

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

Visit us at www.eastrichmond.org

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

quick-takes

ERNC Elections this month

Hear ye, hear ye! 'Tis October and, therefore, be it time for the annual election of ERNC board officers.

In last month's Views we sketched out the responsibilities that come with each of these 5 highly coveted board positions. If you are interested in reviewing them once again, please go to www.eastrichmond.org, click on "Newsletters", then on "September '05".

The ERNC has yet to build a full slate of candidates. Suffice it to say that your participation is welcomed. Please attend the October 3rd meeting, where you can nominate a neighbor, yourself, or simply show support for those who are volunteering their time on our collective behalf. See back page for time and place.

Booksale!

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library are holding their Annual Book-sale on October 22nd, in the Whittlesey Room, immediately south of the main library building on Civic Center Plaza. The first hour, 10-11 AM, is for members only — but you are welcome to show up and become a member. The rest of the day, until 3 PM, is intended for the general rabble (no offense, of course.)

The books span all genres — fiction, non-fiction, reference, children's literature. Many are new or like-new, so this is a great opportunity for holiday shopping.

Baxter Creek will run again

If you haven't taken a stroll past the Baxter Creek restoration project, immediately south of the former Albertson's on Macdonald Avenue, what are you waiting for? ("Spring" might be a suitable answer. But why deprive yourself of a fascinating look at what goes into reclaiming a long neglected urban stream?)

The City of El Cerrito and the Friends of Baxter Creek have joined forces to transform an overgrown lot into a lovely neighborhood park, featuring native riparian habitat and interpretive signage.

(continues on p.2)

Views in a time of transition

By Nick Despota

This newsletter has appeared ten times yearly for more than twelve years. But that steady stream may stop, at least for a while. That's because last month I announced my decision to withdraw from the ERNC board in order to dedicate more time to my other civic commitments. Depending on who steps forward to help fill the gap, Views may appear with less regularity.

To continue publication, new roles must be worked out, new players must learn the ropes. While that is occurring, Views may become a quarterly, with one-page announcements mailed out in the intervening months. But it's too soon to tell.

If you have appreciated Views over the past years, please consider helping out during this transition. How? Read on.

Views publication encompasses 3 phases: editorial, production, and distribution. Editorial involves researching and writing the feature articles, collating the monthly crime statistics, and soliciting and editing the items for Quick-Takes. Andy Pasternack has carried a large share of the editorial load over the last few years and has agreed to continue.

Production refers to copy-fitting, graphic design and page layout, using a computer application like Quark or InDesign. The basic requirements are a set of specialized skills, the right software and a laser printer.

Finally, distribution is a multi-step process that starts with duplication, folding and labeling and ends with a (very satisfying) trip to the bulk mail center in Richmond.

Needless to say, every step depends on the one that precedes it. And every step must be performed on time.

Gina Swirsding, current vice-president and likely president next year, is working to piece together an operation that will enable the Council to continue publication. If you have the time and interest to help out in one of the areas just described, let her know (*82-232-1675, or gdm2win@aol.com, or come to the October 3rd meeting).

Regardless of the future of Views, you can still visit our website, www.eastrichmond.org, which I will continue to maintain. Here you can find announcements of current events, ERNC meeting agendas, contact information for city departments and nonprofit agencies, back issues of Views, galleries of photographs, and more.

I close by saying that it has been a privilege and an honor to address all of you on these pages over the last ten years. I have learned much. Thank you.

Katrina's merciless lesson: be prepared

Most of us watched the tragic flooding of New Orleans in August in overwhelming states of astonishment, interrupted only by grieving compassion for its victims. But how many of us realize that there but for the grace of the Hayward Fault go we? After the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, 12,000 Bay Area residents found themselves displaced permanently or temporarily. Of those whose homes remained intact, many were temporarily without water, electricity and phone service.

It was intense but Loma Prieta was not the big one. It was moderately big, and plenty destructive to some parts of the Bay Area. But the inevitability of a more damaging earthquake confronts us in the Bay Area. In 2003 the United States Geological Survey predicted a 62 percent chance of a 6.7 earthquake appearing at any time during the next 30 years — including today, tomorrow, or the day after that. The USGS says that that earthquake will most likely strike between San Jose and Santa Rosa on either side of the Bay.

(continues on p.2)

next meeting

Monday, October 3rd, 7 PM. Serra Adult School. See back page for agenda.

quick-takes

continued from page 1

Michael Mejia and Maryann Aberg have made some highly descriptive photos of the work in progress. To see them, go to www.creativedifferences.com/baxtercreek/GatewayViews.html.

Adams hitting its marks

Adams Middle School now ranks in the top half of Richmond middle schools on the Academic Performance Index (API)! The school also made great gains in the number of students at the advanced and proficient level, the Federal government's No Child Left Behind required measure of Annual Yearly Progress, (AYP). The API measures the schools overall academic growth with emphasis on how many students are moved out of the lowest quartiles, and the AYP measures essentially the number of students that have moved into proficiency. Congratulations to Adams teachers, and onwards!

Latino Film Festival

The Richmond Public Library has been screening a series of contemporary films from the Latino Film Festival of San Francisco. Films are in Spanish with English subtitles. Thursdays, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8, at 7 PM, in the Whittlesey Room (the extension immediately south of the main library building). For information, call 620-6551. Download a list of titles and descriptions at www.eastrichmond.org.

Free concert at Down Home

The ensemble **In Harmony's Way** will perform Saturday, October 8, at 2:00 PM in a free, in-store concert at Down Home Music on 10341 San Pablo Ave. The ensemble features Richard Adrianowicz, Steve Baughman, Michael and Shay Black, Susan Frank, Sylvia Herold, Lani Herrmann, Holdstock and MacLeod, Kim Hughes, Arlene Immerman, Peter Kasin, Oak Ash & Thorn, Riggy Rackin, Ed Silberman and Pam Swan. In the spring of 2005, these artists got together to record some of their favorite chorus songs from the American and British Isles traditions in a CD collection called "In Harmony's Way." The project seeks to document the rich local heritage of a capella singing, and to share these wonderful songs with a greater audience. For more information, call 525-2129

New musical at Masquers

The lyrical score of **Dear World**, which runs November 4 through December 17, tells the tale of a wise old woman who saves the earth from greedy oil barons, all

(continues on p.3)

Katrina's lesson, *continued from page 1*

Need we say more? All of us have all the incentive we need to pull together the needed supplies for such a disaster. The American Red Cross recommends the following as a baseline:

Water

Store a three-day supply of water for everyone — one gallon per person per day. Don't forget your pets. Store the water in opaque plastic containers such as soft drink bottles and put it somewhere easy to reach after the shaking stops. Change this water every six months and treat with chlorine bleach when you use it.

Food

Stock up on ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables, plus canned juices, milk, soup, sugar, salt, and pepper. You should have high energy foods such as peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix; select foods that will not increase thirst. Include vitamins and foods for infants, elderly, and persons with special dietary needs if you think you or your neighbors will need them. Include comfort/stress foods, such as cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, and tea bags. For your pets, include pet food, at least one ounce per animal pound per day. Avoid foods like rice, pasta and dry beans that require a great deal of water to prepare. Remember to restock your food once a year.

First Aid

Visit your pharmacy and get sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes, assorted sizes of safety pins, cleansing agent/soap, latex gloves (2 pairs), and sunscreen. You should have two-inch sterile gauze pads and four-inch sterile gauze pads (four to six of each size). Also get triangular bandages, three of them or more.

(continues on p.3)

August calls to the Richmond Police

Crime report for August 1-31, 2005. These entries represent calls for service, rather than reported crimes. Calls from commercial establishments are not included here, only those concerning possible crimes against persons or personal property.

Stolen vehicle

8/15 124XX San Pablo
8/16 56XX Marin
8/22 4XX McLaughlin
8/23 9XX McLaughlin
8/30 47XX Macdonald

Hit/run property damage

8/02 Solano/Amador
8/06 San Pablo/Macdonald
8/11 123XX San Pablo
8/24 52XX Edmond

Robbery

8/26 48XX Macdonald

Battery

8/03 Roosevelt/Key

Burglary from auto

8/01 10XX Ventura
8/04 6XX Humboldt
8/05 8XX Lassen
8/06 51XX Esmond
8/08 8XX Humboldt
8/11 126XX San Pablo
8/15 3XX Wilson
8/20 7XX Ventura
8/23 9XX McLaughlin

Burglary from residence

8/09 7XX Yuba
8/10 4XX Wilson
8/13 126XX San Pablo
8/23 7XX Lassen

Petty theft/stolen property

8/06 122XX San Pablo
8/07 123XX San Pablo
8/10 126XX San Pablo
8/24 50XX Garvin
8/25 49XX Macdonald

Vandalism

8/07 128XX San Pablo
8/08 4XX McLaughlin
8/10 54XX Sierra
8/21 7XX Amador

Calls related to juveniles

8/05 48XX Macdonald
8/10 7XX Kern
8/10 50XX Roosevelt
8/17 54XX Macdonald
8/29 7XX Ventura
8/25 53XX Clinton
8/25 52XX McBryde
8/30 7XX Kern

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

Contributors: Nick Despota and Andy Pasternack contributed to this issue. Crime statistics are furnished by Sergeant Austin of the RPD.

Production and Mailing: Graphics and layout by Nick Despota. Duplication keenly overseen by Rochelle Monk at the City Manager's office. Glen and Karen Stephenson handle (and handle and handle) folding and labeling.

Articles and News: Our deadline has been the 15th of the month prior to publication. However, as described on page 1, our production plans are in transition. If you have items for publication, please contact Gina at *82-232-1675, or gdm2win@aol.com, to determine the newsletter status.

ERNC Board Officers

Kathy Scharff	President
Gina Swirsding	Vice-president
Nick Despota	Secretary
Janette Russey	Treasurer
Andy Pasternack	Newsletter editor

Katrina's lesson, continued from page 2

Each home should have non-prescription drugs such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medicines, antacid, syrup of Ipecac (used to induce vomiting with the advice of a Poison Control Center), laxatives, activated charcoal (used with advice from the Poison Control Center) various roller bandages, scissors, tweezers, needle, and moistened towelettes. Antiseptic, a thermometer, tongue blades (two of them) and a tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant should be in the kit.

Tools and Supplies

It may be a while before you can use your kitchen. Stock up on paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, flashlight and extra batteries, and cash or traveler's checks, in case banks are closed in the days following an earthquake. For canned foods, you will need a non-electric can opener or a utility knife. You should have a small fire extinguisher. Also pack pliers, tape, matches in a waterproof container, aluminum foil, plastic storage containers, signal flare, paper, pencil, needles, thread, medicine dropper, and a wrench to turn off gas and water

Sanitation

One of New Orleans' harshest lessons concerned sanitation. An earthquake preparedness kit should include toilet paper, soap, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags and ties, a plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectant, household chlorine bleach, and poop bags and scooper for pet waste.

Clothing and bedding

Each member of your family should keep sturdy shoes or work boots near the bed. Packed away in your kit should be rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, warm clothing, and sunglasses.

Documents

Consider the possibility that important documentation will be lost, or that on-line access may be interrupted. Many people keep their most important documents in a bank's safe deposit box. If you don't do this, then pack away copies of your will, insurance policies, contracts deeds, and stocks and bonds. Secure passports, social security cards, immunization records, and bank account and credit numbers (and companies).

For insurance purposes, it will be highly useful to have prepared and stored an inventory of valuable household goods, and important telephone numbers. Finally, set aside family records (such as birth, marriage, and death certificates) Use waterproof plastic bags to ensure these documents are not damaged by rain or flooding — the possible result of fire hoses or broken water mains.

Remember also to include supplies to meet the special needs of family members such as a baby or an older person.

Learn more

This article covers the bases, but for more detail, visit the web site of the American Red Cross and pay attention to its earthquake planning recommendations: http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_583_,00.html.

One other thing we can all do, and should, is take the time to make sure our dwellings are in sync with the latest recommendations for retrofitting. The United States Geological Service (USGS) has extensive guidance and explanation at its web site, far too much to convey here, and well worth a visit, to <http://www.usgs.gov/>.

Lets hope we don't need this advice — while striving to follow it to the hilt.

quick-takes

continued from page 2

the while sheltering a pair of young lovers. This version premiered in 2003 at Sundance Theatre in a version that both adults and children will enjoy. The book is by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee, with music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman.

Tickets for Masquers productions can be purchased on line at www.masquers.org, or ordered by phone at 510/232-4031.

A Halloween Treat

Cap off Halloween night visit to the Self-Realization Temple, at 6401 Bernhard Ave. in Richmond. After a night trailing your child as he or she works their way up the hill, wrap up the night with a cup of hot cider and a wander through the Halloween-transformed temple. The free festivities run 6-7:30 PM, and is truly for neighbors of all ages. For more information, call 232-6652.

at the next ERNC meeting

Local measures on the November 8th ballot
ERNC board election

We have invited proponents and opponents of two local measures on the November statewide election to present their cases. The two measures are a West Contra Costa County school bond and a Richmond 1/2 cent sales tax increase.

The October meeting is also the occasion for our election of board officers for next year. Please come and give your support.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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

Monday, October 3rd, 7 PM

Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Ave.

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

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 253
RICHMOND, CA

DATED MATERIAL!
Please deliver immediately