

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

Visit us at www.eastrichmond.org

Kathy Scharff, President • P.O.Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

quick-takes

Stop the Killing!

A coalition of Richmond community groups and businesses is hosting an all-day conference to develop a plan to combat the violence that plagues our city. The Richmond Black on Black Crime Summit invites all to participate in this important gathering, Sat., June 4, at the DeJean Middle School. For more information, call 860-3681, or visit www.riafbo.org.

For adults only

Ever wonder about the road not taken? What if you had "followed your bliss" and gone into commercial photography instead of real estate? Or real estate instead of programming? Or...?

This summer the Serra Adult School is offering a tempting array of one-day workshops that may encourage you to explore those other paths. Saturday classes, held on June 18, July, and July 23rd, run the gamut. Want to learn to become a notary, administer CPR, create a digital slide show,, tackle fly fishing, profit in real estate, or just tile your kitchen? The Summer Super Saturdays will show you how.

To learn more about these and many other classes, visit the Serra Adult School website, at www.wccusd,12.ca.us/adulted. You can also call 215-4666, or stop by for a catalog (location's on our back page).

Waste away

Last month we reminded you of the importance of preventing contaminants and toxic wastes from getting into the storm drains. But we didn't tell you where to dispose of household hazardous wastes — used motor oil, old paint, solvents, batteries, computer monitors and much more.

Rid yourself of these and other contaminants at the West County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. (Catchy name, no?) The Facility is located at 101 Pittsburg Ave, off the Richmond Parkway. The Facility is only open on Thursdays, Fridays, and the first Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to 4 PM (closed 12-12:30). For more information, call 888-412 9277, or visit www.recyclemore.com

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Paging back into Richmond's past



The Tex Avery Band served up tasty Country and Western tunes to thousands of people from the Midwest and South that had moved to Richmond in the 1940s. From *Richmond: Images of America*.

You might not know it but Richmond is rounding the corner on its 100th birthday. For a thought-provoking look at the city's first century, consider turning to the new book *Richmond: Images of America*, published by Arcadia Publishing.

In this volume, more than 200 vintage photographs compiled by author Donald Bastin, the director of the Richmond Museum of History, we see the city emerge from fields, swamps, creeks, and coves, and within four decades reach the peak of heady and heavy industrial days of World War II. The city slides easily into an American Graffiti-like post-war idyll — until the urban core is destabilized by suburbanization and the move of its commercial heart to Hilltop Mall, leaving the old city center a shell of its former self. (For a recent report on revitalization now underway, see "Richmond Main Street looks to new downtown," Views, March 2005. Available at www.eastrichmond.org)

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Reverse mortgages and how they work

Our speaker at the June ERNC meeting will demystify what for many is a new topic: reverse mortgages. We usually think of mortgages as a way to buy your house, but a reverse mortgage is more like a way to sell your house without leaving it.

Let's say you want to draw cash from the value of your home. The obvious way is to sell it, but then you would have to move. Another option is to borrow against the value of your home, but then you would have monthly loan repayments.

A reverse mortgage is a third form of borrowing against the value of your home, but it is one that you do not have to pay back for as long as you live there. The money can be

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next meeting

Monday, June 6, 7 PM. Serra Adult School. See back page for agenda.

quick-takes

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Do you change your own engine oil? Then you should know that many auto parts and tune-up shops also accept used oil. In Richmond and El Cerrito, you can bring used oil to Kragen Auto Parts, Quality Tune-Up, SpeedDee Oil Change, AutoZone, Firestone, and Oil Changers.

"Getting There," a NIAD exhibit

How do we get from one place to another, whether we define "place" externally or internally, physically or psychically? This question is explored visually in a new exhibit at NIAD, the National Institute for Artists with Disabilities.

"Getting There" presents work by numerous NIAD artists, as well as 7 selected artists from East Bay Women Artists who have exhibited locally for over 10 years. Their work encompasses many different media including painting, printmaking, basket weaving, and photography.

Artists Reception & Gift Sale, Weds, June 22, 6 – 8 PM. Additional sale days: July 23 & 24, 11 AM to 3 PM. Regular gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9 – 4 or by appointment. NIAD is located at 551 23rd St., Richmond, CA 94804. Phone, 620-0290.

Baxter Creek facelift proceeds

The Baxter Creek Gateway Restoration project now has an official designer, Studio I, image. This landscape design firm will develop the signage and site arts component of the Baxter Creek project. Studio I, image has performed these tasks for other local stream restoration groups and bicycle/trail planners. Over the next several months, Studio I, image will be working with El Cerrito and interested community members to design the plan for the 1.6-acre restoration site and bicycle path. To get a glimpse of the firm's previous work and their general approach, see <http://www.studiolimage.com/>.

Paid Internship Opportunities

Know a tech-savvy high schooler? The Bowen Foundation is now recruiting minority high school juniors, seniors, and college freshman for paid internships in media (television, cable, radio) and computer engineering throughout the US. Selected students will earn an hourly salary and be assigned a school at which to work. The internships will start Summer 2005 and last throughout their college years. Candidates must have a 3.0 GPA, plan to or currently attend a 4-year college, and have an interest in media. To download an application, or more information, visit <http://www.emabowenfoundation.com>.

Reverse Mortgages, continued from page 1

paid to you all at once, as monthly advances, or in the form of a line of credit. You pay it back plus interest when you sell your home, or permanently move out of your home, or the money is repaid from the sale of your home after your death.

To be eligible for most reverse mortgages, you must own your home and be 62 years of age or older. Owners generally must occupy the home as a principal residence (where they live the majority of the year).

Because the homeowner makes no monthly payments, the amount owed grows larger over time, and the amount of cash that would be left after selling and paying off the loan (the equity) generally grows smaller.

The best deals are available from state and local governments, but carry stringent conditions. Other reverse mortgages are offered by banks, mortgage companies, and savings associations. These "private sector" loans can be used for any purpose.

All loans and mortgages are labyrinths of small print. For example, reverse mortgages may have tax consequences, affect eligibility for assistance under Federal and State programs, and have an impact on the estate and heirs of the homeowner. While the IRS doesn't consider loan advances to be income, there are many conditions under which they are taxed. To learn more about reverse mortgages, you can check the Internet (one source we found helpful was www.aarp.org/money/revmort/). Or you can simply come to our next ERNC meeting and hear a presentation by a certified senior advisor, Herb Hofvendahl. Check the back page for time and place.

incidents reported to Richmond Police

Crime report for April 1 – 31, 2005. These entries represent calls for service, rather than reports. We have begun to include additional reporting districts in the monthly crime report (see story, above) which explains what seems like a spike in calls—especially on abandoned cars. These statistics were furnished by Perry Austin of the Richmond Police, Crime Statistics Department.

Abandoned autos

24 reports of abandoned autos

Stolen vehicles

10 reported

Recovered stolen vehicles

5 reported. That means 5 of you are still holding out. C'mon now.

Hit/run property damage

04/11 Macdonald/San Pablo
04/12 123XX San Pablo
04/13 53XX McBryde
04/16 55XX Esmond

Calls related to dogs

04/22 9XX Humboldt
04/25 Carlston/Prather

Robbery

04/10 122XX San Pablo
04/10 1222XX San Pablo
04/18 121XX San Pablo

Juveniles causing disturbance

04/02 8XX Sonoma

Burglary from auto

04/13 7XX Humboldt
04/13 8XX Yuba
04/13 6XX Key
04/18 47XX Macdonald
04/20 7XX Lassen
04/22 129XX San Pablo
04/30 7XX Lassen

Petty theft/stolen property

04/04 7XX Lassen
04/05 7XX Kern
04/07 7XX McLaughlin
04/09 49XX Macdonald
04/21 49XX Macdonald

Vandalism

04/02 124XX San Pablo
04/04 6XX Humboldt
04/15 4XX Key
04/14 4XX Key
04/19 San Pablo/Barrett
04/25 123XX San Pablo
04/23 8XX Amador
04/30 6XX McLaughlin

contacts



Find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail and web links for public services at our web site 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. Andre Hill 620-6642

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

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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.

Paging Back into Richmond's Past, continued from page 1

Scenes from each stage of Richmond history are captured in the photos, many speaking of a time few of us can imagine. We see on page 46, for instance, a line of tourists lining up at the "Grand Canyon Park" admission booth in 1918. Today we know the place as Alvarado Park. We see horse-drawn carriages outnumbering autos on a newly paved Macdonald Avenue, and boaters floating leisurely on Stege Pond, located in today's Anderson Park. A classically-inspired City Hall (price tag, a whopping \$25,000) graces the landscape in the 1920s. Moviegoers could choose among several ornate theaters on Macdonald Ave. Where the Safeway store now stands, the intersections of San Pablo at Macdonald, a metal arch and sign welcomed travelers to Richmond, complete with an arrow directing them to the ferry.

WW II and the Kaiser Shipyards raised city life to a new level of cosmopolitanism. In one scene, we see Soviet ministers Gromyko and Molotov standing with Henry Kaiser himself, perhaps making notes for their own shipyards. The book features a nice selection of WWII Rosies, armed with welding torches and draped over battleships and tanks.

Lest we be flooded by nostalgia, the book presents images of some of our greatest struggles: the Ku Klux Klan freely marching in the 1920s; four decades later, a man protesting Safeway's Jim Crow hiring practices. Perhaps Richmond's losses in architectural grandeur may be outweighed by progress in the social arena.

A visit to the Marina, Alvarado Park, or the Point reminds us that Richmond retains many of the picturesque and historical qualities we see in this marvelous collection. An appreciation of our past may also help us be more mindful of our future.

Richmond: Images of America, by Donald Bastin (Arcadia Publishing) is available at local bookstores, and at the Richmond Public Library.

A small collection of East Richmond historical photographs can be seen at our website, www.eastrichmond.org. Click on Galleries, and Historical Photos.



Standard Oil Long Wharf, c. 1920. Then as now, shipping was a mainstay of Richmond's economy. (From *Richmond: Images of America*, by Donald Bastin, Arcadia Publishing, San Francisco, 2003.)

at the next ERNC meeting

Learn about reverse mortgages from a certified advisor

This month we invite a certified senior advisor in the field of reverse mortgages, Herb Hofvendahl, to describe the details of this fast-growing method of financing.

Reverse mortgages may be of particular interest to people over 62 who own their own homes.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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

Monday, June 6th, 7 PM

Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Ave.

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