Mayor and Members of the City Council:

This is the weekly report for the week ending April 11th, 2014.

1. **Meeting Notes**

   The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th beginning with the regular agenda at 6:30 PM.

2. **Compost Giveaway & Great Tomato Sale**

   The City of Richmond Environmental and Health Initiatives will be joining Contra Costa Master Gardeners and Urban Tilth at their Great Tomato Sale to distribute compost to Richmond residents free of charge on Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 AM until supplies last at AdamsCrest Urban Farm, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond. This compost is produced locally from Richmond food scraps. There will also be a variety of tomato and other veggie plants for purchase as well as experienced staff on hand to answer questions.

   - Richmond residents only (no businesses)
   - Up to two cubic feet (approx. three 5-gal buckets) of compost per resident, while supplies last.
   - Please bring your own container(s). Compost is not bagged.

3. **Get Covered! Affordable Care Act (ACA) Enrollment Event Monday, April 14th**

   Did you have trouble enrolling in healthcare coverage or have an incomplete application? Do you need healthcare coverage (California Medi-Cal)? Get assistance to complete your Covered California application before the new deadline of Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Come to the “Let’s Get Covered!” event and take the opportunity to complete your application with the assistance of Certified Enrollment Counselors.

   **Let’s Get Covered Enrollment Event**
   
   **Date:** Monday, April 14, 2014
PLEASE BRING PROOF OF THE FOLLOWING FOR ENROLLMENT:

- **IDENTITY:** Photo ID, driver’s license, or U.S. passport for each adult applying
- **CA ADDRESS:** Any piece of postmarked mail sent to you
- **INCOME:** Last 30 days of paystubs, 2012 income tax fillings, and Social Security cards of everyone applying
- **CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION STATUS:** Birth certificate, permanent resident card, certificate of naturalization, or certificate of citizenship for each person applying

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW – for Each Family Member:

- Number of people enrolling (whole or partial family),
- Birth Dates,
- Social Security numbers,
- Home Zip code

To find out if you are ready to enroll, please call Gabino Arredondo at (510) 620-6606. To download the fliers go to the City of Richmond Health Initiatives webpage at [www.richmondhealth.org](http://www.richmondhealth.org).
4. **Chevron Refinery Modernization Project Draft EIR Available for Public Review – Public Comment Hearing on April 17th**

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, the City of Richmond Planning Division released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Chevron Refinery Modernization Project (Modernization Project or Project). The DEIR, which is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the Project, analyzes alternatives and identifies mitigation measures to avoid significant environmental effects. Release of the DEIR opens a 45-day comment period that closes at 5:00 PM on May 2, 2014.

To assist in the review of the DEIR, the City hosted a study session and two public workshops this past week. A study session to introduce the Modernization Project and provide an overview of the Draft EIR was held at the Planning Commission meeting held this past Thursday, and two separate workshops with technical experts were held this past Wednesday.

A public hearing to receive comments on the Draft EIR will be held at the Planning Commission meeting held on April 17th at 6:30 PM at the Richmond Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza.

Comments on the Draft EIR, sent in writing, must be received by 5:00 PM on May 2, 2014, at the following address:

Lina Velasco  
City of Richmond Planning Division  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
P.O. Box 4046  
Richmond, CA 94804

A copy of the Draft EIR is available for review online at [http://chevronmodernization.com/](http://chevronmodernization.com/). Copies are also available for review at the following locations:

- Richmond Public Library - Main Branch, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
- Richmond Public Library - Bayview Branch, 5100 Hartnett Avenue, Richmond
- City of Richmond, Planning and Building Services Department, City Hall, 450 Civic Center Plaza

5. **Volunteer at the Richmond Youth Summit**

The City of Richmond will be hosting the Richmond Youth Summit on Saturday, April 19th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The event will feature speakers, performances and workshops on civic engagement. We are seeking 15 adult and youth volunteers to assist with set-up, registration, lunch, and more. Call (510) 620-5535 or visit
http://richmondvolunteers.org/opportunities/2972 for more information and to sign up.

6. **Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Bottoms Property Residential Project on Seacliff Drive**

The City of Richmond has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Bottoms Property Residential Project on Seacliff Drive. The project proposes to construct 60 market-rate condominiums on a vacant waterfront parcel. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15105(a), a minimum forty-five-day (45) public review period is required which commenced on March 27th. All written comments on this document must be submitted to the City of Richmond Planning Department within this 45-day review period, or by Monday, May 12, 2014, by 5:00 PM. Please submit comments to:

Kieron Slaughter, Associate Planner
City of Richmond Planning Division
450 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 4046
Richmond, CA 94804
A copy of the Draft EIR is available for review online. Copies are also available for review at the following locations:

- Richmond Public Library - Main Branch, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
- City of Richmond Planning and Building Services Department, City Hall, 450 Civic Center Plaza

7. Officer Bradley A. Moody Memorial Underpass Project Update

The Bradley A. Moody Memorial Underpass Project involves the construction of a roadway underpass on Marina Bay Parkway between Meeker Avenue and Regatta Boulevard, and is intended to resolve long-standing access limitations to the Marina Bay area caused by frequent train crossings. In early September 2013, Marina Bay Parkway was closed to traffic. This closure is planned to remain in place for 18-20 months.

As noted in prior reports, placement of drilled tie-backs and associated excavation work was suspended due to delays of AT&T-performed utility relocation. Additionally, these activities cannot occur during days with significant precipitation. Full completion of AT&T work is required before a full re-start of critical path work (roadway excavation and tieback placement). On April 10th, AT&T confirmed that work would be complete by Monday, April 14th, and that crews would work over the weekend if necessary to meet that date. In the meantime, shoring installation for the deep storm drain manhole located near the tracks is ongoing, along with restoration work at the Department of Public Health campus.

Provided AT&T honors their commitment to complete their work by April 14th, roadway excavation will start on that date, with tieback installation resuming the following week. Staff will then re-evaluate the schedule to determine the impact of the AT&T delay.

For additional information and to be added to the project update contact list, please see the project website at www.moodyup.com. You can also follow the project on twitter: @moodyunderpass, or contact the project’s public outreach coordinator Jacqueline Majors at (925) 949-6196.

8. City Manager Chronicles

I have listed below some of the topics for meetings that I have recently attended in the hope that it provides an idea of the varied issues with which our organization deals routinely.

Activities and meeting topics during the past week have included:

- Met with Finance Department staff to review the budget calendar and discuss the process for finalizing a FY 2014-15 budget;
- Attended the community meeting regarding the Richmond Bay Campus, hosted by UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, at which there was a presentation and discussion regarding the proposed “Joint Statement of Commitment to Strengthen Community Partnerships between UC Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and the Richmond Community;”
- Met with Council representatives to the West County Integrated Waste Management Board (RecycleMore) to provide an update regarding solid waste franchise agreements;
- Met, together with Economic Development Administrator Janet Johnson, with Tom Terrill, President and CEO of the Contra Costa Leadership Council to discuss regional economic development activities;
- Met with HUD Region IX officials, together with Mayor McLaughlin, to discuss HOME program compliance issues;
- Met with chairs of the Strategic Plan implementation working groups (Finance Director Jim Goins, ONS Director DeVone Boggan, Administrative Chief Shasa Curl, Public Works Director Yader Bermudez, and Employment and Training Director Sal Vaca) to discuss a process for updating the Five-Year Strategic Plan;
- Met with staff of the Finance Department and Housing and Community Development division to review the status of HUD compliance issues;
- Attended the Mayors Conference of Sonoma County, at their request, along with Mayor McLaughlin, Administrative Chief Shasa Curl, and Gabino Arredondo, Health and Wellness Analyst, to do a presentation on Richmond’s General Plan Health Element and Health in All Policies Strategy.

These meetings were in addition to attending the regular management staff meeting, agenda planning, reviewing staff reports to the City Council, doing department head “check-ins,” having discussions on various personnel matters, and having short discussions with staff, community members, members of the press, etc.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the substance of these or any other topics.

9. **2nd Annual Upcycle**

The Richmond Art Center will be hosting their 2nd Annual Upcycle on Saturday, April 12th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Richmond Art Center at 2540 Barrett Avenue. This festival is for the whole family to create, see and learn about the art of upcycling -- creatively re-using materials otherwise headed for the landfill. At Upcycling workstations, you'll learn how to screen-print, make mosaics, create robots, weave rag rugs, and more. Plus, participants will be able to play and hear 'upcycled' live music and enjoy healthy snacks. This is a FREE event. For more information please visit: [http://www.therac.org/html/calendar.html#upcycle](http://www.therac.org/html/calendar.html#upcycle).
The East Bay Center for the Performing Art's Young Artists Repertory Series will celebrate its 25th year this spring with three evenings of performances featuring new performers and new work from Center Resident Companies including: Iron Triangle Urban Ballet, Richmond Chamber Ensemble, Richmond Jazz Collective, Son de la Tierra, Voices of Reason, West African Music & Dance Ensemble, Iron Triangle Theater, along with invited guest companies.

Suggested donation for tickets is $15 for general admission and $5 for children 12 and under/students/seniors 65 and older. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

To reserve your tickets in advance please contact: Kwesi Anku (510) 234-5624 x4495 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM weekdays, or Letty Mejia (510) 234-5624 x2495 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM weekdays. Remaining tickets will also be available at the door on a first come first served basis.

Young Artists Repertory Performance Schedule:

Friday, April 11, 7:00 PM
Richmond Jazz Collective
Voices of Reason

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM
West African Music and Dance Ensemble
Son de la Tierra
Guest Artist: Zaccho Youth Company

Friday, April 25, 7:00 PM
Richmond Chamber Ensemble
Iron Triangle Urban Ballet
Iron Triangle Theater
11. Alternative to the GED

Last month, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved two new tests as acceptable alternatives to the GED. The SBE recommended that the computer adapted and pencil and paper High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) created by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the non-computer adaptive version of the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) be offered as High School Equivalency Tests in California.

According to the SBE, the GED, HiSET, and TASC, all meet the standards set with the new Common Core Curriculum.

What necessitated the change in policy?

The new GED, which rolled out at the beginning of February 2014, is more costly than its previous incarnation, is only offered as a computer-based test, and thereby excludes some previous test centers (many adult schools) from operating as a GED testing site. The two new tests, offering a paper and pencil option, allow test centers to make seamless transition for continuation of services, allowing for greater access to our residents. For some community based organizations without computer labs, preparation for the new GED would prove to be almost impossible. Additionally, for adults who are challenged by the changes in the content of the new curriculum, the additional skills required for the computer based test can prove to be an added barrier.

LEAP and the new High School Equivalency Test

LEAP will adapt to all three tests and continue to prepare all our students to be able to navigate and problem solve in the on-line environment while offering them options for test-taking. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Having this information is imperative for all of us working with youth and adults in the area of college and career readiness. Feel free to call LEAP at (510) 307-8084 or at Sherry_drobner@ci.richmond.ca.us.

12. Berkeley Lab's “Science Remix: An Evening of Imagination, Participation and Revelation” on May 1st

Some say, "Science is impossible to understand." Or, "Science is scary." Or worse, "Science is for somebody else."

Wrong. Science is about everyone and for everyone. Don't believe it? Then come to Berkeley Lab's "Science Remix" (or watch the live stream) on Thursday, May 1st at Richmond's East Bay Center for the Performing Arts from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. Berkeley Lab scientists -- with some help from the audience -- will share how discovery happens, show what it means to you and reveal why science can be as personal as you want it to be.
An introduction to the event will be made by Jordan Simmons, Director of the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts. “Science Remix” special quests include: Sarah Richardson, Ashley Gibb, Brett Singer, Peter Erclius, Jim Ciston and Paul Williams.

Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free, imagination required.

Click [here](#) to download the event flyer. RSVP not required. Seating is limited.

13. **The Richmond Public Library Foundation presents, Hot Spring Reads: Book Talk, Lecture and Event Series.**

The Richmond Public Library Foundation presents, **Hot Spring Reads: Book Talk, Lecture and Event Series.**

This **FREE** event will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott at 3150 Garrity Way in Richmond on Thursday, May 1st. The event begins at 6:00 PM, and includes a **free drawing** and **light refreshments**. Eighteen new titles will be announced. Books discussed will be for sale by Book Passages.

For additional information, visit the foundation’s website: [www.rplf.org](http://www.rplf.org) or you may send an e-mail to: [info@rplf.org](mailto:info@rplf.org).
Livie & Luca Choose Parchester for Park Project in 2014

Livie & Luca is a Bay Area children's shoe company committed to social responsibility, sustainability and spreading joy. They donate 10% of their online sales to charity. Last year, Livie and Luca were introduced to the City of Richmond through KaBOOM! and funded the Belding-Garcia Park Project. There were several criteria that were very important to Livie & Luca for the park rebuild which included: the playground must be accessible to and provide sensory input for all children, including those with disabilities; it must promote health and wellness; it must be sustainable in the broadest sense; and, its components must be as natural as possible.

After experiencing the successful 2013 Belding-Garcia Park build day, Livie & Luca decided to continue their work in Richmond. This past month, Pogo Park and City staff had the opportunity to escort Mitzi Rivas from Livie & Luca around Richmond to decide on a project for 2014. After considering the options, Livie & Luca selected Parchester Park as their site of choice to transform into a magical play and gathering space and has graciously donated funding for this project!

We have now asked the team that supported the Belding-Garcia Park Project to support the 2014 Parchester project. We learned a great deal from working together...
to transform the Belding-Garcia Park Project last year and know that this same team (with even more members) will bring their energy to the Parchester community!!

Be on the look-out for updates and how YOU can be involved in this magical process. For more information about the Parchester Park project, please contact Alicia Nightengale at (510) 620-5460 or at Alicia_nightengale@ci.richmond.ca.us.

Existing play structure at Parchester

15. “Richmond ESC at Berkeley” Receives the UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Award for Civic Engagement

In January 2014, Richmond ESC - Excellence Serving our Community, the City of Richmond’s high impact volunteer program, officially established a student organization on UC Berkeley's campus. The partnership began with two UC Berkeley students and City of Richmond interns who saw the opportunity to further the work of Richmond ESC through a partnership with UC Berkeley.

Joshua Tovar, intern at the City Council Office and Jantsan Damdinsuren, intern and liaison for the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission, have the passion to make Richmond a better place. In collaboration with Richmond ESC, they envisioned and successfully implemented “Richmond ESC at Berkeley”, a student club that connects CAL students to opportunities for positive volunteer engagement in the Richmond community. The club’s focus this year has been on supporting students at Richmond High School in creating a service project that addresses an issue that students care about.

The service learning project, led by three Law Academy teachers, has three phases, beginning with students using research methods to identify an issue and organization they care about, followed by a written essay and a Power Point presentation to persuade classroom peers that their organization should be
supported. The two participating classrooms will then use parliamentary procedure to make a decision on an organization and issue to support and will complete a service action to address the issue. Jantsan and Gina Saechao, a Richmond High alumna and current UC Berkeley student, have worked with up to sixty students weekly in providing one-on-one support on this project.

The club’s dedication to supporting Richmond students has not gone unnoticed. Each year, UC Berkeley’s Chancellor recognizes students, staff, faculty, and community partnerships that embody UC Berkeley’s proud tradition of public service and commitment to improving our local and global community. Out of the hundreds of student organizations on campus, only one is selected and given the "Civic Engagement" award. This year, we are happy to announce that Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks will honor the Richmond ESC club with the Civic Engagement Award. For more information regarding the program, please contact Bertha Romo at (510) 620-5535.

16. LEAP Learners and Graduates Tell Their Story – Thank you KCRT!

As LEAP gears up to celebrate 30 years of service on September 21st, a new KCRT video provides viewers with an excellent overview of the city’s adult literacy program. KCRT is now airing the 15 minute video featuring LEAP graduates and learners. Many thanks to Brian Bland, Johnny Hill and Bert Young of KCRT for their creative energy and resources. Below is a link KCRT YouTube site. You may also access this video through the LEAP Face Book page (please “like” us!). The video features adults from LEAP’s ESL program as well as the adult literacy and GED preparation programs.

If you know someone who needs a GED to obtain either their goals for college or career, please send them this link.

17. Recreation Highlights

Commission on Aging - Education Workshop

The Commission on Aging hosted its biannual educational workshop on April 9th at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. The topics covered were estate planning and Advanced Health Care Directives. Attorney Doris Mitchell led the workshop with
important information on planning for the future in these two vital areas. The Commissioners welcomed 58 seniors and served a healthy continental breakfast. While signing in, participants perused the informational materials including the Commission on Aging newsletter, brochures, and flyers for the upcoming Senior Night Out. If you would like more information about the Commission on Aging’s workshops, special events or excursions, please call Eli Williams, Commission Chair, at (510) 232-4690 or Beverly Wallace, Commission Vice Chair, at (510) 223-4528 to be added to the mailing list.

Commission on Aging - Senior Night Out

The Commission on Aging Senior Night Out event will be on Friday, May 16th at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are $20 in advance and are on sale now at the Richmond Recreation Complex, 3230 Macdonald Avenue, between the hours of 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. This event will feature live entertainment, dinner, and the honoring of Centenarian of the Year - Irene Patterson! Call Eli Williams, Commission Chair, at (510) 232-4690 or Beverly Wallace, Commission Vice Chair, at (510) 223-4528.

Recreation Information Day

Please join the Recreation Department at the annual Recreation Information Day and city-wide Spring Egg Hunt at the Civic Center Plaza on Saturday, April 12th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The event will take place rain or shine!

Summer Programs

Registration for summer programs is now open! Beginning April 1, 2014, participants can register:

- on line at https://online.activenetwork.com/richmond
by phone at 510-620-6793
by faxing a completed registration form to 510-620-6583
by mailing a completed registration form to 3230 Macdonald Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804
or by visiting the registration office in the 1st floor lobby at the Richmond Recreation Complex, 3230 Macdonald Avenue

Check out the summer/fall 2014 Activity Guide online at www.ci.richmond.ca.us/recreation.

Disabled People’s Recreation Center

Adult Morning Program participants are busy preparing new projects to present at a table and inform the community about their program during the Senior Health and Information Day to be held on May 14th at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium.

The Therapeutic Interactive Recreation Program participants are busy meeting all their current objectives in exercise, learning, and having fun!

Pt. Richmond Community Center

The Women's Westside Improvement Club unveiled the new street map of Point Richmond, located on the corner of Park Place and West Richmond, on Saturday, April 5th. The celebration marked the completion of an eight year project coming to fruition and a community who welcomes the new street map; a beautiful work of art. The Point Richmond Fire House ended the celebration with their fire engine rolling out and sounding off its horn, which was followed by light refreshments at the Point Richmond Community Center.
18. **Public Works Updates**

**Facilities Maintenance:** Carpenters removed rust from the pool equipment around the Plunge pool, installed four clocks at the Plunge, and relocated the floor safe at the Recreation Complex.

Painters completed the upstairs administrative offices at the Plunge and the Arts and Crafts Room at the Booker T. Anderson Community Center.

Stationary Engineers replaced the heating controls at the new R-Transit offices, balanced the heat system at Fire Station #61, upgraded the faucets in the women’s restroom in the Booker T. Anderson Community Center, repaired the solar water heating system at Fire Station #64, and replaced the kitchen faucet at Fire Station #64 as well.

Utility workers hung a new bulletin board at the Senior Annex Center, auto-scrubbed in and around the R-Transit office at the Richmond Transit Center, and maintained 29 City-owned buildings.
Electricians conducted electrical repairs at the Richmond Plunge, inspected the intersections of Richmond Parkway at Macdonald and Barrett Avenues, surveyed street lights on Regatta Boulevard, restored power to the irrigation system at the Richmond Main Library, addressed intersection timing and replaced the red light at Richmond Parkway and West Macdonald Avenue, installed three ADA pedestrian push buttons at San Pablo and Solano Avenues, and inspected vandalized pedestrian warning beacon at San Luis Street and Carlson Boulevard.

Parks and Landscaping Division: Crews trimmed shrubs and trees at John F. Kennedy Park, attended to ball fields at Nicholl Park, repaired the bleachers at Nicholl Park, completed plant maintenance at Nicholl Park, landscaped the strip on Richmond Parkway from Atlas to Hilltop Drive, and removed a downed tree in Boorman Park.
Tree crews cut, trimmed or removed trees on Center Avenue, 14th Street, South 23rd Street, Merced Street, and behind the Booker T. Anderson Community Center.

**Streets Division:** Staff ground and paved Bissell Avenue from 1st to 6th Street, as well as worked from the outstanding pothole list.
Street sweeping performed commercial sweeping services for the first Monday and the second Tuesday through Friday in the Parchester Village, Hilltop Bayview, Hilltop Green, Fairmede/Hilltop Clinton Hill II – IV and East Richmond neighborhood council areas.

Signs and Lines crews fabricated 20 new signs, installed 27 signs, repaired 65 signs and poles, painted 20’ of curbs and installed a second Measure J sign.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these or any other items of interest to you.

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You can sign up to receive the City Manager’s weekly report and other information from the City of Richmond by visiting: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx