



# Vallejo News

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## Mare Island Update

Mare Island is continuing to fill up with businesses, residents, renovations and new construction. Home to headquarters, operations centers and much more, Mare Island is persevering in terms of economic development.

Last month, **LifeGear Design**, producers of LiteGear, celebrated the move of their headquarters to Mare Island, occupying a former historic officer's mansion. With the move, the company expects to recruit for additional jobs and is interested in opening a retail shop in downtown Vallejo.

In May, the **Water Emergency Transportation Authority** (WETA) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new North Bay Operations and Maintenance Facility on Mare Island. The new \$28.5 million facility will be the northern anchor of WETA's regional ferry operations that now span the bay from the north, Solano County, to the south, San Mateo County. The new facility will feature maintenance and repair facilities, increased fuel storage, and eventually accommodate passenger boarding, allowing direct service to Mare Island. Lennar Mare Island will also be conducting improvements to the public waterfront promenade, including lighting, benches and a parking lot.



Back in April, **Blu Homes** celebrated the grand opening of its new Design Center on Mare Island. Blu Homes, the leading provider of premium "green" pre-fabricated homes, constructed the 2,300 square-foot Breezehouse model home and design center, featuring three bedrooms, two baths, a state-of-the-art kitchen, a library, rear court and an entry court with a large deck. At the Design Center, clients will be able to work with on-site staff to design their future home and receive help with planning budgets, financing, land searches, and other details when making such plans.

The **Mare Island Brewing Company** is working on renovating one of Mare Island's historic waterfront coal sheds for their brewing company. In addition to their brewery, the owners are opening a tap room just across the Mare Island Strait at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal. The Mare Island Brewing Company Tap and Tasting Room, which is anticipated to open by September, will be located at the Waterfront Rotunda at the Ferry Building. Actual brewing of the beer will take place on Mare Island.

There are approximately 100 businesses on Mare Island, with more than 2,200 full-time jobs and more than 3.4 million square-feet of commercial space occupied. More than 70 historic buildings have been returned to productive use and the majority of the Island's industrial waterfront is occupied by businesses.

**Lennar Mare Island** continues to focus on business development and job creation, along with the cleanup and infrastructure work necessary to make these opportunities possible.

## Cal Maritime Building Update

The **California Maritime Academy** (CMA) is undergoing major construction on its campus. With one building in construction, one to start construction, and one to endure demolition, development is moving right along.

The Physical Education and Aquatics Complex is approximately 60 percent complete. The complex will include an Olympic sized swimming pool, volleyball courts, a cardio and weight room, 10 faculty offices, and three conference rooms. The \$26.5 million project is currently completing heavy construction, installation of site utilities, sealing of the building envelope, installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing within the building and site cleanup. An official ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration will take place during CMA's Homecoming, October 10 and 11.



The Police Operations Center and new entryway are currently in the works as well. The foundation has been poured and groundwork is in progress. The 3,800 square-foot building, prefabricated by Mobil Modular, will contain offices, investigation and interview rooms, and the new Emergency Operations Center. The building is currently in production and is anticipated to be delivered in October with operations fully utilizing the new building by the end of the year. The new entryway will include a new gate, kiosk, and a pedestrian walkway.

Additionally, CMA purchased the Vallejo Inn earlier this year and is planning to begin abatement and removal of the building, commencing demolition by July 28. The demolition project is in the beginning phase, including assessment, permits and contracting.



Once demolished, CMA will be able to utilize the full length of Maritime Academy Drive, and anticipates the lot will be used for the Physical Education and Aquatics Complex parking in the short term. The long-term plan for

the space will be determined with the Campus Master Plan Update.

## Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan Design Charrette No. 2

The second of two, four-day long **Design Charrettes** for the Sonoma Boulevard Specific Plan will be held on Tuesday, July 22 through Friday, July 25 at 415 Virginia Street in downtown Vallejo.

The Charrette will provide property owners, business owners, and the community at-large with an opportunity to collaborate with a team of planners, architects, and engineers in forging a new vision for Sonoma Boulevard. Building on the 2013 Corridor Design Plan, the Charrette will focus on the future character and scale of development along Sonoma Boulevard between Redwood Street and Curtola Parkway.



The **first Charrette**, which was held June 24 through June 27, focused on a variety of refinements and design solutions for the concepts proposed in the 2013 Corridor Design Plan. The charrette was well attended, with over 100 residents, businesses

and property owners, and included four public events for the review and comment of concepts developed during the week.

Charrette No. 2, also offering several public events, will focus on the zoning and development standards needed to implement the ideas and refinements presented in the first Charrette. For additional information, visit the **Propel Vallejo** website. Please plan to attend and have your voice heard!

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## Volunteers of Vallejo

A newly founded volunteer group has come together to encourage, promote and enhance volunteer opportunities in Vallejo, serving the community by spreading the word.

**Volunteers of Vallejo** is a place where current volunteers and other people around the community can get connected, share each others experiences and recruit and encourage other people to volunteer their time to better Vallejo. Volunteers of Vallejo also seeks to work with other groups, people, and organizations to create more volunteer opportunities.

Founder of the group, **Mark Victa**, is working diligently to spread the word about volunteer opportunities and encourage community members to offer their time, resources, expertise, or simply lend a helping hand to the city.

"I used to be one of the negative people, one who would put our city down," Victa said. "But I learned to appreciate this town. This is our home, this is where we live. Why not contribute and give back to make it a better place?"

Victa, a Vallejo native, relayed a quote which inspired him to do better with community work: "This saying, 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.' really stuck with me," he said. "Volunteerism makes a difference in any community. It makes a community thrive."

The short-term goals of the group are to establish a successful community group, encourage others to get involved and they will use their Facebook page to show volunteer opportunities around the community.

Long-term, Victa said he would like to be able to work with other groups around the city, including the Vallejo Police Department.

Volunteers of Vallejo would like to announce the following volunteer opportunities:

- **Rebuilding Together Solano County** (RTSC) will be hosting another workday weekend, thanks to sponsors First Bank, Mustico Realty and Recology Vallejo. Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13, RTSC will be rehabilitating the exterior of Milestones Development, a non-profit organization providing services to adults with disabilities in Solano County. Some of the tasks will include exterior painting, yard work, construction of raised garden beds, cleaning, irrigation and more. Volunteer work hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Milestones Development, located at 1 Florida Street.
- **Vallejo Outreach** will be hosting a free event at Waterfront Park for the community on Saturday, July 12 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Guests can attend for a free health or dental screening, social services, and free school readiness programs. There will be a kids carnival and "air park," along with free games, prizes, giveaways, free lunch and groceries. For volunteer information, please call 707-644-4451 or email [info@vallejoutreach.org](mailto:info@vallejoutreach.org).
- **Vallejo Together**, in partnership with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) will be hosting the 5th Annual Vallejo Unity Day Celebration in September and is looking to gather volunteers for the event now. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a special event, lend a hand, or engage with others in the community. If you're interested in volunteering, email [vallejotogether@gmail.com](mailto:vallejotogether@gmail.com).

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