



Check Out the Mosaic at the Rec Center

By Pam Consear, RHNA Resident

A new garden is sprouting out of tile and mortar! Take a walk past the small parking lot at the west end of Redwood Heights School and see what your neighbors have been creating. This new mosaic mural represents phase one of a multi-year plan to cover the gray concrete retaining walls in front of the school along 39th Avenue with colorful artwork.

Community workdays on April 17th and 24th drew 75-100 people, eager to help lay tile on the chalked-in design. Progress has been continuing during Friday after-school work sessions with RHS students. A follow-up grouting day will be scheduled once the tiling is completed.

Spearheading the project are Claudia Goodman-Hough and Pam Consear, neighborhood artists whose children all attended RHS. Claudia is currently artist-in-residence at the school and Pam, a former OUSD teacher, runs a small creative services business.



Volunteers at work on the murals at Redwood Heights School.

Each phase of the project will cost between \$5-8,000 to complete. Most phase one funding was raised at last fall's Harvest for Learning Auction, sponsored by the RHS PTA. If you appreciate this sparkling addition to the neighborhood and would like to make a donation toward the continuation of the project, make checks payable to RHS Parent Fund; clearly designate "mosaic mural project." Send contributions to: Pam Consear, 3636

Monterey Blvd., Oakland, 94619 or (pamelajean14@comcast.net); or Claudia Goodman-Hough, 3547 Monterey Blvd. 94619 (mizclaudia@lmi.net). We will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. We are also accepting donations of tiles and other mosaic materials. You can follow the project's progress on Pam's website, www.handygaloakland.com, under "Works in Progress/Community Mosaic Mural."

Also in this issue:



Movies In The Park



Earth Day Projects



Community Picnic

Earth Day and Community Picnic Events

Earth Day at Peralta Creek Park

By Diony Gamoso, RH Resident

What a glorious day was Earth Day 2010 at Peralta Creek Park! This little jewel of day lighted creek, at the corner of Wisconsin and Rettig, received a well-needed clean-up by the helping hands of neighbors and community members on Oakland's Earth Day. My initial fears of no one showing up for the event were quickly dissipated and replaced with optimism. Upon arriving at the park an hour before the start, my friend and I were happily surprised to see a large pile of weeds littering the sidewalk, and an early-bird volunteer already diligently working away! At that moment, I knew it was going to be a good day. Slowly people from the neighborhood trickled in to help – creek side neighbors, long-time volunteers, and folks who just saw us working and decided to join in. It felt so great to see people, from little children, to teenagers, to retirees, coming together to give of themselves and take care of the little natural treasure that is Peralta Creek. Even the birds seemed to appreciate our work, as Pacific-Slope Flycatchers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Dark-Eyed Juncos sang from the Oak and Buckeye trees as we enjoyed snacks and a little break. By the end, we had created a giant heap of weeds, and cleared over 300 square feet of the park, giving the existing native plants a better chance at survival, and making room for next Fall's plantings. Thanks to all who came out and supported! To get involved in future Peralta Creek restoration activities, please get onto the Friends of Peralta Creek Yahoo listserv at FriendsOfPeraltaCreek-subscribe@yahogroups.com



Earth Day at RH Rec Center

By Julie Eakins, RH Resident

This year's Earth Day activities at the Redwood Heights Rec Center and RH Elementary School were a great success. Neighbors, Daisy/Brownie/Girl Scout troops, and the school community gathered together on a sunny Spring morning on Saturday, April 17th, to pick up trash, weed, prune, and plant. The event was collaboration between RH School, the RHNA, and the Rec Center. Jean Quan's office donated seeds for planting, the RHNA donated snacks and drinks, and Randy Fenton and the City offered a variety of tools for use during the day. In addition, work on the creative and colorful mosaic mural was initiated in front of the school. Over 130 people turned out to spruce up the Rec Center and school grounds, continuing an annual tradition in the neighborhood.



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Earth Day at Jordan Park

By Anna Katz, RH Resident

On Earth Day 2010, we had a small but dedicated group of neighbors working at Jordan Park (AKA Avenue Terrace Park). We weeded, trimmed back the ivy, swept the sand off the sidewalk and picked up trash. Because the City stopped maintaining the park last summer, there was a lot more garbage and weeds compared to previous Earth Day clean-ups. We pruned back a tree that was overhanging Bennett that had been making it a challenge to walk around the park without hitting your head. We completely filled up a public works truck and many of our own green bins.

RH Community Picnic

By Mary Dalsin, RHNA Board Member

Have you heard the Buzz? The community picnic left a sense of community and goodwill resounding throughout the neighborhood on May 1st! We couldn't have asked for a better day in the hills - sunny, warm, and a slight breeze to keep things comfortable.

The live music provided by RHNA and performed by Redwood Heights neighbor, Eric Lenchner and the Muscle Tones rocked the event. Songs of the 60's, 70s, and beyond were enjoyed by all ages. The RH Dads Club once again tended the grill and the food was tasty. And the Rec Center provided the beautiful face painting. Thanks to one and all who volunteered to help pull off the event.

This is one of our annual events and we hope in the future the whole community comes out to enjoy the day, meet neighbors and celebrate their community. However, we can still do better at getting the WHOLE neighborhood out to the event. What would get you to attend the picnic? Come share your ideas at the monthly community meetings held the 3rd



Wednesday of the month at the RH Recreation Center.

We hope to see more of you at the next two upcoming events - the RHNA Night at the A's game on July 11 (tickets available online at www.redwood-heights.org), and National Night Out on August 3rd. Watch the blog and yahoo group for more information.

Holy Names University Summer Events

Mahea Uchiyama Center for International Dance
Sat., June 19th, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Coterie Dance
Sat., July 31



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RH Recreation Center News

By Breht Clark, Director, Redwood Heights Rec Center

Redwood Heights Community Recreation Center has something for everyone this summer, such as Karate for children & adults. For children we offer ballet, cooking classes, Double Dutch (free), & peewee soccer. Adult & senior ballroom dancing, bridge, ballet stretch, aro-bo-cise & Tai Chi.

Registration for our adult/senior classes is ongoing and you may begin at any time. We still have a few openings for our Summer Escape Day Camp, Jr. High Club & Art & Discovery Camps and are taking registrations in the office.

Please join us on **Saturday July 24, 2010 for our annual "A Day at Your Park"** (Open House / Summer Carnival / Movie in the Park) from 10 am – 1 pm. The children and staff in our summer camp put the carnival together.

Movies in the Park – All Movies begin at dusk (please note that this time changes as the days get longer in the spring and summer).

Friday **June 11, 2010 - Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**

Friday **June 25, 2010 – The Wizard of Oz**


Friday **July 9, 2010 – The Princess Bride**

Saturday **July 24, 2010 – Bolt**



August and September movie dates and titles will come out closer to the summer. If you have any suggestions for a movie, please let us know bclark@oaklandnet.com

As always, if you have any questions about programs or rentals here at the center or for a class schedule, please call (482-7827) or stop by the center. We would love to see you!

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RHNA

Redwood Heights Neighborhood Association

The RHNA is an all-volunteer organization, governed by a board of directors.

Mission:

To preserve, advance, and protect the general social and civic welfare of the neighborhood; to promote and cultivate a friendly, diverse, and inclusive neighborhood; and to maintain a superior school and recreational facility.

News and Views

Is a quarterly publication of the RHNA made possible by the contributions of local advertisers and the annual dues of RHNA members. Thank you for your support.

All residents are invited to join the RHNA and contribute articles to this newsletter.

RHNA Board of Directors

President: Danielle Carpenter
Vice President: Edward Lai
Secretary: *open position*
Treasurer: Peggy Doyle
Richard Cowan
Randy Fenton
Adam Gubser
Angelo Parrinella
Jocelyn Whales

www.redwoodheights.org

Interested in advertising to Redwood Heights residents? Contact:
rhna.oakland@gmail.com
Info at www.redwoodheights.org/news

A Message from the RHNA Board

By Danielle Carpenter, President

The RHNA board is pleased to once again bring you interesting news and information regarding your neighborhood. I'm honored to be taking the reins from Mary Dalsin, who served as RNHA President for over three years. Mary will continue to provide support the neighborhood as a RHNA Board member.

I thought I'd take this opportunity in my inaugural message from the Board to share some exciting news and events the Board is considering for our neighborhood. Our neighborhood is 1400 homes strong and has a rich history and mixture of demographics. In 1944, a group of residents got together with a mission to cultivate a sense of community in the neighborhood. Today, we are still getting together with this same goal. Our goals for the coming year are to focus on the diversity of Redwood Heights. RHNA activities should take on an equal amount of diversity as exists in the neighborhood such that there is a place for all of us. This can take many forms, from social to volunteer activities, to include more of our neighbors in our events. We also have several openings on the Board, for those of you interested in being more involved. Thanks to all who came out for the Community Picnic on May 1st!

We want to find new ways to effectively communicate with you about what is going on in the neighborhood and what you

see as ways the RHNA can contribute. There are lots of opportunities for volunteering in the neighborhood, especially as the City of Oakland is cutting back on services; there is ample need for the community to contribute, where appropriate. I encourage you all to stop by Redwood Heights School to admire the beautiful mosaics created on Earth Day.

The Board is committed to taking the lead on safety in our neighborhood. As noted in the last newsletter, we reviewed the pedestrian safety report for Redwood Road (posted on our website). At our Annual Meeting in March, we had a panel discussion on earthquake safety in regards to your options and protecting your home investment.

We want to hear more from you on what you'd like to see from the RHNA. As most of you know, we have a neighborhood yahoo group and website (www.redwoodheights.org). Also, please join us on Facebook and be on the lookout for an upcoming electronic survey.

The Summer of 2010 will hold several fun community activities - The Rec Center Movie Night, the Jordan Block Sale on June 6th, **RHNA Night at the A's game** (Oakland A's vs. LA Angels) on **Saturday July 10 at 7pm**, and **National Night Out on August 3rd**, just to mention a few.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

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National Night Out 2010

By Kim Cole, RHNA Board Member

This year National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3. In past years, RHNA has hosted an ice cream social in the park. This year, in keeping with the spirit of the event, we are encouraging folks to organize block parties for their street.

If you need ideas, some streets do dessert potlucks and others do a full BBQ. Whether you do an ice cream social or party in the streets until bedtime, it is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and help create stronger safer communities.

For more information and to get started go to:

www.nationalnightout.org and contact:

City of Oakland, Brenda Ivey at 238-3091 or

bivey@oaklandnet.com

Jean Quan's office, Sue Piper 238-7042 or

spiper@oaklandnet.com

RHNA, Kim Cole at kim.cole@comcast.net

RHS Basketball Court Update

By Sara Stone, RHS Principal

Thank you all for your ideas and input about our school grounds, the basketball courts, keeping our school open to the community, and keeping our neighborhood peaceful. I will be using the ideas from the playground survey I sent to community members to work with Tony Smith, the OUSD Superintendent to determine the best solution so that our grounds remain student centered and allow for peaceful community use. I am confident that our community will support whatever final decision is made.



RHNA is on Facebook

Need more ways to stay connected to your neighborhood? Join Redwood Heights Neighborhood Association on Facebook. You gotta come and at least check out our new president, Danielle Carpenter, with her blue hair.

It's Spring and It's Kitten Season

By Beth Summers, RH Resident

Whatever Spring means to you, to Island Cat Resources & Adoption (ICRA), it's the time when we have the greatest need for good homes for the many wonderful kittens and cats who are now finding their way to us. If you're thinking of adding a cat or kitten to your household, please do so through us — we're actually your neighbor, with several ICRA volunteers and some of our most dedicated supporters living in Redwood Heights.



Island Cat Resources & Adoption (ICRA) is an all volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit humane organization dedicated to reducing the suffering of the mistreated, abandoned, and feral cat populations, and to educating and empowering the community to aid in their plight.

Spay-Neuter is the heart of ICRA's policy and a mandatory prerequisite of its adoption program. Stray and feral cats are humanly trapped, evaluated, vaccinated, and altered. Tame cats and kittens are placed for adoption in quality homes; those too wild for any sort of human contact are returned to their established territory to live out their lives under the watchful eyes of a guardian.

To see the gallery of cats and kittens ICRA has available for adoption as pets, go to our website at www.icraeastbay.org and click on "adoption."



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Earthquake Preparedness Resources Just a "Click" Away

From the Office of the City Councilwoman Jean Quan

The series of earthquakes earlier this year in Eureka, Haiti, Chili and China are unsettling reminders that we, too, live in Earthquake Country. Because Oakland is overdue for a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault, emergency preparedness is a fact of life for us. It does not have to be overwhelming, however.

There are many resources available to help you and your family take initial steps to endure that you have sufficient water, food, clothing and other supplies on hand in case of a major earthquake. Developing a disaster plan for your family can be done within 15-30 minutes – if you just take the time to do it. And, then, be sure to share it with our family and neighbors – including the out-of-state person you have chosen as your family contact in the event of a disaster!

Start by going to the District 4 website at www.jeanquan.org and scroll down to "Earthquakes: Are You Ready" for handy links to classes, on-line CORE training, Red Cross Emergency Supply list, and forms for creating a family emergency plan and a 3-7 day disaster kit.

In addition, check out the special email blast from our office this past April that contains handy links to great resources for kids, seniors, families, businesses – you can find it by pasting the following link into your browser:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs090/1101193641895/archive/1103305440453.html>

Volunteer Opportunities with RHNA

We could use your help. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on the generosity of our neighbors to keep things going. Here is a partial list of what we need:

Board Secretary (*someone with recording skills*)

Newsletter coordinator

Landscape committee members

Newsletter advertising coordinator

Newsletter editor

Database coordinator

If you have a little time to spare, contact Danielle Carpenter at DCarpenter@chevron.com.

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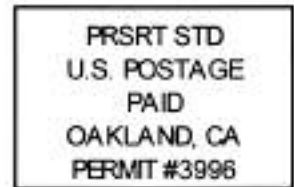
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A Special Thanks



Dean Sellman, Dal Sellman and Marty Kahn

Thank you to volunteers Marty Kahn, Dean and Dal Sellman and Randy Fenton, for repairing and remounting our “Welcome” sign. Dal noticed that the sign was missing, and Randy found that it had fallen due to a strong wind and fatigued wood and fasteners. Dale contacted Marty who volunteered to repair the sign and repaint the letters. Dal, his son Dean, Marty and Randy reinstalled the refurbished sign in April.

Join RHNA at the A's Game!



Saturday, July 10

7:00 PM

A's vs LA Angels



Fireworks follow the game.

Tailgating may be organized - contact rhna.oakland@gmail.com if you would like to help organize a tailgate with neighbors!

Tickets available online at redwoodheights.org.

Payment via paypal or via mail.

Tickets will be distributed 1-2 weeks prior to the game.

Yahoo Groups: groups.yahoo.com/group/redwoodheights