

# Views

## Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council

Visit us at [www.richmond-heights.org](http://www.richmond-heights.org) Jovanka Beckles, President • P.O. Box 5253 • Richmond, CA 94805

### quick-takes

#### Elections in October

In September we need to ask people to ask neighbors to come to the October meeting to select and vote for the officers for next year.

#### Mobile Collection of Household Hazardous Waste

This Free pickup service is available to residents who are disabled or are age 60 or older residing in the cities of El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, Hercules, Pinole or El Sobrante. For an appointment call 888/412-9277

#### Household Hazardous Waste

The West County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is open Thursdays, Fridays and the first Saturday of every month from 9am-4pm (closed 12-12:30 for lunch). NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED! For more info call 888/412-9277.

They also accept expired/surplus medicines and household generated sharps (medical syringes used by diabetics and others). Check out the details on the medical waste page <http://www.recyclemore.com>.

Get directions just one block off the Richmond Parkway at 101 Pittsburg Ave.

Visit [Baywise.org](http://Baywise.org) for more information about Pollution Prevention.

## State to Balance Budget with City Money

By Katherine Tam [ktam@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:ktam@bayareanewsgroup.com) 7/30/2009

California's plan to raid local coffers to close its gaping deficit will cost West Contra Costa's cities millions of dollars this year. Richmond will be hit hardest, losing \$3.6 million in property tax revenue.

The state will borrow as much as 8 percent of local governments' property tax revenue to be repaid in three years and will take \$2.05 billion in redevelopment funds that won't be repaid.

The hit to individual governments could worsen. If some jurisdictions seek "hardship waivers" by Nov. 15 to spare themselves from the state's budget plan, the financial burden could be redistributed to the remaining cities.

The state's plan has infuriated cities. The League of California Cities and the California Redevelopment Association vow to sue the state.

## City Changes Newsletter Budget

The Views has been copied and mailed out by the city of Richmond at the taxpayer's expense for a very long time. The state is reducing the amount of money that the city will receive from the taxes collected by the state on the city's behalf. The city is looking to adjust the budget and decided to reduce the amount of money they spend on the newsletters. We are looking at paying an outside coping service and asking the city to pay only for the mailing.

A few quotes for the ten issues per year of two or three double sided sheets will be discussed at the September meeting. The bulk rate has a minimum of 200 pieces to qualify. We will either ask for donations or a subscription fee for the ten issues printed between November and October 2010. Then ask the city to continue paying for the bulk mailing. Any checks received after October 5, 2009 will be for amount per month (to be determined) times each month 9 for December 2009 through October 2010 and so on until a check would be for just the month of October 2010. Each year going forward we will have to see if the city can return to paying for both copy and mailing or if we will be asking for the checks in September 2010 for the next year.

There are options to collecting "subscription" costs such as: joining the e-mail list and reading the Views online, or doing a reduced online "Views" with shorter stories and fewer stories. I understand that some online articles may have a web site or other sources to reference a more thorough article if interested. Not to mention not all of our neighbors have computer access to replace the printed copy, which means we still need 200 people who want the printed copy to meet the bulk rate minimum.

## Needed New Editor for the Views

*Continues on page 2*

This is my last issue. Hope to pass the newsletter on to a new person.

**next meeting**  
See back page for agenda

## quick-takes

continued from previous page

### Replace Mercury Thermometer

Get a brand new digital thermometer, free of charge when you bring your mercury thermometer to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, located at 101 Pittsburg Ave. When transporting your thermometer, place it in a protective container.

Days: Thursday and Friday and the First Saturday of each month.

Hours: 9am-4pm.

Closed for lunch 12-12:30pm.

### Stimulus Funding for 8 Richmond Police Officers

The city is receiving funding for 8 police officer positions through the Byrne COPS grant as part of the Federal Stimulus Package. City staff asked for 20 positions, but 8 is still real progress, especially considering there were eight times as many requests for positions from cities around the county as there were funds available. The funding covers salaries and benefit costs for three years. City staff will apply for additional funding as the next COPS grant is announced next year.

The Police Department is authorized to hire up to 187 sworn officers including the Chief through the FY 08-09 budget plus the 8 officers allocated through the COPS grant. This means the Dept. is hiring up to a total of 195 sworn officers. The Dept. has numerous applicants in the "hiring pipeline" right now because of the aggressive recruiting efforts.

The Dept. has 174 sworn personnel, with 4 pending job offers for new officers.

## Recreation Highlights

Cal-State Games: The Recreation Department sponsored Team Richmond returned Sunday, July 19th from the US Olympic sponsored Olympic style California State Games held in San Diego. Team Richmond performed as follows:

Track & Field – Won 25 medals with gold in several relay events and the 1500 meter long distance event.

13 and under soccer – Gold Medal; team was awarded the California State Championship Banner.

9 and under soccer – Gold Medal; team was awarded the California State Championship Banner.

15 and under girls basketball – Silver Medal; team fought hard but lost to Los Angeles in the Championship Game.

14 and under boys basketball – Team ended with 2 wins and 1 loss, but did not advance to the semi-finals due to the 1 loss.

The soccer teams and one of the gold medal runners qualified to participate in the National Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## Firefighters to Ship Used Fire Engine

[By Roman Gokhman Contra Costa Times](#) 8/01/2009

In Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, a 24 member volunteer fire department still uses a 1930 fire engine fondly referred to as "The Potbellied" to respond to emergencies in the city of 1.6 million.

The Richmond Fire Department will donate a 1973 open cab engine retired several years ago that is not expected to bring much money at auction. But first it needs to collect donations totaling \$6,000 to ship it. In four months only \$800.00 has been collected.

The donation will be made through a nonprofit organization started by Oakland firefighters in 2000, called Random Acts of Kindness. It began with good deeds in the Bay Area and has expanded to running children's medical clinics in two Nicaraguan cities in 2007.

"Only 20 percent of Nicaragua is covered by fire protection districts and the Managua volunteer department responds to more than 4,000 call annually" assistant fire chief Atilio Ibarra said.

Richmond has given its old extrication equipment after City leaders agreed and the equipment was handed over during a June 2008 training symposium where firefighters from the Bay Area agencies trained counterparts from Central America.

How to donate, please make checks payable to "Random Acts International (Nica Engine)," and mail to Captain Liz de Dios, c/o Richmond Fire Department, 440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804

## Recycle Newsletter

After you and your family read this newsletter give it to a neighbor and encourage them to give to another neighbor after they are done.

## contacts



You'll find many more phone numbers, as well as e-mail links for public services at our website, [www.richmond-heights.org](http://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](mailto:tgard@richmondpd.net)

### General security concerns, other police services

RP Watch Commander 620-6643  
Michelle Milam 620-6538

### Neighborhood Council issues

Jovanka Beckles 813-7008

### Report blight and graffiti

Richmond Graffiti 231-3010  
Volunteer to remove 231-3031  
CalTrans 925/926-6112

### Report abatement issues

Auto on Private land 621-1278  
Auto on Public land 620-6644  
Code Enforcement 621-1279  
CE Officer Nicole Ewing 621-1591  
Pot Hole Repair 231-3011

Code Enforcement responds to the complaints we receive as soon as possible. If we observe additional violations in the area they are noted and cases are opened.

As always we are looking for community events for the newsletter. If you know of an event coming up, let us know at five weeks before the beginning of the month of the event. Mail info to P.O. Box 5253 with your articles. Contributions and articles are most welcome. This is your newsletter.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009 Calif. Coastal Clean-up @ Marina Bay Beach 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Meet at Shimada Friendship Park.

## 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** 40  
**Suspicious vehicle** 13  
**Abandoned auto** 2  
**Recovered stolen vehicle** none  
**Vehicle tampering** none  
**Disturbance** 25  
**911 Disconnect** 5  
**Dogs** none  
**Dumping** none  
**Stolen vehicle** 5

6/19 7XX McLaughlin  
6/23 124XX San Pablo  
6/28 6XX Sonoma  
6/28 55XX Solano  
7/02 53XX Sierra

### Hit/Run property damage

6/19 1 80 / San Pablo  
6/20 McBryde / Amador  
6/21 52XX Prather

### Burglary from residence

7/03 50XX Solano  
7/10 51XX Solano

### Burglary from auto

7/10 7XX McLaughlin

### Burglary from business

6/28 11XX Yuba  
7/02 123XX San Pablo  
7/06 129XX San Pablo

### Fireworks

7/04 57XX Solano  
7/04 Clinton / McLaughlin  
7/04 52XX Clinton

### Car jacking

6/20 128XX San Pablo

### Robbery

6/23 49XX Macdonald  
7/07 50XX Barrett

### Petty theft/stolen property

6/19 55XX Sierra  
7/07 4XX McLaughlin  
7/14 50XX Esmond

### Grand theft

7/06 129XX San Pablo

### Battery

6/16 9XX Humboldt  
6/28 7XX Humboldt  
7/07 Garvin / San Pablo  
7/09 8XX Yuba  
7/12 McBryde / San Pablo

### Assault w/ deadly weapon

6/19 McBryde / San Pablo

### Shots fired

6/17 7XX Ventura  
6/21 Solano / Kern  
6/27 52XX Garvin  
6/28 Barrett / Key  
7/03 50XX Clinton  
7/04 54XX Clinton  
7/05 4XX Carlston  
7/06 52XX Esmond  
7/13 Sierra / Ventura  
7/13 Solano / Ventura

### Shooting at occupied vehicle

6/17 6XX Key

### Shooting at occupied dwelling

6/17 6XX Ventura  
6/27 8XX Humboldt

### Calls related to juveniles

6/16 Solano / Ventura  
6/25 9XX Kern  
7/01 Barrett / 41st  
7/13 McBryde / San Pablo

### Vandalism

6/16 6XX McLaughlin  
6/19 128XX San Pablo  
7/03 128XX San Pablo  
7/08 McBryde / McLaughlin  
7/10 9XX Ventura

### Arson

7/01 8XX Yuba

Saturday, September 26, 2009 WCCC Disaster Preparedness Fair Hilltop Mall in Richmond 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. In front of the JC Penney's parking lot. Contact: Terrance Cheung, Office of Supervisor John Gioia, 510/374-3231, [terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty](mailto:terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty)

RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL  
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Richmond, CA 94808

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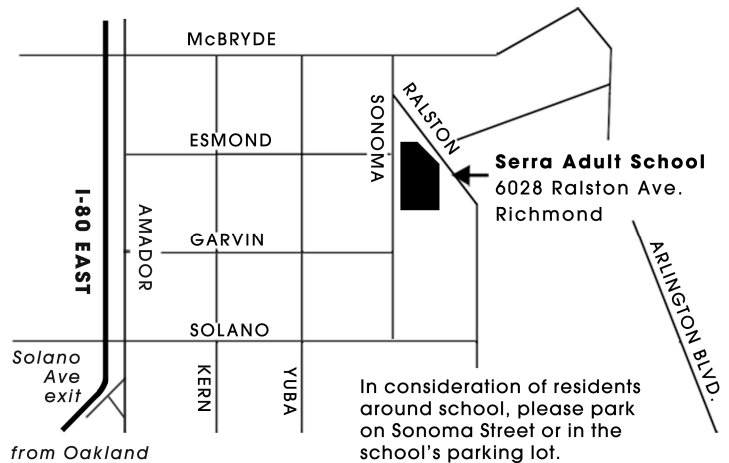
**at the next RHNC meeting**

**Cost of Newsletter, who pays**

The city is facing budget cuts and is looking at reducing the amount spent on the community newsletters. The Views 10 issues are about \$15,000.00 per year without doing a mass mailing one of the ten months each year.

**The September meeting** will be the third Monday of the month, the first Monday is a holiday, and the second Monday the school is booked for new classes.

**WCCC School Superintendent Dr. Bruce Harter** will give us an update on the financial status and future of our local schools



**Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 PM**  
Serra Adult School  
6028 Ralston Avenue