



November 14, 2013 (Issue 103)

## Mare Island Building 655 Demolition and Abatement

Building 655 on North Mare Island is nearing its long awaited removal after it was virtually demolished by a fire in February 2012. The City of Vallejo Public Works **Engineering Division** awarded a demolition contract in September for the abatement and demolition of what remains of the structure.

NCM Demolition and Remediation, the contractor for the demolition work, mobilized their equipment on October 30 and began abatement operations shortly thereafter. Eradication obligations include removing asbestos and lead, and readying the materials for disposal. Abatement is anticipated to be complete by the end of November and the remaining structural elements of the building will likely be brought down and hauled away in December.

Demolition, salvage and final cleanup of the building and lot will be completed by the close of the year. The City will continue to look for a buyer for this location and other North Mare Island properties. The lot will remain empty until a new user comes forward.



## Wednesday Nights at Empress

The historic **Empress Theatre** in the Downtown Arts and Entertainment district will be hosting a myriad of exciting shows this month in their latest installments of the Wednesday Night Ramble, Hot House Blues and Soulshine.

For this month's famous Wednesday Night Ramble, the North Bay All Stars will host their gathering of musical friends with special guest **Leah Tyse**. With an undeniably powerful presence on stage, Tyse is a solid musician and a respected bandleader with a soulful voice. The Wednesday Night Ramble features music ranging from Americana, roots, blues, country and funk. This month's Ramble with Leah Tyse will be on Wednesday, November 20.

On Wednesday, November 27, the ramble will feature the musical sensation Hot House Blues, which celebrates the rich musical blues heritage of Vallejo. Sax player **Keith Crossan** is well known throughout the Bay Area and will be hitting the stage to mash-up big band jazz, garage band rock & roll, R&N and even the late folk scene in his music.

Soulshine, the pro-jam style concert focused on funk, soul, blues and R&B music, will host Vallejo's own **Alvon Johnson**. Regarded as a soulful singer and moving guitar player, Johnson has played locally, nationally and even internationally. Johnson will join the house band, the Groovemasters, for this performance. The next Soulshine will be held on Wednesday, December 11.



All Wednesday night concerts are from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Empress Theatre, located at 330 Virginia Street. Tickets are \$7 in **advance** or \$9 at the door.

## Vallejo Symphony Presents Carrie Hennessey and Greg Mason

The **Vallejo Symphony Orchestra** is proud to present Soprano Carrie Hennessey in recital with Greg Mason on piano at the First Presbyterian Church this Sunday.

**Hennessey** has performed in opera, theatre and with symphonies all around the world. Recent engagements include her European debut at the International Mahler Festival in Jihlava, Czech Republic, with performances in Austria and Eastern Europe including Dvorak Hall in Prague. She also performed with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Sacramento Philharmonic, the Berkley Symphony and the Sacramento Opera.

Pianist Greg Mason has performed concerts in Carnegie Hall, the United Nations and numerous festivals in 14 countries. He has



coached in New York City, worked at the Julliard School, appeared with many opera companies, Telarc label, the New York Philharmonic, London Proms, and the Richard Tucker Foundation. Additionally, he was recently nominated for Best Music Director by the Bay Area Drama Critics.



Hennessey and Mason will perform Kurt Weill, American and French popular song and Puccini at their recital on November 17 at 3:00 p.m., doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and are available **online** or by calling 707-643-4441. The First Presbyterian Church is located at 1350 Amador Street.

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## Renovation Rocks the House Fundraiser

**Rebuilding Together Solano County** (RTSC) and the Vallejo Veterans are partnering together for the 4th Annual "Renovation Rocks the House" fundraiser event.

The event raises funds for projects supported by the RTSC. Local businesses, community members and concerned residents come together as volunteers to rehabilitate homes and community facilities. This is accomplished by the volunteer labor, donated materials and services, and financial support from within the county.

Since June 2009, RTSC has rehabilitated 12 homes for low-income homeowners (disabled, seniors and veterans) and held more than 23 community facility workdays in Solano County, valuing more than \$1.2 million in rehab work, donated resources and time.

The fundraiser will be at the Vallejo Veterans' Memorial Building, located at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane. Tickets will be \$35 per person or \$240 for a reserved table for 8. There will be a no-host bar from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with dinner to follow until 9:00 p.m. Raffle prizes, a silent and live auction will be held during dinner.

For additional information, please contact RTSC Executive Director **Elizabeth Hoffman** or visit the Rebuilding Together website.

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