

# PVP Watch Newsletter – October 28, 2013

## To Our Friends and Supporters

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## **November Elections**

### **Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> is Election Day**

Absentee voters received their ballots in early October and many have already been returned to the LA County Registrar. Assuming past trends continue, the mail in vote is about 50% / 55% of the total vote. Thus remaining balance for poll voting being 45% / 50%. Unfortunately many absentee voters will fail to vote even though they can do so without leaving home.

RHE – Rolling Hills Estates:

An interesting situation has developed in RHE with candidate Clark Davis claiming the Rolling Hills Estates officials have been engaged in a “back room” deal to build an assisted living center on private property now used by the C Horse equestrian center. Clark’s opponents, Steve Zuckerman, Britt Huff and Cat Spydell all disagree with Clark’s conclusions. Davis’s website is – <http://csdavis4rhecouncil.co/> - PVP Watch urges all RHE voters to not only visit Mr. Davis’s website but to study this matter for themselves.

RPV – Rancho Palos Verdes:

PVP Watch endorses Brian Campbell and Ken Dyda as the two best qualified candidates in 2013.

We do not wish to engage in disparaging Anthony Misetich and we thank him for his past four years on the RPV Council. However, we must change the majority vote of Brooks, Knight and Misetich. Change is critical to solving RPV ongoing problems and residents can anticipate that a majority

consisting of Jerry Duhovic, Brian Campbell and Ken Dyda will take collaborative decision making to a new and higher level.

A critical matter is that the Council MUST provide greater oversight of how the City Manager and senior staff perform their duties. The current Council majority of Brooks, Knight and Misetich has avoided this responsibility thus limiting "Checks and Balances." Residents are demanding change.

We urge RPV voters to vote for Brian Campbell and Ken Dyda as the two best qualified candidates on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2013.

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### **RPV in Chaos...**

Hmmm..... Many, particularly the parents with children who had previously or were then attending the Montessori school at Ladera Linda in early 2011, will recall how the RPV Council then majority, Tom Long, Doug Stern and Stefan Wolowicz abruptly decided to cancel the lease of the Montessori School at Ladera Linda. RPV's position was that the buildings occupied by the Montessori school were unsafe.

Since then there have been periodic announcements that focus groups would be formed to determine what the purpose of the Ladera Linda Recreation Center should be and what should be built to fulfill the purpose as so identified by the focus group(s).

In view of the history of "doom & gloom" and the likely need for "Big Bucks" for rebuilding Ladera Linda, it was very surprising to recently receive an announcement from City Hall announcing the reopening of the Discovery Room at Ladera Linda. The announcement reported that the "Los Serenos Docents will share information about the local plants, animals, and geology of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, a sneak peek of what you might see on a hike in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth groups and nature lovers to learn about this local resource."

Interesting is that apparently this was a decision made by City Manager Lehr without Council awareness. During the May 2011 discussion about the hazards and unsuitability for children at Ladera Linda there was speculation that the real reason for evicting the Montessori school was to provide space for the Docents and the PVP Land Conservancy. Hmmm...

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**PV Drive South / Landslide Area.**

RPV is budgeted to spend \$3,755,000 over the next two years to rebuild PV Drive South in the landslide area. Does this make sense to residents without there being any attempt to stabilize the landslide? Some sections of the landslide are moving two / three feet per year which can be easily validated by the amount of road maintenance performed each year. Would it not seem more logical to use the budgeted construction funds to stabilize the earth movement? Does staff have a plan to stabilize the land movement? Probably not although experienced professionals acknowledge that stabilizing the Portuguese Bend landslide is a feasible objective.

There will be a public meeting concerning PV Drive South road maintenance at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC) on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., 31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

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**RPV – Financial Considerations**

The August, 2013 Cash Balance Report stated that that the TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax) generated by Terranea for FY 2012 / 2013 was approximately \$5,000,000. Residents may recall that early January 2013, Terri Haack, the VP / GM for Terranea reported that total TOT funds transferred to RPV as of December 31, 2012 approximated \$10,000,000. This was all inclusive since the Terranea opening in mid-2009. Clearly there is overlap between the two reporting periods, one would expect using \$12,500,000 as an aggregate number is a reasonable determination. Not included are the many taxes and other fees paid by Terranea that increase RPV coffers. There is no reason not to believe that Terranea payments to RPV will continue to increase as time move on. Thank you Terranea for your many contributions to RPV and the Peninsula community.

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**PVE – Palos Verdes Estates**

The PVE – Via Panorama Public Lands dispute was scheduled for a court hearing on October 25, 2013. Reports are that nothing was accomplished as the Judge had failed to read the materials and the hearing lasted some five minutes or so. How disgusting, another unprepared Judge wasting lawyers / taxpayers time. Reportedly the Judge plans to send his response to the *demurrer* in writing in the next week or two.

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## **RHE – Rolling Hills Estates**

The matter of replacing the Seahorse equestrian facility with an assisted living center has raised concerns with some RHE residents and as more learn about the plan there will be much more commentary. There does seem to be some validity to the concern that there has not been enough Transparency and there are differing opinions of what has been / is occurring. Observation is that City Hall(s) seem to have a self-directed attitude to minimize resident communications with City Hall knowing what is best for all philosophy. We urge all RHE residents to become knowledgeable in this matter and the starting place is <http://csdavis4rhecouncil.co/>. After digesting this material see what RHE City Hall is reporting.

**Breaking News:** As of this morning, RHE has not yet confirmed dates & time for broadcasting the Council debate recorded on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Why is this public information not being promptly disseminated? When City Hall attempts to obfuscate simple events such as broadcast dates for a Council debate it does add veracity to those who assert that City Hall is working behind *closed doors*.

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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 thanks the many subscribers who have contributed to PVP Watch. Those desiring to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch / PO Box 2041 / 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](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com). Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com) as well.

The Editorial Committee

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