

City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report
Volume 1, Issue 24, September 13, 2013

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

SEMAP Certification Rates 'High Performer Status' to VHA

Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) is used by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of housing authorities. HUD ranks housing authorities in fourteen categories ranging from waitlist management to Housing Quality Standards enforcement. Housing authorities are scored in the following manner:

- High Achievers - 90 to 100 percent
- Standard Performers - 61 to 89 percent
- Troubled - below 60 percent are subject to HUD sanction and other corrective actions

Over the last five years, the Vallejo Housing Authority (VHA) has received all but one "High Performer" ratings with a single "Standard Performer" rating of 89 percent. The VHA submitted an annual SEMAP Certification on August 28 for Fiscal Year 2012-13, as required by HUD. The VHA received a score of 140 out of 135 points, or 104 percent. The additional five points come from a de-concentration bonus for which the VHA was eligible.

As one of the top 12 percent of housing authorities in the country in terms of budget, the VHA continues to provide much needed rental assistance to more than 2,000 Vallejo families in need, in a manner consistent with HUD guidelines, and ranks among the best performing housing authorities.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Update

The PB Steering Committee (PBSC) is currently composed of 20 City Council appointed civic organizations. With the passage of the FY 2013-14 Rulebook, the composition of the PBSC has evolved to include a maximum of 7 at-large and a minimum of 14 local civic organization members, a total of 21 members. Applications are available online to fill vacancies for both [organizations](#) and [at-large](#) positions and are due by September 25. Additional information is available in the [press release](#).

A PB Vallejo informational session is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the JFK Library Joseph Room, located at 505 Santa Clara Street.

Candidates can learn more about the PB process and the roles of PBSC, the City, and stakeholders. Attendees must [RSVP](#).

A unanimous decision was also made by the City Council to hire two full time employees for the purpose of coordinating the PB process and implementing the first cycle City Council approved projects. The job announcement will be available in the coming weeks for those wishing to [apply](#).

With the hiring of new staff and the appointment of new PBSC members, the second cycle is scheduled to begin in January 2014 with the public Budget Assemblies. Additional information about the PB process is available [online](#).

345 Ohio Street

The Code Enforcement Division received many calls last week regarding trash, junk and debris at the abandoned property, 345 Ohio Street. Code Enforcement Officers inspected the property immediately and spoke to the new property owner, who had recently acquired it from an internet tax auction. Fire Prevention and Health Department Officials were also contacted by residents. Within two days, dumpsters were brought in to haul the garbage out.



PG&E Former Vallejo Manufactured Gas Plant Project

During the period of August 26 through September 6, the following work was completed for the PG&E former Vallejo manufactured gas plant investigation project:

- Marked locations for soil borings at public boat launch facility
- Conducted geophysics to clear soil boring locations at public boat launch facility
- Finish drilling soil borings on First Capitol Auction parcel
- Began drilling soil borings at public boat launch facility, including Brinkman's Marine

Open City Hall Topics

The City currently has two topics for residents to provide feedback:

- [Proposed Traffic Calming Measures](#)
- [Housing Preference](#)

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:

- 742 Indiana Street
- 148 Plov Way
- 247 Louisiana Street

The NLP sent out four pre-nuisance letters.

Demolition

Working with the Vallejo Building and Code Enforcement Divisions, the initial notice to begin the demolition process for 618-620 Branciforte Street has been posted on the property.

Receivership Program

With the assistance of the Code Enforcement Division, the NLP posted notices to initiate receivership litigation at the following properties:

- 1914 Florida Street
- 150 Farragut Avenue
- 618-620 Branciforte Street
- 1039 Georgia Street

Code Enforcement Warrants

NLP attorneys worked with the Code Enforcement Division to draft new abatement warrant templates that will streamline the process.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Planning Division

General Plan Working Group

The department is pleased to announce 13 of the 15 General Plan Working Group (GPWG) members have been appointed. The GPWG is a fifteen member advisory committee who will work with staff during the preparation of the City's new General Plan.

The GPWG will:

- Provide feedback and direction to the Economic and Community Development Department staff and the consultant team during the preparation of the General Plan update
- Make recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council at key project milestones
- Host community workshops and other outreach events, and act as a sounding board for the community during the process
- Communicate information about the General Plan Update to other Vallejo residents and encourage their friends, neighbors and colleagues to participate in the process.

The City Council appointed seven at-large members of the GPWG at the September 10 meeting:

- Jonathan Atkinson
- Peggy Cohen-Thompson
- Patricia Gatz
- Jimmy Genn
- Patricia Kutza
- Nathan Stout
- Marian Swanson

The remaining eight members of the GPWG consist of seated board and commission members, and are appointed by their respective boards and commissions:

Planning Commission (3)

- Jim Scoggin
- Marv Kinney
- Tony Adams

Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission (1)

- Pearl Jones Tranter (Brendan Riley is proxy)

Economic Vitality Commission (1)

- Johnny Walker

Housing and Redevelopment Commission (1)

- Candace Holmes

*Beautification and Design Review Board (2)**

- TBD

*The Beautification and Design Review Board (BDRB) is a newly-formed board, and recruitment for the BDRB will begin immediately.

For additional information about the GPWG or the General Plan update, contact Planning Manager [Andrea Ouse](#) (707) 648-4163.

Statistics

During the month of August, the following were issued:

- Four Administrative Permits
- Four Certificates of Appropriateness for historic properties
- Two Public Notice projects
- Two Sign Permits
- A Major Conditional Use Permit and a Finding of Public Convenience and Necessity for alcohol sales at the new WalMart grocery store

During the period of August 26 through September 6, the following inquiries were processed:

Business License Sign-offs	36
Building Permit application reviews/sign-offs	23
Planning application questions	21
Zoning questions	21
General property inquiries	20
Code Enforcement complaints	10
Miscellaneous requests	10

In addition, the department sent out 2 public notices to approximately 97 property owners/organizations announcing upcoming meetings and proposed decisions on Planning permits.

Building Division

Retirement

Building Inspector Kevin Newcomer is retiring today after exactly 14 years of service to the City of Vallejo. Newcomer began with the City on September 13, 1999. He is looking forward to spending additional time with his grandchildren. The department wishes Kevin the best of luck in all future endeavors.

New Hire

The Building Division welcomes Interim Chief Building Official Glen Martinez. Martinez is retired from the City of Hayward and brings 26 years of municipal building experience to assist the division during the transition.

Statistics

During the month of August, the Building Division issued 224 Building Permits.

- Flyers Gas & Mart, located at 2269 Tennessee Street, was issued their Certificate of Occupancy on August 29
- A Tenant Improvement permit was issued on August 29 for a new "GNC" store located at 120 Robles Way
- The In-Shape Health Club renovation at 124 East Lincoln Road is progressing. Phase II of this project is underway which includes the renovations of the north half of the building.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Week

During the week of October 9, the nation commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 with National Fire Prevention Week. The commemorative week was established in the 1920s by President Woodrow Wilson in order to raise awareness of the dangers and peril of fire. The Great Chicago Fire killed over 250 people, left more than 10,000 people homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned over 2,000 acres of grassland.

This year, Fire Prevention Week begins on October 6 and continues through October 12. The focus and theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Prevent Kitchen Fires."

The majority of fires originate in the home with most fires starting in the kitchen. The Vallejo Fire Department would like to educate the community to be aware of [cooking safety](#), [scald prevention](#), [microwave oven safety](#), [smoke alarms](#) and [escape planning](#) to avoid becoming a statistic. To that end, the department makes available the guidelines for these issues as provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Additional safety tips are also available on the City's [website](#).



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Personnel

New Hires

On September 10, Chief Kreins formally introduced the following newly appointed Officers to the City Council and citizens of Vallejo:



Officer Zachary Jacobsen, Badge # 639



Officer Michael Fuentes, Badge # 640



Officer Hubbel Richmond, Badge # 641



Officer Amanda Blain, Badge # 642



Officer Hans Williams, Badge #643



Officer Brandon Bessette, Badge #644



Recruitment Team

The department is excited to announce the formation of the first official Recruitment Team, led by Lieutenant Sid DeJesus, Sergeant Mark Nicol, and Sergeant Steve Darden. DeJesus began his career with the department approximately 19 years ago and is currently the Division Commander for Professional Standards, the division responsible for screening and processing new applicants.



Nicol will be working alongside DeJesus as they attempt to solicit the most qualified candidates for the department's sworn and non-sworn vacant positions. Nicol has been with the department for 18 years and is currently the Administrative Sergeant working closely with the Human Resources Department facilitating the background process for all potential applicants to secure the best possible candidates.

Darden has been with the department for the 17 years and is currently assigned to Field Operations as the day shift patrol supervisor. Darden will assemble a team comprised of both sworn and non-sworn personnel who understand the importance of attracting the most qualified and motivated professionals and who are committed to the rebirth of the VPD. Darden previously served in the United States Marine Corps and will be focusing much of his attention on military personnel preparing for their transition out of the armed forces and into public service.



On September 7, Nicol and Darden attended career day at the Santa Rosa Police Academy and were able to garner significant interest from those preparing to graduate. The Recruitment Team will continue to visit major colleges, universities, police academies, military installations and job fairs throughout California with the hope of attracting the most qualified and professionally minded candidates truly committed to the greater good.

Persons interested in a career in Law Enforcement must fit the following criteria:

- Post Basic Police Academy certificate
- 60 college units, or an undergraduate degree
- Four years of military experience, undergraduate degree, or 30 college units from an accredited college or university

Interested applicants can apply [online](#) or contact [Mark Nicol](#).

Resignation

Police Assistant Nicholas Weiss

Weiss resigned effective September 5 after seven years of dedicated service to the City of Vallejo. Weiss has accepted employment with the Solano County Sheriff's Department as an Evidence Technician. He began his career as a Records Clerk and held a variety of non-sworn positions within the organization, concluding with the evidence section where he was instrumental in the facilitation of various projects related to organization and storage of evidence items. Weiss was able to acquire certification in CSI-Field Evidence Technician work. The City wishes Weiss and his family the best in all future endeavors.

Police Explorer and Cadet Programs

The department is actively seeking qualified candidates for both the [Police Explorer](#) and [Police Cadet](#) programs. Additional information is available on the City's website.

Life-Saving Moment

Corporal Ted Postolaki and Officer Robert Kerr responded to a report of a 1-year-old child not breathing on Calhoun Street. The officers arrived before medics, and the child was unresponsive. Postolaki immediately recognized signs that the child had aspirated and was not breathing. He used a mouth sweep technique while placing the child face down, clearing the obstruction, and the child began breathing on his own. Meanwhile,

medical personnel arrived, and took over stabilizing the child. Postolaki was elated to have been able to save the child's life. He will be commended for his heroic actions. The department is very proud of Postolaki who distinguished himself as a true Law Enforcement professional.



Public Fingerprinting Opportunity

Members of the Vallejo Police Department Volunteer and Citizens on Patrol will be offering public fingerprinting at Costco on September 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to bring children to get fingerprinted, say hello and take home some goodies.

PAL Soccer's Annual Movie Night

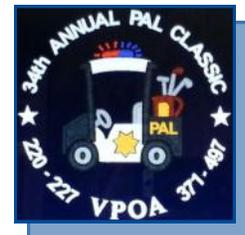
On September 7, Officers Joshua Caitham and Corporal Bob Knight along with retired VPD officers Mike Kollar and Barbara Green, attended Vallejo Police Activities League (PAL) Soccer's Annual Movie Night at Dan Foley Park. The officers were enlisted as honorary judges to evaluate the youth soccer teams' individual banners. The event was well attended and was a good opportunity for members of the police department, past and present, to interact and build partnerships with the youth of Vallejo. The Vallejo PAL is a vital organization which provides healthy activities for youth while fostering a sense of togetherness with the Police Officers of Vallejo.



(left to Right) Corporal Bob Knight, Retired Officer Barbara Greene, Officer Josh Caitham, and Retired Officer Mike Kollar

PAL Golf Tournament

On 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](#) or by calling (707) 552-1573.



PUBLIC WORKS

Mare Island Causeway Bridge Public Meeting

On September 17, City staff and the design team will meet with Mare Island businesses, residents and other interested citizens, regarding the planned repair on the Mare Island Causeway. A 50-foot section of the Causeway Bridge, adjacent to where the railroad splits off, is scheduled to be replaced next year. The initial plan was to close the Mare Island Causeway Bridge for public traffic during construction, with a relatively short construction period. However, feedback from the last Public Meeting indicated that construction duration was less of a concern than the bridge closure.

After considering this feedback, the closure plan was modified to the greatest extent possible by constructing the bridge in multiple stages to minimize inconvenience to the Mare Island community. The current design calls for one-way traffic onto Mare Island over the Causeway and exiting Mare Island via Route 37 during the construction activities. Emergency services response time will not be affected.



The tentative schedule and bridge construction methodology will be presented to the public during the meetings, scheduled for September 17, 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Mare Island Conference Center, located at 375 G Street.

Project Updates

Hogan Middle School Safety Improvements

The City implemented a number of pedestrian and vehicle safety improvements at Hogan Middle School over the summer. Sidewalks were repaired, pedestrian crosswalks were relocated and new ones added, and pedestrian-activated crosswalk signs were installed as part of a Safe Routes to School funded project. One of the most noticeable features is the Hogan Spartan mascot logo added at the intersection of Georgia Street and Rosewood Avenue.



Highway 12 – Jameson Canyon Widening Project



In conjunction with Caltrans and the Solano Transportation Authority (STA), the Water Division has taken part in overseeing the first phase of relocating the water main facilities to accommodate the widening of Route 12 from two to four lanes. This water line, dubbed the “Jameson Main,” serves as one of the City’s two primary water feeds into the Fleming Hill Water Treatment Plant. The last phase of the water main relocation will begin in November 2013.

Volunteer Graffiti Removal – Georgia Street Water Tanks

Vallejo-Free of Graffiti (VFOG) volunteers conduct a monthly paint-out of graffiti in Vallejo. Since VFOG’s inception in 2008, the group has cleaned graffiti from nearly 650 sites in Vallejo.

The average size of the volunteer group is about 25 citizens, led by retired Police Lieutenant and former City Councilman Tony Pearsall, with regular appearances by Vice Mayor Stephanie Gomes. The group is assisted by a City of Vallejo Maintenance employee who helps with logistics in the removal of graffiti.



This picture shows the VFOG Volunteers removing graffiti from the Georgia Street water tanks. Notification of graffiti in this case came via the [SeeClickFix](#) application from neighbors in the area.

Hiddenbrooke Park Design

Hiddenbrooke Park design is progressing well. The design team is addressing concerns raised in the CEQA process and will be adjusting the design as appropriate.

The City had a nesting bird survey completed over the summer, as active nests can delay construction activities, though no nests were found in the project area. Nests were found in the Creek area, but are not likely to impact any construction activities next spring/summer. The City is considering performing the rough grading of the site this fall in order to ensure that no new nests are built next spring.

Staff and the designers have met with the community several times and are incorporating the consensus of features into the design, which will be brought back to the community this fall. On a similar time frame, staff will be taking the project to the Planning Division for Unit Plan review.

Street Project – Reo Alley

The Public Works Maintenance Division Street Crew recently completed this project in Reo Alley. The pictures depict the different stages of progression of the project.

This is a storm drain vault that runs perpendicular to Reo Alley. The street crew had to completely refabricate the vault. The floor had to be built and supported to contain the concrete to keep it from entering the storm drain. An iron mat and steel had to be tied together to reinforce and strengthen the structure. A manhole casting



and cover had to be installed to provide access for the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District. This is another example of the skill level and craftsmanship of the Maintenance Division Street Crew.

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, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Mare Island Causeway Western Approach Bridge Replacement Construction Project Public Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m. at Mare Island Conference Center, 375 G Street

Oversight Board Meeting

Thursday, September 19 at 8:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers

Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission

Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Interagency Committee Meeting

Monday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. - **Location to be determined**

Traffic Calming Community Meeting - South Vallejo

Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church, 900 6th Street

Housing Authority Meeting

Tuesday, September 24 at 6:45 p.m. in City Council Chambers

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

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