

Getting to the Point(as of January 9, 2009)

We hope your Holidays were happy ones and that your new year is off to a good start. Children are back at Washington School as the neighborhoods return to their normal routines.

Many things are happening around The Point.

Although our neighbors out Brickyard/Seacliff/Sandpiper/Mallard/Yacht Club way have probably been most aware of it, there seems to be an increase in tug/barge traffic in and out of the channel to the Port with many of those vessels roped to the pier at Terminal One for short stays. The Port sees a lot more than just car-carrier traffic.

Last year, only a few Neighborhood Watch groups were active, now we know of at least 5. One stimulus for this organizational "surge" has been the unwelcome appearance in our neighborhoods of Kenny, a person of interest to the police and someone who has made himself known in unwelcome ways to several households. See the PRNC website at pointrichmond.org for more information about Kenny.

Work on The Plunge proceeds apace. If you pass by the site, you will notice that the interior of the building is now open to view and that only the steel framework remains; the old pool and walkways are no more. A new pool, walkways, and other facilities will soon appear as building reconstruction moves along. Notice too as you go by, the new celestory being built along the roofline. That feature alone will evoke many memories of The Plunge in its heyday. Nice to see the building moving into a new era with echoes of its past intact. If you've not already done so, make sure you contribute to the fund for Phase II of the building so that in 2010, when it reopens, The Plunge will be complete in every way.

Repaving and restriping of streets around downtown Point Richmond has changed the appearance of that part of town. Thanks go to Marsha Tomassi and the PRBA for pushing on the repaving and restriping. And, in the vein of one good turn deserves another, City Engineer Rich Davidson has promised that Richmond Avenue to Garrard and Garrard between the tunnel and Cutting will be repaved by March. Wont it be great, at last, to not have major potholes on one of the most important entrances to The Point.

Speaking of streets, why is it that Dornan Drive and the parking lots in Miller/Knox Park are THE places to burn cars? At those locations, at least four charred hulks have appeared over the past 18 months or so. Are more Richmond PD or Park Police patrols the answer? As broken house windows indicate a decaying neighborhood, do burnt-out cars indicate worse things in the offing? Be on the alert.

Altha Humphrey is leading a group working to have a mural painted on the bayside portal of the Garrard/Dornan tunnel. As its pelicans have long told us, the tunnel portal facing The Plunge was painted several years back with John Wehrle's fetching design. That mural was renewed recently (including removal of graffiti). Now it is the turn of the bayside portal to be invigorated. By the time of our January 28 meeting, Altha's committee will have picked a mural design for consideration by the Council.

Mayor McLaughlin will speak and take questions at our January 28 meeting. Come to hear and speak to the Mayor. We look forward to seeing you there.

Don Woodrow, President
Point Richmond Neighborhood Council