

# Peninsula News

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013

### Code enforcement

At the July 23 PVE City Council meeting on Parkland Trails, there were many comments by City Council members about the need to prosecute "vandals"

who had cleared brush from the portion of trail known as the Backbone Trail above Apsley Road. The city manager, the city attorney and each of the council members made reference to Municipal Code 12.12.020 that states "it is prohibited to dig/grade within any public place in the city without obtaining a permit from the public works director."

I agree that the city should enforce the code, but the City Council should explain why they are so strong in their condemnation of a group of well-meaning citizens that invested their own time and energy to maintain a trail after the city failed to perform its responsibility in maintaining access to that

public open space on a trail that was laid out and identified in the 1926 map of Palos Verdes Estates as the Paseo Del Sol Trail. Further, the City Council should explain why it has failed to prosecute Robert Lugliani for his much more egregious encroachments on public open space parkland adjacent to his house at 900 Via Panorama over the past 38 years. The city has repeatedly sent notices to the Luglianis asking for the removal of illegal structures, but they have never prosecuted the Luglianis for these code violations.

It's time that the city enforce its codes thoroughly and without prejudice for one resident over another.

**John Harbison**  
Palos Verdes Estates

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

### Harbison's letter

Last week (Aug. 15) the *Peninsula News* published a letter from John Harbison in which he scolds the Palos Verdes Estates City Council for not supporting the efforts of so-called "well-meaning" citizens who have illegally hacked away and dug a path on the steep hillside between New York Hill and Palos Verdes Drive West. He bases his excuse for this destruction of the fragile ecosystem on the anachronistic 1926 map of PVE. Obviously, the city and its population have changed in the intervening 87 years and what may once have seemed like a good idea is now nothing short of a potential disaster for those residents living near that hillside.

Excavating and digging into the hillside present a serious threat to the stability of the soil and vegetation in this steep terrain and will lead to soil erosion and potential mudslides during rainy seasons. The piles of dead brush, bushes and tree branches that have been cut and left to dry by the side of the path present a severe threat of fire to the homes adjacent to the trail.

These activities are illegal and there is no excuse for continuing to break the law that was created to protect our parklands and residents.

**Catherine White**  
Palos Verdes Estates

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

### White's letter

Catherine White's letter published on Aug. 22 took issue with my letter to the editor published on Aug. 15. Ms. White criticized my letter for making excuses for people who continue to "break the law that was created to protect our parklands and residents."

This is a silly accusation, since I stated, "I agree that the city (Palos Verdes Estates) should enforce the code" along with my closing sentence, "It's time that the city enforce its codes thoroughly and without prejudice for one resident over another."

My point was that everyone who breaks codes by digging or grading on parkland without approvals should be prosecuted and/or forced to remove encroachments in order to return PVE parkland to its previous condition. Yes, to disturb a hillside by improving a trail without city approval is inappropriate. At the same time, while I applaud the city's actions when it took issue with encroachments on the Boundary Trail along the PVE northern border, I believe the city's failure to enforce those same restrictions on parkland encroachments adjacent to 900 Via Panorama should be addressed. I believe it was inappropriate and illegal to cut away a swath of parkland hillside adjacent to 900 Via Panorama to create a "private sports court" by extensive grading and building a 22-foot high retaining wall. Shouldn't all such transgressions be rectified or prosecuted?

Ms. White should read and understand what is written before unleashing such invectives.

**John Harbison**  
Palos Verdes Estates