

### quick-takes

#### Get What You Earned

A Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site in Richmond can help you determine if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Federal Child Credit. Experts at VITA can also help you with language interpretation, applications for health insurance enrollment, utility rate adjustment, and other programs.

To qualify, families and individuals must have earned less than \$36,000 in 2004. You may also qualify for tax preparation help if your family earned less than \$66,000 last year.

The assistance is available at two sites in Richmond: Community Heritage Senior Housing, at 1555 Third St. (233-0501), and RichmondWorks, 330 25th St. (307-8014). The assistance is available Saturdays only, until March 12th at Community Heritage Senior Housing, and until April 9 at Richmond Works. Call for exact hours.

#### Richmond Bay Trail Network

Five years ago when TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, was founded, Richmond had only 12 miles of San Francisco Bay Trail fragments. Now Richmond has 20 miles of Bay Trail in use — more than any other city on this planned 500-mile recreation and transportation corridor encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The Bay Trail links all parks along Richmond's shoreline — Point Isabel, Shimada, Marina Bay, Vincent, Lucretia Edwards and Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline.

Completing Richmond's remaining 20 miles of planned Bay Trail is challenging. Closing each gap requires access to land, planning studies, CEQA compliance, construction design and funding for each of these steps as well as for construction itself. To learn more about these accomplishments, and the challenges ahead, see the Richmond Bay Trail New Year Report at [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/trac/](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/trac/).

*(continues on p.2)*

#### [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org)

See it. Use it.

*By Nick Despota*

It's up: the ERNC website is now available at a computer near you. If you have immediate access to the Internet, you need read no further. Go see for yourself what it offers. But if you're not close to a computer you may want to read on.

We built the web site to serve several purposes, which we'll describe in a moment. But first, let's make this clear: what the site is today is not what it will be in a year's time. As people learn about it, its form will evolve to reflect its use. Or disuse. After all, web sites are like muscles: use them and they grow, don't use them and they wither. So let's watch what happens.

Here's what you'll find at [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org):

1. Announcements about upcoming events and developments that may be of special interest to our community.
2. Contact information on local government and community services, both for city and county residents: phone numbers and links to police and public works departments, the public library, environmental groups, and many other organizations.
3. Current and recent issues of this newsletter, Views. They are available in a format ("pdf") that lets you either read them on screen or print them out.
4. Photographs, data and documents about East Richmond, its past and its present. For example, you can marvel at a panoramic photo of East Richmond in 1912, or peruse the range of wildlife sighted here within the last 12 months.
5. Information about our neighborhood council: its activities, agendas and recent accomplishments. You'll also find a page about forming neighborhood watch groups.

We'll do our best to keep the information fresh and the content relevant. If we do our job well, you'll find at least 5 reasons to become a frequent visitor and contributor.

#### Working To End Domestic Violence

*By Andy Pasternack*

Under our Constitution, all citizens are entitled to due process of law, but the cost of legal representation can make the right to a lawyer seem impossible. Bay Area Legal Aid is dedicated to making sure that those without sufficient financial resources have access to the same rights as the rest of us.

We invited Ms. Jane Randolph, staff attorney with the Contra Costa County office of Bay Area Legal Aid, to our December ERNC meeting. She reminded us that the need for free civil legal services is overwhelming, yet our community is generally unaware of the problem, and of the solutions that legal aid offer.

First, a definition. Domestic violence is a crime that occurs when a person attempts to maintain power and control over a current or former intimate partner. Abusers commonly use physical, sexual and emotional abuse. They may limit access to money or use verbal insults, isolation, or threats to gain power over their partners. Domestic violence occurs in gay/lesbian relationships, as well as in straight relationships. It affects teenagers as well as adults and spans the economic spectrum.

*(continues on p.3)*

**next meeting**

Monday, February 7th, 7 PM at the Serra Adult School. See back page.

**quick-takes***continued from page 1***Want to become a native guide?**

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is seeking volunteers who will spend a morning or afternoon greeting tour participants and answering questions at this native plant garden tour. More than 50 gardens located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties will be showcased on this tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 1st. Volunteers can select the garden they would like to spend time at by visiting the "Preview the Gardens" section at [www.BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://www.BringingBackTheNatives.net).

Benefits to volunteers include a pre-tour meeting with the owner and private tour of the garden you will be staffing, a guaranteed tour reservation for the half day you are free, a Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour t-shirt, and, perhaps best of all, heartfelt thanks for helping to educate the general public about the many pleasures and benefits of gardening with California native plants.

For more information, please e-mail Kathy Kramer at [Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net](mailto:Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net), or call 236-9558 between 9 AM and 9 PM.

**Keep Track of West County Schools**

The West County County Unified School District (WCCUSD) now offers an electronic publication with news of the district, including meetings, public forums, and announcements. It is produced by the Communications Department and is a continuation and expansion of Literacy Corner and Friday FYI.

To subscribe or unsubscribe email [paul.ehara@gw.wccusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:paul.ehara@gw.wccusd.k12.ca.us) Please pass on this invitation to join the mailing list to your neighbors, colleagues, students, family members and community members.

**Within our reach**

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach."

From the essay *We Were Made for These Times*, by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, widely circulated on the Internet in November 2004.

**Mira Vista Elementary School invites prospective parents**

On Wednesday, February 2nd, Mira Vista School will conduct site tours for prospective parents interested in enrollment for kindergarten and first grades. The tours will begin with a brief informational session by the principal. After that parents will be given a schedule that will let them plan their tour. If you are planning to participate please give the principal a call to be placed on the tour list. This will help with working out the logistics and staffing for that day. The entire process will last approximately one

hour. All parents for that day should report to the library. The session will begin at 8:45 am. For more information, call 232-4064.

Community members who want to support Mira Vista School and also enjoy pizza can satisfy both desires by dining at Pizza Roma, on the second Friday of every month. Whether eating in or taking out, the restaurant will return 25 percent of purchases to the Mira Vista PTA (when you place your order, let them know you are there for Mira Vista).

**November and December calls to RPD**

These are calls to the Richmond Police Department, between November 1 and December 31, 2004, provided by the Crime Statistics Division. This report shows calls made, not necessarily crimes committed. Calls for incidents at commercial establishments are not included here, only those made concerning possible crimes against persons or personal property.

This list is longer than usual. That's not because there has been a sudden jump in crime but because this list covers two months of activity. (We do not publish a January edition of Views, and we usually report only a single month.)

**Abandoned autos**

22 reported

**Stolen autos**

8 reported

**Hit/run property damage**

12/03 Macdonald/San Pablo

**Robbery**

12/08 49XX Macdonald

12/23 121XX San Pablo

**Battery**

11/18 122XX San Pablo

11/21 49XX Macdonald

12/13 122XX San Pablo

**Burglary from Residence**

11/23 55XX Garvin

11/29 6XX McLaughlin

**Petty theft/stolen property**

11/02 Clinton/Amador

11/10 8XX Kern

11/22 49XX Macdonald

12/12 122XX San Pablo

**Vandalism**

11/02 4XX 46th

11/09 6XX Key

**Vandalism (continued)**

11/12 50XX Barrett

11/12 50XX Barrett

**Burglary from auto**

11/07 7XX Amador

11/07 54XX Solano

11/09 4XX McLaughlin

11/09 4XX McLaughlin

11/17 124XX San Pablo

11/18 6XX Ventura

12/02 53XX Zara

12/05 5XX Dimm

12/05 4XX Key

12/12 6XX Yuba

12/13 3XX Carlston

12/13 6XX Sonoma

12/19 55XX Clinton

12/20 57XX Clinton

12/31 6XX McLaughlin

**Calls related to juvenile causing disturbance**

11/20 Mount/Silva

11/28 50XX Barrett

12/01 8XX Sonoma

12/01 9XX Kern

12/11 Esmond/kern

**contacts**

You can find many more phone numbers for public services on our web site: [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org).

**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  
Srgt. McClain: 309-3213

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

**Neighborhood Council concerns**  
Kathy Scharff 237-2297

**Report blight or graffiti**  
Richmond blight abatement 231-3010  
CalTrans (graffiti) 925-926-6112

**this issue of Views**

**Contributors**

Nick Despota and Andy Pasternack contributed to this issue. Crime statistics are furnished by Sergeant Austin of the RPD.

**Production and Mailing**

Graphics and layout by Nick Despota. Duplication provided by the City of Richmond, City Manager's office. Glen and Karen Stephenson handle folding and labeling.

**Subscriptions**

Subscriptions to Views are free but a donation is requested. To get on our mailing list, please use the form on the right.

**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](mailto:levinack@hotmail.com).

**View Views on-line**

Want to see a recent issue of Views? Visit our web site at [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org)

**Helping to end domestic violence, continued from page 1**

Unfortunately, domestic violence is very common. Domestic violence does not go away on its own, and the violence tends to get worse over time. Although it is not the fault of the victims, they usually blame themselves. Most important, there are individuals and organizations that can help.

If you know someone who is the victim of violence from a current or former intimate partner, call the police at 911 for emergency help or call the police department if it is not an emergency. When the police arrive, tell them what the abuser did. Ask the police to file a report and ask for a report number. The victim can ask the police to arrest the abuser. If they refuse, you may ask to make a private person's arrest.

The victim can ask the police to issue an Emergency Protective Order, requiring the abuser to stay away from the victim. These orders usually expire in five to seven days, however, one can also apply for a civil restraining order for extended protection.

The varieties of abuse are staggering, but they all have one thing in common: one partner maintaining control over the other partner through some form of fear.

Domestic violence comes in varieties: physical abuse, sexual assault, emotional abuse, verbal insults, isolation, intimidation, coercion, harassment, stalking, economic control, threats, destruction of property, and abuse to pets are each and every one a form of abusive behavior. Abusers may exert power and control through threats to a partner or to children, unfair and irrational accusations, and in the case of immigrant couples, threatening to turn the partner into I.N.S.

It is not easy to get someone to admit they are in an abusive relationship. The victim probably thinks it's her or his fault. She probably believes that it's best to keep the relationship or family together, no matter what the cost. She may even think her family is perfect, at the same time she is getting abused. An abused partner is likely to feel isolated from friends and family, uncertain where to go should she or he leave, And a partner may be all too willing to forgive the abuser. None of these beliefs are valid, but serve only to keep the abused partner in harm's way.

If you would like to give advice to a victim, the Bay Area Legal Fund has some very worthwhile web pages at: [baylegal.org/services2.html](http://baylegal.org/services2.html). In addition, the National Coalition to End Domestic Violence has some practical advice at: [www.ncadv.org/gettinghelp/safetyplan.htm](http://www.ncadv.org/gettinghelp/safetyplan.htm).

Victims of domestic violence are not at fault. They do not deserve their abuse. And thanks in part to Bay Area Legal Aid, they are not alone.

**VIEWS SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

If you're not currently receiving Views in the mail but would like to, please complete this form and mail it to:

ERNC, P.O. Box 5253, Richmond CA 94805

A donation is not required to receive Views but please consider a yearly contribution to support the work of your neighborhood council. Your donation will be recorded and a renewal request will be made in June 2005. Make checks payable to ERNC. Thank you.

\_\_\_\$10      \_\_\_\$15      \_\_\_\$20      Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional)

at the next ERNC meeting

**Chris McAuliffe, manager of Richmond wastewater treatment plant  
and Lynne Scarpa, of Richmond's pretreatment program**

*This winter's heavy rains have put the City's new wastewater treatment plant operator, Veolia Water, to the test. Trial by inundation, you might call it.*

*Then again, you might not. That's because our reports have been very positive: good customer service and close attention to the vagaries of Richmond's aging collection system. Chris McAuliffe will discuss the problems related to that system, how the company plans to address them, and how you can help.*

*We'll also be welcoming back Lynne Scarpa, from Richmond's pretreatment program, who will talk about keeping pesticides out of the stormwater system by means of pesticide-free gardening.*

*Please join us for this valuable and informative meeting.*



*In consideration of residents around the school, please park on the Sonoma Street or in the school parking lot. Thanks.*

---

**Monday, February 7th, 7 PM**

Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Ave.

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

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 253  
RICHMOND, CA

**DATED MATERIAL!**  
**Please deliver immediately**