



EVENT ADVISORY

November 21, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARE ISLAND AGLOW HOLIDAY LIGHTED TRAIL WALK OFFERED SIX WEEKENDS ON MARE ISLAND NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH NEW YEARS DAY

*Preserve open throughout Thanksgiving week including Thanksgiving Day
10:00am-8:00pm with Holiday Lighted Trail Walk Sneak Preview Thanksgiving
Day Evening November 24*

[VALLEJO] Thanksgiving Day evening November 24, 2011 the Mare Island Heritage Trust hosts a sneak preview of the [*Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk*](#) in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve from 5:00-8:00pm. **The Preserve will be open Thanksgiving Day from 10:00am to 8:00pm** and throughout the Thanksgiving week and weekend. Preserve volunteers and visitors are invited to join together in a Thanksgiving Day potluck at the Visitors Center at 3:00pm. The Preserve is regularly open 10:00am to sunset (late fall/winter 5:00pm) Friday through Sunday. For the Thanksgiving week, the Preserve will also open Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00am-5:00pm.

The *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* Thanksgiving Day preview kicks-off extended hours from 5:00pm-8:00pm Friday through Sunday beyond the regular closure time for six weekends beginning on Thanksgiving weekend November 25 continuing through New Year's Day, including Christmas weekend and New Years weekend. On the *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk*, Preserve visitors will enjoy walking in the outdoors with four lighted stops along the one-mile paved trail route with scenic vistas of nearby lights and distant

seven Bay Area counties. Although the Preserve is open to the public for free, because it is all volunteer-operated with no funds received from the property owner, the City of Vallejo, there is a suggested donation of \$5 per person with no cost for children 14 and younger. Funds raised keep the Preserve open weekends year-round and provide visitor amenities like benches and bathrooms. [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to photos of the Spirit Ship lighting. Any of the photos are available high resolution.

For its first season, the *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* will feature holiday lighting at four stops along the one mile paved trail to the top of Mare Island Hill and the panoramic nightscape views of the Carquinez Strait and its lighted Al Zampa Memorial Bridge, the historic marquee lights of C&H Sugar, the California Maritime Academy, the Sandy Beach Napa Riverfront neighborhood and the towns of Crockett, Rodeo, Hercules, Benicia, Martinez, Vallejo and American Canyon with more distant views of the night lights of seven Bay Area counties. The event takes place rain or shine.

The *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* will start at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Visitors Center converted from a former bomb storage magazine and decorated for the season, where visitors may enjoy hot drinks and holiday treats and a campfire with s'mores and purchase Mare Island-oriented food and gift items from the Mare Island Magazine Marketplace. The *Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk* is self-guided and accessible rain or shine. Preserve visitors are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes, dress in layers and bring a flashlight.

The lighted stops along the paved trail include the Victorian-era fence of the U.S. Navy's oldest cemetery in the Pacific founded in 1858 decorated with garlands and wreaths; the grounds and ruins of the Historic Gardens of Bill and Alma Rowser; a coast live-oak in the grove at the entrance to the historic Ordnance Reservoir; and the "Spirit Ship" atop the Mare Island Hill. The Spirit Ship is an art tribute created by metal artist William Wareham in 1996 to honor Mare Island shipyard workers. It was commissioned at the time of the navy base closure by the cities of Vallejo and Benicia and the Navy Yard Association.

The Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve is at the southern end of Mare Island situated at the confluence of the Napa River/Mare Island Strait, the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay and highly visible from Interstate 80 over the bridges that cross the Carquinez Strait. Because there

are no lights on the Preserve, it is a “dark spot” which volunteers believe will make the Spirit Ship visible from the water and also from the bridges that span the Carquinez Strait.

Volunteers are still needed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thanksgiving Day 10am to sunset to help install lights, make garlands and wreaths and decorate the Visitors Center.

Sponsors to date include Vallejo Executive Lions Club, Paul Ligda Trust, Bert Johnson, The Joullian-Mosley Family, Fred Sessler Real Estate and John and Sharon Powers. Additional donations are still needed for the purchase of LED Christmas lights, power accessories and nighttime driving direction signs to the Preserve. Donations may be made at the Preserve website or by mailing a check to Mare Island Heritage Trust, 816 Branciforte St. Vallejo, CA 94590.

For more information contact Volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes, 707-249-9633 or myrnahay@pacbell.net or visit www.mareislandpreserve.org

Info. Call 707-249-9633. Visit our website: www.mareislandpreserve.org

Please note: High resolution photos of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve are available. Tours of The Preserve are available to any reporter or photographer covering these events. Call Myrna Hayes, 707-249-9633 (cell) to schedule.

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