



For Immediate Release

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Greater Vallejo Recreation District Celebrates the Re-Opening of North Vallejo Community Center with the Local Community

Renovation Project Shows the Benefits of Measure K Funds at Work

Vallejo, CA, October 31, 2016 - The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) announced the re-opening of the North Vallejo Community Center. On Saturday, the community was invited to celebrate at the newly renovated building with a ribbon cutting ceremony, performance art, games, and music. The ceremony had a large turnout as many came to show their support for the recreation center and the benefits that it will bring.

"The recreation center is about the quality of life," said City of Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis, a neighborhood native. "The quality of life has to do with opportunities for kids to be involved in things, something to do on the weekends. When we were growing up, there was a community center. There was something to do every evening after school. That's what you need in communities. Revitalizing this place means that the community here has an opportunity to have a space right in their home. The kids can come across or down the street and use these facilities and they will be involved in things that are constructive. That's good for our communities."

The \$2.25 million renovation, funded by Measure K, involved 9 months of construction and improvements that include the enclosure of the courtyard to create a large indoor space, with increased floor space, for events and programs, new kitchen facility, new bathrooms, flooring, paving, heating and AC, windows and fencing. Although the tax measure fell short of providing enough funds for the renovation, GVRD known for being fiscally sound, was able to come up with creative ways to compensate for the gap.

Shane McAfee, General Manager of the GVRD, spoke about the work it takes to find the resources and financing to do a project. "More than just the project, you have to consider the maintenance and the ongoing operations in the facility afterwards and how we are going to staff it." McAfee continues, "We look at all of that as we start a project. It's very important that we have enough funds. The GVRD does not have any debt because we operate within our budget and our means that come in every year. We find good ways to finance projects and so that we can operate and maintain them long after they are built." In 2017, Measure K may be on the ballot again for Vallejo citizens. GVRD hopes to secure the funding needed for deferred maintenance projects that, although not as visible, are just as important such as paving, planting new trees, and new irrigation systems.

At the celebration, the community was given a taste of the types of programs that will be offered at the center. Crowds were delighted to watch a colorful dance program by Ballet Folklorico and inspirational performances by Curtain Call. Conveniently located next to a children's playground and park, the North Vallejo Community Center promises to be a central focal point in the local neighborhood for years to come.

SolTrans Route 2 will provide ongoing transportation to and from the North Vallejo Community Center which is located at 1121 Whitney Avenue.

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About GVRD

The Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) is an Independent Special Service District and is funded primarily by property taxes paid by residents of the district to provide recreational activities and leisure services to the citizens of Vallejo. The District is managed by a General Manager with oversight by a Five Member Board of Directors. We have been serving the residents of Vallejo since 1944. GVRD is independent and separate from the City of Vallejo. GVRD currently operates: 20 Neighborhood Parks, 4 Community Parks, and 4 Special Purpose Parks, an Olympic-size swimming pool, 4 Community Centers, and manages over 1000 acres of public land. GVRD manages most City owned recreational properties and provides Parks & Recreational services for the residents of the City.

GVRD organizes and manages sports programs, for both youth and adults, before and after-school programming, leisure classes and a variety of special interest events like The Vallejo Sports Hall of Fame, Breakfast with Santa, Arts and Concerts in the Park, and The Fishing Derby.

A frequently asked question is "Why is GVRD a Special District and not a department of the City of Vallejo?" In the late 1930's, members of the Vallejo Parent Teachers Association (PTA) decided they had a need for an individual to organize and manage recreational activities for local youth. The PTA hired Lyston Johnson, also known as "Mr. Recreation", to do the job. In 1944 an election was held and voters elected to create the entity we now know as The Greater Vallejo Recreation District.

GVRD primary source of funding is the property taxes, but also receives revenue from fees for services and programs, park entrance fees, and facility rentals. Additional funding through grants and park dedication permit fees provide for new park development projects Within the District.

Visit the website for more information at www.GVRD.org.