

Greetings from VMS President

The Fiber Optic Advisory Board is hard at work to bring High-Speed Internet access to the DT district. We are hoping once the Master Telecom plan is adopted by the City Council then we can move forward and light up the Downtown (DT) soon. The Telecom Plan should be ready in December.

Vallejo Main Street (VMS) in partnership with the Central Core Restoration Corporation (CCRC) are hard at work to complete the Welcome Packet Project for new businesses in the Downtown District. The packets will serve as resource guides and will be distributed to all Downtown businesses and will be used by City of Vallejo departments, such as the Economic Development Department, to promote business development in our city.

VMS is also sponsoring a DT Merchant shopping bag, show casing Miro Salazar's art and the Downtown businesses to promote our wonderful scenery and shopping experience. This should be coming out soon!

The Downtown had a very successful Spring Forward event on Earth Day! This family-friendly event featured face painting, tee shirt art design and an Egg Hunt with prizes. Thanks to Eric Mitchell of Chinese Martial Arts and Stephen Roberson, of buztdknucklz, for donated several items to this event. Special thank you to CCRC and Downtown merchants: Design by David and Pieced on

Earth; Psychic Reality; Victory Stores Inc.; Momo's; The Hub and The Artizen.

Don't forget to come and support Leaf, a new Downtown eatery, open Friday-Monday, located at 925 Marin Street. At Leaf, I have had two wonderful quiche, and a yummy panni sandwich (with organic ingredients) and a chocolate ganache cake. Daniella and Rayne will take excellent care of you! Visit www.facebook.com/leaf.vallejo.

A Business Watch Program similar to the Neighborhood Watch program is being established in the Downtown district. This will enable businesses, property owners, restaurants, and residents living in the DT an extra layer of safety and protection. An application was created to help notify and track incidents which occur.

Village Defense is the password for this real time application. This can be accessed the through the City of Vallejo web site. Please check this out and help keep the DT a family-friendly place to shop and live. Please contact with questions Officer Hans Williams, Community Services Section, Vallejo Police Department at (707) 648.4273.

Lastly if you are motivated to help Vallejo Main Street, make a contribution, which is tax, deductible. Go to: www.vallejomainstreet.org or contact Gregg Goins at (707) 315.5282.

Business Spotlight: Thelma's African Connection



Neighbors, do yourself a big favor and check out Thelma's African Connection on 509 Georgia Street. When you first walk into Thelma's you see African artwork and colorful, all-natural silks, linens and cotton clothing thoughtfully displayed in her shop. A proud business owner, Thelma says that she likes 100 percent all-natural fabrics as opposed to synthetics.

Thelma started her business in the shopping market on Broadway Street;

however, her store has been located in the Downtown for fifteen years. Thelma moved to Vallejo in 1980 from Washington D.C. She has worked as a Budget Analyst, and practiced computer security for Wells Fargo for twenty-two years. It was while working at the bank when she opened her boutique. Of the transition, Thelma says that she had a great support system to help her run the store. For ten years, Thelma would come in late after work to get

the store ready for the next day.

Thelma is very involved in the Downtown as a board member of Vallejo Main Street and as Sister Cities member. Additionally, is quite the tour guide and always tries to add in one

new place to visit each time she does a tour. It is not a surprise that she attended ITMI in San Francisco, where she became a Certified Tour Director. Thelma loves her work and you can tell by her happy customers! As Thelma often says, her customers come

from all walks of life and she tries to bring a little bit of African culture to Vallejo.

That culture and artwork can be seen outside of her store and in her new interior design business.

Words Heard in the Downtown.....



“In the Downtown, I see things moving upward and progressing slowly but surely. More businesses are coming. Retail is the best! That's what brings people down here.” - Bob Coolidge, Owner, Yesteryear’s Marketplace

“**Pieced on Earth loves to support all Downtown events because growing as a community means everyone needs to participate. We get so many wonderful people this way.**”

- Summer Smith, Manager, Pieced on Earth

“Artiszen is so proud of this amazing downtown community. We have seen it grow so much and can’t wait to see what it becomes. We love all the community members that have become our friends over these few years. We truly hope to keep bringing the Art of Community to the Downtown, we just love this community.” - Dominique Gutierrez, Artiszen



“**What sets Vallejo apart from other cities, is the potential. There is an up and coming vibe here, which is exciting.**”

- Terry Pebler, Owner, Opus in Oils



“I’ve been a resident of Vallejo since 2012 and I like the diversity and the community. But, being a business owner here is a double edge sword. We are centrally located, with a farmer’s market, but we do not get a lot of foot traffic down here during the week.”

-Coleen, Owner, Little Imaginarium

“The beauty of Vallejo is not its architecture, nor its history. The beauty of Vallejo is its people.” -

Fred M., Owner, Indian Alley Antiques

I’m always inspired when I come Downtown! I see the re-birth! - Rosie, Shopper

“We live in Vallejo and wanted to be a part of the community. Having a business in Downtown Vallejo meant a lot for me.” - Steven Robinson, Owner, Buztd Knucklz Custom Ap-



“Downtown has grown a lot in the past few years, and continues to create