



VALLEJO HEIGHTS *Neighborhood Association*

Volume 10 Issue 10

October 2015



GENERAL MEETING

Date: October 24, 2015

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:
- Sgt. Brenton Garrick,
Community Engagement
Officer, City of Vallejo

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- Editor: Patricia Gatz

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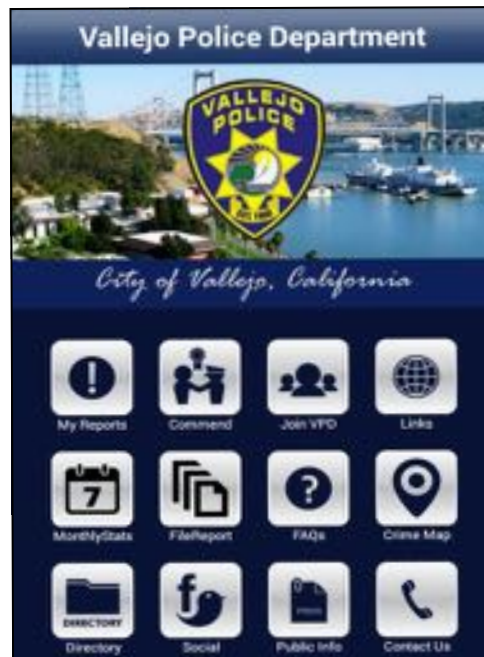


Notes from The Board

On Saturday, October 24, 2015 the Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association (VHNA) will welcome Sergeant Brenton Garrick, Community Engagement Officer for the City of Vallejo, as the guest speaker for the monthly General Meeting. Sergeant Garrick was assigned to this new position when it was created earlier this year to enhance communications between citizens and the Vallejo Police Department (VPD).

The VHNA meeting will be held at the Mira Community Cultural Center, 51 Daniels Avenue in Vallejo from 10 am to Noon. Refreshments and Moschetti Coffee will be provided by the VHNA and its members.

Please mark your calendars to join VHNA members on October 24, 2015 to meet Sergeant Garrick. His presentation will include information on the VPD mobile application for smart phones, the monthly Crime Statistics report, "Coffee with the Cops" and other VPD outreach efforts.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS-VHNA

- 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 Police Department Mobile App

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING
CYCLE 3**

The City of Vallejo has announced the launch of Cycle 3 Voting Expos! From Saturday, October 24 to Monday, November 2, all Vallejo residents, over the age of 16, including those living in the unincorporated areas, will have the opportunity to vote on community projects totaling up to \$1 million. Expos will launch on October 24 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the Waterfront Green. At the Expo, residents will have the opportunity to vote on projects on the ballot, interact with Budget Delegates, visit community booths and enjoy great food and music.



For the first time, Vallejo residents will have the opportunity to vote on line! Register to vote online or in person by texting "VOTE" to (707) 998-5686 OR "VOTAR " to (707) 981-0124 for Spanish.

LEARN ABOUT THE PROJECTS AND VOTE HERE:

- Saturday, October 24 from 12 noon to 4 pm at the waterfront under the tent north of the Ferry Terminal
- Tuesday, October 27 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Norman King Center, 545 Magazine Street
- Thursday, October 29 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Hogan Middle School Gym, 850 Rosewood Avenue

EVERY WEEKDAY

- Monday, October 26 thru Monday, November 2 from 12 noon to 7 pm at Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street
- To view projects on the ballot or find a polling place call (707) 648-4577 or visit www.pbvallejo.org

The Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association (VHNA) is proud to feature two VHNA Business Associate members this month. S & P Mechanical provides reliable and professional service. O'Connor Lumber and Ace Hardware is the place to find the items needed for home projects, etc.

MECHANICAL

PRECISION SHEET METAL - HVAC INSTALLATION & SERVICE

PAUL WHITNEY
PH. 707.334.0201

S & P

PMB 208
3505 SONOMA BLVD. STE. 20
VALLEJO, CA 94590

FAX 707.652.2048
Contractors License 8915196

O'Connor Lumber & Ace Hardware
4310 Sonoma Boulevard
Vallejo, CA 94589
Phone: (707) 642-8921
Fax: (707) 642-8219
E-mail: oconnorlumber@sbcglobal.net
www.acehardwareoconnor.com

Joe Pierre
Owner

CASING

Casing is the most common way for a burglar to determine if a house or business is unoccupied. This is also likely to be the number one unreported suspicious activity.

Casing is when a burglar looks for the “perfect house” to rob, carefully examines the surroundings and then plans for potential entry. The perfect house will appear that no one will be returning soon, often in a quiet neighborhood, where there is little activity with no one outside who can identify them or report their activity.

If someone knocks on your door, always make sure to acknowledge them. You do not need to answer your door but you should make noise, turn on a TV, or radio, tell the person through the closed door that you are not interested. NEVER sit quietly inside waiting for them to leave.

The sign your home is being cased may be subtle and require you to be observant. Here are the top 5 indicators your home may be targeted by a burglar:

- **Strange Vehicle on the Street:** an unknown vehicle outside your home could be a warning sign. Look for vehicles that don't belong to your neighbors, vehicles with people lingering in the area for no apparent reason, or a vehicle parked for an extended period of time with someone sitting in it that may shield their face as you walk or drive by. This could be an indication that someone is trying to learn your routine or determine the best time to break in.
- **Strangers Walking the Neighborhood:** An individual exercising vs. a stranger casing your neighborhood is very different. If someone is walking through your neighborhood who you do not recognize and does not appear to be exercising, take a moment to observe what they are doing. If they are talking on their cell phone, and seem to be watching the activity in the neighborhood while walking up and down the street, they could be determining the best house to burglarize.
- **Stranger Requesting Help:** Often a potential burglar will request help or ask questions to gain information or access to your home, such as: Can I use your phone? Have you seen my lost pet? Can I use your bathroom? Can I have a glass of water? They could also be knocking on your door to determine if the home is unoccupied and use one of these excuses if you answer the door.

DO NOT give a stranger access to your home. Burglars will often use a legitimate sounding request to get inside then unlatch a door or window, or try to make mental notes of the layout of your home in order to rob it when they return. Always close and lock your door behind you so that the person cannot enter and view your home.

- **Workers that Recently Performed Work at Your Home:** It is not uncommon for burglars to have a job that allows them to gain access to people's homes. Whatever the occupation it gives them access to a variety of homes and helps them determine the best possible targets. After having repairs done in your home or new equipment installed be on alert if a service person returns to your home without reason.
- **Posing as a Solicitor:** Suspects casing will often pose as a utility worker, alarm company rep, newspaper salesman, students, fundraisers, or magazine sales. Solicitors in the City of Vallejo are REQUIRED to obtain a Peddlers Permit and wear it around their necks on a lanyard.

The following are things you can do to help prevent your home from becoming targeted by a burglar.

- Be observant of your surroundings
- Keep your home secure by installing a monitored security system with an external siren
- Secure windows and doors with bars, sticks and dowels, as well as replacing the screws in your doors strike plate with 3-5 inch screws to bite into the actual 2X4 frame
- Establishing a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood
- Plant bushes that have thorns, and that will not grow over 3 feet tall, under windows to deter entry
- Install LED lighting around the home to light up any dark spaces at night and eliminate shadows where intruders can hide
- Install motion sensor lighting above garage doors, driveways and back yards to alert you when an unwanted guest is outside

(Article provided by Tina Encarnacion, Police Assistant, Community Services Section, Vallejo Police Department)

UPCOMING EVENTS

VALLEJO NAVAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM 734 Marin Street, Vallejo

CELEBRATE VALLEJO 2015: LUCKY 13

- Buffet Dinner
- Complimentary Cocktails
- Raffle
- Silent and Live Auctions

Tickets are \$35 prior to October 31 and \$40 after October 31 and at the door. For information: 707.643.0077

www.vallejomuseum.org



VISIONS OF THE WILD 2015

OCTOBER 15TH TO 18TH DOWNTOWN VALLEJO

The City of Vallejo sits at the confluence of two rivers and on the edge of hundreds of acres of restored wetlands. In this era of climate change and drought, the festival will explore water from a wide range of perspectives.

FOR EVENT INFORMATION GO TO:
VISIONSOFTHEWILD.ORG



LOMA VISTA FARM HARVEST FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
11 AM TO 4 PM
150 RAINIER AVE.-VALLEJO

FREE Admission
Activity Tickets are 50 cents

- Buy Pumpkins
- Food and Farmware
- Plants for sale
- Make a Pumpkin Face
- Make Cornhusk Dolls



Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association

PO Box 4243

Vallejo, CA 94590

Next VHNA General Meeting: October 24, 2015 from 10 am to 12 noon
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