

What is all the MCE stuff about?

All of us should have received some sort of communication, most likely a letter, from the electric company called Marin Clean Energy (MCE). The Vallejo City Council voted to sign up the city for this green energy company and it will officially become the energy producer for the city starting with your April billing cycle. PG&E will still be delivering the electricity and maintaining all the lines, however MCE will be supplying them with green energy. You will still be billed through PG&E but now your bill will be split into two charges, the generation charge from MCE and the delivery charge and fees from PG&E. If you want to stay with PG&E as your solo company you have until your April meter read date (they recommend April 1st since most people don't know what day of the month PG&E reads their meter) to opt out via either their website mceCleanEnergy.org/optout or by calling 1-888-632-3674, you will need your PG&E account number and address. If you wait, you will be automatically signed up for MCE and will have to pay a \$5 fee to cancel at a later date. We understand there is a large amount of discussion on social media and through NextDoor, so we wanted to go over some of the key points people are most concerned about.



Who is MCE?

MCE is a not-for-profit public agency based out of Concord, CA and has been serving the Bay Area since 2010. It currently is serving 34 communities around California with various levels of clean energy. Their base Light Green service is 60% renewable energy, or you can choose the Deep Green 100% renewable service for a small fee, they say around \$5 a month for most households. PG&E is currently supplying 29% renewable and plans to be at 35% by the end of the year. MCE sources the energy and then supplies it to PG&E to be delivered by them. They do not maintain the lines or handle issues with service, they are just the supplier of the electricity.

How do their rates compare to PG&E?

Per their website they have done a cost comparison for the average home in Vallejo and it is broken down like this:

PGE total monthly cost: \$136.20

\$56.05 for generation and \$80.55 for delivery

MCE Light Green total monthly cost: \$136.65

\$43.50 for generation, \$80.55 for delivery plus \$13 PG&E fee for using a different provider than PG&E

MCE Deep Green total monthly cost: \$141.65

\$48.50 for generation, \$80.55 for delivery plus \$13 PG&E fee for using a different provider than PG&E

**These are just estimates based on averages. You can call them at 1 (888) 623-3674 and depending on what type of service you currently have with PG&E they can do a cost comparison on your last bill by giving them your raw Kwh usage.*

Continued on next page



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		Sold Date	Street	Bed/Bath	Sq.Ft	Sold Price
		03/08/21	Swanzy Ct	2/2.5	1411	\$515,000
		03/03/21	Breezewalk Dr	4/2.5	1900	\$600,000
		03/02/21	Topsail Dr	3/2	1712	\$625,000
		02/22/21	Sea Mist Dr	3/2	1712	\$555,000
		02/11/21	Seahorse Dr	3/2.5	1919	\$555,000
		02/11/21	Wellfleet Dr	4/3	2665	\$695,000
		02/03/21	Valley Oak Ln	4/2.5	2230	\$625,000
		01/19/21	Windsurfer Ct	3/2	1104	\$465,000
			Condos			
		03/10/21	Stinson St	2/2	1007	\$450,000
		03/08/21	Stinson St	2/2	1007	\$430,000
		02/26/21	Glen cove Pkwy	1/1	665	\$299,000

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Will I keep my current discounts or programs from PG&E?

There are many different programs through PG&E you might be a part of, and not all of them work with MCE.

If you are a solar customer and have Net Energy Metering, you will automatically be true-up when you are enrolled and will now be billed monthly for what you use or generate beyond your panels versus the current annual true-up program.

If you are a SmartRate customer, you will not be able to keep this plan through MCE based on PG&E guidelines. You will be removed from this program when you are switched to MCE.

If you are a discount rate customer (CARE, FERA, or Medical Baseline Allowance) you will automatically have those programs continue to your MCE account. You will not need to do anything to keep your discounts and will not need to reapply for them through MCE.



If you are on PG&E's Budget Billing Plan, your PG&E gas and electric delivery charges will continue to be billed according to that plan, however your MCE electric generation charges will be charged separately because they bill you for your monthly usage which can vary from month to month.

In addition if you are on a payment plan with PG&E you will not be able to continue that with MCE, they bill monthly. Failure to pay your monthly bill may result in MCE transferring you back to PG&E and you would then have to pay the \$5 fee at that point.

How do I opt out?

Every PG&E customer in Vallejo will be automatically enrolled in MCE starting with their April bill. However, this is not mandatory and might not make sense for everyone so there are two options for you. Firstly, you can call MCE at (888) 632-3674 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm with your PG&E account number and choose to opt out. Make sure to write down your confirmation number, they should email you a copy but just in case, keep that number. You can also choose to opt out through their website mceCleanEnergy.org/optout. Requests to opt out after 60 days of service will be charged a one-time \$5 fee. You are not required to use MCE as your electricity provider however you now have the option as to where your electricity comes from. You can try MCE and cancel at a later date or wait and sign up after a few months. MCE might not be the right choice for everyone. Do some research and decide if they are the right fit for you.

- Caitlin Douglas, Glen Cove Resident

GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Glen Cove Community Association (GCCA) & Faith Food Thursday (FFT)
Every Thursday, from 1pm - 3pm, GCCA & FFT opens its doors for FOOD DISTRIBUTION.



Images by Dina Morrison

THANK YOU Lisa Williamson (GCCA's Vice President and founder of the food pantry) and all the volunteers who have helped make this a success!!!



LIFE MUST GO ON!

At Cogir Senior Living, we are anxious to get back to a new normal. That means taking our sanitizing protocols seriously, masking in common areas, and social distancing — but that doesn't mean we still can't have fun! Come experience for yourself how living in one of our beautiful apartment homes will be a game-changer for making new friends, playing cards, listening to live music, and sharing laughter and fun times together. Don't be lonely any longer. Now is the time to come home to Cogir Senior Living.

Call to schedule a virtual or in-person tour today!

*Care charges are not included. Certain conditions apply. Contact community for details.



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(707) 522-3336

cogir
of VALLEJO HILLS
Senior Living

350 Locust Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94591
License # 486803808
(707) 553-2698



CogirSeniorLiving.com

Letter from the President After a Difficult Year, Good Things Are Happening

It seems everyone can remember how things were when everything went off the rails in March, 2020.

At that time, I was surprised that the COVID-19 threat had blown up so quickly during Spring Break forcing the cancellation of plane trips, cruises, parties, school, going to the office, and yes, cancelling Glen Cove Community Association events. I wrote that we would reschedule those events once it was safe to do so.

Despite what I know is pent-up demand, the GCCA Board of Directors believes it is still too soon to reschedule the annual Garage Sale for May ... **BUT** we are optimistic that a summertime Garage Sale can be done when most people who want to be vaccinated are vaccinated. With masks, monitoring and social distancing, we can be safe and have a great time. Stay tuned for details about the timing of the Garage Sale.



Neal Zimmerman,
GCCA President

This is a good time to remind you that the GCCA creates a neighborhood map for the garage sale that lists all of the homes that are participating. GCCA volunteers hand out the maps in

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GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

the Safeway parking lot on the morning of the garage sale. Giddy garage sale shoppers then head out into Glen Cove to buy your stuff. **If you are a GCCA member, you receive a free listing.** New and renewing GCCA members are eligible for this useful free listing on the map.

Please become a GCCA member or renew your membership by visiting our website at GlenCoveVallejo.com. There is a convenient PayPal sign-up with an option for yearly autopay of only \$20 for an annual membership.

We also hope we can resume other popular activities:

- We want to hold a Fall Community Meeting at Glen Cove Elementary with guest speakers that share important news and take your questions.
- We want to hold "National Night Out" celebrations on the first Tuesday in August (8/3/21) as long as they are approved. Glen Cove had six "National Night Out" events in 2019! Each one was terrific with great food, neighbors chatting, kids having their pictures taken on the Vallejo Fire Department engine. To organize a National Night Out program in your neighborhood, go to: <https://natw.org/registration/>. Registration is free and required each year. Several of our Board members coordinated fun events in their neighborhood. Write to me at Glencovevallejo@gmail.com and I'll put you in touch with someone who will share some ideas.

2020 was a painful reminder that we are not always in charge. We will not forget that families lost loved ones and jobs and businesses.

But try to remember that some good things have happened too.

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GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- Two food pantry programs were launched in Glen Cove ... people helping neighbors:
 - Page Ellinger, a Glen Cove resident, working with Heather Pierini, managed a food stand effort adjacent to the Glen Cove Fire Station as part of FoodIsFreeSolano.com (FIFS). That stand has recently relocated to 771 New Bedford Court in Glen Cove under the watchful eye of Merian Fernandez, another Glen Cove resident, who has renamed it, "Glen Cove #First".
 - Lisa Williamson, the GCCA's Vice President, spearheaded a drive last May to create a food pantry in Glen Cove. The Glen Cove Community Association/FFT launched in January. It is open every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm while the supplies last. Glen Cove residents volunteer to help Lisa package food boxes and provide contactless delivery into the cars of families that need some help right now. The GCCA helped by providing insurance, a lease commitment and a refrigerator so the food pantry can provide fresh and canned food. The address is 155 Glen Cove Marina Road, Suite #101, Vallejo, CA 94591. To volunteer your time or to donate, please contact Lisa at packerlisa@yahoo.com.
- The work on Glen Cove Parkway continues. Glen Cove Community Association members know what is happening. You voted with your wallet a few years ago to begin transforming our main artery from old and tired to new and healthy. GCCA Board members had significant input about the plants and landscaping. Soon, prospective homebuyers will see a new Glen Cove monument with materials that were selected by Glen Cove homeowners that attended the community meeting at Glen Cove Elementary School.
- Glen Cove is now part of District 3 and we have Mina Diaz, a dynamic representative, on City Council. The GCCA supports reopening the Glen Cove Fire Station and Mina is on our side in this effort.

So, check on your neighbors, wear a mask, socially distance, get vaccinated. I hope to see you in person this year!

And, if you'd like to get involved with the Glen Cove Community Association, please email me at: Glencovevallejo@gmail.com and we can discuss something that interests you.

Thank you!

Neal Zimmerman

President, Glen Cove Community Association

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Welcome to MCE! The City of Vallejo is partnering with MCE — a not-for-profit, public agency — to provide you with a choice of cleaner, locally-controlled, and competitively priced electricity options starting with your April 2021 billing cycle. As an MCE customer, you'll benefit from our comprehensive local energy programs and help green our communities at the same time.

To learn more about your service options or to attend a virtual event, visit mceCleanEnergy.org/Vallejo



mceCleanEnergy.org/Vallejo

1 (888) 632-3674 Monday - Friday: 8 am-5 pm

SHOOT ME PLEASE!! (Getting A Vaccine in Vallejo)

I am a Vallejo Senior who could not wait to get the Covid -19 Vaccine. I was to hear about the many clinics opening for seniors 65 (and 75). “Just call and make an appointment. I said I can do that.

Then the navigation struggle began. I’d call and be kept in a questionnaire loop for up to 45 minutes, then be told there were no available appointments. The reason given was there was no vaccine.

I kept looking for updated information and registered at various websites hoping something would turn up. Then suddenly, I learned the Solano Health Department was scheduling a two-day free clinic at the Solano County Fairgrounds, and all I had to do was call and pick a time slot. Really? That easy?

Well, Yes it was, and the experience was even easier!

I read and heard about the long lines in various parts of the country and expected a similar experience. I registered anyway because I believed getting the vaccine was important.

I arrived early, anticipating the long wait. What a pleasant surprise!

I filled out a simple form and was immediately gently escorted to the vaccination station. A very pleasant technician from Kaiser greeted me and explained exactly what she was going to do. By the time she finished her explanation, she had already administered the shot. I didn’t feel anything.

I was then escorted to the “holding” area, where I remained for about 15 minutes to make sure I didn’t have a reaction. I did not, nor have I had a reaction since. I had two friends with me, and their experience mirrored mine.

The final step was to go to the computer table to schedule my second shot (which was scheduled for March 6th). I was on my way in less than 30 minutes.

As more vaccine is distributed, Solano County will be scheduling additional free clinics for all residents. Contact them at (707) 784-8988 or look for updated news or contact your service provider. Remember – we are not out of the woods yet. So please continue to live



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responsively – Wear a mask, social distance, and yes, keep washing your hands and get vaccinated ASAP!

UPDATE!

On March 6th I received my second Moderna shot at the Vallejo fairgrounds. The experience was about a repeat of the first shot with exceptions.

First, there were three times the people waiting to be vaccinated. This was because they were giving both the first and second shots. This resulted in long lines through a maze, although traffic moved quickly. This posed a problem for those with mobility issues (that included me). Little was known that wheelchairs were available for the asking at the gate. Fortunately, I had a friend who arrived before me and texted me about the situation. I was able to get assistance and avoided having to navigate the maze on foot.

I was wheeled directly to the entrance and from there immediately taken to an injection station and subsequent recovery.

Looking back, the crowd had subsided. I was told it was better to schedule afternoon appointments.

The process was again professional and smooth. This time I did have a reaction. The next day I had fatigue that was the worst I have ever experienced, and the day after that a red rash ran from the injection site to

Continued on next page

my elbow. No pain. The fatigue disappeared a day later and the rash six days later. I've had no reactions since and feel fine.

I support getting vaccinated as soon as you can. I also think it's a good idea to be careful and follow the CDC guidelines until we are out of the woods for certain. California has moved into the red tier (as of March 12th), which allows most businesses to open with restrictions. That's good news. But we still need to be responsible.

Looking for a vaccine appointment?? Try:

Kaiser (one of many) is offering updates on vaccine availabilities (855) 550-0951. [KP.org](https://www.kp.org)

Also, contact [Solano County Health](https://www.solanocountyhealth.org).

Wishing everyone who reads this success in finding an appointment and good health!!



GCCA Board Member Diana Dowling
(photo courtesy of Dina Morrison)

Diana M. Dowling – (GCCA Board Member)

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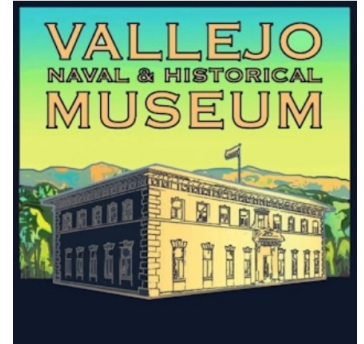
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2021 Vallejo Garden Tour

The Vallejo Garden Tour is a major fundraiser for the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum located downtown. The museum is a gem that serves the community in many ways including the hosting of art exhibits, providing historical information for school children's visits, using its auditorium for musical programming, renting its facilities for events, and keeping records of the city since its inception when it served briefly as the capital of California. It is a fount of information for those wishing to research our fair city.



The garden tour is an annual event showcasing beautiful yards that are made available for the public to enjoy. This year's event scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 16 from 10 am until 5 pm will be the 18th tour. Last year it went virtual with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. You may view the virtual tour by going to the museum's website (vallejomuseum.net). Once there, scroll down to the link for the 2020 tour.



This year's tour returns to being in-person and features ten yards total, three of which are located in Glen Cove. It will include several yards from last year's event that will now be viewed in-person. One venue will be the People's Garden on Mare Island that was featured last year as well as a nearby yard that will be new to the tour this year. Other gardens are located in older areas of Vallejo. Pandemic precautions will be in force as facemasks will be required and social distancing enforced.

Please keep in mind that the tour is a fundraiser for the museum. The cost of tickets is \$40. You can receive three tickets for the price of two if purchased prior to May 1st. They may be obtained after April 1st at the museum gift shop at 234 Marin Street or at Visit Vallejo (Visitor Information Window) Vallejo Ferry Terminal, 289 Mare Island Way.

Ward Stewart—GCCA Board Member

Get alerted in an emergency.	 <p>Solano County's Regional Emergency Notification System ALERT SOLANO REGISTER NOW AlertSolano.com</p>
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What a Year for the Brookins Family!

In our January issue, I was pleased to write about our Glen Cove neighbor, Lt. Wellington Brookins, a newly commissioned officer in the U.S. Space Force.

And now, Wellington's mother, the Rev. Dr. Rosalynn Brookins, senior pastor of Parks Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on 34th Street in Oakland, and our Glen Cove neighbor, has added to a spectacular year for the Brookins family.

Rev. Brookins was presented with the prestigious "Jarena Lee Award" by the Rev. Carieta Gizzell, President of Women in Ministry and Pastor of Murph Emmanuel AME Church in Sacramento. Jarena Lee (February 11, 1783 – February 3, 1864) was a nineteenth-century African-American female preacher. History notes she was born into a free black family. At a time period of segregation and unequal privilege, she was given the opportunity for her voice to be heard. Going up against racial and gender issues, she let her voice be heard in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was also the first African American woman to have an autobiography published in the United States. This award is the highest commendation that a female minister can receive in the A.M.E. Church.



Jarena Lee (February 11, 1783 – February 3, 1864)

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Rev. Brookins is a trailblazer whose many accomplishments are so very aligned with the determination and the legacy of Rev. Jarena Lee. She is the only Episcopal Supervisor of the Women’s Missionary Society for the African Methodist Episcopal Church to be given a Pastoral Appointment as Senior Pastor.



Rev. Dr. Rosalynn Brookins

Rev. Brookins earned her Doctorate Degree from Payne Theological Seminary in 2018, making her the first inaugurated female to be conferred with the noted degree. She exudes great enthusiasm and passion about teaching and immediately connects with everyone she meets. Rev. Brookins has preached the gospel across the country as well as in Zambia, India, South Africa, and Canada.

When she accepted the Jarena Lee Award, Rev. Brookins stated she is humbled “... that the men and women of God felt she deserved such an award”. She added, “I am honored that God seen it fitting for me to receive such an award”.

By Neal Zimmerman, Harbour Towne Community Representative

The advertisement features a background of yellow flowers under a blue sky with clouds. The text 'Welcome Spring' is written in a large, orange, cursive font. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'TIPP Realty at Glen Cove' with a red house icon. A small portrait of Rosanna Souza is in the bottom left. The main text is in white and orange on a blue background. It includes the slogan 'I KNOW THE TRUE VALUE OF HOMES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. I'M NOT JUST A REALTOR BUT I'M ALSO YOUR NEIGHBOR SINCE 1999.' and 'CONTACTLESS TRANSACTIONS AVAILABLE'. There are icons for Zoom, a plus sign, and a coffee cup. Social media links for Facebook and Instagram are provided. The bottom of the ad contains contact information and a license number.

TIPP Realty at Glen Cove

Welcome Spring

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AUGUST 3, 2021 6-9PM



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GCCA Memberships

1/1/2021 - 3/24/2021

Many thanks to those who renewed or joined the Glen Cove Community Association

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Baccay, Raul & Bernie	Fletche, John & Elizabeth	Louvigny, Monique	Sarmiento, Jimmy & Rebecca
Begin, Joe	Flood, John P. & Mendang, Sumrueng	Malonzo, Norberto & Corazon	Shaikh, Abdul
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Brown, Kenneth & Jynette	Halligan, Ruth Anne	Masalaysay, Alec & Blesilda	Shiflett, Woodrow
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Ellis, Debby	Lee, Annie & Ernest	Powell, Bill & Gloria	Yingst, Nancy
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Many thanks to those who donated to the Glen Cove Elementary School

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Cahill, Joan & Richard	Lake, Julie	Moore, Donna D.	Stanley, Michael
Flood, John P. & Mendang, Sumrueng	Lee, Annie & Ernest	Shiflett, Woodrow	Widemann, Danielle
Huff, Karen & Clyde	Marshall, John & Laurie	Sisler, Rishael	Withrow, Floyd
Krenzke, David & Mary	Masalaysay, Alec & Blesilda		

If you would like to become a member or renew your membership, please visit our website at GlenCoveVallejo.com.

There is a PayPal sign up with an option for yearly autopay of only \$20 annual membership.

To check if you are a current member
Call Ward at
707-853-4510

The Magnificent Dandelion

You may not think dandelions are magnificent, but they have uses that do not come immediately to mind and may, in fact, be quite surprising. The common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) originated in Europe and now thrives throughout much of North America. The genus *Taraxacum* contains 3,500 species that are herbaceous and perennial. The common name, dandelion, comes from French 'dent-de-lion' meaning lion's teeth.



Dandelions are difficult to remove because of their long taproots. At a minimum a weed popper should be used to attempt to be rid of the entire root. If only part of the taproot is removed, the plant will regrow. Each plant can have multiple stalks and on the end of each a yellow flower will grow. If left alone, the flower will turn into a puffy grey mass of seeds that will be dispersed by a puff of wind and, before you know it, more dandelions appear.

Continued on next page

Now Open



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GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION


A few years ago in May we were on a cruise of the Alaskan inland passageway. We went ashore at one stop, possibly Sitka, and the ground was covered with green plants that sported big, beautiful yellow flowers. These dandelion flowers had diameters twice as large as any I had ever seen before. The flowers looked four times as big (in surface area) as the ones living in my lawn. They were truly magnificent! It is not clear what about the species or the growing conditions in southern Alaska could create such large, lovely blooms.

Dandelions are usually considered a weed because we don't want them where they are growing even though they have many positive uses. For instance, the leaves contain many vitamins and if harvested at the right time can become a tasty salad. Care should be taken eating them since the leaves could contain pesticides or animal waste. The flowers can be used to make dandelion wine although you need quite a few to make a drinkable amount. Dandelions have other uses including as a laxative, diuretic, and appetite stimulant.

Another use, and the impetus for writing this article, is that dandelions can produce rubber. I had no idea of this fact and wanted to learn more! If you break a dandelion root you will see a white sap that looks like the latex from the Brazilian Rubber Tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*), the source of all natural rubber. There are many latex-producing plants (see Monarch Butterflies and Milkweeds in the January – March 2019 GCCA Newsletter) but a minority of them produce rubber. The common

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dandelion is one of the non-rubber producing species. However, a century ago scientists in Kazakhstan discovered the species *Taraxacum kok-saghyz* that translates to 'dandelion root-rubber'.

Why is this discovery important? Rubber trees grow only in tropical climates. The crop in South America has nearly disappeared due to the fatal disease South American Leaf Blight that is caused by a fungus. Most natural rubber is now produced in southeast Asia and if the leaf blight finds its way there, the supply will be lost quickly. Thus, a backup source of rubber latex needs to be developed and expanded.

Researchers are investigating ways to produce the rubber dandelion in large amounts. One possibility is to grow them in large numbers in fields outside. Another is to grow them hydroponically, that is, the plants are held in place so that the roots are in water, not soil. Nutrients are added to the water to fertilize the plants. After a certain amount of growth the roots can be cut, i.e. harvested, so that the rubber latex can be extracted. The plant continues to grow more roots and another harvest can take place. The same plant can produce multiple harvests in a given year. In addition, the hydroponic setups can be stacked one above another in what is called vertical farming. If this method is done indoors, the plants can be grown year-round. Thus, by using indoor, hydroponic, vertical stacking ten times as many roots can be grown per acre than by growing the dandelions outside in a field. This method, although costly to set up, seems the best way to go in order to maximize production.



As the world's need for rubber continues to grow and the disease threat to rubber trees looms, the rubber dandelion plant will take on greater importance. A source for this article is, 'Rubber Dandelions' in the October 2019 issue of Natural History magazine.

Ward Stewart

UC Master Gardener-Solano

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City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson	(707) 648-4527
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Courtesy of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce and the Vallejo Times Herald

GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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*The Glen Cove "Angry Fisherman"
Photos by Shawn Gavne*



*Glen Cove Shoreline
Photos by Dina Morrison*

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