April—June 2015

Glen Cove Needs Your Vote

There's no doubt that our Glen Cove neighborhood is a highly desirable place to live here in the Bay Area. We're close to all the amenities and the diversity of urban Northern California, but out of the way of most of the traffic and big city issues. As a community, we've worked hard to keep our neighborhood safe and attractive resulting in our property values being higher than much of the surrounding area.

One of the key features of our neighborhood is the landscaping in all our common areas. Over the years, however, the rising costs and reduced revenues have eroded the ability of maintenance crews to keep up the quality of that landscaping. The impact can be seen in plants that are overgrown or struggling, other plants that use far too much water, and irrigation systems that break and leak wasting precious water.

Another great feature of the Glen Cove area is the open space we enjoy, surrounding us with expansive uncluttered vistas. The downside to that open space however, especially in drought years, is the threat of grass fires. The firebreaks that are mowed every year are crucial to the protection of our homes in the event of such disasters.

Soon, we as a community we will have the opportunity to decide how these issues will be addressed, if at all. We will be asked if we are willing to support providing supplemental funding to make sure that our landscaping and firebreaks are maintained to our high standards, or if they will continue to deteriorate. There will be ballots mailed to all property owners in Glen Cove III in May 2015 asking how we want our neighborhood to look going forward. Please take the time to consider how the look, feel, and safety of our neighborhood impacts your property, and your family. This measure, if passed, will:

- * Continue to maintain, and replace as needed, landscaping in high-profile areas
- * Replace the 25 year old irrigation systems, eliminating leaky pipes and installing modern, drought-efficient controllers to reduce water use
- * Continue to maintain firebreaks between residential neighborhoods and fire-prone undeveloped open space
- * Repair and continue to maintain retaining and decorative walls and signage
- * Ensure safety and security by proper maintenance of landscaping
- * Protect property values by maintaining our prized assets

We all take pride in our neighborhood and rely on each other to keep our community safe and looking well cared for and attractive. This measure will help us continue to do so. If you have any questions please contact your neighborhood representative. If you do not have a neighborhood representative you may contact Miguel Castillo, newsletter editor, Glen Cove Community Association Board, at migueldonaldo@yahoo.com.



BY MAI



Glen Cove Community Association Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:00p.m.

Please mark your calendars! The next Glen Cove Community Association meeting is set for **Thursday, April 16, 2015, starting t 7:00p.m.** at the Glen Cove Elementary School Auditorium.

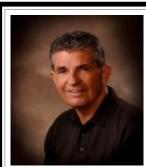
The focus of the meeting will be to provide information and discussion on whether we need or want to maintain and improve our level of landscaping maintenance in Glen Cove and there will also be two very important announcements.

A ballot measure mailing in May 2015, will give our property owners an opportunity to have a say about our community's appearance and safety. The community meeting will afford residents with a chance to learn more about the cost, impact, and plans for Glen Cove's future landscaping. More information about the ballot is in this newsletter – *see lead article*.

Also, we have been advised that the Glen Cove Fire Station will reopen next year! This is a major development for Glen Cove residents. Between now and the reopening of the fire station, the Vallejo Admirals Baseball Team players will be housed there and both the Fire Department and the Admirals Baseball League will be hosting a BBQ in May. All Glen Cove residents are invited. Please attend the community meeting on April 16th to hear more about these developments from the Fire Chief and/or his representative and from the Vallejo Admirals Baseball Team Manager.



Thanks and see you at the meeting.





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GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

XERISCAPE.....what is it?

With California experiencing the severest drought in recorded history, it is time to take another look at minimizing water usage. Xeriscape (pronounced zeriscape) may be defined as landscape that emphasizes water conservation. It is a registered trademark of the National Xeriscape Council and is derived from the Greek word, xeros, meaning dry. It is not to be confused with zeroscape, a term that may imply there is nothing in the landscape.

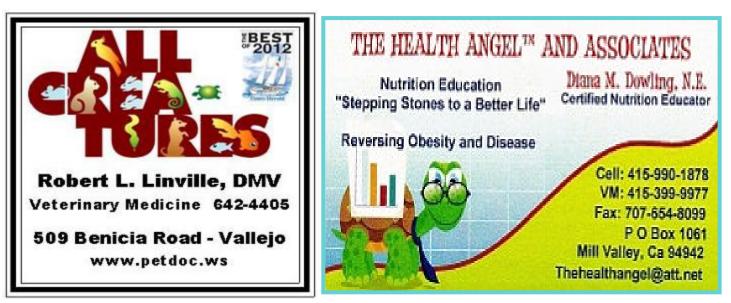
As the water situation becomes increasingly severe, more people are removing their water-intensive lawns and replacing them with landscape that requires much less water. The Solano County Water Agency offers incentives to reduce water usage including \$1.00 per square foot (up to \$1000) for the removal of sod. Warning: do not remove your lawn until a representative has viewed your yard and given you the go ahead! Check their website at solanosaveswater.org or phone them at (707) 455-1113 to learn about and participate in their programs.

Xeriscapes follow some common principles including: group plants according to their requirements for sun and water; zone irrigation stations to match plant needs; create islands of plantings for accent; use plants that are well-adapted to our Mediterranean climate; and include hardscape such as patios and decks in the design.

Many people are reluctant to be rid of their lawns because green is aesthetically pleasing. Xeriscapes can be beautiful as well depending upon the mix of scattered plantings, hardscapes, and the materials used to replace most of the lawn. These materials may include: stones of various sizes ranging from ¼ inch up to several feet across (including slate or moderately sized boulders); wood chips, or bark. A common landscape design feature is to include a dry creek bed created from various sized stones.

A key to water conservation is the conversion of sprinklers to drip irrigation. In conventional sprinkler systems water is spread over every part of a given area (a necessity for lawns) whereas in drip irrigation the water is focused on small areas. That is, with drip the water goes directly to the base of the plant via emitters that drip water at a pre-determined rate. The areas away from the plant receive none. In this way, water is very efficiently used. Depending upon the water needs of a plant one or more emitters can be used. Also, there are emitters that have different flow rates such as .5 or 1 gallon per hour.

Continued to page 4



GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Continued from page 3

If you already have sprinklers irrigating your yard, you may convert the system to drip. For each valve you will need to add a pressure reducer and filter. The pressure reducer is needed so that water pressure does not

pop the emitters out of the ½ inch plastic tubing in which they are often inserted. This tubing is usually run near the plants and may have ¼ inch tubing branching off to the plants. The filter cleans the water so that the emitters are less likely to become clogged. Without going into more detail, conversion to drip irrigation can be done yourself or you can hire a professional at more cost.

On a final note, in my front yard there was a small concrete patio near the house and the rest was lawn. We removed the entire lawn and the patio and replaced the latter with a much larger patio made from attractive concrete pavers. Along the patio's border we installed a narrow flower bed in which a mix of perennials and annuals are planted and are watered by ½ inch tubing that has built-in emitters (.5 gallons per hour) every foot. Adjacent to the planting bed we created a path made of decomposed granite that leads to the backyard. The remainder of the front yard is covered with 3/8 inch ginger rock with roses, ornamental grasses, flax, and Coleonema (Golden Breath of Heaven) interspersed and irrigated using one gallon per hour emitters. Now that these plants are in their second year and getting more mature, their colors complement the look of the ginger rock. The mixture of shrubs by the house, the patio, flower bed, path, ginger rock, and plants has created a very pleasant array of textures and colors and has significantly decreased my water bill.

Ward Stewart UC Master Gardener-Solano



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See**ClickFix**

Need a pothole filled in, street light burned out or a city maintenance problem? The SeeClickFix app and website allows you to immediately report the problem, upload a photo and track the response and corrections. The Vallejo Maintenance Dept acknowledges receipt of the issue and adds follow ups or completion notifications appropriately.



Above photo submitted on with report



Above photo after fixed three days later

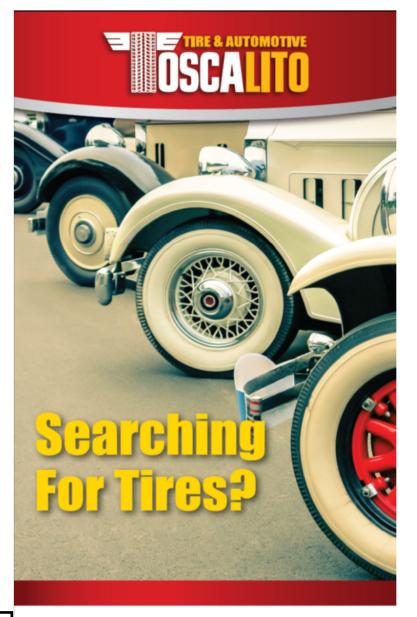


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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COMPOST!

If you ask a gardener, "what is the best way to improve my soil," the answer invariably will be "add organic matter". A great source of this soil supplement can be created yourself by composting.

Compost is made by combining equal parts of plant material containing carbon with material containing nitrogen. Add moisture and air, and microbes will do the work. That is, equal volumes of brown plant material (carbon) mixed with equal volumes of green plant material (nitrogen) will yield the carbon-nitrogen ratio of approximately 30:1, a ratio that yields increased amounts of nitrogen available to plants. The browns are dry materials like dried leaves, dried grass, straw, wood chips, paper, and cardboard (that should be finely chopped or shredded). The greens are fresh, moist materials like grass clippings, food scraps (avoid meats, fats, and grease), weeds, and manures (from plant-eating animals). In general, the material should be broken down into pieces that are no larger than 1.5 inches in size.

In order for the process to work efficiently, that is, for microorganisms to break down the green-brown mixture quickly, the pile should be at least 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet. This size provides sufficient mass for the center of the pile to heat up, the result of the respiration of the microorganisms. The pile must be kept moist and aerated. The latter is done by the gardener turning over the pile using a shovel or pitchfork moving materials from the center to the edges. Under ideal conditions, compost can be made in as little as two weeks (when turning the pile every day), but certainly within four to six weeks.

In reality, for the backyard gardener, a pile of this size is challenging to create on a continual basis. In my yard I have two u-shaped bins that are three feet on a side and open at the front and top. I have never had enough material to fill the bins to the very top. Two or, better yet, three bins are preferable so that the mixtures can continue to "cook" after materials are no longer added (if you keep adding material, the process won't end). Use the second and third bins to start new batches. In my kitchen I have two plastic containers, one for food scraps and the other for coffee grounds. Next to my compost bins I keep a pile of dried leaves from the previous fall. Together with fresh grass clippings from my ever-decreasing lawn, these are the materials for my compost. I moisten the mix periodically depending upon rain or the lack thereof. My bins are open in the front to make it easy to turn the piles over with a shovel. The more frequently this is done, the better the aeration. I don't believe that my compost gets as hot as is the case when the process is completed within two weeks. In fact, I know it doesn't get that hot because earthworms that love the coffee grounds are usually present.

I keep two framed, rectangular screens, one with 1 inch mesh and the other with half inch mesh, over my bins. When the compost is ready I sift it through the screens in order to remove twigs and other debris from the mix. The screens also keep unwanted leaves from nearby trees from entering the bins. Finally, the sifted compost is added to the soil as either mulch on top of the surface or mixed in to provide the desired organic material.

Ward Stewart UC Master Gardener-Solano

Vallejo Garden Tour & Festival (museum fundraiser) Sunday, May 17, 2015, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Tickets: \$40 general public, \$35 museum members Purchase tickets before May 2nd and get three tickets for the price of two Tickets available after April 1st at:

Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum - 734 Marin St. Vallejo Convention & Visitors Bureau - Ferry Building, 285 Mare Island Way Zoey June Gift & Garden - 1426 Tennessee St



Person of Interest: Susan Lane

Glen Cove's Featured Artist

Although not a Glen Cove Resident per se, we'd like to introduce Susan Lane. Susan has been active in promoting our area of the strait between Glen Cove and Benicia and elsewhere. Susan is an artist. Susan became an artist at an early age. The idea of combining various materials to create something new and original has always fascinated her. As a fiber artist today, she creates images using commercial and hand dyed fabrics, threads, beads, yarns, paints and most recently, papers.



Techniques include hand and machine stitching, fusing, painting, dyeing, inkjet printing, and thermofax screen printing; really anything that will give her what she's looking for. Experimentation is a big part of her work. She finds inspiration in the photographs she and her husband have taken over many years.

Susan has won far too numerous awards to name in this article. She is currently involved with the Carquinez Strait Stitchers, a non-profit group that includes some Glen Cove residents, that will soon host **"Spring on the Straits" Quilt show on May 2, 2015** from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. The show will be held at the Historic Clock Tower, 1189 Washington St, Benicia, CA.



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GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 9, 2015 Starting at 8 am

Free maps of participating households handed out between 8-11AM at Glen Cove Center (near Safeway)

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (GCCA) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GARAGE SALE

Check One:

□ I am already a GCCA member (don't need to pay to participate)

□ I would like to join/renew GCCA membership for one year - \$20

I/We would like to *become a member* or *renew* my GCCA membership:

Name(s):

Garage Sale Address:

Phone:_____*Email:___

*A legible email address is important! It is the only way we will contact you if we have questions.

Please mail this form with a check to: GCCA - Attention: Garage Sale, 164 Robles Drive #254, Vallejo, CA 94591

We must receive payment no later than Friday, May 1 to get your address on map. No exceptions!



Questions? Call Bobbi Kahn at 707.645.0991 or email to bobbikahn@gmail.com

Other landscaping and water savings information:

Solano County Turf Replacement Rebate Program

SCWA is offering cash rebates to water customers who replace thirsty turf grass with drip-irrigated, low-water-use plants or permeable hardscapes. Both residents and businesses can benefit through this program. Replace that lawn with a healthy garden that works for you. By using Bay-Friendly practices, you can conserve water, natural resources and prevent pollution. And with sheet mulching, you can plant directly on top of the lawn, saving time and money.

Find beautiful water-wise alternatives to replace your thirsty lawn. Call 707.455.1113 for more information, or to schedule a pre-inspection. http:// solanosaveswater.org/2014/12/02/turf-replacement-rebate-program/



Lose Your Lawn Workshop, April 11

During this drought, why waste precious water on a decorative, but dying lawn? Learn how to transform



your thirsty lawn into a beautiful, water-wise garden!

On Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bay Friendly Gardening will show you step by step what to do to renovate water-guzzling lawn to be more drought-tolerant garden. Vallejo People's Garden will be selling plant starts of vegetables, herbs, and California native plants. To RSVP to this free event, email info@vallejopeoplesgarden.org.



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Landscape Maintenance	Ron Bowen 415-797-2476	
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Hazardous Waste (Amer. Cyn.)	1-800-984-9661
Paint Disposal (recycled)	552-3110
Post Office Cluster Box Repair	
Recycling (curbside)	
Recycling (disposal) Recology Vallejo	552-3174
Solano County. Assessor-Rec. Office	
(property owner Name/Address Info.))
Solano County Transit (SolTrans)	648-4666
U.S. Coast Guard	
V.F.D., Weed and Debris Abatement	
Narcotics Tip Line	784 -1351

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

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Received Feb-Mar

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Glen Cove Marina's "white Victorian house", built in 1910, was originally part of the Carquinez Strait Lighthouse and Life Saving Station. In 1955, the U.S. Coast Guard automated the lighthouse and the main building was moved, in 1957, to its present location at Elliot Cove, overlooking the scenic marina. Early 2014 the main building's lower section was transformed into a banquet facility for all to enjoy. From Vallejo Yacht Club website www.VallejoYC.com

Glen Cove Community Assn. 164 Robles Way, #254 Vallejo, CA 94591

Publishing Information:

The Glen Cove—"Neighbor to Neighbor" Newsletter is a publication of the Glen Cove Community Association

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT DIGITAL ISSUE: June 15, 2015

News/Articles Submission & information: GlenCoveVallejo.com/Newsletter

Ad Submissions & Information: Contact Neal or Monica Zimmerman at 707 556-3467 or email: nzimmerman51@gmail.com

