

North & East Newsletter

August 2006

Newsletter of the North & East Neighborhood Council

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

Dear Neighbor,

We told you in the last couple of months that the North & East had three of the top "hot spots" for pedestrian and bicycle collisions in West County. I am happy to announce that we got a grant to do some work on that disinction.

The first part is to identify the problems. The second part is to do something about them. Read more about this on page 2 and come to the August meeting to find out how you can help.

It's election time again and the races for Mayor and City Council are heating up. As a Neighborhood Council we cannot and do not take positions on candidates, but we will once again be co-hosting a Candidates' Night with our neighboring council, Richmore Village, probably on Monday, Oct. 2nd at the Senior Center. Watch for more on this.

We *can* take positions on issues on the ballot and it looks like there will be a couple of items of interest to Richmond residents. We will talk about these in the near future.

The most exciting news for the North & East, I think, is that work will begin soon on the *real* City Hall, the one in our neighborhood, the one in the central part of the city, and it should be open and ready in a couple of years. Also, work will begin soon on the Macdonald 80 Shopping complex (Target). I hope you have seen the changes on upper Macdonald -- a much needed revitalization.

Every year we do a special edition of the newsletter for September and mail it to every homeowner in the N & E. (Thanks to Darrell Hoh of Marvin Gardens for providing us with mailing labels.) Many of you get two copies of the newsletter in Sept. because, to make sure that you get at least one, I also mail to our regular list, so please don't call to tell me you got two.

Why the special issue? Well, it gives us a chance to tell 5,000 households about the picnic we put on just for them. We also get to tell them everything else that is going on -- and we always have so much going on. And we tell them that there *is* a Neighborhood Council and what that means to them. And every year a few more neighbors write or call or email and say, "Wow. A neighborhood council. I

NORTH & EAST GARAGE SALE WEEKEND COMING

- Labor Day Weekend
- Saturday, Sept. 2 and Sunday, Sept. 3
- Addresses will be listed in the September issue which goes to all homes in the N & E.

want to be involved or at least to know more."

So that is why, at our August meeting, we fold and label newsletters. With many hands it does not take long, and we chat and have refreshments, and it is a good thing.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sandi Genser-Maack
President

(510) 237-5670 northandeast@comcast.net

N & E Calendar

- Thurs., Aug. 17 -- N&E Meeting, Senior Center, 7 p.m.
- Fri., Aug. 18 -- Prevent Fraud & Identify Theft, see p. 2
- Sat., Aug. 19 -- Good Neighbors Delivery Day, 10:30 a.m., 950 32nd St., (510) 235 -5696.
- Sat., Aug. 19 -- Music on the Main, noon, see p. 3
- Mon., Aug. 28 -- Planning & Zoning Committee, 7 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 9 -- Annual Picnic, Burg Park, 11 am to 3 pm
- Sat., Sept. 23 -- Recycle Day (look for info in Sept. issue)

NEXT MEETING: THURS., AUG. 17, 7 P.M., AT THE SENIOR CENTER

JOIN PHOTOVOICE PROJECT TO SHARE BIKE, WALKING SAFETY

You have a chance to show us what you think are dangerous things pedestrians and bike riders face in our neighborhood by getting involved in a project called Photovoice.

It's easy: we give you a disposable camera at our annual picnic on September 9 at Burg Park. You visit one or more of the "hot spots" in our neighborhood where pedestrians are killed or injured. You take some photos of good — or bad — pedestrian and cyclist behavior you see and tell us about it. We'll give you a thank-you incentive for your time, and at our October neighborhood council meeting, we'll exhibit all the photos we get and begin talking about how to make the neighborhood safer for all of us.

Call Julie Freestone at (510) 237-9323 for more information or come to the picnic on September 9th and pick up your Pedestrian Safety project kit.

CIVIC CENTER PROJECT MOVING AHEAD

Most residents of the North & East still remember that City Hall belongs in our neighborhood, even though the City has been paying rent to have City offices in the Richmond Marina area. The good news is that the design for rehabilitating City Hall is moving ahead, and there is apparently a source for the \$80 million to pay for it. Phase 1 includes the City Hall, a new City Council chamber in the Bermuda Room and a new Hall of Justice.

DISPOSE OF ALMOST ANYTHING

Got something you need to get rid of and don't know where to dump it?

The West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority website (www.recyclemore.org) tells you how to dispose of almost anything in West County safely and legally. If you can't find it there, call (510) 215-3125.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The City is currently collecting ideas from residents for its General Plan, which helps guide all sorts of city activities for the coming years. For the last few months, the city has been holding meetings to hear from residents. If you missed the meetings, you can still get information from the City's General Plan website: <http://www.cityofrichmondgeneralplan.org>. The website is designed to keep Richmond's residents, employees and business community informed about the status and activities involving the General Plan.

Visitors to the website can also share comments and ideas about how they envision the future of Richmond. The website features background information, in English and Spanish, about the General Plan, a calendar of events including community workshops, and provides helpful maps and technical documents related to the project. For more information contact Lori Reese-Brown at (510) 620-6869.

RICHMOND PD HAS NEW PUBLICATION

Police Chief Chris Magnus just sent out the first issue of his "occasional" newsletter. It's chock full of all sorts of useful information. The lead-off message from the Chief includes a chilling photo from a homicide crime scene and a run-down on what is being done to solve the homicides that have occurred this year.

"The sad reality is that many of Richmond's homicides share some common characteristics: they usually involve young men of color, they often take place in fragile neighborhoods, and they frequently are the result of disputes or retaliation related to drugs, perceived acts of disrespect, and gang-related activity," says Magnus. He talks about the difficulty in getting witnesses to come forward, the role guns play in the street violence and provides comments from detectives on open cases.

Email smarch@richmondpd.net if you'd like to receive the newsletter.

PREVENT SCAMS, FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

Seniors are one of the groups most targeted by scam artists, and the abuse is on the rise. The National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that there are 5 million cases of elder financial exploitation annually.

A study by the Department of Corporations found that 70% of seniors in California have been approached by a fraudulent individual, and that Californians over 50 have lost over \$3.8 billion dollars through investment fraud.

The best way to combat consumer fraud is to become an educated consumer.

Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, in collaboration with Elder Financial Protection Network and the California Department of Corporation's Seniors Against Investment Fraud Program (SAIF) Presents: Be Wise: Prevent Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft.

Loni Hancock's office will host this presentation to help seniors learn to protect themselves and their loved ones from becoming victims of fraud.

**Friday, August 18th
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Richmond Annex Senior Center
5801 Huntington Ave.
Richmond, CA 94803**

Refreshments and door prizes!

Please RSVP if you would like to attend. Contact: Melissa Male at (510) 559-1406 or melissa.male@asm.ca.gov

Please provide your name, phone number and number of attendees.

NIGHT TIME SAFETY TIP

Here's a good tip from a neighborhood watch coordinator: If you have one of the newer cars with a "panic button" to lock the car doors and activate the alarm, keep it near your bed at night. If someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside, just press the panic alarm on your car. It will go off from almost anywhere from inside your house and it will keep honking until your battery runs down, or until you reset it. Bad guys hate noise, so they will run at the first blare.

GOOD NEIGHBORS – JULY EXCITEMENT

Welcoming new homeowners to the N&E area of Richmond is so much fun! On July 22nd the Good Neighbor Committee and volunteers welcomed new residents and the response was great: “My realtor told me about this special area of Richmond that I needed to buy in,” “I moved from just around the corner, watching for a house in this area to buy so I could keep my family in the N&E,” etc.

We also find some amazing things: at one house we visited, we noticed on the walkway up to the front door some bricks with “Richmond” stamped on them; what a historic find! We were so excited, and the new homeowners became excited about their bricks also.

Committee members and volunteers this month were Lois Mignone, Angela Bhatt, Carolyn Davis (new volunteer and we thank her), Patricia Gangwer and Ronnie Marty. Again, many thanks to Bessanderson McNeil who donated the cookies for the baskets, as she does every month.

The Good Neighbors’ next delivery will be Saturday, August 19. We will meet at Ronnie Marty’s house @ 10:30 to pick up our baskets and addresses. It is a lot of fun, and everyone is welcome to come and help.

Businesses, this is your chance to get free ADVERTISING. Bring your freebies, business cards, etc., to Ronnie, and she will make sure they are put into the baskets for new homeowners to learn about your business and patronize you.

For further information or to donate your time or freebies please contact Ronnie Marty at (510) 235-5696.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

The last of the concerts hosted by the Richmond Main Street Initiative will be Saturday, August 19th on Macdonald at Harbour Way. The musical offerings range from salsa to jazz and blues to big band, including a dance contest with prizes. The handbill promises great food, cold drinks and kids’ games. Festivities start at noon and go on all afternoon.

We’ve been hearing about the decline of the Macdonald Avenue downtown for the last 30 years. Here’s a chance to be part of a revival.

NORTH & EAST PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT -- JULY 24, 2006

The Committee convened at 7:06 p.m. with members Sandi Genser-Maack, Dolores Hembree, Feliz Hunziker, Olga Paredes and Jerry Rasmussen (Acting Chair) present.

1. **Add second story above garage at 316 45th Street – Conditionally approved.**

Owner/applicant Hardeep Lally presented her proposal to add about 800 sq. ft. comprised of two bedrooms, two baths and a stairway connecting the existing three bedroom, one bath, 1700 sq. ft. dwelling to the new structure. The new materials, finishes and details would match the existing.

Discussion among the Committee elicited general approval of the project and concurrence with the nine conditions proposed in the DRB staff report. They voted 5 – 0 to recommend approval subject to the following conditions:

- a. That a horizontal trim “belly band” be added to delineate between the first and second stories.
- b. That three or more street trees be planted and maintained in accordance with City specs along the 128ft. street frontage.

2. **Target Store complex revisions on south side of Macdonald between 45th and 42nd Streets.**

The Committee noted with some consternation that the proposed changes had not been referred to us for review; N & E only became aware of them (almost in passing) as part of a Macdonald Avenue improvement presentation at the Council’s general meeting on July 20.

Changes to the Target structure seem to be minor and fairly inconsequential in terms of aesthetic appearance. However, the Committee did express misgivings that some of these changes could alter functional or operational aspects of the site design.

The addition of a 5100 sq. ft. structure right on Macdonald opposite 44th and flanking the main site entry is not the trivial (though perhaps quite positive) change that applicant’s cover letter and staff’s perfunctory finding statements imply.

The Committee’s greatest concern was the potential negative impact a 6 ft. tall solid wall could have on the adjacent future Greenway path. Such a linear park’s best security feature is continuous and continual public scrutiny. Careful study should be undertaken to assure that this potential asset is not inadvertently discarded.

The Committee adjourned at 8:05 to reconvene on Aug. 28.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS

Barbara Urbanic of Coldwell Bankers Bartels-Realtors donates money to the Neighborhood Council when she makes a sale here. Thank you, Barbara, for your latest donation!

If you live, own a business or are a place of worship in the North & East, you are a member of the Neighborhood Council, whether or not you pay dues.

Many neighbors send donations with their dues (\$10/year per household) to support all our projects and we thank you all.

The latest donations came from:

Alvin & Dorothy Collins

Mark & Shirley Edwards

Alva Foreman

Darrell & Diane Hoh

Cynthia Lang

Sandra Levy

Madeline Machetta

Roger & Kathryn McDonald

Hazel McMullin

Betty Seabolt

Lucille Ziesenhenn

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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 06-07 year. ___ I enclose a donation of _____ Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____ email _____ ___ I do not want to remain on the mailing list</p>	<p>Mail to: Martha White 3411 Lowell Richmond, CA 94804</p> <p>make checks to: N & E</p>
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North & East Neighborhood Council Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2006

Third Thursday

7:00 p.m.

**Richmond Senior Center
2525 Macdonald Avenue**

**Pedestrian / Bicycle Collisions
in the N & E**

What you can do

Also -- our annual folding and labeling meeting.

We need you.
Refreshments served.