

Views

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

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

quick-takes

Meeting Schedule

The September 2008 issue had the wrong month and date of the September meeting. I use a template that I am supposed to update each month. I missed an important date change because the September meeting is never the first Monday of the month due to the holiday; it is always the second Monday.

Each issue is sent to arrive before the next meeting, there are ten meetings per year. There is no meeting in January, and either July or August as we ask the Serra School in advance for access in August and plan our schedule around theirs.

Brooks Island

Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 AM to 3 PM

"Bring Your Own Boat": Paddle the rising tide across the Richmond Harbor Channel to Brooks Island. Explore the island's history. This is for experienced boaters who can provide their own kayak and safety gear. Parent participation required. (14+yrs), Fee \$20, non res. \$22.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 11 AM to 4 PM

This trip is a short paddle in stable, double kayaks across sheltered bay water with spectacular views of San Francisco. Paddle along Brooks Island's preserved shoreline then enjoy a guided, 2-mile hike around the island. (14+yrs) Registration required 888/327-2757, option 2, 3 Fee: \$85 non-res. \$95

A Public Meeting for McBryde and I-80

Cal-Trans has developed a plan to relieve congestion and improve safety on I-80 between McBryde and San Pablo Avenue. It involves closing the McBryde off ramp, having those vehicles exit at San Pablo Dam Road exit, building a one way frontage road from San Pablo Dam Rd. to McBryde Avenue to relieve the San Pablo Dam Road on ramp traffic and the McBryde off ramp traffic from slowing down the freeway.

It also specifies a rebuilding of the pedestrian overpass adjacent to the Riverside Elementary School, moving the El Portal west bound on ramp closer to the actual El Portal overpass and lane changes to the San Pablo Dam overpass, as well as a realignment of the Amador – San Pablo Dam Road intersection.

For more information, go to <http://www.richmond-heights.org/#offramp>

A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING will be held to describe the plan in more detail: Oct. 2nd, 6:30 PM. Riverside Elementary School, 1300 Amador St.

For a full report of the plan (with its two options) go to <http://www.ci.san-pablo.ca.us/main/documents/ProjectWriteupforWebPage12-27-07FINAL.pdf>

City Receives Award for Financial RPT

Each year, the City prepares its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The purpose of the CAFR is to provide information on the City's financial performance for the past fiscal year, and is presented in three sections: The Introductory Section contains information about the organizational structure of the City, and the profile of the City. The Financial Section is prepared in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and includes the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Basic Financial Statements, Notes to the Financial Statements, and certain required supplementary information. Also included in this section is the Independent Auditor's Report. The Statistical Section includes ten years of summary financial data, debt computations and a variety of demographic, economic and social information about the City.

For the second year in a row, the City has received the Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for the CAFR for the year ending June 30, 2007. This award is recognition for the City's success in preparing a high quality CAFR and can be viewed as a positive factor by credit rating agencies and by others to the professionalism of the City's financial management function.

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

next meeting

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Home Front festival by the bay

October 3, 4, & 5 free admission. Join us for the second annual celebration of Richmond's special role in the history of modern America! The City of Richmond, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park are teaming up again to bring you: Great music & entertainment, USO dance, local food specialties, carnival, kids' play activities, tours and exhibits about the WWII Home Front, vintage car show, YMCA Fun Run/Walk.

For an up to date list of events and attractions that's growing by the day check with

<http://www.homefrontfestival.com/sched.htm> .

Candidates Night

A Candidates Night will be held at the Recreation Complex in the Community Room, 3230 Macdonald Ave. on Thursday, October 16th at 7:00 P.M.

Please come and listen to the questions presented to the candidates and the answers each candidate has to offer. Learn about the people who are asking for your vote.

React Training

Will be at the Parchester Community Center,
900 Williams Drive, Richmond, CA
Class 1: October 13, 6:30-9:00 pm
Class 2: October 14, 6:30-9:00 pm
Class 3: October 15, 6:30-9:00 pm
Class 4: October 16, 6:30-9:00 pm
Class 5: October 18, 9:00-11:30 am
Final Exercise: October 25, 2008
from 8:00am until 2:00 pm at 3506 Cutting Blvd.(the fire training center)
Catherine Selkirk 510/307-8031

Richmond YouthWORKS Program

Revived three years ago, the City's summer youth employment program has placed 515 teenagers and young adults between the ages of 15 and 21 into work sites this year. They typically earn \$8.25 per hour.

The program hopefully helps youth learn job skills and gives them positive life experiences that they can carry with them.

The City is working on plans for the future. Hopefully the businesses of Richmond can help make this program work for them as well as for the young people of Richmond that will be our future.

More West Nile Virus in Our County

The City of Richmond frequently receives information from the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (the District), and often receives inquiries from residents, regarding the West Nile virus. Recently the District reported nine dead birds, one group of mosquitoes, and two squirrels that have tested positive for West Nile virus, with Antioch, Oakley, and Brentwood remaining high risk areas for West Nile virus infection.

In Contra Costa County to date (mid August when reported), 36 dead birds, 15 groups of mosquitoes, and five squirrels have tested positive for West Nile virus. Twenty-six of those birds, 11 of the mosquito samples and all five squirrels have been from Antioch. So far, no human cases have been reported.

The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District has an excellent web site at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us which provides information on their programs, including those dealing with West Nile virus.

Residential Lateral Repair Program

The City of Richmond Engineering Department administers a program to provide financial assistance to owner occupied residential properties who undertake sewer lateral repairs in a specific part of Richmond. The purpose of the program is to encourage property owners to make such repairs, which has a beneficial impact on the City's sewer system by reducing infiltration of non sewage water, such as storm water that over taxes the system causing overflow into the bay. In administering the program, however, Engineering Department staff has recently noticed some very high sewer lateral repair invoices being submitted to property owners. As a result, the Department will increase its public information on this issue to make sure that residents are getting a fair deal from contractors.

Their intent is to advise property owners that: The contractor should be licensed and bonded, the average lateral repair costs are between \$3,500 and \$6,000 including the installation of a 2-way clean out and a backflow prevention device. It is advisable to get a minimum of three bids for the work.

On the whole, the program is successful in encouraging sewer lateral repairs, with the city nearly already reaching this fiscal year's \$100,000 limit for the grant program.

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 Tim Gard 621-1212 ex 7099
e-mail 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
Graffiti 231-3031
CalTrans 925/926-6112

Report abatement issues

Auto on Private land 621-1278
Auto on Public land 620-6644
Alma Munguia 621-1569
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 least the first week of the month before. Just e-mail the editor at 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.

Arson

8/01 9XX Kern

Burglary from auto

8/01 9XX Yuba
8/13 6XX McLaughlin

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	43
Suspicious vehicle	20
Abandoned auto	6
Recovered stolen vehicle	6
Vehicle tampering	none
Disturbance	44
911 Disconnect	6
Dogs	none
Dumping	3
Stolen vehicle	15

8/01	55XX Garvin
8/01	7XX McLaughlin
8/03	9XX Lassen
8/04	4XX 46th
8/07	128XX San Pablo
8/08	4XX Key
8/09	52XX Solano
8/09	127XX San Pablo
8/11	124XX San Pablo
8/12	124XX San Pablo
8/15	6XX Humboldt
8/22	7XX Humboldt
8/23	8XX Sonoma
8/31	8XX Sonoma
8/31	McBryde / San Pablo

Burglary from residence

8/05	50XX Clinton
8/08	7XX Amador
8/09	7XX Amador
8/18	7XX Amador
8/21	4XX Dimm

Vandalism

8/03	Macdonald / San Pablo
8/11	54XX Esmond
8/11	55XX Esmond
8/18	Macdonald / San Pablo
8/27	123XX San Pablo

Hit/Run property damage

8/12	127XX San Pablo
8/22	Barrett / San Pablo
8/24	49XX Macdonald
8/26	Macdonald / San Pablo

Hold up alarm

8/29 126XX San Pablo

Robbery

8/01 Macdonald / San Pablo
8/26 126XX San Pablo

Petty theft / stolen property

8/08 7XX Lassen
8/08 7XX Lassen
8/09 123XX San Pablo
8/11 55XX Esmond
8/13 49XX Macdonald
8/13 124XX San Pablo
8/15 125XX San Pablo
8/24 52XX Esmond
8/31 7XX Kern

Car jacking

8/14 22XX Key
8/22 10XX Ventura

Battery

8/02 10XX McLaughlin
8/03 6XX Ventura
8/10 8XX Sonoma
8/12 McBryde / Yuba
8/27 10XX Lassen
8/29 Macdonald / San Pablo

Assault w/ deadly weapon

8/31 8XX Yuba

Rape

8/15 McBryde / San Pablo

Person w/ a gun

8/19 McBryde / San Pablo

Shots fired

8/09 55XX Esmond
8/11 8XX McLaughlin
8/13 6XX Humboldt
8/31 9XX Kern

Shooting at occupied dwelling

8/23 123XX San Pablo

Shooting of a person reported

8/15 125XX San Pablo

Calls related to juveniles

8/20 7XX Humboldt
8/22 54XX Esmond
8/27 Barrett / McLaughlin
8/28 7XX Humboldt

quick-takes

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Parents Learning Together

Early Childhood is expanding its support groups for Spanish speaking parents. The popular Familias Seguras group for mothers, beginning its fourth year, welcomes mothers of children under six, including mothers whose children are on their waiting list.

For fathers wishing a better relationship with their children, they are offering Ser Papa. Fathers may enroll for a 12 week session and re-enroll if needed. This group is funded by Y&H Soda Foundation.

Recently opened is Ser Mama for Spanish speaking mothers of toddlers at the Coronado YMCA.

Avoiding Preschool Expulsions

Preschool children are three times as likely to be expelled as students in elementary or middle schools according to a Yale study. Early Childhood started dealing with this problem in 1981.

This service called Child Care Solutions works with the parents and the provider to collaborate in the best interests of the child. This service is supported by First 5 Contra Costa and is free to both parties.

Preview Landfill Bay Trail

Saturday, Oct 18, 9 AM to Noon

The planned three mile loop between Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks which few would imagine exists on San Pablo Bay in Richmond. Although only half of this trail has been completed and opened to the public, West County Landfill is giving Greenbelt Alliance a special opportunity to walk the entire three-mile loop. [Register with Greenbelt Alliance](#). Heavy rain cancels.

Sales Tax Reporting Compliance Program

The City of Richmond will be participating in the State Board of Equalization's Statewide Compliance and Outreach Program (SCOP). SCOP focuses on identifying and registering business that are operating without the proper licenses.

The goal of SCOP is to ensure that all businesses are properly registered and reporting their taxes and fees. To achieve this goal, SCOP advises business owners about when they need a seller's permit and how to report and remit their taxes due. SCOP will monitor the ongoing compliance of newly registered businesses, reduce the number of businesses operating without a valid seller's permit or business license, and enhance the awareness of businesses on the consequences of tax evasion.

The SCOP teams will conduct door-to-door visits based on zip code. At each visit, SCOP specialists will:

Identify themselves and show identification, check for a business license and other required fee permits and licenses, review license/permit to verify that it is updated with the correct information, review if the business is reporting its sales and use taxes properly, provide information and assistance to the business owner on sales and use tax reporting responsibilities, and answer owner's questions.

If the SCOP specialists find that a business is reporting its taxes incorrectly, they will advise the business to file amended returns, including filing a Claim for Refund if the business has overpaid taxes. In some instances, the businesses may be referred for an audit. The Business License division of the Finance Department will be working closely with the SCOP team; as the SCOP team completes each area, they will provide a report to the City which lists all unlicensed businesses.

Rivets Premiers October 9th

The story of WW 2 Bay Area history on the SS Red Oak Victory ship on site of the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards.

A new musical based on Rosie the Riveter, Richmond's Kaiser Shipyards and the "Homefront Soldiers" Produced by Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre. Books & Lyrics by Kathryn G. McCarty, Musical Score by Mitchell Covington, Directed by Clay David, Musical Direction by Scott Myers.

WHERE: Onboard the SS Red Oak Victory, 1337 Canal Blvd., Berth 6A, Richmond, CA 94804. For information www.ssredoakvictory.com

WHEN: Thursdays - Sundays, October 9 – October 26, 2008.

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - 8 p.m., Sundays - 3 p.m.

Tickets: Box Office 925/676-5705 or galateanplayers.com.

\$20 General Admission. Rosies, WW 2 Veterans and Uniformed Soldiers Free, \$2 discount with donation for Blue Star Mom's Holiday Care Packages for Soldiers or canned food for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

"The show's characters are fictional," McCarty explains, "but the story is based on a decade of historical research. Henry J. Kaiser's Shipyards produced the ships that helped America win WW 2, and changed our country forever."

Please note that access to the ship requires walking up a steep ramp and the ability to climb stairs.

From Police Chief Magnus

Traffic Safety Checkpoint: On Monday, August 25th, RPD's Traffic Unit conducted a Traffic Safety Checkpoint for 2½ hours on 23rd St. at Downer. All guidelines specified by applicable state and federal courts were followed. The purpose of the checkpoints is to deter driving without a license or on a suspended/revoked license, as well as to assure vehicles on Richmond streets are properly registered and insured. It is worth noting that two recent hit and run accidents resulting in injuries to Richmond City employees (one of our motorcycle officers and a Public Works employee) both are believed to involve unlicensed drivers. While going through the checkpoint, motorists are also provided with educational information (in both English and Spanish) regarding the "rules of the road" and how to properly obtain a license.

1,072 cars passed through the checkpoint—many others intentionally avoided it.

18 automobiles were impounded (as always, exceptions are made under special circumstances for humanitarian reasons)

25 enforcement stops were conducted for California Vehicle Code violations and 25 traffic citations were issued.

One arrest was made for an outstanding \$0.00 bail warrant.

RPD works with San Pablo Avenue Businesses: On Monday, August 25, 2008, RPD Crime Prevention Specialist Michelle Milam and Beat 7 Sgt. Lori Curran met with a group of San Pablo Avenue Merchants interested in starting a San Pablo Avenue Merchant's Association which will include a "Business Watch." RPD personnel spoke at length with the business owners about the recent robberies on San Pablo Avenue and what they could do to protect themselves. Some of the other issues discussed included:

Loitering – Many of the business owners are worried about habitual loiterers that hang out in our around parking lots, and alleys

Security – There is an interest in getting CEPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Training) set up for businesses and to have RPD review security systems

Robberies – What to do in the event of a robbery as well as crime prevention techniques

Supporting a growing business community and developing an active business association

Hotels and gas stations that are frequent targets of loitering activity

PD response time and contacting Dispatch

How to file a Letter of Trespass

The next meeting will be October 22nd 11:00 a.m. at a location to be announced.

Friday, August 22, 2008, 2:00 p.m., 2800 block of Carlson Blvd.--Officer Loucas arrived in the 2800 block of Carlson Blvd. on the report of subjects disassembling vehicles and parking them in the neighborhood. The reporting person said the subjects were changing license plates around on different vehicles. They further indicated that one of the vehicles belonging to the subjects was parked in the 5800 block of Van Fleet Ave. Upon arrival, Officer Loucas located a stolen vehicle at this location.

As Officer Loucas approached a residence in the 2800 block of Carlson Blvd. he noticed several vehicle parts along the north side of the garage. Officer Loucas made contact with the suspect and found a set of keys in his possession which fit the stolen vehicle on Van Fleet Ave. The suspect was arrested for vehicle theft. Based on the numerous vehicles in the area and vehicle parts on the property, it was determined that this address could be a possible Chop Shop for stolen vehicles. Lieutenant Pickett was notified. Sgt. Silva and Detective Vegas arrived for further investigation and a possible search warrant.

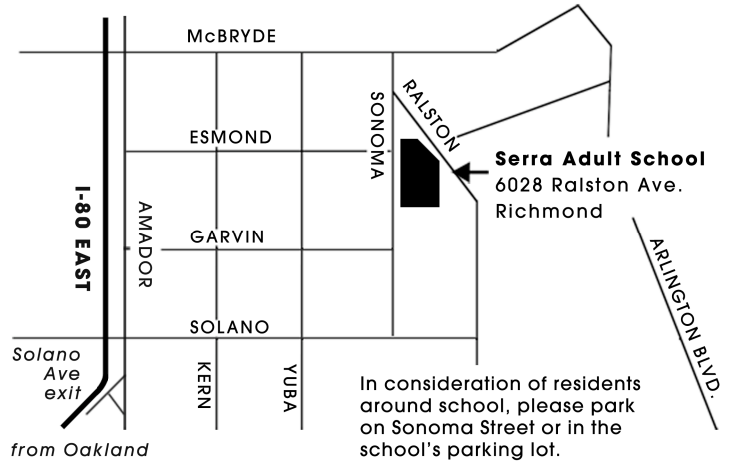
Monday, August 25, 2008, 2:25 p.m., 100 block of Carlson Blvd.—a person called to report a burglary in progress at 120 Carlson Blvd. Two male suspects had pulled their pick-up truck into the garage and were loading the appliances into it when the officers arrived. The suspects considered jumping from a second floor window, but then surrendered when they realized the house was surrounded. They admitted to the burglary and are well known Sims Metal customers. Sergeant Silva responded to the scene.

at the next RHNC meeting

Point Molate will be discussed

From our April meeting continued discussion about Point Molate.

James D. Levine from Upstream Development will give a presentation of their vision for Point Molate.



Monday, October 6th, 7 PM
Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Avenue

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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Richmond, CA 94808

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