

*Restoring Tilth: North Richmond Farm*

# NEWSLETTER

July 3, 2017

## Beginning a Summer of Fun & Hard Work!

This is the start of our busiest time of the year! We're so excited for what's in store!

Get involved & help us create a healthy Richmond!



North Richmond Resident at 4th Sat. Community Build Day

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## **SUMMER APPRENTICE PROGRAM AT THE FARM!**

The North Richmond Farm will serve as one of the sites for our Summer Apprenticeship Program. 8 Richmond youth will learn to care for the Farm as part of a holistic introduction to urban agriculture and food justice.

## **COMMUNITY BUILD VOLUNTEER DAYS GOING STRONG**

Over the months of May & June we hosted regular 4th Saturday Community Build Days to help make the vision of the farm a reality. We have built more raised beds for vegetable production, and are sifting soil for crop rows. Come join us next month!

## **COME TO THE FARM FOR A "NO WORK" PARTY!**

"No Work Parties" are special events where we celebrate our farm and community but do not include any hands in the soil hard work. These events are free and open to everyone, kid-friendly, and intended to say thanks to our community by providing a space to relax and celebrate our hard work.

Urban Tilth hosted our first annual No Work Party: **The Festival of Flowers** in May to honor & celebrate the women and mothers in our community.



Face Painting @ Festival of Flowers

The Festival was a huge success! We had over 200 attendees, honorary guest speakers, and collaboration with local organizations. This event featured a full buffet from Rosemary's Kitchen, opportunities to make Mother's Day cards and bouquets, flower crowns, and a special raffle giveaway. Thank you to all who donated raffle prizes, including Hotel Mac, Museum of the African Diaspora, Oakland Symphony, Catahoula Coffee, Delane's Natural Nail Care, and Sup. John Gioia! We would like to thank the local organizations who collaborated with us for this special event, including: East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, Weigh of Life, & Verde Garden. As well as the mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and families that enjoyed the photobooth, face painting, and the live music from East Bay Performing Arts & DJ Gary!

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**Next No Work Party: Saturday, October 14th, 2017 - 11am-2pm - Harvest Festival, Pumpkin & Sweet Potato Pie Bake Off!**

## **THE WORLD IS COMING TO SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING IN NORTH RICHMOND**

The North Richmond Farm has been bringing in people from far and wide to tour our site & learn about our vision for the farm. A group of 30 international scholars from UC Berkeley's Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program stopped by on June 9th.

On June 22nd, UC Extension hosted a Business & Marketing Workshop for Urban Agriculture at the Farm. And on June 26th a delegation of Cuban researchers visited the farm to sharpen their understanding of urban agriculture here in the United States.



BEAHRs visiting farm for a Tour

## **WHAT IS GROWING AT THE FARM!**

In May & June we added more raised beds on the farm! Now we are growing corn, green beans, yellow wax beans, purple beans, summer squash, culinary herbs, and tomatoes!

We are also continuing to grow mustard greens, collard greens, purple tree collards, swiss chard, kales, cabbage, cilantro and more. *Anyone who comes out and lends a hand gets to bring home some delicious, chemical-free veggies!*

## **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Work continues everyday on the farm. We are continuing to prepare the soil by sifting to remove rubble and dumped materials and turning in hundreds of cubic yards of manure and compost to sifted soils to improve their nutrient levels. We plan to lay out the farm row crop area by the end of the summer and begin doing our first cycle of cover crops using forage radish so we can start the long process of growing healthy soil. The Orchard trees have been staked, top dressed with compost and sheet mulched to prevent weed growth. We expect the next few months to be a season of strong growth.

Electricity and piped water are coming to the farm soon! Hopefully we will be officially connected to the electric grid in early July. An application for connecting to EBMUD has been submitted, and we hope to have approval to begin installation of

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our irrigation system by late July or early August.

This Summer we will also be building garden benches and more picnic tables for community gathering “Chill Spots” throughout the farm as well as building a nursery area.

This summer, our plans are to build a produce wash & pack station, a farm stand to sell fresh produce, and a nursery area on site to grow plant starts. Come out and see what we’re working on!

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

**VOLUNTEER!** Join us every 4th Saturday of the month at the North Richmond Farm for our Community Build Days!

Next Volunteer Day::

Saturday July 22 , 2017

10am-1pm

323 Brookside Dr

North Richmond

Free event with food, music, & working fun!

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

- **Yoga on the Beach at Point Molate Beach Park.** Saturday, July 29th 11am-1pm. For more information: [princess@urbantilth.org](mailto:princess@urbantilth.org)
- **Wildcat Creek Volunteer Day.** Saturday July 22nd 10am-12pm For more information: [nathan@urbantilth.org](mailto:nathan@urbantilth.org)
- **North Richmond Music Festival** - Fred Jackson Way, Richmond CA 94801- Saturday July 15th - 10am-2pm. For more information: [jannatmuhammad@yahoo.com](mailto:jannatmuhammad@yahoo.com)



Are you interested in hosting a meeting, workshop, event, etc at the North Richmond Farm? We have openings in our 2017 Calendar starting in September 2017! For more info: [princess@urbantilth.org](mailto:princess@urbantilth.org)