

North & East Newsletter

January 2006

Newsletter of the North & East Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 254, Richmond, CA 94808 (510) 237-5670 www.northandeast.org

Dear Neighbor.

Thanks to the Richmond Friends of the Arts, we have a calendar of upcoming arts events in Richmond. See their listing the first Sunday of every month in the West County Times.

NIADART CENTER

Regla: Revolution - The work of Cuban printmaker Antonio Canet, with prints by NIAD Artists and NIAD teacher Andres Cisernos-Galindo.

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
551 23rd Street (Near Barrett Avenue), Richmond
510 620 0290 www.niadart.org
Free

RICHMONDART CENTER

The Art of Living Black 2006
The Tenth Annual Bay Area Black Artists' Non-Juried Exhibition and Self-Guided Art Tour - Main Gallery
January 24 - March 19
Reception for artists in all exhibitions: Saturday, January 28, 2 p.m. - 5 pm
Music by Mary Watkins, composer and pianist

New event: Ceramics visiting artist lecture series.
4 Tuesday nights, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 7, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
2540 Barrett Avenue, Richmond
510 620 6772 www.therichmondartcenter.org
FREE

THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

"Over the River and Through the Woods"
January 20 - February 25, Fri & Sat 8 p.m.; Sun 2:30 p.m.
105 Park Place, Point Richmond
510 232 4031 www.masquers.org
\$15

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Exhibit: "A Children's Holiday Event"
Antique toys, dolls, children's art from post-war Richmond. Part of exhibit set aside for children to explore and touch.

Open through January; Wednesday -- Sunday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond
510 235 7387

www.RichmondMuseumofHistory.org

Admission: Adults \$2, Seniors \$1, Children free with adult

Happy New Year wishes
from Darrell Ho
of Marvin Gardens Real Estate,
who is once again sponsoring this issue of
the N & E Newsletter.
Thank you, Darrell.

It's always nice to have a new year, a clean slate, a chance to start fresh. I hope among your other plans for 2006 you will add getting involved in the community and helping to make Richmond and the North & East an even better place to live.

Sandi Genser-Maack

President

(510) 237-5670 northandeast@comcast.net

Join the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce at a Reception to welcome new Police Chief Chris Magnus to the City of Richmond:

Thursday, Feb. 2

5 to 7 p.m.

Lobby of the Richmond Auditorium
Civic Center Street at Nevin Avenue

N & E Calendar

Thurs., Jan. 19 -- N&E Meeting, Senior Center, 7 p.m.,
Sat., Jan. 28 -- Good Neighbors Delivery Day, 10:30 a.m.,
950 32nd St., (510) 235 -5696.
Mon., Jan. 23 -- Planning & Zoning Committee, 7 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURS., JAN. 19, 7 P.M., AT THE SENIOR CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD WANTS MEMBERS

The Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board, a 19-member board appointed by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to advise Contra Costa Health Services, is recruiting representatives from community/consumers, labor, seniors and general-at-large.

Board members should be Contra Costa County residents with a specific interest in public or community health. Contra Costa residents from a broad range of community

and health settings are encouraged to apply. PEHAB is committed to diversity in its membership. The full board meets on alternate months and members are required to participate in one committee.

To request an application packet, please call Marie Wilson at (925) 313-6712.

For more information about PEHAB or to download an application online, visit cchealth.org (Advisory Groups)

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG LEADERS

The Greenlining Institute (www.greenlining.org), dedicated to the economic empowerment of communities of color, is offering its 10-week Associates Program from June 12-August 18 for young leaders who have completed, at minimum, their undergraduate degrees, by the start of the program.

Associates manage research and advocacy projects with the direction of a Greenlining staff member and are exposed to key community leaders, new issues, and

new methods of advocacy. Associates receive regular professional and personal skill development and are given opportunities to interact with the media, write reports/press releases, testify at key policy hearings, and participate in key meetings with top government officials, corporate CEOs, and political leaders.

Deadline for applications is February 17. For more information call (510) 926-4004 or email academy@greenlining.org

RICHMOND BAY TRAIL NETWORK

The Board of Directors of East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) voted recently to appropriate \$350,000 for developing Bay Trail access and restoring natural resources on Richmond's incredibly scenic but long-neglected northern shoreline. Many agencies participated in helping that process including the West County Wastewater, North Richmond Municipal Advisory Council, ABAG Bay Trail Project, Wildcat/San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, WCCTAC and EBRPD's Park Advisory Committee.

Meanwhile, to find out more about the

southern section of the trail, the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.rcvb-ca.com/baytrail.htm has information about Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline and Eastshore State Park between Point Isabel Regional Shoreline and Marina Bay where there is a rich assemblage of 12 sculptural interpretive exhibits and four City parks. The Golden State Model Railroad Museum in Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline is also in the area.

For more information about the Bay Trail, email tracbaytrail@earthlink.net or call (510) 235-2835.

NEWS FROM WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL

We have improved our attendance. Our bi-weekly incentives have helped improve our attendance. We are currently at 94.8%. Our goal is to be at 95%.

During mid-January we will be implementing our 1,000 word incentive program for students. We have already recruited parents to volunteer and assist with this program. Each child will be given two 1,000 word packets, one to practice at home and the other to practice at school. Our goal is that each child will be reading at least 900 words by the end of the year.

Sonja Neely-Johnson, Principal

NEW PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM TO OPEN AT GRANT ELEMENTARY

The WCCUSD Preschool Department will open its 19th preschool classroom at Grant Elementary School on January 9, 2006. The classroom will host 48 new preschool-age children. "These 48 children who have been sitting at home without prior school experience now have a chance to become educated and enter kindergarten with relevant key experiences," said Program Coordinator Linda H. Jackson. "This is the birth of new opportunity for our children."

For more information please contact Linda Jackson at (510) 234-3807 ext. 2138.

FIRST WAVE OF MEASURE J SCHOOLS INCLUDES FORD

The West Contra Costa Unified School District has begun identifying architects for the modernization of Castro, Ford, King, Nystrom, and Dover elementary schools, which comprise the first wave of schools targeted for reconstruction under Measure J. Voters in West Contra Costa approved the \$400 million school construction bond on November 8, 2005.

The five Measure J "Phase I" elementary schools will enter the design phase in spring 2006, with construction scheduled to begin in summer of 2007. Projects are slated for completion in spring 2009.

ASK/TELL THE CITY

Now there's a new way to ask questions, post requests or make complaints to City Officials. Use the Internet by logging on to the City of Richmond home page at www.ci.richmond.ca.us. Once you choose COR-Connect, the new feature, follow the instructions, including how to log in. You can make a service request to the city to fix a pothole, remove a pile of trash in the street, deal with a stopped-up sewer line or a non-functioning street. It's called a service notification. You can go directly to it at <http://sapweb.ci.richmond.ca.us/notification/index.asp>.

NEW POLICE CHIEF

In case you haven't been reading the papers or talking to your neighbors, Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay has selected Fargo North Dakota Police Chief Chris Magnus as Richmond's next Chief of Police. And rumor has it that Chief Magnus, who comes aboard officially this month, has bought a house in the North & East and will bike to work.

Several residents from our neighborhood participated in the interview panels that helped choose the new chief.

Magnus received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University in East Lansing in 1986. He went on to earn a master's degree in labor relations from the same university four years later.

Magnus will replace Terry Hudson, who has served as Interim Police Chief since last year.

EARN IT, KEEP IT, SAVE IT

Last year, the Earn It! Keep It! Save It! tax credit campaign helped 1,700 low-income Contra Costa families and individuals recover more than \$2 million in tax credits and refunds. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers, where taxpayers can get free help in filing their income tax returns, will open throughout Contra Costa in early February and will be operating until April 15.

If you earned less than \$38,000 last year, you may be eligible for Earned Income tax credits. Call 1-800-358-8832 for the addresses and times of the West County VITA and for more information.

NORTH & EAST PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nov. 27, 2005

The Committee convened at 7:15 p.m. with members Sandi Genser-Maack and Jerry Rasmussen (Acting Chair) present.

1. Add 480 sq ft of floor area to single-family dwelling at 620 29th St. Conditionally approved.

Ike Odofu presented his proposal for a two-level bedroom addition extending 6' into the rear yard and expand the living room 7.5' x 20' across the front within the existing setback. A 25' rear yard setback would remain. The major change in appearance would be to reorient the entry and stairs, not substantially changing the street façade.

The existing one-car garage with a 48' deep driveway would be unchanged, able to accommodate two or three additional cars in tandem.

The Committee voted 2 – 0 to recommend approval subject to a condition that one or more street trees shall be provided.

2. Jack up dwelling to add new first floor at 521 40th Street. Conditionally approved.

Leticia Niles, architect, presented the proposal to add net 1370 sq. ft. of living area, all within the existing footprint plus enclosing the front porch. Existing setbacks are: 14.5' front, 48' rear and 5' on both sides. Materials, finishes and details would match the existing. A 24.5' deep driveway allows only one tandem parking space at the one-car garage.

The Committee voted 2 – 0 to recommend approval subject to providing one or more street or front yard trees.

The Committee adjourned at 8:15.

N & E Planning & Zoning Committee Special Meeting Dec. 12, 2005

The Committee convened at 7:08 p.m. with members Dolores Hembree, Felix Hunziker, James Johnson and Jerry Rasmussen (Acting Chair) present.

*Addition of second story to dwelling at 624 32nd Street. Conditionally approved.

Greg Ward presented his redesigned proposal to add a 1240 sq. ft. second floor over a 1660 sq. ft. home, all within the existing footprint. Thus the 11.5' and 5.0' side yards, 13.9' front yard and 19.9' rear yard would remain. The one-car rear yard garage with 60' driveway would be unchanged. A gabled tile roof would replace the flat roof.

When the applicant appeared at the Oct. meeting, the Committee had asked him to return with several suggested changes. These have all been incorporated in this new design. One member had misgivings about a 2900 sq. ft. home with a one-car garage, but noted that the driveway would park three more cars in tandem.

The Committee voted 4 – 0 to recommend approval subject to the provision of one or more street trees, per City specs. The Applicant agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50. Next meeting, January 23, 2006.

GOOD NEIGHBORS WELCOME EXPLORERS

The Richmond Police Department Explorers will be out on Saturday, January 28th to help deliver welcome baskets to new homeowners in the N&E neighborhood for the Good Neighbors' first delivery of the New Year.

The Richmond Police Department Explorers are young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 years who are residents of Contra Costa County. Members of Explorer Post #110, through service to the community, are taught the necessity of civic duty and the importance of cooperation and teamwork. The purpose of the Police Explorer Program is to provide these young people the opportunity to explore their interests and aptitudes in the field of law enforcement by on-the-job exposure and also give them the necessary tools to be successful in any profession they choose.

The Good Neighbors welcome and encourage participation from all youth groups in the community to help deliver the decorated baskets to new homeowners. The deliveries are usually the Saturday following the N&E Neighborhood Council meeting, once a month for one hour. If you know of any youth groups who want to do community service, please call Ronnie at (510) 235-5696.

You are welcome to volunteer and join in the fun delivering the baskets on Saturday January 28th @ 10:30am, (**Note: this is one week later than our usual delivery date**). We meet at the home of Ronnie Marty at 950 – 32nd Street, it takes an hour and you will be teamed with an Explorer because we always go in pairs when delivering the baskets.

It is a lot of fun and a wonderful opportunity to greet and welcome our new neighbors, and to tell them about Richmond, the N&E Neighborhood Council and the N&E area.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Ronnie Marty at (510) 235-5696.

“GOOD NEIGHBORS” PROGRAM IS FIVE

In its first five years, the Good Neighbor Program has welcomed over 800 new residents to the North & East Neighborhood. Below is a comparison, month-by-

month, from records kept by Chair Ronnie Marty. Join the Volunteers, this month on Sat., Jan. 28. Call Ronnie at (510) 235-5696.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January		17	22	23	35
February	21	13	18	17	24
March	7	12	10	10	8
April	7	13	10	8	16
May	10	18	4	12	18
June	13	17	10	12	18
July	0	15	12	15	10
August	13	11	16	19	21
September	19	14	8	20	18
October	21	13	12	19	17
November	15	18	17	24	20
Total	126	161	139	179	205
Average	14/mo	15/mo	13/mo	16/mo	19/mo
Total to date:					
2001	126				
2002	161				
2003	139				
2004	179				
2005	205				
TOTAL	810				

ABOUT THE RPD EXPLORERS

The Richmond Police Department Explorer Post #110 strives to create interest in law enforcement by exposing youth to the many duties police officers perform while building self-confidence and character. By teaching the Explorers new skills and challenging them to overcome obstacles, we not only prepare them for a career in law enforcement, but also give them the necessary tools to be successful in any profession they choose.

They learn the importance of cooperation and teamwork in achieving goals, as well as accepting individual responsibility. Through service to the community, the Explorers are taught the necessity of civic duty. The scouts provide security for Festival by the Bay, Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth, Easter Egg Hunt, Hilltop Mall Escort Service, Girls Club Carnival, KGO-TV Leukemia-a-thon and many other events. They fingerprint community children, volunteer at Police Substations, work with the Amber Schwartz and Polly Klaas Foundations, perform as role players for the training of the Crisis/Hostage Negotiations Team and perform clerical duties and data entry.

The Explorers have participated in statewide competitions between various Explorer posts. The physical and mental demands of the competition bring out the true spirit and enthusiasm of the Explorers. Their dedication to training has enabled them to win many awards and represent the City of Richmond with pride and purpose. As rewards for their hard work, they have enjoyed trips to Lake Tahoe and overnight campouts.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

1. 14-20 years of age
2. US citizen.
3. Resident of Contra Costa County
4. Possess a High School diploma or GED certificate. If still in High School, must maintain a “C” average or better.
5. Good physical condition, with weight in proper proportion to height.
6. Vision must be 20/100 or better, correctable to 20/30 or better in each eye.
7. Hearing must be unimpaired.
8. Good moral character. Conviction of a felony is disqualifying. A background investigation will be conducted.
9. Possess the ability to clearly express thoughts in written and oral form.
9. Be willing to contribute at least 10 hours a month to the Explorer Program.

If you have questions concerning the Explorers, contact Ofc. Danny Harris at (510) 620-6675.

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Happy New Year! The final two months of 2005 showed much activity for the North and East market. Although the average days on market (DOM) has increased over the past six months, we are still experiencing a healthy ratio of home sales over the asking price. Competitive pricing remains a key factor in obtaining a successful sale.

<u>Address</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>BR</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>DOM</u>
600 block of 26 th St.	\$429,000	\$435,000	2	1	1247	21
400 block of 28 th St.	\$389,000	\$400,000	2	1.5	1446	16
500 block of 28 th St.	\$445,000	\$500,000	2	1.5	1244	17
600 block of 28 th St.	\$389,000	\$400,000	3	1	1240	12
600 block of 30 th St.	\$494,950	\$525,000	3	1	1186	14
800 block of 31 st St.	\$399,000	\$430,000	2	1	900	12
700 block of 32 nd St.	\$325,000	\$345,000	2	1	652	29
700 block of 33 rd St.	\$565,000	\$565,000	4	1.5	1372	4
900 block of 33 rd St.	\$450,000	\$460,000	2	1	810	16
900 block of 34 th St.	\$495,000	\$536,500	3	2	1480	8
600 block of 34 th St.	\$559,000	\$559,000	3	2	n/a	40
900 block of 35 th St.	\$399,950	\$440,000	2	1	995	16
300 block of 35 th St.	\$399,000	\$430,000	2	1	1022	21
800 block of 35 th St.	\$479,000	\$475,000	2	1	1250	19
600 block of 37 th St.	\$299,950	\$370,000	2	1	812	17
900 block of 37 th St.	\$499,999	\$515,000	3	2	1724	27
900 block of 37 th St.	\$399,000	\$425,000	2	1	971	27
500 block of 40 th St.	\$419,000	\$428,000	2	1	886	5
600 block of 41 st St.	\$399,000	\$375,000	3	1	1135	6
2700 block of Andrade Ave.	\$399,410	\$410,000	2	1	912	14
2700 block of Downer Ave.	\$399,000	\$425,000	2	2	1315	20
3200 block of Maricopa	\$375,000	\$400,000	3	1	893	8
3400 block of Maricopa	\$419,000	\$430,000	2	1	817	11
2500 block of McBryde Ave.	\$400,000	\$410,000	2	1	758	60
2900 block of Moran Ave.	\$399,000	\$410,000	2	1	846	15
3200 block of Moran Ave.	\$329,000	\$376,000	2	1	877	11
2300 block of Roosevelt	\$349,000	\$390,000	2	1	811	10
2300 block of Roosevelt	\$398,000	\$400,000	2	1	1253	44
2800 block of Tulare Ave.	\$429,950	\$420,000	2	1	1188	26

Article provided by Darrell Hoh of Marvin Gardens Real Estate. Marvin Gardens believes all material to be correct but assumes no liability for its accuracy.

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' VARSITY SOCCER

Dear N & E Neighborhood Council,

We have all our paperwork finally in and all plans set for our trip to Irvine to participate in the West Coast High School College Showcase Tournament! We still have to do some major fundraising, but with your generous contributions plus the district budget for 'league games,' we've gathered enough for the bus. We're going to keep our heads high and work, play and pray for continual donations, successful fundraising and a wonderful season.

It wouldn't have been possible without YOU!

We leave early morning on Tuesday, Dec. 27 and play 2 games on Wednesday, then 1 on Thursday, with a UC Campus visit, then 2 games on Friday, with Semi-Finals

and the Final Championship game on Saturday. Then, the long ride home! But we're hopeful to perform well and have a happy bus ride home, along with a really big trophy to display at RHS. Even if we don't win the trophy, this will have been a wonderful, exciting and life-long meaningful trip for the boys of Richmond High School and our community.

We'll be staying at the Motel 6 in Santa Ana, meals prepared by the chaperoning adults and lots of liquids!!!!!!!

Sincerely,
Janet Ceja-Orozco
RHS Boys' Varsity Soccer Team Manager

Below is a schedule of some of our upcoming local games. Perhaps we'll see some of you out at Richmond High!!

Richmond High School Boys' Soccer:

Date	Opponent	Loc	Time
Tu 1/17	El Cerrito	Home	4 - 6
Th 1/19	De Anza	Home	4 - 6
Tu 1/31	Pinole Valley	Away	3:30 - 5:30
Th 2/2	Berkeley	Home	4 - 6
Tu 2/7	Alameda	Away	3:30 - 5:30
Th 2/9	Hercules	Home	6

SAVE THE SOCCER TEAM

You, too, can help. Send checks to RHS Soccer, c/o Janet Ceja-Orozco, 1818 Sanford Ave., San Pablo, CA 94806. Write the checks to RHS Soccer.

Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council

P.O. Box 485
Richmond, CA 94804

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The North & East Newsletter

The North & East Neighborhood: West to 23rd St., East to San Pablo Ave., North to the City limits, South to Macdonald Ave.

<p>I support my Neighborhood Council! <input type="checkbox"/> I enclose dues (voluntary) of \$10 for the 05 - 06 year. <input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a donation of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a donation for the newsletter _____ Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____ email _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not want to remain on the mailing list</p>	<p>Mail to: Ronnie Marty 950 32nd St. Richmond, CA 94804</p> <p>make checks to: N & E</p>
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North & East
Neighborhood Council
Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2006
Third Thursday
7:00 p.m.
Richmond Senior Center
2525 Macdonald Avenue