

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

www.eastrichmond.org

Gina Swirsding, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

quick-takes

Rosie Park Up for Award

Richmond's Rosie the Riveter park is in the running for an Award for Municipal Excellence, given by the National League of Cities to identify and showcase outstanding city and town programs that improve the quality of life in America's communities.

Winners of this award exemplify excellence in city governance, best practices in municipal policy, and models to follow to improve the lives of their citizens.

Nominated programs are judged on several criteria: successful public-private partnership ventures; productive citizen and community collaborations; effective management of municipal resources (public or private); innovative government policies; project implementation with tangible results; and the ability to replicate the project in other cities.

The winners of the awards will be announced at the Congress of Cities and Exposition, to be held December 5-9 in Reno, Nevada.

Let's all wish Rosie luck.

School Board Candidate Forums schedule

The League of Women Voters, West Contra Costa Chapter, will serve as moderator and timekeeper for the forums.

Continues on page 2

October is Halloween Party Month

October is one of our favorite months in the neighborhood, thanks in no small part to two great Halloween events.

First there is the Mira Vista School Fall Festival, which will be held this year 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 28th. You don't have to pretend to be a kindergartner to get in – it is open to all. Attendees can participate in a raffle with prizes, play games for a very nominal fee, enjoy various soft drinks and snacks, visit spooky places, and get a kick out of the costumes. Hey, you're never too old for a Saturday afternoon Halloween Party. Mira Vista Elementary School is located at 6397 Hazel Ave. (intersection with Mira Vista).

If you're out trick-or-treating in the neighborhood on the evening of October 31, wrap up your wanderings at the Richmond Temple and Self-Realization Fellowship at 6401 Bernhard Ave. (telephone is 510/232-6652). Here, overlooking Wildcat Canyon on the grounds of the temple founded by followers of Paramahansa Yogananda, you'll find one serious full-tilt Halloween party, with suitably spooky exhibits, games, ghoulish (but fun) people in costumes, plus a great selection of snacks and beverages (nothing like a hot cider at the end of a night of swiping your kid's candy for a truly awesome sugar high). Bring neighbors, and have a good time.

ERNC 1st Halloween Trick-or-Treat Zone

Help Plan for the ERNC 1st Halloween Trick-or-Treat Zone. Residents in the East Richmond Area know that every year on Halloween we have to buy a lot of candy because we have loads of children who come to our neighborhood to Trick-Or-Treat. We have decided to make our streets safer for these trick-or-treaters. We are working with councilmember Tony Thurmond and Assemblywoman Loni Hancock to make the area safer by blocking off some of our streets and slowing down the traffic so parents and children can feel comfortable walking in our neighborhood. This is your opportunity to decorate your home for the kids. Please encourage the neighbors on your block to do the same and let's see which family can decorate their homes the best. We might have a contest of the best-decorated house (to be voted on by the kids).

We will be having the police cadets, Richmond fire trucks, and the police department coming to our neighborhood on that night. Some activities will also be made available for the kids.

You are invited to come to the ERNC meeting on October 2 at 7:00pm (see the location in this newsletter). Please bring your ideas and help us plan for this special event!

next meeting

See back page for agenda

quick-takes

continued from previous page

School Board Candidate Forums schedule

In the spirit of enhancing voter education and encouraging voter turnout, the League of Women Voters and the Bayside Council of PTAs will sponsor three school board candidate forums to be held at public high schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The forums will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Kennedy High School Cafeteria 4300 Cutting Blvd., Richmond

- Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Hercules High School Cafeteria 1900 Refugio Valley Rd., Hercules

- Saturday, October 28, 2006, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, De Anza High School Cafeteria Richmond.

Crime Stoppers of WCC County

Crime Stoppers will pay rewards for information leading to the solving of crimes in Western Contra Costa County. Employing a program of anonymity to those providing information, Crime Stoppers has proven to be very successful in helping local police agencies solve crimes.

Citizens can call 510/799-8255 to report information about a crime. You will remain completely anonymous.

Volunteers from various major employers, civic groups, small businesses, professions, as well as individuals from every West County community have offered support to establish Crime Stoppers of West Contra Costa.

Bugged by West Nile Virus?

The recent news that West Nile virus had taken its sixth victim in Contra Costa County reminds us that while still quite rare, the virus must be taken seriously.

As long as the weather stays warm, the mosquitoes that spread the virus keep breeding. The Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District is resuming plans to spray pesticides on targeted zones to kill the virus-carrying mosquitoes. The district has been concentrating its concern on Concord, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek where clusters of dead birds have been found.

Humans are at low risk for West Nile virus (WNV). It is primarily a viral disease of birds, transmitted by mosquitoes. It can occasionally cause meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord) in susceptible people or animals that are bitten by infected mosquitoes.

Most people who contract the virus will have few or no symptoms and will recover completely. About 1 in 150 people who contract the disease may develop serious complications. Elderly people are more at risk of these complications. There is currently no vaccine or specific treatment available. If you think you or a family member may have West Nile virus please contact your physician.

Horses and pet birds are susceptible to WNV. Dogs and cats appear to be resistant to the virus unless they already have weakened immune systems due to another illness.

There are a few things we can all do in response to the virus' threat. **First**, report dead birds (to 1-877/WNV-BIRD). Certain birds, especially crows, ravens, jays, hawks, owls and sparrows/finches are highly susceptible to West Nile virus. Frequently dead birds are the first indication of virus transmission in a particular area. **Second**, clean up any standing water on your property that might breed mosquitoes (unkept pools/spas, buckets, old tires, clogged gutters etc.) And **third**, if you live in area with mosquitoes, avoid them. Keep window and door screens in good repair. Avoid being outside around dusk when mosquitoes are active. If you need to be outside, wear long sleeves and pants and use an insect repellent

For more information on WNV, visit <http://www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us/wnv.htm>.

In Memoriam of R. Braxton-Samuels

We note with sadness the recent death of Ramona Braxton-Samuels, who is widely credited with leading the effort to revitalize downtown Richmond. Samuels was the executive director of Richmond Main Street, a nonprofit group that seeks to turn the city's downtown into a pedestrian-friendly business district with boutiques, cafes and restaurants.

Working with the city's redevelopment agency and other community members, Samuels was a vital part of the effort to reclaim the area. The Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission recognized Samuels with an award for her work in 2005.

Besides organizing cultural events, Samuels took steps to prevent crime through neighborhood cleanups, garden plantings, graffiti removal and aid for small businesses to discourage shoplifting and loitering.

A Ramona Braxton-Samuels Memorial Fund has been established by Mechanics Bank, Hilltop branch. For details, call 510/262-7251.

contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, www.eastrichmond.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 Joe Avila 621-1212 ex 7115

e-mail javila@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 321-3010

CalTrans 925-926-6112

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.

quick-takes

continued from previous page

ERNC Yearly Elections

Every year we ask for volunteers to be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please come to the October meeting and vote.

We send out over 300 copies of our newsletter plus people visit the web site, when the Police Chief came we had about 85 people to meet him. Normally we see about 20 to 30 people at our monthly meetings.

Calls for service to the Richmond Police

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

Suspicious person 19

Suspicious vehicle 13

Abandoned auto 11

Recovered stolen vehicle 3

Vehicle tampering 1

Disturbance 19

911 Disconnect 12

Dogs 1

Dumping 1

Stolen vehicle 6

8/2 7XX Lassen

8/3 6XX Amador

8/4 9XX Humboldt

8/8 53XX Sierra

8/21 124XX San Pablo

8/24 9XX Kern

Battery

8/4 5XX McLaughlin

8/9 8XX Kern

8/11 125XX San Pablo

8/22 6XX McLaughlin

8/25 1 80 / San Pablo

Burglary from auto

8/2 52XX McBryde

8/14 5XX Key

8/14 52XX Esmond

8/17 7XX Kern

8/24 124XX San Pablo

8/29 7XX Amador

8/30 52XX Esmond

Burglary from Residence

8/6 6XX McLaughlin

8/31 9XX McLaughlin

Petty theft/stolen property

8/6 Macdonald / San Pablo

8/7 Amador / Zara

Calls related to Juveniles

8/1 9XX Kern

8/30 9XX McLaughlin

Hit/Run Property Damage

8/16 53XX Barrett

Vandalism

8/8 124XX San Pablo

Shots fired

8/9 10XX Ventura

Shooting at occupied dwelling

8/26 McBryde / Ventura

Person w/ gun

8/2 Garvin / San Pablo

City's New Web Site Gets Your Message

Do you know about the City of Richmond's COR Connect system? It's a web-based service that allows you to send a message to the appropriate department within the City of Richmond to let them know about your questions, complaints, compliments, or concerns. A neighbor told us she has submitted a question about code enforcement via the system, and received an email reply from a police officer within a day. Don't know about you, but that seems pretty quick to us.

A surprising number of departments can be contacted via COR Connect: Abatement, Building, City Attorney's Office, City Clerk's Office, City Council, City Policies, Code Enforcement, Communications, Community Center, Finance, General Inquiries, Information Technology, Parks, Planning General Information, Police Services, Public Hearings (Planning), Public Records Requests, Public Works, Requests, Richmond Housing Authority, Traffic and Transportation, and Zoning and Land Use. The COR system can be found at:

<https://clients.comcate.com/feedback.php?id=18>.

quick-takes

continued from previous page

Web Site Tracks Richmond Over Time

Camilo Jose Vegara is an artist and photographer with a thing for two cities: Camden, New Jersey, and Richmond, California. What the cities have in common are formerly glorious industrial pasts and impassioned advocates for crafting a new urban personality. His goal is to capture these cities before redevelopment erases vestiges of their former (current) selves.

If you think it would be interesting to see our city through the lens of an artist from outside our frame of reference (we think that's kind of interesting), visit

<http://invinciblecities.camden.rutgers.edu/intro.html>.

Richmond's Walking Tours Kick Off

A new series of walking tours in Richmond focus on Macdonald Ave. and provide a chance to learn about aspects of the avenue's history, and an opportunity to share your own experiences. The tours are part of the "Memories of Macdonald" community history project being developed by the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park and other community groups.

The tours will focus on the Main St. area of Macdonald Ave. between Eighth and 16th streets, and the goal is to capture more than just the World War II era.

The tour sponsors want to hear from war workers, to get a picture of Saturday night life, the movies, and the changes that took place during and after World War II. They are interested in the protests and civil rights struggles of the 1950s and '60s and the effects of redevelopment. And they want to hear from people who just moved in last month.

The first set of tours was held September 24, and continue again on October 7. Tour spaces are limited, so anyone interested in participating should call 510/232-1547 to reserve a place.

Tours start at the offices of the Richmond Main Street Initiative at 1000 Macdonald Ave., Suite C. Light refreshments will be served.

To learn more about Memories of Macdonald or to share a memory, contact the project by e-mail at macdonaldmemories@yahoo.com.

Healthy Homes, Gardens and Creeks

The City of El Cerrito Department of Public Works in partnership with the Watershed Project is presenting a five-part workshop series on environmentally-friendly gardening and cleaning practices. The workshops are free but require pre-registration. Sign up for as many as you like – and no prerequisites required. All workshops will be held at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

Bay-Friendly Gardening, Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane

Healthy Homes, Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

Bay-Friendly Gardening for Wildlife, Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Gardening for Creekside Residents, Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bay-Friendly Gardening to Manage Pests Naturally, Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For more information or to register call 510-665-3546 or visit www.thewatershedproject.org.

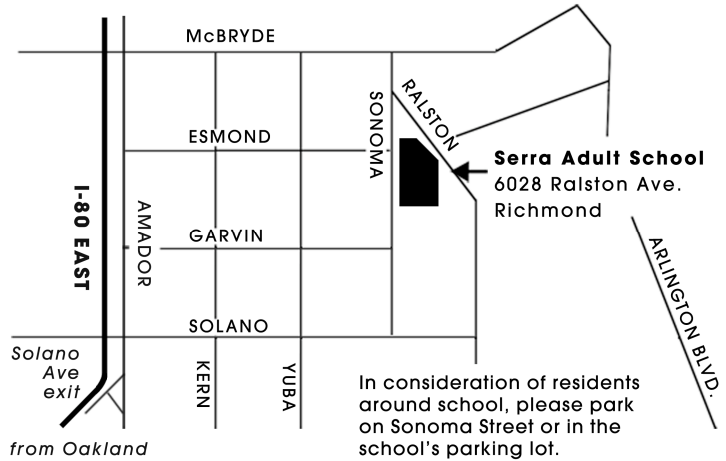
at the next ERNC meeting

**ERNC yearly voting and
City Councilman Tony Thurmond**

City Councilman Tony Thurmond will be at our meeting to talk about violence in our city.

We also have 4 elected positions to vote for. Please come and vote.

Halloween is an evening for all, discussing how to make it safer for our neighbors and the children is also on the calendar.



Monday, October 2, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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Richmond, CA 94808

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