

Mayor and Councilmembers:

This is the weekly report for the week ending August 17th, 2012.

1. Meeting Notes

The City Council is on its annual August hiatus. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th. Enjoy your free Tuesday evenings!

2. Update on Chevron Refinery Fire

The City is continuing to receive updates from various governmental agencies involved in determining the public health impacts, results from air quality testing, and the current status of multiple ongoing investigations. We will continue to update the City's website with up-to-date information as we receive it. The website can be accessed through the following [link](#). I've summarized some key pieces of information below that we received this week:

- On Tuesday, August 14, 2012, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors received an oral report on the Chevron refinery fire from Dr. Wendel Brunner, Director of Contra Costa Health Services, and Randy Sawyer, the Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer for Contra Costa County. A video recording of the meeting can be accessed online through the following [link](#) and will be shown on KCRT at the following [times](#). The oral report includes useful information on the community health impacts and emergency response system.
- According to the Contra Costa Health Services, 11,000 people have sought medical attention as a result of the fire.
- On Tuesday, August 21, 2012, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is expected to receive another update from County public health officials during the Board of Supervisors Meeting. The meeting will take place at 9:30 AM in the County Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Room 107, Martinez. The oral report is listed as item D.1 on the Board of Supervisors meeting [agenda](#).
- The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is expected to complete air quality tests early next week that will analyze for particulate matter levels. One of the primary concerns from public health officials is the level of particulate matter in the smoke from the fire.
- The U.S. [Chemical Safety Board](#) (CSB) is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigators are one of the

primary agencies investigating the fire at the refinery and issued the following statement on the evening of Thursday, August 16th: “CSB are continuing with interviews. Today the CSB received a large volume of documents from Chevron, including pipe thickness measurements on the 8 inch pipe - the CSB is currently reviewing these documents. The team has not moved any closer to the location of the release due to the ongoing concern of nearby hydrocarbons. Chevron is working on a plan on how to clear out and isolate the nearby line.”

- The CSB statement for Friday, August 17th stated that "Progress continues today on the investigation of the August 6 fire at the Chevron Richmond Refinery. This afternoon the CSB and Cal-OSHA both signed an agreement providing for sustained cooperation at the site, including the ongoing preservation of the accident site and the identification and testing of evidence. The CSB looks forward to the inclusion of Chevron and the United Steelworkers Union in the agreement, which will provide a blueprint for the orderly conduct of the various investigations and inspections. Future agreements should cover the independent testing of the pipe that failed and any other key pieces of evidence. All parties continue to cooperate. The immediate area of the failed pipe remains hazardous for entry due to hydrocarbons and structural issues. A plan is under development for making the site safe for entry. On Monday, CSB Chairman Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso plans to travel to San Francisco and tour the accident site. The CSB investigation team will continue work at the site this weekend, but no further updates are planned, and no spokespeople will be available."
- Chevron has scheduled a dozen community meetings with neighborhood councils to provide a forum for listening and sharing information. Chevron has also scheduled to meet with other community groups including the NAACP and the San Pablo Yacht Harbor. Please contact your [neighborhood council](#) to find out when a community meeting is scheduled for your neighborhood.
- To date, Chevron has received 8,465 claims through the claim hotline and 1,680 have been filed through the claims center. Chevron is continuing to accept claims for medical and property expenses incurred as a result of the fire. To file a claim, please call: (866) 260-7881 or visit the Chevron help center at the Nevin Community Center, 598 Nevin Avenue, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday or 8:00 AM to noon on Saturday.

3. **Become a City of Richmond Ambassador**

City of Richmond (COR) Ambassadors are volunteers who provide reception services at the front desk of City Hall offices located at Civic Center Plaza. Serving as a COR Ambassador is a great opportunity to learn more about city government, to meet new people, and to help assist people in our community.

City of Richmond Ambassadors perform the following functions:

- Greet and welcome City Hall visitors,
- Respond to visitor inquiries about City services and programs,
- Provide directions to City facilities and meeting room locations, and
- Refer visitors to the appropriate business or organization for assistance.

The City of Richmond Ambassadors will convey the friendly and positive attitudes of the community. Those volunteering are preferred to have general familiarity with the Richmond community and local government, but the most important qualification is the ability to provide a warm welcome to City Hall visitors.

Opportunities to serve are Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:45 PM and 12:45 PM – 5:00 PM. Ambassadors can serve any day of the week based on one's availability and commitment to sustain a regular schedule. All City of Richmond Ambassadors receive training from City staff prior to beginning service.

Please consider becoming a COR Ambassador. For additional information, please contact Rochelle Monk at (510) 620-6511.



4. **Help us Name our Volunteer and Service Program**

Since March 2012, the City of Richmond has been in the process of planning to implement the Cities of Service[®] program model in our City. Cities of Service[®] seeks to meet priority needs through impact volunteering: a volunteer strategy that targets a community's priority needs, uses best practices, and sets clear outcomes for measurable results. Richmond is proud to be a part of this growing coalition of over 100 mayors and local municipalities that use the power of citizen service to address local challenges.

Among projects completed to date, the Richmond Cities of Service[®] team:

- Hosted four focus groups totaling nearly 50 participants to assist in program design;
- Initiated the City of Richmond's Ambassador Program (see the previous weekly report item) with five current trained volunteers;
- Recruited and interviewed 16 volunteers; four are specifically working with the Cities of Service program and others were assigned to City Hall departments or referred to community based organizations.

We are now inviting you to help us name and locally brand this new City of Richmond volunteer and service program. We cannot think of a better way to brand our program than to tap into the creativity of our very own residents to suggest names and to then vote for their favorite one.

To submit your entry, please visit <https://www.research.net/s/submitaname>. The deadline for receiving suggested names is September 3, 2012, 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST). Top entries will be selected by a panel of judges for the public to vote on beginning September 10 through September 17, 2012, 11:59 PM PST.

The individual submitting the winning suggestion will receive a commemorative plaque and public recognition by the Mayor and City Council at a televised Richmond City Council meeting.

Please contact Rochelle Monk at (510) 620-6511 if you have questions or would like to hear more about the Cities of Service® program model, and thank you for taking part in creating this wonderful program for our City.

5. **Single-Use Carryout Bag Reduction Ordinance – EIR Comment Period and Public Hearing**

RecycleMore has prepared a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study to evaluate the environmental impacts of a draft Single-Use Carryout Bag Reduction Ordinance. The proposed ordinance would prohibit the free distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags at the point of sale (i.e., check-out) for all retail establishments except restaurants and nonprofit charitable reuse organizations. Retail establishments would be permitted to provide paper bags containing at least 40 percent recycled content for a fee of five cents for each bag.

The review period for the Initial Study document is 30 days, beginning on August 6th, and closing on September 5th. It is anticipated that this ordinance will be considered for adoption by each of the member agencies of RecycleMore (West County cities), including the City of Richmond following completion of the CEQA documentation.

RecycleMore will host a public hearing to respond to questions about the Initial Study and CEQA on August 28, 2012, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Richmond

Council Chambers. For more details on the initial study, environmental review documents or to obtain a copy of the draft ordinance, please visit www.recyclemore.com or the City of Richmond Planning & Building Services at 450 Civic Center Plaza. Interested persons are encouraged to provide written comments to the attention of Chris Lehon, Executive Director, RecycleMore, One Alvarado Square San Pablo, CA 94806.

6. **Via Verdi Sinkhole Project Update**

A substantial amount of work has been completed on the Via Verdi Culvert Replacement project. The large earth excavations are complete and the temporary stockpile on the neighboring cemetery property has been built up in accordance with Storm Water Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices. The old corrugated metal pipe culvert has been removed. The final sections of temporary shoring along El Portal Drive are nearly complete. The culvert endwall on the south side of El Portal Drive is being dismantled. Several concrete sections of the new culvert floor and walls and roof have been poured. Both the West County Wastewater District 36" sewer line suspended above the culvert, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District 54" water main line buried beneath the culvert, both located along El Portal Drive, continue to be protected.

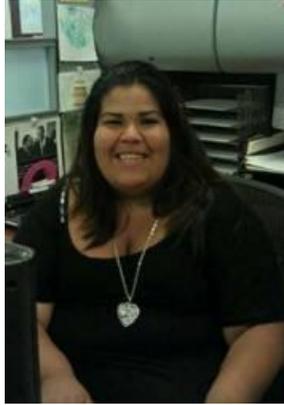


The last remaining portion of the corrugated metal pipe culvert is visible in the center of the above photograph; in the background is the 36" sewer line suspended in the truss that was originally suspended over San Pablo Creek, and in the lower left corner the rebar for the new concrete culvert is visible.

7. **A Student and Recent Volunteer at LEAP**

Another LEAP (Literacy for Every Adult Person) success story:

Meet Patricia Mendoza, a student and recent volunteer at LEAP. She is 19 years old and enrolled at LEAP in April of this year. While attending GED classes, Patricia inquired about working in the office to satisfy hours for Cal Works. Patricia has been helping put together orientation packets and organizing LEAP's resource books and filing. She's been doing such a great job that it's hard to believe that she has no prior office experience.



Prior to coming to LEAP, Patricia worked at RYSE with their team outreach from June 2007 to April 2008. She went to high schools and middle schools and talked about their program, which included computer classes and workshops on violence. Patricia also participated in RYSE-sponsored camping trips and field trips to ball games.

Patricia enjoys taking her 3½ year old son to the park and reading books to him. He loves picture books. Patricia expects to complete her GED testing in December and graduate with the next LEAP class in January 2013. She plans to attend Contra Costa College next spring and aspires to be a teacher. Patricia's future is as bright as her smile.

8. **Recreation Highlights**

Richmond Police Department Teaches About Safety

On three occasions during the Kids 'N Motion summer camp program at the Nevin Center, Officer Lynnette Parker of the Richmond Police Department volunteered to visit with the participants. She talked, and demonstrated, to the youth about bicycle safety and donated helmets to each participant. She also spoke about "how to identify and stop bullying."

Chevron Claim Center

Up through August 25th, Chevron will have temporary office space open at the Nevin Community Center from 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday and 7:00 AM to 12 noon on Saturdays. The office is open to allow residents to file claims due to the fire at the Chevron refinery.

Disabled Peoples Recreation Center

Disabled Peoples Recreation Center participants, family and friends celebrated the last day of the four weeks Summer Community Program at the San Pablo Reservoir on Friday August 10th. Over 25 participants joined in a fun filled day as

the Reservoir provided a pontoon patio boat, fishing poles and bait, parking and entrance fees for the annual BBQ.

As of July 1st, the Disabled Persons Recreation Center has added a new Job Shadowing component to the program. Partnering with the Richmond Senior Center, during the Nutrition Program, staff is teaching DPRC participants work skills in the food service area. Participants assist in preparing food, serving lunches and clean up.

Weigh of Life

In collaboration with Weigh of Life, Shields Reid Community Center is hosting dance & exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Classes are offered from 10:00 AM -11:00 AM and 6:00 PM -7:00 PM in the multipurpose room. Participants ages 18 & over can pay \$15.00 per month and have access to unlimited classes each month. In addition to the dance & exercise classes, a weekly nutrition class is offered to participants.

Senior Center

Over 400 senior participants were distributed memberships cards to use when visiting the Senior Center.

Pt. Richmond

During the Pt. Richmond Summer Music Series and Farmer's Market, the Pt. Richmond Community Center offers youth activities and program information to the community.

9. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities Maintenance Division: Carpenters replaced hinges on the door to the Finance Department, repaired a beam at Fire Station #68, and began construction on cabinets for the Equipment Services area.

Stationary Engineers repaired the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the Hilltop Substation, repaired heater at the Booker T. Anderson Community Center, installed four cord reels at Fire Station #63, plumbing repairs to the Auditorium and the Fire Training Center, repaired the water heater at the Starlight Building, and asbestos abatement in locations of the Auditorium.

Electricians repaired the pedestrian crossing and replaced the traffic controller at 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, repairs within the Plunge, and continued street light re-lamping around the City.



Traffic Controller Replacement 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue

Parks and Landscaping Division: A grand opening celebration was held for the Solano Play lot on Saturday, August 11, 2012. Many came out to celebrate and enjoy the newly renovated park located at 38th Street and Solano Avenue.



Solano Play Lot Grand Opening

Crews are continuing the Burg Park reconstruction, vegetation management on the Richmond Parkway, constructed a small retaining wall for the backflow prevention device at Lakeside Drive and Richmond Parkway, continued the landscape maintenance in the Hilltop Assessment District, and began the landscape renovation project on the Marina Bay Trail.



Burg Park Renovations

Tree Crew trimmed and pruned trees along Marina Way South, Cypress Avenue, Creely Avenue, La Moine Park, near Kennedy High School, and on Mc Kenzie Drive.

Streets Division: Pavement Maintenance crews grinded and paved on Parkside Drive, and Park Way Court. Signs and Lines crews replaced all markings on South 37th Street from Cutting to Carlson Boulevards from last week's paving.



New Pavement Markings on South 37th Street

Street Sweeping continued with regularly scheduled commercial and residential routes for the second Monday and Tuesday, as well as the third Wednesday through Friday in the May Valley, Vista View, Clinton Hill I-III, Atchison Village, South Belding Woods, Santa Fe, Coronado, Marina Bay, and Point Richmond Neighborhood Council areas.

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