



## CITY OF VALPARAISO

# AT HOME IN PARADISE

[HTTP://WWW.VALP.ORG](http://www.valp.org)

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 15, 2016

### Valparaiso Police Department

We here at the Valparaiso Police Department are dedicated to serving the citizens of the City of Valparaiso, and take pride in providing the best services possible. We are fortunate to live and work in one of the safest cities in Florida, but we could not accomplish this without the cooperation and assistance we receive from the citizens themselves.

We count on your help and rely on information provided from residents concerning any and all suspicious activities, and appreciate that neighbors look out for one another. However, we must keep in mind times have changed and crime does exist in our city. We would like to bring to your attention two of the most frequent crimes

taking place which also are two of the most preventable: vehicle and residential burglaries.

Most vehicle and residential burglaries take place because residents and vehicle owners, **DO NOT** secure their homes or vehicles. Burglaries are for the most part, CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY, and we at times are providing that opportunity. They can be prevented simply by locking your vehicles and homes. Most burglars do not want to draw attention to themselves by “breaking” into a vehicle or home by force. They simply walk the neighborhoods, usually after dark, and check for unsecure vehicles and residences. Also, people have a habit

of leaving items of value in their vehicles that can easily be seen, such as, phones, IPADS, cash and at times guns. Most of these crimes can be prevented simply by the turn of a key or by pressing the button on a key fob. Burglars do not like to make noise, they do not like lights around a vehicle or residence. They look for signs of a residence being unoccupied such as newspapers in the yard, mail not removed from mailboxes and the same lights left on all the time, or no lights at all.

Help us help you. Contact us immediately when you see something suspicious. Together we can stop a crime before it starts.

Again, thank you all for your help. We could not do what we do without you.

### CALENDAR

- *October 10—Commission Meeting, 6:00 pm*
- *October 18—Planning Commission Meeting, 6:00 pm*
- *October 31—Halloween*
- *November 6—Daylight Savings*
- *November 8—Election Day*
- *November 11—Veterans Day*
- *November 14—Commission Meeting, 6:00 pm*

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### NFPA ANNOUNCES “DON’T WAIT: CHECK THE DATE! REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS” AS OFFICIAL THEME FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 9-15, 2016

The Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting their annual open house on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00–3:00. Firefighters will be on hand to demonstrate their skills and the equipment that is used in firefighting operations. Personnel from the FWB State Fire Marshal office will be on hand with informational handouts. Snack and refreshments will be served at 12:00. The public is invited to stop by the fire station at 431 Valparaiso Parkway anytime during the event.

**Don't Wait**  
**CHECK the date!**  
**REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS**  
**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**  
[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

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## VALPARAISO LIBRARY

**September is Library Card Sign-Up Month** - a time when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that the most important school supply of all is at your library - it's your library card. With your free Valparaiso Community Library card you and your family can check-out books for readers of all ages. We also have movies (BLU-RAY and DVD formats), books on CD, music CDs, and electronic games. Plus, you have the power to learn a foreign language, attend college from home, and find a job!

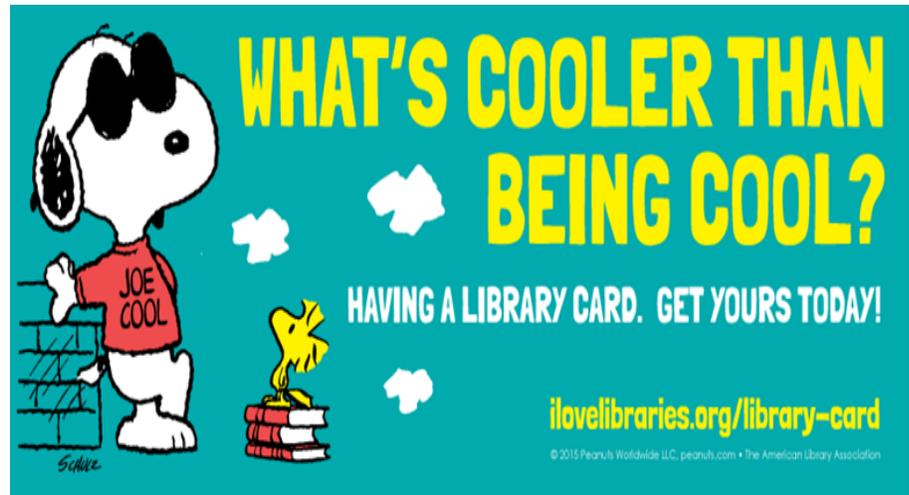
**Rocket Languages** is now available for patrons who are interested in learning a new language. Some of the languages offered include Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Users will need their library card number in order to create a free account.

To help you further your education, your library card provides connections to the **2016 Directory of Online**

**Colleges and Universities in Florida** which links students of all ages to sixty-four post-secondary institutions in Florida which offer online programs. Of these accredited online colleges, 14 are public four-year colleges or universities and five are public community or technical colleges, and 45 are private colleges, universities, or career and vocational schools.

Your library also has **Brainfuse JobNow!**, *alive*, anytime, anywhere job assistance

program which includes up-to-date nation-wide and local job search engines, professional resume critique and proven interview techniques. Their experienced personalized career center seamlessly integrates with advanced virtual technology to help job seekers of diverse backgrounds and needs. Visit our webpage at <http://vcl.valp.org> and see all of the wonderful ways to enhance your life with a free Valparaiso Community Library Card – (a proof of residence in Okaloosa County is required).

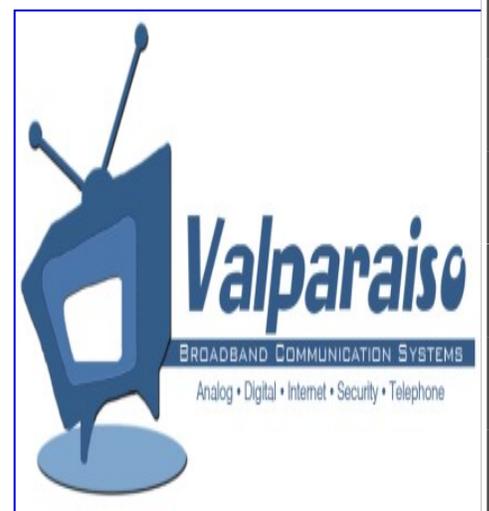


## VALPARAISO BROADBAND COMMUNICATION

**EXCITING THINGS** are happening in Valparaiso's own cable department! We have kicked it up a notch and launched a new top internet speed of 50 Mbps. Our IT Administrator has drastically reduced valp.net spam attacks. We have unveiled a live streaming tower camera on television channel 99 which broadcasts 24/7 views of our beautiful city. This October we plan on adding more HD channels within our Premium channel packages, which currently encompass HBO, Starz, Showtime, and Cinemax programming. We anticipate an all HD premium lineup in the near future, and will

be adding the Boomerang cartoon channel. Did you know that **VBCS now offers a wireless support option** for internet subscribers? At a rate of \$5 monthly with a minimum six-month commitment it is sure to save you money as opposed to the \$35 per service call charge without wireless support. **Contractors and homeowners alike:** When requested prior to drywall installation, we happily provide cable and alarm pre-wiring at no cost to you. We do not provide wall boxes or outlets but with the right conduit in place we do have the capability to fish cable through conduit for wiring purposes. Call us at (850) 729-

5404 if you have any questions. As always, we thank you for your business and look forward to serving you and our great city.



**VALPARAISO PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - MESSAGE FROM NATHAN KELLY, PW DIRECTOR**

“Our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life for Valparaiso residents, businesses and visitors by delivering responsive, efficient and cost effective services to every neighborhood and customer through continuously demonstrating a can-do attitude in the performance of our duties.”

**Sanitation Services**

There is no question that our services are far superior than any other in the county. It is that way because of great customers like you and the team effort it takes to successfully remove refuse from our great city! As we rapidly approach this holiday season please review this year’s schedule carefully to ensure there are no conflicts.

**November**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	8 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	9 <sup>th</sup> - Thur. Route	10 <sup>th</sup> - Fri. Route	11 <sup>th</sup> - <b>NO PICK UP</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	15 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	16 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	17 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	18 <sup>th</sup> - Regular
21 <sup>st</sup> - Regular	22 <sup>nd</sup> -Regular	23 <sup>rd</sup> -Thur. Route	24 <sup>th</sup> - <b>NO PICK UP</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> - Regular

**December**

19 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	20 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	21 <sup>st</sup> - Regular	22 <sup>nd</sup> - Regular	23 <sup>rd</sup> - Regular
26 <sup>th</sup> - <b>NO PICK UP</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> - Mon. Route	28 <sup>th</sup> - Tue. Route	29 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	30 <sup>th</sup> - Regular

**January 2017**

2 <sup>nd</sup> - <b>NO PICK UP</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> - Mon. Route	4 <sup>th</sup> - Tue. Route	5 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	6 <sup>th</sup> - Regular
16 <sup>th</sup> <b>NO PICK UP</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> - Mon. Route	18 <sup>th</sup> - Tue. Route	19 <sup>th</sup> - Regular	20 <sup>th</sup> - Regular

**Streets Division**

Living in Florida we seldom think of driving in icy conditions but as we learned a few years ago the potential for disaster is there. As the temperature drops it is always a good idea to check your tire pressure and most importantly pay close attention to road conditions. Homeowners should inspect sprinkler systems to ensure they are not spraying on the street eliminating a hazard.

**Water Division**

When cooler weather comes our way our plants and grass require a lot less water. Don’t forget to adjust timers (watering once every two weeks is normally sufficient) So save some water and some money.

**Wastewater Division**

It never fails that we get that panicked call on Thanksgiving Day of a service line that is backed up. With a house full of guests, it could not come at a worse time! Don’t fret, we are available to respond by calling the non-emergency line to Valparaiso Police Dept. (850) 729-5400. To help eliminate such calamity remember that most of these calls are a result of Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) being washed down the drain. To properly dispose of these items, place them in a container and in the household garbage.

**Stormwater Division**

Street sweeping is a requirement of the city by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection as it relates to storm water discharge permits. The material picked up off the streets is prevented from going into the storm sewer, which discharges directly into the Bayou. In addition to the FDEP requirements, street sweeping helps keep the streets clear of dangerous debris that could puncture tires or cause other damage. Also, cleaner streets make our community more beautiful.

Residents can help with the street sweeping service by not depositing materials like litter, grass clippings and other yard debris in the street. Adding these materials to the street sweeping pickup is costly as those materials should be disposed of by other means.

City of Valparaiso  
465 Valparaiso Pkwy  
Valparaiso, FL 32580  
Phone: 850-729-5402



## PREVENT STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

### 10 Things You Can Do:

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard
4. Compost your yard waste
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
9. Pick up after your pet
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps) or [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

### MAYOR

John B. Arnold, Jr

### COMMISSIONERS

Heyward H. Strong, Jr

Kay Hamilton

Chris Wasden

Tom Browning

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Carl Scott

### CITY CLERK

Tammy Johnson

### POLICE CHIEF

Joseph Hart

## VALPARAISO FLOODPLAIN INFORMATION

When a flash-flood watch is issued for your area. Listen to area radio and television stations and NOAA weather radio for possible flash-flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress from the National Weather Service and public safety agencies. Be prepared to move out of danger at a moment's notice.

The City of Valparaiso has available in the Library much information with respect to being prepared for flooding disasters. Informational brochures and newsletters emphasize safety for flooding hazards, which includes using important flood safety measures. The following is some of that important information:

### Before a Flood:

- Monitor your surroundings and report any clogged or damaged storm drains to the appropriate authority. HOAs are responsible for the drainage maintenance on private roads and gated communities or something to that effect.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local television, radio stations, and/or internet weather station such as [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).
- Know the difference between a flood watch and a flood warning. A watch means flooding is possible. A warning means flooding is occurring or will occur soon.
- Be prepared: develop a family disaster plan.

### When a Flood is Imminent:

- Be prepared to evacuate: identify places to go, identify alternative travel routes not prone to flooding, and plan what to do with your pets.
- Pack a bag with important items in case you need to evacuate. Don't forget to include needed medications.
- If advised to evacuate your home, do so quickly.
- If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground.
- Protect your property by moving valuables and furniture to higher levels, and by bringing outside possessions in-door. All electrical components and utilities installed should be above potential flood height.
- Remember to turn off utilities at the main switches and/or disconnect electrical appliances.

### During a Flood

- Avoid disaster areas!
- Do not walk through moving water. Water 6 inches deep can knock you off your feet.
- If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. If possible use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. Follow recommended routes. DO NOT sightsee.
- If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- NEVER allow children to play around high water, storm drains, and canals.



## After a Flood

- Do not return to flooded areas until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.
- Do not visit disaster areas following a flood. Your presence could hamper urgent emergency and rescue operations.
- Travel with care. Watch for damaged roads, downed trees or power lines. Stay away from downed power lines and report to the power company.
- Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Do not enter a building if it is still flooded or surrounded by floodwater.
- Do not enter a building that has flooded until local building officials have inspected it for safety.
- Check the property for structural damage. Examine walls, floors, doors, windows, and ceilings for risk of collapsing.
- Check for fire hazards.
- Check for gas leaks. Let building air out to remove foul odors or escaping gas.
- Have an electrician check the electrical system and appliances.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether water supply is safe to drink.

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## FLOODPLAIN NEWS

City Flood Services: The first thing you should do is check your flood hazard. Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the City of Valparaiso Public Library. You can also visit the Building Department at City Hall to see if you are in a mapped floodplain. If so, they can give you more information, such as depth of flooding over a building's first floor, past flood problems in the area, and copies of elevation certificates on buildings built in the floodplain since 2009. They also have a handout on selecting an architect, engineer, or contractor. Even if you are not in the floodplain, there still may be a risk of flooding.

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## FLOODPLAIN SERVICES

If requested, the City Administrator will arrange a visit to the property by the City Engineer to review its flood problem and explain ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage. Call City Hall at 729-5402. These services are free. If you are in a floodplain or have had a flood, drainage or sewer backup problem, check out these sources of assistance.

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Call City Hall about our CRS Rating at 729-5402.

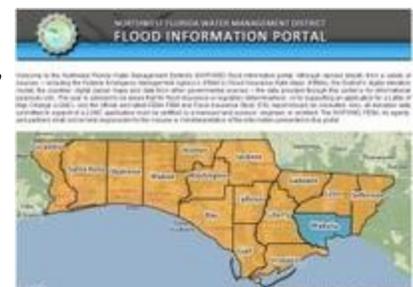
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## NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



The District's Flood Information Portal provides residents and business owners in Northwest Florida with an interactive tool to view flood maps and detailed flood information down to the individual parcel level. The portal compiles flood information directly from a variety of sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), the counties' digital parcel maps, and data from governmental sources. Website address is as follows:

<http://portal.nwfwmdfloodmaps.com/>



## SPECIAL DOOLITTLE PARK INSERT

Dear Residents:

I am sure you are aware of the important role that the City of Valparaiso plays in helping our community recognize and honor our military veterans. To date this important work has been supported almost solely by budgetary expenditures by the City. This year the City is reaching out with a goal of raising \$85,000 to complete the work started at Doolittle Memorial Park. The work remaining includes the much needed parking area (\$65,000), landscaping and pavilion \$20,000).

Without the support of generous donors, the City likely will be unable to finish the plan for the park anytime in the near future. Therefore, the City of Valparaiso is respectfully requesting your assistance in making the completion of Doolittle Park a reality. As a good partner to our veterans the City has continually sought input on our park plans and now needs your pledge of support to finish this project. The City would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of either monetary or in-kind donations (labor, materials, landscaping) as we work to continually support our veterans.

Please contact City Hall at 729-5402 for donation information.

Thanking you in advance,

John B. Arnold, Jr.  
Mayor

