

City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report
Volume 1, Issue 14, April 26, 2013

Daniel E. Keen, City Manager



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Measure B Quarterly Report

Issue 2 of the [Measure B Quarterly Report](#) was released today. The publication is a series of reports that provides information about current and upcoming Measure B funded projects. It is intended to enhance transparency in our communications with residents and businesspersons, and stimulate community participation.

The voter-approved Measure B is a one percent sales tax to enhance City of Vallejo services, approved by voters on November 8, 2011. Measure B funds are used to solve both resident and City Council identified issues and concerns within the City of Vallejo. It is estimated that Measure B will raise approximately \$9.8 million per year. The measure will expire after ten years on March 31, 2022. Measure B funds are budgeted as part of the annual budget approval process by City Council. The budget allocation in FY 2012-13 was approved on June 26, 2012.

Muller Street Update

Neighborhood Law Attorney Ryan Griffith, along with Police and Code Enforcement officers, executed an inspection and abatement warrant for 11 Muller Street after repeat warnings were given to the property owner, occupants, and Bank of America. Using the warrant, the Police Officers secured the property allowing the Fire department, Code Enforcement Officers and Building Inspectors to conduct an inspection. After the examination, inspectors found numerous violations at which time the Neighborhood Law Program posted the appropriate legal notices on the property. As a result, the building is currently uninhabitable for health and safety reasons and the only people allowed on the property are those making repairs.

Administrators cannot officially confirm if the occupants were squatting, but substantial issues existed at 11 Muller. Currently, Bank of America is installing a state-of-the-art security system, called Secureview, at their own expense in an attempt to keep potential trespassers out.

New Hire

The department welcomes Anne Putney as the new Housing and Community Development Program Manager who began employment on March 25. Anne has a Bachelor's degree in Management from St. Mary's College and comes to us from the City of Vacaville, where she worked with the Department of Housing and Redevelopment for

17 years. She has experience managing a variety of housing programs and the department is pleased to have her bring this experience to the City of Vallejo.

Temple Art Lofts

[Temple Art Lofts](#), the housing development geared towards artists in Vallejo's Arts and Entertainment District, has received a temporary certificate of occupancy and has several residents in place. More applications are in process for both the residential and retail units. This project prevented the historic 1917 Vallejo Masonic Temple and the 1864 Vallejo City Hall from foreclosure and crafted an environment promoting artistic creativity.

Future Agenda Items List

The Future's List is used exclusively by City staff as a draft working document for planning and tentative scheduling of agenda related items and does not represent any final dates for placement and presentation to the legislative body (City Council, Housing Authority and/or Successor Agency). The list provided is an abbreviated version including only the most significant policy and action items. The list is subject to change by staff and may not represent all items that eventually will appear on any given final meeting agenda. Follow this link to view the [Future's List](#).

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Neighborhood Law Program

The department continues implementation of the Neighborhood Law Program (NLP). During the last two weeks, NLP attorneys have sent 30 pre-nuisance letters, and have received responses from 10 property owners. Please visit the Neighborhood Law Program [website](#) to review the Action List. Attorneys are working with those owners and addressing the nuisance conditions on their properties. A case is deemed "complete" when the property owner(s) sign the NLP Final Understanding and Agreement, putting in writing how the owner will maintain their property going forward.

The NLP had one such agreement signed in the last week, but is currently negotiating terms on four more. In addition, the NLP began taking steps to appoint a receiver for an abandoned and blighted property in which the owner is deceased. The NLP continues its community outreach, attending regular meetings with Fighting Back, and recently presented to the Solano Association of Realtors.

Recognition

The La Raza Lawyers Association of Solano (LRLAS) will be honoring City Attorney Claudia Quintana with an Achievement Award during its Annual Scholarship Dinner.

In addition to the 5-6 scholarships being awarded to high school seniors seeking higher education, the LRLAS will present Claudia the award in recognition of her contributions to the profession and to Solano County.

The award ceremony, which is attended by local judges and lawyers, will be at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum on Wednesday, May 15.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Hire

The Economic Development Department welcomes its new Interim Director, Dan Marks. Dan is a veteran of the community development and planning profession, with more than 23 years of experience as a local government planner. He recently retired from the City of Berkeley, where he was the Director of the Planning and Development Department.

Marijuana Dispensary Moratorium

During the April 23 meeting, the City Council unanimously (6-0, 1 absent) voted to adopt a [45-day moratorium](#) on the issuance of new business tax certificates associated with medical marijuana dispensaries in the City of Vallejo.

Currently, the City does not regulate the location or operation of medical marijuana dispensaries. The moratorium will temporarily prohibit the establishment of dispensaries within the City, allowing staff to research and prepare regulations that will ensure dispensaries are located in areas that are appropriate for the type of use, operated in a lawful manner, and minimize any potential negative impacts. The process will allow for public input. During the May 28 meeting, a status report on a dispensary ordinance will be provided to the City Council and a time extension will be recommended.

Solano360

The department will hold a [public hearing](#) to consider the land use entitlements associated with the Solano360 Project on Monday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The Planning Commission also plans to make a decision on the proposed Tentative Map associated with the Project.

The Project involves redevelopment of the 149-acre Solano County Fairgrounds site which includes the creation of a "Fair of the Future" by improving the existing fair grounds. The development of commercial and entertainment uses will create a thematic entertainment district that caters to specialty activities not found within the City of Vallejo or the greater region.

Statistics

April 8 to April 19, the following inquiries were processed:

- 43 Business License sign-offs
- 32 Planning application questions
- 31 Zoning questions
- 30 General property inquiries
- 21 Building Permit application reviews/sign-offs
- 10 Code Enforcement complaints

- 10 Miscellaneous requests
- The department closed 1 case for zoning violations.

In addition, the department sent out 3 public notices to approximately 344 property owners/organizations announcing upcoming meetings and proposed decisions on administrative permits.

FIRE

New Hire

The Fire Department welcomes its new Interim Fire Chief, Ron Prince, who comes to Vallejo most recently from the City of Stockton. Ron has more than 34 years of experience in the fire service, having served as Fire Chief for three communities: Prescott, Arizona, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara.

POLICE

Personnel

On Tuesday, April 23, the recruiting team conducted entry level police officer interviews at the Napa Academy. There are three lateral police officer candidates in the background investigations stage.

The department is reviewing applications submitted to H.R. as it prepares for lateral and entry level police officer interviews.

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

On Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the department will be assisting with a [Prescription Drug Take-Back](#) with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Citizens may drop off their unused prescription drugs for proper disposal at the lobby of the Police Department.

By emptying their medicine cabinets of unwanted and expired prescription drugs, citizens can help keep potentially dangerous prescription drugs out of the hands of children and those that would abuse those drugs. Additionally, it helps keep the environment and drinking water safe and clean, as often times drugs are disposed of down the drain.

DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint

The Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint on Friday April 26, at an undisclosed location within the city limits between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to midnight.

Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Officers will also check drivers for proper licensing and will strive to delay motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of impaired driving. Those caught driving im-

paired can expect jail, license suspension, and increases to insurance, as well as fines, DUI classes, and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Awards and Recognition Luncheon

On Thursday, April 18, the department held its annual awards and recognition luncheon at the USA World Classics Event Center at 1525 Sonoma Boulevard in Vallejo. During the event, Chief Kreins welcomed new employees and congratulated those who were recently promoted. Among the recognitions:

- Two Vallejo citizens: Tina Encarnacion and Manuel “Manny” Miranda . Encarnacion received a Certificate of Commendation for her work in the Carriage Oaks community (photo below - left); “Manny” received a Certificate of Merit for his support of VPD personnel (photo below - right).



- Kenny Ross of TEAM Chevrolet, Sam and Phil Kukuza of Bob’s Tow, and Mat Mustard of the VPOA were recognized for contributing to the 2012 Police Unity Bicycle Tour, a national event where Vallejo Police Officers represent the Vallejo Police Department in Washington D.C.
- Officer George Simpson and Officer Mark Thompson both earned the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award for making numerous driving arrests.
- Carmen Williams and Denise Sobiek were recognized for Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and 2012, respectively (photo below - left).
- Communications Operator Roberta Sonntag was recognized as the 2012 Communications Operator of the Year (photo below - right).



- Executive Secretary Shellyne Darst was recognized as the 2012 Civilian of the Year.

- Three Corporals, 11 Officers and one Police Assistant received the “10851” Award for recovering stolen vehicles.
- Three Sergeants, three Corporals, and 14 Officers received the “12025” Award for their work in making arrests and getting guns off of the streets.
- The Chief also awarded the following medals: three Good Conduct Medals, one Medal of Merit, two Life Saving Medals, four Medals of Courage, and one Medal of Valor.
- Sergeant Brett Clark was recognized as the 2012 Officer of the Year.

PUBLIC WORKS

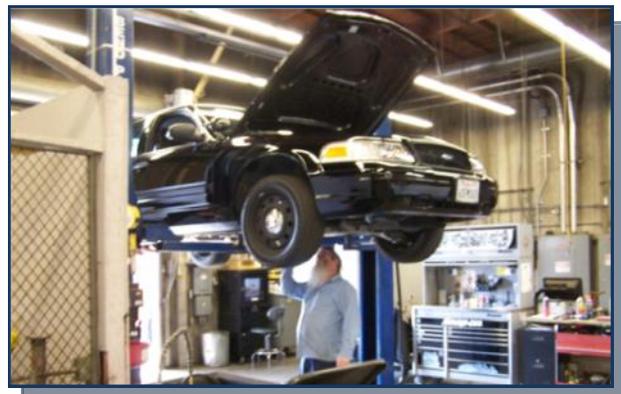
Public Works Week

The department will be celebrating Public Works Week May 19-23, with exhibits and displays at the Corporation Yard and tours of the Water Treatment Plant at Fleming Hill. Events will include an open house for the public on Sunday, May 19, a day of field trip visits from local elementary school students on Monday, May 20, and will culminate with an Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, May 21.



The Street Section will have several pieces of equipment on display: the asphalt grinder, paver, roller, patch truck and a street sweeper. A booth will be on display for the duration of the event with pictures of different the various jobs the crew has completed throughout the year. Street sweeper schedules will be available, and there will be a sign in sheet for residents to report potholes and other street issues. On Monday, the school children will have an opportunity to rake asphalt into a pothole in conjunction with a demonstration of how the street crews repair City streets.

The three branches of the Water Section will be working together again to build and display a mini water system.



Earth Day 2013

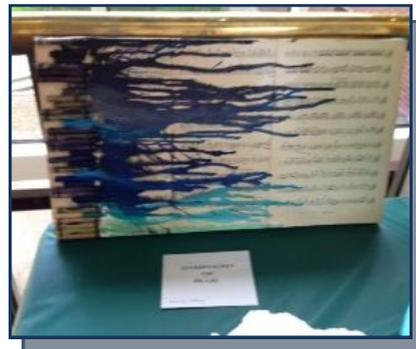
Department staff helped celebrate Earth Day 2013 by hosting public information and demonstration booths at the Vallejo Farmer's Market held on Saturday, April 20. The City's Recycling and Drinking Water Conservation Programs were highlighted as local residents gathered to receive the latest news in environmental consciousness. Information was available on a variety of subjects, including rebates available to all Vallejo water customers who purchase certain high efficiency home appliances, hazardous waste disposal, and yard waste management. City employees have been a part of similar Earth Day festivities for more than a decade.

3rd Annual Recycled Sculpture and Art Contest

In conjunction with the Earth Day event, the Recycling and Solid Waste Division announced the winners of the 3rd Annual Recycled Sculpture and Art Contest. Susan Redden was selected the winner for her piece, "Fishy Business" and was awarded the grand prize of \$1,000. Her entry was made from paper mache, yarn scraps, buttons, widowed earrings, broken Christmas ornaments, paper holes, wine carafe, can tabs, fishing hooks and various other reusable items. Her piece displayed a very creative use of reusable materials.



This year, the City opted for three categories (Adult, Junior and Elementary) to encourage younger artists to participate and have a better chance of winning. Myellino Vergara, a Vallejo High student, won the Juniors category (\$100), for his piece, "Water Fall", which was made out of stacked pieces of carved cardboard and a reused water bottle. Bethany Danto, age 6, won first place (\$100) for her piece, "Symphony of Blue." All of these pieces of art are currently on display in the second floor lobby of City Hall,



along with several other pieces of art that were entered into the contest. There were a total of forty entries this year. The contest was used as an educational tool to stress the importance of the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycling), all art work had to be fabricated from 100 percent found, reused, and/or recyclable materials.

Recycling Assemblies

In honor of Earth Day, the Recycling Division sponsored free recycling assemblies for the Vallejo City Unified School District elementary schools. The City retained the services of "Timothy Wenk Magic of Recycling" and "Caterpillar Puppets" to give a combined total of 30 assemblies during the month of April.



The Caterpillar Puppet performed for children in kindergarten through second grade, and the Timothy Wenk Magic Show performed for third through sixth graders. Both assemblies were fun, fast paced and taught students the importance of being good stewards of the environment, and the importance of recycling and litter reduction.

The award-winning Timothy Wenk Magic of Recycling received the Recycling Coalition Award for Outstanding Public Education. The California Department of Resource, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has sponsored Caterpillar Puppets shows for several counties throughout California.

Landscape Workshops

Vallejo residents filled the room at the Florence Douglas Senior Center on April 22 to take part in the first of three "2013 Water-Wise Landscape Training Workshops" sponsored by the Public Works Department Water Conservation Program. Each session is two hours in length and covers a variety of residential landscape topics, including soil amendments, mulching, composting, drip irrigation, and drought tolerant plant selection. This is the eighth consecutive year that these instructional water-saving seminars have been offered to Vallejo's residential water community. Water Administration staff member Lori Grover, who has been associated with the program since its inception in 2006, said there are approximately 60 customers who attend each session. For infor-

mation on future workshops and other water conservation program offerings, call Roger Judy at 648-5299 or visit their [website](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Beautification Advisory and Code Enforcement Commission

Monday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Planning Conference Room, 2nd Floor

2013 Water Wise Landscaping Workshops - Irrigation Design - [link](#)

Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador Street

Special Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Special City Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Public Workshop - Downtown Parking Management Plan

Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Marina Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. in the Public Works Conference Room, 4th Floor

Housing & Redevelopment Commission (HRC) - **CANCELLED**

Thursday, May 2

2013 Water Wise Landscaping Workshops - Water-Wise Plant Selection - [link](#)

Monday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador Street

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. location to be determined

Economic Vitality Commission

Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

[City of Vallejo Communications Sign-up](#)

[City of Vallejo Facebook Page](#)

[Open City Hall](#)

[Nextdoor](#)