

Mayor and Councilmembers:

This is the weekly report for the week ending April 20th, 2012.

1. Meeting Notes

The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, April 24th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, followed by a Richmond Housing Authority meeting at 6:15 PM, and with the regular agenda beginning at 6:30 PM.

2. Compost Giveaway (What Goes Around Comes Around)

On Saturday, April 21st, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, the City of Richmond Environmental and Health Initiatives will host a compost giveaway. Residents are invited to pick up 2 cubic feet of compost (about three 5-gallon buckets) each using their own containers. Compost is made in Richmond from food scraps generated through the residential food scrap composting program.

The City is also hosting a Fruit Tree Giveaway in conjunction with this compost event. Residents should please [reserve a tree](#) using this link to help the City keep a count of trees needed. The City thanks [Self-Sustaining Communities](#) for the generous fruit tree donation.



3. Historic Preservation Award Winners Announced

Every year, the City of Richmond recognizes a number of individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies whose contributions demonstrate

outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation, local history, or promotion of the heritage of the City. The Historic Preservation Commission is pleased to announce this year's award recipients:

George Coles for Preserving the History of Richmond and for Being an Inspirational Educator;

Steve Gilford for his book "Build 'Em by the Mile, Cut 'Em off by the Yard";

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts for the Rehabilitation of the Winters Building;

Rosie the Riveter Trust for the Rehabilitation of the Maritime Child Development Center; and

Richmond Museum of History for Collecting and Preserving Richmond's History.

The Richmond Historic Preservation Commission and the National Park Service is inviting interested persons to attend the Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony honoring this year's award recipients. The awards ceremony will take place on **Monday, May 7th, at 5:00 PM** in the Richmond City Council Chambers. The ceremony will be followed by a reception across the plaza at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium lobby. The reception will be catered by the Contra Costa College Culinary Department and there will be a no-host bar.

Please contact Hector Rojas, Associate Planner at (510) 620-6662 or hector_rojas@ci.richmond.ca.us with any questions about the awards ceremony.

4. **350 Home and Garden Challenge**



The Engineering Services Department's Stormwater Program is promoting the "350 Home and Garden Challenge" put on by Sustainable Contra Costa. Residents are invited to take up the challenge and choose a project in their home or garden that will reduce water use, reduce energy, or grow more food for our community. Engaging residents in water conservation projects

meets stormwater permit requirements by promoting water conservation in landscapes and by promoting outreach messages regarding the use of less toxic options for pest control in food gardens. It also meets goals within the City's five year strategic business plan which seeks to provide sustainable communities by reducing pollutants in stormwater and promoting water conservation.

The main event will take place the weekend of May 12th -13th, with a lawn conservation demonstration taking place in the Marina neighborhood organized by Engineering Services and Parks staff. The specific location will be published at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=1735>. There are incentives to encourage water conservation projects such as converting a lawn to native and low water consumption plants, installing low flow features, switching to drip irrigation, and conducting a smart water survey. The goal is to have 350 residents in Contra Costa County commit to an action and start May 12th - 13th. Interested participants may get information, find ideas, how-to action guides, and register their actions at www.SustainableCoCo.org.

5. **City Awarded \$197,700 CAL FIRE “Inventory” Grant**

This past week, Richmond Planning Department staff received notice that the City was awarded a \$197,700 grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to expand the tree inventory currently being completed as part of the Urban Greening Master Plan, and to update the City's tree ordinance. Work for this project is anticipated to begin early this summer and completed by spring 2013.

6. **Via Verdi Project Update**

The Via Verdi culvert replacement project pre-construction meetings were recently held, with the following in attendance: AT&T, Comcast, East Bay Municipal Utility District, West County Wastewater District, Bay Cities Paving & Grading (Prime Contractor), Swinerton Management & Consulting (Construction Manager), Questa Engineering (Richmond firm, special inspections), Nichols Consulting Engineers (Richmond firm, designer), and City staff. Gina Baker, the City's Contract Compliance Officer, also attended the meeting and provided information to the contractor, to ensure compliance with all of the City's construction contract requirements.

The El Portal Drive temporary road closure is scheduled to begin on May 1st. The City has been working with Caltrans and AC Transit to ensure that adequate detours and alternate bus routes are developed. The City sent approximately one thousand notices with detour maps and bus route maps to residents and local businesses closest to Via Verdi, as well as to local fire, police and public works agencies, and other parties affected by the temporary road closure.

In other news, the Via Verdi culvert collapse emergency response project was selected as one of the American Public Works Association's (APWA) *Public Works Projects of the Year* for 2012. This selection puts the City of Richmond in a very elite group of winners. This prestigious award will be given to Edric Kwan, City Engineer, at the APWA annual Awards Recognition Ceremony at the 2012 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Anaheim, California, in August 2012.

7. **Miscellaneous Concrete Repairs**

The miscellaneous concrete repairs program includes repairing sidewalk, curb, and gutter locations that have been uplifted by City tree roots, in order to eliminate path-of-travel barriers within the City of Richmond public right-of-way. City staff receives and tracks requests for sidewalk repair locations and when funding becomes available issues a contract for the repairs. The repair locations are identified and marked out by City staff, the contractor then removes the uplifted sidewalk and curb and gutter, the City arborist oversees and monitors the pruning of the tree roots that cause the uplift, and then the contractor forms and pours the new concrete. The selected contractor completed several locations this week: 1612 and 1622 Mariposa Street; 5631 Burlingame Avenue; and 610, 612, and 618 Bissell Avenue.

8. **CCTA I-80/Central Avenue Operations Improvements**

Central Avenue currently experiences significant traffic congestion during peak weekend shopping periods (11:00 AM to 4:00 PM) that impacts the I-80 on- and off-ramps and the cross streets that intersect Central Avenue between Jacuzzi Street and San Pablo Avenue.

The California Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), proposes to improve traffic flow operations along a segment of Central Avenue with the I-80/Central Avenue Operational Improvements Project.

Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) will be providing a presentation on the I-80/Central Avenue Operational Improvements Project and its goals and strategies to reduce traffic congestion at the April 24th City Council meeting.

9. **San Pablo Dam Road and McBryde Avenue Public Meeting Improvements**

A projected closure of the McBryde Avenue off ramp at west bound I-80 is a result of the City of San Pablo's transportation project at San Pablo Dam Road. A planning meeting was held on April 11th to create a work plan for the upcoming public outreach. This meeting was attended by Councilmember Corky Boozé, Engineering Services Department staff, various other City staff, West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee representatives, and Contra

Costa Transportation Authority staff. The date for public outreach will be forthcoming with public notices in English and Spanish to draw the public's attention to the impacts from this project.

10. **Richmond Library Will Host Richmond Tales Fest 2012**

The Richmond Library will host the Richmond Tales Fest 2012 on Sunday, April 29th, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Richmond Civic Center. (In case of rain, the event will be held inside the Richmond Auditorium.) Local families are invited to enjoy a range of educational and fun family activities designed to reinforce the importance of literacy and to provide parents with information to help them succeed in their role as their child's first reading teacher. The festival will offer entertainment, workshops, games, prizes and fun for the whole family. Admission is free.

As part of the festival, the Library is bringing back *Vamos de Leer (Let's Read)* the bilingual family literacy program targeting children in grades K-5 that encourages parents to participate in their children's education by reading with them. The event will include bilingual reading sessions with radio station personality Jose Luis "El Zorro".

During the Richmond Tales Fest, the Richmond Public Library will have special Sunday hours from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM in support of the event.

11. **Richmond Library and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center Present Business Planning Course**

The Richmond Library is hosting a [Business Planning](#) seminar that allows interested participants to develop and/or receive valuable feedback on their ideas, create an action plan, learn the fundamentals of business and how to prepare a business plan, including financials. Those interested in getting more information may call 510-620-6561 or visit www.rencenter.org/richmond to take the first step to starting and growing a thriving business.

All sessions are held at the Richmond Public Library in the Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room. The sessions include:

Starting Your Business from Scratch

When: Spring Session: Mondays, April 30th - May 14th, 2012 (6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)
Fall Session: Mondays, August 27th - September 24th, 2012 (6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Cost: Free

Start and Grow Smart

When: Spring Session: Mondays, May 21st - June 4th, 2012 (6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)
Fall Session: Mondays, October 1st and 15th, 2012 (6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Cost: \$25 (Full scholarships available)

Business Prep

When: Fall Session Only: Mondays, October 22nd - December 17th, 2012 (6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Cost: \$25 (Full scholarships available)

12. Public Works Updates

Facilities Maintenance Division: The carpenters repaired the main entry door of the Engineering Department and re-opened the Art Center Ceramic Room.

The painters refinished the stairs to the Mezzanine level of the Auditorium.

The stationary engineers replaced several faucets in Booker T. Anderson Community Center; repaired the kitchen drain in Fire Station 66; repaired the shower valves in Fire Station 64; performed major preventative maintenance service and air duct cleaning in the Senior Center and the Employment and Training facilities; and repaired the furnace in the Corporation Yard's blue room.

The electricians repaired a traffic signal 'knock down' on Harbour Way and Cutting Boulevard; replaced closet and shower lights in Fire Station 61; removed and repaired a swim suit spinner in the Plunge; and reset the last Christy box in Shimada Park.



The electricians repaired a traffic signal 'knock down' on Harbour Way and Cutting Boulevard

Parks and Landscaping Division: Public Works is proud to announce that seven (7) Parks personnel successfully completed the Bay Friendly Landscape certification course.

Parks crews completed irrigation repairs, turf renovation, and weed abatement in Country Club Vista Park; weed abatement on Richmond Parkway; fire fuel mowing in the Hilltop area; and landscape rehabilitation along Peninsula Drive in the Marina. The crew also began concrete pathway repairs in Marina Green Park.



Peninsula Drive



Marina Green Park



Wildflowers that were seeded last winter have bloomed beautifully along Carlson Boulevard.

The tree crew maintained small trees in various locations and performed tree related activities at 720 South 52nd, 4319 Center, 628 and 630 – 40th Streets, 121 Grove Avenue, 5626 Sierra Lane, and 114 and 120 Railroad Avenues.

Streets Division: The pavement maintenance crew grinded, prepped and paved Columbia Avenue from San Luis Street to Carlson Boulevard and continued Class A pothole patching with hot mix in various locations.



New paving on Columbia Avenue

The street sweepers regularly scheduled commercial and residential routes for the third week of April are in the North Richmond, Iron Triangle, North and South Belding Woods, Atchison Village, Santa Fe, Coronado, Marina Bay and Point Richmond areas.

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!

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