

Views

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

Visit us at www.richmond-heights.org Jovanka Beckles, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

quick-takes

At the Masquers Play House

A black comedy called "Loot", written by Joe Orton, and directed by Jessica Holt, runs Aug. 21 – Sept. 26 on Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday in the afternoon on August 30, and September 13 and 20.

With "Loot", a riotously absurd and anarchistic comedy, Joe Orton turned middle-class platitudes on their heads. In his short career from 1964 until his death in '67, this modern satirist shocked, outraged, and entertained audiences with his scandalous black comedies.

"Ortonesque" became a recognized term for the outrageously macabre.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 510/232-4031 or go to their web site

<http://www.masquers.org/>. All reservations must be prepaid.

Please recycle this newsletter

Share this newsletter with a neighbor who does not yet receive the newsletter and tell them of both the mailed version and the on line version. Our website update by Nick Despota is at <http://www.Richmond-heights.org>.

Our Meeting Place may change

Do to budget cuts the Serra Adult School might close as early as September 2009. Any thoughts about where to move, discussion on Monday, August 3, 2009.

Meet with Richmond Police Chief

This is an opportunity for you to speak and listen to Chief Magnus about the concerns of our neighborhood and our city. Our beat officer Tim Gard will be at the meeting also. Our monthly meeting will be at the Serra Adult School, 2962 Ralston Avenue at Sonoma on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

National Night Out Tuesday, August 4

Come to Richmond Heights Neighborhood Block Party

National Night Out has been a great success because neighbors who attend build relationships with the community and police. Take back communities from crime, build and rebuild crime watch groups, encourage residents to employ crime prevention techniques and for as many neighbors as possible to meet and get to know each other.

This year there are plans to shut down Kern between Esmond and McBryde from 5:00 P.M. to set up until 9:30 P.M. to complete cleaning up the block after the party. The actual party will start at 5:30 P.M. and end by 9:00 P.M., and as always we will need people to: pass out flyers before the event, help set up and help clean up. Any time you can spare to help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Jovanka or Gina for flyers.

Richmond Heights will provide hot dogs, buns, and water. We also barbeque the hot dogs. If you come to the event, please bring a side dish such as a salad, chips, vegetables, fruits, finger food, or dessert. Preferably in a recyclable and disposable container (so that we do not lose your dish) and any utensils needed for your dish. Please if you choose to bring your own drinks remember this is a family event and alcoholic drinks are not invited. There is no food allowed in the Kern St. play lot and no chairs to sit on, if you want to bring a chair or two they are also appreciated.

A caravan from the city will stop at the party usually including some of the City Council members, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and other city staff. There are three different caravans going to three different parts of the city. Meet some of our beat officers at this event.

We hope to have a K9 police officer with his dog come and perform some tricks for the kids, Police Explorers to encourage and answer questions for the teenagers that are interested in being a Police Explorer, and the Fire Department to provide a fire truck for the kids to inspect.

Information will be available for starting Crime Watch Groups, contacts for City web site, City Services, and a sign up sheet for the mailing list for this newsletter.

Please come to both the Monday Meeting and the National Night Out event and have a great time.

next meeting

See back page for agenda

State Payroll Tax Changes

By Claudia Buck, Sacramento Bee, June 20, 2009

SACRAMENTO — Don't get stuck with a bigger tax bill next year. It could happen, given changes in California's tax laws that could cost the average married couple with two children an extra \$670 come April 15.

To avoid that unpleasant surprise, the state Franchise Tax Board is reminding taxpayers to adjust the withholding rates on their paychecks now.

The tax changes, adopted by the Legislature in February as part of the state's efforts to close its budget gap, added 0.25 percent to California's personal income tax rates and reduced the tax credit by \$210 for each dependent claimed on a tax form. In other words, your tax rate is higher and you can't deduct as much for each child or dependent.

Last year, for instance, a married couple with two kids claimed \$99 in personal exemption credits for each spouse and \$309 for each child. Starting this year, the exemption for each child or dependent drops to \$99 the same as for the adults. The new rates are effective back to January, but employers did not receive the new withholding tables until April 2009.

By the time employers could get their computers set up with the necessary changes to the new withholding schedules it might have been May or even June when you see a difference on your paycheck stub.

That means your withholding amount may have been too low for the first four to six months of this year to accommodate the increased tax rate. Please check your W4 or check with your tax accountant to be prepared for 2009 State filing.

For more details, go to www.ftb.ca.gov (search under "Individuals" and "Plan for next year"), or call (800) 852-5711. You can also calculate your rates using Form DE 4 at www.edd.ca.gov.

Crime Prevention, Improve Neighborhood

Thirteen ways to improve your neighborhood from the Richmond Police Dept.

Report crime promptly. People sometimes do not report criminal activity because they do not want to bother the police or be bothered themselves. They assume the police are too short staffed to respond, or they believe that there isn't much an officer can or will do about a given problem. Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism, quality of life, or something much more serious, police can't act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee the police can fix the problem, but failing to call makes it likely that they won't. Don't leave the call to someone else to make, make the call yourself. 911 from your home phone or 510/233-1214 from a cell phone for emergency needs, (cell calls to 911 go to the CHP and have to be rerouted to local law enforcement). If you dial 510/233-1214 you will hear a computer voice, dial 0 and you will be transferred to an emergency dispatcher.

Fix the broken window. Report nuisances and other non criminal problems promptly. Examples: cars on the lawn or abandoned autos in the street, old mattresses left to rot in a yard, illegal dumping around the city. When you find yourself thinking, "Someone ought to do something," be that someone and do something. Contact the property owner, call Code Enforcement, or utilize the City of Richmond's web site "COR-Connect" at www.ci.richmond.ca.us to report the issue. The "COR-Connect" can be used to keep you informed of the progress of your issue or used anonymously to ask the city to fix the issue. Then call your neighbors and ask them to call and make a report as well. Keep following up until the issue is resolved. Code Enforcement is 510/621-1569.

Take away the opportunity for crime. Think about your home, vehicles, and even your lifestyle and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Lock your vehicle and never leave valuables visible, even for a few minutes, in a vehicle where thieves might see them. Bushes or trees on your property offer a convenient hiding place for thieves. Trim trees and bushes that block a clear view of your front door and address from the street or that make it difficult for a person to see out of the windows in your home. In short, make your front porch visible and make sure your home looks like it has its "eyes" (windows) open. For more crime prevention tips, contact RPD Crime Prevention Manager Michelle Milam at 510/620-6538.

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contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, www.richmond-heights.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 Tim Gard 621-1212 ex 7099
e-mail tgard@richmondpd.net

General security concerns, other police services

RP Watch Commander 620-6643
Michelle Milam 620-6538

Neighborhood Council issues

Jovanka Beckles 813-7008

Report blight and graffiti

Richmond Graffiti 231-3010
Volunteer to remove 231-3031
CalTrans 925/926-6112

Report abatement issues

Auto on Private land 621-1278
Auto on Public land 620-6644
Alma Munguia 621-1279
Pot Hole Repair 231-3011

As always we are looking for community events for the newsletter. If you know of an event coming up, let us know at five weeks before the beginning of the month of the event. E-mail owenlmartinjr@comcast.net with your articles. Contributions and articles are most welcome. This is your newsletter.

Person down

4/26 126XX San Pablo
6/05 129XX San Pablo

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls made to the Richmond Police become Statistics provided to us each month by Crime analysis of RPD, whose support and assistance we continue to appreciate.

Suspicious person	74
Suspicious vehicle	22
Abandoned auto	14
Recovered stolen vehicle	13
Vehicle tampering	3
Disturbance	51
911 Disconnect	10
Dogs	2
Dumping	2
Stolen vehicle	26
4/18 4XX Key	
4/21 7XX McLaughlin	
4/21 6XX Ventura	
4/25 56XX Sierra	
4/28 6XX Amador	
4/29 126XX San Pablo	
5/01 6XX Sonoma	
5/04 8XX Ventura	
5/07 124XX San Pablo	
5/07 124XX San Pablo	
5/08 124XX San Pablo	
5/08 126XX San Pablo	
5/14 8XX Ventura	
5/15 McBryde / San Pablo	
5/15 6XX Lassen	
5/16 55XX Solano	
5/24 124XX San Pablo	
5/27 7XX Kern	
5/28 52XX Garvin	
6/01 52XX Solano	
6/02 123XX San Pablo	
6/06 7XX McLaughlin	
6/09 123XX San Pablo	
6/10 123XX San Pablo	
6/12 123XX San Pablo	
6/15 6XX Kern	
Hit/Run property damage	
4/21 Barrett / Key	
5/24 4XX Wilson	
5/29 Solano / Wilson	

Hold up alarm

5/05 123XX San Pablo
5/27 128XX San Pablo

Robbery

4/17 123XX San Pablo
4/27 126XX San Pablo
6/08 Solano / San Pablo

Petty theft/stolen property

4/17 7XX Yuba
4/18 10XX Ventura
4/26 6XX Kern
4/29 10XX Ventura
5/12 123XX San Pablo
5/18 Solano / Kern
5/20 127XX San Pablo
5/23 7XX Yuba
5/27 5XX Key
5/30 7XX McLaughlin

Grand theft

4/30 8XX McLaughlin

Battery

5/01 52XX Esmond
5/09 48XX Macdonald
5/11 10XX McLaughlin
5/13 128XX San Pablo
5/14 3XX Carlston
5/27 McBryde / San Pablo
6/07 49XX Macdonald

Person w/ gun

4/18 Solano / San Pablo
5/27 7XX Ventura

Brandishing a weapon

6/07 128XX San Pablo

Assault w/ deadly weapon

6/08 50XX McBryde

Shots fired

4/20 53XX Clinton
4/27 Macdonald / I 80
4/30 10XX Ventura
5/16 55XX Garvin
5/16 Sierra / Ventura
5/17 50XX Garvin
5/24 Solano / Humboldt

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If you see suspicious activity, please call the police and report it.

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls related to juveniles

4/26 8XX Lassen
 5/04 McBryde / Lassen
 5/10 Barrett / San Pablo
 5/15 9XX Kern
 5/18 3XX Carlston
 5/18 3XX Carlston
 5/22 McBryde / Amador
 5/26 Solano / Humboldt

Drug activity

5/09 Solano / Humboldt
 6/15 6XX Ventura

Carjacking

5/01 8XX Humboldt

Burglary from auto

4/21 6XX Sonoma
 5/17 122XX San Pablo
 5/28 6XX Yuba

Burglary from business

5/12 7XX Amador

Vandalism

4/25 54XX Sierra
 5/07 55XX McBryde
 5/09 Solano / Humboldt
 5/15 49XX Macdonald
 5/16 McBryde / Ventura
 5/21 49XX Macdonald
 6/11 7XX Yuba

Burglary from residence

4/16 52XX Solano
 4/28 53XX Garvin
 4/28 10XX Lassen
 4/30 7XX Humboldt
 5/08 6XX McLaughlin
 5/08 7XX Amador
 5/20 9XX Amador
 5/24 7XX Ventura
 5/24 7XX Amador
 5/27 6XX Kern
 6/07 10XX Amador
 6/09 7XX Amador
 6/09 52XX Clinton
 6/10 51XX Garvin

Crime Prevention, Improve Neighborhood

Continued from page 2

Reach out! Meet the youth who live on your block and greet them by name. This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take, yet it can make a profound difference when there is a need for the adults and the youth to speak to each other in the midst of a neighborhood crisis. It is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for youth without adults and youth knowing each other. Even those residents who don't have children should know the youth in the neighborhood. By doing this, each adult is better able to help in an emergency and is better prepared to resolve problems when they arise. You can also report truancy by calling the police department.

Opportunity knocks. Make a list of the names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block. Don't just do this with one or two neighbors set a goal of the whole block. Find almost any resident who has turned around a problem block and you will find a resident who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where "everyone knew each other", but find today that your neighborhood isn't like that? If you don't know your neighbors' names and contact information, you can't call them about a concern or let them know about a neighborhood problem. You can learn how to start a neighborhood watch by calling 510/620-6538 or e-mailing mmilam@richmondpd.net.

Make a list of landlords in your areas as well. As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and should be concerned about the health of the area where their properties are located. You can find the name and address of any property owner, including rental property nearby, by contacting the Contra Costa County Recorder's office at 925/335-7900.

Turn your porch light on. Do this every night from dusk and until dawn. Consider installing a motion sensitive light to brighten dim walk ways near your home. Crime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit. It also makes the street feel more "welcome" to good residents who are out for a walk in the evening or early morning hours. Lit porch lights communicate a higher level of caring for the neighborhood by residents. This can become a daily routine or it can be accomplished by installing a timer or a photo cell device. It is up to you, add a little more light yourself, then encourage other neighbors to do the same.

Walk around the block. It sounds simple enough, but neighborhoods benefit over time when residents walk around more. Taking a walk around your block can be particularly valuable, for those who feel comfortable doing it. Take a moment to chat with neighbors, including youth, when the opportunity arises. Avoid walking alone in areas where you feel unsafe. Instead, consider gathering a group of neighbors together to walk through your neighborhood once a week. It not only is good for the neighborhood, it is a healthy habit.

Crime Prevention, Improve Neighborhood

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Drive slowly on neighborhood streets. While we often call for stop signs, traffic lights, and speed bumps, we sometimes forget that we can facilitate a means of slowing down neighborhood traffic ourselves. Remember, it is legal to drive a few miles per hour below the posted speed limit in your neighborhood. For example, if the speed is 25, try 20 instead. Regular slower driving on neighborhood side streets by multiple neighbors will dampen the desire of racers to use your street. It isn't as fun to cut through a neighborhood if the likelihood of being stuck behind a car traveling at a more respectful pace has increased.

Take ownership. Pick up the litter near your home, even if you didn't put it there. Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop the growth of trash in your neighborhood by picking up litter when you see it. Try taking a litter bag with you on your walks and watch what a difference your efforts make.

Grow roots. Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitment of long term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious residents allow their roots to grow deep and transform a geographic area that exists as a "neighborhood" in name only into a real community of involved people. Please, stay and help your community.

Help your neighborhood association or similar groups. If you're willing, decide what greater contribution you would like to make, then take the lead and do it. If leadership isn't your desire, at least make sure someone in your household attends local neighborhood association meetings. You'll be kept better informed of the issues facing the neighborhood and how you can help. Even more importantly, you'll have the chance to shape, guide, and participate in the future of your neighborhood. There is KCRT cable 28 for City Council meetings and other city government meetings. Call 510/620-6511 if you'd like more information.

Know your ordinances and laws. To become more informed as to local ordinances within the City of Richmond, you can view the Richmond Municipal Code in its entirety by accessing our website at www.ci.richmond.ca.us. Go to "Government", "City Clerk's Office" and finally, click on "Municipal Code". There is a search window that allows you to enter keywords to find the appropriate section of the code you wish to look up.

Finally, don't stop at these 13 tasks. Do whatever else you can to make your neighborhood a safer and more enjoyable place to live, raise a family, work, and to go to school. Remember, living in a good neighborhood isn't a right, it's a responsibility. To contact the City of Richmond Police Department go to the web site www.richmondpd.net, or call the non emergency number 510/233-1214 (This is the Emergency number for cell phones).

ShotSpotter Helping even before its Debut

In the past people have called in a report of shots fired during the late night or early morning hours and Police Officers would drive by the area and find no signs of anyone injured in the area, until the sun comes up and someone is found too late. While testing the Shot Spotter system before it was even all hooked up and "online" the system registered a location for shots fired that was not called in by the residents of the neighborhood. When officers arrived at the location they found an individual bleeding from his wounds. If he had not have been found until the sun came up he would not have survived, but because of the Shot Spotter he did survive.

Another example of how ShotSpotter can help both the police and the community took place in early May when the system pinpointed a location where several gunshots had been fired. When officers arrived at the scene, they located and confiscated three firearms by the side of a residence and detained six individuals believed to have been involved in the shooting.

So far the Shot Spotter only covers about three square miles within the city, so if you hear shots fired near by, please continue to call them into the police dept. If you do not who will?

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

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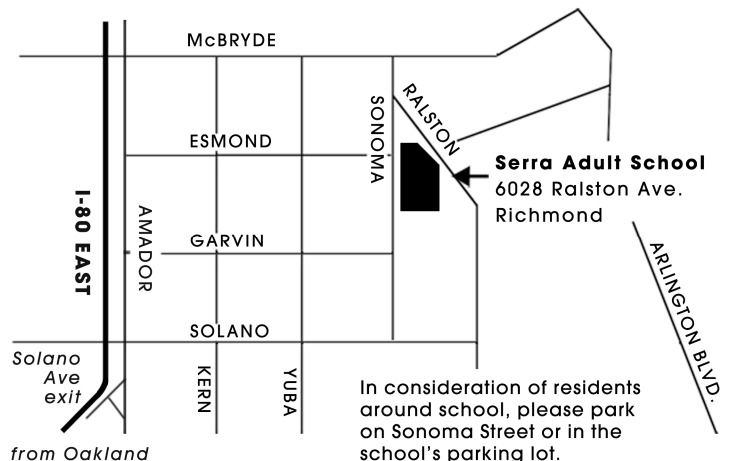
at the next RHNC meeting

Police Chief Magnus is our guest.

Police Chief Chris Magnus will be our guest at our August 3, 2009 meeting to talk about the progress of Neighborhood Policing, and answer questions about other concerns we have about our community and our city.

We will also be talking about finding a new meeting place just in case the Serra Adult school is closed due to budget cuts.

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at Kern St. between Esmond and McBryde. Hope to see you at both events.



Monday, August 3rd, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue