



Points of Interest

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**Sewer blockage or overflow?
Call us first at 644-8949**

VALLEJO SANITATION & FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

Currents

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY: SATURDAY, SEPT. 20TH

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, September 20th, and join us for a great morning of sprucing up Vallejo.

California Coastal Cleanup Day is the premier volunteer event focused on the marine environment in the country. In 2007, more than 60,000 volunteers worked together to collect more than 900,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from our beaches, lakes and waterways.

Since the program started in 1985, over 800,000 Californians have removed more than 12 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast.

And Vallejo is a critical part of the state's success!

Last year, 420 Vallejo volunteers collected more than 37,000 pounds of trash and recyclables.

There were a total of fifteen cleanup sites: eleven public sites on Saturday, and four private sites that were cleaned during the prior week.

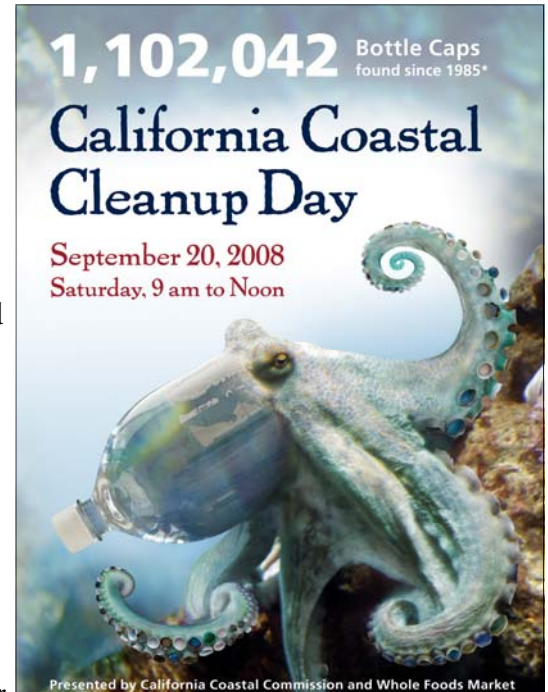
Among the interesting finds last year were hundreds of paint balls,

the tailgate of a pickup, a telephone pole, and a refrigerator.

Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District is the lead sponsor of the event, which is coordinated with the great help of our friends at VALCORE Recycling. Other fantastic partners and sponsors include the City of Vallejo, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Solano County, and the heroes of the day from Vallejo Garbage Service.

Community partners who ran cleanup sites included SOMIRA (our local kayak club), Ozcat Radio, California Maritime Academy, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Girl Scout Troop 131, and many others whose contributions are vital to the success of the event.

Make plans to join us on Saturday, September 20th from 9 a.m. to noon. After-wards, join volunteers at the Harbor Office for a free lunch!



To register for Coastal Cleanup Day, call 55-EARTH or visit www.Recycle-Guide.com.

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KEEPING FLEAS OFF YOUR PETS AND OUT OF YOUR YARD

The flea most commonly found in and around homes is the cat flea. Despite its name, cat fleas finds dogs and humans tasty too. Flea bites cause irritation, but also serious allergies in some animals and humans.

Detection

Adult fleas spend almost all of their time on an animal's body. In order to know when to begin and end your flea-control efforts, use a specially manufactured flea comb on your pet to keep track of the flea population.

Look for tiny eggs and white, worm-like flea larvae on the floor, in rugs, in cracks, and anywhere pets rest or sleep. Flea traps can

help you pinpoint a problem if you don't own a pet but still have fleas. Animals nesting near your house may be the source.



Inside Your Home

Comb your pet with a metal flea comb, available at pet stores. Focus around the neck and base of the tail. Keep a wide container of soapy water nearby to drown captured fleas.

Bathe dogs to drown fleas. Use a dog shampoo and increase effectiveness by

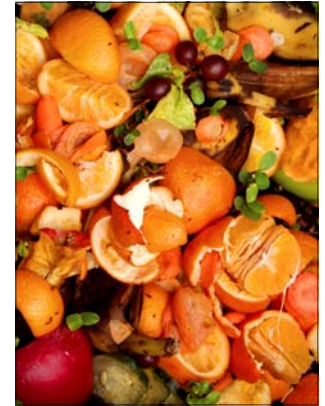
using a flea comb while the pet is lathered. You do not need to use a shampoo with insecticide.

Vacuum carpets, floors, and furniture throughout the year. Vacuuming carpets picks up adult and egg-stage fleas, but is less effective at removing larvae. *Caulk cracks.* Use diatomaceous earth to treat carpets, furniture, and pet bedding. Blow it into crevices that

can't be caulked. Wear a dust mask and goggles, and avoid getting dust in your pet's eyes.

Use borate-based carpet treatments; they have a low toxicity to humans and pets.

For more information, call 644-8949 ext. 292; we will mail you a free fact sheet.



Tip of the Season

Compost is one of nature's best mulches, and you can use it instead of commercial fertilizers. Best of all, compost is cheap. You can make it without spending a dime. Using compost improves soil fertility, increases soil's water-holding ability and stimulates healthy root development. And it's easy!

VALCORE Recycling is offering free compost classes on September 27 and October 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at 38 Sheridan St. in Vallejo. Reserve your FREE spot by calling 645-8258 or emailing Jackie@ValcoreRecycling.org

2008 RATE INCREASE

Beginning July 1, 2008, there will be a 3% rate increase for waste-water services. The current rate for wastewater service is \$34.75 per month. The new rate will be \$35.79 per month, an increase of \$1.04 per month for residential customers.

Commercial rates will increase 3% for each commercial classification served.

This increase is the third in a series of three rate increases that were adopted by the Board of

Trustees and put into effect for each of the three fiscal years beginning July 1, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The rate increase series was adopted to fund new debt for major capital improvements, and to continue to operate and maintain the sewer system that protects Vallejo's public health and property. The District diligently pursues control of its service charges for rates that are fair, equitable, and acceptable to the community.

Compared to nearby cities, Vallejo's sewer rates are about average: Benicia charges \$39.36; American Canyon charges \$34.55-\$38.11, depending on usage; Napa residents pay an annual fee of \$362.

The sewer rate increase will be pro-rated based on when you are billed. You will notice an increase in the July-August 2008 billing cycle; however, the full impact of this year's rate increase will be reflected in your September-October bill.



Currents is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit www.vsfcd.com or call (707) 644-8949.