

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

East Richmond Heights, Contra Costa County Vol. 1 #2 September 2020

The MAC Agrees: "Worst 4th of July...Ever!"

Illegal fireworks were a big complaint at the August 13 meeting of the East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council (Unincorporated Contra Costa County.) Assistant Chief Lou Goetsch, Contra Costa Fire Protection District, agreed and urged neighbors to sign up for the Community Warning System to register your cell phone. Alerts go automatically to traditional landlines (not VOIP) but cell phones, which will receive the texted information more quickly, must be registered. Go to cwsalerts.com or call (925) 655-011 to register.

The **next MAC meeting is Tuesday, October 20, at 6:30 p.m.**, via Zoom. Prop 15 and view ordinances will be on the agenda. To receive the meeting notice, sent the Friday before, email James Lyons at Supervisor Gioia's office: james.lyons@bos.cccounty.us or call him at (510) 231-8686.

We're in the Urban/Wildland Interface: Get Trained by CERT!

The City of Richmond is providing us a "**Home Disaster Preparedness**" class on **Thursday, September 17, 3 - 5 p.m.** Remember, when a wildland fire or an earthquake strikes, our first responders will be busy. We can help by getting our own households more prepared. Do your part! Sign up, ASAP, for this training: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/115268382836>. When it asks for "neighborhood," select "Richmond Heights."

Too Much Fuel on Your Property? Scouts to the Rescue!

Local Boy Scouts are volunteering to help those without means to mitigate vegetation on their lots in return for merit badge credit. Contact Kate Rauch at Supervisor Gioia's office: Kate.Rauch@bos.cccounty.us

What's Up With Adams?

Adamscrest Farm is closed! The school district has recently mowed the property. Urban Tilth is instead concentrating its efforts on its larger site on Brookside Drive, where it is doing its best to accommodate the skyrocketing requests for its weekly produce box business. Interested? Sign up at: <https://www.urbantilth.org/csa/join-our-csa/>.

In the meantime, the district is trying to keep intruders off the Adams property. If you see suspicious activity on the property, and especially if it is picked up by your security cameras, contact WCCUSD Security Department Supervisor Charles Johnson: (510) 209-6807 or cjohnson4@wccusd.net

We reported in the June issue of *Neighborhood Updates*, that our neighborhood bilingual public school, West County Mandarin School, was hoping to move to the Adams property this autumn. Well, the school board recently voted that proposal down. WCMS will outgrow its Serra School location by September, 2021, so the school is in a pickle. They really, really want to stay in East Richmond Heights and need your help lobbying the school board to keep the school here in East Richmond Heights.

The school is made up of over 50% students who qualify for free and reduced lunch or are in foster care, or are English language learners, making it one of the most diverse schools in the district. While all students are learning to speak Mandarin, only 20% of the students come from a Mandarin-speaking home. There is a waiting list. Contact the school board. Go to: wccusd.net: "About Us: "Our Board." Email them and say, "Keep West County Mandarin in East Richmond Heights!"

Neither COVID, Bad Air, Nor Burglary Stops Open Door UMC

This neighborhood newsletter is brought to you by your neighbors at 6226 Arlington, Open Door United Methodist Church. On the weekend of August 23 we, and our renters, were victims of a burglary. If you see our black file 3 feet tall, cabinet or the 20 missing laptop computers, please call the Sheriff's Department, (925) 646-2441, and tell them you have info on case # 20-8735.

Continued on the back...

Neither COVID... continued here...

Our August 30 "Drive-Through Food Drive" collected 15 bags of food for Richmond Food Pantry. Does your family need more food? Visit the Food Bank at 24th and Barrett on Tuesday or Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to register and receive food, once a month. Do you want to donate? ODUMC's next "Drive-Through Food Drive" will be October 31, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

We know our pets help us get through these hard times. **Our "Blessing of the Animals" is Saturday, October 2, 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.** In the spirit of the patron Saint of animals, St. Francis of Assisi, and in honor of our love for our animal companions, take your pets for a ride to the open Door UMC church campus. Enter at our north driveway, and hear, from the comfort of your car, a masked blessing, given specifically for each of our beloved pets.

An Open Door book group formed to read White Fragility by Robin DeAngelo. Pastor Caiti is looking for another racial justice book to read in October. Got a suggestion? Want to join that book group? See below.

Even if you are not on Facebook, you can participate in our Sunday morning gathering by visiting the Open Door website, opendoorumc.org.

Finally, these are crazy times. If you need someone to talk to, Pastor Caiti can lend an ear. Contact office@opendoorunitedmethodistchurch.org or (510) 525-3500. Also, contact us if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, or if you want us to mail it through the USPS.

Skytown: the Newest Cooperative in the 'Hood!

Skytown Preschool, at 5714 Solano Avenue, reopened on September 1, with new COVID protocols and has spots available in both the toddler room and the preschool room. Skytown is a half day, 18 months - 5 years, parent cooperative program. More information: www.skytown.org

Kindergartners, Unleashed!

Crestmont School, at 6226 Arlington Boulevard, has space in grades K, 5, 6 and 7 and will begin half day on-campus Kindergarten on September 16 (pending air quality.) Contact admissions@crestmontschool.org.

Who's Your Pick for District Six?

Richmond Heights Neighborhood Council (City of Richmond,) which usually meets first Mondays, in Open Door's Friendship Hall, is organizing a candidate night. To receive email notification of that meeting contact: richmondhtsneighcouncil@gmail.com.

Busy as Bees "@ MV!"

Mira Vista K-8 has a new principal. We hope to interview her in the next edition of *Neighborhood Updates*. Support Mira Vista by purchasing Sunday dinner from Chipotle, 9901 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, this Sunday, September 20, 4 - 8 p.m. Order it to go. Mention Mira Vista and this code: 2VMLWHH. For PTA info contact: president@miravistaschool.com Need info about enrollment? Contact: (510) 231-1416 or aestrada@wccusd.net.

What's the School Board Up To?

Our WCCUSD School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on September 23, October 7, 21. For the meeting link go to: wccusd.net, "About Us, "Our Board, "Quick Links," "Agendas" then, finally, "View current agenda online." The Zoom meeting link is near the beginning of the agenda. See you there.

Vote Like Your Life Depends on It!

Yes! Your polling place in the Friendship Hall at Open Door UMC will be open on November 3. Even though all voters will receive absentee ballots by October 7, we plan to host our neighborhood polling place. Look for more election news in the October issue of *Neighborhood Updates*. Some poll workers may not work this year, due to COVID concerns. If you want to work a poll during this historic election, go to cocovote.us. We need you! **Vote!**