

# Views

## Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

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

### quick-takes

#### General Plan Update

The City of Richmond has put out a notice of Preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

The lead agency is the Planning Department, and the contact person is Lori Reese-Brown, Principal Planner.

This notice asks for input regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be undertaken in this document.

Due to time limits mandated by California State Law, they need input by March 2, 2008. Please respond to Lori Reece-Brown, Planning Dept., 1401 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804.

On February 28 at 7:00 P.M. the City of Richmond will conduct an environmental scoping meeting to gather oral comments regarding EIR issues. This meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers, at 1401 Marina Way South in Richmond. The City is encouraging all interested persons to participate. Hopefully, there will be a lot of interested citizens.

The state mandates seven elements to the General Plan and Richmond added eight other elements.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Reese-Brown at 510/620-6706.

## Provisions Passed to Help Suisun Bay

The Fiscal Year 2008 omnibus appropriations bill includes \$1,500,000.00 to conduct an environmental study in Suisun Bay.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will receive this funding to better understand the toxic contamination that has been caused by the rotting World War II vessels and to develop appropriate solutions based on those findings.

The Congress also enacted provisions earlier this year to include in the Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill which would:

Call on the Secretary of Transportation to convene a working group within 30 days of enactment to review and make recommendations on environmental practices for the storage and disposal of the vessels.

Require the working group to submit a plan to the Senate within 90 days of enactment on how to improve storage and disposal of vessels in an environmentally sound way.

Require the relevant federal agencies to implement a disposal plan in accordance with both federal and state environment laws.

## Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Register for the 2008 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour at [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net), which will take place on Sunday, May 4, 2008, is now open. This free, award winning tour features 60 pesticide free gardens that conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 50% or more native plants.

In addition to the free tour on May 4, this year's Select Tours – private, guided tours of signature native plant gardens - offer something for everyone. Accompanying the popular "Meet the Designer" series there is a "Gourmet Bicycle Tour" to Walnut Creek and Lafayette gardens; a "Fraction of a Century Biking Tour" in Oakland; and a walking tour to three Berkeley gardens. Eight different Select Tours are offered on April 12, 13, 26, 27, and May 3, 18, and 25, 2008. For more info: <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/selecttour.html>. Register early, as the Select Tours are expected to fill quickly.

The Native Plant Sale Extravaganza will take place throughout the weekend of May 3 and 4.

The organizers would appreciate it if people could forward this information on to those that might be interested.

On behalf of All of the volunteers and organizers, they hope those who participate enjoy this year's Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour!

**next meeting**

See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

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### Paint and other toxic waste

Some people still dump toxic items such as paint, stain, varnish, thinner, solvent, etc. down the storm drains polluting creeks and the bay.

If you see anyone dumping toxic material into the street, storm drain, or a water way please report this to 800/663-8674 or 234-1212.

Recycle paint at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility located one block east of the Richmond Parkway on Pittsburg Ave. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9 A.M. until noon, 12:30 P.M. until 4 P.M. and the first Saturday of the month 9 A.M. until noon. This paint is combined with other paints that can be used as a primer. This primer is put into five gallon containers and given away for free to residents of Richmond.

Other items they accept are: Solvents, thinners, oil based paints, stains, varnishes, liquid latex paint, absorbent materials used to clean up the above mentioned items, Spackling compound, and contaminated paint chips.

Items that can be disposed of in the regular trash are completely dry items: brushes, rollers, rags, tarps, dry latex paint containers 5 gallon or smaller with no liquid residue (meaning completely dried content).

For more information call 888/412-9277.

### Meet with the Mayor

The first three Fridays of each month 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. at the Madeline F Whittlesey Rm. next to the Main Library at 325 Civic Center Plaza. The fourth Friday the Mayor goes to different locations to meet with the community. More information 510/620-6503.

## Code Enforcement in Richmond

“Code enforcement” is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of activities that cities routinely take to enforce land use and nuisance laws. While violations do not usually (but can) constitute immediate threats to life, health or safety, they do violate the rights of residents and businesses to enjoy a reasonable quality of life, they threaten property values and they contribute to crime and neighborhood disintegration.

Effective code enforcement requires the participation, collaboration and commitment of several city departments. Planning and Building Regulations have to be involved with land use code violations. The Police Department typically handles nuisance violations and also gets involved in more serious matters such as drug houses and violations of Conditional Use Permits for premises with liquor licenses. The City Attorney’s Office rarely initiates a code enforcement action but provides critical backup for legal advice and code interpretations, appeals, litigation involving repeat violators and recommending revisions to ordinances as required. To a lesser extent, the Housing Authority comes into play when Section 8 properties are involved.

The term “abatement” is often confused with code enforcement because the term is used loosely and ambiguously. The Public Work Department provides “abatement” when it cleans up trash dumped on a City street, or when an abandoned building is demolished.

Sgt. Darren Monahan and the code enforcement officers who work under him are as effective as they can be within the constraints of our system. Monahan and his officers are the principal responders to complaints filed on [CORConnect](#).

Public Works is more of an abatement component than a code enforcement component. Public Works is responsive when alerted for cleanups.

Richmond has a lot of vacant and abandoned buildings. Richmond has a procedure in RMC Chapter 6.38 (sections 010-160), that requires owners of "Vacant Dwellings or Buildings" to obtain a "boarding permit" at a cost of \$54.00 and make necessary improvements to restore the property to code within its 6 month duration. The application for the "boarding permit" includes a timeline and plan for rehabilitation. This permit may be renewed once at the end of this period, yet further extensions may be granted thereafter if the owner is able to show "good cause" that the repairs were inhibited and will be completed in the future. Each renewal requires the submission of an updated plan.

Both the city manager and the city attorney are committed to repairing the issues in code enforcement in the city of Richmond, so get involved in our city and help make the city a better place to live. If you find a problem see if you can suggest a solution.

## Not Today

A new anti violent and intervention campaign will begin March 15, 2008. Activities and support for the day include: Increased police, fire, and emergency personnel. Safe places called “Light Houses” will be places for 24 hour access to information about health fairs, counseling (credit, employment, treatment, etc.) Weapon and drug disposal sites will also be available at some of the “Light Houses”.

For more information about this program contact “Not Today” at [www.Not2Day.org](http://www.Not2Day.org) or 888/325-7773

## 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 231-3010  
CalTrans 925/926-6112

### Report abatement issues

Auto on Private land 621-1278  
Auto on Public land 620-6644  
Sgt Monahan 621-1279

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 [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.

## 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.

<b>Suspicious person</b>	25
<b>Suspicious vehicle</b>	16
<b>Abandoned auto</b>	9
<b>Recovered stolen vehicle</b>	10
<b>Vehicle tampering</b>	1
<b>Disturbance</b>	21
<b>911 Disconnect</b>	11
<b>Dogs</b>	2
<b>Dumping</b>	none
<b>Stolen vehicle</b>	11

1/07	4XX McLaughlin
1/09	51XX Solano
1/17	123XX San Pablo
1/21	123XX San Pablo
1/21	126XX San Pablo
1/23	7XX Humboldt
1/27	52XX McBryde
1/29	52XX McBryde
1/29	9XX Humboldt
1/29	9XX Ventura
1/30	126XX San Pablo

### ID theft

1/29 56XX Marin

### Burglary from residence

1/01 6XX Sonoma  
1/06 8XX Humboldt  
1/08 9XX Humboldt  
1/22 50XX Barrett  
1/28 46XX Nevin

### Burglary from auto

1/01 122XX San Pablo  
1/04 6XX Sonoma  
1/21 49XX Macdonald  
1/21 7XX McLaughlin  
1/21 9XX Humboldt

### Hold up alarm

1/11 123XX San Pablo  
1/22 129XX San Pablo  
1/25 122XX San Pablo

### Petty theft/stolen property

1/01 49XX Macdonald  
1/02 127XX San Pablo  
1/09 6XX Sonoma  
1/09 8XX Lassen  
1/13 6XX Yuba  
1/16 49XX Macdonald  
1/22 49XX Macdonald  
1/22 4XX Carlston  
1/29 53XX Esmond  
1/31 5XX McLaughlin

### Grand theft

1/08 126XX San Pablo

### Battery

1/02 50XX Barrett  
1/02 7XX Ventura  
1/03 56XX Marin  
1/13 10XX Ventura  
1/28 50XX Esmond

### Shots fired

1/08 51XX Nevin  
1/17 10XX Lassen

### Person w/ gun

1/23 124XX San Pablo  
1/27 50XX Barrett

### Vandalism

1/17 122XX San Pablo  
1/24 6XX Humboldt  
1/27 57XX Solano  
1/29 122XX San Pablo

### Hit/Run property damage

1/04 7XX Humboldt  
1/17 Barrett / San Pablo  
1/28 9XX Yuba

## City of Richmond Youth Works

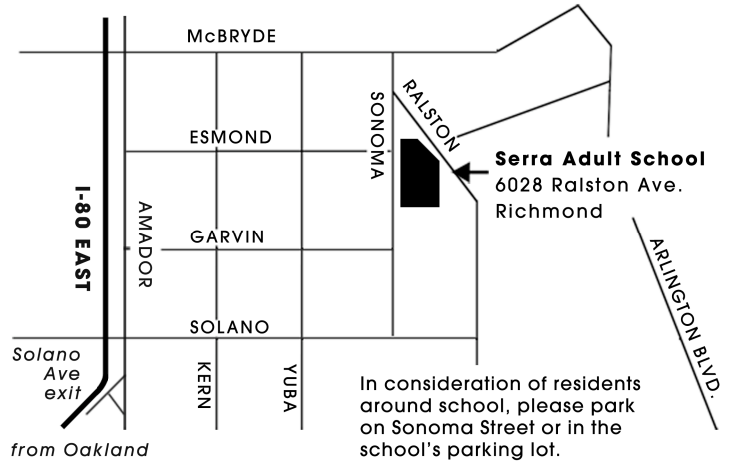
Applications can be picked up at 2200 Macdonald Ave. Open to residents of Richmond ages 15-21, proof of residency and income required. Completed forms will be accepted until March 21, 2008. Up to 200 young people will gain some experience from this program. For more info call 510/965-9187 or 510/412-2039.

**at the next RHNC meeting**

**Four guest speakers**

Sgt. Darren Monahan, Officer Franklin and Don Yoo the Department manager all of Code Enforcement and Ed Paasch, the City employee who cleans up graffiti throughout Richmond.

Also Officer Tim Gard will be our Neighborhood Officer for at least another year, maybe more. Having the same officer for two years is a good thing in that people get to know one person and one person gets to know the community.



**Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 PM**  
Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Avenue

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