

Views

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

Visit us at www.richmond-heights.org Rock Brown, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

quick-takes

Library Friends Annual Sale

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library are holding its Annual Book Sale on March 10, 2007 in the Community Room adjacent to the Main Library at 525 Civic Center Plaza. From 10:00 am to 11:00 am is for members only (you can join on the 10th), and from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm is for the general public. Prices can't be beat and there tends to be a great selection of books in all areas. So come on down and support your library.

Groups Get Charitable Boost

The Richmond chapter of Soroptimist International recently awarded \$45,000 to local organizations that provide services and programs to the community. The list includes the West County Adult Day Care/Alzheimer's Respite Center, WCC Salesian Boys & Girls Club, the Bay Area Rescue Mission, the Teen Resource Center of Opportunity West, Early Childhood Health Program and WCC Public Education Fund. Awards also went to the Richmond Museum of History, the Family House of the Live Oak Branch of Children's Hospital, Youth Enrichment Strategies, the WCC branch of the YMCA of the East Bay, Living Skills for the Visually Impaired, Richmond Art Center, Elder's Actualization Project, Richmond Police Activities League and the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts.

Richmond General Plan Update

Builded as the "Spring Community Workshops" there are three meetings planned all from 6 pm until 9 pm. The first is March 21st at the Macdonald Senior Center, 2525 Macdonald Ave. The second is March 26th at the City Council Chambers, 1401 Marina Way South. The third is April 4th at Hilltop Mall in the Community Room. A fourth meeting for the Spanish-speaking community will be confirmed and announced on the General Plan Update website www.cityofrichmondgeneralplan.org. For additional information please visit the website or call Lori Reese-Brown, Principal Planner at 510 620-6869.

Richmond's Budget Wins Kudos

Just three years ago, Richmond's budget staggered a shortfall of \$35 million. But recently, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada presented Richmond's Finance Department with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. How'd that happen, you wonder? Richmond's 2006-2007 \$323 million budget met the association's criteria for being a well-planned guide for managing the city's finances and operations. In addition, the phone book-sized document is easy to understand and accessible to the general public. Richmond was among 1,069 North American cities and counties to receive the budget presentation award. The award is not a reflection of the city's financial health but rather the quality and structure of the actual budget.

Richmond Gearing Up For Music Festivals

Rakkasah West is the largest Middle Eastern Folk Festival and Fantasy Bazaar in the world, and it takes place at the Richmond Auditorium.

The festivities include a week-long workshop featuring internationally known belly dancing, folk dancing, and music teachers. The festival itself is open to the general public and is suitable for people of all ages. At the Festival you will find exotic costuming, musical instruments, jewelry, decor for your home, henna painting, dancers, dancers, dancers and more dancers. The weeklong workshops run Monday, March 12 through Sunday, March 18, and the festival dates are Friday, March 16, 7:00 pm to 11pm (\$12); Saturday March 17, 11:00 am to 11pm (\$15); and Sunday, March 18, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm (\$15). For more information, visit www.rakkasah.com/west.

Speaking of music festivals, Point Richmond Music, which puts on the eponymous summer music festival, is recruiting new members to help produce its 2007 concert series. PRM is in its 6th year, providing a free summer concert series in downtown Point Richmond. It has grown from a handful of volunteers who thought a Friday evening concert was a great way to unwind, to a seasoned group of dedicated concert producers who still think a Friday evening concert is a good idea.

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Mayfair Development News

Just across the city line in El Cerrito, re-development of the property north of the Del Norte Bart station (known as the Mayfair block) has moved a little closer to reality.

Last month, the city of El Cerrito decided to fund Olson Urban Housing LLC for continued planning and development of the block. The city's Redevelopment Agency and BART want to create transit-oriented development that will be a node and catalyst for revitalization of that part of El Cerrito, including new shopping, employment and housing opportunities; significant improvement of the aesthetics of the area; solutions to the area's traffic circulation problems; increased tax revenues; and production of affordable housing.

Views will continue to track this project, as this development may eventually include properties within Richmond, and will dovetail with redevelopment of the stretch of San Pablo Ave. that the cities share.

NAACP honors area heroes

The Richmond branch of the NAACP honored individuals and organizations for their service to the community at the group's 26th annual Freedom Fund and Life Membership Banquet. Community Service Award recipients included Richmond Police Lt. Ronald Berry, Dr. Brazell Carter and the Rev. James Haden of Hilltop Community Church. Hank Royal, recent retired staff member to U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, and Chevron, Kaiser, Mechanics Bank and metal recycler Sims Hugo Neu were given corporate humanitarian awards.

Youth Paintings Capture Richmond Wartime History

A basement room of the Richmond Museum of History has turned out to be a treasure trove of children's art, possibly the largest in the country. The artwork comes from children ranging in age from two to twelve who attended the groundbreaking child care centers that opened in Richmond to serve shipyard workers during World War II. The collection of paintings and linoleum block prints includes more than 3,000 pieces in all, spanning the height of World War II to the late 1970s. Many paintings show battle scenes, planes, warships and the shipyards. Holiday scenes, trains and cowboys are common. The collection also includes instructional books, photos of children and artwork, teacher comments, letters and diaries.

The Richmond wartime child care centers were the first publicly funded child care for children of working parents. At its peak, with 24,500 women on the Kaiser payroll, Richmond's child care program had a total daily attendance of 1,400 children.

The Richmond Museum of History wants to reconnect the thousands of artworks with the people who attended the historic Richmond child care programs, the first of their kind in the United States.

The first preschoolers at the center would now be in their 60s and 70s.

The museum hopes to display the collection at Richmond's Home Front Festival, in September. Selected works also are scheduled to go on display in April at the Museum of Children's Art in Oakland.

People who attended or worked in Richmond's child care program from 1943 to 1975 and are willing to leave information so they can be interviewed in the future can contact the Richmond Museum of History at 510 235-7387 or DonaldBastin@comcast.net.

Garden Gets Seed Funds

About \$1,000 in supplies, plants, tools, materials and gardening expertise to create and maintain school gardens have been donated to Coronado Elementary School in Richmond, among 86 schools statewide selected to participate in the Orchard Supply Hardware School Gardens Program. The schools were selected from nearly 300 applicants to the program, established a year ago to create hands-on learning experiences. Coronado will also receive a program-related curriculum packet prepared by the California Department of Education.

Richmond Gearing up for Music Festivals

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In addition to after-work concerts in June, July and August, PRM has been producing September all-day Art and Music festivals for five years. The array of musicians and artists hails primarily from the East Bay, with well-known headliners providing the draw. The variety of music ranges from blues, jazz and bluegrass to gospel, hip-hop and more.

If you would like to get involved in local concert production, enjoy making music happen, and could consider donating some time to the community, contact PRM. For more info visit their website at www.pointrichmond.com/prmusic. To volunteer, contact Andrew Butt at Andrew.butt@intres.com.

contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, 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 Unknown 620-6642

ex

e-mail awilliams@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 231-3010

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 with any requests or suggestions. If you have something you would like to write yourself, we are also all ears. This is your newsletter.

Grand theft

1/13 122XX San Pablo

1/26 121XX San Pablo

Petty theft/stolen property

1/3 3XX Carlston

1/4 49XX Macdonald

1/5 49XX Macdonald

1/15 3XX Carlston

1/20 Macdonald / San Pablo

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

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

Suspicious person 13

Suspicious vehicle 11

Abandoned auto 6

Recovered stolen vehicle 6

Vehicle tampering 1

Disturbance 25

911 Disconnect 11

Dogs none

Dumping 2

Stolen vehicle 17

1/2 9XX Humboldt

1/2 49XX Macdonald

1/4 122XX San Pablo

1/5 7XX Humboldt

1/6 8XX Lassen

1/6 124XX San Pablo

1/8 50XX Esmond

1/9 6XX Humboldt

1/9 8XX Sonoma

1/19 Garvin / San Pablo

1/21 Macdonald / San Pablo

1/22 57XX Clinton

1/23 50XX Clinton

1/26 125XX San Pablo

1/27 Barrett / San Pablo

1/27 4XX Mount

1/28 7XX Courtland

Burglary from residence

1/2 6XX Amador

1/8 50XX McBryde

1/16 52XX Solano

1/16 7XX Humboldt

1/18 5XX Dimm

1/19 52XX Esmond

1/22 6XX Yuba

Burglary from business

1/2 125XX San Pablo

Burglary from auto

1/4 6XX Sonoma

1/8 56XX Sierra

1/8 4XX Mount

1/10 51XX Clinton

1/19 6XX McLaughlin

1/20 54XX Clinton

1/22 46XX Barrett

1/24 9XX Ventura

1/28 9XX Ventura

1/28 6XX Humboldt

Car jacking

1/3 Macdonald / San Pablo

Shooting of a person reported

1/11 West bound I 80 / McBryde

1/15 125XX San Pablo

Shots fired

1/31 55XX Esmond

Hold up alarm

1/19 48XX Macdonald

1/20 126XX San Pablo

1/23 57XX Solano

1/26 126XX San Pablo

Robbery

1/5 48XX Macdonald

1/15 51XX Solano

1/29 126XX San Pablo

Calls related to juveniles

1/4 8XX Kern

1/12 9XX Kern

Vandalism

1/6 6XX Humboldt

1/12 Macdonald / San Pablo

1/20 46XX Barrett

1/22 5XX Dimm

Battery

1/1 49XX Macdonald

1/7 49XX Macdonald

1/10 52XX Nevin

1/15 9XX Sonoma

1/22 51XX Solano

1/28 49XX Macdonald

1/30 7XX Humboldt

Battery Recycling: Why and Where

Here's something we bet you didn't know: It has been a year since a state law made it illegal to put batteries in the household garbage. Instead, people were supposed to bring batteries to the West County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 101 Pittsburg Ave. in Richmond. The facility is open from 9 am to noon and 12:30 pm to 4 pm each Thursday and Friday and the first Saturday of each month. For more details, visit www.recyclemore.org.

Although the hazardous waste facility collected 9,500 pounds of batteries for recycling in 2005-06, all brought in by residential users, that was only a fraction of the area's estimated battery consumption. Many of us might be more, um, compliant with the law if we didn't have to go a bit out of our way. Thankfully, a new program makes it easier to safely and legally turn in batteries for recycling. Buckets for depositing spent household batteries are now in place at the El Cerrito Recycling Center, the Walgreens store in El Cerrito and the Staples office supply locations in El Cerrito and Pinole. New locations around West County communities will be coming soon, including buckets at city offices and community centers. Longs Drugs, Radio Shack and more Walgreens locations in West County are expected to participate.

Local Heroes Celebrated

The 12th annual Local Hero Awards ceremony in celebration of Black History Month has honored two people active in Richmond. Taalia Hasan, executive director of the West Contra Costa Youth Service Bureau in Richmond, and Todd Lewis, principal of Richmond-based Omega Pacific Electric Supply, are the honorees, who also were featured in short segments that aired on Channel 9 during February.

The Local Hero Awards are sponsored by Union Bank of California and KQED, with support from Kaiser Permanente.

Meanwhile, Richmond High School student Lizette Avila of San Pablo has been named a recipient of the California Teachers Association Youth Activism Award. The awards, now in their third year, honor student groups and individuals for their activism in human rights, social justice and student empowerment.

Avila's activism includes being a co-founder and president of the Richmond High School chapter of Amnesty International, a youth organizer for Save Tookie Williams campaign, Youth Action team member for Alternatives to War Through Education and Youth organizer for School of the Americas Watch. Avila was one of five students to receive individual awards. She was nominated for the honor by Richmond resident and activist Marilyn Langlois, who is a member of advocacy group March4Education.

Richmond Program Teaches Construction-Industry Skills

Richmond is kicking off a new training program that will help prepare the city's work force for well-paying union jobs in the building trades. The employment development department, RichmondWORKS, has space for about 150 students in the city's first trades training course. Job seekers will be trained in power tool use, math, blueprint reading and basic electrical and plumbing skills. Those who complete the nine-week course will be eligible for union apprenticeships in the construction trades.

The city is about to renovate the Civic Center, and there will be a lot of road repair projects coming up. The training program will help people get jobs on some of the companies doing this work. The governor's 15 Percent Workforce Investment Act funded the first two years of the training program with a \$600,000 grant. The first class will begin in early spring.

RichmondWORKS is also holding a summer youth employment program. If you are a City of Richmond resident between the ages of 15 - 21 years of age, are enrolled in and attending school, and want to work and want to gain some good work experience, call Richmond YouthWORKS at 510 412-2039 for more information on how to get into this program.

For more information, write to the director Sal Vacca at svacca@richmondworks.org, or visit the organization's website at www.richmondworks.org.

Masquers Production: “She Loves Me”

Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock, best known for the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, showed signs of the great work to come with their musical, “*She Loves Me*”, which will be performed at Masquers Playhouse from March 30 to May 12. Directed by Marti Baer, the musical reaches back to a pre-internet time when lonely singles reached out to each other through advertisements and the mails. Sometimes, love matches ensued . . . sometimes, first encounters were fiascos. And once in a great while, catastrophic first encounters led to great love matches. This timeless story, the basis of the films “*The Shop Around the Corner*” and “*You've Got Mail*”, was rendered in 1963 as a musical theatre version which won a Best Supporting Actor Tony. Call 510 232-4031 to make a reservation.

Richmond Art Center Founder Honored

In addition to the Art of Living Black exhibition (described here last month), the Richmond Art Center has an exhibition which honors its founder Hazel Salmi . This exhibit is organized by Nancy Salmi and the Richmond Art Center to celebrate not only the founder but the center’s early beginnings. This exhibit is given in honor of The Richmond Art Center’s 70th Anniversary. For more information, call 510 620-6772.

EBMUD Continuing Final Fix for Claremont Tunnel

For the second time EBMUD is shutting down the massive Claremont Tunnel from November 2006 through the end of March 2007 to construct seismic upgrades that ensure essential water delivery after an earthquake. The tunnel carries water to 800,000 people west of the Oakland-Berkeley hills.

EBMUD is concerned about a narrow margin of water reliability during this shut down. Limitations to how they treat and deliver water during this unusual time will impact customers in the northwest quadrant of our service area. EBMUD expects to meet demands by asking 400,000 customers for modest reductions in usage through the end of March 2007.

Crime Watch Groups Improve Communication with Police

Crime Watch meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 330 – 25th St. Enter at the rear of the building directly behind the Library.

Crime prevention is the foundation of neighborhood watch. However, neighbors must continue to be active in the fight against crime. By observing suspicious people or vehicles and contacting local authorities to investigate these occurrences does help reduce crime.

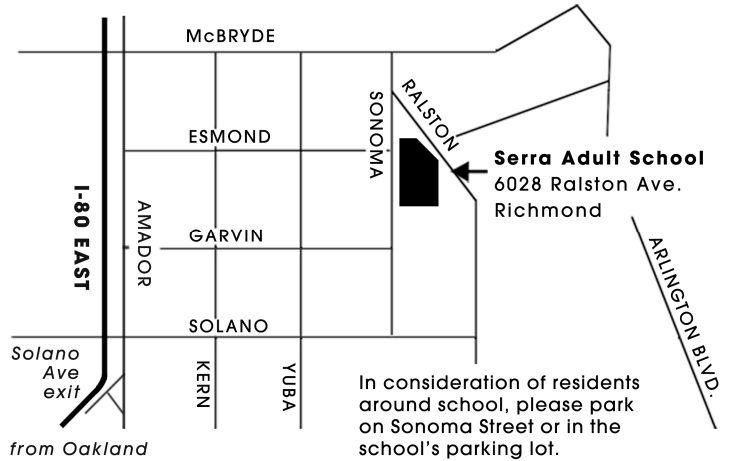
Steps to starting a neighborhood watch are: 1) Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible. 2) Contact the Crime Prevention Program as 510 307-8074, leave your name and telephone number and state that you want to start a Watch Group. 3) Schedule a meeting and invite the police to attend.

The Crime Prevention Program has brochures and pamphlets that can be distributed at meetings or given out to your neighbors individually.

at the next RHNC meeting

Update From Chevron Refinery

Mr. Dean O'Hair External Affairs Manager of the Chevron Refinery will be our guest speaker for the meeting March 5, 2007.



Monday, March 5th, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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