

Mayor and City Councilmembers:

This is the weekly report for the week ending December 13th, 2013.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th beginning with a Closed Session at 6:00 PM, followed by the regular agenda at 6:30 PM.

For planning purposes, please note that the December 17th meeting will be the last of the year. The first City Council meeting in 2014 will be Tuesday, January 14th – the second Tuesday of the month, allowing the agenda to be compiled after the holiday break (see item 2, below).

2. **Holiday Closure of City Offices and Library**

As we have during the past several years, the City offices will be closed during the last week in December from Tuesday, December 24th until Thursday, January 2nd. Police and Fire will, of course, have regular service; maintenance services will be limited; all other non-safety departments will be on holiday, with employees using vacation or other accrued leave time.

The Richmond Public Library (RPL), Bayview and West Side branches, and the bookmobile will be closed beginning December 24th, 2013 to January 1st, 2014. eBooks and Audio are available @ www.richmondlibrary.org. The book return slots will be locked during the closure. **Please do not leave library materials outside of the Main Library or the branches.** Library materials will not incur overdue fines while the Library is closed. Please call (510) 620-6561 or visit the library's website us at www.richmondlibrary.org for more information.

Note that there will be recreation programs at several of the community centers December 23rd and January 2nd and 3rd as indicated below.

Site	Times	Cost	Programs
Parchester	9:30am - 5:00pm	Free	Drop in
Sheilds Reid	9:30am - 5:00pm	Free	Drop in
Nevin	9:30am - 5:00pm	Free	Drop in
May Valley	10:00am - 6:00pm	Free	Registered participants only
DPRC	9:00am - 5:00pm	RCEB or \$25/day	Registered participants only
Recreation Complex	9:30am - 5:00pm	fitness center charges	Fitness center only

Booker T. Anderson	9:30am - 5:00pm	\$10 for all 3 days; \$5 per day	Drop in
Richmond Annex	8:30am - 5:00pm	see regular schedule	Drop in and registered participants
Senior Center	8:30am - 5:00pm	see regular schedule	Drop in and registered participants

3. **Richmond ESC (Excellence Serving our Community) Volunteer Program Awarded \$100,000 Grant from Cities of Service**

After receiving a record-number of applications, the national Cities of Service organization announced that it has awarded the City of Richmond’s impact volunteering program, Richmond ESC (Excellence Serving our Community) \$100,000 to implement service initiatives to help improve Richmond students’ writing and literacy skills. Richmond is one of 23 U.S. cities to win a Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund grant.

Last year, Richmond was also an award recipient. The program received \$25,000 to support recruiting and training community volunteers to serve as writing coaches at Richmond High School through the Community Alliance for Learning’s WriterCoach Connection program. Through this program, more than 100 local, trained volunteers have served as writing coaches, giving one-on-one writing instruction to 150 Richmond High School students. A portion of the \$100,000 grant award will further the existing partnership with Community Alliance for Learning to continue the WriterCoach Connection program at Richmond High School and to expand the program to John F. Kennedy High School.

In addition, the City of Richmond is partnering with the Read Aloud Volunteer Program and Bring Me a Book to help lead the initiative within local elementary schools. The grant enables volunteers and staff from each program to continue and expand on their work with children and families in Richmond. The partners will work with 150 elementary school students to improve their literacy skills.

Richmond ESC is very grateful for this grant and to partner with Community Alliance for Learning, Read Aloud Volunteer Program and Bring Me a Book, and the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Would you like to be part of this initiative to increase high school and elementary school academic achievement in Richmond? If so, please visit us www.richmondvolunteers.org or contact us at (510) 620-6511.

Volunteer with WriterCoach: <http://richmondvolunteers.org/opportunities/2607>
 Volunteer with Read-Aloud: <http://richmondvolunteers.org/opportunities/2685>



4. **Richmond Police Department Collecting Blankets for the Homeless**

The Richmond Police Department is collecting blankets for homeless checks during the cold spell. All blanket donations can be dropped off in the Richmond Police Department lobby at 1701 Regatta Boulevard, Richmond. You can contact Michelle Milam, Crime Prevention Manager, at mmilam@richmondpd.net with any questions about donating.



5. **Get Covered! Enroll in Covered California™ at the Richmond Main Library**

On Saturday, December 14th from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, visit the Richmond Main Library at 325 Civic Center Plaza where certified enrollment counselors will talk with you face-to-face to explain your health coverage options through Covered California, California's new healthcare insurance marketplace. Counselors will help you select the best plan for your individual and family medical needs and budget. You can also find out if you qualify for low-cost or no-cost coverage through Medi-Cal. Don't miss this opportunity to get enrolled, and get covered! For more information or questions please call (510) 620-6559.

Here is what you will need to bring:

- Current income of all family members on the application (tax return, W-2, recent pay stubs, etc.)
- Legal resident card or Certificate of Naturalized Citizenship (if applicable – the numbers on the card are required in the application)
- Copy of U.S. citizenship and residency status
- Copy of SSN and DOB for each family member in the household

Get Covered

Enroll in Covered California™

Coming to your local library

Visit your library where **certified enrollment counselors** will talk with you face-to-face to explain your health coverage options through Covered California and help you select the best plan for your medical needs and budget. You can also find out if you qualify for low-cost or no-cost coverage through Medi-Cal.

So get enrolled, and get covered!

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San Pablo Library 2300 El Portal Drive San Pablo, CA 94806 510.374.3999	El Sobrante Library 4191 Appian Way El Sobrante, CA 94803 510.374.3999	Pinole Library 2695 Pinole Valley Rd. Pinole, CA 94664 510.758-2761	Richmond Main Library 325 Civic Center Plaza Richmond, CA 94804 510.620-6009
Date: Dec 6 – Fri Time: 1 pm – 5 pm	Date: Dec 7 – Sat. Time: 10 am to 3 pm	Date: Dec 14 – Sat. Time: 12 pm – 5 pm	Date: Dec 14 – Sat. Time: 1 pm to 5 pm

Asegúrate

Inscríbete en Covered California™

En la biblioteca de tu comunidad

Visita tu biblioteca en donde los consejeros de inscripción te explicarán en persona tus opciones de cobertura médica a través de Covered California. Los consejeros te ayudarán a seleccionar el plan médico que satisfaga tu presupuesto y tus necesidades sanitarias. También podrás averiguar si calificas para la cobertura médica sin costo o de bajo costo por medio de Medi-Cal.

¡¡Inscríbete y asegúrate!!

Esto es lo que necesitarás traer contigo:

- **El salario actual de todos los miembros de la familia** (Declaración de impuestos, W-2, comprobante de pago reciente, etc.)
 - Si no has declarado tus impuestos, da un estimado de lo que ganarás en 2014.
- **Tarjeta de residente permanente o certificado de ciudadanía de Estados Unidos.**
- **Copia de la ciudadanía de Estados Unidos y estatus de residencia.**
- **Copia del número del seguro social de cada miembro en la familia y sus fechas de nacimiento.**

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Lláma al [número telefónico de la biblioteca] para más información.

6. Downtown Holiday Festival

Celebrate the holiday season at the annual Downtown Holiday Festival, presented by Richmond Main Street Initiative and East Bay Center for the Performing Arts! Come Downtown to the historic Winters Building for an evening filled with memorable activities for the entire family including: Santa visits, gifts for children 10 years old and younger, laughs and balloon animals with Buki the Clown, light refreshments, spectacular seasonal family-friendly performances by members of the East Bay Center resident companies at 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM, and group caroling and holiday street lighting at 7:30 PM. Admission is free.

Date: December 16th

Time: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 339 11th Street, Richmond, CA



7. **Officer Bradley A. Moody Memorial Underpass Project Update – Night Work Tentatively Scheduled for December 14th – 15th**

The Bradley A. Moody Memorial Underpass Project involves the construction of a roadway underpass on Marina Bay Parkway between Meeker Avenue and Regatta Boulevard, and is intended to resolve long-standing access limitations to the Marina Bay area caused by frequent train crossings. In early September 2013, Marina Bay Parkway was closed to traffic. This closure will remain in place for approximately 18 months.

During the week of December 9th, the contractor completed general cleanup from the recently-completed Deep Soil Mix work, and began preparations for roadway excavation while utility relocation work continued.

On December 14th and 15th, the third of up to six weekend, 24-hour a day closure windows has been scheduled. During this weekend closure, the contractor will be installing the steel railroad bridge atop the precast abutment shells that were placed during the prior weekend closure in November. The bridge is scheduled to be delivered in 8 sections weighing 70,000 pounds each beginning on the evening of December 14th, and will be installed using two cranes beginning upon delivery through the afternoon of December 15th. Community members can expect work on the project to continue for 24 hours a day, from 8:30 AM on December 14th to 8:30 AM on December 16th. While disruptive, these weekend work shifts are necessary to complete the project, and the project team appreciates the community's patience.

For additional information and to be added to the project update contact list, please see the project website at www.moodyup.com. You can also follow the project on

twitter: @moodyunderpass, or contact the project's public outreach coordinator Jacqueline Majors at (925)-949-6196.

Please continue to support your Marina Bay businesses during this construction period!

8. Single Use Bag Ordinance Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that **beginning January 1, 2014** single-use plastic bags will no longer be available at retail stores in Richmond, San Pablo and El Cerrito. Stores must charge a minimum of 5¢ for each paper or reusable bag sold. Customers can avoid paying for bags by bringing their own bags. For more information, including a copy of the ordinance and business resources, please contact:

City of Richmond

(510) 620-6512 | mike_uberti@ci.richmond.ca.us
www.richmondenvironment.org

City of San Pablo

(510) 215-3064 | karinehs@sanpabloca.gov
www.greensanpablo.org

City of El Cerrito

(510) 215-4350 | green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
www.el-cerrito.org/bagsandfoam



DON'T FORGET ME.





9. 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

On Monday, January 20, 2014, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, along the Richmond Greenway (between 6th and 16th Streets at Chanslor and Ohio Avenues), the City of Richmond's impact volunteering program, Richmond ESC (Excellence Serving our Community) will join the Friends of the Richmond Greenway and hundreds of community partners and volunteers to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This annual event on the Richmond Greenway has been a community tradition that joins the Richmond community in service.

Join us for healthy food, lively music, and plenty of service projects along the Richmond Greenway as we advance Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of service. [Sign up to volunteer](#) or contact Stephanie Hervey at forq@communityorgs.info, (510) 730-0278 or Rochelle Monk at (510) 620-6511.

10. Street Light Improvement Initiatives

On Monday, December 9th, the City of Richmond began a comprehensive, city-wide project to upgrade – and update – its street lights, with the very first phase of this effort beginning in Parchester Village. Over the next six months, all neighborhoods in the City will be receiving both LED upgrades of existing street lights, and installation of new LED street lights on select wood poles that currently do not have street lights. During this time, approximately 9,000 new LED street light fixtures will be installed as upgrades to existing fixtures or as new fixtures. The street light upgrades will improve community safety and quality-of-life with brighter streets and sidewalks, while at the same time reducing operating costs and greenhouse gas

emissions. The new LED street lights use on average 50 percent less electricity than existing high pressure sodium lights.

It should be noted that the streetlight upgrade project requires a series of closely choreographed steps within each neighborhood, and requires significant coordination between the City's electrical contractor and PG&E. There will be no disruption of existing street lighting levels, although residents will observe the upgrades taking place in the discrete components outlined below.

New Street Light Connection Process to Empty Wood Poles: First, the City's contractor will be installing new street lights and arms on select wood poles that currently do not have street light fixtures and that meet PG&E's power, spacing and pole condition requirements. Subsequent to the installation of the arm and light to the pole, PG&E will connect and energize the new lights to the high voltage lines. There will be a brief amount of time when the new fixtures are attached to wood poles, but will not be energized until PG&E personnel complete the connections. Existing street lights will still be operable during this time and there will be no disruption of existing street lighting levels. We appreciate the community's patience as we coordinate the installation and connection of these new street lights.

Temporary Difference in Lighting Technology: As a separate step, existing street lights will be upgraded by the City's contractor to LED fixtures. As a result, there will be a period of time where some lights will be newer LED technology and others will be the current lighting technology (high pressure sodium). Rest assured that all street lights will soon be upgraded to LED technology and there will be no disruption or reduction in community lighting levels.

Please contact the City's Project Manager, Joel Camacho at joel_camacho@ci.richmond.ca.us or (510) 620-5482 with any questions related to the street light upgrades.

11. **Richmond Bay Campus Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

The University of California has announced the completion of the draft environmental review documents for the proposed Richmond Bay Campus (RBC) at the Richmond Field Station (RFS) and adjacent Regatta Property.

The proposed 2014 Long Range Development Plan for the Richmond Bay Campus has been prepared by UC Berkeley and UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to guide development of up to 5.4 million square feet of research, office and support facilities through 2050.

UC Berkeley is the Lead Agency for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that analyzes the environmental impacts from the Richmond Bay Campus under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Draft EIR identifies impacts associated

with development under the Long Range Development Plan in such categories as air quality, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation. The Draft EIR is being circulated for public review and comment over a 60-day period ending January 13, 2014. Comments on the Richmond Bay Campus Long Range Development Plan Environmental Impact Report may be emailed to rbc@lbl.gov. There was also a public hearing on the Richmond Bay Campus EIR this past Wednesday, December 11th.

The activities identified in the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) - to evaluate soil clean-up alternatives at the RFS - are also outlined and analyzed in the Draft EIR.

The Richmond Bay Campus Long Range Development Plan EIR, the draft Long Range Development Plan itself, and related documents and information are provided at: http://richmondbaycampus.lbl.gov/environmental_documents.html. For more information on the RAW, please visit the RFS Environmental Website <http://rfs-env.berkeley.edu> for updates.

12. **City Manager Chronicles**

I have listed below some of the topics for meetings that I have recently attended in the hope that it provides an idea of the varied issues with which our organization deals routinely.

Activities and meeting topics during the past week have included:

- Met with an “organizational working group” of City staff members to help brainstorm projects to improve efficiency and customer service;
- Reviewed the status, and discussed various land use options, with staff and the consultant preparing the South Shoreline Specific Plan;
- Participated in a detailed evaluation of progress made by the Richmond Health Equity Partnership, along with representatives from City staff, the County Health Department, the West County School District, and The California Endowment;
- Filmed the annual “Twelve Days of Richmond” piece to be presented on KCRT;
- Met with community representatives and with representatives of organized labor to discuss ways to capture economic benefits of the South Shoreline development and the Richmond Bay Campus;
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Emergency Operations/Disaster Council, which helps the City stay current on its emergency planning;
- Met with representatives from Manex (The Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence), Contra Costa Community College District, the East Bay Biomedical Manufacturing Network, and UC Berkeley and City staff regarding economic development opportunities in Richmond;
- Met with Contra Costa County Assessor Gus Kramer, along with City finance staff and the School Superintendent, to discuss assessed values in the Richmond community;

- Attended the very excellent Richmond High School Y-PLAN presentation by 10th grade students, who, as a class project completed extensive research and compiled recommendations regarding ways to improve transportation connectivity into the South Shoreline area.

These meetings were in addition to attending the regular management staff meeting, agenda planning, reviewing staff reports to the City Council, doing department head “check-ins,” having discussions on various personnel matters, and having short discussions with staff, community members, members of the press, etc.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the substance of these or any other topics.

13. Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) Open Enrollment Now Available

Open Enrollment for Covered California began October 1, 2013. To begin your enrollment, please call the Covered California's telephone help line at 1-800-300-1506 or visit the Covered California website at <https://www.coveredca.com/>. Interpreters in multiple languages are available on the telephone help line.

A few important things to know:

- Open enrollment is October 1 – March 31; coverage can begin January 1, 2014.
- Coveredca.com will allow consumers to make apples-to-apples comparisons of plans before enrolling, including premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.
- Many Californians will qualify for financial assistance to help make premiums more affordable.
- Covered CA recommends having the following household information available when enrolling: contact information for all household members applying for coverage, ID numbers such as social security or immigration information, income and tax filing status.
- **You must enroll by December 23, 2013 for coverage to start January 1, 2014.**

Affordable Care Act Frequently Asked Questions addressed by Contra Costa Health Services can be found at <http://cchealth.org/aca/faq.php>.

Please consider these other Affordable Care Act resources for Richmond and Contra Costa County residents:

Resource	Website	Phone
Contra Costa Health Services:	http://cchealth.org/aca/	(925) 313-6166

Health Care Reform and Contra Costa Residents		
Community Clinic Consortium: Morgan Westfall or Jennifer Arevalo	http://clinicconsortium.org/	(510) 233-6230
Lifelong Medical Care: Enrollment Department	http://www.lifelongmedical.org	(510) 231-9816



14. Public Works Updates

Facilities Maintenance: Carpenters installed new counters in the Recreation Complex, completed upgrades to the kitchen at Fire Station #67, repaired the broken window at 440 Civic Center Plaza, and secured the Americare building.



Fire Station 67 Remodeled Kitchen

Painters repaired and painted the library server walls and the 2nd floor of the lobby at 450 Civic Center Plaza.

Stationary Engineers replaced the water cooler at Nevin Center and replaced the faucets in the women's restroom of the center as well. They also completed the testing of the fire and smoke alarms within 450 Civic Center Plaza.

Electricians removed the "test" lighting in the Auditorium, repaired the holiday lighting around Civic Center Plaza, repaired the traffic light knock down at 12th Street and Barrett Avenue, repaired the traffic lights at Valley View and Amend Roads, repaired the "Quick Call" lights at two Fire Departments, and built and installed signal heads for Cutting and Carlson Boulevards.



Signal Head Replacement for Cutting and Carlson Boulevards

Parks and Landscaping: Crews completed the median renovation along the Richmond Parkway between Atlas Road and San Pablo Avenue, performed litter abatement along the Richmond Parkway, installed a french drain at the Valley View School field, performed drainage improvements at the Harbour Way/Macdonald Avenue Community Garden, continued Marina Bay Trail landscape improvements along Meeker Creek, performed maintenance along Carlson Boulevard, and completed the chain link fence installation at Belding Garcia and Lucas Park courts.



Maintenance along Carlson Boulevard

Tree crews trimmed, cut or ground trees around Cutting Boulevard, Washington Avenue, South 36th Street, and from Civic Center Plaza. Also, crews inspected the roots of trees on Barrett Avenue and 8th Street.

Streets Division: Crews paved Mendicino Street from Tehama to Plumas Avenue, hauled grindings from paving jobs, and worked from the outstanding pothole and sidewalk list.



Paving on Mendicino Street

Street sweeping performed commercial and residential sweeping services for the second Monday through Friday in the May Valley, Vista View, Clinton I – IV and East Richmond neighborhood council areas.

Signs and Lines crews restriped the Fire Training Center, fabricated 45 signs, installed 4 new signs, repaired 37 signs/poles, and placed over 1100 feet of painted markings throughout the City.



Restriping the Fire Training Center

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these or any other items of interest to you.

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