



January—March 2015

Volume 27, No. 1

Glen Cove Off to a Good Start (Mostly) for the New Year

Winter is almost at the half-way point but we're still not sure about whether the drought will continue or if we can expect some relief in February and/or March. This past December was unusually wet but January has been exceptionally dry.

The drought has resulted in many residents changing their landscaping to either drought resistant plants, installing more efficient irrigations systems, or in some cases, converting to other types of ground coverings that require little or no water. Please consult your C.C. & R.'s to ensure that you follow the landscaping requirements that have been approved for your development.

While the Glen Cove Community Association's (G.C.C.A.) main focus is on Glen Cove, we also follow what happens elsewhere in Vallejo, especially at City Hall, because ultimately, whatever happens there may eventually affect all of us.

We're glad to report that there has been an increase in the number of public safety employees in Vallejo, both in the Fire and Police Departments.

While we don't expect the Glen Cove Fire House to open anytime soon, emergency response times do not appear to have been adversely affected after the Fire House closed. On another note, you may be aware that there were several proposals before the City Council to approve a number of projects including the development of a Casino on the North End of Mayor Island. The Casino proposal appears to be dead in the water in favor of other low impact commercial developments. Almost any development on the north end of the island would result in additional tax revenue for the city which ultimately could affect how much we pay in property taxes, hopefully for the better. A G.C.C.A. board member recently attended a financial briefing by the city manager. The good news is that the city is now in much better financial shape than it was prior to bankruptcy although the amount still owed to cover public pensions is still growing. The better news is that Glen Cove property values are rising.



Photo courtesy of Eric Dugan Photography

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Items of interest

- ◆ **Cycle 3 Participatory Budgeting (PB) Budget Assembly** -learn about the PB process and propose ideas on how to spend a portion of Measure B (sales tax) to better the community. Share your proposal on Tuesday, **February 17**, in the Multipurpose Room at Glen Cove Elementary School, 501 Glen Cove Parkway, from 6:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. All assemblies will have refreshments, and select assemblies will have childcare and language interpretation. For further information contact (707) 648-4577 or alejandra.rafael@cityofvallejo.net.
- ◆ **GCCA General meeting** is scheduled for 7 PM Thursday **April 17**, 2015 at the Glen Cove Elementary School.
- ◆ **Glen Cove Community Garage Sale** - Saturday **May 9**, 8:00am. See page 7 for sign up sheet
- ◆ Please mark Sunday, **May 17** on your calendars for the annual **Vallejo Garden Tour**. During the tour you will visit beautiful yards in different parts of Vallejo including several in Glen Cove. The tour is a major fundraiser for the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum located downtown at 734 Marin Street where tour tickets can be purchased.

Last October the **Vallejo Waterfront Weekend** was an outstanding success. What is it? The Waterfront Weekend is the coming together of a wide variety of groups to raise funds that will benefit non-profits here in Vallejo. Last year a percentage of profits were awarded to the MIRA Theater, a non-profit performing arts center that features a variety of programs ranging from concerts, comedy shows, and live theater and more. The Waterfront Weekend occurs at the Waterfront of course. There will be lots of food and art vendors, live stage programs, the now famous dunk tank and a live radio program. The City of Vallejo has now officially sanctioned the Waterfront weekend as a permanent yearly program. Please mark your calendars for the weekend of **October 3rd and 4th**. Hope to see you there.



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Safety remains the G.C.C.A.'s main concern. We need for residents to be vigilant. Neighbors should be organized into neighborhood watch groups or at least have key contact information for their immediate neighbors.

While most Glen Cove residents take pride in how they maintain their property, there are still lots of eyesores around. The board will continue to work closely with the code enforcement department to address serious problems although please note that the enforcement of C.C. & R.'s often involves a lengthy legal process.

We have received lots of complaints about residents walking their dogs and allowing them to defecate on other people's lawns without making any effort to remove the droppings. Please be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog.

We have been asked why it is that we include a gardening article in our newsletters. Most people find the information that is provided helpful. The reason why we emphasize or include information about gardening is because Glen Cove's positive appearance and "value" is closely tied in with our landscaping both on private property and in Landscape Management Department common areas. Happy gardening!

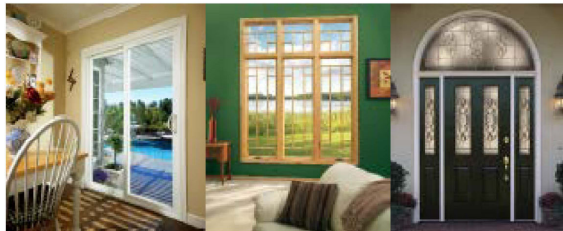
There's currently a survey that you should have received by now in the U.S. Mail. The survey is an effort to gauge resident commitment to maintaining our landscaping infrastructure. Your feedback is important to us so please return the survey as soon as possible.

As always, we need for residents to step up and represent their neighborhoods on the board.
Ron Bowen, President, GCCA



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Person of Interest: Mr. Bobby Dean Taylor

Meet Bobby Dean Taylor. He resides at 817 Glen Cove Road. This address probably does not mean much to most people, but if you say “The house with the Christmas lights”, then every Glen Cove resident knows exactly who you are talking about. If you are from out of town, you will not need a GPS to find this home at night. In fact, you can probably see the lights from the space station....

“Bob” or “Mr. Taylor”- depending on who is addressing him was originally born in Visalia but moved to Vallejo when he was 4 years old and has lived most of his life here. In 1961 he started his electrical apprenticeship with the IBEW local 180 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and is now retired after 44 years of service. It was this electrical training that was going to be very helpful to him later on in life, little did he know.

Bob had three daughters- Debbie, Donna and Denise, with Debbie being the oldest. Debbie had never flown in an airplane before and needed to take a trip to Little Rock AR, but was very scared of flying. Her younger sister who is a flight attendant convinced her to take the flight. This flight took place on June 1, 1999 and in the middle of a terrible storm the pilot missed the runway and crashed the plane. There were 11 fatalities including Debbie. Christmas was her favorite time of the year so her younger sister suggested that they decorate for Debbie and started with a manger on the front yard. For the last 15 years the number of displays and lights has exploded to what you see now and continues to grow every year. Bob Taylor remarried 8 years ago and his new wife Linda is just as passionate about decorating for Debbie as is the rest of the family.



The Taylor family usually starts decorating in September with Bob and Linda doing most of the work themselves with help on the weekends from daughters, grandkids, nephews, adopted family, friends and firefighters. They all help set up all the lights, decorations, statues as well as the ferris-wheel and merry go round. Blow up displays are also part of the picture. Storage is kept in two sheds, one sized 12’X24’ and the other 12’X12’. A third storage place is located in the hot tub room. All the Disney characters stay in the spare bedroom. In the closet Bob has 30,000 candy canes that he gives away to visitors. The decorations have also taken over the inside of the house. A ferris wheel carries dolls while the merry go around displays bears. “Kids love displays that move” states Bob with a proud smile.

When asked how many lights he has his answer is “thousands and thousands and thousands”. Most of his lights are LED’s now. He spent \$4,000 in LED’s last year and \$8,000 the year before and they were all purchased on sale after Christmas at 50%-70% off. “LED’s have made a huge difference in both the amount of lights I can put up and electricity cost” States Bob. “Before LED’s we were pretty much maxed out on power despite all the upgrades I had made over the years. At night when we had the lights on in the front yard we could not use the indoor appliances. One evening Linda turned on the microwave by mistake and created a black out in the front yard”. LED’s have cut Bob’s four figure PG&E bill by one third and at the same time gave him room for more expansion.

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Bob also purchases his candy canes on sale after Christmas when he can get them for pennies on the dollar. “They have a 3 year shelf life so if I buy them after Christmas. “They still have two years left of shelf life when I give them away the following Christmas” states Bob. A few weeks ago a woman that works at the Rite Aide in Benicia stopped by with several cases of candy canes in her arms. Generous donations such as this help the Taylors continue the Christmas theme year after year. The Taylors have never charged a penny to visitors, but donations are always welcome. They receive donations from individuals, businesses and community organizations. Local businesses such as The Canvas Shop, Wheel Works and Syar have helped. However, they have not been able to get a break from PG&E as the Taylors have not found “the right person to talk to” within the organization. If any of our readers knows somebody that can help on this it would be much appreciated.



Traffic sometimes can be an issue. In fact there is a neighbor on Glen Cove Road that does not believe in Christmas and is often annoyed at the traffic and attention the Taylor house gets and has called the sheriff to complain. “We want to be good neighbors” says Bob “and work to mitigate the traffic, but we have our beliefs too”. There is a vacant lot across the Taylor house that Bob has struck a deal with its owners. Bob keeps the lot clean and weed free in exchange for using it as a parking lot during December. Syar donated the gravel and Bob fenced it off and put lights all around it. It holds over 24 vehicles and allows visitors to park across the street and walk over and visit, take pictures, talk to Santa Claus, and pick up their candy canes, etc. “This past Christmas we only handed out about 18,000 candy canes” states Bob. We had rainy weather for a couple of weeks and most visitors did not get out of their cars and simply drove by”.

Bob now has five sets of volunteer Santa Clauses to meet with kids, have their pictures taken, and hand out candy canes. Mrs. Claus and elves are sometimes around as well. Santa was around on Fridays and Saturdays, but this coming Christmas he will probably be there every other day plus weekends. The lights get turned on from December 1st to January 1st and hours are Monday-Thursday after dusk to 10PM, Friday-Saturday to 11 PM. When they get close to Christmas they shut the lights off at midnight.

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Spring comes early to Vallejo

Spring comes early to Vallejo, in fact, many plants act like the new growing season begins in February. If you cut back your rose bushes by late January, the buds will erupt with new growth almost immediately although it doesn't mean that the threat of frost is gone. Plants that are susceptible to frost, such as citrus, should be trimmed with care. If we experience a freeze and the plants are harmed, do not remove the damaged branches until the threat of frost has passed. The damaged branches provide some protection for the healthy parts of the plant.



Late winter is a time to prepare your yard for the coming growing season. You may wish to apply a pre-emergent fertilizer that will decrease the amount of crab grass and other weeds that will attempt to germinate in your lawn. The soil in your garden can be improved by adding manure or other organic matter at least a month before planting vegetables or annuals. Addition of a layer to the surface and having rain seep through it will nourish the soil and allow the manure to break down so that it won't burn newly planted seedlings due to excessive nitrogen. It's also time to remove last year's annuals, vegetables, and weeds from your planting beds. Clearing these areas will provide fewer habitats for snails and insects that wish to feast on your plants.

Dormant season pruning should be done in January for appropriate plants like deciduous trees. Evergreen trees like the Brazilian Pepper may be trimmed in early spring or most other times of the year. (In Florida, this tree is officially deemed an invasive species.) Some shrubs such as Shiny Xylosma can be trimmed most any time because this plant doesn't flower appreciably. Others, like Pink Escallonia or Camelia, should be trimmed during the prior year after flowering in order to allow new buds to form.

Now is the time to prepare for the upcoming growing season. If you enjoy starting plants by seed, it is appropriate to do so in a controlled, warmer location such as an inside windowsill or cold frame. Once the seeds have germinated allow them to grow before putting them outside. "Hardening" is the process by which plants are gradually acclimated to outside temperatures before planting in the ground. If the plants aren't hardened, they may be stunted or killed by the shock of the colder outside temperatures.

At this time of year it is advisable to examine your irrigation system. To do so, look for leaks, clogged emitters, or clogged or broken tubing. You may flush the system by opening the end of each branch of the system and turning on the corresponding valve to allow water to flow out and wash away any dirt or debris in the line. Conversion of sprinkler heads to drip irrigation in planting beds is a good way to decrease water consumption during the dry months.

Ward Stewart
UC Master Gardener-Solano

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A cartoon illustration of a green character with large eyes, wearing glasses and a blue cape. The character is standing next to a bar chart with three bars of increasing height. The background is a light blue grid.



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



Continued from page 5

People come from all over to see the Taylor house; from about every state that you can think of. Most people from out of state usually come to Vallejo to visit relatives and end up coming to see the lights. Bob recalls also meeting folks from China, Korea, India, and France. Also, kids that started visiting 15 years ago now come by with their own children so there is now a second generation of visitors attracted to the Taylor home. There have been a lot more visitors this year since the Taylor House was featured on two separate television contests this past Christmas. The first was "The Great Christmas Light Fight" featured on Channel 7 ABC and is a nationwide contest with 24 participants. "It was such a great honor to be invited to participate in such a contest where the talent, hard work and creativity of all the contestants was very apparent" beams Bob with pride. The Taylor home did not win this contest, but won a second one from channel 2 that covered homes from across the San Francisco Bay Area. The voting took place through Facebook and the Taylor home received almost five times more votes than the closest runner up! Bob and Linda Taylor also received the Vallejo Mayor's Image Award for being "Ambassadors of Joy and Wonder" signed by current Mayor Osby Davis.



The nearby Fire Station used to be a drop-off for Toys for Tots. When the station closed, The Taylor Home became the new drop off location and the Fire Department now comes by once a week to pick up available boxes. "There is a woman who lives here in Glen Cove named Judy and she alone brought over 150 individual gifts" states Bob who is proud to give back to the community in many different ways.



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Pica, Joseph & Rosemarie
Powers, Kelly & Bill
Tandjung, Bambang'

GCES DONATIONS

Beserra, Sarah
Domingo, Maria
Ellington, Sue
Griffin, Ian & Sandra
Hall, Steve
Jaeckel, Roger
Porter, Mark

RENEWALS (Mail & Online)

Beserra, Sarah
Blake, Christine
Castro, Frederick
Davis, Keith & Juanita
de Grassi, Andy & Grigitte
Dunbar, Clynton & Sherry
Ellis, Debby
Finzel, Michael
Forte, Jean
Francis, Candy
Hall, Steve
Karvounis, Suzanne
Lagman, Joselito & Eleanor
Lindberg, David
Lipps, Douglas & Jan
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- Vice President, John Douglas.....925-285-5873
- Treasurer, Bobbi Kahn.....645-0991
- Secretary, Maryanne Denay.....557-7480

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Barbara Sizelove 557-6030
- Waterview..... **REP NEEDED**
- Westpointe..... **REP NEEDED**

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- GC Playground / Park GRVD- 648-4600
- Glen Cove Nature Area..... Willis Kirk 557-2126
- Landscape Maintenance..... Ron Bowen 415-797-2476
- Membership (GCCA)..... Shana Jones 552-3060
- Treasury Audit..... Ward Stewart 644-9031
- Website..... Ron Bowen 415-797-2476

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- V.P.D. (non-emergency) 648-4321
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- Solano County. Assessor-Rec. Office 784-6265
- (property owner Name/Address Info.)
- U.S. Coast Guard..... 643-2975
- V.F.D., Weed and Debris Abatement..... 648-4565
- Narcotics Tip Line..... 784 -1351

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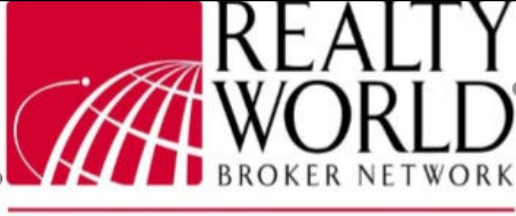

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All assemblies will have refreshments, and select assemblies will have childcare and language interpretation. For further information, contact (707) 648-4577 or Alejandra.Rafael@cityofvallejo.net

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**Glen Cove Community Assn.
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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT DIGITAL ISSUE: March 15, 2015

News/Articles Submission & information:

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

