Richmond Mayor Tom Butt declares city’s first official bird

By Mike Kinney

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On Wednesday at Richmond Civic Center Plaza, Mayor Tom Butt declared the city’s first ever official bird: The Osprey.

The mayor did so in partnership with the Golden Gate Audubon Society at an event that brought dozens of professional and amateur artists, including young artists from the NIAD Art Center, to the plaza to create chalk art of various bird species in honor of the “Year of the Bird.”

Richmond boasts the Bay Area’s largest number of successful nesting Osprey pairs with 15, which collectively raised and fledged 23 wild Ospreys last year, Mayor Butt said.

Some of those Ospreys have become Internet celebrities after the Golden Gate Audubon Society mounted a camera atop the historic Whirley Crane near the SS Red Oak Victory in order to allow experts and the public to watch and observe their nest 24 hours a day.

Wednesday’s event was also a celebration of the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a significant bird-protection law.