

July 2023

Volume 37 - No. 3

Letter from the President

By Joseph A. Hayden

Hello neighbors. It's been a busy quarter! I've decided to break this President's letter up into sections to hopefully make it more digestible.

LMD Activism for Glen Cove

I wrote a separate article in this issue about my speaking at the City Council meeting on June 13 on behalf of GCCA with a collaborative message. I hope you check it out, along with [the video clip](#), which is currently on the front of GlenCoveVallejo.com. I'm grateful to the Board members attending in person with me. I specifically noticed Pat Tomasello, Ward Stewart, Suki Liebow, Sam Levis, Neal Zimmerman, and former Board member Dennis Albright! We hope to have triggered a difference for all Vallejo LMD's by shining a light on some poor LMD practices. I like to joke that this is the least controversial thing I've ever spoken about at City Council because the absurdity just makes your head shake. I'd love your collective thoughts on this (and anything else).



In another area for GCCA, a Bylaw subcommittee has been working on some improvements to our bylaws and outreach for a more diverse representation on the board for the various developments. For some of our current Board members who don't have the bandwidth and the *ex officio* board members who still often contribute, we'd like to create a formal Advisory Board allocation for them, which would be renewed every few years. We also need the bylaws updated to accommodate the post-Covid age and realities like Zoom meetings, email blasts and other technology-driven changes that will make transacting business easier, including voting by email, among other things.

Interested in getting involved? As always, we encourage you to [contact us](#) about volunteer and development representative communities even when you see that there are already two slots filled for your development. Don't be shy!

Garage Sale Revisited/Rain Date

After saying we were going to go ahead with the garage sale "rain or shine" we did indeed have rain in the earlier part of the morning on the date of the garage sale, which we feel really put a damper on the attendance based on the last few years for comparison. I personally got some great stuff, including a unique carving from someone on The Ridge, whose son made the item in this picture in shop class. It's a useful wall hanger in my bedroom, even though it was probably meant for fishing poles or even intended to be a rifle holder! I think Grogu (Baby Yoda) likes it.

During GCCA's first meeting after the garage sale we decided during a post-mortem that we would increase GCCA's advertising, including in the newspaper, and buy new banners for the differently shaped monument to bring more shoppers.



We will pick a date in early Autumn to have it again, so stay tuned via GCCA's email distribution for details on how to get on the map. There is no additional charge if you have your membership up to date of course.

Many garage sale participants were happy to hear from volunteers of the [Humane Society of the North Bay \(HSNB\)](#), who agreed to take unsold items. A form was brought to each participant for coordination afterwards. Collected items will be sold at an auction that will take place in the coming months. If you're interested, sign up for HSNB's email blast at hsnb.org/keep-in-touch.

Glen Cove Lodge Adopt-a-friend Event

GCCA Board members have joined me in several great events in and around the Lodge in Glen Cove regularly. In early June the Lodge held an "Adopt-a-friend Event" in conjunction with [HSNB](#). Volunteers from [HSNB](#), including some who boat out of [Solano Rowing Club \(SRC\)](#) down the ramp in Glen Cove Marina, brought large and small dogs, and got some homeless dogs placed permanently. It was also a joy for some residents of the Lodge to see the dogs when they came over from across the street to the parking lot where the event took place. [HSNB](#) regularly has volunteers bring dogs to a few senior/assisted living facilities in Vallejo. The Community Outreach Director of the Lodge, Tesi O'Brien adopted a dog from HSNB recently that went on those senior facility tours. Meet newly adopted Gracie, adorned in purple.



Solano Rowing Club is Giving Back

Together with a few of our other GCCA board members, I row from the Glen Cove Marina with [SRC](#). In this newsletter is another article on SRC's recent competitions. SRC gives back to the community, including Glen Cove. As part of their volunteer/outreach committee I'm facilitating their involvement with the Lodge at Glen Cove and the Vallejo Watershed Alliance, which does regular coastal cleanups and planting indigenous plants here at our own Glen Cove Waterfront Park.



Rowing now for well over a year, I even participated in my first race, which was on the Napa River between the Vallejo Yacht Club and Mare Island Brewery. Afterward all teams gathered to lunch and review the results at the brewery.

[SRC](#) is also volunteering to do some focused events for [HSNB](#) like painting a building interior and facilitating the aforementioned upcoming auction.

There are numerous other [SRC](#) volunteer activities that are in and out of Glen Cove, but the other one that is of particular interest to me is the [Relay for Life](#) in August for cancer research. This is something near and dear to my heart, not just because I've lost family members to cancer at young ages (my first cousin to osteosarcoma at 35) and other smoking-caused illnesses, but I work full-time for City of Hope, a Cancer and Diabetes research health care system that recently bought the well-known Cancer Treatment Centers of America. It's great to know that this Glen Cove-based organization, [SRC](#), is making such a difference in this realm as well.

Vallejo Garden Tour

For the second year in a row, my husband and I made sure to buy tickets for this awesome fundraiser for the [Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum](#), which we had joined as members this past year. Last year there were three homes in Glen Cove, and two of them were on my specific block, two and three houses down from us on the same side of the street. Not only that, but these houses were also among the most amazing on the tour that year, and it was wonderful getting to know two of our neighbors who I barely got to talk to before that time when we moved onto the street in the height of Covid *before* the vaccine, and the smoky skies due to fires. This year Glen Cove had no entries. Our GCCA Board member Ward Stewart, however, is a master gardener on the museum committee who chooses the gardens. Also, very near to Glen Cove in the Home Acres area, there was one entry that made the cut. See Ward's article in this issue on his take and more details on entrants.

Newt Creek Fire and Future Mitigation

Vice-President Ralph Mariscal and I had an important meeting with Vallejo City Manager Mike Malone, Assistant City Manager Terrance Davis, our Councilperson Mina Loera-Diaz, Public Works Director Melissa Tigbao, and Fire Chief Kyle Long about the fire that took place in Newt Creek here in Glen Cove on April 28. Ralph has submitted articles to this newsletter with details and dramatic pictures. It so happened that a few hours before our scheduled meeting with them Ralph and I smelled another fire and texted each other, but it turns out that it was blowing toward Glen Cove from the Maritime Academy, and I believe it was only a one-alarm fire that was quickly quelled.

On the day before the meeting Ralph and I surveyed the trail in the ravine. Fortunately, PG&E, which is responsible for cleaning up the city-owned land after they cut trees under PG&E power lines, much of it was sorted and cleared. However, it was still shocking to see the potential further damage that could have been caused by the scorched and incendiary eucalyptus trees, with a threat to homes and the school right over the hill. Check them out as one of the many galleries on our website here: glencovevallejo.com/pictures/newtcreekfire.

Participatory Budget Vouchers for Low-cost Veterinary Costs

I volunteer as the current Treasurer of [HSNB](#). From last year's Participatory Budget (PB) vote, Vallejo residents are NOW eligible for free or low cost spay/neutering for animals (including feral cats), as well as vaccinations, through a voucher program that HSNB is disseminating for the City of Vallejo in the amount of \$106k. The link is hsnb.org/pb-voucher. Apply now for consideration. At least half of these are allocated for lower-income households and the funds can also be used for feral cats. HSNB works with cat rescue organizations who have been allocated a portion of these funds. If the item for the recently ended PB vote for this year goes through, the same parameters of the program may get an additional \$75k without any further transaction costs as the voucher planning is already in place.

Tobacco Retail License (TRL) Presentation at City Council

I also had the rare privilege of leading a formal presentation at City Council in late April. Some of you know that I've been volunteering with [LGBTQMinusTobacco](#) for a few years now, even though I've been an advocate since the 1990's on this subject when I was still a law student. Together with [Bay Area Community Resources](#), which works with Vallejo resident youth advocates, and in my capacity as the new co-chair of [Tobacco Free Solano \(a program of Solano County Public Health\)](#), we made the case for why it is important in light of the passage of



Joseph Hayden presenting at City Council in late April

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Proposition 31, which banned most flavored tobacco sales in California last year, that we use that momentum to increase local enforcement of retailers who sell to minors in Vallejo. Over 200 other California cities and counties have already done this. Unfortunately, the evidence of brazen violations is very common here, and there are tobacco sales in Glen Cove.

After meeting with Councilperson Peter Bregenzer, he agendized agendizing (that's the process) of having our coalition present to City Council. If you're interested in watching that video clip, feel free to view it [here](#).

This coalition and I also presented at [Vallejo City Unified School District](#)'s board meeting and I have personally also tabled for this at Vallejo events, high schools and middle schools. GCCA's own John Fox is of course on that VCUSD Board. John read the entire resolution of VUCSD in favor of a Vallejo TRL. It was met with unanimous support.

If passed as directed by the Mayor to the City Attorney, Vallejo will have one which would be even more modern and robust than the one Benicia has. There is no cost to Vallejo citizens as this is revenue-neutral, and it has the added benefit of supplementing the cost of code enforcement officers, which I know is an important goal of our city and our neighborhood.

John Fox also joined Vice-Mayor Verder-Aliga, Councilperson Bregenzer and County Supervisor Monica Brown at a Tobacco Control Town Hall we held at Dan Foley Community Center. I am always impressed by the student art and activism. They presented a skit on the dangers of nicotine addiction.

In late May I also attended a [Solano County Central Democratic Committee](#)'s Picnic with fellow GCCA Board member Andrea Sorce in Fairfield's Allan Witt Park. I was introduced to U.S. Congressman John Garamendi to garner his support for these efforts. Garamendi was extremely gracious and supportive. At his behest I reached out to his office, who got back to me. They will be endorsing.



Pictured here with coalition team members are some Vallejo youth advocates as young as fourteen years old!

Other Things

I meet Glen Cove residents everywhere in Vallejo I go of course. Other events I also attended recently include:

- [Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum](#)'s Pride Dance Night had a DJ and catered food. I met some great Glen Cove neighbors I had previously not known who happened to sit at my table and who were very glad to talk about LMD! I told them to tune into City Council the following Tuesday!
- For the third year in a row on Mare Island I attended the [Solano Pride Picnic](#), which was planned by the [Vallejo Gay Network](#). I was handed the microphone and spoke together with our County Supervisor Monica Brown. During my portion I spoke about the Tobacco Retail License and my volunteer work in that arena, since LGBTQ folks are targeted by Big Tobacco, as are people of color, and as a result, those populations do consume tobacco products at higher rates. That's also the case because of the added stress our society puts on our citizens who are in communities that are the target of bigotry.
- [Solano County Student Art Showcase](#), which held at the Solano County Fairgrounds
- Solano County Fairgrounds for the fair itself, where [HSNB](#) tabled and brought visibility to Participatory Budgeting.

GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



[Eric Dugan Photography](#)

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First Fire of the Year and the Aftermath

By Ralph Mariscal

On Friday, April 28, Glen Cove experienced its first wildfire of the year. See circled area in first photo.



It was reported at 2:42 am. When the first fire unit arrived, they quickly called for additional support. Within thirty minutes it went to three alarms, and every piece of fire equipment in Vallejo was called in. This area is in the center of Glen Cove. Mutual Aid units from Benicia, American Canyon, Rodeo and Fairfield were called in to cover the rest of Vallejo. All the units entered the blaze from Brigantine Road. It is an area of steep slopes down to the grove of eucalyptus trees below and Newt Creek.

Fire equipment was able to make entrance, but only go about twenty yards due to the steep drop. Firefighters had to hand carry over 1,600 feet of fire hose some 100 yards down to the bottom.

Since it was early morning, the dew made the descent treacherous. The grass was still green and wet. Luckily no firefighters were hurt. It took almost four hours to completely extinguish the fire.

The fire was located along the Newt Creek Trail.

In conversation with the Battalion Chief and firefighters, they made it perfectly clear, had this fire happened in the warmer summer months when

the hillsides were dry, it would have been a disaster. I contacted our Fire Inspector and his team, and with the help of Chief Kyle Long, we were able to get a meeting with City Manager Malone, Assistant Manager Davis, City Engineer Tigbao and our Councilperson, Mina Loera-Diaz.

GCCA President, Joseph Hayden and I, on behalf of GCCA, asked the City for help in resolving this issue. Once I showed our City Manager the picture of the area and how it is surrounded by homes, he clearly understood the gravity of the situation.

We had two different approaches for the City to consider:

1. Fire Access Road the length of the trail, which goes from Glen Cove Parkway near Marina Road to Old Glen Cove Road.

2. Firefighting access points, at Mistral Road, Rivermouth, Brigantine Road and Bennington Drive. These pods or access

points would allow for equipment to access the area above the fire and have water available and easier access to the area below.



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page 7 continued...

A fire access road would be very costly as much dirt, trees and vegetation would have to be moved to build such a road, which would allow equipment to enter the area. The pods would be a better option as they are less costly and a safer option. The City is studying both options and we will meet again in a few weeks to finalize plans.

We were lucky this didn't become a major disaster.

The Aftermath

As result of the fire on April 28, a few other issues cropped up. The first was that Newt Creek was infested with mosquito larvae. I called Solano Mosquito Abatement District and a technician was sent out the following day. We walked the creek noting the large amounts of larvae in the stagnant water.

Lots of mosquitoes had already been hatching, maybe many of you may have noticed the increased mosquitoes in Glen Cove.

The following week, the creek was sprayed and mosquito larvae eating fish, *Gambusia Affinis*, which are native to the southern United States and Mexico, have been introduced to many other parts of the world due to their mosquito-eating abilities. These small but mighty [fish](#) are adaptable to a variety of environments and can thrive in both freshwater and brackish water.

We are now under regular maintenance visits by the District. This will greatly reduce the number of mosquitoes, allowing you to enjoy the warm evenings outside. continues on page 9...

4th of July

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05/24/23	Peppercorn Ct	5/3	2629	\$750,000
05/18/23	Starfish Dr	4/2.5	1834	\$680,000
05/09/23	Windsurfer Ct	5/3	2529	\$700,000
04/26/23	Sea Lion Pl	4/3	3006	\$980,000

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05/24/23	Glen Cove Pkwy	2/2	1014	\$382,000
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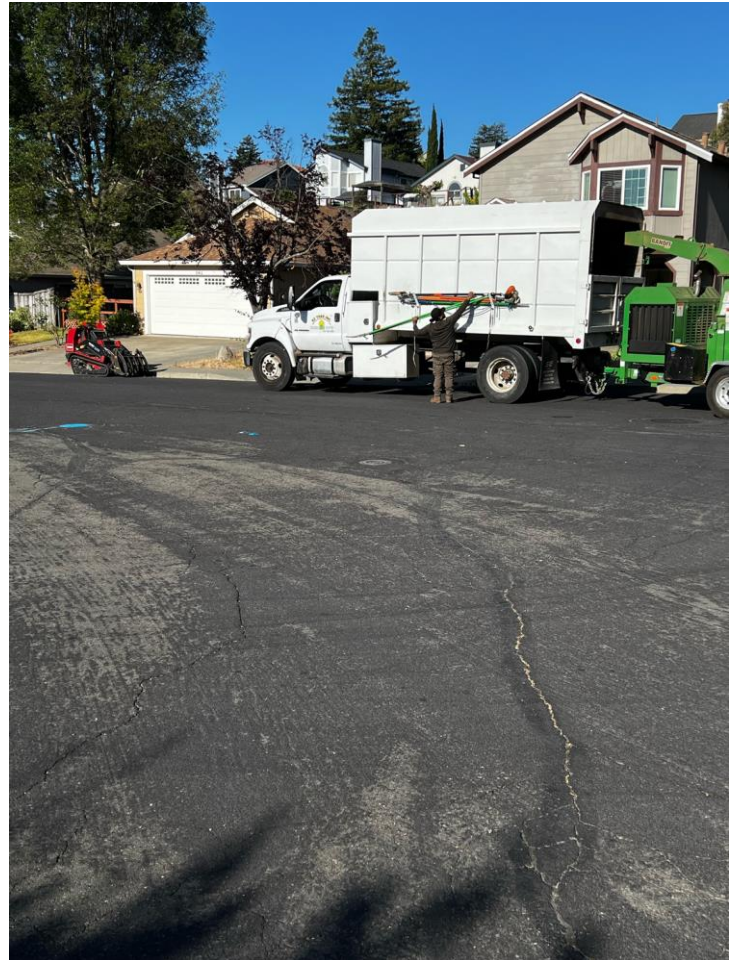
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The second issue was that PG&E came in a few weeks ago and topped about ten to twelve trees that were near the power lines that run over Newt Creek.

I confronted the tree service supervisor and his instructions were to cut and drop all the cuttings into the area below. I showed him the fire burn areas where he was dropping the cutting, but said I needed to talk to PG&E.

I contacted Fire Inspector Chris Balmer, who's in charge of vegetation inspection. Between Chris and Chief Inspector Vincent Sproete, they contacted PG&E and advised them of Notice of Violation.

Within two weeks PG&E and crews were there and began their cleanup. They navigated the steep slopes pulling up and hauling away twelve truckloads of debris from the canyon below.

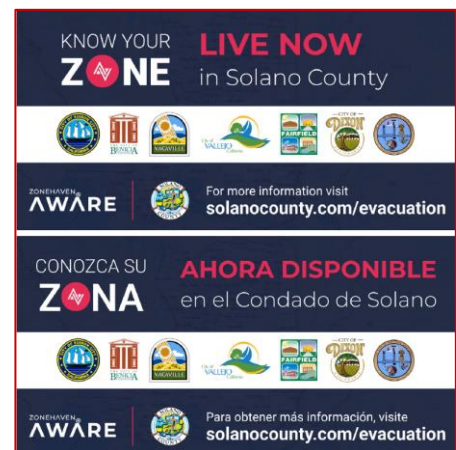


They left the area not only cleaner, but safer, as much of the debris was taken out, decreasing the amount of combustible fuel.

In working with James Olsen, Vallejo City Landscape Supervisor, four eucalyptus trees at the end of Rivermouth Lane here in Glen Cove are coming down. The trees in this area are in close proximity to homes.

During the recent storms one tree approximately 75 feet tall was blown over nearly missing a home.

The removal of these trees is a very proactive approach by the City and James Olsen to ensure the safety of our residents.



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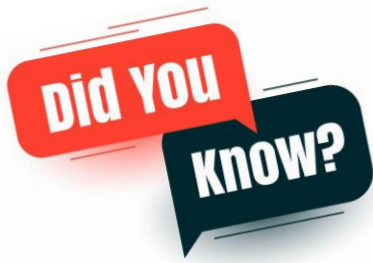
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FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN VALLEJO

Written content of this article from: [City of Vallejo](#)

Fireworks as defined in Vallejo Municipal Code section 12.28.110 are illegal in Vallejo. Fireworks include large bottle rockets, roman candles, firecrackers, and sparklers. Sparklers can reach over 1,000°F and account for most fireworks-related injuries to children ages five and under.

Fireworks are dangerous and have caused many fires, costly property damage and severe injury.



Fireworks are also frightening to many pets and wildlife with the peak loss of pets during the year occurring on the 4th of July. Fireworks are also toxic pollutants both to air and water.

Report illegal fireworks using [SeeClickFix](#) and/or by calling Vallejo Fire Prevention at: (707) 648-4565.

Submission of information and evidence to SeeClickFix will not result in City enforcers being immediately dispatched to the scene. It should not be used to report an emergency.

Always call 911 to report an emergency.

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page 11 continued...

Vallejo Municipal Code section 12.28.120 states that it is unlawful for any person to possess, store, offer or expose for sale, or use or explode any fireworks except with a permit. Fireworks are also a violation of California Fire Code section 5608.1.

Penalties. The fines for using fireworks are:

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- \$250 for a first violation
- \$500 for a second violation (within 12 months of the previous violation)
- \$750 for a third violation (within 12 months of the previous violation)”

Weeds Love Rain

By Ward Stewart
Master Gardener, Solano

The winter rains were epic! The snowpack was monumental! The drought is over (for the moment) and the weeds have taken over. I have been fighting them for months!

As a person who believes in I.P.M. (Integrated Pest Management; see the April-June 2016 GCCA Newsletter), I try to fight unwanted plants and critters in my yard in the least environmentally unfriendly way. For weeds, it means not spraying chemicals to kill them. I have decided not to use glyphosate, the main ingredient in the product whose name refers to the ‘process of collecting cattle by riding around and driving them’.

This year has been especially tough with many grasses sprouting all over my yard. There is a preponderance of Creeping Red Fescue and Wild Oats.

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Broadleaf culprits are Catchweed Bedstraw, Bindweed, California Burr Clover, Petty Spurge, Fumaria Capreolata (April-June 2019 Newsletter), and an occasional Dandelion (April-June 2021).

I usually employ a 'weed popper' to loosen up the roots, making it easier to pull them out by hand. This is a long, laborious process made more frustrating by the recurrence of weeds in areas previously cleared. The greatest progress removing them is made immediately after a rain when the ground is soft and the weeds young.



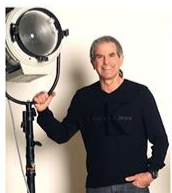
There are pathways made of decomposed granite in my yard on which many weeds sprout. I use a 'hula hoe' to scrape the stems and leaves away, then rake them up and dispose in the green waste can. This process keeps the roots in place, but with no leaves to promote photosynthesis, the plants will eventually die, although it may take some time.

We have a patio in our front yard made from pavers. Weed seeds find their way into the cracks between the pavers and unwanted vegetation appears.

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page 13 continued...

The weed popper is fairly ineffective as a means to remove these weeds because the pavers are so tightly packed.

I have tried two less-toxic products called Natria (active ingredient: Ammoniated soap of fatty acids) and Burnout (Citric acid and clove oil) to fight these weeds.

They are less effective than the glyphosate product and require several treatments.



I have tried different mixtures of vinegar, salt, water, and dishwashing liquid. The latter acts as a surfactant to facilitate the mixture sticking to the foliage.

Sandra Diehl, Glen Cove resident and member of the Solano Community College horticulture faculty, asked her students to conduct experiments to test the effectiveness of several vinegar mixtures. The trials compared 5% and 30% vinegar solutions with and without salt and soap. The 5% vinegar solution without salt was 0% effective within 24 hours and about 50% effective after 3 to 4 days, but the weeds started regrowing in less than a week. The 5% vinegar solution with salt was more effective with 10% effectiveness within 24 hours and 70% within 3 to 4 days with regrowth beginning within two weeks.

The 30% vinegar solution was much more effective. The mixture without salt was 90% effective at killing weeds within 24 hours, but they started regrowing in three weeks. The 30% solution with salt was 100% effective but the regrowth began within one month.

Sandra Diehl points out that the glyphosate product is not 100% effective either and should be reapplied after two or three months to control the weeds. The 30% vinegar solution with salt should be used with care because salt will stifle plant growth in the long run. The salt solution should be used between pavers or concrete seams where no plant growth is wanted. The 30% solution without salt is a reasonable choice for killing weeds in planting beds.

Another method of weed suppression I tried was the use of the propane torch I use for plumbing to burn the weeds between the pavers. I had to bend over and keep the flame on each weed for several seconds. It was potentially backbreaking. It occurred to me that burning propane was bad for the environment so I abandoned this approach. I saw in a magazine a 'Bionic Burner' that focuses heat in order to burn plants. This device has a long handle so it's easier on one's back and runs on electricity. Since we have solar panels this device is powered by the sun and is clean environmentally. It's not the panacea that one would hope for, since each weed needs at least five seconds of heat and often more than one application is needed to kill the roots.

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page 14 continued...

A friend told me that Foxtail (a type of grass) had infiltrated his lawn and was harmful to his dogs. In this case, the Foxtail was so prevalent that it was forcing out the lawn's original grasses.

I suggested that he cut the vegetation as low as possible with his lawn mower, then cover it with clear plastic. This process is called 'solarization' whereby the radiant heat from the sun going through the plastic heats the plants and soil to temperatures that eventually kill the weeds.

Another way to kill weeds and remove lawns is by 'sheet mulching' in which the weeds and grass are cut short, covered with cardboard, then covered with a thick layer of compost. This method is good for converting lawns into planting beds.

A fairly passive way to reduce weeds is to grow desired plants in such a way that as they mature they take up most of the space in the bed and crowd together. Without any room or sunlight to foster growth, the area should stay relatively weed free. continues on page 17...



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page 15 continued...

A couple years ago I put down a layer of mulch in my planting beds. More specifically, I bought 'walk on bark' and applied a layer that was two to three inches deep. The idea is that this relatively thick layer will make it extremely difficult for weeds to germinate and foster the retention of soil moisture. It worked for a while! The wood decomposes over time and adds organic matter to the soil. This process is very good for the plants; however, as the bark decomposes the layer gets thinner. In many places it was one-half inch or less thick. So, it was no longer a barrier to the weeds and they returned with a vengeance, especially this year.

I have decided that each fall I will purchase a couple yards of the mulch and apply it to bring the depth back up to three inches in all my planting beds before the rains begin and the weeds attempt to germinate. My hope is that the weeds will be less daunting in the following spring.



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Five Tips for Getting Your Home Ready for Spring and Summer

By Marina Thompson

Spring and early summer are some of the busiest times of the year. Now is a prime time to get your home ready for the buyer market. Corporate moves are on the rise, inventory in the Bay Area is at an all-time low, and buyers are looking for homes in our beautiful Glen Cove community. Here are some tips for getting your home summer-ready, even if you're not planning to move.

1. Care for Your Curb



It's important to make sure your home shows well, from the outside in. While a weed-free, well-manicured lawn is a must, seasonal color via flowers, porch furniture pillows, a garden flag and/or a spring wreath is just as important in making your home stand out from the rest. Don't forget your exterior paint. We live in a beautiful coastal feeling setting and those cool blues, light greys, or crisp whites will scream "coastal paradise" to any potential buyers

2. Clean Out Those Gutters

It's not the most pleasant job, but it certainly needs doing and there's no better time than just before summer's arrival. So grab your work gloves, hop on up a ladder, and get down to business. If that doesn't sound like your kind of thing, you can always hire a professional. The important part is that the work gets done, no matter who does it, and if you're in need of a reputable contractor, don't hesitate to contact me. I have a large pool of resources at my disposal and am happy to make recommendations.



3. Get Your Garden Prepared

A great part of the seasons changing is that you can get out and garden again. Get your garden prepared for flowers, produce, or other plants by buying all the supplies you need and making sure your soil is ready for planting. If an outdoor garden is too much effort, a nice house plant or indoor herb garden can really make your home feel fresher.



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4. Wash Off Outdoor Furniture



This season brings warmer weather and that means more time spent outdoors. To have a comfortable, clean place to relax outside, bring out your outdoor furniture and give it a quick wash so you're ready to go.

5. Change Up the Decor

It can get dull looking at the same decor year-round, so now is a great time to break out some different, exciting decorations. Change up your curtains, buy new throw pillows or blankets, or even repaint some old furniture to give it a new life. Even small changes can help get you excited for the new season.

I'm your friendly neighbor and Realtor and absolutely love living in and serving our wonderful Glen Cove community. I hope you find these tips helpful. Contact me for all your real estate needs.



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GCCA Fighting for Our Landscaping Dollars at Vallejo City Council

By Joseph A. Hayden

If you did not see the comments I made at City Hall on June 13, 2023, please take about four minutes to listen to the video, which is now posted prominently on the front page of GlenCoveVallejo.com. After discussions with GCCA's LMD Committee over the past several months, it became clear that we had to say something about the ridiculous waste and delays when it came to the end of the city's fiscal year and budget approval. The Action Item calendar item was 9A: "The adoption of a resolution approving the engineer's report ordering the levy and collection of assessments on properties in various neighborhoods [including Glen Cove LMD] for FY 2023-24."

The written comments were a team effort drafted by Board members Kristen Hannum-Gregory, James Sotiros, Ward Stewart, *ex officio* Dennis Albright, and yours truly. You can hear the audible gasps from the audience in one or two spots in the video.

Ultimately I asked for accountability, and it sounded like the Mayor and City Council appeared to hear me, especially since I was given **more time** (unheard of) to speak beyond the usually allocated three minutes.

Hopefully, these comments will not only help foster more diligence and supervision for our

neighborhood, but also for all LMD's throughout Vallejo. This is not a verbatim transcript, but I tried to stick to it as closely as possible. Enjoy!

"Good evening City Council. I'm Joseph Hayden, President of the Glen Cove Community Association, which is made up of volunteer residents. We represent 3,000 households and we are not an HOA. These households pay nearly \$1M annually for the work of a landscape contractor in just our LMD district. That amount includes the payment to the City for staff supervision of that contractor by an LMD Inspector. This is not paid out of the general fund. That means that the City pays this one landscaping contractor \$30 thousand a month, yet months can go by with NO work done in Glen Cove.

"Even though we've had at least one board member of our association keeping in touch with the City of Vallejo's LMD division for decades, about a year ago, our association set up a formal LMD Committee that meets with an established monthly cadence.

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**Joseph Hayden addressing
Vallejo City Council
June 13, 2023**

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The meetings are courteous, cordial, and friendly, but very little is accomplished due to these discussions. When our committee points out an area in need of work, our request may be ignored, or it takes months for the issue to be resolved.

“Needless to say, we are **very** dissatisfied with the landscape maintenance and frustrated with the lack of progress in the common areas of our community. We have no idea when the contractor will accomplish the needed landscaping work, and we have a long list of items that I could rattle off as examples of simple things that we’ve been waiting to have accomplished since the middle of last year, including some that add to the potential threat of fires.

At one point our association asked the LMD Inspector and his supervisor, the LMD Manager, why there was no landscaping work being done in certain months. The city employee said that the contractor could not find staff to hire to do the work. We remarked that we must be saving money then, since the contractor was not performing, right?

“Nope. To our shock, the employee told us that the contractor is paid anyway, every month, even when they do not work. We were incredulous. Gobsmeaked, we sought to confirm, and we were told quote, ‘Yes, the contractor is paid regardless.’ We then asked whether the city **inspected** the contractor’s work to make sure they were meeting performance standards per the contract, and our LMD Inspector told us that he did not have time to monitor the contractor’s work as he was far too busy. The job title of this employee is??...wait for it...Landscape Inspector.

“We are looking for accountability, such as having visibility on what each month’s work order should be. We are told that since we raised this absurdity, the LMD division has withheld ‘some’ contractor payments. We have no visibility of that account. We’d like to know what happens when funds are withheld. Does the contractor get \$60k for doing twice the amount of work the subsequent month? Where does that money that Glen Cove residents paid for go? Right now this system is protecting the contractor and not the payors.

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“Our association is asking that City Council mandate that there be a formal, written protocol ensuring contractor accountability is delineated going forward with enforcement. For example, we would like detailed, written proposed work plans in a punch list on a monthly basis and long-term plans yearly, together with the budget and balance at the end of each fiscal year.

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These could be provided to our committee so we can confirm that the City is overseeing the work and only paying the contractor when the expected level of work is accomplished. Indeed, we are willing to assist the City of Vallejo in returning the operation of our LMD to a fully functional status.”

The comments that we figured I would probably not have time for include:

“Our residents are frequently the first to recognize problems and report them to LMD management. Our volunteer association members have been forced into performing much of the LMD Inspector’s inspections with no sense of what communications are transpiring between the inspector and the contractor. This situation is clearly upside down and unreasonable, but also correctable. It **was** managed properly at other times during the past 25 years, so we know it’s achievable. For our money, we do deserve accountability. Visibility on how our dollars are being spent is something that we might not be able to formally get incorporated into the engineer’s report tonight, but it’s the right thing to do.

“Some of the major complaints our citizens constantly report to us and, in turn, our LMD Committee brings to the attention of their counterparts with the city of Vallejo include:

- The monument not being lit after rejection of a solar option despite disruptive trenching, even though the previous monument had electricity to be lit
- When the contractor works on weed abatement for fire prevention, the maintenance of our parkway area is neglected
- Stumps of old trees and shrubs remain throughout the area
- Recently deceased trees and bushes remain and are eyesores
- Shrubs go untrimmed for weeks
- Trees are crowded out by shrubs
- Tree trimming to restore views blocked by city trees, traffic hazards due to untrimmed vegetation, and waist-high weeds growing within feet of Vallejoans’ homes go unattended for months
- City staff has historically turned off the water and let whole sections become desolate

While I did not get a chance to say this in front of the microphone, **I’ve been saying sarcastically ever since: “Nice work if you can get it!”**



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Oaks Are More Than Okay!

By Desiree Allyn

We are blessed to have California native coastal oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) in our community. Do you know how to identify one?

It's the beautiful tree with the little green boat shaped leaves with small thorns that grace our open space hills. You can typically see our native scrub jay perched below it's branches holding an acorn meal. We can view some of our older oaks down by the elementary school on Glen Cove Parkway.



photo credit: Calphoto

Our oaks are a keystone species and support more forms of native California life than any other tree genus in North America (Tallamy 2021).

Our oaks are a keystone species and support more forms of native California life than any other tree genus in North America (Tallamy 2021). They represent a rich ecology of native insect food and habitat for our birds and

animals because both oaks and native wildlife co-evolved over thousands of years together, becoming mutually dependent on each other to survive. You want more songbirds? Plant more oaks!

Currently California oaks are declining in number due to intensive fires, development of land, and fungal disease, and are in need of your help.

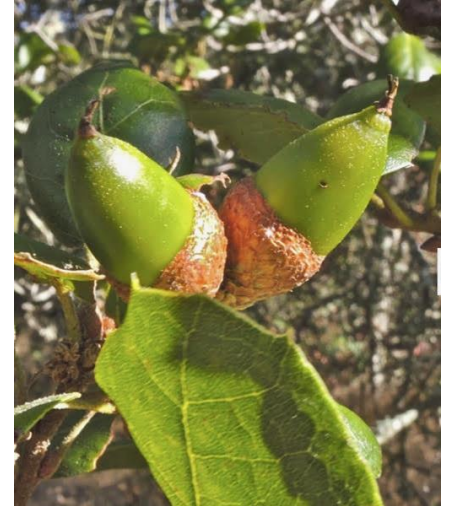


photo credit: Calphoto
Coast Live Oak
Quercus agrifolia

Great news, though! California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has launched **Re-Oak Solano County**, a subset project of the CNPS's Re-Oak California Project, which our own City Landscapers support. (Hat tip to James, Jason, and Carlos!)

Here's how you can help grow oaks:

Inform yourself and family on how to identify an oak by going to [Calscape](https://www.calscape.org/) and learn about oak ecology, including propagation, and in doing so, help secure our oak legacy here in our oak beautiful GC community.



Vallejo Garden Tour 2023

By Ward Stewart

The 20th Annual Vallejo Garden Tour took place this past May. It is a fundraiser for the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum located on Marin Street in the downtown. The museum is a wonderful asset for our city. It features art exhibitions, concerts, programs for school children, a trove of historical information, and much more. On the second floor there is a periscope from which you have a 360 degree view of the vicinity.

This year's garden tour featured seven beautiful private home gardens and one lovely community garden. The latter is Kyle's Temple Community Garden located at the intersection of Sonoma Boulevard and Illinois Street. On this site the Kyle's Temple AME Zion Church stood for many years, but a fire in 2001 devastated the structure. The congregation moved to a different site and the vacant lot lay fallow for a number of years. Through the City of Vallejo's Participatory Budgeting program, funds were obtained to begin creating the community garden that opened in 2014.

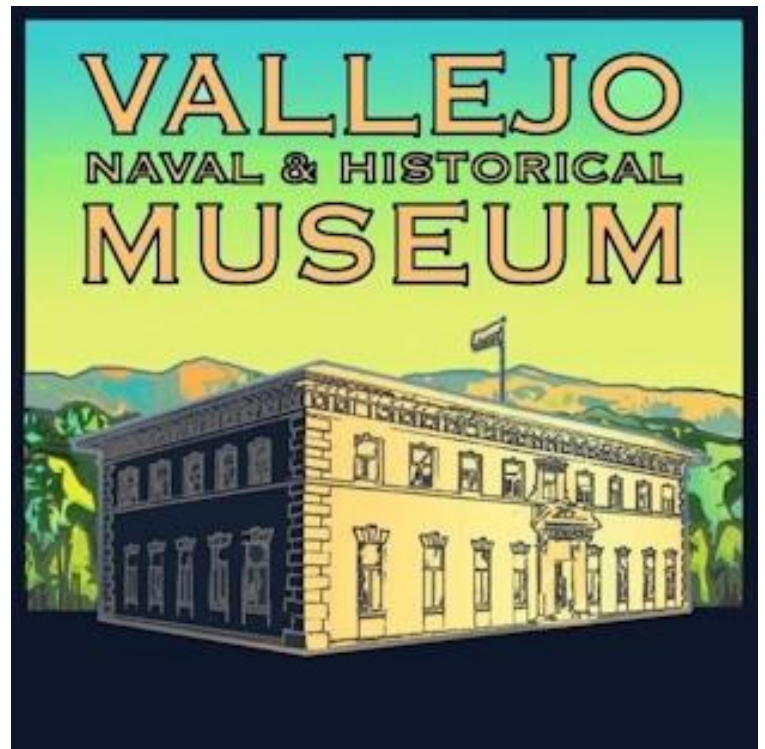
The mission of the garden is "to provide families a place to grow organic vegetables, fruit, herbs, and flowers at a low or no cost, to promote mental and physical wellness, and provide a sense of community pride for the local neighborhood and the City of Vallejo."

There are 45 planter boxes in use and currently a waiting list of four gardeners. In addition to vegetables, there are areas featuring other plants including succulents, cacti, and fruit trees. This year's health emphasis is on different types of cancers and the benefits of healthy eating.

The Kyle's Temple Community Garden is a quiet place for gardening, mediation,

learning, and relaxation. Come by and enjoy this oasis that was a highlight of this year's garden tour.

We are currently seeking gardens for the 2024 tour. If you or a friend is interested in supporting the museum and would like to have your garden considered for next year's tour, please contact Ward Stewart at wardstewart@gmail.com.



Glen Cove Marina Rowing Team Finishes Spring Season

By Alison Williams

Solano Rowing Club (SRC), a competitive whaleboat rowing team based at Glen Cove Marina, has just finished our Spring season placing in almost all divisions. SRC is one of nine whaleboat rowing clubs in the Bay Area, all belonging to the Bay Area Whaleboat Rowing Association (BAWRA).

In the Spring and Fall, SRC races with other BAWRA teams in Mens, Womens, Mixed, and the newest division, Masters. The Masters division requires the age of the eight rowers in the boat add up to a minimum of 480 years. That's an average rower age of 60 years old but SRC has people in their 70s that are some of our strongest rowers!

Races are hosted by rowing clubs at their home ports in Vallejo, Alameda, Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco. Races vary in distance, duration, and number of turns, in estuary or open water, all testing the strength and endurance of the rowers and the expertise of the coxswain.

The Spring season started with a race in the Mare Island Strait in April, moved to the Oakland/Alameda area for three races and finished the season in San Francisco at the beginning of June.

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The standout of the season was our Masters Division team that took First Place overall for the season, winning first place in four out of five races. Our Mixed Division team finished the season in third place and our Women's team finished fourth in what are the most crowded and competitive two divisions in the rowing association. Our Men's team also finished third for the season.

Whaleboat rowing is an experience unlike any other rowing experience. Rowing is a full-body exercise that depends on maintaining rhythm and timing with teammates. Being out on the water gives you a different perspective of the beautiful area we live in and gives you glimpses of sea life up close, like sea lions and fish that pop up regularly, SRC always welcomes new rowers, 18 years of age and over, no experience needed.

We are specifically looking to build up our men's team and are looking for a group of strong athletes who want to compete.



Our experienced coxswains and rowers are committed to teaching new rowers the fundamentals of rowing, boat safety, competitiveness, and physical fitness.

Coxswain training and certification are also available. After a quick orientation at the Marina, the first month of practices are free. Membership is by invitation and monthly dues are charged to cover operating expenses.

**For more information and to contact the club go to: www.solanorowingclub.org.
To see SRC in action, visit [Youtube](#) or email at SRC@solanorowingclub.org.**

Baseball is Back in Vallejo!

By Neal Zimmerman

The Seaweed have arrived in Vallejo and brought minor league baseball back to the fan-friendly confines of Wilson Park. The team was formerly the Santa Cruz Seaweed and elected to move to Vallejo last October.

The Seaweed launched their season in late May, and played 11 home games in June at Wilson Park off Curtola Parkway. The Seaweed has nine home games scheduled in July. Making the playoffs in their inaugural season in Vallejo would be exciting. The playoffs would take place in August.

I went to my first Seaweed game on Thursday, June 15. The Lancaster Sound Breakers were in town. It was a beautiful evening at Wilson Park that started out warm but by the 3rd inning, I was glad I brought a jacket. As Vallejo residents, we know how that works.

Wilson Park is managed by GVRD, and they have worked hard to correct some of the early kinks when the season started. On June 15, the concession stand was not open yet, but there were two food trucks on hand.

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“Noonie’s Place” and a truck offering soft ice cream seemed to be doing a brisk business serving both the Seaweed fans as well as the many adults watching their future little leaguers at the newly dedicated Brandon Crawford Field next door. GVRD had fixed the scoreboard problem that plagued the first few games, and the Seaweed’s public address announcer was enthusiastic and amusing. The best part was hearing the cheering, the taunting and the chirping from the Vallejo fans that seemed very happy to be watching baseball once again.



The ticket booth was staffed by two young Vallejo Seaweed players that were not starting that night, Tavon Gibbs and Ike Horn. The ticket booth is also where you can purchase Seaweed hats and jerseys. Tavon came from Detroit for the baseball season while Ike is a local Bay Area native. As you may have heard or read already, the team is trying to find housing for several players that are from out of town. If you would like to consider becoming a “host family,” contact team manager Christian Carmouche at 409.291.9967 for the details.



There are no sponsor signs on the Wilson Park fences yet, but that will change as more fans come to enjoy the baseball with their family at the very reasonable ballpark prices.

Glen Cove enjoyed a nice relationship with the Vallejo Admirals who played several seasons at Wilson Park before the pandemic. The Glen Cove Community Association (GCCA) coordinated a “Glen Cove Day with the Vallejo Admirals” several years in a row. The fans enjoyed the cozy seating close to the field, we raffled off some prizes and the event was a huge success!

Thanks to that enthusiastic response a few years ago, the GCCA is pleased to announce that we have arranged a

“Glen Cove Day with the Vallejo Seaweed.” Working with Christian Carmouche, Seaweed team manager and Communications Director, some lucky Glen Cove Community Association members will have an opportunity to receive free tickets to the Monterey Amberjacks / Vallejo Seaweed game on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30pm. There is plenty of free parking and great seating options for the fans.

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Free Tickets to the July 11th Vallejo Seaweed game will be available on a First Come/First Served Basis to all CURRENT Glen Cove Community Association Members!

**Act now! We have a limited supply of tickets.
To enter, go online to: GlenCoveVallejo.com/Seaweed**

The Vallejo Seaweed are in the Pecos League. Many of the teams in the Pecos League have colorful nicknames including the Lancaster Sound Breakers, the Monterey Amberjacks, the San Rafael Pacifics, the Bakersfield Train Robbers, the Marysville Drakes, the Dublin Leprechauns, and the Martinez Sturgeon.

Some of the Seaweed's "Away" games might also be a nice "daycation" for your family. You can find the Seaweed's remaining 2023 schedule at VallejoSeaweed.com.

To learn more about the Vallejo Seaweed, visit VallejoSeaweed.com. Tom Gase of the Vallejo Times Herald has been doing a lot of great stories about the Seaweed. You can find his stories both in print and at timesheraldonline.com.



Let's help the Seaweed be a success and a fixture in Vallejo! Hope to see you at "Glen Cove Day with the Vallejo Seaweed" on Thursday July 11 at 6:30pm at nearby Wilson Park just off Curtola Parkway.

Neal Zimmerman is a member of the Board of Directors of the Glen Cove Community Association representing the Harbour Towne community, Advertising Manager of the GCCA quarterly newsletter, and a former president of the GCCA. He can be reached at nzimmerman51@gmail.com.

GCCA Directory

GCCA Officers

President Joseph Hayden | jhayden@glencovevallejo.com | 917-330-6105
Vice President Ralph Mariscal | ramariscal@glencovevallejo.com | 707-319-5247
Treasurer Ron Bowen | rcbowen@ymail.com | 707-246-0753
Secretary Pat Tomasello | ggwb12gh@gmail.com

General phone number: 707-563-1226

Board of Directors - Development Representatives

California Lighthouse

Samuel Levis: slevis@glencovevallejo.com

Suki Liebow: sliebow@glencovevallejo.com

California View

Frank Overton: 707-742-3006, paco10@aol.com

The Crest

Representative Needed

The Estates

James Sotiros: jsotiros@mac.com

Glen Cove Hills

Maya Ramsey: maya@glencovevallejo.com

Christine Gipson, christine.gipson@gmail.com

Glen Cove Landing

Adriana Fuentes: adriana@glencovevallejo.com

Harbor Homes

David Mandel: 707-641-1218, davemandel@att.net

Harbour Towne

Andrea Sorce: andrea@glencovevallejo.com

Neal Zimmerman: 707-547-7909

Headlands

Joseph Hayden: 917-330-6105

jhayden@glencovevallejo.com

Ron Bowen: rcbowen@ymail.com 707-246-0753

Marina Estates

Representative Needed

Marina Vista

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Olde Towne I

Kathryn Marocchino: 707-557-8595

Olde Towne II

Ralph Mariscal: 707-319-5247

The Pointe

Ward Stewart: 707-853-4510

Quiet Harbor

Pat Tomasello: ggwb12gh@gmail.com

The Ridge

Dina Morrison: TheRidgeDina@gmail.com

Seascape

Diana Dowling: 415-990-1878 Thehealthangel@gmail.com

John Fox: 707-548-8870, johnfox@glencovevallejo.com

Shipwatch

Pedro J. Mendez: 707-554-2162

The Shores

Lisa Williamson: 510-778-3177

Seabridge at Glen Cove

707-557-4400

Vista Del Mar

Representative Needed

Waterview

Kristen Hannum Gregory: kristenhannum@gmail.com

Westpointe

Representative Needed

GCCA Committees

Garage Sales

info@glencovevallejo.com

L.M.D.

Ward Stewart: 707-853-4510

Newsletter

Suki Liebow: sliebow@glencovevallejo.com

Membership

Ward Stewart: 707-644-9031

Fire and Safety

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GCCA Memberships

as of 6/26/2023

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

Aguirre, Cesar and Otilia	Gomez, Francisco
Asche, Ester & Frederick	Gonzalez, Nelida
Baig, Celia	Gonzalez, Roberta
Bergmann, Jeanette	Gregory, Kristen Hannum
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Chypre, Betty & Louis	Lamb, Judy
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Collins, Peter & Marilou	Lucas, Claire
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Feemster, Elaine	Noblitt, Scott & Hawkins, Sigrid
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Fink, Dennis & Maria	Paxson, John
Fontana-Nahass, Marie	Prevost, Wanda
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To check your membership status call Ward at: 707-853-4510



To become a member or renew a membership, please visit:

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as of 6/26/2023

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Rice, Paulette	Triggs, Corey
Rosenblatt, Lorraine	Trout, Chris & Monika
Rovirosa, Ramon & Amy	VanDervoort, William
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Sims-Shaw, Kristen	Ware, Eileen
Sims, Michele	Warner, Jennifer
Slack, Gary	Williams, Jeff
Smith, Rodney & Elizabeth	Yekrangi, Deborah
Sorce, Andrea	Young, Ysabel
Souza, Rosanna & Kenneth	Zimmerman, Neal & Monica
Thompson, Sabine	

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Dawson, Rebecca	Lamb, Judy
Doane, Robert & Pope, Libby	Liming, Amy & Eric
Gomez, Francisco	Mace-Hearne, Andrea
Hybels, Richard	Munoz, Laura
Ibarra, Sylvia	Price, Helen
Inglish, Lisa & Loren	Zimmerman, Neal & Monica

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City Manager Michael Malone	(707) 648-5404
City Attorney Veronica A.F. Nebb	(707) 648-4545
City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson	(707) 648-4527
Police (emergency) • Non-emergency • Traffic • Abandoned Vehicles	911 or (707) 552-3285 (707) 648-4321 (707) 651-7172 (707) 648-4682
Fire (non-emergency)	(707) 648-4526
Building	(707) 648-4387
Business License	(707) 648-4357
Code Enforcement	(707) 648-4469
Community Services	(707) 553-7218
Economic Development	(707) 649-5452
Housing	(707) 648-4507
Illegal Dumping Hotline	(707) 648-0445
Municipal Marina	(707) 648-4370
Participatory Budgeting	(707) 648-4109
Park Vallejo • Parking Citations	(707) 648-5407 (707) 651-7172
Permits	(707) 648-4328
Planning	(707) 648-4326
Public Works • Illegal Dumping on Public Property • Illegal dumping - Private Property • Maintenance Division • Engineering Division	(707) 648-4316 (707) 648-5207 (707) 648-4469 (707) 648-5235 (707) 648-5251
Water • Water Customer Service • Water Leaks	(707) 648-4307 (707) 648-4345 (707) 648-5235
Vallejo Flood & Wastewater	(707) 644-8949

2020 Elected Officials	
Governor Gavin Newsom	(916) 445-2841
5th District Congressman Mike Thompson	(707) 645-1888
Senator 3rd District Bill Dodd	(707) 551-2389
14th District Assemblyperson Timothy Grayson	(707) 642-0314
Supervisor District 1 Erin Hannigan	(707) 553-5363
Supervisor District 2 Monica Brown	(707) 784-3031
Mayor Robert H. McConnell	(707) 648-4377
Vice Mayor Rozzanna Verder-Aliga	(707) 648-4134
Councilperson Peter Bregenzer	(707) 648-4131
Councilperson J.R. Matulac	(707) 648-4132
Councilperson Mina Loera-Diaz	(707) 649-7716
Councilperson Charles Palmares	(707) 648-4133
Councilperson Cristina Arriola	(707) 649-7711

Other Important Numbers	
Animal Control-Solano County Sheriff Dispatch	(707) 421-7090
Bus - SolTrans Information	(707) 648-4666
GVRD	(707) 648-4600
Hospital - Kaiser Hospital - Sutter Solano Medical Clinic - La Clinica de La Raza	(707) 651-1000 (707) 554-4444 (707) 556-8100
Humane Society of the North Bay	(707) 645-7905
National Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline	(800) 273-TALK
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
Recology (Garbage Service) VALCORE Recycling	(707) 552-3110 (707) 645-8258

GLEN COVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Publication Information:

The Glen Cove neighbor-to-neighbor newsletter is a publication of the Glen Cove Community Association.

Article Submissions & Information:

Contact: info@GlenCoveVallejo.com

Ad Submissions & Information:

Contact Neal or Monica Zimmerman:
707-547-7909 or mazimmerman51@gmail.com

**DEADLINE FOR
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September 20, 2023



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Glen Cove Community Association
164 Robles Way, #254
Vallejo, California 94591

e: info@GlenCoveVallejo.com
p: 707-563-1226

www.glencovevallejo.com