

quick-takes

No January Views, No Meeting. Happy New Year

We shut down the bustling newsletter operation in December and don't give a thought to arranging a meeting for the following month. It's an ERNC tradition we love to honor. So there will be no January VIEWS, and no meeting on the first Monday of that month.

We'll see you again on Monday, February 7th. We wish you a relaxing holiday season.

All you have to do is ask

What we asked for was enforcement of a city ordinance that makes it illegal to park a car on a driveway such that it blocks the sidewalk (see November Views, p.1). When Officer Krug, one of several police officers that patrol East Richmond, came to last month's ERNC meeting, we gave him the addresses of a few people who chronically block sidewalks in this way. Krug issued citations and the next day the cars were moved. You see, it works.

To help keep our sidewalks walkable, politely inform people who are parking illegally that what they're doing inconveniences others and is against the law (a note on the windshield may do the trick). If the owner of the car fails to take the hint, leave a message for Officer Krug at 620-6642.

Scrooge Alert! Christmas Carol at Contra Costa College

The Knox Center for the Performing Arts will present its production of *A Christmas Carol* on Friday and Saturday evenings December 3,4,10,11,17,and 18, at 8:00 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on December 12 and 19.

Tickets are \$9 for students and seniors, and \$12 for adults. For reservations and information, call 235-7800 ext. 4274

(continues on p.2)

Taming that P&GE bill

By Andy Pasternack

We're smack in that time of year when dark mornings, chilly evenings, and cool days mean higher gas and electric bills. According to the Department of Energy, the average American's utility bill is generated by four forms of energy consumption: heating and cooling, 44 percent; lighting, cooking, other appliances: 33 percent; water heating, 14 percent; and refrigerator, 9 percent.

By lowering settings around the house and sealing up leaks, there are some very easy ways to take the sting out of that bill.

Setting the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower can make a major difference, as 3 percent to 5 percent more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees. Clean or replace furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly. And keep that warm air in the house. Caulking windows and weather stripping doors can prevent heat

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Tuning in to station crime rates

By Nick Despota

Just how safe or dangerous is our local BART station? Questions posed at our November ERNC meeting about crime at the Del Norte BART station prompted us to obtain crime statistics from BART Police. This 12-page report presents crime totals, comparisons by station (there are 43 in the system), and three-year histories by month.

We examined the data from two perspectives. We looked at system-wide trends over a three-year period, and we compared crime rates at the Del Norte station to those of its two neighbors, the El Cerrito Plaza and Richmond stations.

The level of crime system-wide has remained fairly constant over the last three years despite considerable month-to-month fluctuation. This is evident when we look at the total number of cases generated. Total numbers average around 4,000 cases monthly (again, this is for the entire BART system), plus or minus 300 cases—an 8 percent deviation from the mean.

But when we focus on changes in the incidence of a particular class of crime from one month to the next, we see large swings in the numbers. For instance, there were seven crimes against persons in August as opposed to 14 incidents in July. That dramatic fluctuation is, to a large degree, the result of a shift in scale and focus, where the total number of incidents is much smaller.

But not all dramatic monthly changes result simply from differences in the size of the data set. For instance, BART reported that, system-wide, auto thefts from its parking lots shot up in May 2004: 75 incidents, against an average of 52 per month for the rest of the year. This jibes with what we saw in East Richmond in spring and early summer of this year.

What it all means is that, despite what looks like dramatic monthly increases or decreases in the number of crimes, the overall incidence of crime across the BART system has remained fairly constant over a three-year period.

Like other agencies, the BART Police divides crime into two large groups. Part one crimes are the major incidents: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault burglary, and theft. Part two crimes are less serious. They include vandalism, criminal threats, public drunkenness, use of drugs, vagrancy and all the "nuisance" crimes (including expectoration. Watch out!).

(continues on p.3)

next meeting

Monday, December 6th. 7 PM. Serra School. 6028 Ralston Avenue. See back page.

quick-takes*continued from page 1***Richmond Art Center
Holiday Benefit**

On Sunday December 5, from 12 to 5 p.m., the Richmond Art Center will hold a benefit for its exhibition and education programs, featuring a Silent Art Auction. The event features art by over 300 emerging and established Bay Area artists. A preview and opportunity for early bidding will be held between November 30 and December 4, 12 through 5 p.m.

The December 5 event will include an art and craft sale, with handmade ceramics, jewelry, woven and knitted textiles, drawings, prints and paintings made by artists from the Richmond Art Center Adult Education Program and the NIAD Art Center.

For children, there will be activities such as making holiday gifts, cards and wrapping paper. Projects are led by artists and the activities are designed for children of all ages.

Finally, for those holiday-shopping appetites, there'll be a Holiday Café, where you can treat yourself to lunch while planning which items to purchase.

Admission to all events is free. There is a \$5 charge for silent auction bid cards, though bid cards are free for members. The Center is at 2540 Barrett Ave, Richmond, and the phone number is 620-6772.

New sculptures at Rosie site

On November 17, the City of Richmond dedicated a new series of eight sculptural markers tracing World War II history along the path of the Richmond Bay Trail, once the site of Kaiser shipyards.

The markers form a graceful 18-foot-high sweep of metal, suggesting the prow of a massive wartime ship built and launched from the four shipyards yards in what is now the Richmond Marina. Richly colored graphic panels mounted on the sculptures tell tales of the war effort in the voices of Richmond's residents.

The markers are the latest addition to the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, established in 2000. The signage project was developed by the Richmond Redevelopment Agency for the City of Richmond and the National Park Service, with funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Taming that PG&E bill, continued from page 1

loss. So does wrapping heating ducts with duct wrap, or mastic sealant. You can lose about 20% of the heat in your home through your fireplace chimney, even if you normally keep the damper closed. So consider the long-term energy savings glass fireplace doors can offer.

A lot of heat literally drips out. You can set the water heater thermostat at 140 degrees or "normal" if you have a dishwasher, and otherwise, set it at 120 degrees or "low." (Check your dishwasher to see if you can use 120 degree water. If you can, then you can set water heater at 120.) Install energy-saver showerheads to make water heating more efficient. And fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste

212 gallons of water a month, which is a lot of hot water down the drain.

Wash only full loads in a dishwasher and use the shortest cycle that will get your dishes clean. If operating instructions allow, turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle, open the door and let the dishes dry naturally. By the way, replacing 10-year old appliances with Energy Star appliances can cut energy use in half.

For more tips on saving energy, here are some informative web sites:

http://www.pge.com/res/energy_tools_resources/

http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?BT_CODE=EDG1424

http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/

 **October calls to the Richmond Police**

This report lists call made between October 1st and 31st. While house burglaries remain low, stolen car reports have more than doubled! With gas prices continuing to stay high, maybe there's a silver lining here for someone. Calls for incidents at commercial establishments are not included here, only those made concerning possible crimes against persons or personal property.

Abandoned auto

12 reported

Stolen vehicle

10/03 7XX Yuba
10/06 54XX Sierra
10/14 Macdonald/San Pablo
10/17 55XX Solano
10/19 56XX Sierra
10/25 9XX Kern
10/27 19XX Key
10/29 56XX Esmond
10/30 46XX Barrett
10/30 55XX Solano

Recovered Stolen Vehicle

10/01 7XX Kern

Hit/run property damage

10/02 4XX Dimm
10/04 53XX Zara
10/08 5XX Dimm
10/09 San Pablo/Barrett
10/24 19XX Key
1025 47XX Macdonald
10/29 San Pablo/Barrett

Battery

10/29 54XX Clinton

Burglary from auto

10/06 8XX Yuba
10/17 6XX Yuba
10/18 9XX Kern
10/24 6XX Humboldt
10/29 6XX Key

Burglary from Residence

10/15 55XX McBryde

Petty theft/stolen property

122XX San Pablo
10/27 55XX McBryde
10/28 7XX Amador
10/31 5XX Dimm

Vandalism

10/07 8XX Yuba (two addresses)
10/07 8XX Sonoma
10/07 54XX Esmond
10/14 55XX Clinton
10/21 8XX Sonoma

Juveniles causing disturbance

10/23 7XX Ventura

contacts



Emergency 911
Crime in progress, medical emergency

To report suspicious activity
 In city limits, Richmond Police
 Dispatch: 233-1214
 In unincorporated area 925/646-2441

Report anonymous tips 232-TIPS

East Richmond's Primary Beat Officer and Sergeant
 Offcr. Krug, RPD: 620-6642
 Sgt. McClain: 309-3213

General security concerns, other police services:
 RPD Watch Commander: 620-6643

Neighborhood Council concerns
 Kathy Scharff 237-2297

Abandoned vehicles
 Richmond Police Dept. 233-1214

Graffiti Hot Line 1-877-GRAFITI

Tuning in to station crime rates, continued from page 1

Comparing Del Norte station to the other 42 stations in the system, for part one crimes, our station occupies a place in the middle of the pack: 4 incidents in August, and 51 for the year. El Cerrito Plaza station, however, reports half as many: only 2 part one incidents in August, and 26 year to date. However, part one incidents occurred much more frequently at the Richmond BART station: 16 incidents in August, and 76 year to date. So when we compare the incidence of part one crimes at Del Norte to that of its two closest neighbors, we fall right in the middle.

When we consider part two crimes, though, the picture changes, with Del Norte and Richmond stations roughly equal. (Del Norte: 54 and 462. Richmond: 48 and 494.) The Plaza station reports far fewer part two crimes: 19 in August, and 118 year to date.

These numbers may actually mean less than you think. Regardless of time period or station, the fundamental principles of safety apply. Avoid traveling in places and at times of day that leave you relatively isolated. Walk with your head up, being alert to what's going on around you. Immediately report anything or anybody that looks suspicious. If you must travel late at night and walk through areas that are unpopulated, a cell phone or a whistle can be useful.

We can take comfort in the knowledge that we live in a relatively safe neighborhood. But there's no substitute for good judgment.

If you would like to receive a copy of the August 2004 crime statistics (in pdf format), send an e-mail to ndespota@megapathdsl.net.

this issue of Views

Contributors: Andy Pasternack and Nick Despota contributed to this issue, and did it without losing a wink of sleep. Crime statistics are furnished by Sergeant Austin of the RPD.

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Subscriptions: Subscriptions to Views are free but a donation is requested. To get on our mailing list, please fill out and mail the form to the right.

Beginning in 2005, only those who have returned the subscription form will receive this newsletter.

Articles and News: The ERNC newsletter is a great way to publicize your neighborhood event. Our deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. We will make every effort to include your information. Contact Andy at 233-6673 or via e-mail at levinack@hotmail.com.



If you haven't already returned the form below this is your last issue of Views. No kidding. (But don't resend it. If you wrote a check earlier this year, you'll have a record.)

In January we begin anew, free of the dearly departed, the dearly moved-elsewhere, and the dearly not-interested. So Happy New Year, dear.

VIEWS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

If you wish to continue receiving Views in the mail but have not yet returned this form, please complete and mail to ERNC, P.O. Box 5253, Richmond 94805 CA. Beginning in 2005, only those who have returned it will receive Views.

Please continue to send me Views in the mail.

Don't mail Views but notify me when the your web site is launched.

A donation is *not* required to receive Views but we do request a yearly contribution to support the work of the neighborhood council. Your tax-deductible donation will be recorded and a renewal request will be made in June 2005. Make checks payable to ERNC. Thanks,

\$10 \$15 \$20 Other _____

 Name

 Address

 City, ZIP

 Telephone (optional)

 E-mail (optional, or for web site notification)

at the next ERNC meeting

home energy saving tips

Unless your last name is Trump, you probably would like to hear some ideas for cutting down those PG&E bills this winter and in winters to come.

This month we've invited Beck Cowles from the Ecology Center in Berkeley. She'll talk about the many ways of reducing your consumption of electricity and gas.

Consider that our holiday gift to you.

Hope to see you there.



Please park on Sonoma Street side!

Monday, December 6th, 7 PM

Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Ave.

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

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