PV Net almost \$250,000 for services. Not included is free space at the City Hall complex and other RPV provided benefits for PV Net. By the way, RPV hired a full time IT tech early in 2008. Why do these excessive costs continue if RPV has a qualified IT

person? Is anyone besides PVP Watch concerned about these questionable expenses? We believe the RPV City Hall employee count to now be 58. Comments from IT professionals are particularly welcomed. Send to info@pvpwatch.com.

PVP Watch – Newsletter List

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters. Should you change your e-mail address, don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address. We suggest that pvpwatch.com be added to your computer address book to assure delivery of PVP Watch Newsletters.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch welcomes modest contributions. Those desiring to contribute, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to www.pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee

