

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the two weeks ending February 24th, 2012.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM followed by the regular agenda at 6:30 PM.

2. **Richmond Police Officers Recognized for Work in "Avoid the 25" Program**

As you may recall, the Richmond Police Department participates in the "Avoid the 25" program, which is a Contra Costa County-wide year-round DUI enforcement effort that involves all the law enforcement agencies in the county. Police Chief Chris Magnus observes that the City's efforts to address drunk driving in Richmond have excelled thanks to the leadership and hard work of several Richmond Police officers who were recently recognized for these efforts.

Officer Phil Sanchez was recognized by Contra Costa County's Avoid the 25 DUI Campaign for exceptional work in the area of DUI enforcement and prevention. Officer Sanchez received the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Century Award for 103 DUI Arrests in 2011, and was one of only three officers with one hundred or more DUI arrests in the entire county. Officer Sanchez was also recognized for his development and implementation of the MADD "Victim Impact Panel", which is hosted monthly at Richmond City Hall.

Officer Ian Reid received the MADD DUI Award for 25 DUI arrests in 2011, and Sergeant Joey Schlemmer received the MADD "Hand Off" award for DUI enforcement and observation.

Detecting, dealing with, and facilitating the prosecution of drunk drivers is challenging, time-consuming work. It's also LIFE-SAVING work, because, just like other forms of violence in the community, drunk driving takes lives and destroys families. I appreciate the outstanding work of these officers.

3. **City Receives Awards for Excellence in Budgeting**

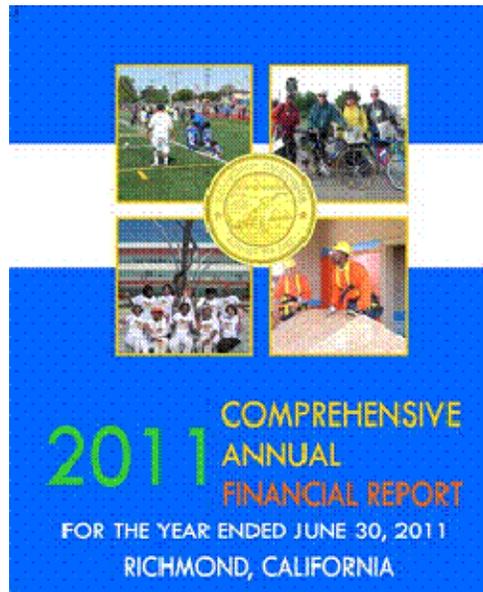
Every year, after the adoption of the Annual Operating Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the City submits its budget documents to the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) for peer review. For the second year in a row, the City has received CSMFO's Excellence in Budgeting Award for the FY2011-12 Operating Budget. Additionally, the FY2011-12 to 2015-16 Capital Improvement Plan has also received the Excellence in Budgeting Award from CSMFO.

The CSMFO Budget Awards Program is designed to recognize those agencies that have prepared a budget document that meets certain standards. Documents that have been submitted go through a rating process that includes two primary reviews.

The two budget documents can be found on the City's website at:
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=183> .

4. **2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Issued**

The Finance Department has issued the 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The PDF version of the report is available on the City's website at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=1000>. This report presents the financial position and the results of the City's operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and the cash flows of its proprietary fund types for the end of the fiscal year.



5. **Via Verdi Emergency Response Award**

The City of Richmond received an award from the Northern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for its work on the Via Verdi Culvert Collapse Emergency Response Project.

The project award was in the Disaster or Emergency Construction category and was presented to the City of Richmond at the APWA Northern California Chapter Annual Award Banquet on Thursday, February 23rd. The work that was acknowledged by the award included the emergency response to the Via Verde catastrophic culvert collapse on April 15th, 2010; the subsequent soil stabilization and temporary bridge construction; the construction of a bypass road through private property adjacent to the sinkhole; and construction of an open channel for conveyance of San Pablo Creek. This work was completed in the fall of 2010. Tawfic N. Halaby, Associate Civil Engineer, accepted the award on behalf of the City, and provided a presentation to the attendees on this project.



The Via Verdi project team accepts the award: Carman Ng, Franz Haidinger, Tawfic Halaby, Ryan Shafer, Marty Martin, and Jason Drew. Absent: Edric Kwan (City Engineer), Evan Reis.

6. Richmond Youth on Course Golf Program

As part of the Northern California Golf Association's Youth on Course golf program, 21 kids from the Richmond Youth on Course golf program were transported to Pebble Beach on February 11th and 12th, to take part in the Chevron-sponsored STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Zone on the No. 3 hole at Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament. In the "Zone", students learned about the science of golf (aerodynamics, slope and acceleration), and participated in a mock broadcast of the golf tournament on a replica golf channel. In addition, the kids had the opportunity to walk the golf course and witness tournament play from golfers Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Jim Harbaugh and many others. Chaperones from Richmond Youth on Course participating partners accompanied the kids each day. The participating partners are the Richmond Office of Economic Development, the Richmond Recreation Department, Richmond PAL, West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club, the Richmond YMCA, and Girls, Inc.

The Richmond Youth on Course golf program is a unique partnership with Northern California Golf Association Foundation, the Richmond Country Club and the participating partners listed above. The Richmond Youth on Course golf program uses golf as a medium for teaching life skills to at-risk kids. In addition to learning the game of golf, the participants have to complete a class that teaches values like honesty, responsibility and perseverance. As of February 2nd, the Richmond Youth on Course golf program had 26 participants enrolled in the program.





7. **City Reduces Its Consumption Of Paper By 28%**

City staff's Government Efficiency Committee meets weekly to review and plan strategies to achieve efficiencies in the City's operations. One plan that has proven effective is an overall reduction in paper usage. Since 2010, the City has effectively reduced its paper costs by 28%, with the greatest reduction, of 22%, occurring in 2011. The paper reduction strategies that have been implemented include:

- Eliminating over one-quarter of the City's desktop printers;
- Setting up copiers/printers to default duplex printing;
- Reducing agenda packet printing by 50%;
- Setting up fax to e-mail and e-mail to fax rather than using print media; and
- Posting budget books, CAFR, and other financial reports to the internet.

The Committee continues to seek ways in which additional savings can be achieved.

8. **Foreclosure Prevention Workshop**

On Saturday, February, 25th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, SparkPoint is hosting a free workshop on foreclosure prevention and will provide loan modification assistance. The workshop will be held at Brighter Beginnings at 2727 Macdonald Avenue in Richmond. Those interested in attending must bring specific

documentation (a list can be found on the web site) and pre-register at (510) 237-6459 x11 or at www.eastbaynhs.org. All SparkPoint services are free to the public.

9. **East Bay Home Preservation**

On March 7th and 8th, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Wells Fargo will host the East Bay Home Preservation Workshop at the Craneway Pavilion at 1414 Harbour Way South. The workshop will be held for Wells Fargo and Wachovia Home Mortgage customers facing mortgage payment challenges. It is an opportunity for customers to confidentially discuss their financial concerns and options with bank representatives. Plus, customers will get the opportunity to see if they are eligible for a loan modification under the government's Home Affordable Modification Program. Pre-registration by March 5th is encouraged, and walk-ins are welcome. For more information and to register please go to at www.wfhmevents.com/leadingthewayhome or call 1-800-405-8067

10. **Recent Residential Structure Fires in Richmond**

Wednesday, February 15th, 2012

At 11:02 AM, 3 Engines, 1 Truck Company, 1 Battalion Chief from the Richmond Fire Department, 1 Battalion Chief from El Cerrito Fire and 1 Engine from Contra Costa Fire Protection District responded to a reported residential structure fire at 901 31st Street in Richmond, with Engine 66 arriving at the scene first to report a fully involved residential structure. The occupant of the home was able to evacuate prior to Fire Department arrival, but one occupant sustained a minor injury. There were no injuries reported to fire personnel. The fire was extinguished utilizing the first alarm resources and confined to the structure at 901 31st Street with minor damage to an exposed garage next door. The residents of the home were displaced, and Red Cross was called to assist the family. The origin of the fire was in the front bedroom area, and the cause is under investigation.



Fire at 31st St. and Esmond Ave.

Thursday, February 16th, 2012

At 01:21 AM, 3 Engines, 1 Truck Company, 1 Battalion Chief from the Richmond Fire Department, 1 Engine from El Cerrito Fire Department, and 1 Battalion Chief from El Cerrito responded to a reported residential structure fire at 5303 Columbia Avenue in Richmond. Engine 64 arrived at the scene first and reported light to moderate smoke showing from two sides of a single story duplex. The occupants of the 2 units of the duplex were able to evacuate prior to our arrival, and there were no injuries to the residents or fire personnel. The fire was extinguished utilizing first alarm resources and was confined to the kitchen area of the unit. The interior kitchen area of the residence and its contents sustained significant fire damage, but firefighters were able to save the home and its contents. Two adults and 2 children were displaced from their home by this fire and the Red Cross was called in to assist them. The origin of the fire was in the kitchen area and the cause is unintentional and accidental.

Monday, February 20th, 2012

At 9:30 PM, fire units from the Richmond, El Cerrito, and Contra Costa County Fire Departments responded to a structure fire at the Baja Tire and Auto Repair Shop at 1401 Cutting Boulevard on the corner of Cutting Boulevard and Marina Way South. A total of 5 Engines, 2 Trucks, and 3 Battalion Chiefs were on the scene of this incident. Engine 67 arrived first and reported heavy black smoke showing from the front of the structure. The occupants in the living space above the tire shop evacuated themselves prior to the Fire Department's arrival. One resident received moderate smoke inhalation and was treated by an American Medical Response ambulance on the scene. There were no firefighter injuries reported. The fire was confined to the building and extinguished with the first alarm assignment. The living area above the tire shop suffered minor smoke and fire damage, with the garage structure and its contents sustaining significant fire damage. The owner of the tire shop secured the property but will be displaced for an unspecified period of time. The cause of this fire is under investigation by the City's Fire Inspector.



Fire at 31st St. and Esmond Ave.

11. **Recreation Receives CPRS Award for Youth Program**

The Recreation Department is the proud recipient of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 3, Outstanding Program in Parks and Recreation Award for its Youth Outdoor Program.

The Youth Outdoor Program offers youth the opportunity to experience the beauty of the great outdoors. With the experience comes an education about protecting and preserving our natural resources. The message for an activity can be about recycling or why we stay on designated trails. The most important aspect of this program is the effort to help the youth in the community learn to make better choices and stay healthy. Healthy lunches and snacks combined with the outdoor experience gives them hands-on knowledge of how healthy they can be with positive choices.

This past year, the program participants had the opportunity to experience a ropes course, visit the Boreal Snow Park to enjoy a day of tubing, go sailing on the San Francisco Bay, mountain biking in Marin, camping at various locations, hiking at East Bay Regional Parks, and white water rafting down the American River.

This award marks the fourth CPRS, District 3, award the Recreation Department has received, its second for Outstanding Program. The department has also been granted a CPRS State Award, Outstanding Aquatic Facility Design, for the Richmond Plunge.

12. **Public Works Updates**

Parks and Landscaping Division: Crews completed the installation of a new sewer and water line for the little league field in Nicholl Park; landscaping rehabilitation and mulching along Carlson Boulevard and Crescent Park; general clean up and weed abatement along San Pablo Avenue in the Hilltop area; vegetation management at BART and Transit Village; repaired bleachers and backstop in Atchison Park; and planted Passion vines along the railroad fence line on Carlson Boulevard.



Carlson Boulevard - mulching



Crescent Park – landscaping

This week, crews began the shrub pruning and weed abatement in Tiller Park; sound wall landscape maintenance on San Luis; vegetation maintenance along

Richmond Parkway; turf renovation at Marina Green; and landscape maintenance along Marina Bay Parkway.

The tree crew trimmed trees to prepare for paving in Booker T. Anderson Park and for the Police Department in the 5000 block of Hartnett Avenue and the 4000 block of Fleming Avenue. Trees were also cut and trimmed along Tehama and Marine Avenues; at the intersection of 37th and Ohio; on the 5000 block of Clinton, and 1300 block of Merced.

Crews performed landscape maintenance along the Bay Trail from Shimada Park to Vincent Park; continued backstop repairs at Atchison Park; turf maintenance at Country Club Vista Park, Bay Vista Park and Parchester Park; and turf renovation at Southside Park.



Parks partnered with Goats R Us and brought in 300 goats to the Point Molate area to support noxious weed and vegetation control.

Facilities Maintenance Division: The carpenters repaired the entrance doors of Nevin Community Center; repaired the stairway and built a document cabinet in the Main Library; replaced the countertops in the Point Richmond Community Center; refurbished the cabinet doors and drawers in Fire Station 66; repaired the pocket doors in Fire Station 64; installed north side doors to the equipment room in the Plunge; and completed Facility Condition Index reports for all the community centers. The roof replacement at Fire Station 61 is approximately 50% complete. Fire Station 66 is scheduled for final inspection next week.



Main Library Entry Cabinet

The painters completed painting the dorms at Fire Station 66; touched up the columns and restained the paneling in the Research Room in the Main Library; painted the face of Bayview Branch Library; restored the ceiling from water damage from the upstairs broken pipes in KCRT; and painted the air handling room in Employment and Training.

The carpenters installed doors in the north side equipment room in the Plunge; repaired doors in the City Manager's conference room and the southeast entrance of the Recreation Complex; and installed a new base board at the Point Richmond Community Center.

The stationary engineers repaired a broken grate at the Plunge; replaced an HVAC #2 condenser motor at 440 Civic Center Plaza; installed a new sink and faucet in the Point Richmond Community Center; replaced an exhaust fan in Fire Station 63; repaired the heater in Booker T. Anderson Community Center; and repaired the flush valves in Fire Station 67.

The stationary engineers repaired the air filters in the air handler and cleaned the return air plenums in Employment and Training; replaced the garbage disposal in May Valley Community Center; and, resolved a gas leak issue in Fire Station 63.

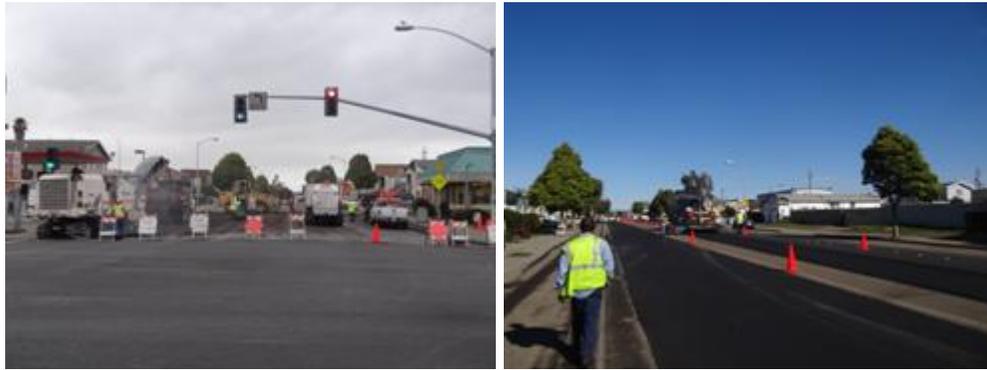
The utility workers continued addressing safety issues at the Senior Annex Center and the Recreation Complex.

The electricians repaired the women's suit spinner and the sign lights at the Plunge; repaired the Auditorium stage lighting control panel; programmed the new solar speed sign on Richmond Parkway; replaced street light pole in Point Isabel Dog Park; restored power to eight (8) street lights along Richmond Parkway between Barrett and Pennsylvania; repaired the parking lot lights at Fire Station 63; relamped lights in the Easter Hill area; and repaired electrical-related safety inspection items in the Auditorium.

The electricians discovered new wire theft locations at Country Club Vista and Marina Bay Parkway. Wire theft investigation and repairs were performed at the elevated section of Richmond Parkway and Ohio Avenue. In Country Club Vista, 24 boxes affecting 24 lights were closed and sealed. Attempts of potential wire theft were identified on Atlas Road. Repairs were performed on the security lights in Fire Station 63, the underpass lights on Barrett Avenue and Marina Way, and the gates of the DiCon Building.

Streets Division: Crews grinded and paved South 23rd Street from Cutting Boulevard to Ohio Avenue in the northbound and southbound directions. Class A pothole patching is ongoing.

This week crews paved Wilson Avenue, 43rd and 44th Streets and continued Class A patching potholes.



Paving on 23rd Street at Cutting Boulevard

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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!

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