



January 23, 2014 (Issue 112)

## Highlands Park Opening

Yesterday celebrated the grand re-opening of **Highlands Park**. Construction activities on the 7-acre park began in November 2012 and the work was deemed substantially complete in December 2013.



The park was paid for and constructed by the developer, and is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million worth of improvements.

The park features include children's play equipment, two Bocce ball courts, a half basketball court, and covered picnic tables.

Additionally, the park has a restroom, off-street parking, and various paths and trails. The park is available for **reservations** and features pavilion areas with barbecue and three tables.

Highlands Park is located at 101 Regents Park Drive at Columbus Parkway. For further information or to reserve Highlands Park (and other GVRD Parks), please contact the Greater Vallejo Recreation District at 707-648-4600 or visit **GVRD online**.



## UrbanLIFT Grant Recipients

Wells Fargo announced in December that 59 nonprofits would be awarded grants from the **Wells Fargo** UrbanLIFT Community Grant Program to help strengthen neighborhoods in 25 metropolitan statistical areas, including Vallejo.

The UrbanLIFT program is designed to provide support to local nonprofits for neighborhood revitalization projects in areas with diverse populations that were impacted by foreclosures. Grant recipients participated in a competitive application process and were awarded based on the applicant's capacity and demonstrated experience. Four types of projects are eligible under this funding: single-family housing rehabilitation or demolition, and neighborhood and housing-related site improvements.



Vallejo's own **Community Housing Development Corporation** (CHDC) and Fighting Back Partnership were awarded grants for use in enhancing Vallejo neighborhoods. The CHDC secured approximately \$337,600 in funds and Fighting Back \$121,000.

CHDC intend on utilizing their funds for the Mini Drive and Sonoma Boulevard Homeownership projects. **Fighting Back Partnership** is planning to utilize their funds for lot fencing and clean-ups, graffiti abatement and a community garden in South Vallejo.

## School is Back in Session

The holidays are over and school is back in session for Vallejo's higher education institutions. Students come from all over to attend classes at Touro University California, California Maritime Academy and Solano Community College's Vallejo Campus.

**Touro** hosts a fair number of students at its campus located on Mare Island. With a variety of Master's programs, Touro currently has 1,357 students enrolled through the spring. The breakdown of students and degrees is as follows:

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O): 536
- Medical Health Sciences (MSMHS)-COM: 15
- Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD): 403
- Medical Health Sciences (MSMHS)-PS: 11
- Graduate School of Education: 146
- Public Health Program (MPH): 123
- Joint Health Program (MSPAS/MPH): 123

The **California Maritime Academy**, located in the south end of Vallejo near the Carquinez Bridge, is currently still registering students through January 24, with 1,006 undergraduate cadets registered to date. The current (but still changing) breakdown of cadets is as follows:

- Business Administration: 137
- Facilities Engineering Technology: 49
- Global Studies and Maritime Affairs: 122
- Marine Engineering Technology: 190
- Marine Transportation: 306
- Mechanical Engineering - License Track: 150
- Mechanical Engineering - Non-License Track: 52

Solano Community College (SCC) **Vallejo Campus**, in northeast Vallejo on Columbus Parkway, is observing an increase in student enrollment this semester with 2,398 students in various general education programs. New this semester is an Automotive Technology program, with classes beginning in February. Additionally, SCC Vallejo is seeking to establish an Interior Design program slated to begin this semester.



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## Kaiser Vallejo Awards Grants to VCUSD

Students and teachers throughout Vallejo will soon be on their way to promoting health and wellness thanks to a new Thriving Schools grant from **Kaiser Permanente**.

The healthcare organization awarded 15 grants across Northern California to increase physical activity and improve healthy food offerings for students and teachers in their schools. **Vallejo City Unified School District's** grant of \$23,000 will assist local schools with projects that promote healthier living for students, families, faculty, and staff.

The grant will allow the purchase and installation of 12 hydration stations at nine Vallejo schools, with the goal of increasing water access and consumption. Hydration stations will be installed at the following elementary schools and academies:

- Elsa Widenmann
- Cooper
- Patterson
- Federal Terrace
- Dan Mini
- Highland
- Lincoln
- Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy
- Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy

"We are thrilled to be able to use these funds to drive home the importance of water consumption," said Dr. Alana J. Shackelford, director of Partnerships & Community Engagement for VCUSD. "These hydration stations are a great addition to the nutrition education we have in our schools."

This grant is one of several commitments that Kaiser Permanente has made recently for Vallejo students. In addition to the Thriving Schools grant, Kaiser Permanente also awarded \$50,000 to the VCUSD through the Trauma Informed Care Initiative for the District's Positive Youth Justice Initiative designed to equip high risk troubled-youth with the tools and resources needed to be successful citizens.

Kaiser Permanente also continues to partner with the American Heart Association in bringing Healthy Cooking classes to schools across the District.

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