

By Joseph A. Hayden

Hello neighbors. I hope the beginning of your year was better than mine.

Personal Tragedies

Many of you probably have heard that the morning after some of us on the GCCA Board attended a two-hour Fire Council safety meeting at The Lodge, my house was lost to fire due to an electrical accident (as it was ruled to be). I'm frustrated by the lack of details, but I'm assured it was nothing I did. The wiring was apparently redirected by a previous owner. It started on my back deck. The nightmare only began there, though. Five of my beloved rescue dogs perished in the fire that morning after being trapped, two of whom were blind dogs.



Driven further back into the house they succumbed to smoke inhalation, which is a little solace, I'm told, as it's a more peaceful way for one to die. The irony is that I was only out of the house that morning because I was helping a neighbor on Wellfleet take her two foster dogs to the vet.



Tragically lost in the fire, clockwise from top left: Matty, Capulet, Pancho, Polar and Snowball.

This has changed me forever, as if the previous five fires throughout my life (since I was a child growing up on base) had not traumatized me enough. In all of those no one perished, thankfully.

There's a lot more to this story, but on cue, the GCCA Board and the Glen Cove community, including my immediate neighbors, came to help, as well as the greater Vallejo community, the Solano Rowing Club, the staff, volunteers and Board of the Humane Society of the North Bay, the Vallejo Gay Network, the coalition I work with on tobacco control issues here in Solano County and the greater Bay Area, not to mention other family and friends who made me feel very loved in the darkest time of my life.

I'm not used to accepting donations and so many acts of kindness as I'm usually the one seeking donations and support for these organizations, but I had to force myself to be a recipient of such things, and I appreciate all who wanted to assist.

As many of you know I also am the Treasurer of the Humane Society of the North Bay, so I suggested if there was nothing else to do that one could always donate in honor of Pancho, Snowball, Matty, Capulet, and Polar (the "Hayden Five") so that other rescues can benefit from their memory.

Fortunately, I have good insurance and will rebuild back better, but I did also have to permit myself to mourn the loss of the house and the belongings (many of which had survived my mom's house fire in 2016 in Hayward only to incinerate in my fire). Those who know me know I had worked diligently on designing my home and garden, which I documented on my personal blog for years. Fortunately, the yard is mostly intact, but it will be years before I'd once again consider submitting it to the Vallejo Garden Tour.

I'm now renting here in Glen Cove for the 14-16 month estimated amount of time until I can return home.

Dennis Albright was a Bastion of Our Area

As if 2024 wasn't already sad enough in my world, we also lost a friend of Glen Cove and the greater Vallejo Community. Dennis Albright was a longstanding GCCA Board member. Even after he officially stepped down he continued to be a great wealth of knowledge about Glen Cove for the rest of his life that I as president and my predecessors could depend upon. He was always just a phone call away and would show up at a moment's notice. He was also actively attending monthly LMD committee meetings with the Vallejo LMD to maintain our common area optimally. Indeed, just a few months ago he drove us to the meeting downtown which I attended with the Committee.

A few weeks ago we had a beautiful celebration of life with his family in Fairfield. The current and previous mayors attended and spoke about their many interactions with Dennis, as well as County Supervisor Monica Brown, mayoral candidate Andrea Sorce (GCCA Board member), Vallejo School Board Trustee John Fox (GCCA Board member), and numerous other dignitaries. His friends, rowing buddies, and Mare Island co-workers also spoke, not to mention his wife, daughter, and grandsons, on whom he made an indelible mark. I spoke about the many memorable conversations Dennis and I had and what an inspiration he was to me as an activist, always noticing his expansive vocabulary and his writing style, particularly when I saw his Op-Eds in the Vallejo Times-Herald. He strongly supported what I did and was genuinely interested in my paths, but we also found out that we both had things in common, including whaleboat rowing of all things. I had no idea that he had done that for decades when he first told me. I'm so glad I got to attend the memorial and connect with so many of the lives that he touched.

Spring Garage Sale

Our official date for the **Spring garage sale is Saturday, May 11**, so feel free to start sending us your interest. As a reminder, you need to be a member of GCCA in good standing to be on the map. I'm excited that our board member Christine Gipson found a new way to plot the homes on the map, so the new map will be much clearer and more legible than in previous years.

Email <u>info@glencovevallejo.com</u> with your name, address, and phone number or call 707-563-1226 and leave that information plus your email address.

Spring Community Meeting

Save the Date! Community Meeting is scheduled for May 1st. Lookout for the postcard that you typically get with the details on this and the garage sale. As usual, we will have this at Glen Cove Elementary School and have a food truck since that has been a popular feature of such events. We are working on interesting subjects of interest to Glen Cove to talk about as always, including the Fire Safe Council which my vice-president and Director of Safety, Ralph Mariscal, has submitted an article about in this issue. Make sure to check it out because it can yield smaller homeowner's insurance premiums and make Glen Cove a more attractive place for private homeowner insurance companies to remain since some parts of the country are noticing policies being dropped and some of these private insurers skipping out of some states (Florida also).



Photo by, Suki Liebow



Eric Dugan Photography

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Glen Cove Community Association

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Glen Cove is now FireWise!

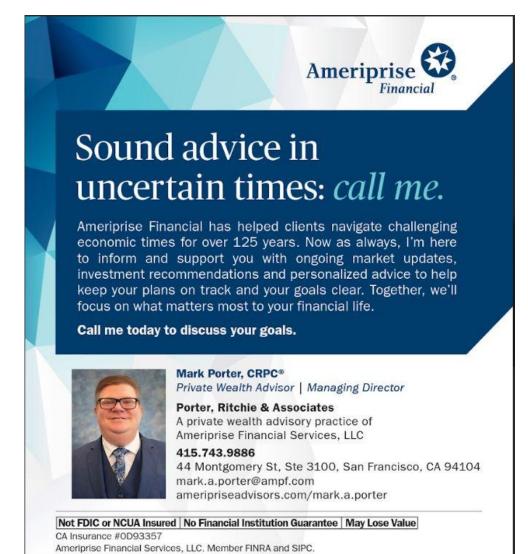
By Ralph Mariscal

Glen Cove has now become a FireSafe and FireWise Community. Much work has been done to accomplish this feat for the betterment of Glen Cove.

Working with Solano RCD (Solano Resource Conservation District), the initial goal was to become a FireSafe Community. This was accomplished relatively quickly as we already had the foundation.

To become a FireWise community extensive drive-by assessments had to be made of Glen Cove looking at roof types, and whether vents in the eves were covered to block out embers. Vegetation around your home was also noted. We were deficient in some areas but ahead in others.

To better manage this project we divided Glen Cove into two areas, East and West, based on the number of homes on each side of the Parkway.



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The results were noted and put into a three-year action plan. As a community we will need to continue to work on these items.

I will go into more details of the action plan very soon. But to continue to remain a FireWise community we have either financial to have contributions or volunteer hours. We can accomplish our volunteer hours bv attending our two yearly Glen Cove Community meetings, and hopefully working with neighbors our to help everyone become FireWise.

We now have a website for FireSafe/FireWise Glen Cove Council.

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There are more details on the website: www.glencovefiresafe.org or click the icon below.



I am currently looking for a Glen Cove resident to become the web master. Show your community support by getting involved. You will receive all the training.

Any Volunteers? Contact me to inquire or for more information.

So what do we get for this designation?

- 1. We will get recognition signs to place on the Parkway.
- 2. Recognition by the National Fire Prevention Association.
- 3. Possibility of REDUCED HOMEOWNERS insurance rates.

As many of you know, many insurance companies are no longer writing new policies in California and some companies are leaving and not renewing policies leaving you to find another company sometimes at a more expensive rate.

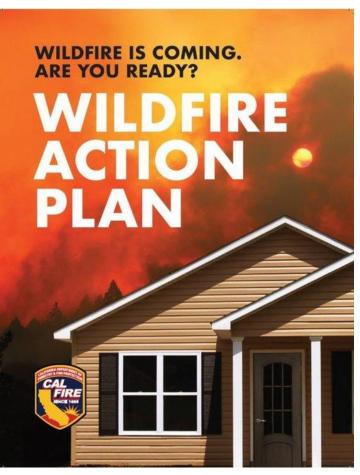
Being FireWise and being recognized by the NFPA it makes it more difficult for insurance companies to drop you.

The California Insurance Commissioner is adding language to help FireWise.

By checking with your homeowners insurance company, you may even be eligible to receive a DISCOUNT!

There will be more information coming as soon as we get the certification by the NFPA, which should be in the next few weeks.

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YOUR CELEBRATION AWAITS

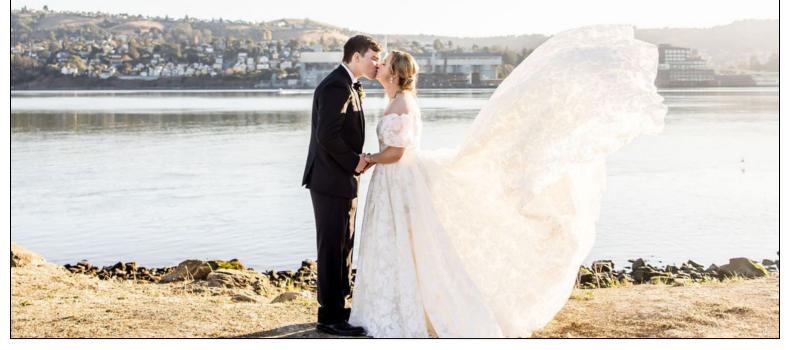
THE LIGHTHOUSE AT GLEN COVE MARINA

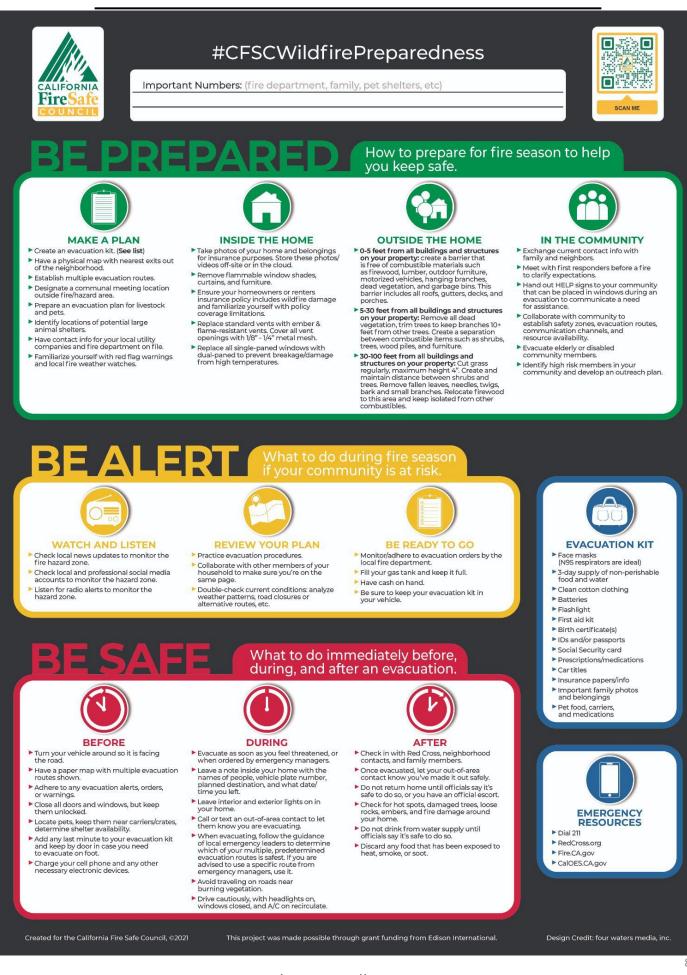
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page 6 continued...

We will have a link where you can print the certificate to take to your insurance company for the possibility of a DISCOUNT.

A discount? Yes a discount! It all depends on your insurance carrier but more and more companies are recognizing the value of being a FireWise community.

This is a big accomplishment for Glen Cove.

This is not driven by our Fire Department or City, this is community driven. We, the residents of Glen Cove need to take the initiative to own this, to continue to make Glen Cove safe and where we can be proud to have this designation.

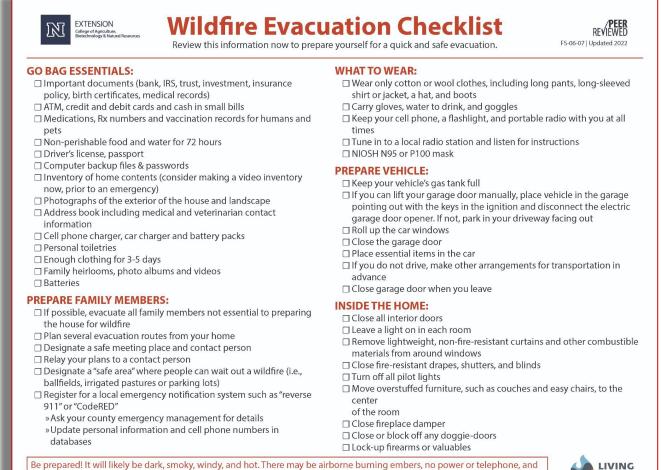


Please visit the Cal Fire website for more information.

Only two other communities in Solano County have this designation.

I know there will be plenty of questions so please do not hesitate to email me your questions or more importantly that you want to help in managing this process.

Ralph Mariscal; GCCA Vice President and Director of Safety ramariscal@glencovevallejo.com



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Keeping Glen Cove Clean

By Sara Wright

As a resident of Glen Cove, you have likely seen people picking up litter along Glen Cove Parkway as well as in and around the neighborhoods. One of the people you've probably seen the most often is Judie Scarlett, who has been picking up trash in Glen Cove for the past 13 years.

Judie lives in The Ridge neighborhood and has lived in Glen Cove for nearly 28 years, originally coming from SoCal and residing in the Bay Area for the past 40 years (minus a brief stint when she and her husband lived in Wisconsin). Now retired from human services for a large services firm, Judie fell in love with Glen Cove and the surrounding areas.

"We are so fortunate to have a gorgeous view of the Strait and Mt Diablo, ever-changing weather, from the clouds to the ships going in and out of the Strait to the trains on the other side of the Strait, the hills... That's why I enjoy walking so much," Judie said. "I could go to the gym, but why would I walk on a



Judie Scarlett

"It's important to me to keep the Parkway clean for people driving through Glen Cove..."

treadmill when I could go out and be part of nature. And I meet so many cool people that I've developed relationships with that have been lasting. And I know every dog's name on the Parkway (not so much the owners)."

Judie makes it a point to pick up trash on her walks every other day or so. She said that



this habit started "out of boredom" after she would walk with a neighbor around Glen Cove, and then when her neighbor moved, she started picking up litter to keep herself occupied.

One day she saw a plastic bag on her walk and picked it up, then realized she could use it to pick up other trash in her path. More than a decade later, she continues to pick up trash, and even has a neighbor serve as a backup to cover when she is out of town. page 11 continued...

"I fixate on it. It's important to me to keep the Parkway clean for people driving through Glen Cove,"

Judie said. "The trash is horrible for our city; when people see trash, it represents the city. I love it, coming into Glen Cove and seeing it neat and clean. There are so many people who want that too. I get honks and waves and I know people appreciate it; that keeps me going."

Judie said that over the years, people have pulled over and given her items including a fluorescent vest and gloves. People have even stopped and asked if she is picking up trash as a part of required community service hours. She understands the importance of getting involved in your community, having served previously on the GCCA, and currently uses SeeClickFix frequently to report issues around Vallejo.

Judie doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. "I hope that people will be inspired and get out and try it in their own neighborhood and find out how rewarding it is on so many different levels: pride in our community, meeting new people, finding new areas of Glen Cove," she shared. "So many people just drive in and drive out. If you have time, it's a beautiful, beautiful area to explore."

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Person of Interest --- DENNIS ALBRIGHT

By Neal Zimmerman



Dennis W. Albright, 2023

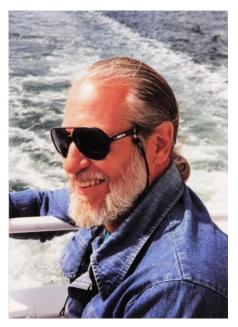
Dennis W. Albright passed away on February 8th, 2024, after a brief, debilitating illness, at the age of 81. Dennis was a friend and a mentor to many Glen Cove and Vallejo residents.

A celebration of Dennis' life took place at the Green Valley Country Club on Saturday, March 9th. Approximately 200 friends and family members gathered to share their memories of this community giant.

Some shared that Dennis was a daredevil and did a lot of pranks, in his youth. Friends also remembered how he frequently rode his bike all over Vallejo. Many remembered him for his upbeat sense of humor, clear vision, self-discipline, dogged determination & perseverance which enabled him to reach both work and personal goals.

Many spoke about his love of exercise & the outdoors, as exhibited by his many hobbies: abalone diving, duck hunting, bicycling, handball, whaleboat racing, backpacking, snow skiing, running, and more.

Dennis was civic-minded and frequently attended City Council meetings to share his point of view. Former Vallejo mayor and current Vallejo mayor Robert Robert Sampayan McConnell attended the Celebration of Life and spoke highly of Dennis and his contributions to Vallejo. Dennis actively participated in the politics of the city of Vallejo from the sidelines, which was his favorite position, lending the wealth of his managerial experience & knowledge from working on Mare Island Naval Shipyard to such tasks as helping the city survive the financial crisis of a decade ago, and pressuring



the city to direct funds toward dredging the Municipal Marina. He fought against the onslaught of spray paint graffiti by volunteering with others once a month to buy paint and then drive to affected areas to repaint them. He worked with the late Gent Davis to establish the Dick Bass Park, named after a famous Vallejoan athlete. He was involved in the Greater Vallejo Recreation District and the Glen Cove Community Association.

Dennis was born in San Diego in 1942, later moving to Vallejo at the age of 8, where he gained many friends and attended catechism at First Lutheran Church, through the age of 12.

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When the GCCA planned to publish "Connections" magazine in 2018, Dennis was a primary source of background information. I learned that he grew up nearby, ran four miles twice a week to Elliott Cove, and fished for striped bass in the Carquinez Straits. And while he resented that nature was being displaced by new homes, Dennis later realized buying in Glen Cove presented some different benefits for he and his wife Tanya and daughter Kimberlee.

Dennis graduated Vallejo High School high school at 16 and immediately joined the Apprenticeship Program at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, working by day and attending night classes simultaneously, eventually obtaining an AA degree in Electrical Engineering.

Self-discipline, decency and hard work were virtues his family instilled in him, and he rose to the top at the shipyard, landing his first managerial position in 1975, at the age of 33, as the Shop Superintendent of Electrical Shop 51. It was his pride and joy.

Four years later, in 1979, at the age of 37, he was transferred to the Public Works Department and became the Group Superintendent of Cranes and Truck Drivers, the Power Plant, and General Maintenance and Housing.

Eight years later, he was promoted to Group Superintendent over Electrical on Submarines, Ordnance on Submarines and Electronics on Submarines.

Dennis was the youngest Group Superintendent in the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard!

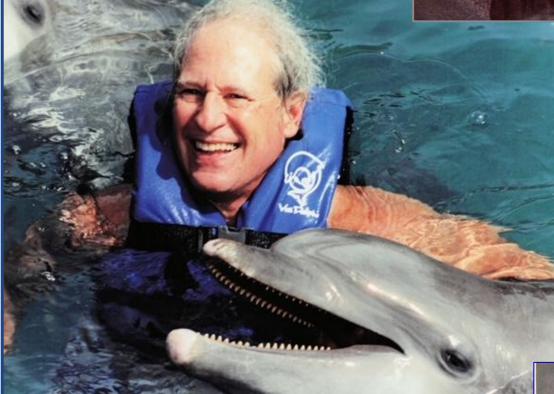
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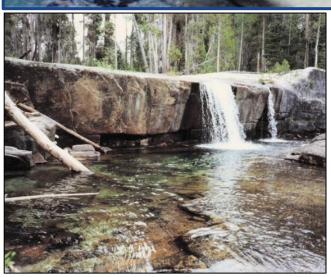
Despite his years as a top-level executive, Dennis quietly listened to what one had to say and patiently gave his point of view. He asked for other colleagues' opinions on the issues he himself was facing. Dennis touched many lives as a mentor. I called him my "consigliere"... my advisor ... while I was president of the GCCA.





Dennis was used to getting things done. His daughter once gave him a coffee mug imprinted with a phrase that sums up his approach:

"Rome wasn't built in a day--but I wasn't on that particular job."



In his later years, Dennis enjoyed foreign travel with his wife & friends, visiting many spots in Europe by cruise ship.

He will be missed.

Photos Courtesy of Dennis' wife, Tania, and daughter Kim.





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Mail Theft Is On The Rise

By Samuel Sweeley

Here are a few things you can do to help prevent mail thefts.

Collect your mail as early as possible. Set a time to do it, possibly before dinner. If you expect to get home late that night, consider reaching out to a neighbor to grab your mail.

Sign up for informed delivery. This is a free program through usps that gives you a scan of the mail expected to be delivered that day. It will include expected packages to be delivered as well. Visit www.usps.com and click "Quick Tools"



Put a hold on your mail. If you are leaving for an extended period of time it is good to put a hold on your mail. This can be done for up to 30 days. Visit www.usps.com and click "Quick Tools"

Ask a neighbor to help collect your mail. If going to your mailbox daily is physically difficult, possibly reach out to a neighbor to help get that mail out of the mailbox.

Install a lockable mailbox. Prices vary.

Cluster mailboxes are susceptible to mail theft if the master key goes missing. Sometimes getting the mailbox rekeyed can be a very delayed process. Possibly have your mail held and you can go and pick up in person for up to 30 days.

Mail forwarding is another option. You could send your mail to another address that is more secure.

Many options are available. Talk to your local post office for any other questions you might have relating to making sure your mail is safe.



Vallejo Garden Tour and Bay Area Butterfly Festival

By Ward Stewart

Sunday, May 19th, is a big day for nature lovers in Vallejo!

On that day, the **21st annual Vallejo Garden Tour** will take place from **10 am until 4 pm**.

Also on that day, the **Bay Area Butterfly Festival** will be held at the Coal Sheds on Mare Island from **10 am until 5 pm**

The Vallejo Garden Tour is a fundraiser for the <u>Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum</u> located at 734 Marin Street in the downtown area.

The museum is a valuable asset to our city. It features changing exhibits, a bookstore, the Vallejo Sports Hall of Fame, a periscope that looks out the roof onto the downtown, a research library where the history of our city can be researched, and more.

It is a local gem that, unfortunately, doesn't receive the funding that is needed to keep it functioning properly. Thus, staff must hold fundraisers throughout the year.

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The Garden Tour is one of the major fundraisers that supports the museum's mission. Private gardens in multiple locations around the city are featured in this year's tour.

There are two in Glen Cove that you shouldn't miss! Each garden is different and beautiful in its own way. Two or three master gardeners are assigned to each garden to support the homeowners in answering questions posed by tour visitors. Tickets may be obtained at the museum or through Eventbrite. They have remained at \$40 so that the tour is affordable for most people.

The Bay Area Butterfly Festival is sponsored by the Vallejo People's Garden. It is a family-friendly event that includes two stages for bands and performers, workshops, children's games, and a beautiful view of Vallejo along the waterfront. Bay Area Butterfly Festival admission is only \$5.

Make a full day of it by viewing beautiful gardens and learning more about butterflies!

If you are interested in Sustainable Gardening, check out the Benicia / Vallejo Food Forest Garden Tours happening Saturday, April 27th through Sustainable Solano! Admission is free with suggested donation of \$10.

Tickets to all three events events available through Eventbrite and linked on page 20.



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General phone number: 707-563-1226

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GCCA Memberships

as of 3/28/2024

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

Alfeld, Diane Alton, Byron & Susan Ash, Steve & Sandra Beck, Leigh S. Bibel, Samantha & Jeff Brousseau, Valerie Burton, Susan Cahill, Joan & Richard Carroll, William Cartwright, Troy & Cynthia Castillo, Elizabeth & Julio Castillo, Miguel Chalmers, Tom & Bridget Chandler, Vincent & Irene Chlala, Elias & Salwa Clavo-Hall, Jacqueline Contawe, Narissa & Marc Betinol Cross, Nancy de Grassi, Andy & Brigitte Denay, Maryanne & Richard Ellis, Debby Fernandez, Noel & Imelda Flannery, Jo Fletcher, John & Elizabeth Flood, Sumrueng Mendang & John P Francis, Candy Fredzess, Brandon & Robles, Cleo Frost, Jayson Galan, Nito & Victoria Gephart, Gephart Bill & Linda Glen Cove Yacht Club Gray, Victoria Haskett, Linda



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Interested in volunteering for your neighborhood? Contact us at:

info@glencovevallejo.com

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GCCA Memberships

as of 3/28/2024

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GCCA Donations to the Glen Cove Elementary School Since January 1 Many thanks to those who donated to the Glen Cove Elementary School

Brousseau, Valerie Burton, Susan Chandler, Vincent & Irene Chlala, Elias & Salwa Hayden, Joseph Hodgdon, Kate Huff, Karen & Clyde Ilog, Ted & Lourdes Johnson, Phillip & Beatrice Kennington, Stacey Krenzke, David & Mary Lee, Annie & Ernest Marshall, John & Laurie Menke, James & Jacqueline Shiflett, Woodrow & Herrmann, Kathleen Sislter, Rishael Spelbos, Barbara Walls, Susan & Schandelmier, George Widemann, Danielle Wu, Joseph & Iris

To check your membership status call Ward at: 707-853-4510



To become a member or renew a membership, please visit: GlenCoveVallejo.com or scan the QR code

\$20 annual membership

Convenient PayPal sign-up with optional annual autopay



IMPORTANT VALLEJO PHONE NUMBERS

City of Vallejo	Phone Number
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	(707) 651-1000	
Hospital – Sutter Solano	(707) 554-4444	
Medical Clinic – La Clinica de La Raza	(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)	(707) 552-3110	
VALCORE Recycling	(707) 645-8258	

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Contact: info@GlenCoveVallejo.com

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Contact Neal or Monica Zimmerman: 707-547-7909 or mazimmerman51@qmail.com DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

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