

# Views

## Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

Visit us at [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.org)

Rock Brown, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

### quick-takes

#### Shakin' All Over

The year 2006 closed out with a lot of trembling along the Hayward fault – that huge fissure that runs alongside our neighborhood.

Ever wonder what you can do to prepare yourself for an earthquake? The City of Richmond's free disaster training classes begin at Serra Adult School next month, in March.

The City of Richmond's REACT training (Richmond Emergency Action and Teams) can help you learn how to prepare for disasters and how to work effectively with others in the event of an emergency. A group of neighbors from Kern Street took the training together in the fall, and we encourage others to do the same.

The training consists of five sessions, covering topics such as fire fighting, disaster medicine, light search and rescue. At the end of training in April, both current and past REACT trainees participate in a disaster training session at the Richmond Fire Training Center

For more information on Richmond's REACT training, visit their website: [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=337](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=337), or call Kathy Gerk, at the office of emergency services: 620-6866.

For the Richmond Adult School REACT Schedule, visit [www.wccae.info/alphabetical-spring.htm](http://www.wccae.info/alphabetical-spring.htm).

## A Tale of Two Cities' Streetscapes

Once they were both part of the same huge rancho, but today, Richmond and El Cerrito are as different as, well, Richmond and El Cerrito. The major connecting thoroughfare, San Pablo Ave., is becoming the subject of interesting joint development, and may even help make better sense of the two cities' jagged and confusing border, which zigs and zags along that strip.

The cities have hired a planning consultant, Moore Iacofano Goltsman, to develop an economic, development and streetscape plan for a stretch of San Pablo Avenue that runs from Macdonald Avenue south 35 blocks to just beyond El Cerrito Plaza. The design firm has cut its teeth on plans for revitalizing the downtowns or streetscapes in Los Angeles, Rohnert Park, San Jose, Berkeley, Sacramento, Hollister, Brentwood, Spokane (Washington), and Eugene (Oregon). The company is also helping develop El Cerrito's general plan.

The cities are sharing the cost of the \$575,000 plan with the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee. It will take 16 months to complete, and city planners will ask for community input at three meetings, the first of which will be this month.

What's the big deal with San Pablo Avenue, you might well wonder. What's wrong with a hodgepodge of car lots, fast-food restaurants and strip malls? Nothing, except it was developed in the 1950s, when the car was king. The idea now is to come up with activity centers, a critical mass of commercial uses, office space and residential housing. A plan to streetscape themes, emphasize public transit opportunities, and rely on smart-growth standards that attract complementary businesses, will all contribute to making the area a lot more interesting and fun place to live. The specific plan also will bring Richmond and El Cerrito together on development policies, which planners say will help alleviate confusion along the border.

El Cerrito already has encouraged this type of development at the Village at Town Center, a four-block development of 158 units above commercial space. The city also is considering a development of 58 condominiums above 11,000 square feet of commercial space on San Pablo and Cutting Boulevard, near the Del Norte BART Station. Richmond's smart growth initiatives can be seen extensively at the area around Richmond BART Station, and in plans to renovate various sections of Macdonald Ave.

The cities also have different zoning ordinances, another confusing issue the specific plan is expected to solve.

#### Mark Your Calendars

The 17th Annual Point Richmond Stroll will be May 17, 2007. As schedules of activities and performs get announced, we will keep you posted.

**next meeting**

See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

continued from previous page

### Got An Eye For Art?

The development plans have been approved and the ground-breaking for Richmond's \$98 million Civic Center renovation has occurred, but the public still can have some input on the project. The Community Redevelopment Agency is seeking people interested in serving on a panel that will help guide selections for public art elements to be incorporated into the project.

Applicants should be residents of Richmond or people in the greater area who have an interest in the project and public art. People who live around the Civic Center and art professionals from the area are encouraged to apply. Just fill out the application and send it in. All recommendations need be ready by mid-March.

The recommendations then will go to an executive art committee of city staff members, community members and art professionals, then to the City Council for final approval. Longer-term decisions will include acquisition of art to display in the buildings.

Public art will be the final touch for the Civic Center project, which will include the renovation and seismic upgrading of City Hall and the Hall of Justice building, and remodeling of the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. The entire project -- the most expensive public works project in the city's history -- is scheduled to be completed early in 2009.

Directions on how to apply for the panel can be found at the City of Richmond's website, [www.ci.richmond.ca.us](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us).

*Continues on page 3*

## On the Waterfront, Attempts to Save Bldg

The great thing about historic preservation is the sense of history and pride it instills in people. The bad thing is that often these buildings are near collapse when the preservation effort begins. Richmond's historic World War II buildings, many the subject of preservation efforts, are cases in point.

The Richmond City Council is taking steps to save a historic World War II rigging loft and sheet metal shop that is in danger of collapsing. City staff are exploring forming a partnership with the Rosie the Riveter Trust to raise an estimated \$500,000 in grants to renovate the 36,000-square-foot waterfront structure known as Building 6. The council took the action at its last meeting before the holiday break.

Unless some repair work is done quickly, the building might deteriorate to the point of being unsalvageable. One section of the building's roof has already collapsed, and several wood trusses supporting the roof over the building's main section -- a cavernous, 27,000-square-foot warehouse-type space -- have severe wood rot and are in danger of giving way. One truss has been crudely shored up with concrete K-rails and railroad ties. There also are numerous leaks in the roof and large puddles of water on the concrete floor.

During the war, Building 6 was used as a sheet metal shop and riggers loft to outfit the hundreds of Liberty and Victory ships built during the war in the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards.

Building 6 is part of a complex of three original Kaiser Shipyard buildings. The others -- the General Warehouse, which was also the first site of Contra Costa College after the war, and a machinist shop -- are leased out to private businesses. Building 6 is immediately adjacent to the dock where the SS Red Oak Victory Ship is moored.

All three buildings, the SS Red Oak Victory and a dockside Whirley crane are designated under the Richmond Shipyard Number 3 Historic District. The buildings are also on the National Register of Historic Places and the California List of Historical Places.

The National Park Service supports the Building 6 renovation. It could be used as a visitor center for the Shipyard 3 Historic District or a shop for Rosie's Girls, a national program to build confidence in girls by training them in the construction and building trades.

Shipyard Number 3 is part of the Rosie the Riveter World War II/Home Front National Historic Park. The park opened to the public in 2003, though it is still a work in progress. It consists of nine sites, including Shipyard Number 3, the original Kaiser Field Hospital, the Maritime Child Development Center and the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, a stainless-steel sculpture that evokes the hull of a ship.

City staff is preparing a report that will examine a number of options for saving the building. One of those options might be to lease Building 6 to the Rosie the Riveter Trust for \$30 for 30 years. In return, the trust would partner with other nonprofit groups and private businesses to find rehabilitation grants.

## contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, [www.eastrichmond.org](http://www.eastrichmond.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 Joe Avila 620-6642 ex 7115

e-mail [javila@richmondpd.net](mailto:javila@richmondpd.net)

### 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

And as always we are looking for community events for the Newsletter if you know of 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 [APASTER@jbp.com](mailto:APASTER@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.

### A Shocking Statistic

It's not just your imagination. Nationally, the FBI says violent crime went up 3.7 percent during the first half of 2006. Nearby, in Oakland the rate is up more than 37 percent or ten times the national average. In Hayward there were nearly a quarter more violent crimes during the first part of this year than during the same time last year.

*Continues on page 4*

## 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.

<b>Suspicious person</b>	42
<b>Suspicious vehicle</b>	28
<b>Abandoned auto</b>	20
<b>Recovered stolen vehicle</b>	4
<b>Vehicle tampering</b>	none
<b>Disturbance</b>	40
<b>911 Disconnect</b>	15
<b>Dogs</b>	none
<b>Dumping</b>	3
<b>Stolen vehicle</b>	24

11/1	122XX San Pablo
11/1	122XX San Pablo
11/2	55XX Solano
11/3	122XX San Pablo
11/4	7XX Amador
11/5	50XX Clinton
11/5	5XX Key
11/6	6XX Key
11/6	4XX Carlston
11/13	9XX Lassen
11/14	7XX Kern
11/19	55XX Clinton
11/19	52XX Esmond
11/20	52XX Solano
11/21	52XX Esmond
11/22	4XX Key
12/5	122XX San Pablo
12/9	121XX San Pablo
12/11	8XX Humboldt
12/20	Bissell / San Pablo
12/20	125XX San Pablo
12/21	Esmond / Amador
12/30	52XX Solano

### Hit/Run property damage

11/6	129XX San Pablo
11/7	52XX Solano
12/9	Barrett / Wilson
12/13	54XX Clinton
12/23	Solano / Amador
12/27	8XX Lassen

### Burglary from auto

11/4	49XX Macdonald
11/7	6XX Sonoma
11/12	52XX Clinton
11/14	5XX Key
11/14	122XX San Pablo
11/16	8XX Ventura
11/21	52XX Clinton
11/23	121XX San Pablo
11/26	6XX Sonoma
12/7	51XX Clinton
12/9	51XX Clinton
12/12	52XX Solano
12/21	55XX Sierra
12/31	124XX San Pablo

### Burglary from residence

11/2	4XX Dimm
11/19	6XX Humboldt
11/21	57XX Solano
12/2	125XX San Pablo
12/13	52XX Esmond
12/15	38XX McBryde
12/21	50XX Garvin
12/23	52XX Esmond
12/26	8XX Humboldt
12/27	5XX Cliff
12/29	124XX San Pablo

### Burglary from business

11/2	129XX San Pablo
11/28	122XX San Pablo
12/4	125XX San Pablo
12/13	122XX San Pablo
12/15	7XX Sonoma

### Hold up alarm

12/20	123XX San Pablo
-------	-----------------

### Robbery

11/4	10XX Lassen
11/13	49XX Macdonald
11/23	Garvin / San Pablo
12/2	Macdonald / Key
12/2	122XX San Pablo
12/13	55XX McBryde

### Shots fired

11/5	127XX San Pablo
11/20	Esmond / Kern
12/25	127XX San Pablo

## quick-takes

continued from previous page

### A Shocking Statistic

San Francisco Police investigated nearly 20 percent more crimes involving violence this year. But, and this is according to the FBI, in Richmond, violent crime was actually down by 8 percent. Now you know.

### Richmond High Student Honored

Edgardo Cervano-Soto, a Richmond High School senior who formed a peer group that teaches classes on violence prevention, earned the county's 29th annual Student Humanitarian of the Year award last month. County supervisors gave out the honor after a glitzy ceremony with musical performances, addresses about King's legacy and a video of his famous "Free at last" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. After a 2004 youth conference at UC Berkeley, Cervano-Soto organized a group of students, called Y-Me?, to teach classes on violence prevention at Richmond High School. The classes were part of a campus-wide effort to reduce the area's crime and are now taught at feeder middle schools and youth conferences.

### Crime for January Starting Off Violently

Road rage on Interstate 80 at McBryde Ave. off ramp has one shot and another injured. On San Pablo at Esmond someone shoots into a vehicle injuring the driver. If anyone has information please contact the Police. Help keep our community safe.

*Continues on page 5*

## Calls for service to the Richmond Police

### Grand theft

11/11 54XX Zara  
11/17 8XX Humboldt  
11/18 6XX McLaughlin  
12/15 120XX San Pablo

### Petty theft/stolen property

11/10 123XX San Pablo  
11/10 49XX Macdonald  
11/13 4XX Carlston  
11/15 121XX San Pablo  
11/18 19XX Key  
11/18 49XX Macdonald  
11/21 49XX Macdonald  
11/21 7XX Kern  
11/30 10XX Lassen  
12/3 7XX Kern  
12/3 57XX Sierra  
12/17 10XX Ventura  
12/22 49XX Macdonald  
12/26 126XX San Pablo  
12/26 9XX McLaughlin  
12/28 6XX McLaughlin  
12/29 49XX Macdonald

### Brandishing a weapon

12/13 San Pablo / Interstate 80  
12/22 Garvin / San Pablo  
12/29 8XX Sonoma

### Person with a gun

11/5 McBryde / Ventura  
11/28 52XX Solano  
12/21 49XX Macdonald

### Battery

11/5 7XX Yuba  
11/12 49XX Macdonald  
11/13 7XX Kern  
11/19 Swans way / San Pablo  
11/21 6XX Key  
11/26 3XX Carlston  
12/2 51XX McBryde  
12/2 51XX McBryde  
12/4 124XX San Pablo  
12/5 8XX Humboldt  
12/15 6XX Amador  
12/17 8XX Sonoma  
12/22 51XX Solano

### Calls related to juveniles

11/1 51XX McBryde  
11/1 Solano / Sonoma  
11/1 51XX McBryde  
11/8 McBryde / Amador  
11/12 8XX Sonoma  
11/15 8XX Kern  
11/17 8XX Kern  
12/31 8XX Kern

### Vandalism

11/14 7XX Humboldt  
11/14 5XX Key  
11/26 55XX Clinton  
12/11 7XX Yuba  
12/12 15XX Nevin  
12/16 51XX Clinton  
12/19 7XX Sonoma  
12/22 122XX San Pablo  
12/28 54XX Sierra

## Where Smart Growth Proponents Gather

For those of you who are following the process of the new [Richmond General Plan](#), or who want an excuse to go to Los Angeles, you may want to consider attending a national conference about smart growth, the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference. This conference will acquaint you with cutting edge of planning, maintaining and operating safe, livable and healthy cities. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference will be held February 8-10, in Los Angeles, CA. Want more information? Visit <http://www.newpartners.org/>

## quick-takes

continued from previous page

### Crime for January Starting Off Violently

On Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> at about 5:36p.m. someone fired a weapon at an occupied vehicle traveling west on Interstate 80 near the McBryde Ave. off ramp. The driver was hit by a bullet and the vehicle went up the shoulder and the passenger was injured as a result.

The Police believe that the suspect vehicle was found in the Tara Hills area on Friday morning. At the time of this article no mention of suspects are available.

On Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> at about 3:05p.m. someone fired a weapon at another occupied vehicle traveling south on San Pablo Ave. near Esmond Ave. The vehicle came to a stop on San Pablo Ave. near Clinton Ave.

Two shot at a bar in Martinez January 20<sup>th</sup>, one a Richmond resident, the other an Oakland resident were attending a gathering to remember a friend shot to death in Richmond.

Two shot near 27<sup>th</sup> St. on McBryde Ave. 2:36 a.m. Saturday morning, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to hope for a safe community, but people need to stay diligent in crime prevention and active in crime watch. Report suspicious activities to the Police, and step forward if you witness a crime.

## Performances Feature Local Students

The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts will be holding a number of upcoming events featuring the center's students.

Soul Endeavor Recitals will be held February 10 and 11, featuring student who have been participating in private lessons showcase their efforts in the EBCPA theater.

The Young Artists Repertory Series on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> will feature members of the center's resident company and their student company apprentices, showcasing repertoire work to EBCPA community members as well as to the Richmond community at large.

The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts is located at 339 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond. For more information, call 510 234-5624 or visit [www.eastbaycenter.org](http://www.eastbaycenter.org).

## Arsenic and Old Lace at Masquers

The truly classic comedy Arsenic and Old Lace is running at Masquers, through February 24. The plot, in brief, takes place in the 1940's in Boston community full of nothing but kind feelings for the elderly Brewster sisters, who care for sick neighbors and are devoted Christian ladies. No one would ever suspect that these two dear ladies have a habit of poisoning gentlemen callers whom they perceive to be alone and lonely. The play offers a special bonus for fans of Teddy Roosevelt impersonators. For more information or to make reservations, call 510 232-4031.

## Richmond Art Center Exhibit

The Richmond Art Center presents it acclaimed annual event, The Art Of Living Black 2007: The Eleventh Annual Bay Area Black Artists Exhibition and Art Tour. This is the only Bay Area event that exclusively features the work of local black artists in an exhibition and art tour. Over one hundred local, emerging, and established artists will participate in the group exhibition at RAC. The event, which started January 23, continues to run until March 16.

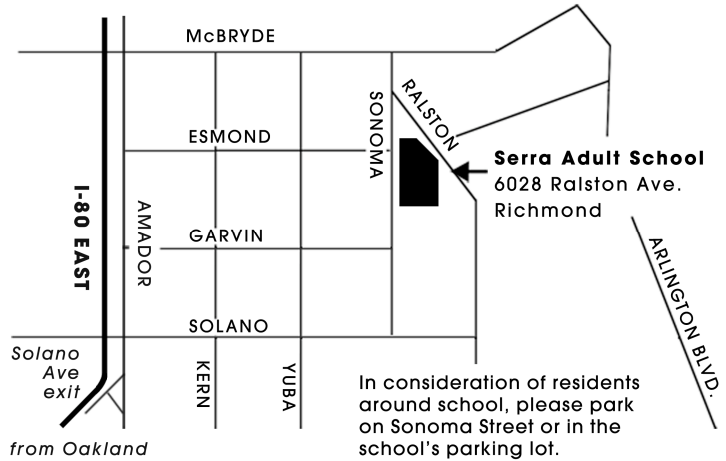
The Richmond Art Center is located at 2540 Barrett Ave., in Richmond. (Look for the big fish.) For more information, call 510 620-6772 or visit [therichmondartcenter.org](http://therichmondartcenter.org).

**at the next RHNC meeting**

**The Crime in Richmond and San Pablo Increased?**

*Our guest speaker will attempt to connect the dots between the Casino San Pablo and the Crime Statistics.*

*Meet our new Beat Officer. According to Union contract the officers may bid for their assignments each year by seniority. We need to enlighten the new officer with our needs and our concerns.*



**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**  
Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Avenue

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*