

City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report
Volume 2, Issue 1, October 25, 2013

Daniel E. Keen, City Manager



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

\$50,000 Grant to Housing & Community Development Division

On October 9, the California Association of Realtors (CAR) awarded the Solano Association of Realtors (SAOR) and the City of Vallejo's Housing and Community Development Division \$50,000 in grant funds from its Housing Affordability Fund (HAF).

Private and public partnerships at its best, SAOR members and City staff jointly presented a proposal to the CAR/HAF Grant Committee in Long Beach proposing the use of HAF funds to continue housing related neighborhood stabilization activities in Vallejo neighborhoods hit hard by the foreclosure crisis. Stabilization activities include the acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of abandoned and/or foreclosed single-family homes to low-income households.

The City is very appreciative of the SAOR; the HAF award will enable the City to fully utilize its HOME funding from HUD. The HOME program requires that for every dollar, an additional twenty-five cents must be provided from a non-federal funding source before it can be spent. SAOR's efforts will allow \$200,000 of HOME monies to be used for the creation of home ownership opportunities in Vallejo.

Vallejo News Distributed 100th Issue

[Vallejo News](#), the City's weekly e-newsletter, reached its Centennial Issue and was distributed on October 23. Distribution of Vallejo News began more than two years ago and typically concentrates on private and public investment, stability and growth of the arts and community services, education institutions in Vallejo, and residents and organizations doing good in the community.



The four-article anniversary newsletter focused on the increased communication efforts brought forth by the City of Vallejo within the last year. Highlights of the article includes

Vallejo News and the City Manager's Bi-Weekly Report, the use of social media outlets such as [Facebook](#), [Nextdoor](#) and [SeeClickFix](#), the newly redesigned [City website](#) and features, and future modes of communication.

Vote-by-Mail

Vote-by Mail Voters may drop off Vote-By-Mail ballots at the City Clerk's Office up until and including Election Day, November 5. The City Clerk's Office is located at 555 Santa Clara Street on the third floor. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Vote by mail ballots can also be dropped off at any polling place on Election Day.

To obtain a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the November 5 election, you must complete an application form which may be found at the Solano County Registrar of Voter's [website](#).

The deadline to submit an application to Vote-By-Mail is October 29, 2013.

Polling Place Look-up

Need help finding your polling place location? In partnership with Konnech, Inc., the Solano County Registrar of Voters is proud to present the ABVote poll place lookup tool. This new tool, available for Apple, Android, or web based products, will provide detailed information to voters to help them easily navigate the election process. The application is free, and has been developed and designated at NO COST to Solano County.

To find your polling place location, visit the Solano County Registrar of Voter's [website](#).

PG&E Former Vallejo Manufactured Gas Plant Project Update

- During the period of October 11 through October 25, the following work was completed for the PG&E former Vallejo manufactured gas plant investigation project:
- Finished planned soil borings at the public boat launch property
- Finished geotechnical borings at the Brinkman's Marine property
- Sampled soil gas probes on the First Capitol Auction property
- Conduct cone penetrometer testing at the First Capitol Auction, Big Bay Boat and RV, historic gas plant and City yard properties
- Sampled soil gas probes on Mono Street, the public boat launch, and Big Bay Boat and RV properties

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 added 4 properties to the watch list:

- 2904 Webb Street
- 108 Fairview Avenue
- 361 Cottonwood Drive
- 317 Central Avenue

Owners at the following properties were notified of issues by the NLP and activities are being addressed. NLP Attorneys will continue to monitor throughout the abatement process:

- 426 Kentucky Street
- 150 Farragut Avenue
- 272 Foulkstone Way
- 236 Carolina Street
- 474 Sonoma Boulevard
- 642 Pennsylvania Street
- 538 York Street
- 126 Kentucky Street
- 205 Tennessee Street



Nuisance Litigation Update

NLP Attorneys appeared in court on October 15 for a hearing on the ongoing civil nuisance claim based on activity at 124 Illinois Street. The Judge ordered the Temporary Restraining Order remain in effect until the next hearing in February 2014.

Prior to this hearing the City of Vallejo dismissed the Solano County Public Administrator, who is now in control of the property, after coming to an agreement on how they would maintain the property going forward. The City also dismissed one of the other named defendants when it was determined he had no authority over the property and was not a source of the nuisance activity.

Receivership Program

907 Falcon Drive, a home that has been a fire damaged nuisance for seven years, was the first property NLP Attorneys appointed a Health & Safety receiver over. The Solano County Superior Court has appointed a receiver who has begun working on the property. On October 15, preliminary construction fencing was installed and the receiver will begin more extensive repairs to the building shortly.



On October 22, NLP Attorneys had another trial to appoint a receiver over 618-620 Branciforte Street, a property that has been an increasing nuisance since 2009 when the owner passed away. NLP Attorneys won the trial and a receiver was appointed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Race Winners

The Economic Development Department had two staff members participate in the recent Mare Island 5K race on October 13.

Associate Planner Bill Tuikka came in 1st Place in his division and Director Mark Sawicki took 2nd Place in his division.

Congratulations to Bill and Mark on their wins.



Planning Division

Future Planning Items for Consideration

The list of agenda items 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 (Planning Commission and City Council). The list provided is an abbreviated version including only the most significant 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.

Planning Commission	Agenda Item
November 4, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Training - Conflicts • Kiser Auto Sales/1861 Solano • Nonconforming Ord. Update • Walgreens Alcohol Permit
November 18, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billar Los Portales • Training - CEQA
December 2, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training - Findings and Conditions • Home Occupation Ordinance
December 16, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Marijuana Study Session • Training - PC's role in the General Plan

Vallejo City Council	Agenda Item
November 12, 2013	<i>None</i>
November 19, 2013	<i>None</i>

Statistics

During the period of October 7 through October 18, the following inquiries were processed:

Business License Sign-offs	49
General Property Inquiries	37
Zoning Questions	29
Planning Application Questions	26
Code Enforcement Complaints	14
Building Permit Application/Sign-offs	12
Miscellaneous Requests	11

In addition, the division sent out four public notices to approximately 202 property owners/organizations announcing upcoming meetings and proposed decisions on Planning permits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fireman's Fund Grant

On October 22, the VFD received a \$4,262 grant from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Interim Fire Chief Ron Prince received the grant from Patty Cole of Fireman's Fund, with the City Manager in attendance. This particular grant was given to the department for the purchase of 12 additional voice amplifiers, which allow for clear, unmuffled communication when wearing the mask of a self-contained breathing apparatus.



Instead of having to remove one's mask in order to communicate via radio, firefighters can now speak through the mask (with the mask on) into the porta-

ble radio, and be clearly understood. Since clear explicit communication is paramount on the fire ground during an emergency situation, the 12 additional voice amplifiers will enhance safety and expedite response when every second counts.

“It is impossible to overstate the importance of clear and concise communications between an incident commander and the firefighters



who are literally in the heat of battle," said Interim Fire Chief Ron Prince. "The voice amplifiers will increase the measure of safety to our crews and will undoubtedly be in daily use."

Ms. Cole of Fireman's Fund demonstrated use of the new mask with the attached voice amplifier. A full demonstration of firefighting operations was given at Mare Island Building #571 during a simulated structure fire and rescue while wearing the masks with voice amplifiers.

This generous grant from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is one of many grants awarded to the VFD. In 2006, the department received a grant of \$28,000 from Fireman's Fund for the purchase of additional "jaws of life" equipment to be deployed on more fire engines which assist in rescuing trapped occupants in vehicle accidents. Firefighter Paramedic Bret Smith, Captain Steve Smircich, Battalion Chief Mark Sharpe, and the Fire Chief Ron Prince were among VFD personnel that were instrumental in securing the voice amplifier grant from the Fireman's Fund.

CERT Class Graduation

On October 19, the VFD graduated 9 students from the Fall 2013 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. The class was sponsored by a county wide FEMA grant. Each student logged more than 28 hours of instruction over six weeks. They met one night per week for 4 hours a night. Vallejo Firefighters provided a high level of instruction and knowledge to the students over the six weeks.

The Saturday final consisted of a 45-question written test and skills assessment that covered disaster medicine, fire control, search and rescue, and CERT command and control. The testing was held on

Mare Island at Building #571. The students all performed well.



Community Outreach

On October 17, Fire Captain John Ha and Firefighter Dan Gutierrez represented the VFD at the Career Fair hosted by the California Maritime Academy (CMA). The purpose of the fair was to inform the students at CMA of the requirements and opportunity of a career with the Vallejo Fire Department.



Captain Ha and Firefighter Gutierrez were able to interact one-on-one with the students who showed interest in a possible career with the fire service. Numerous handouts were provided to the students for further information about the recruitment and hiring process. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be future cultivation of interest via a closer working relationship between the VFD and CMA.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Retirements

Sergeant Brett Clark

Sergeant Clark, Badge #436, retired on October 10 after 26 years of dedicated service. Clark was appointed to the Vallejo Police Department in July 1987, and assigned to Patrol where he worked until January 1997, at which time he was assigned to the Beat Health Unit as the Business Liaison Officer. In this position, Clark developed an undercover alcohol decoy program which worked closely with Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) and identified liquor stores selling alcohol to minors; thus revoking liquor licenses for those merchants identified as repeat offenders. Sergeant Clark was also responsible for grant funded programs through ABC which targeted underage drinking programs.

Clark was promoted to Corporal in February 2002 and returned to Patrol, and in September 2004 was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant, he was assigned to Patrol and Community Services. Clark



took great pride in being looked upon as a selfless supervisor who was committed to officer safety and well-being. Brett was a second generation police officer after his fa-

ther, William Clark, a Medal of Valor award recipient and also a Vallejo Police Officer. Clark was named Vallejo's 2012 Officer of Year.

Honorable Mention

On October 11, the Solano County Rotary Club held an awards banquet where the 2013 Officers of the Year for all Solano County Law Enforcement agencies were recognized. Retired Sergeant Brett Clark, who was the Vallejo Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2012, was honored; however, was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. On his behalf, Lieutenant Sid DeJesus accepted the awards. Congratulations to Retired Sergeant Brett Clark for a job well-done.

Citizens Academy Class #15:

On October 19, the VPD Citizens Academy Class #15 completed their last day of training. Twenty-four Vallejo citizens successfully completed the 10-week course which included instruction in the following areas:

- Community Based Policing Concepts
- Criminal Law
- Traffic and DUI Enforcement Laws
- Narcotic and Criminal Enterprise
- Gang Violence and Community Awareness
- Evidence Procedures
- Communications
- Professional Standards and Internal Affairs
- SWAT/HNT, K9 and Emergency Vehicle Operation Demonstrations



The last day of instruction proved to be the most enjoyable. K9 demonstrations with Officer Mark Thompson and his K9 partner Yago performed a mock suspect apprehension and Officer Waylon Boyce and his K9 partner Joery performed a mock foot pursuit of a fleeing suspect.



The students were also taken to the Benicia Range where there was a SWAT and weapons demonstration which included live fire drills and flash, bang, and smoke demonstrations. Lieutenant John Whitney, Corporals Ted Postolaki and Rich Botello were able to spend time with each student to demonstrate how certain types of tactical equipment is used, and how unique the department's weaponry is when dealing with very unique and complicated scenarios.

Each student was also given the opportunity to participate as passengers in a mock police pursuit and were able to experience the adrenaline rush of a pursuit without all the hazards.

The day concluded with a BBQ and certificate presentation to each of the graduating students. The department hopes these Citizens Academy graduates will consider joining the ranks of the volunteer program and perhaps continue on to become a Citizen on Patrol. Any Vallejo resident interested in becoming a volunteer is required to complete the Citizens Academy.



VPD Chaplains

During the period of October 14 through October 18, the Vallejo Police Chaplains attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) in Sacramento. The purpose of this training was to educate Police Chaplains on how to serve the needs of law enforcement professionals and their families, and to include the communities they serve. ICPC serves all law enforcement chaplains (volunteer or paid) as well as aiding law enforcement agencies in developing and/or enhancing their chaplaincy program.



The Police/Fire Chaplains are working very hard to serve the needs of the community and are researching innovative ways of expanding services to those in need.

The Police Chaplains can be reached at 707-648-4379. This is a confidential recorded line for anyone who may need Chaplaincy services.

VPD K9 Unit Significant Activities Report

During the past month, five VPD K9 teams were deployed more than 100 times during various calls for service. The following represents a summary of the more significant contributions made by VPD K9 Officers and their K9 partners during the month of September.

September 5 - 100 block of Loma Vista Street

Officers responded to the location and confirmed a residential burglary had occurred. K9 Officer Boyce and his partner Joery assisted in detaining the suspect, who was positively identified by a witness. The suspect, Tyrrell Bland, surrendered to the officers without incident upon seeing K9 Joery.

September 9- 717 Virginia Street, Apt. #2

Joseph Colas shot at his girlfriend in their apartment then fled on foot and reportedly discarded his handgun. K9 Officer Waylon Boyce arrived on scene with his K9 partner Joery and completed an article search. Almost immediately, Joery dove into a thicket of bushes and retrieved the discarded 9mm handgun.

September 10 - 1740 Broadway Street #1

Officers went to the listed address in response to the report of a burglary in progress. A subject was confirmed to be hiding inside. Upon the arrival of Officer Mark Thompson and his K9 partner Yago, a K9 announcement was given and the occupant surrendered to officers without further incident. The suspect was taken into custody for a felony warrant.

September 13 - 1602 Magazine Street

Officers went to the listed residence in response to a burglary in progress. Upon the arrival of Officer Thompson and his K9 partner Yago, an on-leash search of the residence was conducted. K9 Yago alerted on a rear bedroom. Immediately after, K9 Yago announced his presence at the door of the rear bedroom, two suspects yelled out to the officers and surrendered without further incident and the suspects were taken into custody for a warrant.

September 14 - K9 Demonstration in Northern Solano County

Officer Scott Yates and his K9 partner Ned attended the "Rotts of Friends" animal rescue adoption day. Officer Yates and Ned completed several demonstrations throughout the afternoon while representing the Vallejo Police Department's K9 Unit.

September 19 - Allied Agency Training at CSP Solano

Representing the Vallejo Police Department's K9 Unit as our Departmental K9 trainer, Officer Yates provided training to California Department of Correction Officers, the narcotic detector dog handlers, at the California State Prison-Solano. Officer Yates assisted them in preparing for their annual certification. The expertise of Officer Yates is often called upon by allied agencies to assist in K9 training. Officer Yates continues with such partnerships on his own time.



September 25 - 129 Illinois Street

Officers responded to the location where suspects had hidden inside the residence. Once announcements were given by Officer Megan Sheridan and her K9 partner Ka-Bar announced his presence, all of the occupants of the residence surrendered, exited the residence and were taken into custody without further incident.

September 25 - 100 Pirates Cove

Officers went to 105 Plaza Drive in response to the report of an armed robbery, as reported by an off-duty Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) from another agency. Upon the arrival of VPD units the suspect vehicle containing five suspects fled and led officers on a pursuit across Vallejo. The pursuit ended at 100 Pirates Cove where all five suspects fled from the car on foot. Two of the suspects were captured by officers. The other three suspects surrendered to Officer Sheridan and her K9 partner Ka-Bar, who was deployed on-leash. All suspects were taken into custody without further incident.

September 25 - 108 Candy Drive

Officers went to 108 Candy Drive in response to a shooting. The shooting victim had been driven to Kaiser Vallejo prior to officer's arrival. Several juvenile witnesses remained at the residence. The 18-year-old shooting victim had evidently shot himself while playing with a handgun. After the shooting, one of the victim's "friends" took the gun and threw it out the back door of the residence then fled. Officer Sheridan responded and deployed her K9 partner Ka-Bar to complete an article search for the firearm. Ka-Bar subsequently located the loaded 9mm handgun in thick foliage at the rear of the yard.

September 26 - K9 Demonstration in Concord

VPD SWAT/K9 Officer Peppino Messina and his SWAT/K9 partner Yeager attended a police K9 demonstration at the Crown Plaza Hotel in the City of Concord for the Golden State German Shepherd Rescue's annual fundraising gala. The K9 Demonstration was narrated by VPD Sergeant Todd Tribble. VPD Sergeant Kent Tribble assisted in the demonstration as the rappel master. During the demonstration Officer Messina rappelled off of the top of the Crown Plaza's roof and his K9 partner Yeager was lowered on rappel next to Officer Messina by Sergeant Kent Tribble. NBC Bay Area News anchorwoman Diane Dwyer took video of the event and aired Officer Messina's and Yeager's rappelling demonstration on the 11 O'Clock news that evening. Dwyer has expressed great interest in producing a public interest piece on the growth of the VPD K9 Unit since the City has emerged from bankruptcy.



Drug Take Back Event

On October 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the VPD and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its seventh opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

For quite some time, people have been told or assumed that unwanted medications should be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet. This is hazardous to the environment and not a correct form of disposal for outdated or unwanted pharmaceuticals. The community is encouraged to bring its medications for disposal to the VPD lobby, located at 111 Amador Street. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last April, Americans turned in 371 tons (more than 742,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In its six previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners took in over 2.8 million pounds, which is more than 1,400 tons.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisoning and overdose.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering Capital Improvement Projects

Mare Island Building 655 Demolition & Abatement Project

Demolition operations will commence in November on Mare Island Building 655.



Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Sonoma Boulevard Project

The funding for this project comes from a collision based grant that evaluates the benefit-cost ratio for safety devices to mitigate automobile collisions. The City of Vallejo sub-

mitted an application for HSIP grant funds for the portion of Sonoma Boulevard between Florida Street and Georgia Street. The area was found to have a history of collisions that could be mitigated by lane reductions and the addition of bike lanes, providing a competitive benefit-cost ratio. A [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for engineering services was issued last week. RFPs are due from interested consultants on November 8.



Water Main Break Repairs

The Public Works Maintenance Division Water Emergency section recently repaired a 4-inch water line cross that was leaking on Alameda Street near the intersection of Carolina Street. The crew cut out the damaged section of pipe and installed a straight section of new 4-inch pipe. No customers were affected by the leak or repairs.



On October 21, the Water Emergency section also replaced a section of three-quarter-inch copper line that was leaking on Green Valley Road near Mason Road. The crew removed approximately 6 feet of damaged pipe and installed new copper pipe. Water service to nine homes was affected for approximately three hours.

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

Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee - Canceled

Tuesday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m. in JFK Library Joseph Room

Marina Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 7 at 5:00 p.m. in Public Works Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall

Housing and Redevelopment Commission

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

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