

City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report
Volume 1, Issue 22, August 16, 2013

Daniel E. Keen, City Manager



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Vallejo General Municipal Election

The nomination period for the offices of members of the City Council ended at 5:15 p.m., August 14. The following persons have been nominated for the offices mentioned below, to be filled at the general municipal election to be held in the City of Vallejo on Tuesday, November 5. Nominees are listed in the order that their names will appear on the ballot.

Members of the City Council

Short Term Seat (2 Years)
(vote for no more than one)

Joanne Schivley
Rozzana Verder-Aliga
Ronald J. Johnson, Jr.

Members of the City Council

Full Term Seats (4 Years)
(vote for no more than three)

Anthony "Tony" Summers
Pippin Dew
Tony Mapalo
Jess Malgapo
Liat F. Meitzenheimer
Katy Miessner
Herman Woody Blackwell
Chris Platzer

Additional information about the General Municipal Election, including Measure E (charter amendment), is available on the City's [website](#) through November 2013.

Contact: [Dawn G. Abrahamson](#), MMC
City Clerk
(707) 648-4528

Smart Team

Michelle Hightower, Senior Planner, provided the team an update of the City's Downtown Action Plan. The collaborative efforts of various City Departments have resulted in the completion of resident and business prioritized objectives, including:

- Redefined fast-food restaurants to permit smaller establishments without a Planning Permit
- Initiating the Neighborhood Law Program that targets clean-up of blighted proper-

ties and engages landlords to remove blighted conditions

- Implemented the annual volunteer clean-up days for City staff and the community
- Created diagonal parking on Georgia from Sonoma Boulevard to Sutter Street as part of the Complete Streets Program
- Increased distribution of the City's newsletter and enhanced the City's website
- Created the Central Permit Center 1-day processing for over-the-counter permits
- Worked with the Downtown Action Committee on developing an annual arts event

Next steps of the Downtown Action Plan include further progress on plan objectives with a focus on economic development, public safety, code enforcement property maintenance, homelessness issues, increasing social media access, and a Downtown Action Plan Update presentation to the City Council.

Smart Team members from the Police Department, Building Division, Code Enforcement Division, Planning Division and Animal Control Services will conduct scheduled site visits to flagged properties of alleged drug activity, dangerous dogs, property maintenance violations, illegal business, substandard living conditions and other zoning violation activity.

Traffic Calming Public Meetings

The City of Vallejo has evaluated the City Park, Country Club Crest and South Vallejo neighborhoods for the implementation of traffic calming. The purpose of traffic calming is to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety, decrease vehicular speeds and to generally increase quality of life for the residents. Speeding and unsafe driving practices on residential streets are a concern to residents and to the City of Vallejo. Excessive speeds jeopardize both the safety and "livability" of Vallejo's neighborhoods. The project is funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

The City previously held neighborhood meetings to gather feedback. With resident input and a neighborhood evaluation, a proposed traffic calming plan was developed and will be presented at three public meetings:

- [Country Club Crest Neighborhood](#): Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at North Vallejo Community Center, corner of Whitney Avenue and Fairgrounds Drive
- [South Vallejo Neighborhood](#): Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church, 900 6th Street
- [City Park Neighborhood](#): Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Vinnie's Culture Club, 930 Marin Street

All residents, within the three traffic calming areas are encouraged to attend. The City's contact for the project is [Marty Hanneman](#), Interim Traffic Engineer, (707) 648-4300.



PG&E Former Vallejo Manufactured Gas Plant Project

During the period of July 29 through August 16, the following work was completed for the PG&E former Vallejo manufactured gas plant investigation project:

- Drilled soil borings on Big Bay Boat and RV Storage parcel
- Drill soil borings in Mono Street
- Finish sampling existing groundwater monitoring wells, including wells at the public boat launch facility and Brinkman's Marine
- Drill soil borings on First Capitol Auction parcel

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

Abatements

Neighborhood Law Program (NLP) Attorneys have completed the abatement of nuisances at the following properties:

- 15 La Cienega Place
- 75 Ventura Street
- 40 Carroll Street

NLP Attorneys expect similar results will be achieved within the next month at other nuisance properties:

- 1017 Western Avenue
- 742 Indiana Street
- 148 Plov Way

NLP Attorneys are working with the following properties to abate nuisances and help improve the quality of life in several neighborhoods:

- 814 Carolina Street
- 317 Carolina Street

Demolition

NLP Attorney, Ryan Griffith, will present to the City Council for consideration at the meeting on Tuesday, August 27 an Ordinance requesting Chapter 12.06 of the Vallejo Municipal Code be amended to streamline the process of demolishing Dangerous Buildings.



Receivership Program

NLP Attorneys will have their first receivership trial on Monday, August 19, to appoint a receiver for blighted property located at 907 Falcon Drive. NLP Attorneys are hopeful that with the appointment of a receiver, the property will be rehabilitated and brought into compliance with municipal and building codes.

NLP Attorneys met with the Building Department and Fire Prevention to discuss the best practices to initiate receivership litigation at the properties located at 618-620 Branciforte Street, 150 Farragut Avenue and 426 Capitol Street.

Nextdoor

The NLP is on [Nextdoor](#) and will provide periodic updates about abatement activity in Vallejo and answer questions related to their activities. Residents are encouraged to join the private social network to stay in touch with their neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Planning Division

Statistics

During the month of July, the Division approved the following requests:

Sign Permits	2
Public Notice applications for additions to single family homes	2
Administrative permit for a taco truck	1
Certificate of Appropriateness for a historic property	1
Site Development permit for an ambulance facility	1

During the period of July 29 through August 9, the following inquiries were processed:

Business License sign-offs	42
Planning application questions	24
General property inquiries	34
Zoning questions	37
Building Permit application reviews/sign-offs	29
Code Enforcement complaints	11
Miscellaneous requests	3

In addition, three public notices were sent to approximately 50 property owners and organizations announcing upcoming meetings and proposed decisions on Planning permits.

Building Division

The Habit Burger Grill: Habit Burger, located at 118 Plaza Drive, has an expected opening date of Wednesday, August 21. They have been issued a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy dated August 8.

Subway Sandwich Shop: A permit was issued on August 8, for a tenant improvement to convert the space to a Subway Restaurant located at 1717 Sonoma Boulevard. The valuation for this project is \$96,000.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Retirements

Engineer Todd Swanson

Engineer Swanson retired on Wednesday, June 26, after 33 years of dedicated service in fire service. Swanson began his fire career as a Cadet with the City of Vallejo from 1980 to 1983 and as a seasonal firefighter with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection from 1984 to 1985. In 1986, he was hired as a full-time firefighter with the City of Vallejo. Swanson has served in several positions and assignments, including: Journeyman Firefighter, Engineer on the Truck Company, and Fire Prevention Inspector. Swanson's plan for retirement includes continuing to coach baseball at a local high school in Napa as he has done for the last 8 years.

Battalion Chief Ray Jackson

Battalion Chief Jackson will retire on Wednesday, August 21, after 27 years of dedicated service to the City of Vallejo and a total of 28 years in fire service. Jackson began his fire career with the Piedmont Fire Department in 1985 and joined the Vallejo Fire Department in 1986. During his career, Jackson served in several positions and assignments, including: Engineer, Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and a brief stint as Interim Fire Chief.

After-Action Report

The department involvement with the Solano County Fair and the National Night Out event were both very successful. During National Night Out, five stations were able to attend a total of 11 locations, including:

- 726 Indiana Street
- 400 El Dorado Street
- 900 Sixth Street



- 150 Seaport Drive
- 1201 Glen Cove Landing
- 1837 Santa Clara Street
- 700 Block of Vervais Avenue
- 320 Carousel Drive
- Dutch Flat Court



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

New Employment Opportunities

Human Resources is pleased to announce the following Employment Opportunities:

Fire Prevention Inspector (Non-Sworn)

- Salary: \$5,060.93- \$6,151.60 (monthly)
- Closing date: 9/6/13
- Location: Training and/or Suppression

Building Permit Technician I/II

- Salary: \$3,582.38- \$4,354.43 (monthly)
- Closing date: 8/19/13
- Location: Building Division

Interested parties can visit the City's [website](#) to submit an application.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Open House

In an effort to build relationships with the community, the Vallejo Police Department (VPD) will open its doors on Saturday, August 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event, sponsored by the VPD, will be held at the Police Department located on 111 Amador Street.

Events at the Open House will include:

- Meeting Police Officers, Supervisors, Command Staff, Records Personnel, Cadets, Explorers and Volunteers
- Meeting members of the SWAT team and trying on their gear
- Watching K-9 demonstrations
- Exploring Patrol Cars, Armored and Emergency Response Vehicles, and Motorcycles
- Fun for Children:
 - * Bring your bike to ride the cone course, receive riding tips from Bike Patrol Officers, and get a bike helmet (limited number available)
 - * Fingerprinting
 - * Prizes

For additional details please review the [flyer](#).

Personnel

Retirements

Sergeant Kevin Coelho

Sergeant Coelho, Badge #448, retired on July 27, after 25 years of dedicated service to the City of Vallejo. Coelho began his career with the City of Vallejo in 1988 and held a variety of positions, including: supervising the FBI joint Task Force, supervising the Crime Suppression Unit, Narcotics Unit, Patrol Division, Major Crimes Unit, and was a member of the Emergency Services Unit (SWAT). Coelho was an extremely hard worker and was instrumental as the lead investigator in the Officer Jeff Azuar murder which resulted in the conviction of his killer, Joseph Teitgen. Coelho is highly respected within both the City of Vallejo and the Vallejo Police Department family, and his courage, leadership, and tenacity will be greatly missed. He received numerous commendations throughout his career to include medals of Courage, Merit, Life Saving and Good Conduct.

Officer Stacie Abney

Officer Abney, Badge #567, retired on August 10, after 12 years of dedicated service to the City of Vallejo. Abney began her career with the City of Vallejo in 2001, and spent the duration of her career assigned to Field Operations, servicing the needs of the citizens of Vallejo, and teaching DUI courses throughout the state. Abney received numerous awards, including: recognition from the CSAA, (California State Automobile Association) for the recovery of stolen vehicles in the City of Vallejo and a medal of Good Conduct.

Corporal Les Bottomley

Corporal Bottomley, Badge #492, retired on August 12, after 22 years of dedicated service to the City of Vallejo. Bottomley will go on to take a position with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. He began his career with department 1991, and held a variety of positions within the organization, including: Crime Suppression, Narcotics, D.E.A., Patrol, Major Crimes Unit, in addition to being a Team Leader for the Hostage Negotiations Team. Bottomley made significant contributions to the department and is a highly respected by his peers.

Promotions

Officer Sanjay Ramrakha – promoted to Corporal

On August 13, Officer Ramrakha was promoted to the position of Corporal. Ramrakha has been with the City of Vallejo since July 2002 and has been assigned to Field Operations, Crime Suppression, and the NC3TF, computer crimes task force. Ramrakha attended the University of California where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. In addition, he also graduated from Law School and is currently licensed to practice law in the State of California. Congratulations to Corporal Ramrakha.

New Hires

On August 12, the following three officers were sworn in by Chief Kreins:

Officer Michael D. Fuentes

Officer Fuentes, Badge #640, is a 28-year-old native of Sacramento who resides there with his family. Fuentes is a graduate of Laguna Creek High School in Elk Grove; where he then went on to attend Maric College. He obtained his Associate of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Kaplan University in 2010. Fuentes was previously employed by the Rancho Murrieta Community Service District and completed his POST Basic Academy on June 15, 2013 at Napa Valley College. He has also held positions with the Sacramento City Unified School District and as a Recovery Agent for a repossession business. When asked by Chief Kreins why he wanted to work for City of Vallejo, Fuentes responded without hesitation, "Because of the potential for professional growth this Department can offer."

Officer Hubbel S. Richmond

Officer Richmond, Badge #641, is 25-year-old born in San Francisco and raised in Sonoma County where he currently resides with his fiancée. Richmond attended Santa Rosa Junior College and transferred to Sonoma State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Art degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. He is currently attending Sonoma State working towards a Master's degree in Public Administration. Richmond has worked in a variety of jobs and last worked an intern with Sonoma State University Police Services. In his free time, he likes to weight lift and spend time outdoors.

Officer Amanda L. Blain

Officer Blain, Badge #642, is 27-years-old born in Fortuna and currently resides in Citrus Heights where she attended high school. After graduating, Blain attended American River College, where she majored in Liberal Arts. She has worked several jobs, most recently in loss prevention for Macy's. In January, she moved to Santa Rosa and entered the Basic Police Academy at the Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center and completed the course in June. In her spare time, Blain likes to kayak on the American River and swim. She is very excited to work in the City of Vallejo.



Recruitment

Communications Operator

On August 12 and 13, as part of the Department's efforts to increase the staffing levels in all facets, VPD held oral interviews with a total of 16 Communications Operator I candidates who were qualified to compete in the selection process.

Police Clerk

On August 15 and 16, and scheduled on August 23, the VPD will review 58 candidates participating in oral interviews for the department's Records Section.

Police Officer

On August 19 and 20, the department has scheduled 11 candidates for Entry Level Police Officer oral interviews.

Police Cadet Program

The department is actively seeking qualified candidates who may be interested in a career in law enforcement. By joining the Cadet Program, participants perform a variety of civilian field and office, law enforcement duties. Cadets work in direct support of sworn and non-sworn personnel on a part time, as-needed basis while attending an accredited college or university. Cadets are also expected to attend weekend and evening training sessions. The salary scale for qualified Cadets ranges from \$13 to \$15 per hour.

Cadet Qualification Requirements:

- Must be 18-23 years old to apply
- Enrolled in a college/university while maintaining a 2.0 GPA/12 units
- Ability to interact with the public in a tactful and professional manner
- Pass written and physical agility tests
- Proper English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- Familiarity with department organization and function
- Knowledge of general law enforcement codes, practices and methods
- Ability to follow oral and written directions

Interested parties may apply [online](#) or may contact [Sergeant Nicol](#).

Police Explorer

The Department is actively seeking applicants for the volunteer position of Police Explorer. The Vallejo Police Explorer Program is part of the Vallejo Police Activities League (PAL) and designed for youth of Solano County that may be interested in a career in the law enforcement field. Explorers participate in a variety of activities throughout the City and Police Department. Some activities include monthly police training, weekly meetings, "ride-alongs" with patrol officers, assistance at DUI checkpoints, holiday details and parades, local fundraisers, community events, and statewide Police Explorer competitions.

Explorer Qualification Requirements:

- Must be 14-20 years old and have completed the eight grade at time of appointment
- Resident of Solano County
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA in High School
- Contribute at least 10 hours of volunteer time to the program per month
- Contact the Explorer Program advisors for additional requirements

Interested and qualified persons must submit an Explorer application, available at the Vallejo Police Department, 111 Amador Street. Instructions. Questions regarding the program should be emailed to program advisors [Corporal Knight](#) or [Detective Kenney](#).

Honorable Mention

The Vallejo Police Department is very proud of Sergeant Kevin Hamrick who graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute (SLI) on August 9. Hamrick has been attending SLI for the last eight months while supervising the Vallejo Police Department's Traffic Division. SLI has an incredibly demanding curriculum, and the course instruction is focused on adaptive leadership theories and changing the culture of the workplace to a more collaborative environment. He attended the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and was given a tour of the State Capitol as part of his training. It is with great pleasure that the City congratulates Hamrick on this very prestigious accomplishment.



Alcohol Buying Decoy Operation

On August 10, the Vallejo Explorers participated in an alcohol buying decoy operation with Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) agents. The group visited seventeen locations, including: restaurants, liquor stores, and grocery stores. Fourteen of the seventeen refused to sell to the minor decoys.

- 2400 Sacramento Street (TJ's liquors) sold alcohol to the minor decoy. The clerk also was not a documented employee with the store.
- 601 Broadway (La Tapatia) sold alcohol to the minor decoy. The clerk was 15 years old working without a permit and not a documented employee of the store.
- BBC Gas on Wilson Avenue sold to the decoy.



All three were issued citations which may result in their alcohol license being revoked.

The stores were selected as a result of complaints to ABC from customers. Others were done at random to ensure compliance with ABC regulations. The VPD realizes the significance of underage drinking and would like to extend a thank you to the ABC Agent in charge of the operation, Rich Doermann.

National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 6, Captain Jim O'Connell, Captain Lee Horton, Lieutenant Sid De-Jesus, and a host of other uniformed personnel, participated in National Night Out. Approximately 20 neighborhood groups were very successful in hosting block parties and supporting the opportunity of attendees to get to know one another. All of the block Captains were very spirited and involved in the process of bringing everyone together. It was a tremendous success and having the opportunity continues to inspired the VPD to continue fighting the good fight.



Citizens Academy

The 15th session of the VPD Citizens Academy began on August 7. This year's class has 24 participants. Anyone who wishes to serve as a volunteer must first complete the Citizens Academy.

The purpose of the Citizens Academy is to give citizens a general overview of law enforcement with a specific focus on the people and services of the Vallejo Police Department. Topics covered are Organizational Structure, DUI Enforcement, Criminal Law, the Justice System, Police Training, Field Training, Patrol Operations, Special Operations, Narcotics, Use of Force, Gangs, Investigations, Traffic Enforcement, Internal Affairs and Communications.

The Academy is 12 weeks in duration and consists of three hour sessions once a week and commences with a full eight hour day on October 19. There are approximately 15 different instructors from all ranks and assignments within the Department. There are also several volunteers and other support personnel who assist in the various exercises and demonstrations, which include SWAT and K9 demonstrations.

PAL Golf Tournament

On Friday, September 20, the Vallejo Police Officers Association will be hosting the 34th Annual PAL Golf Classic at Mare Island Golf Course. Additional information is available [online](#).

PUBLIC WORKS

Drinking Water Quality Public Health Goals 2013

Vallejo Water Quality Laboratory staff have prepared a report, as required under state law, which compares Vallejo's drinking water quality with public health goals adopted by the California Environmental Protection Agency Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and with maximum contaminant level goals set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



The report is available for review on the City's [website](#) and at three physical locations: the Adult Reference Desk in the John F. Kennedy Library, the Public Works Department on the fourth floor in City Hall, and the Water Administration Office located at the Fleming Hill Water Treatment Plant.

Those who wish to comment can do so either in person or in writing. Feedback can also be presented at the public hearing scheduled during the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 27.

Contact: [Jason Frink](#), Laboratory Supervisor
Phone: (707) 649-3473.
Fax: (707) 649-3497
Mail: 202 Fleming Hill Road, Vallejo, CA 94589



Pavement Rehabilitation

Last week, the pavement base was placed on the Admiral Callaghan Lane roadway. The top lift was completed August 12. Raising utility irons and striping will be addressed next. The portion of Admiral Callaghan Lane between Rotary Way and Redwood Parkway is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks.

Demolition

The Mare Island Building 655 Demolition and Abatement Project is currently advertised to solicit bids. Bid opening has been moved to Thursday, August 22.

SR2S Hogan School Project

The last couple of concrete handicap ramps will be poured this week at Hogan School. Paving operations are also scheduled to be completed this week. The installation of the school logo will be completed by September.

Downtown Streetscape Phase II Improvement Project

The ribbon cutting celebration held on August 7 for the Downtown Streetscape Phase II Improvement project on Virginia Street was a huge success.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Note: Events are subject to change. Please visit the [City Calendar](#) located on the City's Website for the most up-to-date information.

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers

Beautification Advisory and Code Enforcement Commission

Monday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Interagency Committee Meeting

Monday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. - **Location to be determined**

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

[City of Vallejo Communications Sign-up](#)
[City of Vallejo Facebook Page](#)
[Open City Hall](#)
[Nextdoor](#)