

ON POINT

August 2009

Some of you may recall past years when the Neighborhood Council took a bye in August. This year we were given an opportunity to hear from Bruce Harter, Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. So this August, before school opens, we will meet as usual on the last Wednesday of the month.

Dr. Harter wants to update interested Point Richmond parents and our group on where the WCCUSD is headed. As many of you are aware, the recession has been particularly painful for public education in West County. \$25.7 million needed to be trimmed from the 2009-2010 budget. Teachers, administrators, and support staff have been cut. Adding to this mix is the threat of the swine flu. It has been treading water this summer and may assert itself when school opens this Fall.

An overview of how the district has responded, and will respond to these challenges in the coming year, will be the focus of Dr. Harter's presentation. There will be a question and answer session to follow.

Another government service that is struggling is the U.S. Postal Service. Its 7 billion dollar shortfall is likely to increase as revenues decline in the years ahead. The Postal Regulatory Commission released a list of about 700 Post Office closings on August 3. Unfortunately, we were on it.

In addition to our own Point Richmond Station, Richmond Station A, San Pablo Branch and Mira Vista Station were included in the suggested Richmond closings.

Because the commission is an independent regulatory group, we are being cautioned that these are only recommendations. The list is still under review and doesn't necessarily mean that our office will be shut down. Coordinating a response to the suggested closing will be discussed at our next meeting.

For those of you who missed a chance to comment on the proposed Point Molate Resort and Casino project on August 12, a second public hearing is scheduled on Saturday, September 19.

We have received several negative comments on the inclusion of "or current resident" in the newsletter address label. I agree with those of you who find it offensive. With some effort, Sue Rosenof reworked our mailing list so our names now show. Unfortunately, to qualify for a bulk mailing rate, "or current resident" must still be included in the address. Bureaucracy is rarely pretty.

Our next meeting should be very interesting. I hope to see you there.

Peter Minkwitz, *President*
POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL