

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

www.eastrichmond.org

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

quick-takes

General Plan Update Meeting

There was a meeting on Saturday January 14, 2006 to discuss ways to include the residents of Richmond on the General Plan of Richmond which may take up to 18 months to finalize. Some suggestions were to have small meetings in all parts of the city to include the local Board of Realtors, Professionals in traffic, housing, and environmental affairs. To find out the cost and ability of the local community access T.V. to record and broadcast any meetings on the subject to enlighten the community on the progress of the General Plan.

To get more info on the General Plan you may ask the City council or the consultant Darolyn Davis at her web site: darolyn@davis-pr.com.

Earned Income Tax Credit

You (documented workers) can claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) if you qualify even if you do not owe taxes. Last year the average refund was over \$1,200.00. You may qualify if you were 1) Raising 2 or more children and earned less than \$35,263 (\$37,263 if married). 2) Raising 1 child & earned less than \$31,030 (\$33,030 if married). 3) Had no children in your home in 2005 and earned less than \$11,750 (\$13,750 if married). For questions and more information please call: (800) 358-8832.

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Looking for New Superintendent

The Board of Education of WCCUSD has retained a search firm to assist in the search for the new Superintendent. The firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, Ltd. extended an invitation to the Richmond Coordinating Council to meet with them for an hour while they are holding Leadership Profile Interviews. Hopefully we will have more information as the search moves forward.

Crab Luau

Luau in February? Yep, if you live in Richmond, where the Richmond Chamber of Commerce is holding its Sixth Annual Crab Luau on Friday, February 10th at the Richmond Memorial Convention Center. A no-host bar and auction begin at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Dinner includes fresh cracked crab with hot butter, Caesar salad, pasta, bread with butter and dessert. Attendees will also enjoy music, dancing and prizes. Ticket prices are \$35.00 per person if purchases before February 3rd and \$45.00 after (no tickets sold at the door). A corporate table seating eight is priced at \$500.00 (includes linen table coverings, special seating and two bottles of wine). Seating is limited. To order tickets call the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at (510) 234-3512 or send credit card information to (510) 234-3540 (fax) or staff@rcoc.com.

Library Hours Growing Again

For more than a year and a half, Richmond residents have had to accept very limited hours at our public library—only four hours a day, six days a week. But thanks to the infusion of money from Measure Q (passed in 2004), the good work of library staff, and the solid management of its director, Monique le Conge, our library has now nearly doubled its hours of operation.

The new hours are: Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The library is closed on Sundays.

The Library Director is now working on reopening the two closed branches (Bayview and West Side), continuing to expand hours of operation at the main library, and improving the quality of services throughout the system.

Crossing Guards Wanted

Admit it: you have always wanted to know the power of a flat palm stopping traffic. Here is your chance. Mira Vista Elementary School needs crossing guards to help students going to and fro on mornings (8:10 to 8:40) and afternoons (1:30 to 2:15 on Wednesdays, 2:10 to 3:00 the rest of the week). Even if you can only make certain days and times, your help would be put to use. For more information or to make an application, contact Ms. Brown-Garcia at (510) 232-4064.

next meeting

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Greet the New Police Chief

The Business Community and the Residents of Richmond are welcoming Police Chief Chris Magnus to Richmond Thursday, February 2, 2006 5 to 7p.m. in the lobby of the Richmond Auditorium. Located at the Civic Center Plaza at Nevin Ave. between 25th & 27th Streets. Refreshments served & a no-host bar.

Go and Get Involved in our City.

Cuban Prints Exhibited at NIAD

The National Institute for Art and Disabilities is presenting, REGLA: Revolution, an exhibition of original prints from Cuban printmaker Antonio Canet's series "Fidel y Moncada: Vistos por Canet" alongside original prints by NIAD artists and their teacher: Andres Ciserns-Galindo. The exhibit runs through February 24th. NIAD is located at 551 23rd St. For more info, visit niadart.org.

The Italians of Richmond

The influence of Italian immigrants in the greater San Francisco Bay Area is well appreciated, but many people do not realize that before World War II, Italian immigrants and their children represented the largest ethnic group in Richmond. Now, a new book "La Nostra Storia: Italian American in Richmond", by Maria Sakovich, documents the lives of these heretofore silent Richmond residents. Based on the 2003 exhibit at the Richmond Museum of History, the book is available for \$20.00 at the Richmond Museum of History, 400 Nevin Ave. For more information call (510) 235-7387.

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Parking Strip Regulations

By Parks and Landscaping Division

The park strip is the PLANTING AREA between the front of sidewalk and the curb.

Richmond Municipal code 12.36.161 states, "It is unlawful to place loose rock, decorative stones or pebbles, bark, asphalt or any other surfacing not specified hereafter in any strip of land used and maintained for parking between any property line and the street. It is lawful to pave with concrete, brick, or exposed aggregate concrete in such parking strip by first obtaining a permit from the Director of Public Works.

In any of the above-mentioned situations, the Director of Public Works may require that planting areas be left in the parking strip for the planting of street trees and may require the planting of such trees as a condition of such permit."

Plant material blocking visibility, or inhibits walking across parking strips is not allowed in the parking strip area. However, the City has allowed property owners to fill in a parking strip with the condition that they will plant a tree(s). A permit will be needed from the Engineering Division at (510) 307-8091. If the Strip is filled in without a permit, the City will require the resident to pull the necessary permit and take out a section of the material at their own cost, so a tree can be planted.

If you have any QUESTIONS (ask before you spend) Please contact the Parks and Landscaping Division at (510) 231-3004.

Richmond is Going Green

By green, we mean Green Design. Green design means creating buildings and developments using energy, water, and resources more efficiently through conservation and use of technological improvements. With the demand for energy, and the price of energy constantly rising, a number of Bay Area cities have already enacted policies and ordinances implementing green planning practices.

So what does this mean for Richmond?

The City of Richmond's Planning Dept. is now considering how it can use green planning in future development, and for some smart reasons. Green Planning saves energy. This is becoming a major driving force as gas and electricity bills are forecasted to increase dramatically. Also, as health and related productivity concerns become more prominent, the use of less toxic building materials is being factored into building design. Water conservation and reducing storm water runoff are additional considerations in green design.

Municipalities, developers and tenants can clearly achieve cost savings by promoting green building practices. Homeowners can also benefit from implementing green measures. Commercial and residential developers must market such enhancements as "amenities" to future buyers and tenants to realize the benefits of green building. Green planning focuses attention on design early in the planning process and has the potential to reduce impacts on air, water quality, energy, traffic, and water use. Such projects may require less mitigation and be easier to permit. The City is evaluating policies and standards that can encourage green design in both private and public development.

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
CalTrans (925) 926-6112

Pickup of Household Hazardous Waste for Seniors and Disabled

Seniors ages 60 and older and disabled residents of El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond and San Pablo can now get free pick-up of household hazardous waste by calling (800) 449-7567 for more information and to make an appointment. This free collection service is in addition to West County's drop-off facility for household hazardous waste available year-round, every Thursday, Friday and first Saturday of the Month from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch) at 101 Pittsburg Ave. in Richmond (off the Parkway).

The facility's phone number is (888) 451-9277.

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Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls made to the Richmond Police from **November 1 – December 31**. Statistics are provided each month by Perry Austin of RPD, whose support and assistance we continue to appreciate.

Suspicious person(s)	21
Abandoned auto(s)	26
Suspicious vehicle(s)	24
Disturbance(s)	26
911 Disconnected	22
Dogs	1

Stolen vehicle

11/2	6XX McLaughlin
11/3	38XX McBryde
11/8	125XX San Pablo
11/10	10XX Lassen
11/10	7XX Humbolt
11/12	57XX Solano
11/18	Barrett / San Pablo
11/29	6XX Ventura
12/6	127XX San Pablo
12/6	50XX Esmond
12/8	55XX McBryde
12/10	52XX Garvin
12/19	9XX Lassen
12/19	6XX Ventura
12/25	6XX Humbolt
12/26	6XX Yuba
12/31	122XX San Pablo

Recovered stolen vehicle

11/3	Garvin / McLaughlin
11/11	10XX Lassen
11/22	129XX San Pablo
11/24	4XX Wilson
12/3	9XX Sonoma
12/4	129XX San Pablo
12/7	18XX Key
12/7	122XX San Pablo
12/11	Clinton / Yuba
12/12	129XX San Pablo
12/28	9XX McLaughlin
12/29	129XX San Pablo

Vehicle tampering

11/9	5XX Mount
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Battery

11/8	7XX Humbolt
11/10	49XX MacDonald
11/12	6XX Ventura
11/28	7XX Lassen
12/24	128XX San Pablo

Burglary from auto

11/1	125XX San Pablo
11/1	49XX MacDonald
11/2	7XX Ventura
11/3	73XX Humbolt
11/7	6XX Kern
11/13	4XX Key
11/14	Garvin / Lassen
11/14	57XX Hazel
11/15	50XX Clinton
11/24	9XX Lassen
11/25	52XX Clinton
11/25	4XX Carlston
11/26	9XX McLaughlin
12/7	49XX MacDonald
12/19	6XX Sonoma
12/19	6XX Humbolt
12/28	7XX Humbolt

Burglary from residence

11/7	6XX Key
11/11	8XX Humbolt
11/14	4XX Wilson
11/15	4XX Wilson
12/11	52XX McBryde
12/13	52XX McBryde

Petty theft/stolen property

11/7	121XX San Pablo
11/8	124XX San Pablo
11/9	7XX Courtland
11/17	52XX Solano
11/21	9XX Humbolt
12/7	54XX McBryde
12/30	7XX Amador

Hit & run property damage

11/6	MacDonald / San Pablo
11/8	McBryde / Amador
11/16	MacDonald / Key
12/16	124XX San Pablo
12/20	126XX San Pablo
12/21	MacDonald / San Pablo

quick-takes

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Pizza Fundraiser for Mira Vista

Eat pizza. Raise money for Mira Vista Elementary School. You do the math.

Yes, friends, the beloved Pizza Roma fundraiser is back. Every second Friday of the month, your mouthful of pizza helps support the Mira Vista PTA. Participants can eat in or carry out with 25 percent of their purchase being given to the Mira Vista PTA. Tempted as you will be to chow down, you must mention Mira Vista school when you make your order.

Main Web site for Richmond

www.ci.richmond.ca.us

There is a host of items on this web site, including agendas, minutes, city calendar, and many more.

Annual High School PEERS

Community advancement through the empowering of youth, teachers, and community partners is the mission of the Second Annual High School Peers Youth Conference which will be held on Friday, February 10th 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the UC Berkeley's Clark Kerr Conference Center. The event is sponsored by the WCCUSD office of Comprehensive School Health. Participants will learn leadership skills needed to bring about positive change on their school campuses, attend workshops on establishing, maintaining, & enhancing programs, explore issues such as violence prevention, tolerance, conflict, and tobacco prevention, and learn about successful programs and models that utilize youth as a resource. For more information please contact Comprehensive School Health Coordinator Diana De Gracia at (510) 307-5353.

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Robbery

11/8 126XX San Pablo
12/10 128XX San Pablo
12/20 4XX McLaughlin
12/20 MacDonald / San Pablo
12/23 125XX San Pablo
12/28 54XX Sierra

Car jacking

12/5 Barrett / San Pablo

Assault with a deadly weapon

11/11 122XX San Pablo
12/9 6XX McLaughlin
12/26 123XX San Pablo

Great bodily injury to a child

12/25 7XX Amador

Drug activity

11/14 4XX Wilson

Arson

11/17 122XX San Pablo
11/21 49XX McBryde

Calls related to juveniles

11/1 8XX Humbolt
11/6 Barrett / McLaughlin
11/7 3XX Carlston
11/12 8XX Sonoma
11/13 8XX Sonoma
11/13 Esmond / Kern
11/27 8XX Sonoma
11/28 Clinton / Amador
12/2 7XX Ventura
12/3 7XX Ventura
12/6 5XX McLaughlin
12/10 49XX McBryde

Vandalism

11/11 8XX Humbolt
11/17 9XX Amador
11/19 48XX MacDonald
12/6 48XX MacDonald
12/20 50XX Solano

Baxter Creek Renovation

You have probably noticed the big changes being made at the Baxter Creek Gateway site in northern El Cerrito, at the Richmond border. With funding from the State Water Resources Control Board, Coastal Conservancy, and the City of El Cerrito, this formerly neglected property has been recontoured and transformed into a community park with a lovely, meandering creek, a paved extension of the Ohlone Greenway trail, and two community gathering areas.

Now, the fun part. To finish the work, and to maintain the restoration, throughout 2006, the Friends of Baxter Creek are holding monthly Gateway Park work parties, which will be held on the first Saturday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers meet at Key Blvd. and Conlon Ave., in El Cerrito. Typical assignments include planting native shrubs and flowers, removing invasive weeds and trash, and spreading mulch. This is a great way to learn about native plants and creek restoration. Children are extremely welcome, as long as accompanied by a parent or guardian, and heavy rain will cancel this event.

Open to both new-and old-comers, work parties offer an opportunity for you to work outside, socialize. Volunteers under age 18 are welcome to participate, but they must bring a waiver signed by their parents or guardian.

If your neighborhood group or company would like to arrange a special "volunteer day" at Gateway Park, contact Apple Szostak, FOBC's Watershed Project coordinator at (510) 665-3686 or apple@thewatershedproject.org.

If clean water and a healthy environment are your cup of tea, join FOBC at its bi-monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30p.m. And plan to join the FOBC Restoration Tour in the Spring 2006. Participants will enjoy all the activities for both children and adults.

Moving Day for Mira Vista

Mira Vista Elementary School celebrated the end of the holiday season by moving into its newly renovated facility. While a certain amount of work remains to be done, including the majority of the school's landscaping, the work is expected to be finished before Spring Break. For more information please contact Mira Vista elementary School at (510) 232-4064.

Kindergarten Tours at Madera

Madera Elementary will conduct a series of tours for parents of incoming kindergarteners. The tours will take place on February 17th at 10:30 a.m., and on March 17th at 2:00 p.m. For more information please contact Madera Principal Doris Holland at (510) 231-1412.

Design Review for Additions

All residential additions require approval by the Planning Dept. and a building permit before construction. Although over the counter approvals can be obtained for small additions, the Planning Dept. gives particular attention to residential second story additions, those exceeding 15 feet in height, or 500 sq. ft. in size. These additions go through design review. Design review is a "value added" process that ensures that all development inside the City, yes including your addition, is adequately designed to provide for your intended needs while contributing positively to the visual environment of your property and immediate neighborhood.

Although not all home improvement projects require planning approval or a building permit, it is always best to ask before you spend and avoid costly citations.

News from the Planning Dept.

The Planning Department put out a nine page newsletter with items that affect our city. One of those stories by Hector Rojas, is about Secondary Dwelling Units. Since 2000 there have been 57 applications for secondary dwelling units, 38 units approved, 8 applications withdrawn, and 3 units denied. The state has aggressively pursued reducing barriers to the construction of housing. As a result, the state adopted legislation preempting municipalities from prohibiting secondary dwelling units.

Local governments are, instead, allowed to adopt ordinances which can regulate where and how a secondary unit is built. These restrictions include designated areas where these units may be permitted as well as design related standards which can include parking, height, setback, lot coverage, and maximum unit size.

As noted in a recent San Francisco Chronicle article, residents of various Bay Area cities have found it quite cumbersome and in some cases technically impossible to construct these often called "in-law units" due to parking and lot size regulations. Despite state preemption law, applicants feel that municipalities and their residents are still hesitant to accept in-law units due to fear of increased density in neighborhoods originally marketed to them as "single family low-density." Fears also include loss of privacy and increased on-street parking.

In November 2003 the City of Richmond successfully updated its previously adopted secondary unit ordinance. Even before then, Richmond homeowners applying for secondary units have always met with some opposition, but in large part of staff planners and the City's Design Review Board have been able to work out disputes and calm fears due largely to a well crafted ordinance and substantial applicant-neighbor cooperation. The ordinance addresses privacy concerns, for example, by requiring that secondary use techniques such as frosted window glazing to minimize privacy impacts onto adjacent properties.

The Planning Quarterly is designed to enhance the communication between the Planning Dept. and residents. Contact the Planning Dept. for a copy of the Quarterly at 510 620-6706.

Also in the Planning Newsletter:

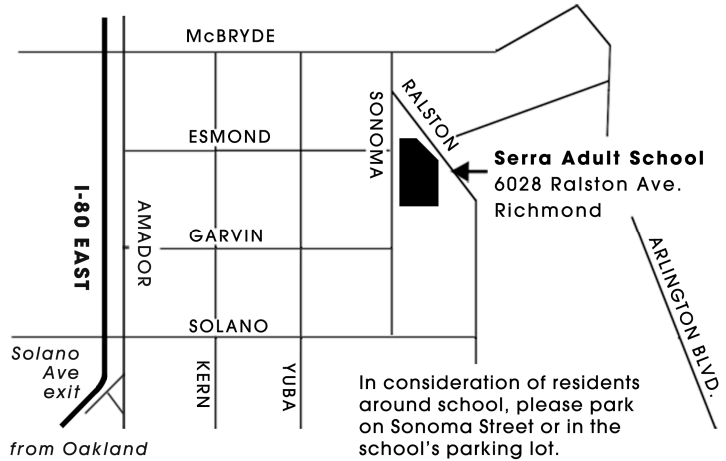
The Anchor Cove development consisting of 123 town home style units and approximately 46,000 sq. ft. of retail on a 10+ acre site located in the Marina Bay neighborhood. Sales will begin in early 2006.

The Crossing at Marina Bay consisting of 3 buildings totaling 80,156 sq. ft. Built for sales-service oriented small business tenants. A major tenant VICOR, Inc. has already pre-leased 21,667 sq. ft. for its headquarters.

Valley View 43 new single family homes will replace a large portion of existing commercial space at the intersection of May Road and Valley View Road. In keeping with the Ahwahnee Principles of design adopted by the City, the project gives priority to human scale by offering larger porches with reduced setbacks and recessed garages. Thanks to discussions with our May Valley NC and the City, the developer will contribute \$50,000 to improve LaMoine Valley View Neighborhood Park which will also serve this new development. (It helps our community to be involved in Planning.)

at the next ERNC meeting

City Council Member Tony Thurmond is scheduled to talk about violence suppression and to take your questions about our neighborhood.



Monday, February 6th 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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Richmond, CA 94808

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