



November 13, 2012 (Issue 51)

## Agencies and Citizens Partner to Beautify Vallejo

The City of Vallejo has teamed up with the California Department of Transportation ([Caltrans](#)), Vallejo City Unified School District, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, the California Maritime Academy and Greater Vallejo Recreation District, along with members of the community, to clean up the entry corridors throughout Vallejo. Caltrans has been an important and enthusiastic partner in this initial effort as many of Vallejo's corridors are along State of California right of ways.



On October 19th starting with the Southeast corner of Sonoma Boulevard, moving north toward Lemon Street, the clean up team cleared weeds, removed trash, cleaned up garbage and debris from the drain inlets and cut down overgrown vegetation to make the entry corridor look more appealing. Caltrans will be heading the clean up at the northern City entry corridor of Sonoma Boulevard, moving south toward Lemon Street. The entry corridor cleanup began on October and will continue in the upcoming months moving to other Vallejo corridors.

A number of community members have also embraced improving the beauty of Vallejo through volunteer cleanups. One group called [We Care About Vallejo](#) has staged recent volunteer cleanups. Visible improvements have been made to Sonoma Boulevard, Tennessee Street and Admiral Callaghan Lane. The group is currently considering future projects.

The [Vallejo Watershed Alliance](#) also has a clean up planned for November 17th at Hanns Park. The alliance is a partnership of public agencies and interested individuals working together to improve the greater Vallejo watershed. The group raises awareness, creates local partnerships and promotes sustainable management of Vallejo's watersheds.

## Citizens Get Involved in Participatory Budgeting

The City of Vallejo has introduced a new communicative interactive program for the community called [Participatory Budgeting](#). These community assemblies are being held across the city where residents and stakeholders will be educated about general Participatory Budgeting, Vallejo, the City's budget and the process by which they will help decide how to spend approximately \$3.2 million dollars.



The first two Participatory Budgeting Assemblies were successful. On October 30th, more than 100 residents voiced their opinions at the Vallejo Adult School. On November 1st, the Florence Douglas Senior Center had more than 90 seniors contribute their thoughts. Assembly participants have been very enthusiastic about the process and have represented Vallejo's broad diversity in terms of age, race, ethnicity and language.

Project recommendations range from youth after-school programs and sporting facilities, additional police officers and school security systems, to reviving the Vallejo Blues Festival and doggie bag dispensers. In addition, a quarter of participants applied to be budget delegates for the proposal phase, scheduled to begin in December.

For more information about upcoming assemblies and to get involved [click here](#).

## Empress Theater Continues to Enliven Vallejo

The [Empress Theatre](#) has been alive with entertainment this past year and has a number of exciting upcoming events. Most recently, the Empress has been recognized for its new hit, the Wednesday Night Ramble. The mid-week event has gone from once a month to sometimes up to three rambles in one month. The Empress also recently hosted a CD release for BeaufunK and a documentary showing of "The Wrecking Crew" with a Q&A with the filmmaker.

The Wednesday Night Ramble returns on November 21st featuring Don Basse and the North Bay All Stars, with special guests Mark McGee and Nicole Sutton of Luvplanet. The Ramble is a musical gathering of friends and has developed a growing following. "The Wednesday Night Ramble is a flat out treasure. I finally made it to the art-deco wonder that is The Empress Theater in downtown Vallejo, and was blown away. By the venue, and the amazing musicianship on display. Some of the best Bay Area talent getting together to just play" were the comments from one recent Ramble fan.



Additionally, on Tuesday November 27th, the Empress Theatre will host the Superstorm Sandy Blues Benefit from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. General admission is \$20 and the proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross to support the disaster caused by Hurricane Sandy. Bands include Avlon Johnson & Friends, Daniel Castro, Maria Muldaur, Mitch Woods, The Hound Kings, and the Hurricane Relief Band. Additional musicians include David London, Greg Heumann, Paul Revelli, Steve Freund and Vince Caminiti. This is an official Red Cross Fundraiser.

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## Touro University Hosts Annual Mare Island 5K Run

The 6th Annual [Touro University California Mare Island 5K Run/Walk](#) will take place on Sunday, November 18th. The event will run around the island with a start and finish in the lower main parking lot of Touro University.

The event is another example of Touro's commitment to contribute to the Vallejo community. The race will support the [Greater Vallejo Recreation District \(GVRD\)](#) and [Fighting Back Partnership](#). During the past four races, Touro University has had nearly 1,000 total event participants and donated more than \$9,000 to the two organizations. This year, Touro's goal is to raise at least \$10,000 to help fund valuable activities for the families and children involved with GVRD and Fighting Back.

In addition to raising funds, Touro's other main objective is to promote health and fitness in the Vallejo community. The promotion of healthy lives and physical fitness is a shared goal of GVRD, Fighting Back Partnership and Touro University.

The entry fee for the race is \$35 and \$15 for Touro students (with Student ID at check in). Children under 7 years of age participating are free. Additional donations are also accepted. The race location is 1310 Club Drive in Vallejo. Race will begin at 9 a.m. and will run rain or shine. For application details [click here](#).

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