

Views

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

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

quick-takes

Remember Your Mother

Mother's Day is a day for celebrating motherhood and thanking mothers. In the United States, it is held on the second Sunday in May. Tradition calls for the wearing of roses or carnations on Mother's Day a red one if one's mother is alive, white if she has died, and pink if one is not certain.

While cynical observers may regard the day as 24 hours of condescending kitsch, it didn't start out that way. Mother's Day in the United States was first proclaimed around 1870 in Boston by Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation. Howe, a prominent suffragist, called in 1872 for it to be observed each year nationally. (Of course you remember that Howe also wrote "Battle Hymn of the Republic".)

As originally envisioned, Howe's "Mother's Day" was a call for pacifism and disarmament by women. But the focus shifted, no doubt due to a campaign to recognize Mother's Day that was financed by clothing merchant John Wanamaker. As the custom of Mother's Day spread, the emphasis shifted from the pacifism and reform movements to a general appreciation of mothers. The first official recognition of the holiday was by West Virginia in 1910. A proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day was signed by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson on May 14, 1914.

Preservationists Cheer Bank Move

The historic Trainmasters Building, which was recently relocated to Point Richmond, will be the new office of the Point Richmond branch of Mechanics Bank. The Trainmasters Building was moved to its present site a year-and-a-half ago through the efforts of a broad coalition of local residents. Mechanics Bank is a 102-year-old community bank that has been headquartered in Richmond for nearly a century. E. M. Downer, founder of Mechanics Bank, began his career as a railroad transfer agent and telegrapher in the East Bay. After he founded the bank in the same year the Trainmasters Building was erected, one of his major corporate customers became the Santa Fe Railroad, which built and used the Trainmasters Building as one of its "Reading Rooms." Like Mechanics Bank itself, the Reading Room served a community purpose, since it and others were designed to be cultural and intellectual havens for railroad employees and their families at a time when most train stations were surrounded by bars and brothels. The building provided a place that employees could feel safe and enjoy some cultural amenities.

Later, the Richmond Reading Room became the home and headquarters of the local Richmond Trainmaster, and at one point in its history, it was even used as a school. Finally, it sat vacant for two decades, slowly decaying into an eyesore that the railroad didn't want, but couldn't just demolish because of its historic significance. A compromise agreement led to its relocation at the entrance to Point Richmond with the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation being its landlord. The newly restored office of The Mechanics Bank should open in the fall.

For more information about the Trainmasters Building and the history of railway "reading rooms," go to <http://www.pointrichmond.com/gateway/>.

Alvarado Park a Local Paradise

In case you haven't been out in a while, be aware that the north end of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is its Alvarado section. This area began as a private park in 1909, and was taken over by the city of Richmond in 1923. It remained a city park until 1985, when it was transferred to the East Bay Regional Park District to become part of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

The park's history embodies an earlier and more festive time in the city's history. The original facilities at Alvarado Park included an open-air pavilion and dance platform, later converted to a roller rink. These are now gone, but extensive masonry work, retaining walls, a stone bridge and stone light standards remain. Alvarado Park is considered to be a unique variation on the National Park Service style of "rustic park architecture." Its stone masonry was constructed during Richmond's ownership through various Depression-era work programs. Because of these unique features, Alvarado is included in the National Registry of Historic Places.

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NIAD Exhibit Features Printmakers

The exhibit "2 of a Kind: Featuring the California Society of Printmakers" is being held at the Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery of the NIAD Art Center. The exhibit, which runs until June 15, 2007, is a juried show of prints at the National Institute of Art and Disabilities (NIAD) in Richmond, California.

The work exhibited is no wider than 18 inches, but has unrestricted heights. The towering work is presented as pairings from the respected and historical California Society of Printmakers and the award-winning NIAD.

The California Society of Printmakers is the second oldest printmaking society in the United States. Founded in 1913 as the California Society of Etchers, it merged with the Bay Area Printmakers in 1968 to form the present California Society of Printmakers. California Society of Printmakers is a non-profit arts organization which promotes the appreciation of prints and print-making.

NIAD is located at 551 23rd Street in Richmond. For more information, call 510 620-0290.

Richmond's Local Government Certified

The State Office of Historic Preservation has declared Richmond to be a [Certified Local Government](#). The certification demonstrates that Richmond's government is committed to historic preservation as part of its planning and economic strategy.

Friends of the Library to Meet

The Richmond Public Library will celebrate its 100th birthday this coming November. Housed originally in the building now occupied by the Richmond Museum on Nevin Ave. and 4th Street, the library moved to the Civic Center in 1949.

Although the library is a publicly supported institution, it wouldn't be the same without the support of The Friends of the Richmond Public Library. This volunteer group maintains an organization of persons interested in books, libraries, and their services. They work to focus public attention on the library and its needs, raising funds and recruiting the giving of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests.

The Friends will next meet on Monday May 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bermuda Room at the Richmond Convention Center, 403 Civic Center Plaza. The special guest speaker will be Phyllis Bischoff, a retired Librarian for African and African-American collections at UC Berkeley who spent over 30 years developing an extensive collection of Africana for the University. She received the university's Distinguished Librarian Award in recognition of her unique work. She will share her experiences traveling in Africa, meeting with authors and publishers, as well as her knowledge of African and Afro-American literature.

The public is invited and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 510 235-9056. (The presentation will be preceded by a short Friends business meeting at 6:30 p.m., in case you are interested in joining.)

Alvarado Park A Local Paradise

Alvarado's natural setting contains many surprises. Springs and ponds are common. Small earthquake faults leave their traces. The soils are mostly clay with some bands of gravel and rock. On east-facing slopes grow large coast live oaks, bay laurels and a scattering of bigleaf maples and madrones. North-facing hillsides support some beautiful, nearly pure stands of bay laurel fringed with coast live oak. Moist chaparral of coyote brush, poison oak, elderberry, snowberry, bracken fern and blackberry grow in thickets high on the north-facing slopes.

In the gorge of bedrock-cutting Wildcat Creek grows a riparian forest of alder, willow, creek dogwood and bay laurel. The forest extends the length of Wildcat Creek and part way up the tributaries. The west- and south-facing canyon slopes are covered with introduced annual grasses (oat, rye, barley, etc.). A few stands of native bunch grasses persist. There are many native wildflower species vying for growing room with such introduced plants as poison hemlock, mustard, radish and an advancing army of cardoon thistle.

Foxes, raccoons, skunks and opossums range nightly through the canyon. Deer, ground squirrels and voles forage more commonly by day. Gopher snakes, king snakes and western racers inhabit the fields and meadows; garter snakes hunt the ponds and stream verges. In the forest are rubber boas and ringneck snakes. Aloft are redbill hawks, American kestrels, sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks and turkey vultures. Most nights you can hoot up a great horned owl. There are also many varieties of songbirds

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 for Lt. Mark Gagan

mgagan@richmondcpd.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 levinack@hotmail.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.

Battery

3/3 49XX Macdonald

3/11 8XX Lassen

3/13 52XX Nevin

3/18 52XX McBryde

3/19 124XX San Pablo

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

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

Suspicious person 28
Suspicious vehicle 13
Abandoned auto 7
Recovered stolen vehicle 7
Vehicle tampering 1
Disturbance 30
911 Disconnect 12
Dogs none
Stolen vehicle 12

3/1 Clinton / Humboldt
 3/1 8XX Ventura
 3/4 8XX Humboldt
 3/9 123XX San Pablo
 3/12 127XX San Pablo
 3/13 8XX Humboldt
 3/14 8XX Lassen
 3/19 4XX Key
 3/19 127XX San Pablo
 3/26 9XX Ventura
 3/29 4XX Mount
 3/29 10XX McLaughlin

Hit/Run property damage
 3/21 San Pablo / Macdonald

Car jacking
 3/13 7XX Ventura

Burglary from residence
 3/1 6XX Ventura
 3/1 9XX Kern
 3/2 7XX Kern
 3/5 7XX Yuba
 3/6 10XX Ventura
 3/7 55XX Solano
 3/7 5XX Dimm
 3/7 9XX Amador
 3/28 7XX Amador
 3/29 10XX Lassen

Vandalism
 3/9 128XX San Pablo
 3/15 Barrett / San Pablo

Burglary from auto

3/1 4XX Key
 3/7 5XX Key
 3/7 7XX Ventura
 3/13 4XX Carlston
 3/13 4XX Carlston
 3/26 6XX Humboldt
 3/28 7XX Amador

Hold up alarm

3/4 126XX San Pablo
 3/5 126XX San Pablo
 3/10 48XX Macdonald
 3/29 49XX Macdonald

Robbery

3/31 122XX San Pablo

Petty theft/stolen property

3/7 122XX San Pablo
 3/9 120XX San Pablo
 3/14 49XX Macdonald
 3/18 52XX Esmond
 3/20 51XX Garvin
 3/26 121XX San Pablo
 3/26 7XX Humboldt
 3/30 55XX McBryde

Calls related to juveniles

3/10 6XX Sonoma
 3/17 4XX Key
 3/22 50XX Barrett
 3/24 7XX McLaughlin
 3/28 Solano / McLaughlin
 3/28 8XX Lassen

Assault w/ deadly weapon

3/16 50XX Barrett
 3/22 8XX Humboldt

Person with a gun

3/14 Clinton / San Pablo

Shooting at occupied dwelling

3/2 129XX San Pablo

Shots fired

3/4 50XX Garvin
 3/12 Garvin / Kern

Drug activity

3/24 Sierra / Ventura

Joining the new Richmond Heights Yahoo! Group

A Yahoo! Group is an e-mail discussion group and can be a fabulous resource for community building. By sending an e-mail to the group e-mail address, it is distributed to everyone who is a member of the e-mail group. You also will receive all messages sent in by other members.

The goal of the Richmond Heights e-mail group is not only to get to know your neighbors, but to build community connections for people who live, work, or spend time in Richmond Heights.

Examples of posts include:

1. **Sharing Of Resources** - ex. "Does anyone know of a good mechanic close to Solano Avenue?"
2. **Neighborhood Watch** - ex. "I just saw someone who looked like they were breaking into a car on Garvin Avenue, keep an eye out"
3. **Community Announcements** - ex. "Adams School is having a crafts fair fundraiser, please come and support the students", or "A new restaurant just opened up on San Pablo, and it is fabulous!"

How to Join? Unfortunately, Yahoo doesn't make it simple, but here are some guidelines to help walk you through it.

If you already participate in Yahoo! Groups or have a Yahoo e-mail account it is much easier, you just need to:

- 1) sign into your account, 2) click on the following link http://groups.yahoo.com/group/richmond_heights/ and click on
- 3) "Join this Group."

If you do not have a Yahoo ID, then you will need to get one in order to join the group.

To get a Yahoo ID, follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <https://login.yahoo.com>
- 2) Under where it says "Don't have a Yahoo ID" click on "Sign Up"
- 3) Fill out the information that has been asterisked.
- 4) Assuming you do not want to use the new yahoo e-mail address that was just created for you, fill in the e-mail address that you do want to use for the e-mail group where it says "Alternate E-mail".
- 5) When you've completed the form click "Submit." Yahoo will now send you an e-mail link to your alternative e-mail to activate your new Yahoo ID.
- 6) Now go to your e-mail account to open this message, and then click on the link provided and this will activate your Yahoo ID.

Once you have an active Yahoo ID, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/richmond_heights/ then click on "Join this Group."

1) Step 1 (Contact information) Profile: Leave it as it is. E-mail: Choose the e-mail address you wish to receive the e-mails. Note: if there isn't an option to choose your non-yahoo e-mail address, then you may need to click on the link "verify" by your non-yahoo e-mail address. (Comment to owner) write a sentence or two to introduce yourself to the moderator so she knows you aren't a spammer.

2) Step 2 (Message delivery) There are 3 ways available for you to receive messages. The first is Individual E-mails, in which every message is sent to you individually. The second is Daily Digest, in which you receive all the day's messages in one e-mail. The third is No E-Mail, in which you will receive no e-mails but can read the messages by clicking on Messages on the home page. Since there is currently very little activity please choose either "Individual E-mails" or "Daily Digest". The third option is really for lists that receive dozens of e-mails each day, but this won't be the case.

Note that this group has restricted membership, which means that as the group's moderator I must approve your membership. This is done to protect the privacy of the members of the group by insuring that people joining the group have a legitimate interest in the group and aren't spammers.

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Joining the new Richmond Heights Yahoo! Group

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Once I have approved your membership, you may send (post) a message to everyone in the group by simply writing an e-mail and addressing it to richmond_heights@yahoo.com.

Need Technical Assistance?

E-mail Karen, the list's moderator at blockworkstheatre@yahoo.com and she'll help walk you through the process.

Items of Interest this Summer:

National Night Out: Last year the National Night Out consisted of shutting down Ventura St. and having the City Caravan show up in mass to "Take Back The Streets From Crime". This year is there an area that needs attention or is it better to put the National Night Out event in Tiller Park and have food, music, and of course all of you to enjoy the festivities? Join a Committee to discuss plans for National Night Out event held the first Tuesday in August.

Also on August 24, 2007 the City of Richmond has tentatively scheduled a trash pick-up for Richmond Heights Neighborhood. This event will bring dumpsters to our area for recycling metal as well as cleaning out all other non toxic items from yard waste to "Spring Cleaning" of your home, garage, and tool sheds. Of course there is need of volunteers to help direct traffic, check utility bill addresses, driver's licenses, or vehicle registration to verify residency, as well as other needs for volunteers at the sight of the dumpsters. Also, if people talk to their neighbors about transportation needs and helping each other to collect the items into piles in advance so that those neighbors who need help are not left out of the clean up, neighbors helping neighbors is always a sign of good communities. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

If your block has a "Crime Watch" program participate, if you want to start a "Crime Watch" program on your block you can always contact Michelle Milan of the City of Richmond Police Department for information at (Michelle_Milam@ci.richmond.ca.us). The Police Department is trying to get the people involved in "Community Policing" to show that if you see crimes, suspicious activity, or other issues requiring communication between residents and officers that you contact the Police Department, see the results, and share the positive (or negative) results with neighbors and the Watch Commander on duty at the time of the contact. Once in a while Police Chief Magnus puts out a newsletter of human interest about instances where police officers have a good day catching the suspects of crimes quickly. Perhaps if more people call in crimes as soon as they are seen the officers will have more reports of such good days.

One such report: **DATE: March 30, 2007 SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Police Department**

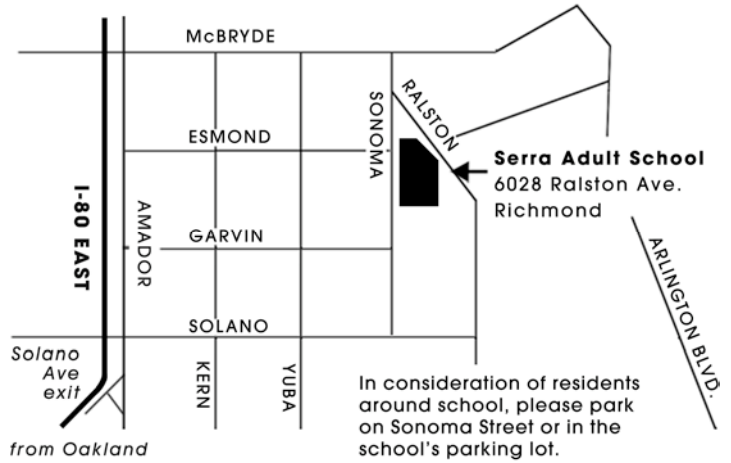
The following information reflects a general overview of activities associated with the police department during the past week: Geographic Policing Activities: Northern District

- Officer Rudy Bridgeman responded to Saddleback Lane for a call of a suspicious vehicle in the area. Officer Bridgeman was able to locate the vehicle as it tried to leave the area. The car was stopped and the occupants were detained. This call coincided with a concern of another vehicle in the area having a broken window and an audible alarm going off. It was discovered that this 2nd vehicle was recently burglarized and that the now detained 1st vehicle and its occupants were responsible. These subjects were identified on scene and arrested.
- Officers continue to address an ongoing loitering project in Hilltop Green. This week four vehicle stops were made, three citations were issued and one pedestrian stop was made. Officers have observed that the area is quieting down. Monitoring will continue.
- The ongoing beat 7 Auto Theft and Burglary projects continue. District Commander, Captain Williams has modified the project hours to better impact suspected times of occurrence. Compstat data and beat personnel show these hours to be the most active times. Statistics for this week are: 13 Field Interviews, eight pedestrian stops, 10 traffic stops, three citations, two vehicles impounded and one arrest.

at the next RHNC meeting

City Finance Director James Goins

Will be our guest speaker. The Richmond Budget recently received two awards. Current and Future Budgets to be discussed with Mr. Goins.



Monday, May 7th, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

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