

## **City Manager's Weekly Report**

This is the weekly report for the two weeks ending March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### 1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is this coming Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning with the regular agenda at 6:30 PM. Please note that there is no Closed Session scheduled for this meeting.

### 2. **Environmental Protection Agency United Heckathorn Superfund Site Community Meeting on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a community meeting regarding the United Heckathorn Superfund Site on Monday, March 19, from 5:30 PM -7:00 PM at the Richmond Community Foundation, 1014 Florida Avenue, Suite 200, in Richmond. EPA staff will present an Action Plan for upcoming work at the United Heckathorn Site and opportunities for the community to become involved.

The United Heckathorn Superfund Site is located in the Richmond Harbor and includes five acres of land and about 15 acres of marine sediments in the Lauritzen and Parr Channels. Contaminants from the activities of several companies that formulated, packaged, and shipped pesticides at this location from the mid-1940s to mid-1960s persist on this site. In March 1990, the United Heckathorn site was listed on the Federal Superfund List and the EPA directed cleanup efforts including dredging and capping upland areas.

**Dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane (DDT) and dieldrin** have persisted despite the large-scale cleanup. Current EPA studies show that DDT and dieldrin levels in the sediment, mussel, and fish are above cleanup levels in the Lauritzen Channel and DDT-contaminated sediment appears to be redistributed within the channel above cleanup levels. The State currently has a "No Fishing" advisory for the Lauritzen Channel:

[http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/nor\\_cal/pdf/SFBayAdvisory21May2011.pdf](http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/nor_cal/pdf/SFBayAdvisory21May2011.pdf).

To find out more about the United Heckathorn Superfund Site, view the attached factsheet and visit: [www.epa.gov/region09/UnitedHeckathorn](http://www.epa.gov/region09/UnitedHeckathorn)



information regarding the kick-off and other project events, please visit [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/urbangreening](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/urbangreening).



4. **Richmond Community Bar-B-Que and Basketball Tournament**

Due to impending rainy weather, the Richmond Community Bar-B-Que and 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament that was originally scheduled for Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at Martin Luther King Park has been postponed until Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Community Bar-B-Que is sponsored by Ghilotti Brothers and Veolia Water in partnership with Richmond City Councilman Corky Booze and is a celebration of the completion of the 2011 sewer rehabilitation and replacement projects performed by Ghilotti and Veolia and administered through the City's Engineering Services Department. Please be advised that the Youth Track Meet will still be held this Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to attend the track meet and cheer on the competitors.

5. **Sale Tax Update**

California's economic recovery seems to be continuing, with every region in the state experiencing an increase in sales tax cash receipts compared to last year. Northern California increased by 8.4%, and Southern California increased by 7.7%, resulting in a statewide increase of 8.0%.

Although preliminary numbers for the quarter ending March 30<sup>th</sup> show Richmond with a decrease of 2.6% compared to the same quarter last year, Richmond did experience a 13.8% increase for the quarter ending December 31, 2011, compared to the same quarter in 2011. Overall, for the past twelve months, Richmond has seen a 4.9% increase in sales tax receipts.

REGULAR SALES TAX	% CHANGE BY MONTH ENDED QUARTER						MOST RECENT FOUR QUARTERS TOTAL	
	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Apr-10 thru	Apr-11 thru
Last Year Cash Received >								

This Year Cash Received > Calendar Sales Quarter >	Dec-10 10Q3	Mar-11 10Q4	Jun-11 11Q1	Sep-11 11Q2	Dec-11	Mar-12 11Q4	Mar-11	Mar-12	\$ Chg
<b>Richmond</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>12,109,749</b>	<b>12,698,052</b>	<b>588,303</b>
Contra Costa Co.	-2.7	2.0	9.5	7.1	6.6	6.1	117,351,091	125,851,699	8,500,608
S.F. Bay Area	3.8	7.1	8.2	10.8	9.2	7.5	1,056,648,319	1,150,800,195	94,151,876
Northern California	3.9	7.2	8.6	11.7	9.4	8.4	2,025,655,595	2,218,755,461	193,099,866
Southern California	3.6	6.0	6.9	9.2	9.0	7.7	2,718,011,032	2,941,608,163	223,597,131
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>4,743,666,627</b>	<b>5,160,363,624</b>	<b>416,696,997</b>

6. **Richmond Police Commissioners Certified as NACOLE Train Practitioners**

For the last 18 years, the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) has hosted annual training conferences for civilian oversight practitioners and supporters.

NACOLE offers a training certificate program, in which training certificates are issued for those attending the requisite sessions at the annual conferences. Individuals who earn training certificates at three conferences in five years and complete the reading requirement (two items from the approved reading lists) will earn the designation of “NACOLE Trained Practitioner” and receive a certificate.

At the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NACOLE Conference, held last year in New Orleans, Richmond Police Commissioner Nemy Bautista and former Police Commissioner Cora Ward completed all stated requirements and were awarded certificates designating them as NACOLE trained practitioners. They have formally been trained in concepts pertaining to civilian oversight of law enforcement.

The dedicated service on the Police Commission and to the civilian oversight community by Police Commissioner Bautista and former Police Commissioner Ward is greatly appreciated.

7. **Emergency Services Manager Kathy Gerk Receives Well-Deserved Recognition**

On March 1, 2012, Kathryn Gerk, Emergency Services Manager with the Richmond Fire Department Office of Emergency Services, was awarded the PG & E-Red Cross MVP in Emergency Preparedness awards at the “Game On” Ready Neighborhoods Ceremony at San Francisco’s Union Square.

According to Harold Brooks, ARC Chief Executive Officer, Kathryn Gerk was recognized as a community leader for her hard work, determination, commitment and dedication to the community. San Francisco 49ers MVP Jerry Rice was on hand to award six San Francisco Bay Area Cities with this award; East Palo Alto, Oakland, Richmond, San Bruno, San Francisco and Vallejo ([See a video](#) capturing sights and interviews from the event).

P G & E and the American Red Cross launched Ready Neighborhoods Program to help prepare 50 underserved neighborhoods into models of disaster readiness. The Ready Neighborhoods program is designed to work with local

agencies to better prepare the community and help towards resilient neighborhoods ready to respond. The first event with this program will be the Save-A-Life Saturday with free Hands-only Citizen CPR” training on Saturday April 14, 2012 from 09:00 to 4:00 pm at the Nevin Community Center.

8. **Livable Corridors: San Pablo Avenue and Macdonald Avenue Design Charrette from March 19<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Planning Division will be hosting the San Pablo Avenue and Macdonald Avenue Design Charrette from March 19<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Livable Corridors Project will set the rules for future development along San Pablo Avenue, Macdonald Avenue, and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

The City and its consultant team will be setting up a temporary office and design studio at 12260 San Pablo Avenue during the Charrette period. We invite the public to share their ideas for future development along these corridors by participating at the following events:

- Opening Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at the Wilson Elementary School Multipurpose Room, 629 42<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Review of Concepts, March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:00 - 6:30 PM, 12260 San Pablo Avenue
- Closing Presentation, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 -7:30 PM at the Wilson Elementary School Multipurpose Room, 629 42<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Open Studio Hours, March 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 AM -2:00 PM, 2260 San Pablo Avenue

This project is funded in part by a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant awarded by the California Strategic Growth Council. For more information regarding the kick-off and other project events, please visit [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/livablecorridors](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/livablecorridors).

9. **Richmond Recovery Rebates (R3)**

The Richmond Recovery Rebates (R3) program is continuing to provide generous rebates to Richmond residents for home assessments, energy upgrades and solar installations.

The R3 provides residents the opportunity to improve the comfort and health of their homes while reducing their utility bills and greenhouse gas emissions. Thus far, 75 homes have reserved over 40% of the available R3 rebates and the City has issued over \$40,000 to complete 23 Richmond projects. The projects include workforce development requirements that ensure quality jobs are created for Richmond residents as part of the program.

Among these projects, the City, working with the nonprofit Grid Alternatives, has reserved funds to provide over 40 income qualifying Richmond households with a new solar system free of charge. This component of the program has currently reached full capacity, but residents in any income bracket are welcomed to apply

for generous rebates that will significantly reduce the costs for energy efficiency measures and solar installations.

The City is encouraging all residents to apply soon for their chance to improve their homes, save money, and help the environment while funds are still available. Reservations are issued on a first come, first serve basis and the application period will close as soon as funds are expended. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Lenz at [adam\\_lenz@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:adam_lenz@ci.richmond.ca.us) and (510) 620-5537 or Mike Uberti at [mike\\_uberti@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:mike_uberti@ci.richmond.ca.us) and (510) 620-5502. For more information regarding R3 energy upgrade and solar rebates, please visit: [www.richmondenvironment.org](http://www.richmondenvironment.org)

10. **Green For All Convening**

City staff recently attended a convening event through the Green For All organization. This event brought together green technology and sustainability leaders from across the country. The focus of the convening was a discussion of stormwater, with and topics including economic development opportunities, green-job creation, creative funding opportunities and the implementation of green elements in stormwater system improvements. The City's involvement in this organization provides an excellent opportunity for City officials and staff to proactively integrate green and sustainable initiatives into the core City services.

11. **San Pablo Structure Fire**

An early morning fire on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in San Pablo was extinguished by crews from the Richmond Fire Department and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The fire destroyed a utility shed that was attached to a two story, four-unit apartment building, at 1201 Sanford Avenue in San Pablo. Crews kept the fire from spreading to the occupied dwelling while two apartment units were temporarily evacuated. The fire was brought under control at 2:55 AM. A dog was found unresponsive in the shed and was successfully resuscitated and treated for smoke inhalation by personnel from Richmond Fire. Crews were unable to locate the dog's owner and the dog was turned over to County Animal Control. There were no other reported injuries. Fire damage is estimated at \$5000 and the cause of the fire is under investigation.



12. **Library and Cultural Services Department: Argentine Tango Music and Dance**

Please join us for a multimedia presentation on the history of the Argentine tango on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 to 7:30 PM Jurek Mazur, from the Academia de Tango Argentino, will discuss the roots and history of the tango, with music and a special live performance.

This event is free, requires no advance registration, and will be held at the Richmond Public Library, Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Richmond Public Library.

Please call (510) 620-6561 for more information, or visit the Library's website at <http://www.richmondlibrary.org>

13. **Shields-Reid Cooking Class**

The Recreation Department Shields-Reid Community Center, in collaboration with Three Squares, EcoVillage, West County HEAL Collaborative (Healthy Eating, Active Living), and the Center for Human Development, hosts North Richmond community members taking part in a six week course, from March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>, to teach them healthy and nutritious cooking alternatives on a fixed budget. Each session is taught by volunteer staff consisting of a chef, class assistant, and a member from Three Squares. Each class has new recipes which the members cook and then enjoy eating. At the end of class participants take a copy of the recipe home along with a free bag of groceries to make the meal again. This program is focused on people participating in government food programs so that they can purchase and provide these meals to their families in the future.

14. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities Maintenance Division: Facilities Maintenance reports that capital improvements will begin at Fire Station 67 soon, Fire Station 68 improvements are completed, and Fire Station 61 will be completed after the installation of the A-frame roof windows.

The electricians repaired apparatus bay lights at Fire Station 64; installed ADA pedestrian push buttons at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Macdonald, and 22<sup>nd</sup> and Barrett; repaired parking lot fixture at May Valley Community Center; installed 120 volt of power to the irrigation controller at Proximity Point; reset the controller at Carlson and Huntington; and, investigated a street light repair request at 5132 Carriage Hills.

The electricians concentrated on storm damage at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Nevin Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue, 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Carlson Boulevard, Hilltop and Robert Miller Drives and restored power in Point Molate.

The carpenters completed the Facility Condition Index (FCI) reports for all community centers; refurbished cabinet doors and drawers in Fire Station 66; installed art display hardware in Point Richmond Community Center; replaced damaged ceiling tiles, repaired main entrance and gymnasium door of the Recreation complex; constructed a chemical storage closet in the Plunge; and, installed 10 banners for Recreation's online program.

The painters completed painting the face of Bayview Branch Library, the fascia at Fire Station 61, the kitchen in Booker T. Anderson Community Center, the curbs around Fire Station 61 and the Point Richmond neighborhood community sign.

The stationary engineers repaired the heater in the apparatus room of Fire Station 62; the pool ladder in the Plunge; the kitchen sink and wall closet in the Richmond Build facility.

Parks and Landscaping Division: Parks' crews completed maintenance in Martin Luther King, Tiller, Atchison and Nicholl Parks; weed abatement along Atlas Road fire fuel areas; planted 23 trees in various areas through the Adopt-A-Tree Program; rebuilt playground retainer and supported asphalt overlay in Booker T. Anderson Park.



The Tree Crew completed tasks at 1808 Roosevelt Avenue, 848 – 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 738 McLaughlin, 3725 Macdonald Avenue, 254 South 4<sup>th</sup> and 451 – 6<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Parks' crews completed aeration of Tiller, Nicholl and Mira Vista Parks; landscape maintenance along the sound wall on San Joaquin, turf renovation in Fairmede Park; and, vegetation management along Atlas Road.



The Tree Crew completed tasks at 5297 Heavenly Ridge Lane, 3329 Lowell Avenue, 451 – 6<sup>th</sup> and 254 South 4<sup>th</sup> Streets, 303 and 319 Washington Avenue.

Streets Division: The Pavement Maintenance crew prepped and paved Booker T. Anderson path, and continued Class A patching potholes in various locations throughout the City.



The Pavement Maintenance crew prepped and paved Booker T. Anderson path

The Pavement Maintenance crew prepped Butte Street from Tehama Avenue to Carlson Boulevard and performed storm drain maintenance throughout the remainder of the week.

Next week, weather permitting, Butte Street from Tehama Avenue to Carlson Boulevard will be paved.

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

***Have a great week!***

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[www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx)