

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

www.eastrichmond.org

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

quick-takes

Guest Speaker Drive Underway

We want your ideas. It is time for our First Annual ERNC Guest Speaker Idea Drive. So if you have questions of politicians, cal-trans, or others. Let us know. We have this e-mail address: Dale1floor@aol.com If you have any thoughts or notions about people you would like to see at our meetings during the next year, it is time to share your thoughts.

And as always we are looking for community events for the Newsletter if you know 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 with any requests or suggestions. If you have something you would like to write yourself, we are also all ears. This is your newsletter, with the purpose of serving the interests of East Richmond. Whether your topic is schools, conservation, development, crime, or critters, please share your thoughts and let us see how this newsletter can be of more service to you in the year to come.

Assembly Member, Assistance

The office of Assembly member Loni Hancock offers a range of services that you may find useful. These programs include renters' assistance, medicare or medi-cal insurance, veterans' affairs, help obtaining government forms & pamphlets on state government services.

Continues on page 2

In Richmond, December Events Galore

So your plans to idyll away the holidays in Maui fell through? Fear not. Richmond offers enough holiday events to fill in all our calendars.

December kicks off with a holiday festival sponsored by Richmond Main St. On Friday, December 2, at 314 11th St., the fun starts at 10:00 a.m. for kindergarten groups who can come and visit with Santa and his helpers. There is a break between noon and 3:00 p.m., at which point children from the ages of 3-12 will be invited to do program activities and visit with Santa. At 5:30 p.m. adults will be asked to join the children for Holiday songs and fanfare which will include a tree lighting at 7:00 p.m.

The next day, December 3, will be the Downtown Merchant's Day and Craft Fair, also sponsored by Richmond Main Street. The Craft Fair will be located at 314 11th St. from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be music and giveaways throughout the day at the Craft event. For more information about these events or the Richmond Main St. Initiative, call 236-4049.

Fans of the cinema will be interested in the culmination of 2005's Latino Film Festival at the Richmond Public Library. The last film in the series will be Thursday, December 8. At press time the film Title had not yet been announced so call ahead to get the details (620-6561).

What we can tell you is that the film is free, in Spanish with English subtitles, and starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Public Library's Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond near 27th and Macdonald. Enter through the patio to the left of the library.

If two holiday festivals and one film festival aren't enough, then check out Richmond Art Center's Holiday Art Festival on Sunday December 4, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. This is one of two benefits for the Richmond Art Center's Exhibitions, Education, and Community Outreach Programs. (Another one is described below). This particular holiday favorite features a Silent Art Auction featuring over 200 works of art by emerging and established Bay Area artists (review pieces and place your bids by December 3). You might find some stocking stuffers at the festival's Art & Craft Sale, featuring hand made ceramics, jewelry, woven and knitted textiles, drawings, prints and paintings made by artists from the Richmond Art Center's Adult Education Program and the NIAD Art Center. There are also Children's Art Activities that include creating a variety of holiday gifts, and making cards and wrapping paper. Projects are led by artists and designed for children of all ages. Feeling worn out? Refuel at RAC's Holiday Café over sweet treats and a savory lunch. Finally, select your own from a very limited run of screen printed shirts designed by Richmond Arts Center artists. Most remarkable, the whole shebang is free, though there is a \$5 fee for Silent Auction bid cards. For more information, call 620-6772

December Events Continues on page 2

next meeting

See back page for agenda

quick-takes

continued from previous page

Assembly Member, Assistance

You can reach Assembly member Loni Hancock at her office 712 El Cerrito Plaza. Phone 559-1406, and e-mail Hancock@assembly.ca.gov.

Annual Food Drive

The annual Richmond Police Department Christmas Food Drive has begun with a goal of feeding 700 very low income families again this year. The all-volunteer effort is being joined by the Richmond Fire Dept., which will provide toys again this year. Both Police and Fire Depts. need to purchase food staples and turkeys to supplement the donations received throughout the year and so far this year they have yet to reach their goal of \$8,000.00. Feel inspired? Tax-deductible contributions should be made out to: YMCA/Richmond P.D. Christmas Fund and you can mail those checks to the YMCA at 263 South 20th St. Richmond, CA 94804.

Anyone or any organization who would like to place a donation barrel should call Cindy Haden at 965-0468 or Duane Chapman at 620-6886.

Communications Antenna

As many of us have already heard, Cal-trans has received a permit from the City's Planning Dept. to erect a utility pole at the corner of Solano and Amador. Communication antennas will be mounted to the pole. ERNC Volunteers are attempting to coordinate discussion between the service provider, Cal-trans, and the City of Richmond. As things stand, the project will begin in January and be completed in the month of February. We will keep you posted.

Reverse Mortgage Information

The speaker from our last meeting was Herb Hofvendahl, a Certified Senior Advisor and a member of the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association. Both of these organizations have a strict code of ethics in dealing with the senior community. To contact Herb at Simple Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. by phone 800 901-2750.

Here are three websites that you can research: AARP.org search reverse mortgage, HUD.org search reverse mortgage, and ReverseMortgage.org search locate a lender.

For those who choose to reverse mortgage their home there are safeguards currently, interest caps and a value net that prevent the out of pocket payments should the loan amount become more than the value of the home in the future.

Requirements: All homeowners must be at least 62 years of age, live in the home as their primary residence, own the home free and clear, or have a small mortgage balance that is paid off by the proceeds of the reverse mortgage.

Benefits: Borrower retains title to the home, no payments and no prepayment penalty, income is tax free, no repayment until the borrower sells, permanently moves away, or passes away. No restrictions on the use of the money.

December Events Continued from page 1

So holiday arts & crafts and films aren't enough to satisfy your cravings for 24-hour-partying? Okay then, check out the Richmond Art Center's other fundraiser at Barnes & Nobles in El Cerrito, to be held Sunday December 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The location is in El Cerrito Plaza in El Cerrito, Near the corner of Fairmount and San Pablo Ave. To ensure your purchases of books, magazines, CD's, audio books provide credit to RAC, you must download and turn in this voucher: http://www.therac.org/images/pdf_files/bn_bookfair.pdf. All of these items are fair game for this fund raiser for one of Richmond's most venerable and significant institutions.

Speaking of Richmond art and artists, a few blocks across town don't miss the Art from the Heart 2005 exhibit at NIAD, The National Institute for Artists with Disabilities, which runs December 1, 2005 through January 6, 2006. The exhibit features paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics and jewelry by current NIAD artists and staff. A special artists' reception and holiday gift sale is being held on Saturday, December 3 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. NIAD is located at 551 23rd St. (Near Barrett Ave.). Call 620-0290 for more information.

Masquer's Playhouse, which like many of us recently turned 50, is holding a benefit performance on Thursday December 15 of its play, "Dear World," by Jerry Herman. The event includes dinner at the Hotel Mac for only \$35. Call 223-4031 for reservations. The production itself is running until December 17.

After a holiday hiatus, Masquers will be back with "Over The River and Through The Woods" running January 20th to February 25, 2006. If you have ever tried to keep a child or grandchild close to home when the world beckoned them elsewhere, this plot may sound familiar. Nick is a single, Italian-American guy from New Jersey who sees both sets of his grandparents every Sunday for dinner. This is routine until he's offered a dream job which would take him away from his beloved, but annoying, grandparents do their best to keep him around. For tickets or more information call 232-4031.

Continues on page 3

contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, www.eastrichmond.org

Emergency 233-9135
Crime in Progress, Medical

To report suspicious activity
Richmond Police 233-1214
Unincorporated Area 925/646-2441

Anonymous tips 232-TIPS

Community police officer
Sgt. Andre Hill 620-6642

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

Neighborhood council issues
Gina Swirsding *82-232-1675

Report blight and graffiti
Richmond 321-3010
Cal-Trans 925-926-6112

quick-takes

continued from previous page

Mira Vista School Update

Word is that the modernization of nine buildings and new construction of one more seems to be going more or less on schedule, with completion targeted for December 17. Three classrooms, an administration room, an auditorium and food service room, a kindergarten, and a new parent room are all part of the mix. The resulting school should be very impressive and nicely upgraded

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls made to the Richmond Police from **October 1-31**. Calls to commercial establishments are not reported, only those concerning possible crimes against persons or personal property. Of these incidents, 12 occurred on San Pablo Ave. Statistics are provided each month by Perry Austin of RPD, whose support and assistance we continue to appreciate.

Abandoned auto
16 occurrences

Recovered stolen vehicle
10/03 7XX Amador
10/09 9XX Humboldt
10/12 Macdonald/San Pablo
10/24 9XX McLaughlin
10/31 Kern/Clinton

Stolen vehicle
10/01 Sonoma/Solano
10/02 50XX Clinton
10/04 6XX Amador
10/05 3XX Carlston
10/10 7XX McLaughlin
10/13 4XX Wilson
10/21 56XX Sierra
10/21 6XX Sonoma
10/29 51XX Garvin

Hit/run property damage
10/04 Macdonald/Carlston
10/05 120XX San Pablo
10/07 San Pablo/Barrett
10/10 10XX Ventura
10/15 56XX Clinton
10/19 125XX San Pablo
10/20 123XX San Pablo
10/28 48XX Macdonald

Robbery
10/14 126XX San Pablo
10/15 8XX Humboldt
10/19 17XX Nevin
10/28 126XX San Pablo

Battery

10/03 San Pablo/Barrett
10/16 120XX San Pablo
10/22 7XX Ventura
10/26 8XX Yuba

Burglary from auto

10/09 55XX Sierra
10/10 17XX McLaughlin
10/11 9XX Yuba
10/17 6XX Yuba
10/19 7XX Amador
10/20 6XX Sonoma
10/24 9XX Humboldt

Burglary from residence

10/25 53XX Esmond
10/26 10XX Ventura
10/29 6XX McLaughlin

Petty theft/stolen property

10/05 6XX Humboldt
10/08 126XX San Pablo
10/17 4XX Carlston
10/22 9XX Lassen
10/25 52XX Nevin
10/25 51XX Esmond
10/27 126XX San Pablo
10/31 52XX Solano

Calls related to dogs

10/18 51XX Clinton

Calls related to juveniles

10/02 McBryde/Lassen
10/18 54XX McBryde
10/18 54XX McBryde
10/20 50XX Barrett
10/23 8XX Sonoma

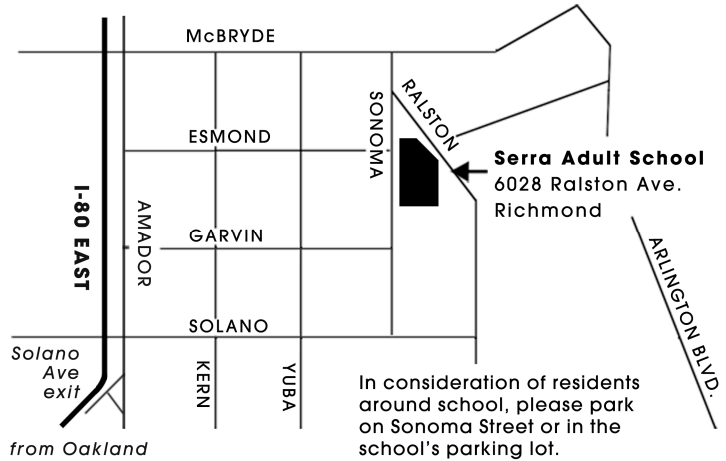
Vandalism

10/03 Amador/McBryde
10/06 9XX McLaughlin
10/17 4XX Key
10/17 128XX San Pablo
10/17 9XX Kern
10/30 9XX Humboldt

at the next ERNC meeting

Topic of next meeting

Guest speaker Judy Battle from the City of Richmond Planning Dept. and the new tower proposed for Amador at Solano.



Monday, December 5th, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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