

## The Richmond is talking . . .

**Sunday Streets:** The Great Highway and Golden Gate Park will be car-free on Sunday, April 15.

**Dahlia Sale:** Stock up on San Francisco's official flower at the Dahlia Society of California's Annual Plant & Tuber Sale, Saturday, April 7, 9:30 to noon at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way. Proceeds support the society's maintenance of the park's Dahlia Dell and planting at the Cabrillo Playground on 39th Avenue.

**Supervisors' Public Meeting:** Eric Mar (District 1) and Christine Olague (District 5) will talk about the city's budget on April 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park.

**Mountain Lake Park Community Event:** Friends of Mountain Lake Park Playground are organizing and raising money for a new playground in the park. Join in a community event Saturday, May 19. Neighbors and playground enthusiasts are welcome for a morning of activity and fun. For details and to sign up, go to [fmlpp.org](http://fmlpp.org).

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## Planning underway for a 2012 park bond measure

Improvements to the Richmond Playground (18th Avenue and Lake Street), water conservation upgrades, restored trails and renovated restrooms are just a few of the projects that would be paid for by a bond measure being considered by the city's Recreation and Park Department.

Planning Director Dawn Kamalanathan of Rec & Park pointed to the department's successful completion of \$185 million in bond improvements since 2008 and laid the groundwork for a 2012 bond measure at the January 18, 2012, PAR meeting.

"The Richmond District benefited greatly from the 2008 bond measure, through projects like Sutro Dunes, improvements in Golden Gate Park and the upcoming renovation of the Cabrillo Playground, among others," said Nick Belloni, co-chair of PAR's Park and Recreation Committee. "We appreciate the department reaching out to the community as it prepares to put its 2012 measure on the November ballot. This is certain to be one of the issues PAR and our committee will be

following closely this year." (See Ask PAR, p. 3.)

In general terms, the bond money will be used to address situations that:

- Would be unsafe in an earthquake, as determined by the San Francisco Seismic Hazard Rating system
- Are in poor physical condition, as determined by site inspections and review by professional engineers
- Are located in dense urban areas, using a threshold of twice the median residential density for the city
- Offer core park amenities, such as children's play areas, green spaces larger than one acre, recreation facilities, athletic fields or courts

The department's "community-driven" process seeks input from neighborhood and citywide organizations. A second round of community outreach will take place in March and April. The final proposal is expected to be presented to the Rec & Park Commission and its Capital Planning Committee and the Board of Supervisors in May and June.

### Winter PAR Meeting

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- **Beach Chalet Soccer Fields (SF Oceanedge and Soccer Mamas, Poppas & Players)**
- **SSIP-Sewer System Improvement Program (SFPUC)**
- **Mountain Lake Dredging and Remediation Project (Presidio Trust)**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

**7 to 9 p.m.**

Richmond Recreation Center  
251 18th Avenue  
(between Clement & California streets)  
Paid parking is available one block away  
in the lot behind the Alexandria Theatre  
between Clement Street and Geary Boulevard.  
Muni lines:  
1 California and 38 Geary

### Additional thanks

PAR apologizes for omitting some names from the Honor Roll of Donors published in the Winter 2012 newsletter. Every contributor is important and we want to thank each of you.

#### Patrons (\$100 and above)

Eugene Brodsky  
Julie Burns  
Friends of Lands End  
Amy Meyer  
Chi Kin Wai

#### Sponsors (\$50-\$99)

Jasmine Scallan

And apologies to Sharon Meyer and Alexander Gregory for mangling their names in the list.

## Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,  
Thanks to all of you who attended and voted at our January general membership meeting. Our new officers and 17 directors (See box below) are already hard at work.

To make sure we address the issues that matter to you, we looked at our committee structure and added two new committees at our March Board meeting.

**Business Development**, chaired by Christopher Wright, will be our liaison with the businesses and the merchants' associations in the Richmond District, and will address economic development issues in the neighborhood.

**Public Safety**, chaired by Margie Hom-Brown, will work with the

Richmond District Station of the San Francisco Police Department and its SAFE Committee on issues like bicycle riding on sidewalks, crime, litter and graffiti.

We welcome any PAR member on any of our nine committees. You need only be interested, enthusiastic and willing to get to work.

Our other committees are:

**Bylaws:** Recommends amendments to ensure PAR's bylaws are up to date and comply with the law; chaired by Fred Altshuler.

**Communications and Membership:** Is the primary point of contact with our members through this newsletter and PAR's website. Members organize meetings, oversee our databases and recruit new members; chaired by Nick Belloni.

**Federal Government:** Oversees relationships with the National Park Service, Presidio Trust and San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center; chaired by Gene Brodsky.

**Land Use:** Represents PAR to the San Francisco Planning Department regarding proposed building and use permits and other development; chaired by Peter Winkelstein.

**Nominating:** Recruits members who are interested in serving on the Board and directors who want to serve as officers; chaired by Bill Shepard.

**Park and Recreation:** Liaison with the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department, co-chaired by Nick Belloni and Robert Fries. (See Ask PAR, p. 3)

**Transportation:** Is PAR's representative to the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; chaired by Brian Larkin.

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please write to me at [president@sfpar.org](mailto:president@sfpar.org) or leave a message at 415-541-5652. I will get back to you just as soon as I can. Thanks again for your continued interest in PAR and our activities.

*Ray Holland*  
[president@sfpar.org](mailto:president@sfpar.org)

## The Richmond is talking . . .

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**Mountain Lake Remediation:** The Presidio Trust's feasibility/action plan for removing contaminated sediment from Mountain Lake is open for public comment from until May 2 and is on the agenda at PAR's April 18 meeting. A public meeting will be held April 19 at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio. Work is expected to begin in July.

During the remediation phase, parts of the park will be closed and some trees and plants removed. Increased truck traffic, nighttime lane closures on Highway 1 and some night work are planned. When the remediation is over, the Lake Enhancement Project will resume native plant rehabilitation, habitat restoration and historic forest preservation.

**Lands End Visitor Center Opening:** The National Park Service will open its new 4,150-square-foot center on April 28. It houses exhibits describing the area's cultural and natural history, a café, shop and restrooms.



Seen here under construction, the visitors center at Lands End features walls of windows providing views of the ocean and tree-lined hills.

**New Leadership for Richmond Station:** SFPD Captain Eric Vintero arrived to head up the Richmond station in January. A San Francisco native, he grew up in the Richmond District. In his 17-year SFPD career, Vintero has served in most of the city's police stations, as well as on the SWAT team, robbery detail and in the Legal Division. You can reach him at [eric.vintero@sfgov.org](mailto:eric.vintero@sfgov.org) or 415-666-8030.

### Officers & Directors

#### Officers

Raymond Holland, President  
Nicholas Belloni, Co-Vice President  
Cheryl Schultz, Co-Vice President  
Brenda Altman, Secretary  
Christopher Wright, Treasurer

#### Directors

Fred Altshuler	Margie Hom-Brown
Lynn Altshuler	Jason Jungreis
Dan Baroni	Brian Larkin
Gene Brodsky	Claire Myers
Julie Burns	Bill Shepard
Herb Elliott	Maria Sousa
Paul Epstein	Matt Tuchow
Robert Fries	Peter Winkelstein
Sharon Gadberry	

#### Emeritus Directors

Jon Bulkley • Jim Lazarus • Ron Miguel •  
Paul Rosenberg • Michele Stratton

#### PAR Representatives on the:

Neighborhood Associations for Presidio  
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadberry,  
Ray Holland  
Housing Action Council: Dan Baroni  
Neighborhood Working Group for Presidio  
Master Plan: Ray Holland  
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:  
Peter Winkelstein  
Presidio Restoration Advisory Board:  
Julie Cheever  
Ocean Beach Master Planning Committee:  
Julie Burns  
Richmond Community Coalition: Ray Holland,  
Nick Belloni

# Ask PAR

*The Richmond District is home to lots of parks, playgrounds and recreation spaces. Its neighbors include Golden Gate Park and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). It is no wonder that PAR's Park and Recreation Committee finds plenty to keep its members—Bob Fries, Nick Belloni and Cheryl Schultz, busy. Here, they answer questions about how the committee works.*

## What is your committee's purpose?

**Nick:** Fundamentally, we're a liaison between the parks and the neighborhood.

**Bob:** We work with staff at the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department to maintain the character of our parks and make sure they are used in accordance with the city's master plan and our members' preferences. Thanks to our collaborative relationship with Rec & Park and officials at the GGNRA, we usually can get results that benefit the Richmond District.

## Can you give us an example?

**Bob:** PAR Board members often appear at hearings to weigh in on the pros and cons of proposed actions. Recent examples include the proposed changes to the Beach Chalet soccer fields and proposals regulating dogs in the GGNRA and city parks. We also have spoken out regarding the impact of expansion at the

Veterans Affairs Medical Center on the adjacent neighborhoods and the museum.

**Nick:** Every year, we work with event promoters and Rec & Park to ease concerns when events like the Outside Lands concert, the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival and Jimmy's Old Car Picnic happen in Golden Gate Park. I believe we have had a positive impact, although there is always room for improvement.

**Bob:** We have also encouraged PAR to donate and lead efforts to fund improvements in the parks and open spaces, like the playground at the Richmond branch library.

## What will your focus be in 2012?

**Nick:** As it develops, I expect that we will spend a lot of time on the proposed parks bond measure (see story, p. 1).

**Bob:** The Beach Chalet soccer fields is a critical project. With other neighborhood groups, we will advocate eliminating the harmful environmental effects of artificial turf and tall, bright lights. We also will continue to monitor concerts and events in the parks, with an eye to strengthening regulations on promoters. We are give a lot of feedback to the Rec & Park Commission and Supervisor Eric Mar's staff, sharing our opinions and seeking his support for PAR's viewpoints.

## Do volunteers need special skills or knowledge?

**Bob:** We welcome anyone who cares

about preserving our parks as havens from the hustle and bustle of the city. Our committee wants to assure that our parks are used in ways that are consistent with their rationales and that respect the needs of nearby neighbors.

**Nick:** The most important qualification is a love for the park system, followed by a willingness to understand Rec & Park's needs and how our neighborhood fits into those needs.

**Bob:** Even if you don't want to serve on the committee, we always welcome comments from PAR members and Richmond residents regarding their concerns and ideas for preserving and improving the city's parks, the GGNRA and the Presidio.

*If you are interested in joining PAR's Park & Recreation Committee, please send an e-mail to [president@sfpark.org](mailto:president@sfpark.org).*

## Resolved: Recent actions taken by PAR

**Elected:** A new slate of officers at the January 18 general membership meeting. Raymond Holland continues as president, Nick Belloni and Cheryl Schultz are co-vice presidents, Brenda Altman is secretary and Christopher Wright serves as treasurer. The rest of the current Board of Directors was reelected. (See list, p. 2)

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Eleventh Avenue resident Ida Stumm (later Riechelt) seated, her father (with beard), brother Emil (at right) and their neighbors made do with a makeshift cook stove on the sidewalk after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Ida and Emil's great-great-grandniece Julie Scribner now live in the Richmond District. We thank her for the use of her family photo.

How prepared are you for the next "big one"? The website, [72hours.org](http://72hours.org), maintained by the City and County of San Francisco, helps you plan how to keep you and your family—including pets—safe and gives you a shopping list for a disaster supply kit to tide you over the 72 hours after a disaster.

*Safe Enough to Stay?*, a report funded by the U.S. Geologic Survey, explores what you will need to stay safely in your home after an earthquake and is at [spur.org/publications/library/report/safe-enough-stay](http://spur.org/publications/library/report/safe-enough-stay).



# Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working, or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

**Yes!** I/we want to support the Richmond District.

<b>First name(s)</b>		<b>Last name</b>	
<b>Name of business</b> (for business members)			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>City</b>		<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Primary phone</b>		<b>Cell/other phone</b>	
<b>E-Mail</b> <i>PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.</i>			
<b>Membership</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Individual</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Business</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership, \$15.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above			

Please complete and cut out this form and mail it together with your check (payable to the *Planning Association of the Richmond*) to

<b>PAR</b> <b>5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356</b> <b>San Francisco, CA 94121-2112</b>
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**THANKS** for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

<p><i>Pay Your PAR dues on online!</i></p> <p><b><a href="http://www.sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html">www.sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html</a></b></p> <p><i>to join, contribute or pay your dues the easy, electronic way!</i></p>
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## Resolved

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The bylaws also were amended to require a quorum of eight.

**Testified:** At a meeting of the Board of Supervisor's Land Use and Economic Development Committee on February 13. Co-Vice President Nick Belloni addressed PAR's role in recommending ways to ease the effects of large events in Golden Gate Park on Richmond District residents. The committee took no action at the meeting.

**Sponsored:** The Richmond District's 90th anniversary celebration on April 5. "The Y is an integral part of the neighborhood and an important partner for PAR. We congratulate them on their years of service," said PAR President Ray Holland.

Don't miss a  
single PAR meeting  
this year!

April 18  
July 18  
October 17

Richmond Recreation Center  
Wednesdays  
7 to 9 p.m.  
251 18th Avenue  
(between Clement &  
California streets)

WWW.SFPAR.ORG

The date code above your name on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

