

# Views

**East Richmond Neighborhood Council**

www.eastrichmond.org

Gina Swirsding, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

## quick-takes

### Richmond Art Center Show

The Richmond Art Center will present the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual WCCUSD Middle and High School Student Art Show from April 11 to May 21.

There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 28, 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The show will be open to the public and free of charge.

For more info please contact Susan Wehrle at 510 524-0405 ext. 187 or [swehrle@inreach.com](mailto:swehrle@inreach.com). For more information about the Richmond Art Center visit [www.therichmondartcenter.com](http://www.therichmondartcenter.com).

### Fight Childhood Obesity

The West County Community Health Improvement Network, a collective of organizations that includes the West Contra Costa Unified School District and is led by Neighborhood House of North Richmond (NHNR), was one of three applicants chosen by Kaiser Permanente to receive a 5-year, \$1.4 million grant, which will be used to combat childhood obesity.

Kaiser Permanente's grant program is targeted at community organizations that are promoting healthy eating and active living. For more information call Neighborhood House of North Richmond at 510 235-9780, or go to the Kaiser community benefits webpage at <http://xnet.kp.org/communitybenefit/regions/index.html>.

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## A Tour of Native Gardens

How do people produce those beautiful gardens devoid of pesticides and non-native plants? Here's your chance to find out. The 2006 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is a free tour of showcase native plant gardens in the East Bay, to be held Sunday, May 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The tour is a self-guided exploration of more than 60 gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 30% or more native plants.

Registration is required in order to receive a guidebook and directions. The tour is expected to fill, so please register early to avoid being disappointed.

Among the perks for attendees: Native plants will be sold or given away at more than a dozen locations. Garden Tour t-shirts, native plant reference books and posters will also be available for sale. More than 40 free talks will be given throughout the day. And attendees can win a free landscape consultation from a noted native plant landscape designer by completing an evaluation on the day of the tour.

Before registering, you can browse the 2006 garden section of the tour website to see photos of every garden, view extensive garden descriptions, and download plant lists. Go to <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net>.

By the way, volunteers are needed! Tour volunteers can visit tour gardens throughout the year through a series of Garden Soirees-events organized expressly for volunteers and hosts. By volunteering for half a day on Sunday, May 7, 2006 and attending Soirees throughout the year, you will see many more gardens than you would by just participating in the tour. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out the volunteer form the website.

## With Summer Comes Super Saturday

Serra School will be the site of three Summer Super Saturday s – one-day workshops, each running 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Offered at the rock bottom price of \$10.00 each, these sessions are sure to fill soon, so if you are interested or know someone who is, pass it along.

The first is June 17, one-day language immersions for Spanish, French, Italian, English, Chinese, and Japanese. In addition, travel tips and sign language are on the agenda.

On July 8, cultivate your artistic side, by learning card design, starting a home-based business, landscaping, watercolor and mixed media, digital photography, origami, creative writing and floral arranging.

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**next meeting**

See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

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### Restoration Celebration

Join the Friends of Baxter Creek, the Watershed Project, and the City of El Cerrito for a Baxter Creek Gateway Park Restoration Tour in June 2006. Participants will enjoy tours of the site and other activities suitable for both children and adults.

Opportunities to become ongoing volunteer stewards of the site will be described, including planting, trash clean up, and water quality monitoring events. A special planting will be made at the event to honor FOBC'er Emmy Damon and her enthusiastic commitment to restoring the creek at this site.

For more information, write to [baxterfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:baxterfriends@hotmail.com).

### Music From Richmond

The annual Music Festival in Point Richmond has produced its first ever CD, "Point Richmond Music: Summer Sounds 2005." Priced at a mere \$10, the CD typifies the diversity of the East Bay's music scene with the best of performances by Jimmy McCracklin, Wendy DeWitt, "360", Jeb Brady, Two Feet Tall, Thomas Banks, Anna Marie Flechero, Jug Free America, The Irrationals, Robert Leroy Jones, and Norma Blasé. You just might notice from hootin' and hollerin' during Jimmy McCracklin's selections by audience member Bonnie Raitt, one of many who dropped by to enjoy the gig.

The CD is available at Point Richmond Market, Santa Fe Market, RosaMaria's Restaurant, DeWitt Gallery, Downhome Music, and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

Sound samples can be heard at <http://www.pointrichmond.com/prmusic/>.

## Volunteer for East Bay Parks

The East Bay Regional Park District couldn't offer its wide variety of programs and services without the help of lots of volunteers. And no matter what your interests or talents, there is likely to be a volunteer project that will appeal to you.

Figures for the year 2005 are still being compiled, but the results for 2004 are impressive. In that year, 11,134 volunteers donated a total of 123,026 hours of service. This included the volunteers in the Trail Safety Patrol, the wildlife volunteers who worked on land stewardship projects, the Ivan Dickson Trail volunteers, the Parks Express bus program, the annual Coastal Cleanup, Interpretive Service volunteers, and various groups and individuals who completed other regional park projects.

In 2004, 19 Boy Scouts completed their Eagle rank service projects in the regional parks. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are looking for a service project to meet badge requirements can contact Sharon Saffas at 925 756-0195. Sharon has a long list of good possibilities.

In general, prospective volunteers can check the volunteer link at the park district Web site, [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) to find out about upcoming volunteer projects. But by way of a preview, here are some possibilities.

The Ivan Dickson program has five upcoming projects from March through October. The Web site will explain when and how to register. Ivan Dickson was a longtime avid hiker in the regional parks, who left a sizable bequest to the district for parkland beautification.

Beach cleanup is needed at various shoreline parks because of damage caused by winter storms, though project dates have not yet been set. Parks where the cleanup is needed include King Shoreline in Oakland, Crown Beach in Alameda, and Miller-Knox and Point Pinole regional shorelines in Richmond. If you'd like to help, phone Sharon at 925 756-0195.

Volunteers will be needed March 18 for a project at Briones Regional Park near Pleasant Hill. The group will help to clean up old tires and other debris that have been dumped in ravines on Briones' southeast side. Again, phone Sharon at 925 756-0195 for more information.

Earth Day is April 22. There will be Earth Day projects at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland, at the new Eastshore State Park between Emeryville and Richmond, and at Las Trampas Regional Wilderness in San Ramon. For more information, phone Kathleen Fusek at 510 544-2515.

On the first Saturday of each month, a large group of volunteers meets at the Skyline Gate of Redwood Regional Park in Oakland to remove invasive French broom plants from various places in the park. The work lasts from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Park staffers provide supervision, tools, drinks and snacks. If you're interested, phone Sharon for details. That number again is 925-756-0195.

## Remodeling San Pablo Avenue

Loni Hancock's office is heading up the redevelopment project of San Pablo Avenue. Kisasi Brooks from Loni Hancock's office is in charge of this project and Christy Riviere from Association of Bay Area Government will both be at our April 3 meeting. For more information check on the web site from Loni Hancock <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a14/sanpablo.htm>.

## contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org)

### Emergency 911

Crime in Progress, Medical

### To report suspicious activity

Richmond Police 233-1214

Unincorporated Area 925/646-2441

**Anonymous tips** 232-TIPS

### Community police officer

Officer John Ellis 620-6646

### General security concerns, other police services

RP Watch Commander 620-6643

### Neighborhood council issues

Gina Swirsding \*82-232-1675

P.O.Box 5253, Richmond, CA 94805

### Report blight and graffiti

Richmond 321-3010

CalTrans 925-926-6112

And as always we are looking for community events for the Newsletter if you know of an event coming up in the future let us know at least the first week of the month before. Just drop a line to the Editor at [APASTERNA@jbp.com](mailto:APASTERNA@jbp.com) with any requests or suggestions. If you have something you would like to write yourself, we are also all ears. This is your newsletter.

## Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls made to the Richmond Police from **February 1-28**. Statistics are provided each month by Perry Austin of RPD, whose support and assistance we continue to appreciate.

### Abandoned auto

7 instances

### Stolen vehicle

2/03 7XX Lassen  
2/06 38XX McBryde  
2/10 7XX Humboldt  
2/13 50XX Barrett  
2/17 6XX Amador  
2/18 7XX Courtland  
2/20 7XX McLaughlin  
2/21 7XX Yuba  
2/21 123XX San Pablo  
2/22 123XX San Pablo  
2/25 7XX Amador  
2/26 9XX Humboldt

### Recovered Stolen Vehicle

2/13 14XX Nevin

### Hit/run property damage

2/01 54XX McBryde  
2/03 5XX McLaughlin  
2/06 Barrett/San Pablo  
2/21 54XX Clinton

### Calls related to Dogs

2/05 8XX Humboldt  
2/06 McLaughlin/Lassen  
2/26 McLaughlin/Lassen

### Robbery

2/16 125XX San Pablo

### Vandalism

2/05 122XX San Pablo  
2/15 San Pablo/Barrett

### Battery

2/04 54XX Clinton  
2/15 7XX Humboldt  
2/15 8XX Humboldt  
2/21 7XX Amador  
2/21 52XX Solano  
2/22 122XX San Pablo  
2/26 42XX 46<sup>th</sup> Street

### Burglary from auto

2/03 4XX 46<sup>th</sup>  
2/06 55XX Sierra  
2/08 7XX Kern  
2/10 56XX Garvin  
2/18 6XX Amador  
2/20 7XX Humboldt  
2/28 53XX Esmond

### Burglary from residence

2/01 6XX Key  
2/08 5XX Key  
2/17 53XX McBryde  
2/26 53XX Garvin  
2/28 54XX Esmond

### Grand Theft

2/08 53XX Clinton  
2/23 49XX Macdonald

### Petty theft/stolen property

2/04 55XX McBryde  
2/05 4XX Dimm  
2/08 51XX McBryde  
2/23 50XX Barrett  
2/24 50XX Barrett

### Calls related to juveniles

2/22 5XX Dimm

### Drug related activity

2/16 57XX Solano

## Super Saturdays continued from page 1

On July 22, is a crash course in parental skill building. Where to start? Infant bonding tops it off, along with living with the "terrific twos", helping grade school children succeed, understanding teen behavior, improving reading skills, using math exercises, and children's health resources.

For more information on Super Saturdays or the regular program, or to sign up for either, visit the West County Continuing Education website at [www.wccae.info](http://www.wccae.info).

# HELP GET THE (Richmond Art Center) BACK ON TRACK!

As an independent non-profit with no direct financial support from City or State agencies, our ability to remain operational has become seriously threatened. We now need the support of the community we've served for generations-- that means you!

## Here's how you can help:

-Our greatest need is **financial support**. Please consider a substantial contribution to the Center *now*, during this critical time. No amount is too small, and, of course, no amount is too large. All contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be used immediately to help us survive through 2006, our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, and beyond. Please call 510-620-6772 to make contributions in any amount, or visit our front desk during office hours.

-Consider **volunteering!** We have a broad array of projects you can become involved in, and the Center is an ideal place to learn about the visual arts while helping us through a period in which we are short on staff due to our financial situation.

-If you are a Richmond resident, **call or e-mail the mayor, your local council member, and/or the City Manager**, Bill Lindsay, at [bill\\_lindsay@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:bill_lindsay@ci.richmond.ca.us). All information needed to contact Richmond elected officials is listed at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/government/terms.html>

Tell them how you feel about the value and worth of the art center in the community, acknowledging it as a safe haven and one of the few places people can go in Richmond to retreat, look at art, and be creatively stimulated, and that it is more than deserving of city financial support.

-If you have a **special skill** you can bring to the Center and believe you could contribute in an advisory capacity, or a professional capacity, please call and ask to speak to Acting Executive Director, Suzanne Tan.

-If you own or work at a business or corporation and would be interested in **learning how your company can contribute financially and/or with goods and services**, please contact us to discuss a number of sponsorship opportunities we're making available at this time.

-When you visit our galleries, **contribute our suggested gallery donation of just \$3**. A box near the entrance of the gallery is designated for this purpose.

-**Sign up for escrip** by logging on to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and register your credit card on-line or check out the list of your favorite participating stores for registration information. A percentage of your purchase is contributed back to the art center.

-Remind everyone you know that **the Richmond Art Center operates on its own, without direct financial support from the city or the state**. To endure, we need the community's support on an ongoing basis. Currently, the Center must raise a large part of its operating budget without committed support from year to year.

-Remind everyone you know what an incredible resource the Richmond Art Center is to the greater community and encourage others to **become members, take classes, and visit our exhibitions**. Of course, become a member yourself if you are not one already! There are great benefits, and we even offer a special category just for artists.

Above all, please know that **we are committed to keeping our doors open** and serving the community as we have for the last 70 years. But we cannot do it without your support. Please act now to help us preserve and sustain the valuable and dynamic community organization that is the Richmond Art Center.

## **WCCUSD Annual "Save Our Sports Golf Classic"**

In the name of educational equity, the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) is holding its annual "Save Our Sports Golf Classic" to raise vitally needed funds to benefit District high school athletic programs.

The tournament will take place on Monday, June 19, 2006, at the Richmond Country Club in Richmond, California.

Despite the parcel tax, high school sports programs in Richmond have still taken a terrible hit. To keep these programs strong, and to improve the sports infrastructure, the district is being proactive, seeking contributions from many sources including businesses, organizations and all parents of athletes in the district.

You can help by providing sponsorship at some level that will have a positive impact on the lives of our 32,000 students and our community. For more information on sponsorship or other types of support, call Vince Kilmartin, Associate Superintendent for Operations, at 510/620-2206.

## **Art Tour of Winery**

The Richmond Art Center has a fun fundraiser coming up: a tour of the Clos Pegase Winery in Calistoga on Saturday June 10, 2006.

Participants will tour the beautiful grounds and sculpture garden containing some of the world's greatest 20th century artworks. The grounds feature award-winning architecture, paintings, sculpture, a 20,000 square foot underground cave complex housing rare artifacts and sculpture, and a lovely shaded picnic area adjacent to the vineyards. They will also enjoy a private tour and wine tasting.

In designing Clos Pegase, winery founder Jan Shrem worked with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to sponsor an architects' competition to find an artist to build a "temple to wine and art," a place that would showcase his extensive art collection in a way that made it accessible to everyone. Reporters and writers have described Clos Pegase as "a place of pilgrimage" and "America's first monument to wine and art."

Ready to sign up? Please RSVP to the Richmond Art Center by May 10: 510/620-6772. The costs are, RAC member: \$30, nonmember: \$40. This event is a fundraiser to benefit the Richmond Art Center.

## **NIAD Exhibit**

The National Institute of Art and Disabilities has a new exhibit, "Lost and Found," featuring works that are wearable or relate to the body and which are made from found or recycled materials. All are creations by selected NIAD artists and Piedmont High art students. Art instructor Pat Kemeny Macias and her design class at Piedmont High explore how art is created by the visually impaired.

This show, which includes unusual textiles, includes a kimono made out of McDonald's hamburger wrappers and a purse made from aluminum candy wrappers.

The free exhibit and sale will be in NIAD's Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery and will continue through April 21. NIAD artists receive half of the proceeds, and the remainder helps fund the NIAD art program.

The gallery, at 551 23rd St., near Barrett Avenue, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment. For details, call 510-620-0290 or visit [www.niadart.org](http://www.niadart.org).

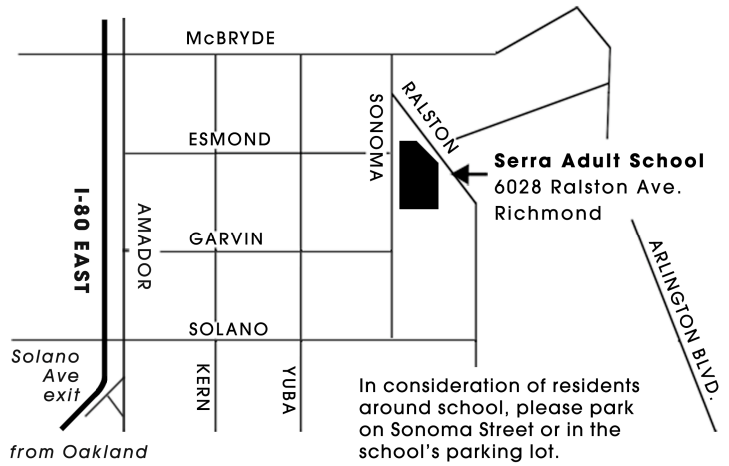
## **SAN PABLO AVENUE / STATE ROUTE 123**

This avenue is part of many East Bay neighborhoods, running from Oakland to Hercules. Many cities, public agencies, and community groups are working to improve San Pablo Avenue as both a destination and gateway to their communities. Recognizing the importance of their efforts, several local officials, regional agencies, and community based organizations have joined together to share ideas and information about how to improve the near 20 mile corridor all the way from Oakland to Hercules. Project partners are asking the public to provide their opinions and ideas about integrating new design features to improve overall usage and enhance to appearance of San Pablo Avenue.

If you are interested in learning more about this project come to our next meeting. You may also contact the office of Assemblywoman Loni Hancock at 510 559-1406, drop by or write her at 712 El Cerrito Place, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

# San Pablo Redevelopment

Kisasi Brooks from Loni Hancock's office and Christy Riviere from the Association of Bay Area Government will be speaking about helping to redevelop San Pablo Avenue.



**Monday, April 3, 7 PM**

Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL  
P.O. Box 485  
Richmond, CA 94808

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