



VALLEJO HEIGHTS *Neighborhood Association*

Volume 10 Issue 9

September 2015



GENERAL MEETING

Date: September 26
Time: 10 am - 12 noon
Place: Mira Community
Cultural Center
51 Daniels Avenue, Vallejo

Meeting Agenda

10:00 am Welcome!
Treasurers Report
Open Forum
Business Meeting
11:00 am **Refreshment Break**
11:15 am Speaker:
Dan Keen, City Manager
City of Vallejo

VHNA NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Pg 1: Notes from the Board
Pg 2: Coastal Cleanup Day
Business Associates
Pg 3: Why Coastal Cleanup Day
is Important
Pg 4: Upcoming Events
Editor: Patricia Gatz

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Notes from The Board

On Saturday, September 26, 2015 the Vallejo Heights iNeighborhood Association will welcome Dan Keen, City Manager for the City of Vallejo, as the guest speaker for the monthly General Meeting. Since becoming the City Manager in 2012 Mr. Keen has shown a commitment to a policy of open communication and reaching out to Vallejo's residents. There are many challenges and issues to resolve as Vallejo overcomes past difficulties. However, there are also many opportunities that can help Vallejo's improving economy. Please mark your calendars to join VHNA members on September 26, 2015 to meet Mr. Keen and hear his presentation.

Also, September 19, 2015 is the annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCC). Please plan to join the residents of Vallejo to make a difference by participating in this important event. Volunteers on CCC help make the environment cleaner for us and also for the wildlife on land and in the oceans!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patricia Gatz, President
Kathleen O'Sullivan, Vice-President
Michelle Whitney, Secretary
Elaine Paurel, Treasurer
Yolanda Thruston, Member at Large
Andreas Schmidt, Member at Large



Vallejo City Hall



**CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY (CCC)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015
9:00 am to 12 Noon**



Every year, on the third Saturday in September, volunteers come together at various sites throughout California to participate in cleaning up and removing trash and recyclables from California’s beaches, lakes and waterways. This coastal cleanup event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by the Ocean Conservancy, which is the largest volunteer event on the planet!

Across California, the CCC is a partnership between the California Coastal Commission, Whole Foods Market, Rubios, non-profit groups, cities, agencies and counties. Locally, cleanups are made possible through the active participation of the cities and counties of Solano and Yolo, the California Coastal Commission, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, VALCORE Recycling, Recology Vallejo and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District.

So many volunteers join Coastal Cleanup Day events because they want to make beaches, rivers and waterways safe and clean for human use and wildlife habitat. Vast amounts of plastic debris litter the world’s oceans causing great harm to birds, whales, fish and other wildlife. Most of the debris comes from land because trash travels by way of inland waterways, storm drains, sewers, and is carried by the wind to eventually end up on the coast and in the ocean. Beach cleanups are a last line of defense in order to prevent debris from causing harm to our oceans, wildlife, to the coastal economies and to people who want to enjoy waterways.

Last year 66,844 volunteers throughout California picked up a total of 1,190,065 pounds of trash and recyclables. In Vallejo, 732 volunteers picked up more than 14,000 pounds of trash and recyclables. To volunteer in Vallejo, and find a site near you, call (707) 645-8258 or email: info@ValcoreRecycling.org or just show up at 42 Harbor Way for your spot. There will be a free lunch for the volunteers at the Marina on Harbor Way at noontime, after the cleanup.

Information source: Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District Flyer; California Coastal Commission’s Public Education Program

The Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association (VHNA) is proud to feature two VHNA members this month, The Happy Tails Thrift Store is a great place to shop knowing that its revenues help support services for the animals at the Humane Society of the North Bay. George Hale, Hog Island Plumbing Company, provides reliable plumbing service that you can depend on.

**HOG ISLAND
PLUMBING CO.**
EST 1992
George H. Hale II
Owner
P.O. Box 3262
Vallejo, Ca. 94590
Tel: 707-552-6008
CSL # 650256

**HUMANE
Society
of the North Bay**

Balinda Vasquez
Manager
Happy Tails Thrift Store
(707) 980-6182
bvasquez@hsnb.org

Thrift Store Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 5 pm

1825 Springs Rd, Vallejo, CA 94591 • HSNB.org

WHY COASTAL CLEANUP DAY IS IMPORTANT

When we look at the Pacific Ocean it looks clean and beautiful. However, there is an area of concentrated plastic pollution in the middle of the North Pacific gyre called the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch”. This area of plastic debris, as well as other ocean areas around the world, are being studied to determine the effects of plastic trash on seabirds and marine life. Microscopic plastic particles in the ocean can be hard to see on the surface. Plastic trash in the ocean and waterways has been increasing since the 1960s and is a serious threat to birds and marine mammals.

Since 1960 to 2010 the percentage of plastic found in seabirds increased from 5 percent to 80 percent. New research estimates that by 2050 approximately 99 percent of seabirds will be consuming plastic. Birds have been found with ingested plastics such as twine, Styrofoam and candy wrappers, plastic pellets, etc. in their stomachs. In addition to being toxic, plastic interferes with a bird’s ability to assimilate food and can puncture internal organs leading to death. Birds mistake plastic items for food and swallow them by accident. Plastic debris washes into the ocean from waste deposits, rivers and sewers.

TOP TEN TRASH ITEMS 1989-2014

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| #1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters | 37.76% |
| #2. Food Wrappers/Containers | 10.48% |
| #3. Caps/Lids | 8.74% |
| #4. Bags (paper and plastic) | 7.90% |
| #5. Cups/Plates/Utensils | 5.48% |
| #6. Straws/Stirrers | 3.98% |
| #7. Glass Beverage Bottles | 3.24% |
| #8. Plastic Beverage Bottles | 2.57% |
| #9. Beverage Cans | 2.46% |
| #10. Construction Material | 1.79% |



Coastal Cleanup Day (CCC), Saturday, September 19, 2015 is our opportunity to prevent plastic trash and other debris from winding up in the ocean and endangering the creatures that rely on the ocean for food and habitat. Take time to volunteer and help reduce the amount of trash and litter going into oceans. Each plastic water bottle can take 450 years to decompose. Fishing lines and nets can take up to 600 years to decompose. Plastic bags or balloons in the ocean are dangerous (a sea turtle can mistake them for a jellyfish meal). On CCC you can help make the ocean a cleaner, safer habitat for seabirds and marine life.

Information source: Monterey Bay Aquarium news; “How Plastics Affect Birds”–International Bird Rescue; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO); California Coastal Commission

According to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, globally, up to one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year from eating plastic. Nearly 200 pieces of plastic were found in a single seabird.

What you can do to help reduce litter:

- Reduce use of disposable plastic products
- Reuse and recycle when possible
- Pick up litter and place in waste container.
- Use cloth grocery bags instead of plastic bags.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VALLEJO WATERFRONT WEEKEND OCTOBER 3-4 2015

Events:

- Chili Cookoff
- Whaleboat Regatta
- Celebrity Dunk Tank
- Classic Car Show
- Waterfront Glow Run
- GVRD Children's Carnival
- Waterfront Kayak Feast
- Trolls Under the Bridge
- Bridge to Bridge Triathlon
- Mira Gala (October 2, 2015)

For event information:

waterfrontweekend.com



IRISH CEILEIDH

*Irish Folk Music Played by the
Irish Band*

"BLAME THE WHISKEY"

at

THE HUB

**350 GEORGIA STREET
VALLEJO**

Join the fun & dance a jig!
Saturday, September 19, 2015
2 pm to 5 pm
Suggested donation: \$10



SOLANO LAND TRUST HIKE to see EAGLES, HAWKS & RAPTORS at LYNCH CANYON

Date: Sunday, September 20
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Cost: \$10 upon registration &
\$6 parking

Learn about raptors, how to
identify them, how they fly
and their habitats

More information on the hike
at: solanolandtrust.org



Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association

PO Box 4243

Vallejo, CA 94590

Next VHNA General Meeting: September 26, 2015 from 10 am to 12 noon
Mira Community Cultural Center, 51 Daniels Avenue in Vallejo