

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending April 8th, 2011.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, April 12th. The Evening Open Session begins at 5:00 PM, immediately followed by Closed Session. The Special Meeting of the Richmond Housing Authority begins at 6:15 PM, followed by the Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council at 6:30 PM.

2. **LEAP Launches Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP) and the Richmond Public Library will launch a computer literacy program beginning this April. The program, funded through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), will introduce new computer users to learning plans on the internet with the help of community volunteers. The learning plans teach computer basics, internet and social networking skills and consumer information on broadband adoption. In addition, BTOP participants will have access to a localized learning plan about career pathways in the West Contra Costa County community.

LEAP and the Richmond Public Library will partner with the following municipal departments and community organizations to expand and raise the level of computer literacy and broadband accessibility in Richmond:

- *Monterey Pines Housing Development*
- *Community Housing Development Corporation member sites:*
 - Barrett Plaza and Pullman Pointe Apartments
 - Richmond Housing Authority: Richmond Village and Hacienda
- *Building Blocks for Kids Initiative (BBK):* a collaborative focusing on neighborhood transformation in the Iron Triangle
- *West Contra Costa County Adult School:* English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program
- *Nevin Community Center* – Department of Recreation, City of Richmond, and Catholic Charities of the East Bay

For more information about the project, please contact Program Coordinator Jessica Soske at (510) 307-8169.

3. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Update**

On March 15th, the City Council directed staff to refrain from re-opening digester operations at the city's wastewater treatment plant until it is demonstrated that the facility can be reliably operated without posing hazards to the community. City staff is in the process of establishing the criteria that must be met to accomplish this directive. Input from the community is critical so that start-up,

operating and contingency plans directly address the concerns of the residents and rate payers. Therefore, the city will be holding a public meeting on April 13th at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Auditorium, Bermuda Room. The location is 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. Representatives from Hadronex (which is the company that is developing the integration and communication system for the city's purchase of six continuously monitoring hydrogen sulfide monitors) will also be in attendance at this meeting. The representatives will be providing an overview of the system's alarming and notification capabilities. We hope residents are available to attend, as this is very important to the process of addressing and resolving this situation.

4. **Recreation Highlight**

Futsal: Ten adult Futsal teams are playing on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Richmond Recreation Complex.

5. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities: The painting of the interior of the Parchester Community Center was completed this week.

Electrical: The electrical crews have completed the relamping of 291 lights in the last few weeks, including 40 in the Park Plaza neighborhood. They also repaired the Marina Way/Barrett Avenue traffic controller, and replaced the audible blind pedestrian enunciators at Marina Way and Nevin Avenue. They are currently repairing the traffic signal knockdown at Marina Way and Macdonald Avenue.

Parks and Landscaping: Next week, crews will be working on the Nicholl Park's putting green; weed abatement along the Richmond Parkway; Shields Reid and Atchison Village parks and the Macdonald Bart overcrossing. The tree trimming crew will continue working on 7th and 8th Streets, Ripley Avenue and at Lamoine Park.

Streets: Due to weather conditions, the paving crew only completed 70% of the resurfacing of Ocean Avenue from Marine Street to Western Drive in Point Richmond. Next week, the crew will finish Ocean Avenue and pave Phanor Drive from Bell Way to Giant Highway in the Parchester Village.

6. **Park Plaza Series Streetlight Conversion**

After a series of scheduling delays with PG&E on activating the new LED streetlight circuits, connections were completed late Thursday, April 7th. Sixteen new LED streetlights are operational along Wall Avenue from South 45th to South 41st, and from 4445 Taft Avenue to South 42nd. Engineering staff will be working with the city's contractor over the weekend to ensure the new LED streetlights are operational by April 13th. As wiring is secured, new LED lights will be operational on a street-by-street basis, concentrating on the northeast section.

7. Cesar Chavez Gardening Day

On Saturday, April 2nd, the first annual Cesar Chavez Community Garden Day was held at Richmond College Prep Elementary School in the Nystrom neighborhood to plant food, build community through gardening, and recognize Cesar Chavez as the leader of the United Farm Workers' Union, and of civil rights for farm laborers. During the day, residents picked up free fruit trees and seedlings, a lawn mowing brigade buzzed up and down the street tidying up surrounding neighborhood lawns, and residents disposed of bulky household items as part of the event's neighborhood cleanup. The event was organized by Urban Tilth, Coronado Neighborhood Council, NURVE, Richmond Community Foundation, and Richmond College Prep Elementary School. It was supported by Annie's Annuals, City of Richmond, Providence Baptist Church, Republic Services, Richmond Grows, and SIMS Metals.



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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