



October -December 2015

Volume 27, No. 4

General Meeting October 8th, 7:00pm
Glen Cove Elementary Multi Purpose Rm
Brandon Gersel from the Neighborhood Law Program

Glen Cove Community Association Notes

Notwithstanding the recent rain event, we managed to make it through the summer without any rain at all. None was expected but it never hurts to keep hope alive. Board representatives have noticed a steady trend by Glen Cove residents to change their landscaping to water efficient schemes that should help reduce our overall water consumption significantly. Some residents appear to be in a wait and see mode in the hope that a very wet El Nino winter will restore lawns and allow us to return to more heavy watering. Let's hope that we've all learned to be more water efficient from this point forward.

Glen Cove has been able to maintain the Landscape Management Department (LMD) areas thanks in great part to the recent voter approved LMD rate increases. Please keep in mind that if you've opted to drastically reduce watering you will still need to maintain your lawn. Nothing looks worse than an over grown dry lawn not to mention the fire hazard that dry vegetation presents.

You may have noticed an increased police presence in Glen Cove. It's not necessarily due to higher crime rates as much as it's due to a slight increase in the number of Vallejo police officers. The Department is still far below its target staff level but the number of officers is increasing albeit slowly. In the meantime, please organize your neighborhood into neighborhood watch groups. Information about neighborhood watch is available on the city's website.

Litter continues to be a problem in Glen Cove. Most of the litter originates from passing cars. Yes, people actually throw paper, bottles, fast food wrappings, and other items from cars as they drive through our neighborhood(s). LMD staff removes litter from our streets twice weekly and some Glen Cove residents have been seen collecting litter as part of their ritual morning walks.

As you are aware, Glen Cove is located within the Vallejo City limits. We urge residents to become more aware of local issues many of which could have a direct impact on Glen Cove. The city website is a good place to start to learn more about city business.

Please contact your neighborhood representative if you have any suggestions about "anything" as your representative is the best contact point between residents and the Glen Cove Board.

GOT CLUTTER ?

Most of you know you do! Deep down you want to get rid of it, tame it but may be so overwhelmed you do not know where to start. Two recurring obstacles usually include how to dispose of “stuff” and how to keep it from returning!



I am a Glen Cove resident (since 2011) bringing with us all the things we “couldn’t live without” – adding to it our new acquisitions for the house and battling the paper tiger who continued to bring multiple piles of newspapers, junk mail, important mail. Add to that the new things we just “had to have.”

Our immediate “solution”? Get an outside portable building and put all the boxes we filled in it to “sort later”. Recently we replaced a good neighbor fence and the debris was piled high. Cabinets were full, Filing cabinets overflowing, Closets packed. I’d find any empty space like a dog finds a bone and put the “extra things” there.

Our excuse? No time, the rest of our home was clean and important things organized but the bottom line was it hadn’t gotten bad enough and we didn’t have an Action Plan. We also had a difficult time in “letting go”.

At some point you reach the “last straw” and commit to take action. We reached that point when the “extra spaces” disappeared and we were forced to deal with the clutter/trash issue.

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This is what we did and hopefully it will help anyone out there caught in a similar situation.

Our approach:

1. **Made a commitment** to get rid of the clutter and trash, develop a criteria for “keepers”, donations and toss
2. **Created a system** to discourage the situation invading us again.
3. **Created a written Action Plan** that detailed a. Start Date, b. amount of time and amount of boxes to handle each work session. We also wrote down a confidence level of 1-5.
4. **Researched Disposal options** – please see the list of Recology and Code Enforcement references below.
5. **Established a sorting station** that included: a. Big Trash Bag – attached to the table we placed the boxes for easier sorting, b. A box for donations and giveaways, c. A box for “keepers” and d. a marking pen, labels, tape and bubble wrap.

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6. **Pre determined the keeper categories** – i.e. China, legal documents, correspondence, memories, hobby items etc. We then assigned a color to those categories and purchased three high Color Coded roll about – with see through drawers. We used two sizes: 25 ½”H x 12 1/2 W x 14 ¼”D (for regular sized items) and 25 5/8” H x 21 7/8” W x 15 ¼”D 9.99 and 17.00 (respectively at Wal Mart and Target). We put wheels on the base cabinets and stacked the others without wheels.
7. **We also made an inventory** as we went of the “Keepers” for easier future reference.
8. **Disposal Options:**

Donations – your choice – churches, schools, Goodwill, Salvation Army, friends, consignment shops.

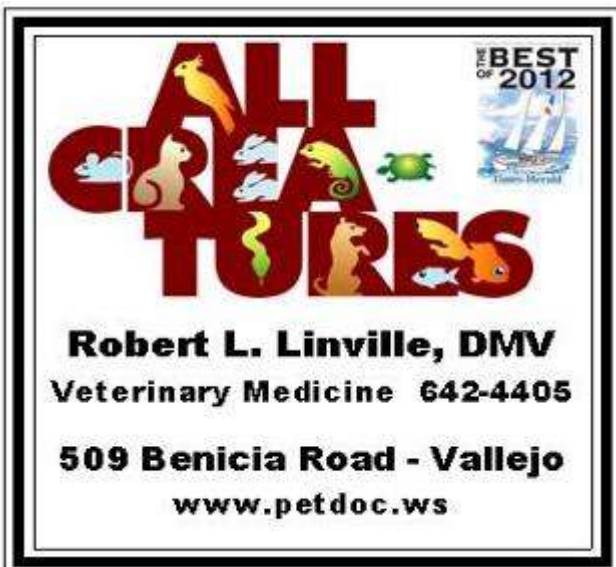
1. **RECOLOGY** Services: 707-552-3110

a. **Bulky Item Collection** –Vallejo Residential customers can schedule up to Bulky Item Collections each calendar year. Call one day before your regular pick up. Two cubic yards (10 - 32 Gallon trash bags. Or large item - Call for clarification)

E-waste may be included. Pick ups may be combined into one – OR you can bring E waster items to the Recology Center 2021 Broadway –Vallejo, Ca.

CALL Recology to confirm acceptable items.

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- b. **PAPER ONLY** – If you have bags of paper you can take them to the Recology Center any Thursday, Friday or Saturday and dispose of it for no charge and no limit. Hours include: 8 Am – 4 PM.
- c. **OIL, PAINT** and other toxic materials can also be taken top the Recology Center. Some can also be picked up at curbside with prior arrangements with Recology.

2. **VALLEJO CODE ENFORCEMENT: 707-646-4469**

They offer the **FREE Dumpster Program** – Vallejo residents can apply once a year – this is what we used!—If you go through Recology it will cost up to \$300.00. The reason for the Recology charge is due to a special contract they have with the city of Vallejo This is a regular – very large dumpster!

So, how did we do? We are not done but the “keepers” are less than 1/3 of the original volume. The trash, fence debris and other things filled the dumpster and it is ALL GONE! Now the trick is not to let too much back in the door. That’s a system requirement and a future article! We feel the relief of the stuff in the dumpster and not on our backs! Sweet relief!! Good luck to you!

Diana Dowling, Glen Cove Resident and GCCA Board Member




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The Flipside of Water Conservation

As you drive around Glen Cove you will see yards that have received varying amounts of irrigation. Some yards have green lawns while others appear to have received no water since the rains ended in the spring. These extremes are cause for concern. Yards in the first group may not be conserving water while those in the second may have gone too far the other way.

I have seen yards in the latter category that have dried weeds growing several feet high. This vegetation is an eyesore and a fire hazard and, if the homeowner is not responsive to gentle suggestions that the weeds be cut down, the yard is referred to the City of Vallejo's weed abatement department.

Yards that receive little or no water are at risk of killing the existing vegetation. Most yards contain shrubbery and trees both of which are at risk under extreme drought conditions. Depending on the species most established trees need some irrigation. Most trees should be watered once or twice per month during the dry season. This can be done by placing a soaker hose under the drip line of the tree (the curve on the ground beneath the outer edge of the canopy) and running water for a couple hours. Since many of the roots are within a foot or so of the surface, this watering should provide the moisture the trees need to stay healthy.

When no water is applied to the lawn most grass species will die and when the rains return weeds will proliferate. To keep the lawn alive and a little green it should be watered once per week. This minimal watering is in line with the goal of a 25 percent water reduction and will keep the grass from dying.

There is hope that the el niño conditions that have been observed will lead to a wetter than normal rainy season this winter. If this happens, water conservation efforts should not be abandoned next year. I intend to continue gradually decreasing the amount of lawn in my yard. When my front yard was redone and the lawn removed, it was done by a contractor using a small bulldozer to remove the turf. We replaced the lawn with small (3/8") rocks and some scattered plants. A downside of what we did is that the rocks are much warmer than a lawn whose grass has a cooling effect on the local environment. Nonetheless, the decrease in water usage was excellent. If lawn conversions are done on a large scale throughout the state, they could contribute to general warming.

Since I wish to decrease the size of my backyard lawn and would prefer not to go to the trouble and expense of renting heavy equipment or hiring another contractor, I have decided to try a different method for converting the lawn into planting beds: sheet mulching.

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Sheet mulching involves covering the chosen area of lawn with cardboard being sure there are no gaps so that light cannot get to the grass. I saved cardboard boxes for several months then pulled them apart so that the flattened sheets covered the ground. I wetted the ground prior to putting down the cardboard then wetted the cardboard thoroughly. Next I covered the area with four to six inches of compost purchased for a nominal fee from the Devlin Road green waste recycling center in American Canyon. (A pick-up truck's worth cost a little over five dollars). Theoretically, the moisture in the soil and in the cardboard is supposed to help microorganisms break down the cardboard and mulch into a fertile mixture for planting. In my case, I began the process in April and applied no water to the compost. The result was that the cardboard and mulch dried out and did not breakdown, however, the grass underneath was killed and subsequent watering began the process of breaking down the cardboard. Since then I rototilled the soil, cardboard, and compost mixture together to create the potential planting bed. (Please note that there are online videos that provide detailed instructions for sheet mulching and that some gardeners suggest that manure, hay, or other substances be added to the mix.)

My next steps will be to provide more soil amendments (like manure), extend the drip irrigation lines onto the new bed, then transplant various potted plants that have been waiting patiently to be put in the ground.

By next year the only lawn that will be left in my yard will be on the shady, north side of the house under some trees. The grass in this area requires much less water than lawn exposed to full sun all day. Perhaps in a few years this remaining small patch of grass will be replaced as well.

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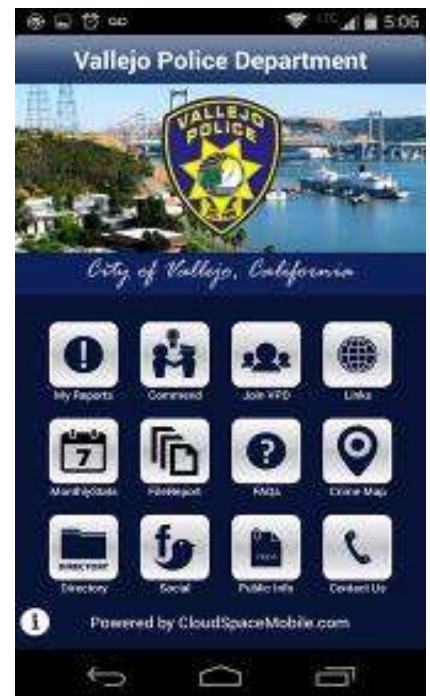
See trash dumped, street light burned out or a city maintenance problem? The SeeClickFix app and website allows you to immediately report the problem, upload a photo and track the response and corrections. The Vallejo Maintenance Dept acknowledges receipt of the issue and adds follow ups or completion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

Next Door is a great way to communicate with your neighbors on crime, happenings, lost pets, and events. The Vallejo Police and Fire Departments frequently use the Next Door boards for announcements, police actions and warnings. App are free for iPhones and Android phones. Website sign up is at NextDoor.com



For Example: Latest update from Neighbors 10/1/15:

Neighbors be aware! A man in a blue-ish colored CTS Cadillac is going door to door asking for money. Says he works at the refinery, his daughter was in an accident and needs gas money. Also is known to say he lives a few doors down and will pay you back. Its been reported he has done this in American Canyon too. If this happens to you, please report it to the police, 911 or online report.



Vallejo Police Department App now available for iPhone and Android devices. Important contact number, online reporting and crime statistics map. The app is free.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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- President, Ron Bowen.....rcbowen@ymail.com. or 415-797-2476
Vice President, John Douglas.....925-285-5873
Treasurer, Bobbi Kahn.....645-0991
Secretary, Maryanne Denay.....557-7480

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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).....Bobbi Kahn 645-0991
Newsletter -Miguel Castillo-GlenCoveVallejo@gmail.com
Website.....Ron Bowen 415-797-2476

VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Cell Phone Emergency..... 552-3285
V.P.D. (non-emergency) 648-4321
VFOG Graffiti Hotline..... 648-4397

CITY OF VALLEJO

- Building Permit Dept 648-4387
City Clerk 648-4527
City Council Members 648-4575
City Manager (Daniel Keen)..... 648-4576
Code Enforcement 648-4469
Landscape Inspector 648-3416
Mayor (Osby Davis)..... 648-4377
Planning Division..... 648-4326
Public Works (Traffic Signals) 648-4300
After Hours 648-4313
Public Works Maintenance 648-4556
Street Lights (burned out) 649-5413
Illegal Garbage Dumping 648-4556

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY & CITY NUMBERS

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

Catch us on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/
GlenCoveVallejo

Or see what is happening in your
neighborhood at:

https://glencovevallejo.nextdoor.com/news_feed/



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



Sailing Into The Evening After the Sunset in Glen Cove
Photo courtesy of resident Eric Dugan. www.EricDuganPhotography.com

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

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT DIGITAL ISSUE: Dec15, 2015

News/Articles Submission & information:

GlenCoveVallejo.com/Newsletter

Ad Submissions & Information:

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

