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Richmond Trees Leaflet - August 6, 2013

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Greening Our City Together

Juntos Volviendo Más Verde Nuestra Ciudad

[www.richmondtrees.org](http://www.richmondtrees.org)[info@richmondtrees.org](mailto:info@richmondtrees.org)

**Richmond Trees' mission is to promote and grow the City of Richmond's urban forest and green infrastructure through community planting, tree care, education and advocacy in order to improve the health and well-being of the diverse Richmond Community**

Mark your calendar:

Tree Care Walks (Meet at Burg Park): Sunday, August 25th at 11 A.M. and Sunday, September 15th

**Hello everyone!**

We are proud to have completed our requirements for the California ReLeaf Grant and wanted to list a few of the things that we accomplished:

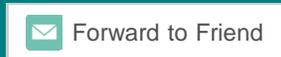
- We organized six planting parties between November 2012 and March 2013, and our volunteers planted a total of 108 newly adopted street trees (46 Chinese Pistache, 6 Cork Oak, 7 Tristania Conferta, 22 Gingkos, and 27 New Zealand Christmas Trees).
- On November 3, 2012, there were 55 volunteers for a total of 192 volunteer hours at our first annual Harvest Festival in North & East Richmond. In addition to planting trees, we had speakers, art projects for children, healthy harvest refreshments, and entertainment.
- We were able to purchase a concrete saw and tools for planting and tree care such as shovels, stakes, straps, buckets, nails and hammers. We need to cut concrete for approximately 1/3 of the trees that we plant. The lack of tools prior to receiving the grant had been a serious impediment.
- In addition to educating participants and adopters at tree planting events and through

North & East Picnic.  
Raffle for Richmond  
Trees! Saturday,  
September 28th 11 - 3:30.  
Location: Wendell Park,  
26th and Esmond.

Arbor Day - Saturday,  
October 19th at Lucas  
Park

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canvassing outreach, Richmond Trees gave interactive presentations at Making Waves Academy and YouthWORKS, which are after school programs for youth in Richmond. We discussed the benefits of trees, reviewed how trees "clean the air," and introduced the concept of carbon sequestration and trees' absorption of particulate matter. Many of the young people joined us at planting events before and after the presentations.

- Interns chosen by the Neighborhood Councils in the Santa Fe, Iron Triangle and Coronado neighborhoods were trained in canvassing for new tree adopters in their neighborhoods, tree planting and tree care.
- We created illustrated, bilingual educational materials - booklets for tree adopters, door hangers to use on our tree care walks and flyers for potential adopters.
- Seven Richmond Trees members received excellent advanced forester training from two professional arborists from SBCA Consulting who volunteered their time and expertise to train Richmond Trees stewards. The group has developed practices for tree care walks to check on the newly planted trees - reminding residents to water, removing weeds, mulching and removing stakes.

We learned a lot throughout this process. Perhaps the most important lesson is that we discovered that planting trees is really about building community. We are grateful to all our supporters and volunteers, and we are very glad to be developing partnerships with COR, Groundwork Richmond, the Watershed Project, PG&E, Rotary Richmond, Solano Playlot, Making Waves, YouthWORKS, the Latina Center, Ma'at Youth Academy, and SBCA Tree Care. We look forward to strengthening these relationships and building new connections in the future.



**Call for Volunteers!! Tree Care Walks.**

While planting trees is our favorite fall and winter activity, summer tree care is essential to make sure all of these new trees are going to survive. Young trees need special attention during the first three years after planting, especially weekly watering during the dry summer months. (On recent Tree Care Walks, we have found trees that were very thirsty!)

We need help doing this important work. Please consider joining us! It's a fun way to spend an hour or two on a weekend morning. Enjoy some sunshine in the neighborhood, meeting neighbors and making new friends while learning basic tree care. Tools are provided - just bring yourself, your energy and some gloves. All ages welcome!

For more information, contact us at [info@richmondtrees.org](mailto:info@richmondtrees.org).

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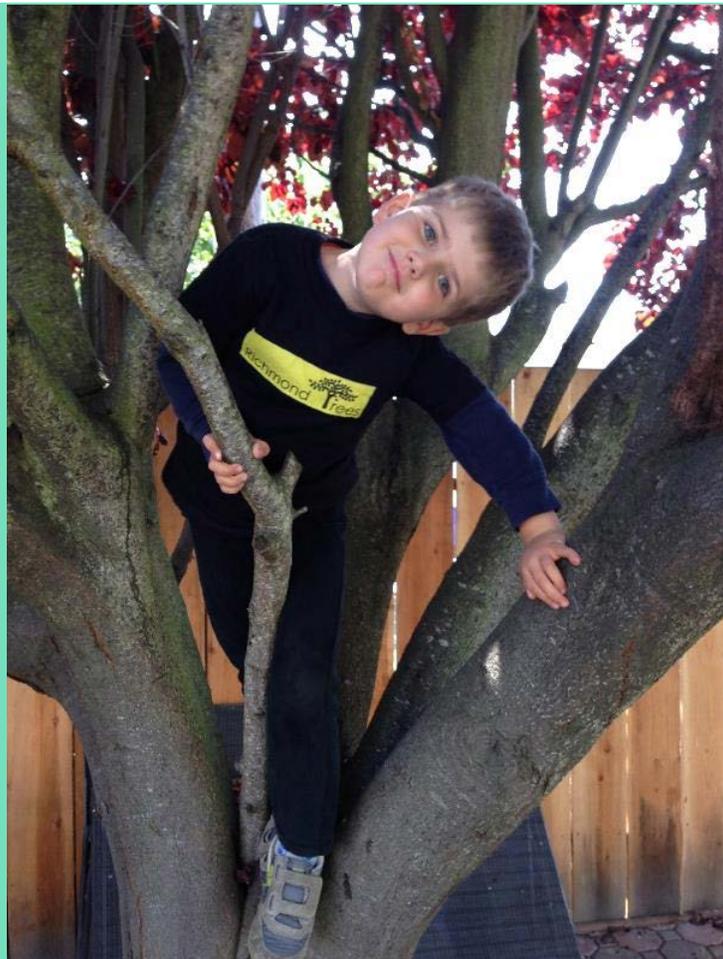


LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA—LENS.—Blanca.—DC.

### Tree of the Month: Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*)

The Crape Myrtle is a popular choice in the tree adoption program. Many of the 34 Crape Myrtle trees that we have planted since October 2011 are in bloom now. It is named for its crinkled flower petals (bright pink or white) that resemble crape paper. It has a long bloom season and is also known for its beautiful, mottled bark.

Crape Myrtles are perfect for narrow planting areas which make them excellent street trees. We can look forward to seeing their beautiful Fall color in a few months. They are quite common in the Southeastern states, so people with their own roots in that part of the country may have fond memories of these beautiful trees.



When I was a kid, growing up in Detroit, I loved trees. I knew exactly what they were for: climbing. My best friend and I knew every branch of every tree in our neighborhood. We knew the best places to sit and swing our legs, the best places to hide from peering eyes from below. Sometimes the tree would be a fruit tree - great perk! My favorite was the cherry tree in our own back yard. It wasn't the biggest tree in the world, so I couldn't climb very high, but oh, those cherries! When I was ten, we moved to Southern California. Goodbye, old maples, oaks, fruit trees. Hello, palm trees, orange groves. Fortunately, when the subdivision our house was in was built, they decided to plant a fruitless mulberry in each lot. Twenty years later, they were the perfect size for climbing. By the end of my first year living there, I had tested out every tree on our block. I had my favorites, for sitting, lying, bird watching, people watching, reading, hiding. I dreamed of having a tree house, but I never did.

Years later, here in Richmond, when Steve and I talked about planting trees at our first house, all I could think of was, "What trees would be good to climb?" We planted an apple, and two Japanese maples, and a fig,

and two plums, and a spruce for a change of pace. Four years later, we hadn't outgrown the trees, but we had outgrown the house, so we moved to where we live now. Again, I asked myself the same questions before I decided what trees to plant. By now, it wasn't just for me, but for our son, David, who had just turned a year old. So again, we planted an apple, a crabapple, several Japanese maples, a weeping cherry, and two redbuds. I'm afraid none of those trees was big enough to climb before he outgrew the desire to climb (how could anyone outgrow that? I still want to!), but I still look at them and think, that's the perfect branch to grab onto, hoist myself up, and see what the world looks like from 10 feet up. Hey - anyone want to join me and find out?  
~Ellen Seskin  
(photo of an enthusiastic, five-year-old RT volunteer)

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