

## **City Manager's Weekly Report**

### **Mayor and Councilmembers:**

This is the weekly report for the week ending March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

#### **1. Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, and with the regular agenda beginning at 6:30 PM.

#### **2. City of Richmond Receives \$5,000,000 State Grant for Unity Park Along Richmond Greenway**

We learned this past week that the California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services awarded the City of Richmond a \$5 million Proposition 84 Statewide Park Program grant to develop a new park (Unity Park) along the Richmond Greenway.

This great news is the result of a collaborative effort by virtually every community group doing "green" work in Richmond. These groups came together in May 2011 to organize and plan the community outreach effort for this Prop 84 grant. The result, the "Festival of Ideas," consisted of two design tents set up on the Richmond Greenway for eight consecutive days to gather community input. The design tents were staffed by local residents who surveyed over 800 other local residents to determine what the community wanted to see on the Richmond Greenway. The design concept based on this input includes a community plaza, children's play area, new landscaping, public art, restrooms, additional community gardens, benches, refreshed gateways and lighting. The design integrates Urban Tilth's Edible Forest as a center piece for this park.

A sincere thank you and congratulations go out to all those who were involved in this successful, grant-winning process. We look forward to working to make this vision a reality.

#### **3. LED Lighting Upgrades at Nevin Park**

The City Manager's Environmental Initiatives Division recently completed a LED lighting upgrade for Nevin Park. The Nevin Park lighting upgrade was the 34th City facility to receive energy efficiency lighting upgrades funded by the Federal stimulus grant also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Environmental Initiatives Division had previously completed lighting upgrades at the Richmond Museum of History and the Nevin Community Center. With the completion of Nevin Park, the Environmental Initiatives Division has completed lighting upgrades on the entire City block. The Public Works Department also partnered with Environmental Initiatives to troubleshoot power outages at one of the poles.

The project received an upfront energy efficiency rebate of \$5,000 dollars and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 13 tons annually. The lighting upgrade has an estimated simple payback of 4.2 years and achieved a wattage reduction of eighty percent. The project is a great example of how the City is able to achieve better public safety, improve walkability, enhance recreation spaces and reduce operating costs through energy efficiency initiatives.

Please consider attending one of the many events at Nevin Community Center or visiting the Richmond Museum of History and seeing the upgraded lighting systems.



#### 4. **Richmond Health Equity Partnership**

This past Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, the City of Richmond hosted the first convening of the Richmond Health Equity Partnership (RHEP) project. The RHEP consists of the City of Richmond, Contra Costa County Health Services (CCHS), and the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The RHEP aims to support the long-term goals of Healthy Richmond by ensuring that these local government partners continue to build the necessary knowledge, capacity and institutional change that will improve health outcomes. This two-year effort is being funded by The California Endowment, building on their previously successful investments in Richmond.

The goal of the RHEP is to pilot implementation of the Community Health and Wellness Element (CHWE) of the General Plan and build key institutional partnerships with the goal of cross-sector collaboration to advance equity. The partnership will advance health equity for children and families through the development of a collaborative *Health in All Policies* strategy and *Full-Service Community Schools* strategy in Richmond for possible duplication in other cities and areas of West Contra Costa County. RHEP aims to build new working partnerships within and between local government institutions – City, County and School District – to facilitate systems change and enable these institutions to respond to and lead with community-based health equity initiatives.

We will continue to keep you informed as this project moves forward.



5. **Richmond Factsheet – Home of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Second Campus**

You can now [Download](#) a new factsheet highlighting Richmond as home of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Second Campus at [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/lbnl](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/lbnl).

**Richmond, California**  
Home of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Second Campus

Richmond is proud to have been selected as the location for the expansion of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The new campus will combine the Energy and Life Sciences research cluster with the existing UC Berkeley Engineering research cluster on university-owned property at the Richmond Field Station (RFS). The proposed complex is expected to accelerate scientific innovation, technology transfer and commercialization, while creating new jobs.

The City of Richmond and a host of partners are creating an integrated development plan and comprehensive economic strategy that will enable the City and the surrounding region to derive maximum economic benefit from the presence of this important new facility.



**About LBNL**  
LBNL is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratory that conducts a wide variety of scientific research for DOE's Office of Science. LBNL was founded in 1931 by Ernest Orlando Lawrence, a University of California, Berkeley physicist who won the 1939 Nobel Prize in physics for his invention of a cyclotron, a circular particle accelerator that opened the door to high-energy physics. LBNL is an incubator for ideas, innovations, and solutions for complex problems of global significance. LBNL is a center for research in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, climate change, environmental science, the chemistry and physics of matter and force in the universe, computational science, biological science, and more.

**LBNL Highlights**

- 13 Nobel Prizes
- 1,685 scientists, engineers, and faculty
- \$700 million annual contribution to the local economy
- \$1.6 billion impact on the U.S. economy

**About Richmond**  
The City of Richmond is located 16 miles northeast of San Francisco on the western shore of Contra Costa County. Richmond was incorporated in 1905.

Richmond is best known for its unique history and role in the World War II home front effort. Between 1940 and 1945, tens-of-thousands of workers from all over the country streamed into the City to support wartime industries. With a population of 104,513, the City today is an important industrial, commercial, transportation, shipping, and government center. Richmond boasts 32 miles of shoreline, the most of any city in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"The Richmond Field Station will serve as the site for a vibrant research campus by the Bay that will inspire interaction, collaboration, innovation and invention."  
- Bill Lindsay, Richmond City Manager





[www.ci.richmond.ca.us/lbnl](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/lbnl)



## 6. United Heckathorn Superfund Site Update

On Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff presented at a community meeting an Action Plan for upcoming work at the United Heckathorn site and opportunities for the community to become involved. The United Heckathorn site is located in the Richmond Harbor. Contaminants from the activities of several companies that formulated, packaged, and shipped pesticides at this location from the mid-1940s to mid-1960s persist on this site. In March 1990, the United Heckathorn site was listed on the Federal Superfund List and the EPA directed cleanup efforts including dredging and capping upland areas. **Dichlorodiphenyl trichloroethane (DDT)** and **dieldrin** have persisted despite the large-scale cleanup.

Activities to date include: an EPA presentation to City Council (January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012), a meeting between the EPA Region 9 Administrator and City of Richmond, sampling, and preparation for installation of a flapgate in the Lauritzen Channel. The City of Richmond and EPA will continue to work to address cleanup of the United Heckathorn site.

EPA encourages the community to apply for **Technical Assistance Grants**, accessible from the [website](#). Download meeting materials and additional resources on the [website](#). View community meeting [photos](#).



## 7. Cesar Chavez Celebration – Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on the Richmond Greenway at 16<sup>th</sup> Street

Urban Tilth's Cesar Chavez Celebration has been postponed to Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Please save the date! Cesar Chavez Day is a project of Urban Tilth in collaboration with the City of Richmond, the Friends of the Richmond Greenway, the National Parks Service: Rosie the Riveter Park, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Richmond SPOKES, Live Real, Richmond College Prep Schools, Richmond Youth Works, Movement Generation Justice and Ecology Project, the Safe Return Project. This project was funded by the California Endowment, the Rails to Trails Conservancy and Acapulco Rock and Soil.



8. **Compost Giveaway – Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 from 9:00AM-1:00PM at 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue**

On Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM -1:00 PM, the City of Richmond will host a compost giveaway. Residents are invited to pick up 2 cubic yards of compost (about three 5-gallon buckets) each. Please bring your own containers. Compost is made in Richmond from food scraps generated through the residential food scrap composting program.



9. **Recreation Highlights**

Music Therapy: The Disabled People’s Recreation Center (DPRC) hosted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maya’s Music Festival on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The event is an opportunity to showcase the talents of the participants of DPRC as well as participants of other agencies serving people with developmental disabilities. The Richmond Recreation Complex was delightfully decorated with silhouettes of DPRC participants listening to music, dancing, playing instruments and singing. Titia Martin, the certified therapeutic music instructor, works throughout the year

with each individual to find their niche in the music realm. The theme this year was "Feel the Music" and the audience of over 175 definitely felt the music.

Thank you to all who supported this phenomenal event.

Emergency Training: In collaboration with the Office of Emergency Services, the Shields Reid Community Center will host Community Emergency Response Team (CERT/REACT) classes for adults from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM, every Tuesday and Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The classes provide participants an opportunity to serve their communities. Each class will cover a different action needed to help their neighbors and community in the event of a city-wide disaster. The class will teach participants what to do in case of an emergency. Classroom and hands on training will take place during the entire course.

Visit by Shimada, Japan Sister City Student Ambassadors: City of Richmond host families welcomed the Shimada Student Ambassadors on March 20<sup>th</sup> for a nine day visit. During the evening of their arrival, teacher Chimato Nakzawa and the six students were presented to the Mayor and City Council members. The ambassadors have been on non-stop visits throughout the City and to various schools within the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Some other points of interest have been the historical Museum of Richmond, a swim at the Plunge, shopping at Hilltop Mall and a tour of Civic Center and Point Richmond. They were especially excited to meet and take pictures with Richmond Police Officers, two of which were motorcycle officers. The Sayonara Dinner at the Richmond Senior Center was a wonderful gathering of over fifty people, which included Councilman Nathaniel Bates, host families, past Richmond ambassador students, Richmond Shimada Friendship Commissioners, the city manager, and other guests. The evening was filled with wonderful interaction and ended in a beautiful dance by one of the young ladies from Shimada.

Recreation Information Day, Easter Egg Hunt & Resource Fair: On Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 AM to noon, the Recreation Department will host the annual Recreation Information Day. Participants can learn more about the programs the Recreation Department offers and non-profit organizations will also be present to provide resource information. Breakfast with the Easter bunny can be enjoyed at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM., following which; children can participate free in the spring egg hunt between 10:00 AM and noon.

## 10. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities Maintenance Division: The electricians restored electrical power in Point Molate with the aid of an electrical contractor. Floaters were installed on the electrical lines in the southbound direction.



Wire theft repairs continued on Marina Bay Parkway, 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Carlson Boulevard.

The utility section continued providing janitorial services to 29 city-owned facilities; completed pest control in Disabled People's Recreation Center (DPRC); and, completed cleaning and waxing the floors in the Art Center.

Parks and Landscaping Division: Parks' crews completed irrigation repairs in Hilltop Green and Fairmede Parks; abated weeds on Richmond Parkway; managed vegetation and weed on Atlas Road in the Hilltop Assessment District; installed a chain link fence around Atchison Village baseball field; performed drain maintenance in Nicholl Park and ball field maintenance in John F. Kennedy, Nicholl and Wendell Parks; cleared Mira Vista Park creek; repaired vandalized benches in John F. Kennedy Park; and, completed landscape rehabilitation in the medians along Bayside Drive.

The Tree Crew continued with tree related task at 326 – 27<sup>th</sup> Street, 201 West Richmond Avenue, 3633 Ridgewood Way, and 917 Western Drive; responded to an emergency call out at 3527 Cerritos; and performed tree trimming for the Pavement Maintenance crew on San Jose Street between San Pablo and San Mateo Avenues.

Streets Division: The Pavement Maintenance crew dug out 40<sup>th</sup> Street at Rosvelt Avenue and Essex Drive near the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street; repaired guard rails at Garvin Avenue, and 3600 and 3800 Ohio Avenue; cleaned Castro Ranch Road for an upcoming bike race; and continued Class A pothole patching in various locations throughout the City.



Essex Drive near corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street

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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](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx)