



February 4, 2014 (Issue 114)

City of Vallejo Contributes to OPEB

For the first time ever, the City is setting aside funds for the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) for **City of Vallejo** retirees.

Approved by the City Council in December, the City made an initial contribution of \$7,101,517.03 from designated reserves to establish an irrevocable trust for the medical benefits of retired City employees.

Previously, invoices of insurance benefits for retired employees were paid by the City when received, in a "pay-as-you-go" format, and there were no funds set aside. Now, with the help of Bartel Associates, LLC., the City will be able to accurately calculate and set aside the Annual Required Contribution to the OPEB trust to pay its retirees, a number that will fluctuate with cost of living, mortality rates and longevity.



By having the OPEB trust, earning higher rates of return, it will lower the annual cost of the retiree health benefit program, essentially reducing the ongoing costs to the City and positively impact the General Fund. Moving forward, the City plans to contribute to the OPEB trust annually.

SF Flyway Festival

The 18th Annual **San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival** is taking place this weekend, celebrating the importance of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl in the Vallejo Area. Activities are aimed to both educate and entertain attendees.



More than one million shorebirds and hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese, hawks, songbirds and other wildlife migrate annually. The Wildlife Exploration and Birding Expo headquartered on Mare Island returns with exhibits, live bird visits, educational presentations, art and optics vendors, along with a silent auction and art show.

The San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival is held from Friday, February 7 through Sunday, February 9 with various activities from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Building 223, located at 500 Connolly Street on Mare Island. [Click here](#) for a list of events. For additional information, please contact Myrna Hayes at 707-249-9633.



The Unconventional Garden

Vallejo has another business to celebrate its downtown as **The Unconventional Garden** has opened its doors and has been blossoming since early November 2013.

The Unconventional Garden contains a charming array of outdoor living accessories for sale, acquired by owner **Michelle Eliker's** keen eye. As a veteran gardener, Eliker has a knack for embellishing her garden with decorative accents, but found that garden pieces are often hard to find or are mass produced and quickly fall apart.

Eliker's businesses offers avid gardeners, like herself, a place to find unique, one-of-a-kind and repurposed garden décor, often hand-crafted by local artists. Other pieces are carefully selected, high-quality items that aren't found in most retail stores.



The Unconventional Garden also showcases the work of local artists and is interested in attracting other local talent and fellow gardeners to gather at the shop and swap advice and inspiration. You'll find colored glass, reflective surfaces and other signature elements of her many products that are sure to compliment, not compete, with nature's own artistry. The Unconventional Garden is located at 627 Marin Street and is open Wednesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For additional information, call 707-642-1255.



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In This Issue

[City of Vallejo Contributes to OPEB](#)

[SF Flyway Festival](#)

[The Unconventional Garden](#)

[Jim Capoot Scholarship](#)



Kaiser's Officer Jim Capoot Scholarship

Kaiser Permanente's Napa-Solano Public Affairs is currently accepting applications for the 2014 Officer Jim Capoot Scholarship Awards.

Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to qualifying high school students who demonstrate academic achievement, commitment to community service, leadership potential and who are attending high school in Vallejo or Vacaville and will attend a two or four-year college in Fall 2014.

Two scholarships each will be awarded for the following categories:

Public Service Scholarship - for high school seniors with a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) or higher who has an interest in law enforcement or healthcare.

Inspiration Scholarship - for high school seniors who have faced unusual life challenges and have risen to become role models while maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher.

Violence Prevention Scholarship - for high school seniors who participate in a leadership program to support violence prevention in a local school or community and have a 2.5 GPA or higher.

This is the third year that Kaiser has offered these awards, honoring Vallejo Police Officer Jim Capoot, who was killed in the line of duty in November 2011. Officer Capoot was well known for his dedication and commitment to youth in both Vallejo, where he worked and coached a basketball team, and in Vacaville, where he raised his family.

To request an application, students in Vallejo and Vacaville can call 707-624-2550 or [click here](#). Completed applications and all required information must be postmarked by Friday, February 21. Applications can be mailed to Kaiser Permanente - Public Affairs, Scholarship Program, 1 Quality Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688.

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