

# 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

#### Recreation Highlights

The annual Candy Cane Classic Basketball Tournament was held on December 27 and 28, 2008. Youth, consisting of 14 teams, participated in the 14 and under, 12 and under, and 10 and under age categories. Qualifying games were held at the Richmond Rec. Complex and the final games were held at the Richmond Pal Gym and at the newly remodeled Richmond Auditorium. Photos can be viewed at: [www.eteamz.active.com/richmondyo uthsports](http://www.eteamz.active.com/richmondyo uthsports)

The Rec. Dept Swim Center, in collaboration with the Albany Adult School, has begun offering new classes, including arthritic and back therapy sessions.

The Swim Center has been experiencing an increase in swim participants due to the closure and reconstruction of the Albany Pool.

#### City Receives Budget Award

The City of Richmond has been selected to receive the Excellence Award from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) as part of their Budget Awards Program. The awards program is designed to recognize those agencies that have prepared a budget document or a communication tool that meets certain standards.

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## Money Changes Everything

By Janette Russey

Our neighborhood council spends the money you donate for many things, for instance: the post office box fee is \$72.00. The RNCC dues are \$40.00, the web site fee is \$150.00. We have hosted three very successful National Night Out parties at a cost of about \$500.00 each.

In 2006 the council decided to begin to support local organizations that provide cultural benefit to our city and we decided on the Richmond Art Center as the first beneficiary. An officer from the art center spoke at one of our meetings and was presented with a check for \$500.00.

This year we are doing something special for a special neighbor and friend. Jack Tucker was a theatre critic and journalist for more than sixty years. He took a keen interest in local issues and was a tireless advocate of local drama groups. He attended our council meetings faithfully. He brought a genteel and reasonable voice to our discussions. Jack died in December 2007 at the age of 93. The council voted to honor Jack's memory with the purchase of an inscription on a new seat at the Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. These were sold to raise money for badly needed new seating. This one will be inscribed with the names of Jack Tucker and Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council. The cost of \$500.00 does double duty, honoring Jack and helping to support the Masquers.

This year we will be looking for another local cause to support and we would like to hear suggestions from everyone in Richmond Heights. The council can only continue to support such local organizations with your support. If you like what we are doing send a check along with your ideas. No amount is too small. You can send checks to:

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 5253  
Richmond, CA 94805

## National Day of Service in Richmond

Edited From the WCCC Times

About 500 attendees at Richmond's Shimada Friendship Park near Marina Bay brought their gloves and gardening tools to the shoreline. Groups and individuals from all over the community worked from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on January 19, 2009 clearing weeds, collecting trash and creating a huge trash sculpture. Organizers of the Shimada Park event were expecting about 150 people - they got many more than expected.

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**next meeting**

See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

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### City Receives Budget Award

This year, the City submitted their Budget-in-Brief to the Public Communications category of the program. This document highlights and summarizes the City's accomplishments in reflecting management policies and community priorities through the operating and capital improvement plan budgets. It is intended for use by the general public and the citizens of the City of Richmond and is available on the City's website at

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=1000>.

### Environmental Initiatives on the City Website

As part of an effort to educate the community on environmental issues and services in the City of Richmond, City staff members have developed Environmental Initiatives web pages that have been published on the City's website and can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=1610>.

The web pages include a section on Solid Waste and Recycling that details garbage and recycling collection services, special waste disposal options, and other waste reduction resources. The Solid Waste and Recycling web page can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=1709>.

Other topics include the Urban Environmental Accords, climate change, storm water. The Environmental section of the City website will be expanded over the next few months to include additional environmental topics and services.

## Business License Mailers

In recent weeks the Business License Division has started mailing out approximately 4,100 letters to all Richmond based businesses advising them of the changes that will impact them because of the passage of Measure T.

There are two major changes to the business license as a result of this measure passed by the voters in November 2008. First, all business licenses will now have a common expiration date of December 31st, instead of one year from the date the license was originally issued. This means that, beginning January 1, 2009, a new license must be obtained and the license fee paid by March 15th of each year. Every business with a current license will receive a credit for the months already paid for in 2009.

Second, under Measure T, any business engaged in manufacturing is subject to a new, alternate fee requirement and will need to submit data to the City of Richmond indicating the value of raw materials used in production during 2008.

The license fee for manufacturing businesses will now be the larger of one quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the fair market value of the raw materials used in the manufacturing process in the previous year, or the amount as calculated based on the number of employees, as in years past.

As part of the Measure T implementation notice, businesses will receive a Frequently Asked Questions sheet and an outline of the changed sections of the Business License Ordinance.

## Richmond Receives Visit by Member of Federal Reserve Board of Governors

On January 5, 2009 Randall S. Kroszner, Ph.D., Member Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, visited the City of Richmond and toured many of its neighborhoods. The visit and tour were related to the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a partnership between the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Richmond NSP is based upon an integrated program delivery system addressing housing challenges that, once implemented, will create economic stabilization opportunities.

In conjunction with Dr. Kroszner's visit, the City's Redevelopment Housing section coordinated a tour of targeted neighborhoods and provided an overview of the NSP program for federal officials, and representatives from a number of non-profit housing agencies and foundations.

## React/Cert Training

The spring schedule will be held at the WCC Adult Education campus at 5625 Sutter Avenue near Carlson and I 80. The two options available are: 5 consecutive Wednesdays March 18, 25, April 1, 8 and 15 all are from 6:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. The second option is Thursday, April 16, and 4 consecutive days Monday, April 20, through Thursday, April 23 all are from 6:30 P.M. until 9 P.M.

The drill will be Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. at the Richmond Fire Training Center, 3506 Cutting Blvd.

For more information visit [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=339](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=339). Online registration [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/oes](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/oes) or contact the Alvarado Campus.

## 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

Jovanka Beckles 813-7008

### 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 five weeks before the beginning of the month of the event. E-mail [owenlmartin@earthlink.net](mailto:owenlmartin@earthlink.net) with your articles. Contributions and articles are most welcome. This is your newsletter.

### Richmond Heights meetings:

2-Mar-09 Monday  
6-Apr-09 Monday  
4-May-09 Monday  
1-Jun-09 Monday



## 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** 35  
**Suspicious vehicle** 9  
**Abandoned auto** 2  
**Recovered stolen vehicle** 7  
**Vehicle tampering** none  
**Disturbance** 20  
**911 Disconnect** 7  
**Dogs** none  
**Dumping** 1  
**Stolen vehicle** 7

12/22 6XX Key  
12/23 55XX Solano  
12/27 51XX Solano  
1/02 122XX San Pablo  
1/05 55XX Solano  
1/08 123XX San Pablo  
1/12 6XX Yuba

**Hit/Run property damage**  
12/29 Macdonald / San Pablo  
1/04 9XX Amador  
1/12 McBryde / San Pablo  
1/14 129XX San Pablo

**Burglary from residence**  
12/21 11XX Yuba  
12/21 122XX San Pablo  
12/22 56XX Esmond  
12/24 4XX Mount  
12/29 7XX Amador  
1/09 7XX McLaughlin  
1/11 6XX Sonoma  
1/13 8XX Sonoma

**Burglary from auto**  
12/21 4XX Carlston  
12/22 4XX Carlston  
12/23 124XX San Pablo  
12/24 4XX Carlston  
12/24 7XX Humboldt  
12/29 53XX Zara  
12/30 6XX Ventura  
1/09 9XX Kern

### Robbery

12/26 Macdonald / San Pablo  
1/09 Solano / San Pablo

### Petty theft/stolen property

12/22 8XX Humboldt  
12/27 49XX Macdonald  
12/29 45XX Barrett  
1/03 126XX San Pablo  
1/05 7XX Ventura  
1/06 9XX Yuba  
1/07 52XX Solano

### Grand theft

12/23 55XX Solano  
1/14 6XX Ventura

### Battery

12/17 126XX San Pablo  
12/26 Mount / Dimm  
1/06 57XX Solano  
1/10 55XX Solano  
1/11 129XX San Pablo

### Assault w/ deadly weapon

12/16 7XX Amador  
1/12 52XX Clinton  
1/15 7XX Ventura

### Arson

12/16 47XX Macdonald

### Shots fired

12/22 51XX Solano  
12/22 125XX San Pablo  
1/10 52XX McBryde  
1/12 McBryde / Lassen

### Shooting at occupied vehicle

1/01 4XX 46th

### Calls related to juveniles

12/16 53XX Clinton  
12/19 54XX Garvin

### Vandalism

12/18 Barrett / San Pablo  
12/27 McBryde / San Pablo  
12/31 4XX Key  
1/10 52XX McBryde  
1/10 9XX Humboldt  
1/11 4XX Dimm  
1/14 7XX Kern

## Southeast Shoreline Area Community Advisory Group

Sherry Padgett is the Member At Large representing the Richmond Southeast Shoreline Area (RSSA) Community Advisory Group (CAG). The 20+ member all volunteer group hold monthly public meetings at the Richmond City Council Chambers to stay current on community concerns relating to 16 toxic sites along the Richmond southeast shoreline. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., on the second Thursday of every month. The public is encouraged to attend.

Since May 2005, the CAG has been advising the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on community concerns relating to hazardous chemicals in our neighborhoods, south of Interstate 580, from just north of Point Isabelle to just east of Richmond Harbor.

One of the primary hazardous waste sites on the shoreline is “Campus Bay”, also known as (aka) Zeneca, prior Stauffer Chemical, Cherokee-Simeon Venture I, LLC (CSV), Zeneca-Cherokee or other name variations. The ongoing site characterization and risk assessments (human and ecological) of the heavily contaminated property will determine what level of cleanup is possible at the Zeneca-Cherokee site and other sites. Potential for cleanup will then determine a possible range of land uses. The CAG’s work can be relevant to the General Plan’s assessment of appropriate land use.

For more information about sites along the Richmond southeast shoreline including the Zeneca site, go to DTSC’s Envirostor website <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>, key in the zip code 94804 and click “Get Report”.

When the list of 94804 sites is on the screen, click on “Report” (on the left side of the screen) for a given site, i.e. Zeneca. When the specific site data is on the screen, another button “Community Involvement” on the right side of the screen will give another level of detail.

The CAG advises DTSC on 16 of the 36 sites listed in DTSC’s 94804 zip code, including the Zeneca-Cherokee site, UC Richmond Field Station, Bio-Rad, Marina Bay, Liquid Gold, Blair Landfill and Harborfront Tract. Note that sites listed within DTSC’s jurisdiction on Envirostor exclude other sites in the same area overseen by US EPA, US Army Corps of Engineers, Cal EPA Water Board, Cal EPA Air District and/or Contra Costa County.

The RSSA CAG is seeking individuals interested in representing their community as a member of the CAG. For more information, an application to join the CAG or to be added to the CAG meeting announcement and agenda email list, contact CAG Secretary, Carolyn Graves at [carolyn.graves@kp.org](mailto:carolyn.graves@kp.org).

The RSSA CAG mission is to ensure that the interests of the entire community are included in plans for the proper and comprehensive cleanup and ongoing monitoring of polluted sites in the Richmond Southeast Shoreline Area. The CAG’s job is to involve all stakeholders in a public, inclusive process leading to an appropriate clean up of polluted sites in this area.

## Job Training in the Wastewater Field

The City of Richmond, through RichmondWORKS, has begun the STAR job training program which seeks to train individuals for careers in the wastewater field. STAR represents a great opportunity for a young person to obtain a well-paid career in a recession-resistant, professional field, as well as a way for Veolia Water to develop potential employees for its operation of Richmond’s wastewater treatment plant.

The principles of STAR, which align with the values of the City and with basic principles for success in life, are:

Safety – safety of self and concern for the safety of others.

Training – quality education and training to learn to produce quality results with maximum efficiency.

Accountability - accountability to oneself, one’s vocation, the community, and the environment.

Reliability - reliability that promotes work as a team toward the greater good of the project.

This is a 3-year training program that includes 6 months working in 4 general areas (laboratory, plant operations, plant maintenance, and collections system maintenance) followed by a year of specific area training which could possibly occur at other Veolia operated facilities. On the job training will also be combined with educational requirements provided by a community college and/or correspondence courses.

Veolia is funding the first two trainees for the three year period at an hourly rate of \$14 or \$15 per hour. The program received 50 applications and the two selected initially will begin the program in February.

## National Day of Service in Richmond

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Meanwhile, along the Sixth Street Greenway near Lincoln Elementary School in Richmond, about 500 people were mulching, building garden beds and planting fruit trees while listening to music and enjoying food. Monday was the second year for the Greenway celebration.

Event volunteers and participants sported t-shirts that said, “Make it a Day ON, Not a Day Off.” “This is such a fitting event to honor Dr. King,” said Park Guthrie, who worked with Urban Tilth to help coordinate the event. “Access to health food is one of our biggest problems and we’re helping with that today.”

Guthrie and Urban Tilth host workdays on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sixth Street Greenway. Everyone is welcome.

Continuing the work of the clean up and maintenance, The Watershed Project will host an event on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m., “From Wasteland to Wetland,” at the Point Richmond Community Center, located at 139 Washington Ave. For more information, call (510) 665- 3597 or visit [www.thewatershedproject.org](http://www.thewatershedproject.org).

## Bay Trail Updates and Highlights

By Nicole Valentino

As many of you know, we are extremely fortunate to live in an area with beautiful bikeways that provide opportunities for invigorating exercise as well as for leisure recreation. The Bay Trail continues to grow and expand as bicycle and out door enthusiasts, advocate on our behalf. We are also fortunate to have the support of many of our local elected officials including Richmond’s own Whitney Dotson, recently elected Director of the East Bay Regional Park district.

Below you will find a few highlights of the Richmond Bay Trail New Year Report that was recently released by TRAC. The complete report is available online at [www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail](http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail).

Highlights include: A likely increase of an additional five to six miles, bringing the total to more than 30 miles. The inclusion of a 2.4 mile section at the former Kaiser Shipyard No. 3 at Point Potrero in the Port of Richmond, and an addition of a three mile loop at the West County Landfill.

For more information, including a schedule of activities, the TRAC Web site has a calendar of walks and events that are open to the public, [www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail](http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail).

## International Women’s Day Celebration

By Nicole Valentino

The Mayor’s Office is co-sponsoring the second annual International Women’s Day celebration: Women in Solidarity: Honoring Self, Honoring Community. The celebration will be held on March 7th at the Lovonya DeJean Middle School at 3400 MacDonald Avenue, from 10am -3pm. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch, child care, and translation services will be provided.

The day will be filled with entertainment, workshops and thematic discussions. Our neighborhood council president Jovanka Beckles, will be the mistress of ceremonies. The keynote speaker will be former Black Panther Party leader and criminal justice reform advocate Elaine Brown. Local performers include, Rosa Acosta and Jackie Thompson. Round table discussions will be facilitated by co-sponsoring organizations, including the Verde Partnership Garden, Youth Enrichment Strategies, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, Youth Together, Rosie the Riveter World War II National Historic Park, Richmond Regla Sister Committee, Community Violence Solutions, Black Women Organized for Political Action, The Latina Center, and many more. For more information and to pre-register, please call 510-620-6502.

## City of Richmond to pilot solar thermal rebate program

This exciting initial pilot program, will offer a \$1,000 rebate per system for 25 roof tops, and is the first in the country to offer a thermal rebate tied to a job training program. Solar thermal systems use the power of the sun to heat the water. This program was initially proposed by Solar Richmond Executive Director Michele McGeoy. The program requires the customer to utilize locally trained labor. Solar Richmond, Richmond Build, Grid Alternatives and Solar living Institute are working in partnership to provide training to Richmond residents. Heliodyne, a local solar thermal company is working to add solar thermal to the Richmond Build curriculum. More information can be found at the City of Richmond website [www.ci.richmond.ca.us](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us).

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

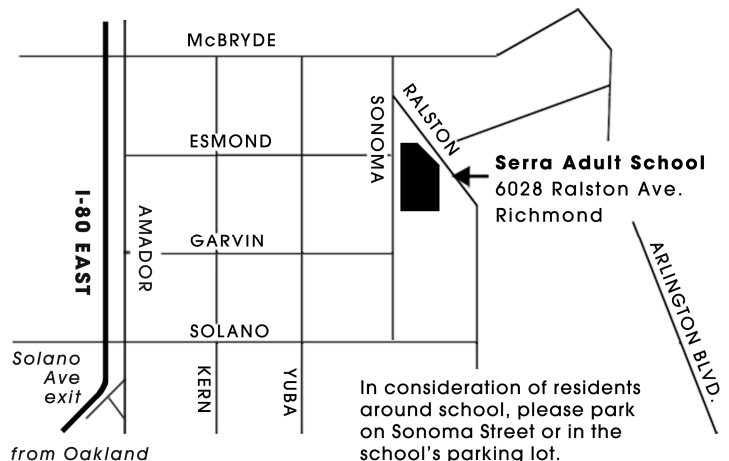
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**Citizen's Advisory Committee**

Sherry Padget is a representative from the South East Shoreline Citizen's Advisory Group. Working on the Campus Bay cleanup and land reuse project. Speaking about how all of the stakeholders in a public, inclusive process are leading to an appropriate clean up of polluted sites in the South East Shoreline area.



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