

North & East Newsletter

October 2005

Newsletter of the North & East Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 254, Richmond, CA 94808

(510) 237-5670

www.northandeast.org

Dear Neighbor,

We had another wonderful picnic this year! And we have so many people and businesses to thank:

Marvin Gardens Real Estate

Once again, (I've lost track of how many years) Todd Hodson and many of his realtors at Marvin Gardens came to the picnic, cooked and served hot dogs and sponsored some of the amenities.

The City of Richmond

The Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. both participated. We particularly like the Canine Unit demonstration and the chance to explore the fire engine.

The City also sponsored the jumper this year.

The following businesses donated prizes for Bingo, the field games and the drawing and we really appreciate it:

Home Depot

Sears

Macy's

Safeway

FoodMax

Smart & Final

Clean X-press

We had amazing music courtesy of "The Ben Oni Orchestra" of Grace Lutheran Church, led by Dr. Curtis Shaw.

It's always nice to welcome new ideas and new energy, and that was the case this year as the Picnic Committee was made up of some "regulars" and some new faces:

Raul Chavez

Doris Ramroz-Chavez

Lois Mignone

Bill Walker

Elvira Walker

Sandi Genser-Maack

Darrell Hoh of Marvin Gardens

The committee members worked hard to make the picnic a success and really hard on that day.

And more thanks to a couple of volunteers who helped on Picnic Day:

Lynn Maack

Art Peterson

We thank **Darrell Hoh** of Marvin Gardens Real Estate for once again sponsoring this newsletter, for his help with the Annual Picnic and for being a friend of the North & East Neighborhood Council.

Several years ago, the N & E Neighborhood Council started to work on rejuvenating the library at Grant School. Eventually the School District took over and the library is once again open to students and is a much nicer place. We had received donations of money for that project, so we recently gave that money to the school.

The new Principal, Susan Berrington, was very appreciative and says that the money will go toward "developing a library of books that reflect our diverse population."

The Albertson's money that comes in quarterly (more about this later) will be used on Family Reading Night for pizza. Last year more than 700 people attended.

I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Sandi Genser-Maack

President

(510) 237-5670 northandeast@comcast.net

N & E Calendar

Thurs., Oct. 20 -- N&E Meeting, Senior Center, 7 p.m.,

Sat., Oct. 22 -- Good Neighbors Delivery Day, 10:30 a.m.,
950 32nd St., (510) 235 -5696.

Mon., Oct. 24 -- Planning & Zoning Committee, 7 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURS., OCT. 20, 7 P.M., AT THE SENIOR CENTER

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

What did the chicken say when it crossed the road? The answer may be found at ArtsChange's new exhibition "Laughter is the Best Medicine Locura Cura: Art Healing and Humor" running through January 1, 2006, at the Richmond Health Center (RHC), 100 38th Street, Richmond.

"Laughter is the Best Medicine" is curated by ArtsChange artistic director Ann Schnake and guest curator Rene Yañez. The exhibit investigates how humor and laughter promote healing from illness and loss. Works from artists Kin Kwok, Lauren Ari, Sharon Siskin, Rio Yañez, Jos Sances, Esteban Montoya and Jessica Yu are featured. ArtsChange (formerly known as The Quilt of Many Colors) is a nonprofit organization that has organized visual art exhibitions and education programs in public venues since 1997, engaging an urban, culturally diverse community with an art and education program that addresses health and community issues.

ART EXHIBIT: "Laughter is the Best Medicine / Locura Cura"

VENUE: Richmond Health Center
100 38th Street (enter at 39th and Bissell), Richmond 94805

DATES: through January 1, 2006

VENUE HOURS: Mon/Wed/Fri 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Tue/Thu 8 a.m. – 8:45 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, call (510) 231-1348 or go to www.artschange.org

FILM ON WEDNESDAY

Librarian Tarnel offers videos "Outside the Mainstream" on the third Wednesday of the month at the Madelaine Whittlesey Room, Main Library. These are documentaries usually not available in movie theatres. She provides free coffee, tea and snacks; films are free but donations are appreciated.

Showings are at 7:00 pm.

I've been going since I discovered it about 4 months ago, and seen some great stuff. Apparently she has been doing this for about a year. This is NOT A LIBRARY PROJECT, solely Tarnel's venture. She works in the Children's room.

Jeffrey Dickemann

RICHMOND BAY TRAIL NETWORK

Thanks to a donation by Auto Warehousing Company and a grant from Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Bay Trail Project, construction design is fully funded at \$148,000 for Bay Trail access to historic Kaiser Shipyard 3 in Point Potrero Marine Terminal located at the foot of Canal Blvd. Shipyard 3 is scheduled to become a centerpiece of the Rosie the Riveter/ WW II Home Front National Historical Park because it is the only place where a rich concentration of diverse WW II ship building facilities still remain.

This Bay Trail project was authorized by Resolution 15-05 adopted by unanimous vote of the Richmond City Council on February 15, 2005. The key partners are the Port of Richmond, National Park Service, Rosie the Riveter Trust, and TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, which prepared the successful funding requests for the Port and the Trust. The project scope includes two miles of Bay Trail leading from Canal Blvd at Seaclyff Drive to the dock where the SS Red Oak Victory is moored, plus three sites interpreting the WW II history of Shipyard 3.

See <http://www.qsl.net/redoakarc/direct.htm> for directions to the SS Red Oak Victory, which is accessible now, and <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/trac/> for the Richmond Bay Trail map showing the planned trail route.

SAVE THE SOCCER TEAM

In his monthly newsletter, Michael J. reports that the Richmond High soccer team, rated 17th nationwide, needs funds to travel to playoffs in Irvine. They have only \$1500 travel allowance for the whole season and need about \$10,000 for transportation, food & housing for 30 -- 35 players. He suggests mailing in checks.

We have invited Coach Janet Ceja-Orozco to our October meeting, to let her make a pitch for support from the Neighborhood Council.

If you can't come to the meeting and want to help, send checks to RHS Soccer, c/o Janet Ceja-Orozco, 1818 Sanford Ave., San Pablo, CA 94806. Write the checks to RHS Soccer.

LA NOSTRA STORIA BOOK SIGNING EVENT

La Nostra Storia (Our Story) is a book by Maria Sakovich which documents and honors the contributions the Italian American community has made to Richmond's history.

Book signing by Maria at 6 p.m.

Dinner 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 27

Veterans Memorial Hall

968 23rd Street

Reservations required: \$20/person, payable to Richmond Museum of History

Mail check to: 3820-A San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante 94805

Museum phone (510) 235-7387.

NIAD EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

Art from the Heart 2005: Dec. 1 -- Jan. 16, 2006. Opening Reception is Sat., Dec. 3 from 2-5 p.m.

NIAD, the National Institute of Art and Disabilities, is at 551 23rd St.

PLANNING INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE

The Richmond Planning Department, with Richard Mitchell at the helm, has released its first quarterly newsletter with information about new projects, planning theory and programs and with stunning graphics. Read the newsletter online at www.ci.richmond.ca.us/~planning/information/newsletter/2005/summer.pdf.

And speaking of planning, one of our City Council members who operates an online forum recommends <http://smartgrowthamerica.org> -- people interested in good planning and smart growth. There's also a book, *Choosing Our Community's Future: A Citizen's Guide to Getting the Most Out of New Development*, a resource designed specifically for regular citizens looking to make a positive contribution to shaping growth and change.

GOOD NEIGHBORS REPORT – OCTOBER

Do you ever wonder where the baskets come from for the Good Neighbors? They are donated by people like Cindy Wright, Julie Freestone, so many wonderful people there isn't room to thank all of them, but the Good Neighbor committee does and so do the recipients of the Good Neighbor baskets.

The Good Neighbor committee is also thankful to all the people who donate "freebies" to put into the baskets.

This month we thank May Barbano for again volunteering her time and Bridget O'Keefe, a first time volunteer, for joining the "regulars" as we welcomed 18 new homeowners to the North & East.

Next month you can help. It is a lot of fun, only takes 1 hour and we meet so many interesting people, who are our NEW NEIGHBORS.

Our next delivery will be Saturday, October 22, 2005. We meet at 950 – 32nd St. at 10:30 and are through by 11:30. (We always go in pairs and you will be with someone who has done it before).

To volunteer or for more information contact Ronnie Marty at (510) 235-5696.

EAST MACDONALD IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN

The contract for the East Macdonald street improvement program (39th St. to San Pablo Ave.) was awarded to Bay Cities Paving. BKF engineers will be assisting the city in checking/monitoring/approving all improvements. This effort involves straightening Macdonald Ave. in front of the future Target Store, new curbs, gutters, and decorative sidewalks. Also, landscaping in the new median as well as both sides of Macdonald Ave is to be installed.

Bulbouts at most intersections (increased pedestrian safety) with enhanced crosswalks, benches, trash receptacles with new street and pedestrian lighting are all part of this revitalization effort. We will also be upgrading the drainage as part of this program.

Work is scheduled to commence in early October and be completed by April. We will be notifying the residents and businesses of the construction schedule when the dates are firmed up.

NORTH & EAST PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m. with members Felix Hunziker, Sandi Genser-Maack, Jerry Rasmussen (acting Chair), James Johnson, Martha Seymour and Delores Hembree present.

1. Mr. Pollomex -- fast food at NW corner Macdonald Ave. and 33rd St. – tentatively approved.

Applicant presented his proposal to reopen former bakery as a takeout chicken restaurant with seating only for customers awaiting order pickup. He said that a new Conditional Use Permit is required because of a 3-year lapse in operation. He noted his confusion, frustration at delays due to apparent conflicts between County Health, City Planning and Building Department requirements. No drive-thru or external physical building changes are proposed.

The Committee voted 6-0 to OK the project subject to conferring with Planning staff. Subsequent contact with staff confirmed that:

- a. handicapped bathroom requirements are being resolved
- b. reconfiguring parking striping will yield 4 or 5 spaces and no drive-thru
- c. no other exterior changes are proposed

2. Preliminary schemes for mixed used at SW corner of Humphrey Ave. and 23rd St. -- reviewed.

Darrel Deboer, architect, presented two alternatives for 3300 or 5000 sq. ft. of ground floor, retail commercial space with eight or six residential units above. After discussion, the Committee voiced a preference for the denser (8-unit) scheme with covered parking and less retail area. Massing should be altered to shift 3-story configurations toward 23rd St. and away from low-rise existing residential to the east. The architect was commended for pursuing his bent for "green" design, including massing to maximize passive solar orientation. The Committee noted that any auto-oriented retail is questionable because access via Humphrey would conflict with existing residential use.

By a 6-0 vote, the proponents were encouraged to pursue the denser scheme and return with a new design.

3. Laundromat at 1100 23rd St. – conditionally approved.

Maxwell Beaumont, architect, presented his somewhat revised proposal for the Nation's site at the NW corner of Lowell Ave.

The Committee noted the improved parking and landscape layout, but agreed that they much preferred the previous façade design. They voted 6-0 to approve the project with these suggestions:

- a. trellised landscaping at the east façade at intervals to complement tree spacing on the east façade is much preferred to "architectural features," such as faux windows.
- b. Consider using block wall at east property line instead of 6-foot wood fence.
- c. Reconsider using previous façade design.

4. Second-floor addition at 624 32nd St. – No show.

The Committee took no action pending contact with applicant to reschedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m., to reconvene Oct 24, 2005.

THE FIRST ANNUAL GARAGE SALE.....

Yes, we did have a very successful Garage Sale!!!. Questions: Call Debbie Lew at (510) 235-6731

Many of our neighbors contacted me and were excited about the Neighborhood Sale. At our corner, 3600 Garvin & 36th, we had 6-7 families selling.

Here is some food for thought.....

1) First, we will start earlier next year so we can include more information in earlier issues of the N & E newsletter.

Do we know someone who can translate the "10 Steps to Prepare for a Garage Sale" into Spanish?

2) Saturday and Monday, Labor Day, seemed the best days to have the event. Many families are driving about and came to our corner at 8:30a.m. to get first peeks. Business was brisk and a good portion of the treasure was SOLD... ie. VCR Tapes \$1 each or 7 for \$5....Great deals for many.

3) If we organized earlier, we could list the sale addresses in the September issue of the N & E newsletter, which goes to almost 5,000 households. If we charged a modest fee for this, the Neighborhood Council could make a little money.

4) Signage is very important. Signs by Safeway, Home Depot, Albertsons, by the Mall areas, & areas with lots of car & foot traffic.

5) Computer experts: Include this in Craig's List....

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Many people continue to be concerned about the limited hours the library is open as a result of budget cuts last year. Library Director Monique LeConge reports that the current hours are Monday and Tuesday 3-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.

But there is good news. She says she is working with the City's Finance and Human Resources staff to get the part-timers back. She hopes to see hours increase in two phases beginning this month and then again by January 1.

CINCO DE MAYO DISCUSSION BEGINS

Hoping to create a celebration for next Cinco de Mayo that will be fun, family friendly and peaceful, the North & East Neighborhood Council began a dialogue about what the event could be.

More than two dozen neighbors offered ideas that ranged from a car parade, live music, food, chalk garden and other activities for children; performances by local groups such as the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and much more. The discussion will continue in the coming months as we explore ways in which to involve more groups, including the faith community, businesses, parents and youth.

For suggestions and more information, call Andres Soto at (510) 237-6866.

DISASTER PREPARATION

We probably aren't going to have a hurricane in Richmond anytime soon, but experts agree that a major earthquake isn't a matter of "if" we'll have one but when. So how prepared are you and your family?

Check out the website [72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org). It has all kinds of information about how to survive for at least 72 hours until help arrives. There's a good list of resources on the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office website at http://www.cocosheriff.org/support/emergency_services/oes_broch_plans.htm. The American Red Cross also has brochures. Reach them at 307-4400.

And sign up for REACT (Richmond Emergency Action Community Teams) classes. The series of five classes and a weekend hands-on drill is free and will equip you for the 72 hours until help is available.

Call (510) 620-6866. Remember: knowledge is power.

THANK YOU FOR GENEROUS DONATIONS FROM:

For the Shoes That Fit Program
Kate Jennings
Betty Seabolt

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE

Contra Costa Health Services is offering flu shots in West County on November 3 and November 15 at special flu clinics. These initial clinics will be open to those 65 years of age or older, or those over 9 years of age who have a chronic condition such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes. The shots are \$10, although no one will be denied if they are unable to pay. For more information, call the Health Information Emergency Line at 888-959-9911 or check cchealth.org

ANTI-VIOLENCE EFFORTS

The Latina Center, St. Cornelius Church, the Richmond Police Department, Contra Costa Health Services Mental Health Children & Adolescent Services and other organizations are sponsoring the "Second Annual March: Let's Rebuild the Peace in our Homes and Communities." The event is October 29 from 1-3 p.m. departing from 23rd street and Macdonald Avenue. Participants are asked to bring their own candles. For more information, call the Latina Center at (510) 233-8595.

And Mayor Irma Anderson is sponsoring a citywide conference on Oct. 15 to begin developing a strategic plan to address the problems of youth violence. That conference will include a keynote speech by Dr. Deborah Prothow-Stith, co-author of "Murder Is No Accident." She is a pediatrician, associate dean of the Harvard School of Public Health and instrumental in creating the anti-violence plan considered to be very effective in Boston in the last decade. For information about the Mayor's event call her office at (510) 620-6503.

BOOKSALE!

The Friends of the Richmond Public Library are holding their Annual Booksale on October 22, 2005, in the Community Room adjacent to the Main Library at 525 Civic Center Plaza. 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. is for Members only, and you are welcome to join on the 22nd. 11:00 am to 3:00 pm is for the general public.

Prices can't be beat and they have a great selection of books in all areas!

HOME SALES IN NORTH AND EAST FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

As of this writing (September 28, 2005) there were sixteen sales that closed in our North & East neighborhood. The Fall season typically is a period of time when we see fewer homes on the market, however, with low interest rates, we are still seeing many homes coming up for sale.

<u>Address</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>BR/BA</u>	<u>Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>Lot Size</u>
800 Block of 24 th St.	\$460,000	\$455,000	2/2	1341	3069
500 Block of 26 th St.	\$479,500	\$517,000	3/2	1553	5000
600 Block of 26 th St.	\$448,000	\$531,000	3/2	1643	5000
600 Block of 31 st St.	\$550,000	\$580,000	3/2	1775	5000
400 Block of 33 rd St.	\$425,000	\$458,000	2/1	1125	5000
500 Block of 36 th St.	\$429,000	\$475,000	2/1	1099	3800
900 Block of 37 th St.	\$529,000	\$555,000	3/2	1392	5000
2505 Block of Downer Ave.	\$432,000	\$487,000	3/1	1004	6402
2500 Block of Downer Ave.	\$480,000	\$505,000	3/2	1096	3686
2800 Block of Maricopa Ave.	\$545,000	\$553,000	3/2	1713	7500
2800 Block of McBryde Ave.	\$399,999	\$420,000	2/1	837	5000
2400 Block of McBryde Ave.	\$440,000	\$400,000	3/2	n/a	5000
4200 Block of Nevin Ave.	\$375,000	\$398,000	2/1	1944	5000
3400 Block of Rheem Ave.	\$439,000	\$480,000	3/1	1288	5000
3400 Block of Tulare Ave.	\$435,000	\$480,000	2/1	1155	5000
3700 Block of Wendell Ave.	\$399,500	\$480,000	2/1	835	5995

Darrell Hoh and Marvin Gardens Real Estate believe all material to be correct but assume no liability for its accuracy.

Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council

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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! _ I enclose dues (voluntary) of \$10 for the 05 - 06 year. _ I enclose a donation of _____ _ I enclose a donation for the newsletter _____ Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____ email _____ _ 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, October 20, 2005

Third Thursday

7:00 p.m.

**Richmond Senior Center
2525 Macdonald Avenue**

There is a Special Election on Nov. 8.

Come hear both sides on:

Measure J -- the School Bond

and

The 1/2 cent sales tax for Richmond