



The Atchison Riveter

The Atchison Riveter is available online at www.avmhc.org

Hail to the Dumpster!

Our semi-annual dumpster day of 2025 was busy and successful, with a waiting line and lots of City staff assisting members unload their vehicles. Two large dumpsters were filled.

Thanks to John Monks, the City of Richmond, Sims Metal, Clean CA, Cal Recycle, Iron Triangle and AV neighborhood councils, Republic Services, and all AV members who pitched in to clean up their yards. Feels good, right?

Elizabeth Whipple



Photos by John Monks



The Board of Directors Election Wednesday, May 28!

• **Candidates' Night** will be **Tuesday, May 13**, at 7PM: we have 22 candidates this year. Light refreshments will be provided.

• **Volunteers** for poll workers and vote-counters are still needed. Please help us make this election a smooth and timely process by volunteering! If you would like to sign up, please contact one of the election committee members listed below. Caitlin is also available for contact for any general election questions or concerns.

• **Sample Ballots and Absentee Ballot Request Forms** will be mailed to all members as part of the annual AVMHC spring mailing. Requests for a mailed absentee ballot must be submitted to the office before 4PM on Wednesday, May 21, and requests for a pick-up absentee ballot must be submitted to the office by 4PM on Tuesday, May 27.

Election Committee contact information

Caitlin McDonald (Chair): 214-543-9203

Susan O'Sullivan: 510-230-7710

Golfrán Morales (Spanish spkr): 415-410-9713

Caitlin McDonald

Report from the Document Committee

FINAL NOTICE: The Board of Directors has identified records of the Corporation suitable for destruction. This material shall be destroyed on or after May 15, 2025. The list of records to be destroyed is available by reviewing the bulletin board outside of the Corporation's Office, and/or by requesting a list of records to be destroyed from the Corporation's Office.

Because these records are confidential, only current Board members may view them before destruction. Examples: former employees' personnel records (employees whose term of employment ended at least 5 years ago), and lists of delinquencies, payment plans, or Members Helping Members recipients.

Martha Gruelle

Garden Club News

Happy May, Atchison gardeners!

We have nearly readied our gardens for spring and summer! The garden club purchased several yards of soil from American Soil and Stone and scurried to fill all of our pots and raised beds in time to plant our tomatoes. Our April meeting was an incredibly well attended potluck. Liam provided a tool-sharpening demo and we left with much sharper shears. The garden club's hallmark is its generosity; I've yet to leave without new plants, pots, gardening books, or helpful advice. If you would like to join us, our May meeting is **Sunday, May 18 at 1PM** in Christina's backyard (221 W Chanslor). Please bring a chair if you can. We look forward to seeing you then! If you would like to be placed on the garden club email list, email teddyberghausen@gmail.com. Photo above by Jean Whittlesey (L-R) Kaytlyn O'Connor, Jenna Francine, Xequina Berber, Teddy Berghausen



April 2025 Motions

MOTION RE03122025.01 to allocate up to \$69,000.00 dollars from Reserve funds for plumbing and electrical replacements in units #651 and #652

Moved by David, seconded by Ron

Ayes: unanimous

Chris Baetge

Immigrant Rights and Support Group

A group of neighbors has met three times to talk about immigrant rights and organize for mutual support. The last meeting, on 3/28, had 35 people. We've set up a rapid response What'sApp group. If you want to join us, send your name and phone number to AVImmigrantRights@gmail.com

Liz Gewirtz

Barbara Stauss Memorial Celebration

A reminder that it will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2 PM, in the AV Hall.

Light refreshments will be served but you are also welcome to bring a snack to share.

Board of Director Facts

According to Robert's Rules of Order, the selection of committees can vary, and it often depends on the type of committee and the organization's bylaws. Here's a breakdown of the key points with notes specifying Atchison Village's present processes for committee membership.

Types of Committees

Standing Committees: (planning, fact finding and screening)

- These are permanent committees established by the organization's bylaws.
- Their members are typically selected according to the procedures outlined in those bylaws (Our bylaws do not specify membership on standing committees. Traditionally, board members sign up for the standing committees except for the fact-finding committee - a motion states that all board members are on the fact-finding committee)

• **Special Committees (Ad Hoc Committees):**

- These are temporary committees formed for a specific purpose.
- Their members are usually appointed by the presiding officer (e.g., the chair) or by a vote of the assembly.

Methods of Selection

• **Appointment:**

- The presiding officer (e.g., the chair, president) may be authorized to appoint committee members.
- This is common for special committees. Board members initially sign up for committees, and the President may adjust these assignments to balance committee membership. The Board votes to confirm all board member committee assignments at a regular meeting. Non-board members may apply for committee service, and their acceptance is determined by the committee members, subject to Board approval at a regular meeting.

• **Election:**

- Members may be elected by a vote of the assembly. (audit committee, nominations committee as per bylaws)
- This is sometimes used for standing committees.

• **Bylaws:**

- The organization's bylaws may specify the method of committee selection. (Audit and the nominations committee membership are elected positions as per the bylaws)
- These bylaws should be followed.

• **Nominations:**

- Nominations for committee membership can come from the floor, or from a nominating committee.

Key Considerations:

- The authority to appoint or elect committee members should be clearly defined. The organization should strive to select members who are qualified and willing to serve.

The role of the committee chairman is also an important factor. The chairman may be appointed or elected by the committee members themselves.

Ron Kane





Bennie at 19

Community Profile: Bennie Singleton, Arkansas to Atchison

I first met Bennie Clark-Singleton after moving here in 1922. On walks I would often see her sitting on her porch, on Collins. She has the perfect location for people-watching and conversation.

Bennie has seen a lot in her 91 years. She arrived in Richmond in the early 1940s with her parents, Reverend Benjamin Clark, Sr. and Lodis Helen Clark, and five younger siblings: Benjamin Jr., Alice, Joseph, Annie-Louise, and Hurey. Like many Black families, they came to work in the shipyards here. In Richmond, Black and white workers earned equal pay, something unheard of back home, in Arkansas.

The Clarks settled into the Harbor Gate housing development on Carlson Blvd., a newly built community of 800 units, within walking distance of the shipyards. Life was simple: The ice truck delivered blocks of ice for the ice box, there were no TVs. People wrote letters, listened to the radio, and spent time outdoors. Bennie was delighted to find her new elementary school was integrated, a stark contrast to what they had known back home.

During those years, the Richmond population exploded from 23,000 to 110,000. The shipyards operated around the clock. The city was vibrant and full of promise. Macdonald Ave was packed with movie theaters, department stores, and restaurants. Bennie remembers walking anywhere and always feeling safe.

After graduating high school, in 1952, Bennie began working as a clerk. Soon after she met the tall, dark, and handsome James Singleton at a dance. They fell in love and married in 1953, and James joined the Air Force. While he served Bennie worked; their daughters Debra and Michelle were born, in 1954 and 1958. Hoping to buy their first home, the Singletons moved to Los Angeles, where their son, James II, was born in Kaiser-Hollywood hospital in 1963.

After a decade in L.A. Bennie and James returned to Richmond to be near extended family. While away, Bennie's father, Rev. Benjamin Clark Sr., had become Atchison Village's first Black homeowner and a charter member of the AV Mutual Homes Corp. He quickly joined the board and served for 10 terms. Her brother Joe Clark also moved into the Village and was very active. He proudly led the maintenance team for years. Joe still lives here too.

Bennie and James bought their home in 1971, but that same year brought tragedy: James was killed in a work accident. Bennie became head of the household during a profoundly difficult time. Determined to provide for her children, she enrolled them in Catholic school and took a teller job at Bank of America on 10th and Macdonald. Bennie rose through the ranks to branch manager and ultimately became a regional manager, overseeing B of A locations in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. She was known to mentor many young women working for her bank. In addition, Bennie also returned to school and earned her bachelor's degree while her daughters were attending college.

In the 1990s, as Richmond struggled with gun violence, Bennie joined the Ceasefire movement, walking the streets on Friday nights to offer guidance and support to young people. After retiring in 1997, Bennie devoted her energy to her family and community--she volunteered with her church and served multiple terms on the AV board, earning a reputation for leading with integrity. Wishing you a joyful Mother's Day and many more.

Kaylynn Shreve

Administrative Citations from the City of Richmond

Please be aware so that you are in compliance

The City of Richmond Administrative Code Section 2.62.030 authorizes Code Enforcement Officers to issue Administrative Citations to any person in violation of the Richmond Municipal Code. Upon observing a violation, enforcement officers may issue a citation each day the violation continues until it is corrected. The fines range from \$250 to \$1,000. If the violation continues after the property owner has received the third citation for a violation, additional enforcement action will be initiated.

Common types of violations for which citations are issued include:

- Unmaintained Vacant/Foreclosed Homes
- Tall weeds and grass that exceed 6" in height
- Household items, furniture & junk stored in public view
- Accumulation of garbage, litter and debris
- Inoperative or unregistered vehicles in public view
- Parking vehicles or boats on lawns
- Garbage cans in public view
- Graffiti
- Vehicles blocking sidewalks
- Illegal or unpermitted fences
- Fences in disrepair

For information contact the City of Richmond
Code Enforcement Unit at 510-621-1279



The roses of Atchison Village are here! Photos by Chris Dunaway

New Column: Services Available

The Riveter would like to add an occasional list of members who have services to offer other members. Think lawn mowing, weeding, hauling, painting, or minor repairs not appropriate for maintenance staff. New members would find good workers (neighbors?) to help with tasks. Prices would be negotiated between members or possibly free.

Let the office or me (ewhipple.wordfixer@gmail.com) know what you think. Would you like to be on the list? *Elizabeth Whipple*



| Board Members | Contact Info |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| *Starred names are Spanish speakers | |
| Gloria Samad* President | Vpgloriasamad2024@gmail.com |
| Kevin Cronin Vice President | kcroninmarin@gmail.com |
| David Korman Sec.-Treasurer | davidkorman.at.large@gmail.com 415-603-9943 |
| Margarito Chacon* | margaramc@comcast.net |
| Jose Valera* | 510-965-3222 joseavmhc@gmail.com |
| Milly Frederick | 510-680-9150 |
| Ronald Kane | atchisonvillageron@gmail.com |
| Tara Ayres | taraatchisonvillage@gmail.com |
| Luz Martinez | 510-444-3020 270avluz@gmail.com |
| Michael Parker* | jerca1982@yahoo.com 213-379-3197 |
| Liam Caffrey | Elhabeichitte24@gmail.com |

For emergency repairs after hours, please contact Office Manager Alicia Becerra, 510-806-8945.

Animal Control: 925-335-8300

Mental Health Crisis Hotline:

888-678-7277

Air quality complaints (BAAQMD): 800-334-6367

Richmond Police Non-Emergency: 510-233-1214

In a life-threatening emergency, call 911

The Atchison Riveter is published monthly with board oversight to provide information to Village members. The Newsletter Committee edits articles for accuracy, clarity, and length (under 300 words is preferred).

We do not print classifieds involving money or fictional writing. In the event of a legal dispute, the English version of this newsletter will prevail. You may submit articles to the corporation office or email to the committee at

RiveterCommentsAV@gmail.com.

Deadline: 20th of each month.

Editing by Elizabeth Whipple

Layout by Chris Dunaway

Atchison Village Office

510-234-9054

member.support@avmhc.org

Hours

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-4:30 PM

Staff

Alicia Becerra and Valeria Valera

Work Order requests may be given by phone, voicemail, or email. Maintenance staff is on duty 8 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday, except lunch hour (noon - 1 PM) and holidays.

Atchison Village is a no-smoking community in compliance with the Richmond city code.



May 2025

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Make a Greeting card Day 3:30 PM | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Social Club meeting 7PM | 6 | 7 | 8 Member Forum | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Candidates' Night 7 PM | 14 Board Meeting 7 PM | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Gaeden meeting 1PM | 19 | 20 | 21 Last Day to Request Absentee Ballot Mailed 4PM | 22 Crime Watch 7 PM | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Election Day | 29 | 30 | 31 |
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Notes

The Board of Directors has identified printed records of the Corporation suitable for destruction. This material shall be destroyed in forty-five (45) days, on or after May 15, 2025. The list of records to be destroyed is available by reviewing the bulletin boards outside of the Corporation's Office, and/or by requesting a list of records to be destroyed from the Corporation's Office.

