

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 49

OCTOBER 2025

NUMBER 10



OCTOBER EVENTS

LOBSTER BOIL DINNER, Sunday, October 5

BINGO, October 10

VVHA Board Meeting, October 15

Friday Night Social, October 24

OCTOBER

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Tu, Thurs Aqua Exercise with Stacy 10-11:00 AM Community Pool						Festa Italiana
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lobster Boil 4:00pm					BINGO 6pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Columbus Day		VVHA Board Meeting 3pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Friday Night Social 5:30pm	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					Halloween	
Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA Event						



2025-2026 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President, Janet Schmidt
 Vice President, Rick Wood
 Secretary, Inger Laidley
 Treasurer, Henk Brok
Directors:
 Eve Breckenridge
 Chris Killion
 Steve Kinney
 Mae VanNett



Committee/Activity Chairs

VVHA Clubhouse Coordinator:
 Mae VanNett

Hospitality:
 Robin McGuire, Mae VanNett

Memorials and VV Clubhouse Coordinator:
 Janeen di Rienzo

Directory:
 Michael Merriman

Library:
 Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood

Bocce Committee Chair:
 Rick Wood

VVHA Website:
 Michael Merriman



Non-Social Resident-formed Groups

Community Education:
 Grace Kistner

Neighbor Helping Neighbor:
 Carroll Cotten

If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50 donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial.

October Birthdays

- 1 Terry Maurer
- 2 Leona Aves, Cynthia Lane
- 3 Ken Bergeron, Audrey Pniower
- 4 Lori Zumwalt
- 5 Carl Myers, Teri Scalzo, Minna Williams
- 6 Anne Marie Clifford, Linda Titus
- 7 Gary Crosman, Ken Young
- 8 Laurel Guiliani, Rick Wood
- 9 Kathy Canum, Doug Schmidt
- 10 Vivian Robison
- 11 Carroll Cotton
- 12 Diana Lavagnino
- 13 Janet Schmidt
- 14 Chuck Pniower
- 15 Patty Welsh
- 16 Bob Distad
- 17 Cathy Small

VIVA!

VIVA Mission Statement: To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current and upcoming events, VVHA news, activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley residents.

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The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

Hi Neighbors,

Two big events happening this month.

Sunday, October 5th , is our yearly VVHA fundraising Lobster Boil in the corporation yard. A portion of the funds raised will be used to provide free Thanksgiving dinner to residents in the park in November and to subsidize the dinner cost at our Holiday party in December.

On Wednesday, October 8th Janeen and friends are preparing a Free Italian dinner for park residents in the clubhouse. (See the flyer on the desk in the mailroom for information and sign up sheet).

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VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 MINUTES

The meeting was called to Order by VP Rick Wood at 3:10pm

Confirmation of quorum was announced by Secty Inger Laidley

Minutes of August 2025 meeting were approved

Treasurer's report - As of August 31, 2025: Checking \$11,727.57; Savings \$9,013.72; VIVA \$3,047.63; Bocce \$1,664.30; Total \$25,453.22

80 people joined us in welcoming a dozen new residents at the annual Newcomer's Potluck. More people are moving in all the time, reach out and make them feel welcome!

At Men in the Kitchen on Labor Day 56 residents enjoyed a full made-to-order breakfast followed by bocce.

September Bingo Report – 54 people enjoyed good friends, food and prizes

VVHA directory please enter changes by the end of the month

Upcoming events – Lobster Boil (Oct 5), Bingo (Oct 10) Friday Night Social (Oct 24)

Open discussion items:

- 1) Another reminder to Please slow down in the park and obey stop signs!
- 2) Covid and flu shots in the clubhouse Oct 9, please contact the office to sign up
- 3) Reminder that each month the Treasurer Report and the meeting minutes are posted in the mailroom, on the wall to the left as you enter the door
- 4) Janeen let everyone know about the Spaghetti Feed she is hosting in the clubhouse on Oct 12, she's put a sign-up sheet in the mailroom

A resident has offered to host a computer workshop for residents – details to follow!

VP Rick Wood adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm

PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

October 2025

Happy Fall! As we move in to the cooler weather and overcast mornings, we are still in the drier season with increased risk for Red Flag Warnings and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Preparedness is a topic that has been often repeated in our messaging to residents, it is essential that each household have a plan for power shut offs, and evacuation plans and these are shared with family and friends. For additional information or resources please contact the office.

WATER RATES AND CONSERVATION

In the Press Democrat September 18, 2025: St. Helena officials are weighing whether to launch an early study of water and wastewater rates — a step that could raise bills two years sooner than expected, as the city scrambles to close budget shortfalls and fund critical infrastructure projects. Public works director Joe Leach told the City Council on Sept. 9 that staff want to begin a rate study this year, with the goal of setting new rates by July 2026. Normally, the city would wait until 2027 to update its five-year rate cycle.

Water in St. Helena is billed on a tier system : Tier 1: 1-11 HCF \$6.99, Tier 2: 12-15 HCF \$14.08, Tier 3: >16 HCF \$15.07. HCF Hundred Cubic Feet =748.05 gallons. During the month of July billing period 74% of the usage on the bill was in Tier 3. The rates are determined by the City but the amount of usage can be controlled by conserving water. Below are some Water Conservation Tips that may assist the Vineyard Valley community control water usage:

Around the House

- Fill the bathtub halfway or less
- Install Aerators
- Recycle indoor water and irrigate your garden
- Turn off water when brushing teeth and shaving
- Fix leaks
- Install high-efficiency toilets
- Take 5-minute (or less) showers
- Wash full loads of clothes and dishes

Around the Yard

- Use water-wise plants
- Reimagine your yard
- Use drought-resistant trees and plants
- Adjust sprinkler heads and fix leaks
- Install drip irrigation and add a smart controller
- Use a broom instead of water to clean outdoor areas
- Use mulch

COVID AND FLU VACCINE OPPORTUNITY AT VINEYARD VALLEY

A Covid and Flu Vaccine opportunity for Vineyard Valley residents has been scheduled for October 9th. Please contact the office to be added to the list. We are grateful to the St. Helena Hospital Foundation Mobile Health Clinic for providing this opportunity to our residents.

FALL HOME MAINTENANCE

Please do your part to keep your property lean and green to help protect your family and home as well as others in the Vineyard Valley community. Please join your neighbors in doing your part to protect our community by:

- Removing all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.). Remove vines and shrubs that are growing over your roof, these are a fire hazard. Shrubs must be trimmed below the height of your gutters.
- Check and clean your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- Contacting the office to review any tree branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet
- Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks and patios
- Remove accumulated vegetative debris from the roof.
- Carports and patios must be kept clean at all times. All trash, debris, boxes, barrels, brooms, ladders, etc., must be kept out of sight. Carports are not to be used for storage.

PET RULES REMINDER

Vineyard Valley welcomes two pets per household with the expectation that all residents will comply with the pet rules. The rules violations most commonly reported are that pets may not invade the privacy of anyone’s homesite, garden, flower beds, shrubs, yard, etc.; residents are responsible for removal of pet waste while walking their dogs. Pet litter disposal containers are located throughout the Park. Dogs, cats and other animals are not permitted to run at large in a Mobile Home Park. All cats must be indoor cats.

NAPA COUNTY WILDLIFE SERVICES

There have been reports of animals making their way under resident’s homes, which is not uncommon at this time of year. Please contact Napa County Wildlife Services at 707-253-4357 and leave a message for the federal trapper assigned to Napa County.

Moving In -

Welcome to our Community

Linda Morin and John Pitts
2 San Lucas

Nancy and Marc Kustman 6
San Lucas

Debbie Austin Styles

At the Salon
in
Vineyard Valley



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REALTOR®
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October is Italian Heritage Month



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Italian & Other Foods
Italian music and much more

For information call Anthony Micheli at 707-486-3832

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

FESTA DE PASTA Spaghetti Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 4PM

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PLACE
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Please sign up on the sheet that has been provided

RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Kaizen: Small Steps to "Success" Ric Morgan

Wednesdays, October 1 & 8, 11:30-12:30, Rianda House

Kaizen is a Japanese philosophy focusing on incremental improvements in all aspects of life with an emphasis on the idea that small, ongoing changes can lead to significant overall progress. Learn simple strategies for making changes in an effort to improve some part of one's life. RSVP

Farmers Market

Friday, October 3, 7:30-12:00, Crane Park

Stop by the Rianda House booth at the St. Helena Farmers Market on the first Friday of each month. Get information about programs and activities. Enjoy fresh produce, gourmet food vendors, beautiful hand-crafted items and non-profit organizations in this family friendly atmosphere!

SongShine Ellen Patterson & Eve-Anne Wilkes

Mondays, October 6 - November 10, 1:00-2:30, American Legion Hall

A singing class for adults who want to strengthen voices affected by aging and/or neurological conditions. The SongShine method is designed around the cutting-edge science of neuroplasticity—the human brain's lifelong ability to reorganize itself and change by creating new or alternative neural pathways. It's FUN! Make new friends and become part of a community of singers! RSVP

Common Table Speaker Event Common Table, Adventist Health

Wednesday, October 8, 6:00-8:00, Grace Episcopal Church St. Helena Hospital is partnering with Rianda House and Common Table to offer a series of lectures on health and aging. Dr. Ari Umuty, Medical Oncologist and Medical Director of the Martin-O'Neill Cancer Center will address the latest cancer developments and treatments. Snacks and lecture are free to the public.

Simple Arts & Crafts Elena Mendez

Monday, October 13, 3:00-5:00, Rianda House

Come join us for some fun creating art projects from various materials and things from nature. This class is another means to de-stress, socialize and simply have fun. RSVP

Victim Services Advocate Irma Luna

Friday, October 17, 12-1:00 by appointment, Rianda House

If you or someone you know is a victim of a crime, fraud, abuse, eviction, or in crisis, Irma Luna from Napa County District Attorney's Office can help with no-cost & bilingual support. Call Irma directly to book a session: (707) 299-1411.

Gong Nidra Meditation Patrici Flores

Saturday, October 25, 9:15-10:15pm, Rianda House

Gong Nidra is a unique meditation experience that combines the calming practice of Yoga Nidra - often called "œyogic sleep" with the deep and powerful healing tones of the symphonic gong. This class lets you lie back, breathe, and allow the sound to carry you. Build a pathway to rest, restoration, and inner stillness. Bring a mat, pillows and blankets. RSVP

Rianda OPEN House

Sunday, October 26, 3:00-5:00PM, Rianda House

Everyone is invited! Come celebrate and share our gratitude for all who made the newly refreshed Rianda House possible. Sips and light bites. Fun and good friends. Music by Alec Fuhrman. See you there!



STERLING VINEYARDS

What a pleasant surprise visiting Sterling Vineyards was. We had decided to visit, as Mae had never been and I wanted to see the differences since their reopening after the 2020 Glass Fire. The new Gondola was also a curiosity. First, the new ride to the top is quite comfortable and has a spectacular view. I remember the rickety old gondolas that only sat 4 and were quite crowded. This was an 8-seater, with loads of room. As it slowly ambled up to the winery, we took in the great views of the valley. Once at the top, we started our tour.

Sterling was founded by Peter Newton and Michael Stone in 1964. They were one of only 27 bonded wineries at that time. They started planting Merlot and Chardonnay, which was a change from the norm of just Cabernet Sauvignon. In 1969 they released the first vintage dated Merlot. Sterling (Newton) continued to champion the quality of Merlot throughout his tenure in addition to Cabernet Sauvignon. They built their winery on the hilltop to reflect their love of the Mykonos Islands of Greece. They also focused on the guest experience and built the first and only winery gondola. The winery opened in 1972. During this time, they also were acquiring prestigious vineyards throughout The Napa Valley. In 1977 Sterling was sold to Coca Cola in an ill-fated attempt to enter the wine business. 1978 saw the purchase of the highly regarded Diamond Mountain Ranch Vineyards. In 1982 they sold to Seagram's, who continued the expansion of their acreage and production. Diageo acquired Seagram's in 2001 and then Treasury in 2016 became their current owner.

We had chosen the Self-Guided Tour. When we exited the tram, we were greeted with our first taste, a 2024 Sauvignon Blanc. Very refreshing, with a nice grapefruit note that was not overpowering. We then sauntered over to the view of the backside of the winery, where we looked down on the intake area. Here we were presented with our second wine, their 2021 Carneros Pinot Noir. Good cherry-berry fruit with subtle tannins. Next was the production area and a delightful 2019 Malbec. 85% Malbec with

the remainder Cabernet. Medium tannins but quite quaffable and bright dark berry notes. There are large projection screens in each area showing the processes that happen there. The walkway is a good 20 feet above any action.

From there we strolled out onto the terrace and the view that is Sterling Winery. The Terrace is a good football field in size. It is shaded, and dotted with tables for individual groups tastings. We were shown to our seats and served a cheese tray. This was accompanied by the 2021 Red Blend. 60% Merlot, 30% malbec and 10% Petite Verdot. Somewhat tannic, but with bright fruit typical of Merlot. We strolled the deck taking in the various instructional placards and views. Looking back towards the East, you can read about and see the devastation from the 2020 Glass Fire. They also have a remnant of their past, one of the original 4 seater gondolas. The 2019 Clairemore Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon was then poured. 100% Cabernet, this has medium tannins on a core of bright fruit with minimal tobacco/leather notes. We declined the Malvaisia Bianca sweet wine, and were offered either glass of Chardonnay or Rose. We chose to have one of each. While our least favorites, they were still fine examples of Napa Valley wines. There are several options for tastings. We had the “Tour & Terrace Experience” at \$85 per person. This included our tasting glasses and the cheese tray. There is a “Hilltop Experience“ inside the upper area of the winery, featuring the best of Sterling for \$125. Also a Diamond Mountain Experience featuring the reds from that vineyard for \$75. All in all, our visit was a very pleasant surprise. It is a great place to take any visitors to valley with its view, gondola ride and selection of wines.



37

15

46

75

46

72

61

65

47

23

BINGO TIME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM
GAMES BEGIN 6:30

- ENTRY PACK \$15.00, INCLUDES 3 X 6 GAMES
- PACKS, DAUBER, AND DINNER
- BYO BEVERAGE
- THOSE WITH SPECIFIC FOOD REQUIREMENTS, OR ALLERGIES, ARE WELCOME TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN
- EXTRA PACKS \$10
- PRIZE FOR A LUCKY WINNER!

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Know Thy Neighbor



by Suzanne James

Our neighbor in the spotlight this month is a warm and modest woman who at first denied having a story worth telling when asked to interview for this column. (Note that this is the usual initial response by almost everyone from the Park asked for an Interview. Fortunately, most eventually agree and we hear their stories which, without exception, are of interest in getting to know them, as is our neighbor this month!

She was born on a commercial dairy farm in Holton, Michigan, the seventh child and fourth girl of nine siblings. When she was three, the family moved a mile down the road to their family farm where they grew all their own food. "I was extremely happy growing up there with three older brothers to do all the heavy work outside and three older sisters to do all the heavy work inside! I would go out to help when I wanted to!"

After high school, where she lettered in basketball and track, she moved to San Francisco, moving in with her sister who had been there for ten years and began working as receptionist at a law firm. "Talk about culture shock! I came out here with pig tails, a farm girl—everything was so new! Working with lawyers and so many people in a high-rise office building. I met my roommate there so I was able to move into my own apartment." She then worked at Coldwell Banker as a receptionist and started taking night classes at City College—psychology, English, "undergrad stuff. I was fine as long as I didn't have to do public speaking!"

Her next step was moving to Seattle for a year, but discovered she missed San Francisco, so she decided to move back, moving into an apartment with a roommate "who eventually became my husband back in 1985."

After moving back to San Francisco she was employed by Goldman Sachs, moving up the career ladder from Customer Documents and Compliance to Private Wealth Management, and attaining her FINRA Securities License, becoming licensed in Trading, earning what she called her "BS from GS." She worked from home during the Covid epidemic, and when that was over, about three years ago, she retired after thirty-nine years with Goldman Sachs.

A highlight for our neighbor was modelling in bridal shows in Benicia for a couple of years, complete with horse and buggy photos and vintage bridal dresses. “But when they asked me to model ‘Mother of the Bride’ dresses, I quit!”

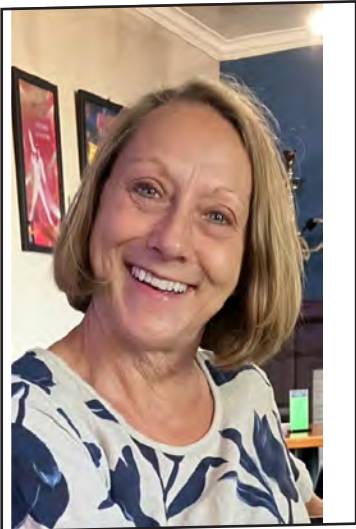
She and her husband bought their home in Vineyard Valley in 2015 and week-ended here for five years. “We intended it to be our retirement home. I worked from here beginning in 2020 during Covid, using electronics to hire people, file documents, etc for a couple of years before I retired.”

Asked what she likes to do during her free time, she is enthusiastic about being a volunteer for Sunrise Horse Rescue, working at the satellite property on Ehlers Lane four mornings a week.

A second passion is travelling. She describes spending a lot of time in Eugene Oregon to visit their son, age 37, a Wells Fargo advisor, and Bend, Oregon with their 34 year-old daughter who is Project Manager for a construction firm, and “three grand-dogs!” Our neighbor and her husband also spend time, mostly in Europe, every year or two. They just returned from their latest sojourn, spending two weeks in France and two weeks in Spain. They also journey to Zihuatanejo Mexico for two weeks in February.

Moreover, she works out nearly every day, including three days a week at a nearby gym. She has been active on the VV Board for years, now in the position of Director. She denies having anything on her “bucket list” saying she is quite satisfied with her life as it is.

Our Neighbor this month is Mae Van Nett, who lives with her husband, Steve Kinney, at 6 La Canada.



Referrals, volunteers, and suggestions for this column are encouraged and welcomed!

Rationed Goods in the USA During the Second World War

By Mariam Hansen

St. Helena Historical Society

A wide variety of commodities were rationed during World War II in the United States.
Rationing ended when supplies were sufficient to meet demand.

Rationed Items:	Rationing Duration:
Tires	January 1942 to December 1945
Cars	February 1942 to October 1945
Bicycles	July 1942 to September 1945
Gasoline	May 1942 to August 1945
Fuel Oil & Kerosene	October 1942 to August 1945
Solid Fuels	September 1943 to August 1945
Stoves	December 1942 to August 1945
Rubber Footwear	October 1942 to September 1945
Shoes	February 1943 to October 1945

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 dramatically ended the debate over America’s entrance into the war that raged around the world. As eager volunteers flooded local draft board offices, ordinary citizens soon felt the impact of the war. Almost overnight the economy shifted to war production. Consumer goods now took a back seat to military production as nationwide rationing began almost immediately.

During the Second World War, you couldn’t just walk into a shop and buy as much sugar or butter or meat as you wanted, nor could you fill up your car with gasoline whenever you liked. All these things were rationed, which meant you were only allowed to buy a small amount (even if you could afford more).

In May of 1942, the U.S. Office of Price Administration (OPA) froze prices on practically all everyday goods, starting with sugar and coffee. The government introduced rationing because certain things were in short supply during the war, and rationing was the only way to make sure everyone got their fair share.



War ration books and tokens were issued to each American family, dictating how much gasoline, tires, sugar, meat, silk, shoes, nylon and other items any one person could buy. View a listing of all rationed items. Across the country 8000 rationing boards were created to administer these restrictionsThe 1943 Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog contains a list of all rationed farm equipment and tells the reasons and benefits of rationing as well as who is eligible. Even chicken wire fencing was rationed. A wartime edition of the American Woman’s Cook Book contained revised recipes and gave advice on dealing with food shortages.

Types of rationing included: Uniform coupon rationing (sugar is an example) provided equal shares of a

single commodity to all consumers; Point rationing provided equivalent shares of commodities by coupons issued for points which could be spent for any combination of items in the group (processed foods, meats, fats, cheese); Differential coupon rationing provided shares of a single product according to varying needs (gasoline, fuel oil); and Certificate rationing allowed individuals products only after an application demonstrated need (tires, cars, stoves, typewriters).

Uncle Sam last week assumed the role of fashion designer. Sweeping restrictions aim to save 15 percent of the yardage now used on women's and girls' apparel through such measures as restricting hems and belts to two inches, eliminating cuffs on sleeves. Exempt categories include bridal gowns, maternity dresses, vestments for religious orders. - Life Magazine, April 20, 1942.

The OPA established the Idle Tire Purchase Plan, and could deny mileage rations to anyone owning passenger tires not in use. Voluntary gas rationing proved ineffective and by the spring of 1942 mandatory rationing was needed. To get your classification and ration stamps, you had to certify to a local board that you needed gas and owned no more than five tires.

By the end of 1942, half of U.S automobiles were issued an 'A' sticker which allowed 4 gallons of fuel per week. That sticker was issued to owners whose use of their cars was nonessential. Hand the pump jockey your Mileage Ration Book coupons and cash, and she (yes, female service station attendants because the guys were over there) could sell you three or four gallons a week, no more. For nearly a year, A-stickered cars were not to be driven for pleasure at all.

The green 'B' sticker was for driving deemed essential to the war effort; industrial war workers, for example, could purchase eight gallons a week. Red 'C' stickers indicated physicians, ministers, mail carriers and railroad workers. 'T' was for truckers, and the rare 'X' sticker went to members of Congress and other VIPs. Truckers supplying the population with supplies had a T sticker for unlimited amounts of fuel.

The national maximum Victory Speed was 35 miles an hour, and driving clubs or carpools were encouraged. The main idea was to conserve rubber, not gasoline. The interior side of the sticker issued for the car's windshield instructed the driver on this point. Every citizen, military or civilian, was to do their part. Even in the popular Warner Brothers cartoons, Daffy Duck exhorts the audience to Keep it under 40. Bugs Bunny's plunging airplane halts just before impact, out of gas as a consequence of the 'A' sticker on its windshield.

By 1944, whisky had disappeared from liquor store shelves as distilleries converted to the production of industrial alcohol. New car production was banned beginning January 1, 1942 as former auto plants switched to the production of military vehicles. Thirty percent of all cigarettes produced were allocated for service men, making cigarettes a scarce commodity on the home front by 1944. By the end of the war, rationing limited consumption of almost every product with the exception of eggs and dairy foods.

Most rationing restrictions ended in August of 1945 except for sugar rationing, which lasted until 1947 in some parts of the country. For many who served on the home front, rationing may be the most remembered daily aspect of the war.

Types of rationing included: Uniform coupon rationing (sugar is an example) provided equal shares of a single commodity to all consumers; Point rationing provided equivalent shares of commodities by coupons issued for points which could be spent for any combination of items in the group (processed foods, meats, fats, cheese); Differential coupon rationing provided shares of a single product according to varying needs (gasoline, fuel oil); and Certificate rationing allowed individuals products only after an application demonstrated need (tires, cars, stoves, typewriters).

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