

Glen Cove Fire

At around 9am on the morning of Sunday, October 27th, a fire started in the southern region of Glen Cove. Approximately 20 minutes later, the Vallejo Fire Department reported battling 2 fires in the area. Minutes later, the fire jumped the freeway towards the Cal Maritime academy. Evacuations were ordered in the Glen Cove Landing, Waterview, and Seascape areas. Residents attempted to coordinate their efforts to help. From what we could discern from media shared on Facebook, residents used garden hoses to fend off the flames. Some loaded up their belongings should an evacuation become necessary. "Although we did not have to evacuate, we began packing things we felt we'd need which proved to us how truly unprepared we were." said Neal Zimmerman, the new GCCA President and Harbour Towne representative. Evacuations were lifted by 2:30pm when the fire department declared the fires contained. While no lives or homes were lost, 150 acres were burned, and a number of buildings suffered minor damages.



For Glen Cove, this was a little too close. We have had fires in the past but this one really raised concerns. The GCCA has taken action in attempts to find solutions and determine what could have been done better. The fire's cause is still under investigation. We reached out to the fire department and they have assured us that a report will be following shortly and that they will be thorough in their report. What we do know is that the fire breaks appear to have worked. People were alerted, although improvements such as having neighbors know those around them with medical needs

should be improved. Neighbors did help neighbors (see this month's person of interest story). When literally put to the flame, Glen Cove stepped up.



However, a fire is bound to happen again. The GCCA is meeting with everyone from the Mayor down to residents on how we can be better prepared. We are actively looking into potentially hazardous plant life in the area and how to deal with it. The city has told us that improved barriers (cutting and plants) will be implemented around homes facing the open spaces. Different forms of communication are being explored to help make

residents more aware of active events. The city is asking residents to register with Alert Solano (www.AlertSolano.com) to receive emergency information. The GCCA is here to help our community be better prepared for the next

fire. Please look for articles related to improving your preparedness as well as upcoming events and programs to be safer in the event of an emergency.

**Get alerted in
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Letter from the President

Happy New Year Glen Cove!

It's with both relief and sadness that I write this as my last "Letter from the President." As of January, I am no longer the President of the Glen Cove Community Association (GCCA.) I have stepped down after 4 years to make room for new leadership. To be clear, it was completely of my own desire and planned well in advance. I am extremely excited to tell you that my Vice President, Neal Zimmerman, has been elected as the new President of the GCCA. Neal has been instrumental to the success of the GCCA over the years and has become a good friend as well. He brings fresh ideas and a willingness to continue to improve our wonderful community.

I normally use this letter to inform you of things we are doing and what is to come. The October Fire is being addressed on many levels and reports will be coming out (see the cover story). We have a special community meeting on Thursday, February 6th, for the candidates for Solano County District 2 Supervisor. These are the major items coming up; however, I wanted to use this last letter to talk about my experience with the GCCA.

When I moved to Glen Cove in 2010, someone called me right after I moved in to inform me I needed to fix my lawn. When I told them I read the CC&R's and I had 90 days to fix it, they responded with "Would you be interested in serving on a board?" That's how it started. Since then I have been an officer for 5 of my 10 years here. I couldn't have done it without the help of so many people. There have been too many to name them all (and if I left you out, I'm sorry. I'm limiting myself to just 5). Stacey, thank you. You were the person I relied on to know what was happening. You were the Wikipedia of the GCCA. Many have no idea how much the success of anything came from your work in the background. Ron, thank you. You showed me how to be pres-



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ident and then stuck around to take up the treasurer role. You have been a fantastic sounding board and a dependable teammate. Maryanne and Bobbie, thank you (doubled up two officers). You both handled your roles in the best imaginable way. When both of you needed to step back, it became so clear to everyone how much you did. Those that replaced you know this and have taken up those tasks with great success. Neal (your new President), thank you. You took things off my plate when needed. You gave me counsel when I was both excited and frustrated. You are always prepared and ready to succeed. The GCCA could not be in better hands.

As I said, I can't list everyone, but you all have meant so much to me. There are two people I cannot forget, and that is my wife Caitlin and my son Malcolm. Malcolm started attending board meetings before the age of 1. He has thrown out the first pitch at the Admirals game for the GCCA. He helps with a variety of tasks that few ever see. And there is my wife, Caitlin. If you are not a board member, then you have yet to taste her cookies she makes for every meeting (maybe it's time to become a rep?) She has put up signs, written letters and articles, setup and torn down meeting rooms, and just about anything else you can imagine. She is truly a partner and one I am proud to work with for the rest of my life. Thank you, my family, for making me succeed in any way that I did.

Well, that's it for me. I will continue as the California Lighthouse representative, the crime report author, multiple background tasks, and my new title... GCCA Newsletter Editor. I'm not going anywhere, and I cannot wait to help the new leadership in 2020. You should come join us. We have cookies.

Thank you for everything Glen Cove.

Johnathan Douglas



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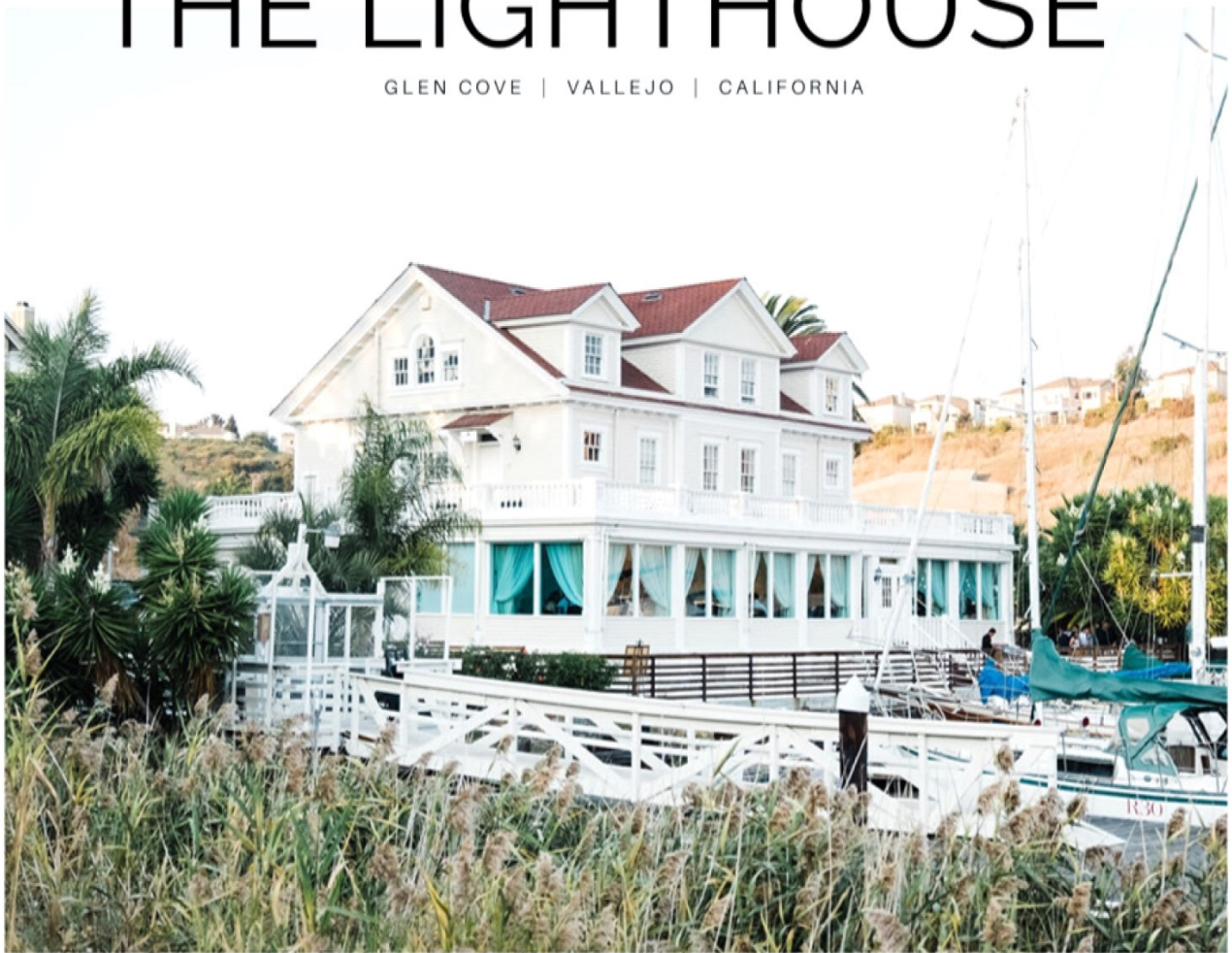
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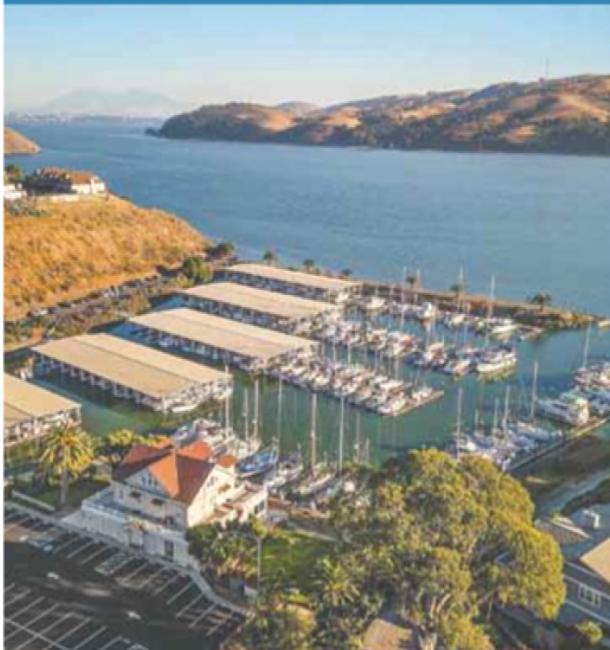
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VPD Citizen's Academy

After retirement from a 40-year career, I looked for volunteer options to fill some of my time. My husband and I signed up for the Vallejo Police Citizen's Academy. While I was skeptical at first, I found myself completely immersed in all that we learned. Our 2018 class size was 20 Vallejo residents strong. We learned so much about the (Vallejo Police Department) VPD. It was a great experience. We graduated from the Citizen's Academy and decided to become VPD volunteers. It has been such a rewarding experience. We have participated in so many fun events that make a positive influence on our community. Activities such as "Shop with a Cop" benefitting underprivileged children during the Christmas season, SWAT Scenarios, "Belly Flop With a Cop", "Agriculture Day" with Vallejo school children, and many more. I currently volunteer each Friday with the VPD mail run.

If you are interested in being involved with the Vallejo Police Department, I highly recommend you considering attending the upcoming academy. Please see the information on the following page for information for the 2020 class.

If you have any questions about this wonderful program, please feel free to contact me. Lisa Williamson at 707-643-2022. I am also currently on the Glen Cove Association Board and find that just as rewarding! The more we get involved with our community, the more we come together in a positive way!

Lisa Williamson

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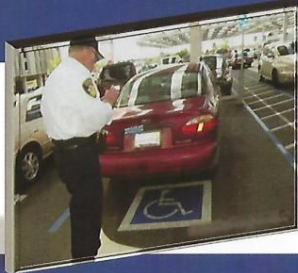
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Glen Cove Waterfront Park – GVRD and the City of Vallejo have been working together removing trees and planting indigenous plants.



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17th Annual Vallejo Sports Hall of Fame
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FREE Event! – Fishing in the City – Dan Foley Park,
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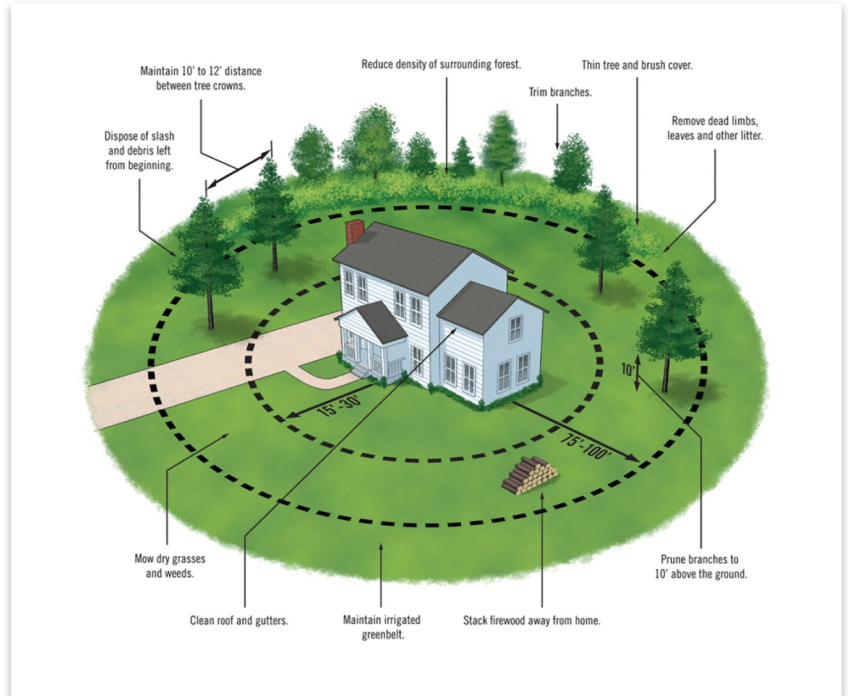
Thumper's Eggstavaganza- Children's Wonderland,
April 11, 2020.

GVRD Spring Activity Guide Out Now!

For more details check out our website at www.gvrd.org

How to Protect Your Home From Wildfire Destruction

California is home to some of the most scenic vistas in the world. The natural beauty and mild Mediterranean climate have attracted millions to settle in the foothills, deserts and coastal valleys. But living in California means learning to live with fire. That's because our scenic vistas are fire-dependent. For example, fire cracks seed casings, allowing native plants to thrive, and it clears out dead brush that can choke living plants and cut off food for wildlife. Fire in California is natural, so why are today's fires so devastating, destroying neighborhoods, taking our homes, possessions and even lives? The answer to this question lies in our own backyards. Firefighters agree that it's not a question of if, but rather a question of when fire will burn through an area. Suffice to say there are not enough fire engines to protect every house. Firefighters need your help to give your home a fighting chance. The single most important feature that will help your home stand alone against fire and give firefighters a base to battle flames is a fire safe landscape. A fire safe landscape uses fire resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your



home. In a separate article, Ward describes some of these plants (See page 13).

You also should establish a defensible space around your home. Defensible space is the base around your home that will give firefighters a fighting chance against fire. It means clearing all dry grass, brush and dead leaves to at least 100 feet from your home. Defensible space and a fire safe landscape don't mean a ring of bare dirt around your home. When establishing your landscape, keep trees furthest from your home, fire resistant shrubs can be closer, and bedding plants and lawns are nearest the house. Plan your land-

An advertisement for SolTrans bus passes. It features a smartphone displaying the Token Transit app interface. The text reads: 'Bus Passes On Your Phone', 'Get the Token Transit App', 'Text "TOKEN" to 41411 for a download link', and 'SolTrans SolTrans.org'. It also includes logos for Google Play and the App Store, and a photo of a SolTrans bus.

Continued on next page

scape to reduce the amount of flammable vegetation nearest your home. Consider consulting your local nursery or a landscape contractor to help plan your defensible space.

Spacing is important in creating a defensible area around your home. Eliminate a “fire ladder” from your landscape. Fire needs fuel to burn. You can slow down fire by robbing it of a continuous sequence of vegetation that can carry flames from your landscaping to your house. Space trees at least 10 feet apart, and keep branches trimmed to at least 10 feet from your roof. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within six feet of the ground. Shrubs within 100 feet of your home should not be higher than 18 inches.

Choosing the right plants and shrubs is important. Keeping them healthy and watered is a key factor in defensible space. While all plants would eventually burn in a fire, healthy plants burn less quickly. Keep your landscape healthy and clean. On a regular basis, remove dead branches, leaves and pine needles from your yard. Prune and thin shrubs, trees and other plants to minimize the fuel load. Be diligent about cleaning up, especially during the fire season. Remove dead leaves from under plants as well. Your home may be your biggest investment you ever make, invest the time to create a fire safe landscape.

For a homeowners checklist please visit the following website:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Homeowners-Checklist.pdf>



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Person of Interest: A Very Good Neighbor (Chris Bryan)

Toward the end of October a very scary fire threatened the residents of the Seascape and Waterview communities of Glen Cove. Chris Bryan, a resident since 2005, upon learning of the fire jumped into action. He went from house to house waking people up or alerting them of the danger. One neighbor was stuck with no car and two dogs so he drove her to Safeway. Upon returning to defend his own home he ended up directing traffic at the corner of Waterview Terrace and Glen Cove Parkway.



As the flames got closer, another neighbor stated that her sister was stuck in her house, so Chris drove back to bring them to safety. When a spark ignited his immediate neighbor's fence, he

Continued on next page

An advertisement for UMPQUA BANK. The top half has a dark teal background with white text: "Experienced in every home financing challenge you can imagine. And some you can't." The UMPQUA BANK logo is in the top right. The bottom half has a lighter teal background. On the left is a photo of Tina Anway. To her right is text: "We've experienced every type of market and challenge you can imagine. Buyers' markets. Sellers' markets. Markets where you have to write a personal letter about a house that would make Shakespeare proud. Whether you're looking to buy, refinance or renovate, we can help you find the perfect loan for your project. Let's get started." Below this is her name "Tina Anway", title "Home Loan Officer", and contact info: "NMLS 489030", "CALL (925) 464-0716", "TinaAnway@UmpquaBank.com", and "UmpquaBank.com/Tina-Anway". At the bottom left are logos for "Member FDIC", "Equal Housing Lender", and "SBA Preferred Lender".

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turned on his hose to put out the fire only to have more embers ignite the fence on the other side of the house. He then opened up his garage in order to allow Vallejo firefighters to run their hose through in order to fight the fire that was rushing up the hill behind the house. Chris and other neighbors also assisted elderly residents to evacuate their homes and sprayed water on their roofs.

Cheryl Hurd, Glen Cove resident and long-time Bay Area newscaster, was on the scene. The following link contains her video and narrative of the fire including some of Chris's heroic actions:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cherylhurdnbcbayarea/videos/2228516580774468/>.

It is clear from the video that the situation was chaotic and frightening. Fortunately, a change in wind direction helped the fire subside and the houses were spared.



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| | | 12/24/19 | Cliff Walk Dr | 4/2.5 | 2099 | \$498,000 |
| | | 12/20/19 | Starfish Dr | 3/2.5 | 1834 | \$515,000 |
| | | 12/17/19 | Sandy Neck Way | 4/2 | 2070 | \$520,000 |
| | | 12/17/19 | Barington Dr | 4/3 | 1863 | \$498,000 |
| | | 12/13/19 | Waterview Ter | 4/3 | 2019 | \$560,000 |
| | | 12/10/19 | Outrigger Dr | 3/2.5 | 1531 | \$430,000 |
| | | 12/06/19 | Windshadow Ct | 3/2 | 1712 | \$480,000 |
| | | 12/05/19 | Ironwood Ln | 6/2 | 1759 | \$507,000 |
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| | | 12/09/19 | Glen Cove Pkwy | 2/1 | 872 | \$320,000 |
| | | 10/23/19 | Timbercove St | 3/2.5 | 1414 | \$464,000 |
| | | 09/06/19 | Glen Cove Pkwy | 2/2 | 1014 | \$314,500 |

Fire-Resistant Vegetation

Glen Cove residents received a serious scare from the fire that burned its way around the western section of our community above the Carquinez Bridge tollbooth in late October. Fortunately, no homes or lives were lost. This event in conjunction with the worsening fire season each year suggests that we should do everything possible to minimize fire danger.

It has been recommended that a 30-foot no vegetation zone be established around houses for fire safety. This suggestion is appropriate for homes in rural areas with large yards adjacent to wild, dry vegetation. However, in our area with relatively small yards, it would mean having almost no plants—a possibility I, as a plant lover, find distasteful. So, short of this solution, planting fire-resistant vegetation may be the next best thing.

The first group of plants that comes immediately to mind is succulents. These plants are often fleshy with stems and leaves filled heavily with water in order to survive long periods without water. There are approximately sixty plant families that contain succulents and many more individual species. Some of the more common of these plants in our area are aloe, cactus, jade, euphorbia, and echiveria.

In contrast to succulents is a group that is much more likely to catch fire: conifers. These cone-bearing plants, most of which are trees, although some grow as shrubs, are perennial and woody. Many species have leaves that are long, thin, and needle-like. Examples of conifers are redwoods, firs, cedars, pines, and junipers. Although many of us love these trees, we should be aware of the




Example of an Aloe succulent

Continued on next page

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increased risk involved with growing them. Another genus containing many species of trees that burn readily is Eucalyptus.

Returning to fire-resistant vegetation, recognize that there are large numbers of such plants. As it turns out, many California natives are in this category. The genus Ceanothus includes roughly fifty species of fire-resistant plants including quite a few that are endemic to California. The so-called California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) is another species native to western United States especially California. It has this common name due to its resemblance to fuchsias that are actually in a different genus. Red monkey flower (*Mimulus puniceus*) is a drought tolerant California native evergreen shrub with tubular red flowers that grows up to three feet high.

This article could continue with a long array of names of fire-resistant plants; however, the reader's patience will be spared by taking a different approach. I will personalize the discussion by describing some of the plants in my yard that, once upon a time, was a model home for the development. I have no idea whether the landscapers took fire suppression into account when deciding upon the landscaping.

My house is surrounded on three sides by a hedge of Escallonia that sports pink flowers in spring. It turns out they are fire resistant! On the side of the yard is a long row of shiny xylosma (*Xylosma congestum*). These virtually non-flowering shrubs grow quickly forcing me to trim them at least three times per year to keep them under control. Fire resistant! Along one side of the house is a shrub many refer to as 'mock orange' (*Pittosporum tobira*). Fire resistant! By the garage is a non-flowering privet (*Ligustrum* species) that is fire resistant! On the side of the front yard are ceanothus (see above). It looks like the landscapers have done excellent work reducing the fire hazards by my house. However, adjacent to the privet is a juniper, one of the conifers mentioned earlier that can flame up rapidly.

It is not obvious by looking at a tree or shrub if one can tell whether it is a fire hazard (succulents excluded). I'm sure the determination of fire resistant or prone has to do with an analysis of stored water content as well as the nature of the resins in the stems and leaves and their flammability capability.

While researching this article, I came upon FireSafe Marin (firesafemarin.org/plants) a website that lists both fire resistant and fire prone plants. Most of the plants that grow in Marin County will also do well in Glen Cove since the climates are quite similar. I recommend that you identify the plants in your yard and look for each one in the lists.

One final word. If your yard is filled with fire resistant plants, there is no guarantee that a fire will not spread. It is important to maintain your vegetation by removing dead branches, keeping trees and shrubs trimmed, applying the appropriate levels of water, and providing fertilizer as needed to keep them healthy.



Example of Xylosma

Ward Stewart

UC Master Gardener-Solano

GCCA Memberships

10/01/19-12/20/2019

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

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| L.M.D..... | Ron Bowen RCBowen@ymail.com |
| Membership (GCCA)..... | Ward Stewart 853-4510 |
| Newsletter -Miguel Castillo-GlenCoveVallejo@gmail.com | |

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| Code Enforcement | 648-4469 |
| Landscape Inspector | 648-5279 |
| Mayor (Bob Sampayan)..... | 648-4377 |
| Planning Division..... | 648-4326 |
| Public Works (Traffic Signals)..... | 648-4300 |
| After Hours | 648-4313 |
| Public Works Maintenance | 648-4556 |
| Street Lights (burned out) | 649-5413 |
| Illegal Garbage Dumping | 648-4556 |

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY & CITY NUMBERS

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Abandoned Vehicles | 648-4682 |
| Abandoned Safeway Carts | 554-4467 |
| Animal Control..... | 645-7906 |
| Dead Animal Removal | 552-3110 |
| After Hours..... | 552-0221 |
| Dead Animal Removal, Cal-Trans | 428-2031 |
| Glen Cove School..... | 556-8491 |
| G.V.R.D | 648-4600 |
| Hazardous Waste (Amer. Cyn.)..... | 1-800-984-9661 |
| Paint Disposal (recycled) | 552-3110 |
| Post Office Cluster Box Repair | 642-9582 |
| Recycling (curbside) | 644-2413 |
| Recycling (disposal) Recology Vallejo | 552-3174 |
| Solano County. Assessor-Rec. Office | 784-6265 |
| (property owner Name/Address Info.) | |
| Solano County Transit (SolTrans) | 648-4666 |
| U.S. Coast Guard..... | 643-2975 |
| V.F.D., Weed and Debris Abatement..... | 648-4565 |
| Narcotics Tip Line..... | 784 -1351 |

**General phone number for GCCA:
707-563-1226**

**Catch us on Facebook at:
[https://www.facebook.com/
GlenCoveVallejo](https://www.facebook.com/GlenCoveVallejo)**

**Or see what is happening in your
neighborhood at:
https://glencovevallejo.nextdoor.com/news_feed/**



Want to stay connected with what's happening in Vallejo? Sign up for the City of Vallejo's E-Newsletter and other communication options at <http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/cms/one.aspx?objectId=26266>



*Rainbow from Breezeway and Quiet Harbor
Photo by Jessica Thompson*

*Taylor Christmas House 20th Anniversary
Photo by Dina Morrison*



**Glen Cove Community Assn.
164 Robles Way, #254
Vallejo, CA 94591
707-563-1226**

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News/Articles Submission & information:

GlenCoveVallejo.com/Newsletter

Ad Submissions & Information:

Contact Neal or Monica Zimmerman at 707 556-3467 or email: mazimmerman51@gmail.com

