

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending April 22nd, 2011.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, to be followed by the regular agenda (predominantly presentations and study sessions) beginning at 6:30 PM.

2. **Richmond Wins Prestigious California Preservation Award**

This past week, we received notification that the City of Richmond has received the California Preservation Foundation's President's Award for "...extraordinary effort to preserve historic buildings and sites in the City of Richmond." This award acknowledges "special achievements by individuals or organizations in preserving California's rich and diverse historic resources." The City will be presented with this award at the Foundation's plenary session on May 16th.

On a related note, on Saturday, April 9th, the Executive Director of the California Preservation Foundation and about twenty others toured several historical sites in Richmond. Vice Mayor Tom Butt helped organize the tour, while Senior Planner Lina Velasco and Community and Economic Development Director Steve Duran helped out with tour guide duties. The tour ended at the Boilerhouse Restaurant at Ford Pointe.

3. **Richmond Receives 2011 Excellence in Communication Award (Another Award!)**

This past week, the City of Richmond's website, www.ci.richmond.ca.us, was recognized by the California Public Information Officers Association (CAPIO) as the Best of the Best for website development and redesign that allows for more government transparency, accountability, and ease of navigation throughout the website.

Competing against hundreds of other entries representing the best in government communications, the City of Richmond's website won first place receiving the 2011 Excellence in Communication Award in the website category.

Judges comments included, "This is a great site -- clean, easy to navigate and it features just the right amount of information on the home page."



4. **EPA Richmond Community Tour**

Last Friday, April 15th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld participated in a community tour of Richmond. The tour included visits to North Richmond, Richmond BUILD, the Richmond Greenway, MBA Polymers, and the EPA Region 9 Laboratory which is located at the Richmond UC Field Station. Mayor McLaughlin, Councilmember Ritterman, and a number of community-based organizations joined the EPA Administrator, City and County staff for a roundtable discussion on environmental justice in Richmond. The City looks forward to a continued relationship with EPA to address environmental justice, brownfields, and other environmental issues in Richmond.

Other tour photos can be viewed by clicking [here](#).



5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Updates**

On April 13th, Engineering Services held a public meeting to discuss the status of the wastewater treatment facility and provided a presentation about the recently-purchased hydrogen sulfide monitoring equipment. This was the first of what is to be a series of meetings intended to provide a forum for community stakeholders to share input on risk assessment and strategic planning regarding the wastewater system. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for May 4th, at 6:00 PM, and is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Point Richmond Community Center. Further details and an agenda for the meeting are being developed and will be shared in advance of the meeting. We hope residents are available to attend, as this is very important to the process of addressing and resolving this situation.

6. **NURVE Highlighted at Local Initiatives Support Corporation's 30th Anniversary Leadership Symposium and Gala**

Since 2001, a wide coalition of partners including the City of Richmond, Richmond Housing Authority, Richmond Community Foundation, West Contra Costa Unified School District, National Park Service, and local neighborhood councils and nonprofit organizations have been working together on the Nystrom United Revitalization Effort (NURVE). NURVE was created to strategically address the complex issues that face the neighborhoods surrounding Nystrom Elementary School such as physical blight, crime, at-risk youth, and unemployment. NURVE partners believe these issues can be addressed by bringing in needed resources, and through local neighborhood-based revitalization and collaboration.

On March 24th, NURVE was featured at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation's (LISC) 30th Anniversary Leadership Symposium and Gala in Washington, D.C., a national gathering of leaders on community development. The NURVE partnership was highlighted as a national model for how communities can come together to jointly solve tough problems involving safety, schools, play spaces, and healthy food access.

Presenters included:

Stephanie Forbes, Bay Area LISC
Tim Jones, Executive Director, Richmond Housing Authority
Diane Aranda, Program Manager, The California Endowment
Deb McKoy, Center for Cities and Schools, UC Berkeley
Tana Montiero, Parent Organizer/Community Liaison, Richmond College
Prep Schools
Coach Rae Jackson, Richmond Eagles Football
Angela Jenkins, Community Benefit Manager, Kaiser Permanente

The NURVE presentation can be viewed on LISC's website:
http://www.lisc.org/section/events/30th_anniversary/conference_archives/live_streaming

7. **Meeting with SAFE Fields Coalition**

This past week Recreation Supervisor Jerry Anderson and I met with representatives from the SAFE Fields coalition to discuss implementing a more structured program to improve access to Richmond playfields by athletic leagues. The idea is to develop rules and policies that will better coordinate, and, as a result, allow for more recreation and sports league participants to equitably and economically utilize City and school district facilities. Also discussed was the longer-term need to expand the number of playfields in the City. The participants agreed to try to develop new policies and procedures that can be implemented in time for the fall season, which generally commences around the beginning of August. We will keep you informed as this project moves forward.

8. **2011 Richmond Community Survey**

The City Council-authorized 2011 Richmond Community Survey is underway. If you received a survey, this is a friendly reminder to please complete and return it. Thank you to all that have already responded to the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to help city officials evaluate services, measure resident satisfaction with current services, and to help plan for Richmond's future. The results from the survey will be included in a final report available to all city officials, staff and residents. We look forward to receiving your feedback. Residents can contact the city at (510) 620-5458 with questions, comments, or to obtain a survey in Spanish.

9. **Engineering Services Quarterly Utility Coordination Meeting**

The first quarterly coordination meeting among Engineering Services and utility companies serving Richmond was held at City Hall this past Wednesday. The meeting was very well attended by company representatives who were appreciative of the opportunity to discuss upcoming projects as a group. The City used the first part of the meeting to report on recent efforts by Engineering to standardize fees and streamline permit issuance.

A report and discussion on the City's street cut prohibition ordinance segued into a report on the pavement management program and future paving work. The next item was a forum on current and future improvement projects of the attendees. West County Wastewater District supplied a list of sewer main rehabilitation work that will help sequence work in the 2010/11 pavement rehab program.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of City projects nearing completion and those nearing construction.

The next meeting of this group is being scheduled for July.

10. **Compost and Plant Giveaway, Energy Efficient Light Bulb Trade-in – Saturday, April 23rd**

As a reminder, the City of Richmond will host a compost giveaway on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 AM -1:00 PM in the parking lot at 27th Street and Macdonald Avenue. Compost is made from the City’s residential food scrap collection and composting program and is a rich soil amendment in home gardens.

Residents may pick up 2 cubic feet of free compost (about three 5-gallon buckets, [unbagged]), take home a free plant, and receive an energy efficient light blub (first 100 households). CURME (Communities United in Restoring Mother Earth) will host a Compost Guru table, where residents can find out about the benefits of composting and how to best apply it in the garden.

Plants are provided by Sunnyside Organics and Richmond Rivets.



11. **Community Health and Wellness Element Pilot Implementation: Outdoor Vendor Ordinance Community Workshop #1**

This past Wednesday, April 20th, over 60 people participated in the first of four community meetings to discuss potential amendments to the City’s vendor ordinance. A revised ordinance proposes to encourage vendors to increase healthy food options; improve public safety by developing a user-friendly

permitting process; and increase entrepreneurial and job opportunities for residents. The meeting participants came from a diverse set of stakeholders including mobile vendors, business owners, Planning Commissioners, City Council, Police Department, Mayor's Office, school parents and staff, Code Enforcement Officers, community organizations, and County representatives. Volunteers were also solicited to be a part of the steering committee that will advise the process and development of the Health Impact Assessment. Translation in Spanish was provided. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4th at 6:00 PM at the Cesar Chavez Elementary School cafeteria. Associate Planner Hector Rojas is the contact for this project (620-6662 or hector_rojas@ci.richmond.ca.us).



12. **City Lighting Upgrade Project**

The City lighting upgrade project recently completed two comprehensive lighting upgrades at May Valley Community Center and the Parks Field Offices. The lighting upgrades at these two facilities have a payback of 3.5 years and will prevent 6,200 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The cumulative project has now upgraded 25 facilities, achieved an annual costs savings of \$33,000 and an annual carbon reduction of 145,000 lbs.

13. **Energy Upgrade California**

In light of Earth Day and the economic road to recovery, the City is encouraging residents and businesses to visit Energy Upgrade California to take advantage of generous stimulus energy and water rebates. Energy Upgrade California is a one-stop-shop for building improvement projects that lower energy use, conserve water and natural resources. For residential projects, the State is now providing rebates up to \$4,000 and the County will rebate 20% of project costs for whole home upgrades.

The City is also providing free upgrades to moderate income residents up to \$5,000 through the GETS program. Funds are limited, so please visit www.energyupgradeca.org today and start your home energy upgrade.



14. **Engineering Services Capital Improvement Project Updates**

Roosevelt and McLaughlin Sewer Pipe Rehabilitation Project: Night work continues on the Caltrans right-of-way on San Pablo Avenue. Trenching was delayed briefly when unmarked utilities were uncovered in the east side of the intersection at Roosevelt Avenue. The responsible utility company determined that the pipes were abandoned and allowed their removal for new main installation. That new sewer main is now in place, to be followed by manhole construction through early next week. Traffic has been very light and incident free to date. Local drivers have been a great help by maintaining a safe speed through the construction zone.

Series Street Light Replacement at Park Plaza: All 89 new lights are installed. Only two are not working because of a manufacturer's defect. They have been ordered and will be replaced as soon as they arrive. The pathway lighting has been installed and is working as well. All old poles, lights and cables are being removed and cleaned up by the contractor.

15. **Recreation Highlights**

California Parks and Recreation Society: Myrtle Braxton-Ellington of the Commission on Aging has been awarded the Outstanding Volunteer in Parks and Recreation Award by the California Parks and Recreation Society, District 3. The many years of quality volunteer service that Ms. Braxton-Ellington has given to the Recreation Department and to the City of Richmond were recognized at the Awards and Installation Lunch held on April 14th.

Easter Egg Hunt: The Annex Senior Center, in collaboration with the Annex Neighborhood Council, is holding a free Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 23rd, from 10:00 AM to noon. Face painting, arts and crafts, and a visit from the Easter Bunny can be enjoyed by participants of all ages.

16. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities: Installation of the Civic Center Marquee is continuing. Weather permitting, it should be fully operational by June.



Parks and Landscaping: A new gate and pathway was installed to allow access to the new baseball field that will be opening soon at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Crews will be working next week to prepare the Martin Luther King Jr. Park for the grand opening. Braxton Park received a new tree, as well as general maintenance and improvements.

Crews worked on various fire fuel areas such as the hillside at LaMoine Park and in the Hilltop Landscaping Maintenance district; areas A, B, and Hilltop Lake.

Next week, crews will be abating weeds along the Richmond Parkway, Country Club Vista Park, and Bay Vista Park.

Several trees were removed or trimmed within the Belding Woods and North and East neighborhoods. Next week, tree crews will be working to trim trees near Stege School and on Sacramento Avenue.

Streets: The paving crew completed the paving of Phanor Drive from Mcglothen Way to Giant Highway; pothole repairs on 23rd Street from Ohio Avenue to Cutting Boulevard; and Hilltop Drive from Robert Miller Drive to east of the city limits. Pavement skin patches on Virginia Avenue and Marina Way to 12th Street (areas around Martin Luther King Jr. Park) will be completed next week. Also next week, crews will begin preparations for the City of Richmond's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

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

Have a Happy Easter and a great week!

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