

# Views

## Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

Visit us at [www.richmond-heights.org](http://www.richmond-heights.org) Jovanka Beckles, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

### quick-takes

#### Playing at CCC Theatre

##### Nine (the musical)

Book by Arthur Kopit, Music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, Adaptation from the Italian by Mario Fratti, Directed by Amy Nielson

Runs: Feb 6 to Mar 8, 2009  
8 pm, Friday & Saturday,  
Matinees: on Sundays at 2 pm,  
February 8, 15, 22, March 1 & 8  
Tickets: \$24, \$15 age 16 & under  
Reservations: 510-524-9132

The most eloquent mid-life crisis ever staged.

Guido Contini struggles to find what his heart truly desires, as he vacillates between memory and reality, led by a chorus of women, including his wife, mother, lover, and his muse. Features a haunting score by Maury Yeston.

##### Saint Joan

By George Bernard Shaw  
Directed by David Bogdonoff  
Runs: Apr 17 to May 10, 2009  
8 pm, Friday & Saturday  
Matinees: on Sundays at 2 pm,  
February 10, 17, 24, March 2  
Tickets: \$18, \$11 age 16 & under  
Reservations: 510-524-9132

We are pleased to present George Bernard Shaw's masterpiece, 'Saint Joan.' This is Shaw at his finest, and fits our season lineup perfectly. More information about the production will be available in the coming weeks.

*Continues on page 2*

## Nonprofit helps Richmond students learn

Gompers High School students gather on a pier overlooking the Richmond Marina, listening to the soft voice of Sharon Fuller, founder of the Ma'at Youth Academy to learn of city's natural beauty and the environment.

Like other Richmond youths, many of the Gompers students in ecology teacher Jerry Belletto's class have never seen the Marina and its expansive views of the Bay Bridge and San Francisco skyline before this day. Fuller and other members of the Ma'at Youth Academy are trying to change that, one classroom at a time.

Ma'at works with Richmond public schools with lessons and field trips to help students explore and learn about the environment. The nonprofit academy helps urban youths understand barriers to their access to clean air, water and soil, and safe and livable conditions, health care and education.

"There are so many things in Richmond that make this a historical city that we want the students to know about," Fuller said. "They don't recognize that they're in a city that has wonderful resources, but the way the city is designed, it prohibits folks from recognizing these resources are there."

This year the academy added an artistic component to the program by teaming up with ArtsChange, an East Bay nonprofit that uses art to promote imagination, health and well being in stressed neighborhoods. Students are to create their own works of art based on what they see on the field trips, and that art will be displayed at a spring exhibition at the Richmond Health Clinic. Artists will then create artwork of their own inspired by the students' work.

## Get Foreclosure Help

The Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond has helped hundreds of people make their way through the foreclosure process.

They can negotiate with your lender on your behalf, explain the process, and help you decide what is best for you and your family. Whether you are able to stay in your home or moving is inevitable, they will help by mitigating the damage foreclosure can do to your financial future. They are a HUD certified Housing Counseling Agency with many years of experience in foreclosure intervention. All of their services are free!

CHDC/NR assists homeowners in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. For more information call 510-412-9290 x 24

## Richmond Auditorium reopened

The annual Senior Winter Ball on December 12, 2008 was held at the renovated Auditorium.

If you know of a group needing such a facility please point them in the direction of the Richmond Auditorium or the renovated Ford Building.

**next meeting**

See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

continued from previous page

### Playing at CCC Theatre

#### Thoroughly Modern Millie

Book by Richard Henry Morris,  
Music by Jeanine Tesori, New lyrics  
by Dick Scanlan, Directed by Daren  
A.C. Carollo

Runs: June 19 to July 19, 2009

8 pm, Friday & Saturday

Matinees: on Sundays at 2 pm,

February 10, 17, 24, March 2

Tickets: \$24, \$15 age 16 & under

Reservations: 510-524-9132

A big city, frisky flappers, and  
one plucky young lady.

Our heroine is a small town girl  
seeking love and success in New  
York City. Millie sings and tap-  
dances her way in and out of danger  
(and romance), as the supporting cast  
shows us exactly what the Roaring  
Twenties were all about!

#### Neighborhood Meetings

The meeting schedule below  
may change July 6 for August 3  
depending on the schools schedule.

2-Feb-09

2-Mar-09

6-Apr-09

4-May-09

1-Jun-09

6-Jul-09 no meeting

3-Aug-09

7-Sep-09 holiday

14-Sep-09 meeting

5-Oct-09

2-Nov-09

7-Dec-09

4-Jan-10 no meeting

1-Feb-10

Please mark your calendar early.  
If there are any problems with the  
newsletter being delivered to anyone  
please let us know.

If people wish to look up the web  
site to save paper please let us know.

## Voting for Change

Based on the total votes on Measure T, there were approximately 30,036  
people who voted in Richmond.

The Richmond City Council has changed from nine to seven members.  
Along with Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Maria Viramontes, Ludmyrna Lopez, and  
Jim Rogers there are: Jeff Ritterman with 12180 votes, Nat Bates with 11155  
votes and Tom Butt with 11548 votes.

Out of ten candidates Jovanka Beckles came in fourth with 11090 votes.

Congratulations to those candidates now serving on the City Council. With  
the economy and the unemployment problems currently troubling us now and in  
the near future we wish you well and hope you guide the City well during your  
term in office.

## Educational Opportunities

With all of the changes in our economy some people look for a change in  
carriers, or just want to refresh what they already know.

The Serra Adult School where we have our meetings can be found on the web  
at <http://www.wccae.info/serra.htm> or contact them in person at Serra Campus,  
6028 Ralston Avenue, Richmond, CA or by phone at 510/215-4666.

Timothy Shaw has retired from the Serra Adult School. Paul Ramirez is the  
new Principal. Thank you for both your help with our meetings.

The Contra Costa Community College [www.contracosta.edu](http://www.contracosta.edu) or in person at  
2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo, CA. or by phone at 510/235-7800 ext. 4212.

## Opportunities for Young People

The Richmond Police Activities League (PAL) has opened the new complex  
at 2200 Macdonald Ave. Contact them at 510/621-1221 or on the web at  
[www.RPAL.org](http://www.RPAL.org).

The Richmond Youth Student Empowerment (RYSE) program took eight  
years of planning and work to create this new center. This new center is 6600  
square feet located at 205 41<sup>st</sup> St. next to the Interstate 80 and Macdonald Ave.  
Retail complex. This facility is for young people between the ages of 14 and 21.

## The FBI Honors Richmond Program

RichmondBUILD, a preapprenticeship construction trade program that  
emphasizes solar installation and ecologically friendly building practices, has  
helped more than 100 city residents find blue collar jobs in the Bay Area since it  
began in May 2007.

For that, it earned the 2008 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

"It took vision to conceive of this new way to address violence in this  
community," said Charlene Thornton, special agent in charge of the FBI's San  
Francisco office. "It took a lot of hard work to make it a reality."

The 12-week program provides construction skills that are in demand locally,  
said Sal Vaca, director of the city's Employment and Training Department. About  
90 percent of graduates find jobs, with an average starting salary of \$18.33  
hourly.

## contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, [www.richmond-heights.org](http://www.richmond-heights.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 Tim Gard 621-1212 ex 7099  
e-mail [tgard@richmondpd.net](mailto:tgard@richmondpd.net)

### General security concerns, other police services

RP Watch Commander 620-6643  
Michelle Milam 620-6538

### Neighborhood Council issues

Gina Swirsding \*82-232-1675

### Report blight and graffiti

Richmond Graffiti 231-3010  
Volunteer to remove 231-3031  
CalTrans 925/926-6112

### Report abatement issues

Auto on Private land 621-1278  
Auto on Public land 620-6644  
Alma Munguia 621-1279  
Pot Hole Repair 231-3011

As always we are looking for community events for the newsletter. If you know of an event coming up,

### let us know at least six weeks

before the beginning of the month of the event so that we have time for coping and mailing. Just e-mail the editor at [owenlmartin@earthlink.net](mailto:owenlmartin@earthlink.net) with any requests or suggestions. If you have something you would like to write yourself, we are also all ears. This is your newsletter.

### Statistics Report to Change

Due to changes with the US Post Office the crime stats will run from the 16<sup>th</sup> of one month to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the next month.

## Calls for service to the Richmond Police

Calls made to the Richmond Police become Statistics provided to us each month by Crime analysis of RPD, whose support and assistance we continue to appreciate.

**Suspicious person** 49  
**Suspicious vehicle** 20  
**Abandoned auto** 11  
**Recovered stolen vehicle** 6  
**Vehicle tampering** 1  
**Disturbance** 40  
**911 Disconnect** 8  
**Dogs** 4  
**Dumping** 1  
**Stolen vehicle** 6

11/07 123XX San Pablo  
11/08 52XX Garvin  
11/16 123XX San Pablo  
11/18 121XX San Pablo  
11/25 53XX Clinton  
12/12 125XX San Pablo  
**Hit/Run property damage**  
11/20 McBryde / Humboldt  
11/26 Macdonald / San Pablo

### Burglary from residence

11/07 6XX Amador  
11/13 53XX Clinton  
11/18 6XX Humboldt  
12/04 51XX Clinton  
12/07 59XX Sierra  
12/12 10XX Lassen  
12/13 8XX Yuba

### Burglary from auto

11/08 51XX McBryde  
11/11 Macdonald / San Pablo  
12/02 6XX McLaughlin  
12/02 51XX McBryde  
12/07 6XX Sonoma

### Robbery

12/01 128XX San Pablo

### Terrorist throw

12/15 128XX San Pablo

### Petty theft/stolen property

11/01 128XX San Pablo  
11/12 51XX McBryde  
11/22 48XX Macdonald  
11/23 6XX Humboldt  
12/04 6XX McLaughlin  
12/08 4XX Dimm  
12/11 126XX San Pablo  
12/11 7XX Kern  
12/13 Solano / Amador

### Battery

11/13 121XX San Pablo  
11/27 8XX Yuba  
11/28 Nevin / San Pablo

### Assault w/ deadly weapon

12/03 54XX Garvin

### Person w/ weapon

11/28 4XX Wilson  
12/14 49XX Macdonald

### Shots fired

12/08 10XX Ventura

### Fireworks

11/10 Garvin / McLaughlin

### Calls related to juveniles

11/04 Garvin / Sonoma  
11/07 Barrett / McLaughlin  
11/10 57XX Solano  
11/15 54XX Garvin  
12/13 Macdonald / San Pablo

### Vandalism

11/05 128XX San Pablo  
11/07 7XX Amador  
11/18 4XX Mount  
11/21 55XX McBryde  
11/23 124XX San Pablo  
11/24 Clinton / Amador  
11/28 125XX San Pablo  
11/29 McBryde / San Pablo  
12/09 45XX Barrett

## Campus Bay

From the web site, <http://campusbayrichmond.com/background.html>.

Our guest speaker in February will be giving us an update on the status of the clean up at the Campus Bay site.

Campus Bay's history goes back more than 100 years when it became home to a succession of chemical manufacturing companies, the last of which ceased manufacturing operations more than 10 years ago. Zeneca, the former owner, initiated a voluntary \$20 million cleanup under the oversight of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). By 2003, the cleanup was largely complete on the upland portion of the property.

In late 2002, Cherokee Simeon Venture I, LLC (CSV), a joint venture between Cherokee and SIMEON Properties, acquired the 87-acre Campus Bay property. Cherokee is the leading private equity firm investing capital and expertise in brownfield redevelopment. Since 1990, Cherokee has acquired more than 525 properties, many that required substantial environmental cleanup prior to redevelopment. SIMEON is a family of real estate companies dedicated to responsible residential and commercial development in the Bay Area and throughout the Western states.

In 2005, complete regulatory oversight of the Campus Bay investigation and cleanup was transferred to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The DTSC brings decades of experience overseeing the cleanup of polluted properties throughout California. The collaboration between the DTSC, the community and CSV has led to significant progress in the investigation, characterization and cleanup of the property.

## Brighter Beginnings for young families

By Chris Treadway, West County Times

The name has changed, but the mission remains the same.

For 25 years, the nonprofit now known as Brighter Beginnings has been a lifeline and advocate for the disadvantaged who find themselves parents or parents to be.

Agency resources, education, referrals and home visits are not just for mothers, but also for fathers who might otherwise lack the means and skills to provide for the needs of an infant.

Founded in Oakland as the East Bay Perinatal Council in 1984, the organization originally focused on pregnant and parenting teenage mothers, particularly in minority communities that typically have high infant mortality rates.

The focus has expanded to include new or expectant mothers and fathers. In September, the agency — with offices in Richmond and Pittsburg — changed its name to Brighter Beginnings.

The program, which serves West and East Contra Costa and Alameda County, acts as an advocate for new and often young parents referred by clinics, hospitals or teachers, providing education and resources and helping them get the care and services they need. New fathers take a nine week parenting education course, and mothers are taught about the benefits of breast feeding and nutrition.

Help is provided to keep teenage parents in school, including transportation and child care, "so they can go with the goal of graduating," said program director Claudette Garner.

"We go to them or they come to the office. It's not one size fits all," Garner said. "It's all tailored to their particular needs. We focus on getting babies born and keeping them healthy."

Learn more about Brighter Beginnings at [www.brighter-beginnings.org](http://www.brighter-beginnings.org).

## EBMUD Rebate Programs

Some of the Water Smart Residential Programs available are:

**High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program:** EBMUD offers \$150 or up to the retail cost, whichever is less for the purchase of approved high efficiency toilet (HET) models made between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. There are limits to the number of toilets one may get rebates for, please call 866/403-2683 or go to their web site [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com).

Toilet installation and rebate applications postmark must be completed within 90 days of purchase date. A current list of qualifying toilets and a list of retailers carrying EBMUD approved models can be found on their web site.

**High Efficiency Residential Clothes Washer Rebate Program:** EBMUD customers can get a combined rebate from EBMUD and PG&E for \$125 or \$200 for installing a high efficiency clothes washer from the Consortium for Energy Efficiency's (CEE) tier 2 or tier 3 qualifying product list, purchased between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008 rebate applications postmark must be completed within 90 days of purchase date.

## EBMUD Rebate Programs

Continued from previous page

**Self Adjusting Irrigation Controller Program:** Through December 31, 2008 EBMUD customers can receive a rebate to replace standard irrigation timers with a qualifying Water Smart irrigation controller. The rebate is for \$100, \$250, \$350, or \$500 depending on the amount of water used outdoors. Customers must use an average of 250 gallons per day over the past three years for landscape irrigation to qualify. Water Conservation Staff will verify customer eligibility and potential rebate amount.

The rebate offered in this program ended December 31, 2008. Call to find out if this program or any other programs will be in effect for 2009.

**Residential Landscaping Rebate Program:** Customers who convert their high water use garden into more efficient water conserving landscapes can qualify for up to a \$1000 rebate by participating in this program.

The rebate offered in this program is not retroactive and other restrictions apply so contact them before you start your project for details.

**Water Conservation Self Survey Kit:** Order on line a free self survey kit to help you detect leaks and evaluate the water use efficiency of your property. Free water saving devices will be mailed to you when you return your completed survey form. These kits are available to EBMUD customers if the shipping address is within the EBMUD service area.

**Plants and Landscaping for Summer Dry Climate Plant Book:** Customers can purchase EBMUD's award winning plant book on line.

For more information on retroactive, current, and future water conservation programs call 866/403-2683 or go to their web site [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com).

## Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

From the Editors of Sunset Magazine

After 122 years of popularity the incandescent electric light bulb (currently the standard bulb) invented by Thomas Edison is yielding to the more energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). CFL bulbs can last up to 10,000 hours or ten times longer than a standard bulb. They consume about 75 percent less electricity, saving the average homeowner about \$26 in electricity costs over the bulb's lifetime. CFLs have a high initial cost of about \$8, but over the life of a CFL it can cost about \$13 to buy standard bulbs. Standard bulbs create more heat requiring more cooling costs in warmer climates.

They require no special wiring to use, just unscrew the standard light bulb and screw in the CFL bulb. You may want to check the Lamp shade cover to see if the bulbs are compatible.

## Efficient Household Appliances

From the Editors of Sunset Magazine

According to the Association of Home Appliances Manufactures (AHAM), since 1980 appliances have improved in energy efficiency by 30 to 90 percent because of changing government standards. Compared to a 1980 appliance, a new refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, clothes washer, or room air conditioner can save \$25 to \$90 per year on your energy bill. In fact, when new 2001 standards go into effect, a new 20.5 cubic foot refrigerator with a top mounted freezer will use the same amount of energy as a 50 watt light bulb left on all day, according to the AHAM.

What gives the new models their efficiency? On refrigerators and air conditioners, it is improved motors, compressors, and insulation. For dishwashers, it is better spray arms, filtering systems, and more wash and rinse options that use less hot water. Appliance manufactures today also offer some unique technologies, for instance, ovens that cook in half of the normal time using techniques like halogen lighting, and washers that have no agitators, but instead have a moving wash plate that bounces and lifts the load. Such washers use about 40 percent less water and 50 percent less than conventional appliances, according to manufacturers and the Department of Energy.

If you are thinking about replacing older appliances or buying appliances for the first time check with different agencies that might offer rebates or other money saving programs before you buy.

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

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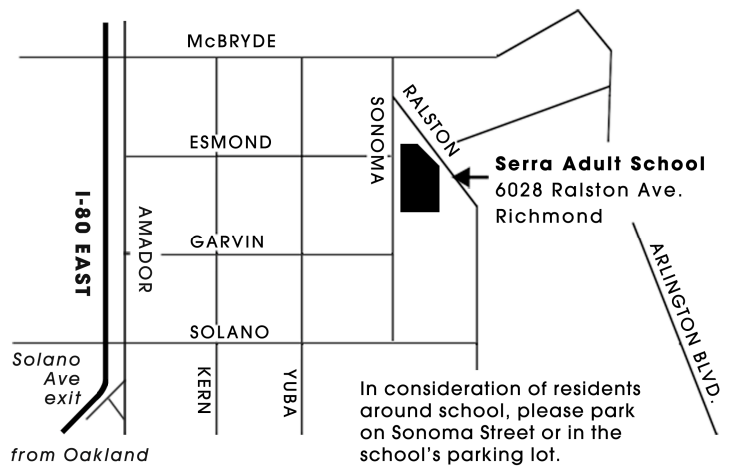
**at the next RHNC meeting**

**Campus Bay Cleanup Update**

*Mr. Tom Kamby will be our guest speaker updating us on the progress of the Campus Bay Cleanup project.*

**Contact Jovanka and let her know**

What do you want from your neighborhood council? As our new president, Jovanka would like to hear from our neighbors. What you would like to discuss, guest speakers that you would like to hear from, and how can we make our meetings more beneficial to community building. It is a new year, and the beginning of the year is ideal for creating our agenda for the year. Everyone is encouraged to invite at least two of their neighbors to attend our monthly meetings. Contact Jovanka Beckles at [jovankabeckles@yahoo.com](mailto:jovankabeckles@yahoo.com) or Jovanka Beckles, P.O. Box 5253, Richmond, CA 94805



**Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 PM**  
Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Avenue