

The Richmond is talking . . .

Green Apple Books on Clement Street and Sixth Avenue celebrated 50 years in business in September. Stop by and wish the folks at this Richmond District icon a happy birthday and best wishes for the next fifty years.

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass returns for its 17th year on October 6, 7 and 8 in Golden Gate Park. This year's festival features Randy Newman, Lucinda Williams, Henry Rollins and many, many more. The full lineup is at hardlystrictlybluegrass.com.

Virgin Sports half marathon will hold its first race in San Francisco, on Sunday, Oct. 15, and will pass through the outer Richmond in the morning. Details and entry information are at us.virginSPORT.com.

George Washington High School, class of spring 1947, is holding its 70-year reunion on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Call Marge at 650-583-0762 for details.

The Western Neighborhoods Project is holding a gala benefit celebration, "West Side Stories," featuring history, adult beverages, history, a buffet dinner, history, a silent auction, conviviality, and a bit of history, on Saturday, Nov. 4. Purchase tickets at outsidelands.org/gala.

RDNC will host the Fourth Annual Wine on the Westside on Thursday, Oct. 19, at La Promenade Cafe, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The event will raise money for RDNC's community programs, which provide more than 700 neighbors with food every week, 100

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New conservatory director brings fresh bloom to beloved SF classic

A year ago, the board of the Conservatory of Flowers made a surprising choice of a new director: a youthful Matthew Stephens, then age 34, with a graduate degree in public horticulture and a leader in the New York City million tree program, a massive public-private program that enlisted thousands of volunteers and literally planted a million trees in the city's five boroughs.

After a year as director of the conservatory, Stephens has displayed the same imagination and initiative in public outreach here in the Richmond.

Many readers have seen the extraordinary light show, inspired by tropical flowers in the conservatory, that was created by Illuminate, a local studio with an international reputation in presenting large-scale light art. The show is scheduled to end Saturday, Oct. 21.

After-hours events have proved to be magnets for the younger generation.

Every third Friday, the conservatory hosts a beer fest, featuring local craft beers. Other Fridays feature a Victorian murder mystery, "Murder at the Conservatory." Using props and clues, visitors solve a crime while enjoying food and drink



An auditory meditation program scheduled to begin soon will enable participants to stroll through the conservatory galleries during an evening hours, to the accompaniment of gentle natural sounds, when the conservatory assumes a kind of mystical atmosphere.

Stephens hopes outreach activities will strengthen the core mission of the

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District libraries have it all—from A to Z

Take a word association test: When you hear the word "library," what comes to mind? For most people, it would be books or perhaps tapes and videos.

But for Richmond District residents, responses might include gardening lessons, youth activities, PTA meetings, henna body painting or even danza Azteca.

Our libraries have become centers of creative and educational activities enriching the cultural life of all ages and segments of the population.

It will come as no surprise that the children's libraries supplement book collections and story telling with an array of activities making the library—and,

ultimately, possession of a library card—a cherished part of growing up.

For the little ones, there are Legos and magnetic tiles, and, for grade schoolers, there are costume contests, pedal-powered smoothies and the annual tricycle music fests, featuring a raffle and children's music groups.

Teens and preteens find challenging activities geared to their interests. Those with an artistic bent can explore henna painting and danza Azteca, both presented by artists selected and financially sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

Other activities for youngsters focus on developing computer skills, and

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Fall 2017 PAR Meeting

Richmond District
Transportation Objectives
Forum:

*Residents' perspectives about
transportation needs in the
Richmond District*

...

Wednesday, October 18

7 to 9 p.m.

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement & California Streets)
Limited street parking is available.
Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary

Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,
Fall must be upon us since things are warming up here in the Richmond!

PAR's bylaws set out its mission, which is to develop and implement policies for the maintenance and enhancement of the physical and social dimensions of life in the Richmond District. In this connection, I want to highlight a couple items on PAR's agenda and encourage each of you to join PAR in order to participate in the creation of policies that improve and protect this wonderful community of ours. Please visit sfpar.org to learn more about PAR and to join the organization.

PAR will be holding its fall general membership forum on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Richmond Recreation Center (251 18th Avenue). The forum will focus on community transportation objectives and residents' perspectives about transportation needs in the District. This will include a panel of both new and traditional transportation service providers assembled for the purpose of hearing

Richmond District stakeholders share their thoughts and posit questions about transportation services. Panel members engaged in transportation businesses and city bureaucrats will have an opportunity to share their ideas and thoughts about how their modes of transportation and services relate to stakeholders' needs. We will collaborate to create a vision of a satisfactory and comprehensive transportation future.

Let's move on to housing density and public safety. Many will agree that the Richmond District has the capacity for more housing and increased population density to help support the needs of our ever-growing city.

That said, the Richmond District has infrastructure and other needs that should be included in any conversation about density. In the next few months, you will be hearing about the San Francisco Fire Department's capacity to fight fires in the Richmond. This conversation has been waxing and waning for decades and has its beginnings more than one hundred years ago.

During the 1906 earthquake and fire, the SFFD's ability to extinguish fires was limited because of low water pressure at hydrants, and, in some cases, a complete lack of water. This predicament was due to broken domestic, potable water supply mains and pipes that the SFFD relied on to supply water to hydrants. To avoid a repeat of this situation, the city implemented a standalone, high-pressure water system to augment the hydrants that are supplied via the domestic system.

Today, this auxiliary water supply system comprises a reservoir on Twin Peaks, two

major storage tanks, 135 miles of pipes (see sf-fire.org/water-supply-systems). The system can supply high-pressure water for firefighting in much of the city. For Richmond District residents, there's a problem: The high-pressure system ends at 12th Avenue and California Street.

Firefighting west of 12th Avenue relies on water from hydrants supplied by the domestic water system, just as in 1906, when that system was crippled and allowed fire to spread unimpeded. There are a number of firefighting-related cisterns around the District; the limited quantity of water contained in each one, however, and the number of engines needed to make use of that water, make the cisterns of very limited utility for even a single-structure fire.

Our many wood-frame homes, most with limited setbacks from property lot lines, present a risk of loss of life and housing in the event of major fire. This lack of firefighting capacity west of 12th Avenue is simply unacceptable. As we work with our supervisor and developers on ways to accomplish PAR's mission and to provide more housing for residents, we will insist that this issue be high on the agenda.

On a lighter note, please patronize the Vogue, Bridge, Four Star and the Balboa theaters—each is a gem in our community, and they all need your support.

I will see you at the General Membership Forum on Wednesday, Oct. 18, and I remind you that, for PAR to continue to be relevant and effective at our mission, we need your membership.

Richard Cornea
sfparpresident@gmail.com

Officers & Directors

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Nicholas Belloni, Vice President
Kate Lazarus, Vice President
Mary Dee Beall, Secretary
Christopher Wright, Treasurer

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Herb Elliott	Claire Myers
Paul Epstein	Zachary Nathan
Robert Fries	Marjan Philhour
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Antonio White	Peter Winkelstein

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Lynn Altshuler • Jim Lazarus • Ron Miguel
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PAR Representatives in Other Organizations

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Housing Action Coalition: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadberry,
Ocean Beach Master Planning Committee:
Julie Burns
Richmond Community Coalition: Nick Belloni

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people with free wellness classes every month, families with adventurous experiences every summer and cooking classes throughout the year, youth with access to environmental education through urban gardening opportunities and countless community enrichment events! For tickets, please go to rdnc.org/tickets.

The Balboa Theatre has temporarily suspended its Popcorn Palace, Balboa Classics and Beer Movie film series. They plan to reintroduce these wonderful offerings when attendance picks up. Show the

Balboa your appreciation for this charming neighborhood theater—one of the few remaining in SF—by visiting soon.

Garbage cans are back at Ocean Beach.

It's been nearly two years since National Park Service removed the trash cans from the Ocean Beach promenade, hoping that visitors would pack out their own trash. Through the work of Supervisor Sandra Fewer's office, trash receptacles have been returned, and plans are in the works for more cans.

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Conservatory of Flowers blossoms under new director

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conservatory in botanical conservation and education by encouraging Richmond residents to take a new look at this familiar San Francisco treasure.

The conservatory contains a collection of cloud forest orchids found nowhere else in the world. The foggy days of San Francisco provide a favorable habitat for rare species endangered by habitat loss and global warming in the fog-shrouded tropical mountains.

Children are drawn to the carnivorous plants, the live plants

producing chocolate and other familiar comestibles, the periodic butterfly exhibits and botanical curiosities, such as the bat flower.

By crossing the threshold of the conservatory, we can all be transported from daily life into the green mansions of the tropics.



Library goes beyond books to serve community

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computer-savvy teens at the Anza branch are available to solve their elders' computer problems.

The Summer Stride program puts teens in contact with representatives of the national park service, and the YELL program (Youth Engaged in Library Leadership) enlists high school juniors and seniors to devise science and engineering activities for younger students.

For adult programming, the libraries partner with well-known nonprofits, such as the Master Gardeners of San Francisco who cover such topics as orchids and native plants. Library book clubs cover the classics and address current events—in March, both branches discussed George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

The Alzheimer's Society conducts programs, in English and Chinese, that seek to allay fears—or address the realities—of declining mental capacity. A knitting and crocheting circle has made the Anza branch its home for weekly Friday meetings, and both branches host tai chi sessions.

Every season, the Richmond branch presents lectures and films addressing topical issues. In October, a journalism professor will give a talk on “Fake News and Real Politics,” and, in November, a psychologist will conduct a discussion on “How to Talk to Your Kids About Racism.” Latin American Heritage Month featured talks by a distinguished local Latino writer sponsored by the Friends of the SF Public Library.

Librarians also present monthly instructions on common computer programs, and the Book-a-Librarian program permits any library patron to schedule a 45-minute session with a librarian on a topic within their expertise.

Most of these activities use the program rooms located at the lower level at each branch. When the program rooms are not used for library activities, they are offered, free of charge, to community groups, such as PTAs, La Leche League, and Little League baseball. Typically, such groups book the space for meetings two or three times a week

Check out your local library—you'll find more than books.

From hiking the Himalayas to PAR board member

Jean Barish, PAR's newest board member, has strong roots in the Richmond District and has been actively involved in neighborhood and citywide issues for many years. In addition to being a member of the board of directors, she is currently a member of the Richmond District Community Police Advisory Board and is the district's representative to the SF Graffiti Advisory Board.

Jean is also the cofounder of Keep Our Neighborhood Clean, which promotes antilitter efforts and organizes neighborhood cleanups throughout the Richmond District. She is a former member of the boards of directors of the Richmond District Neighborhood Center and Action for Nature, a nonprofit environmental organization based in San Francisco.

Her work experience includes careers as a community college physiology instructor, a biomedical research scientist, a broadcast executive and an attorney specializing in patent, trademark and copyright law. She has also served as the executive director of a nonprofit healthcare organization.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Jean also has an MS in physiology from the University of Wisconsin, an MS in counseling psychology from California State University, East Bay, and a JD from Fordham University School of Law. An enthusiastic world traveler, Jean has youth hosted throughout Europe, traveled the Silk Road in Central Asia and trekked in the Himalayas.

Taming the Richmond District's 'Great Sand Waste'

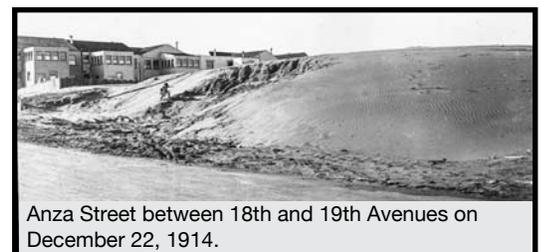
“Sand control” was on the agenda of every meeting of every Richmond District improvement club in the early twentieth century.

As homes began to fill the rolling dunes, sand was pushed to unbuilt lots, forming significant hills. Gardens, front walks, sidewalks and streets were

inundated with sand blown by any mild breeze across these hillocks.

At right, two girls dare to climb “Mount Anza”—because it was there.

Visit opensfhistory.org to see more historical photos of the Richmond District and outsidelands.org to read more west side history.



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.

First name(s)		Last name	
Name of business (for business members)			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Primary phone		Cell/other phone	
E-Mail PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.			
Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<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

PAR
5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356
San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Pay Your PAR dues online!
sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html
to join, contribute or pay your dues the easy, electronic way!

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Meet the archeologists working on a long-term research project to excavate El Presidio de San Francisco, the Spanish-colonial site buried just below the ground in front of the Presidio Officers Club. Stop by to see archaeology in action and ask questions, every Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through October 21.

The Presidio is home to the largest collection of Andy Goldsworthy art on public view in North America. A guided hike is offered every second Saturday of the month (rain or shine) and visits the park's four installations by the world-renowned artist: Spire (2008), Wood Line (2010), Tree Fall (2013), and Earth Wall (2014). This three-mile hike, which starts at the Officers Club, is moderate with a few uphill stretches and surfaces that include sand and rocky areas. Registration is required at presidio.gov/rsvp.

The acorn woodpecker is back! As an indication of the renewed health of the oak woodlands in the northeast corner of Golden Gate Park, one can again find this denizen of western oak woodlands that lives in large groups and stores thousands of acorns each year in specially prepared holes in trees. Remarkably, the fledglings in each nest are cared for by multiple males and females in the flock.

SFPAR.ORG

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

