

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the two weeks ending August 6th, 2010.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next meeting of the Richmond City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7th. Enjoy the August recess.

2. **REMINDER: BART Parking Structure Groundbreaking Ceremony**

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new BART garage is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th, at 10:00 AM at the inter-modal transit station on the southwest side of the BART and Amtrak lines. When completed in two years, this 764 space garage with ground floor commercial space on Macdonald Avenue will enable the second phase of the transit village to be built on the northeast side of the station. These transit-oriented projects help the continuing effort to revitalize the downtown area.

3. **Public Employee Salary Scandals in Bell, California**

It is especially appalling to one that takes seriously the notion of public service, and who believes that integrity and trust must be cornerstones of that service, to read about the public salary abuses in Bell, California. It is embarrassing for me personally to know that a city manager was part of these abuses.

Last week, I attended the League of California Cities City Manager's Department Executive Committee, as the Northern California representative for cities over 100,000 in population, at which this issue was discussed at some length. League of California Cities Executive Director Chris McKenzie quoted former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in stating that, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." The City Managers' group agreed strongly that public scrutiny and disclosure is vitally important in areas of compensation. The League plans to work with the legislature to make sure that there are no loopholes in the legal framework that governs the public's right to know about this issue.

As an aside, like all issues of compensation in the City of Richmond, the City's employment agreement with the City Manager is routinely discussed and acted on by the City Council in public when it was initiated and updated, and the final written agreement is posted on the City's website at:

www.ci.richmond.ca.us/CMContract.

4. **Nevin Avenue Streetscape Update**

Construction has commenced on Nevin Avenue streetscape improvements from Harbour Way to Marina Way. The City has just been advised that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission has awarded Richmond \$2.654 million

in construction funding for the streetscape work on Nevin between 19th and 27th Streets. The latter project scored 4th of 33 applications received Bay Area-wide for the Transportation for Livable Communities program. The project recently completed design development and is now in the construction drawings phase. These two projects will transform Nevin Avenue on both sides of the BART/Amtrak multi-modal transit station into a beautiful pedestrian-friendly corridor.

5. **California Emergency Services Award**

The Office of Emergency Services Manager, Kathy Gerk, received news this week that the West County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Consortium (C4) was awarded the California Emergency Services Association's (CESA) Silver Award. The CESA Silver Award is presented for "exceptional efforts in the area of emergency management and preparedness to include ongoing programs, specific campaigns, public education, training programs, partnerships, etc."

In 2009, the West County cities of El Cerrito, Hercules, Kensington, Pinole, Richmond, Rodeo and San Pablo formed a collaborative relationship to expand their outreach with the CERT programs. This included joint program development, training and conducting exercises together. The West County CERT Consortium is being recognized for improving emergency response capabilities throughout the region.

This award will be presented at the quarterly meeting of the CESA Coastal Chapter on Thursday, August 12th, 2010, in Windsor, CA.

Congratulations to Kathy Gerk on her continuing efforts to keep Richmond safe and prepared.

6. **Employees and Manager of the Year**

As the Council heard at its last meeting in July, twelve employees and seven managers were peer nominated by secret ballot for the 2009/10 Employee and Manager of the Year awards program. Some of the key components the nominees had to demonstrate include dedication to the highest standards of public service and customer satisfaction, professionalism, courtesy and respect; good stewardship of the public's resources by providing quality services in the most responsive and cost effective manner; recognizing and honoring the diversity of the community; embracing change, demonstrating adaptability and several other vital attributes.

We are proud to present to you the 2009/10 Employees and Manager of the Year:



***Milt Rayford, Carpenter, Public Works Department
Employee of the Year***



***Nickie Mastay,
Community & Economic Development Finance Manager,
Community & Economic Development Department
Manager of the Year***

Congratulations to Milt and Nickie!

7. **Public Works Updates**

- Crews completed the resurfacing of 16th Street from Portola to Pennsylvania Avenues two weeks ago.
- Crews completed the resurfacing of 6th Street from Ripley Avenue to the south end of the street. Crews also performed dig outs on Williams Avenue in Parchester Village last week.

- A Parks and Landscaping Division contractor has been working at Nicholl Park to replace four old and damaged light poles, two at the skate park and the other two along the main walkway.
- Public Works, in partnership with the City of El Cerrito, is resurfacing Sonoma Avenue (which is shared by both cities) from Hazel Avenue to Charles Avenue. The City of Richmond is providing the labor and equipment, and the City of El Cerrito is providing the asphalt materials.
- The Parks and Landscaping Division completed the vegetation management and weed abatement along the eight miles of the Richmond Parkway from I-580 to I-80 this week.

8. **Updated City Standard Details**

In an effort to update the City's standard details last revised in the early 1990s, the Engineering Services Department is beginning the process updating City standard details for driveways, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. These details are available online at Engineering Services Department's City webpage.

9. **Via Verdi Sinkhole Update**

The temporary emergency by-pass road through the cemetery's property is contracted to be completed by Friday, August 13th and is significantly ahead of schedule. As required by the Army Corp of Engineers and EBMUD, the San Pablo Creek must flow through the sinkhole collapsed area before the rainy season (October 1st) begins. As a result, the Via Verdi Restoration project will be broken into 2 phases: temporary channel (before rainy season) and permanent culvert (after rainy season).

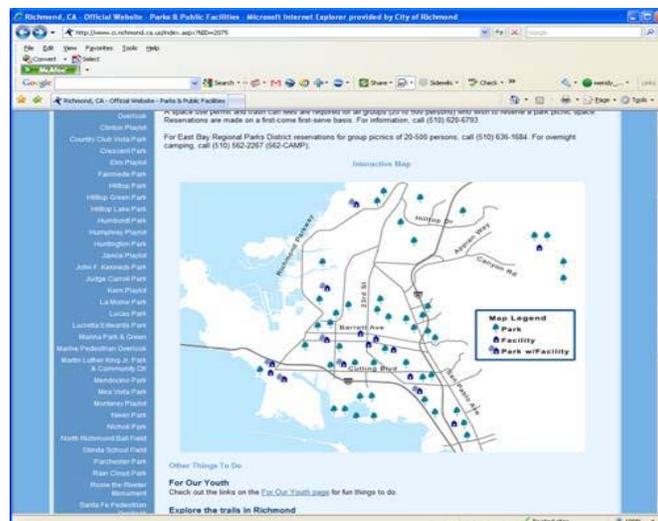
10. **Recreation Highlights**

- **Native Garden Project:** The Pt. Richmond Community Center, in collaboration with Parent Resources and More, at the Washington Field House (110 E. Richmond Avenue), started a Native Garden Project. Every Wednesday, participants of the Kids 'n Motion summer camp program are cleaning and cultivating a 15 x 13 feet triangle of land adjacent to the Washington Field House. In addition, the Pt. Richmond Community Center's participants partner with the Disabled Person's Recreation Center for art projects every other Monday. Together, they are currently making stepping stones for the garden. These projects are helping to build bridges between youth with and without developmental disabilities. The projects will continue until August 9th.

- **Special Visit:** The Kids 'n Motion summer camp program received a visit from the WildCare Nature Van of San Leandro on Friday, August 6th from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The participants were engaged in the diversity of California's wildlife and will learn the way California native animals have adapted to their habitat. They also examined predator/prey relationships, defense strategies, and the natural history of mammals, birds, and reptiles.
- **Camping:** The Youth Activities section escorted eight Richmond youth, ages 14 to 17, with Dr. Connie Portero, Chair, Recreation & Parks Commission, on a 3/day 2/night camping trip to San Luis Reservoir, August 4th through August 6th. The trip was part of the Outdoor Youth Connections leadership programs. Tents, sleeping bags, food, etc. were provided through the program, and upon return, the youth had the opportunity to write a grant proposal, up to \$500, for one service project and an outdoor recreation activity of their choice.
- **Rafting:** The Youth Activities section escorted 10 Richmond youth on a whitewater rafting trip to the South Fork of the American River in Sacramento on Saturday, August 7th.
- **Youth Sports Camp:** The 3rd Annual Summer Youth Sports Camp culminated on Friday, July 30th. Each 2-week training session gave participants the opportunity to choose basketball, soccer, baseball, flag football, golf or volley ball. Participants learned basic fundamentals and participated in non-competitive scrimmage games.

11. **Web Fun Fact**

The City now has an interactive map of its parks and public facilities. As you roll your mouse over the map, it will give you information about the park or public facility. If you click on the map, it will open a new window with detailed information and images of the parks and public facilities. You can find this page under Departments, Recreation, Parks & Public Facilities, or follow this link: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/ParksMap



Staff are also developing pages for Neighborhood Councils that will include agendas and published newsletters on the City's website.

Each page offers:

- Days and times of the Neighborhood Council meetings
- Location and Google Map link
- Map of Neighborhood Council boundaries
- Link to map of full Neighborhood Council boundaries
- Link to newsletter or agenda – View All or View Most Recent
- Sign up link to be notified when a new newsletter or agenda has been posted

