

Views

East Richmond Neighborhood Council

Visit us at www.eastrichmond.org

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

quick-takes

A Delightful Equation

The WCCUSD Education Fund presents "A Delightful Equation," a fundraising dinner on Sunday, September 18, at The Hotel Mac, 50 Washington Ave., Point Richmond. Attendees will be served a three-course meal, and raffle prizes will be awarded. The cost of this event to benefit WCCUSD schools is \$25 per person. It is recommended that dinner reservations be made between 6 PM to 8 PM. For reservations call 233-0576 and please mention The Ed. Fund. For more information call The Ed. Fund at 233-1464.

Eating for Posterity

Here's an easy way to support the Richmond Museum of History. On Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m., a Spaghetti Feed will be held at Veteran's Hall, 968 23rd Street in Richmond. The cost is \$20 for museum members and \$25 for non-members. To make reservations, or for more information, call 235-7387.

Pizza for Education

Still on the topic of food: if you love pizza, don't mind driving to El Cerrito, and want to support Mira Vista Elementary School, this plan is for you. Pizza Roma, in the Moeser Safeway shopping center, is the site of an ongoing fundraising activity for our local elementary school. Every second Friday of the month, participants can eat in or carry out with 25 percent of their purchase being returned to the Mira Vista PTA. Let them know you are from Mira Vista School, and enjoy your slice.

Music Festival

Jazz, blues, bluegrass, Latin, gospel, hip hop, jug bands – you can hear it all at the 2005 Point Richmond Day Long Summer Music Festival on Saturday, September 10, starting at 11:30 a.m. A dozen different acts will perform, in tandem with an art fair featuring 50 articles, a classic car show, and activities for kids and families. For more information, visit <http://www.pointrichmond.com/prmusic/> or send an e-mail to andrew.butt@intres.com.

(continues on p.2)

Get on Board

ERNC Board Elections in October

"A community is like a ship," wrote the playwright Henrik Ibsen. "Everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." As the ERNC approaches its annual election of officers at the October meeting, we're seeking a few good men and women to help steer this ship.

The term of office for each board member is one year. Every position, therefore, is open, regardless of whether an officer intends to run again for that office. Our bylaws state that no officer may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office.

Of our five current board members, Gina Swirsding (currently vice-president) has volunteered to serve again. Andy Pasternack, our newsletter editor, is also willing to continue writing Views articles. However, there will be a major gap in the process that could interrupt production of the newsletter. Nick Despota, who has handled production and distribution of this newsletter for more than a decade, has chosen not to be a candidate for the board this year. (See accompanying article, page 2.)

We are a small community with great ambitions for our neighborhood council, but to achieve those ambitions the ERNC needs your help. If you believe the maxim of think globally, act locally, then your time has come.

The ERNC has been a force for responsible development and planning in our neighborhood. Just in the last few years, the ERNC helped prevent development of a gas station and convenience store at the corner of Barrett and San Pablo. We worked with the Richmond Police to limit sales of "high octane" alcohol products when local liquor stores applied for re-licensing. We helped keep open Mira Vista Elementary School when the board of education wanted it shuttered.

We mention these reminders to urge you to consider volunteering for the ERNC board. To learn more about what this entails, please read on. You should also attend the

(continues on p.3)

Are You Prepared for West Nile Virus?

It wasn't as glamorous as The Mummy II, but West Nile virus made its debut in Contra Costa County last year. This year, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) continues to fight against the spread of this mosquito-borne disease. Working together with homeowners and the community, the District is committed to reducing the risk of contracting the disease that has now affected the health of several California residents and the death of several horses.

Experts predict that Northern California will be the focus for West Nile virus this year. West Nile Virus (WNV) is a viral infection of birds that is spread from bird to bird by mosquitoes. Humans, horses, and other animals can become infected with the virus when infected mosquitoes bite them.

Some people infected with West Nile virus may develop West Nile fever. The symptoms may range from mild to severe flu-like symptoms such as headache and fever to a polio-like illness that includes partial paralysis. Anyone can contract the disease, but persons over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious illness from West Nile virus.

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District has been protecting public health for nearly 80 years. This year it has doubled its workforce and tripled its education personnel to combat West Nile virus; however, every resident plays a crucial part in helping to reduce their risk of contracting WNV by not breeding mosquitoes in their yards. Backyards are the number one source of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County.

(continues on p.3)

next meeting

Monday, September 12th. 7 PM. Serra Adult School. See back page for agenda.

quick-takes

continued from page 1

A Night at the Theater

The play *Enchanted April* is running until October 1 at the venerable Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. This romantic comedy about two repressed London housewives and two other eccentric female housemates who rent a villa in the Italian countryside was written by Matthew Barber, from Elizabeth von Arnim's 1922 novel, and is being directed by Arthur Atlas. Tickets for Masquers productions can be purchased on line at www.masquers.org, or ordered by phone at 232-4031.

Program for Adult College Education

Pace is a program at Contra Costa College designed especially for adult learners. Through this program, working adults and those with family responsibilities who don't have the time to attend daily classes are able to enroll in college as full-time degree students. Enrollees can earn an Associates degree in two and one-half to three years, with a liberal studies major that is transferable to four-year colleges and universities at the level of a junior. For more information, contact the program coordinator, Lee Brelie, at (510) 235-7800, ext. 4332, or send an e-mail to pace@contracosta.edu.

East Bay Center for Performing Arts

Fall classes in an astonishing variety of areas begin at the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, September 23, running through December 9th. There are classes for children, teens, and adults, in music, singing, dance, and performing arts. For more information, call 234-5624, x-17, or visit www.eastbaycenter.org.

Wearable Masterpieces

Dress: Clothing as Art is the Richmond Art Center's first exhibition curated by new Exhibitions Director Anuradha Vikram. The show, starting early in September, presents a culturally diverse group of artists, for whom clothing is not merely something that drapes our physiques but is a statement in and of itself. Every day, each of us creates and projects an image of a self we wish to show the world, and each day we exhibit it to everyone we encounter. For this exhibition, visitors are asked to bring old clothes with some sentimental value for use in an installation that runs concurrently with the show. Artists working within the exhibition space during Saturday gallery hours will also invite collaboration in the creation of functional clothing artworks. For more information, visit <http://www.therichmondartcenter.org> or call 510/6206772.

WANTED: Newsletter Publisher

By Nick Despota

For more than a decade I've held the best job in East Richmond. True, the salary wasn't great but other forms of compensation have more than made up for the wage gap.

Producing this newsletter gave me the opportunity to engage with hundreds of people reflecting a wide spectrum of interests and specialties: public health advocates, real estate developers, city planners, artists, police officers, environmental activists, elected officials — and, of course, you, my neighbors.

Voluntary or not, newsletters are a whirlwind of schedules and deadlines. Producing and distributing a well-written, visually attractive newsletter that arrives in your mailbox 10 months a year, several days in advance of the ERNC general meeting, come hell or high water or City budget crisis — at times that is an intense job.

However, as a long-time community activist for our city and neighborhood, I have other commitments to which I want to give equal time. Thus, I'm ready to give someone else a chance to run the most powerful monthly newsletter in East Richmond.

My skills and interests are not unique. Some of you reading this are proficient in desktop publishing, have the necessary tools, and — given the commitment to the goals of a neighborhood organization — can make the time. What's more, Views production is *not* a one-man operation. As noted in our lead article, *Get On Board*, Andy Pasternack contributes insightful articles each month, and has volunteered to continue this fine work.

But publishing the newsletter entails more than the writing and graphics production. There is a mailing list that needs routine attention — no more than a few minutes a month. Then there's a bit of shlepping: bring the master to City Hall for duplication, pick-up the duplicated newsletters, deliver them to another volunteer for folding and labeling, and finally bring them to the post office. Within this broad scheme you will uncover details both sacred and profane — for instance, no journalistic forays into local politics, sort the newsletters by ZIP code. But that essentially is the drill.

(continues on p.3)

June - July calls to the Richmond Police

Crime report for June 1 – July 31, 2005. These entries represent calls for service, rather than reported crimes. Note that this shows *two months* of activity. Calls from commercial establishments are not included here, only those concerning possible crimes against persons or personal property.

Abandoned auto

15 occurrences (June)
8 occurrences (July)

Stolen vehicle

06/24 Doremus/Yuba
06/24 55XX Solano
06/26 6XX Humboldt
07/04 6XX Key
07/15 7XX Kern
07/22 4XX McLaughlin
07/28 53XX McBryde
07/29 6XX Amador
07/31 4XX McLaughlin

Hit/run property damage

06/11 54XX Solano
06/30 7XX Amador

Robbery

07/21 6XX Yuba

Grand theft

06/27 4XX Mount

Burglary from auto

06/15 57XX Hazel
06/17 6XX Kern
07/21 55XX Sierra
07/26 48XX Bissell

Burglary from residence

06/09 6XX McLaughlin
06/29 55XX Sierra
07/11 63XX McBryde
07/13 4XX Wilson

Petty theft/stolen property

06/07 15XX Nevin
06/14 4XX Dimm
06/27 55XX Solano
07/22 8XX Yuba

Vandalism

3 occurrences (June)
6 occurrences (July)

Calls related to juveniles

06/21 Wilson/Nevin
06/25 6XX McLaughlin

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 shepherded by Rochelle Monk at the City Manager's office. Glen and Karen Stephenson handle folding and labeling.

Articles and News: The ERNC newsletter is a great way to publicize your neighborhood event. Our deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. We will make every effort to include your information. Contact Andy at 233-6673 or via e-mail at levinack@hotmail.com.

ERNC Board Officers

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

Get on Board, continued from page 1

next meeting of the ERNC meeting or call Nick at 237-2036.

The ERNC board is comprised of five officers. Gina Swirsding has said she is willing to run for president. Here are brief descriptions of the responsibilities of each office:

The President presides at the monthly general meetings and at board meetings. With input of other board members, he or she sets the agendas for these meetings. The President is also responsible for communication with other private and public agencies.

The Vice President performs the duties of President in his or her absence. In recent years the Vice President has also arranged for guest speakers at the general meetings.

The Secretary composes and transmits any correspondence with other organizations, as directed by the President, keeps copies of the bylaws and other records.

The Treasurer is responsible for the funds of the organization. He or she receives donations, gives receipts, writes checks with the approval of the board, maintains our financial records, and regularly reports our funds balance to the membership.

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for the publication, no less than 6 times a year, of a newsletter. (See accompanying article.) Because of the complexities of this task, responsibilities are usually shared by several people, including people not on the board.

In addition to these 5 positions, the board also appoints two of its member to serve as its representative at monthly meetings of the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, one of whom is an alternate in the event that the other is unable to attend.

We often receive accolades from residents in and outside of our neighborhood. They thank us for our involvement in whatever issue they deemed important at the time.

In the end, however, what's most important is this: residents who have interests in common need a forum through which they can formulate and express those interests. That forum doesn't spontaneously pop-up when the need arises. It must be maintained.

The same handful of people can not, should not, be counted on to do that maintenance. If you appreciate what we've done in the past, if you have ideas on how it can be done better, or if you simply have a sense that now it's your turn — please get on board.

WANTED, continued from page 1

If you are feeling a tingle of interest, you had better examine yourself for the five warning signs:

1. Do you have the ability and tools to lay out text and graphics on a computer, achieving a clean, coherent page design?
2. Are you a person who can set and keep deadlines?
3. Do you have e-mail?
4. Can you take suggestions and direction from other board members?
5. Most importantly, can you carve out of your schedule the time for this valuable contribution to the quality of life in our community?

If you've answered yes (or even maybe) to these questions, please call me at 237-2036. I've got a great deal for you. I can help you with templates suited to your software. Andy or I can give you support and technical pointers, and in no time at all, you can be the William Randolph Hearst of East Richmond.

West Nile Virus, continued from page 1

Here's what you need to do to "fight the bite":

Remove standing water on your property. Hundreds of mosquitoes can breed in just tablespoons of water. They can breed in anything that holds standing water for more than a couple of days, such as un-maintained swimming pools, backyard ornamental ponds, discarded tires, clogged rain gutters, pool and boat covers, flower pots, toys, etc

Report dead birds. Toll free number: 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds is important information for mosquito control efforts

Repair window and door screens.

Wear long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are present

Use a repellent containing the ingredient DEET.

Vaccinate horses. Nearly half of the horses that contract WNV die or are put down

Visit the District to obtain FREE mosquitofish for backyard ponds and horse troughs. Mosquitofish eat up to 500 larvae each day.

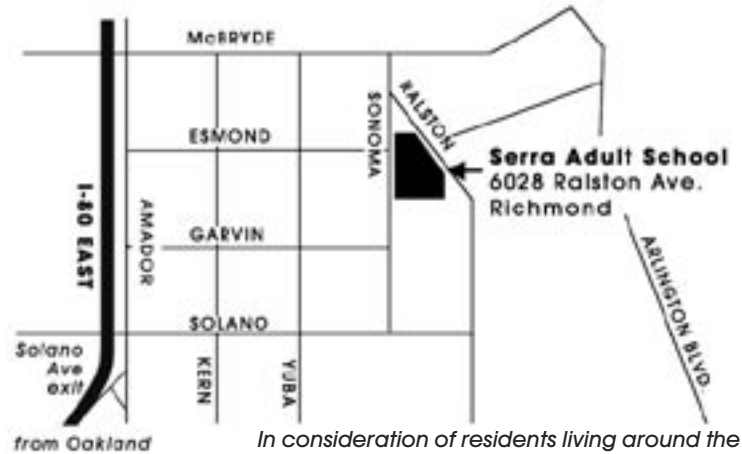
at the next ERNC meeting

Controlling the spread of West Nile Virus

Do you know how to fight the spread of the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus? At our next meeting a representative of the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District, Lucy Perez, will give you the facts and describe the precautions.

Backyards are the number one source of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County, so you have an important role to play in preventing serious illness and even death from this disease.

Please be sure to attend and learn what you need to know to protect you and your neighbors.



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

Monday, September 12th, 7 PM

Serra Adult School
6028 Ralston Ave.

Go to our website, www.eastrichmond.org, to download a flyer about this presentation that you can distribute to your neighbors.

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL
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