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classics

06



Photos submitted

Renowned executive chef Stanley Coelho serves up world-class cuisine through his Richmond company, The Healthy Chef.

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Facilities reopening for spring break

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter
and DON FENNELL

More city facilities in Richmond reopened this week, with most public schools closed for spring break.

Fitness centres at Cambie and Hamilton community centres are now open, joining the five other facilities that were already in operation across Richmond (City Centre, South Arm, Thompson and West Richmond community centres, and the Minoru Centre for Active Living). All locations are operating with increased safety measures and physical distancing in place.

"Richmond has had a slow and cautious approach to reopening facilities and program offerings," explained city Coun. Linda McPhail. "I am sure that this will be our continued approach as we wait for the provincial health orders to be updated."

She noted that in addition to the "limited" selection of recreation programs being offered, Watermania has also re-opened as of March 15.

Kristen Close, manager of Community Recreation Services, said while the types of activities are currently restricted by the orders of Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, "the order (still) permits us to offer many of the physical activities such as day camps, public swimming and swim lessons, fitness centre registered visits, and low intensity group fitness classes among many others."

McPhail said all facilities and programs will continue to adhere to strict health and safety guidelines, but activities may be increased or decreased based on demand and public safety.

"This has been very hard on community centres and associations and the (greater) community as well," she said, adding she misses her in-person fitness class.

McPhail said to further support public safety and reduce the spread of COVID-19, the city requires wearing masks in all indoor city-operated facilities (a policy that came into effect Nov. 1, 2020).

"This requirement offers an added measure of safety in an effort to continue to enhance and protect the safety and well-being of the community," she said.

But according to the city's mask protocols, customers using a facility for physical activity (including fitness, martial arts, dance, sports or swimming) or child care programs (including preschool, out of school care or daycamps) do not need to wear a mask during their activity. They must wear one when entering leaving and moving around the building.

This means that people using the gym independently are not required to wear a mask as long as they are physically distanced from other gym users. Some machines or equipment have been taped off or removed to ensure there is distance between people exercising.

During a session with a client, personal trainers



Photo courtesy City of Richmond
Watermania reopened this week, in addition to Cambie and Hamilton fitness centres.

must also wear a mask at all times and maintain physical distancing, according to city spokesperson Clay Adams. If a client requires assistance or support from the trainer to use or transition between equipment, they must also wear a mask.

At fitness centres, change rooms and showers are not available so people must arrive ready to begin exercising. Washroom access will be provided if necessary.

Watermania's reopening through March 26 will be limited, with four sessions offered each day: 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., 2:45 to 4 p.m., 4:15 to 5:30 p.m., and 5:45 to 7 p.m. During those times, the 25-metre lane swimming wave pool, hot tub and fitness centre will be open for use. As of March 27, Watermania will introduce a separate spring schedule with options to use the lane swimming space, wave pool, slides and hot tubs, attend Aquafit deep water classes or use the fitness centre.

For Watermania, registration for the following week's sessions begins online at 6 a.m. and by phone at 8:30 a.m. the Monday before. If you are unable to attend your pre-booked Watermania visit, cancel by calling Watermania at 604-448-5353 or the registration call centre at 604-276-4300.

To register online for a city facility, visit richmond.ca/register or call the registration call centre at 604-276-4300, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sessions can be booked starting at 10 a.m. on the Monday one week prior.

In all cases, people should arrive no more than five minutes before their scheduled session start time.

Richmond encourages participation in energy program

The City of Richmond is encouraging participation in the provincial Building Benchmark BC initiative.

Richmond is one of a dozen municipalities participating in the program, which captures data and insights on the role that larger buildings play in transitioning to a highly livable and prosperous low-carbon community.

"The City of Richmond has long been a leader in energy benchmarking and is a strong advocate for building energy benchmarking as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions" said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "As a proud municipal participant in Building Benchmark BC, we encourage building owners and property managers of larger residential, commercial and industrial buildings to register with the program in order to help build on the momentum that's already underway, and to receive the benefits the program offers."

Reducing Richmond's greenhouse gas emissions is a priority. City council approved a community energy and emissions plan with strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030. Energy benchmarking of Richmond's larger buildings is one of the key actions in this plan.

The city is working with Building Benchmark BC to better understand how our civic facilities such as libraries and community centres compare on energy use and emissions with similar buildings elsewhere in the province. Richmond has already submitted energy benchmark data on 22 civic buildings to this program, and will add more in 2021.

Owners of large private buildings such as offices, apartment towers and stores, are gaining a competitive edge by voluntarily choosing to participate in Building Benchmark BC as they can better understand their buildings' energy performance which helps them plan for future investments and upgrades.

After only one year, the program already has 36 private sector buildings in Richmond participating including QuadReal Properties, Colliers International and Concert Properties. Learn more at www.buildingbenchmarkbc.ca.

River Parkway transforms Richmond traffic flow

River Parkway, an important new transportation link that will transform traffic, cycling and pedestrian options within Richmond's downtown core, opened earlier this month.

"River Parkway is a critical component fulfilling Richmond's long-term commitment to a sustainable arterial transportation network," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "Highlighted in our City Centre Area Plan, it will improve traffic mobility and alleviate congestion on existing routes. It will also allow for the future closure of a section of River Road to create Lulu Island Park in the coming years. This 15 hectare (37 acre) park will offer residents, workers and visitors enjoyable access to the natural environment and waterfront of the Fraser River Middle Arm."

The new parkway comprises a two-lane road and bike lanes on each side protected from the adjacent vehicle lanes with delineator posts to enhance safety. New traffic signals and crosswalks at Leslie Road and Cambie Road, paved pedestrian walkways and LED streetlights are also included.

To improve pedestrian and cycling access to River Parkway, an off-street, multi-use path on the south side of Cambie Road between River Road and No. 3 Road was also completed. This provides safe access to/from the Middle Arm Greenway, River Parkway and the Aberdeen Canada Line Station.

The cycling lanes and the off-street multi-use path were partially funded

by TransLink's capital cost-share programs with municipalities to support cycling and walking improvements, and further advance the city's active transportation network and infrastructure.

"TransLink is pleased to support projects like the new River Parkway, which will make cycling and walking in Richmond safer and more comfortable while providing a great new connection for our

customers to connect to the Canada Line and buses at Aberdeen Station," said Jeff Busby, TransLink's acting vice-president of engineering. "The role we play in creating a more livable region goes far beyond transit. As the regional transportation authority, our job is to improve Metro Vancouver mobility, accessibility, and connections so that people will have access to green, safe, convenient, and accessible transportation options like the River Parkway extension."

The River Parkway extension will:

- enhance traffic flow at the existing River Road-Gilbert Road intersection by eliminating the interim River Road connection next to the Dins-



Image courtesy City of Richmond

Traffic flow in the city centre is being transformed with the recent opening of River Parkway.

more Bridge

- provide an appealing multi-modal travel corridor for transit, cyclists and pedestrians
- facilitate the opening of the Gilbert Road southbound to eastbound left turn movement onto River Parkway
- improve overall traffic circulation in the City Centre by completing the north loop road, providing a continuous viable alternate route to No. 3 Road and existing River Road
- facilitate the future development of the 15 hectare (37 acre) Lulu Island Park where the existing River Road is located
- support the city's commitment to reduce vehicle trips and encourage safe, alternative modes of transportation by improving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor.

There is now no through traffic from River Road to Gilbert Road, meaning that all access to businesses will now be from Cambie Road. A new cul-de-sac will be constructed at the southwest end of River Road in the coming months.

The ultimate parkway configuration, which will be achieved through future re-development of abutting properties, comprises a four-lane major arterial road with centre median/turning lanes at intersections, treed-lined boulevard, off-street cycling paths, and sidewalks.

The cost of the overall River Parkway project came in under budget at \$13.2 million with funding from TransLink of up to \$2.55 million towards the cycling and pedestrian components. Funding for the balance of the project is sourced from Roads Development Cost Charges (DCCs) from developers.

A video featuring the River Parkway is available to view at www.richmond.ca/news.

River Parkway is a critical component fulfilling Richmond's long-term commitment to a sustainable arterial transportation network.

– Mayor Malcolm Brodie

RICHMOND SENTINEL
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Published by
RICHMOND SENTINEL NEWS INC.
200-3071 No. 5 Road,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 2T4

Advertising & Sponsorship
marketing@richmondsentinel.ca
778-325-1297

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Richmond parents to benefit from new child care spaces

More child care spaces are coming to Richmond.

Families will have access to more than 400 new licensed child care spaces as part of the province's ongoing commitment to increasing access to child care through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

"Creating new child care spaces is one of the ways we are making life better for families in Richmond," said Henry Yao, MLA for Richmond South Centre. "Through this investment, more parents will be able to go back to work or school, knowing their children are being cared for in a safe and educational environment."

The Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is supporting seven projects to create 403 new licensed child care spaces in Richmond. These spaces are part of the fastest creation of child care spaces in B.C.'s history and were part of the September 2020 milestone that marked more than 20,000 new spaces funded throughout the province in just over two years.

"Despite the challenges of the pandemic, our commitment to building a universal and inclusive child care system remains as strong as ever," said Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care.

"These new child care spaces in Richmond are bringing us one step closer to delivering the quality, affordable and inclusive child care that all B.C. families deserve."

Families will be able to access new child care spaces at the following child care centres:

- F.A. Tomsett Elementary School Child Care (42 spaces)
- Sprouts Child Care Centre (77 spaces)
- Hummingbird Child Care Centre (37 spaces)
- Seedings Early Childhood Development Hub (77 spaces)
- Aves Flow (42 spaces)
- Academics preKindergarten YVR (72 spaces)
- Willowbrae Childcare Academy South Richmond (56 spaces)

"The City of Richmond is committed to being a leader in fostering a comprehensive, high-quality child care system throughout the community and has demonstrated success working with developers to create centres to support this," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "By working with not-for-profit child care operators, developers, the Richmond School District and provincial government, the city has been able to enhance access to child care for families across Richmond, and these new

centres are examples of that partnership in action."

An additional 4,110 spaces, funded through the 2017 Budget Update and the Early Learning and Child Care agreement with the Government of Canada, takes the total number of new, licensed spaces funded in B.C. to more than 24,500 since July 2017.

• Since July 2018, more than 20,000 new licensed child care spaces have been funded in British Columbia, including 1,123 spaces in Richmond.

• Throughout the province, the Childcare BC plan has helped parents save up to \$1,600 a month per child through the Affordable Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative.

• As a result of these investments, parents in Richmond have saved more than \$40.8 million on child care.

• Early childhood educators in Richmond have received over \$3.2 million in wage enhancements.

• Through B.C.'s combined affordability initiatives, more than 36,000 children have received child care for \$10/day or less since the beginning of the Childcare BC plan.

Historical society fights to retain old post office

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

During a city committee meeting last month, councillors supported continuing operations at the historic Steveston post office.

Coun. Harold Steves, the chair of the parks, recreation and cultural services committee, brought forward a referral motion for staff to investigate several updates to the post office and its operations following the current public consultation on re-envisioning the Steveston museum. The focus of the referral motion was on preserving post office operations at what is now the last remaining community post office in the country.

"I really think we should be proud that we have the oldest, longest serving post office in Canada," said Coun. Linda McPhail.

First established in 1890, the Steveston post office has existed in at least 16 different locations, according to a report presented to committee members by Steves. The current location is its longest-tenured, at 43 years. Steves also notes that the location was operated by volunteers for 41 years before an agreement was made between the Steveston Historical Society and the city in November 2019.

One of the options for a re-envisioned Steveston museum initially involved discontinuing the post office service, but Steves' referral motion directs staff to



Photo by Hannah Scott

Councillors voiced support for continuing operations at the historic Steveston post office at a parks, recreation and cultural services committee meeting last month.

investigate amending the options so that both include the operation of a post office. The referral motion also directs staff to look into a \$20,000 annual payment being made to the society by the city if and when Tourism Richmond vacates the premises, a living wage being paid to postal workers as auxiliary staff, and reopening the building's upper floor, which used to serve as a children's museum.

Loren Slye, the president of the Steveston Historical Society, said it would be beneficial for the building to receive a clear historic designation to avoid having to revisit this concern regularly with the city.

"We've tried to work with Canada Post, with Tourism Richmond, with the city, and I agree with Councillor Steves that it would be more pertinent to have it come under the guise of—like the community centre operation—where they've got staff that take the burden off the current historic society who are running it for its survival," said Slye.

City staff advised that external funding options will be explored to support the operations of the museum—including the post office—following the public consultation. Linda Barnes, the co-chair of the Steveston Historical Society, also noted that once the society has a strategic plan, it will continue to apply for grants to implement the ideas and input received from the public.

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The Healthy Chef serves up quality cuisine

By **DON FENNELL**
@rmdsentinel

Like many great chefs, one of Stanley Coelho's greatest attributes is his imagination.

The ability to think outside the box enabled him to adapt quickly from a planned career in the hotel industry to creating culinary masterpieces in the kitchen.

"At school I quickly realized that I had a flair and gift for cooking, creating, multi-tasking and executing menus for small and large groups," explains Coelho. "The natural choice was to specialize in cooking."

Through his skill and vision, The Healthy Chef Services Ltd. on Bathgate Way in Richmond routinely serves up a selection of dishes to satisfy even the most demanding or importunate food critic.

"I took the basic culinary and management skills that we learned, and created my own brand of work style, culinary skill and management philosophy," says Coelho, whose basic mantra is to start with great ingredients and use his culinary skills to turn them into great dishes—while producing large quantities in a narrow time frame..

He is grateful for the vast variety of ingredients that are almost always at hand.

"Local or B.C., we have an abundance of ingredients to work with that are fresh. We are blessed to live in a community that still has a strong dependency on farming. And supporting our local businesses, whether it's the plumber or the printer, has always been our company policy (and) has served us well."

During his post-secondary studies, which he completed in 1982, Coelho learned to appreciate the variety of the subject matter—from international cuisine to regional foods and from fine dining to bulk cooking.

"We had great emphasis on theory, combined with the business aspect of managing and running front and back of the house operations. Combined with practicums in hotels, I established a strong foundation of basic culinary arts, work ethic and work flow management which has helped shape me into the professional (I am) today."

Today, he continues, his role as a chef has evolved into a creator, entrepreneur, teacher and mentor. He looks back each day at what he and his team have accomplished, how many lives they've touched, and is left with a good feeling.

But the path hasn't been easy. In fact, as with many in the fast-paced and competitive kitchen en-

I was brought up in the old chef's system—a shade worse than the Gordon Ramsay style.

— Stanley Coelho

vironment, Coelho was weaned in the school of hard knocks.

"I was brought up in the old chef's system—a shade worse than the Gordon Ramsay style," he confirms. "Now it is a combination of collaboration, delegation and a firm hands-on approach. I entrust my staff with their jobs, provide them with the best tools and resources needed in order for them to succeed, and at the same time demonstrate to them that I

As for his kitchen "creations," Coelho says his favourite dishes are always changing depending on what part of the world he's in.

"I like to adapt to local flavours," he explains. "Currently, working in B.C. and the cultural melting pot that we are in, I utilize Mediterranean flavours, with influences of South and East Asia and the Middle East. I love cooking with bold flavours and combining ingredients into dishes that have some spice, sweet and tanginess."

Coelho's culinary talents, and those of his team, have combined to consistently create culinary excellence for more than two decades. That, as much as anything, could explain that in these challenging times his business continues to shine.

But it's not just a well-earned reputation that has enabled Coelho to succeed. During a period of unprecedented challenges for the food industry, he's not only also adapted to the times but been even more creative in the process.

"We did three things," Coelho explains. "As soon as the pandemic hit, we quickly turned our entire catering menu into an individually packed feature. Instead of regular buffets and platters, we now offered customers the same items, individually packaged and labelled to avoid any excess handling."

"We also launched an online store (www.thehealthychefstore.ca) offering ready-made meals delivered to your door."

These are culinary gems that were featured in our catering menus, now cold packed. Future offerings will be freshly prepared frozen soups, sauces, condiments and a line of frozen family entrees.

"And instead of consolidating we expanded...and built a food manufacturing facility. We launched an entirely new company—High Altitude Foods—a food manufacturing company dealing in cold packaged sandwiches, salads and entrees for the grocery, retail and airline industry. We also pack for various brands that are sold in grocery and retail stores."

An executive chef with more than 20 years of experience with major international hotels, Coelho has not only maintained but built upon a healthy approach to cooking (no deep frying and low sodium) and choice of ingredients. This vision is

fully reflected in The Healthy Chef's mission statement: "To promote health and well being by offering our customers excellent culinary fare, using healthy alternatives and methods of cooking. And to provide a service that continuously exceeds expectations and consistently strives for perfection."

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Photos submitted
The Healthy Chef in Richmond specializes in healthy and affordable cuisine created by accomplished chef Stanley Coelho.

am physically getting the job done with them—guiding, correcting, teaching and

adjusting as we go along. It is very rewarding to see people that I have trained, or (who have) worked for me, established in prominent roles in the industry."

Spring Break *in Richmond*

March 13–28



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539,045 KG

Perishable foods received / recovered

Total food recovered = **726,113 KG**

Which is equivalent to **1.2 MILLION** meals

1,405

Individuals served per week on average

580

Weekly household visits on average

↑44%

Increase in clients served

↑49%

Increase in new household registrations

Our clients

43% Single people

27% Children

20% New Immigrants

17% Seniors (65+)

11% Single parent households



1/8 British Columbians face food insecurity



11 School Food Programs Supported

25 Community partners served

70,065 KG Food shared

116,775 Equivalent Meals



Total number of donors more than **DOUBLED** in 2020

THANK YOU for supporting our neighbours in need, especially during this uncertain year

Neighbours show solidarity during greatest time of need

In these times of uncertainty, one thing is for sure, the Richmond Food Bank Society donors had an incredible impact in 2020.

The society extends a heartfelt "thanks" for all of the gracious donations made, especially during the holiday season. The record-breaking number of contributions received highlights the solidarity of the Richmond community in the face of unprecedented challenges.

The Richmond Food Bank pivoted in step with the rest of the world to find ways to cope when the pandemic hit. New household sign ups climbed by 49 per cent as businesses closed and jobs were lost. While the increase in need grew, so too did donor support. An uptick in food donations during Thanksgiving and the winter holidays in tandem with its perishable food recovery initiatives enabled the distribution of over 1.6 million pounds of food in 2020. Incredibly, the number of donors more than doubled in 2020, compared to 2019.

"We were able to extend our grocery distribution hours to 32 hours per week, serve three times as many households per month through our home delivery program, and adapt our operations to allow for physical distancing and extensive safety measures. This is all thanks to the many individuals, businesses, and community organizations that supported us," says executive director Hajira Hussain.

Special mention goes out to the following organizations for their compassionate donations of over \$10,000:

- Food Banks BC
- Cadillac Fairview
- Dupuis Langen Group
- Richmond Auto Mall
- Teck Resources
- Peterson
- Enterprise Holdings
- School District 38
- DeJaray Financial
- Coast Capital Savings
- Food Banks Canada
- RONA
- Donalds Fine Foods
- EcoWaste Industrial
- SAGE Foundation
- Gilmore Park United Church
- Odium Brown Ltd.
- TD Bank

"We are extremely grateful and humbled by the way our community came together by giving food, funds and their time. They have supported us safely through creative fundraisers, socially-distanced food drives and virtual giving events. Monetary donations allowed us to increase our offerings of fresh and packaged food and ensured efficiency in our food recovery, access and distribution processes. The response has been essential," says Hussain. "The people that we serve were struggling before the pandemic, and for many, overcoming their struggles may still be a distant reality. We just hope that the community continues with their support so we are available for people in times of their greatest need."

The Richmond Food Bank Society provides food assistance, advocacy and related support to community members in need. Over 1,400 Richmond residents access its grocery distribution services weekly. There are eight scheduled distributions, six days a week, at three different locations throughout Richmond. As a registered charity and a non-government organization, the food bank relies on the generosity of individuals, community organizations and businesses.

To make a donation, or for more information, visit www.richmondfoodbank.org.



Resource centre reflects on 'Zoom-bombing'

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre had a daunting task when they decided to mount their annual International Women's Day event online this year.

The team had hoped to raise thousands to support their mostly volunteer-run centre, as well as finding a way to bring women together and celebrate despite the challenges of the pandemic. But when their event on March 6 was "Zoom-bombed," they had yet another hurdle to climb.

"Zoom-bombing" refers to an uninvited person disrupting a video-conference call and displaying unwanted material that is often inappropriate in nature.

A statement released by the centre after the event describes the incident as including "sexist, racist, ageist, vulgar and pornographic comments, images and sounds" during a keynote speech delivered by Annie Lo and Savneet Sandhu of the Boss Lady Collective.

The centre's president Tammi Belfer says initially she was shocked and in disbelief—then her protective instincts kicked in.

"Some people left because they thought

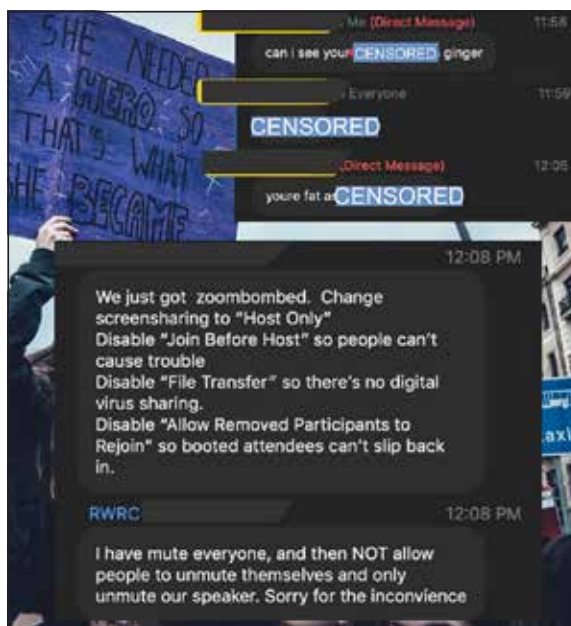


Photo courtesy Richmond Women's Resource Centre
The Richmond Women's Resource Centre's annual International Women's Day event on March 6 was interrupted by a "Zoom-bombing."

they were going to get compromised (by the Zoom-bomber)," she says. "(But) people weren't leaving en masse—they didn't just shut down."

Belfer credits Lo and Sandhu for their professionalism in the face of such a degrading incident.

"They set the example, they set the stage for everybody to stay calm," she says. "They were so amazing, and they carried on with their presentation as if nothing was going on."

Despite the shock of the incident, Belfer says the community has rallied around the centre, with people and groups reaching out with messages of support. And there are a few silver linings that underscore the importance of the work done by the centre.

"It just confirmed how important we are," she says. "And I think everybody needs that once in a while—to say, 'Now I know what we're working for.'"

"The other takeaway was how it got our board (to go) into action right away. We just needed to talk and connect to each other. And everybody was extremely motivated. Some of us were in shock, some of us were so disappointed because this is our major fundraiser. The big takeaway was us as a board, all ages—we represent every decade, every skill level—how we came together so quickly and had a plan in place. I'm really proud of us."

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Spring is in the air at
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Library providing tax clinics

Richmond Public Library, in partnership with the Lord's Harvest Fellowship, is again offering free income tax clinics at the Brighthouse branch.

Trained volunteers will safely help community members with low income file their income tax returns. Due to the pandemic, this year's clinics follow a drop-off and pick-up format.

To qualify for this free service, single persons must have a maximum income of \$35,000 and a couple must have a maximum income of \$45,000 plus \$2,500 per child. Couples will need to sign up for one appointment time for each person.

Interested participants can register for a session by calling 604-231-6413 or visiting the Brighthouse branch (7700 Minoru Gate) and filling out forms prior to the scheduled appointment. Government issued ID and all relevant tax slips such as T4, T5 and Canada Child Benefit slips must also be brought to the appointment. All print documents will be returned to the participant at their pick-up time.

The clinics run on Saturdays through April 24 (no sessions on April 3) with drop-off appointments offered between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

"We are grateful and blessed that for the past 10 years, our income tax clinic has been helpful in extending hands in preparing and filing income taxes for students, seniors, new immigrants and people with modest income in our community," said Pastor Abe Lagayan, representative of the Lord's Harvest Fellowship.

Asphalt Paving Advisory

The City of Richmond has contracted All Road Construction to grind and pave the following locations in Richmond from **March 8 to October 15, 2021**:

PROPOSED 2020 PAVING LOCATION DETAILS	
Garden City and Alderbridge Way	Intersection only
8000 Block Westminster Hwy	Eastbound lanes only
Bridgeport Road and Viking Way	Intersection only
6000 Block Cooney Road	Granville Avenue to Westminster Highway
11000 Block No. 3 Road	Intermittent spot repairs for vibrations
8000 Block Lansdowne Road	No. 3 Road to Garden City Road
10000 Block No. 4 Road	Williams Road to Steveston Highway
11000 Block Railway Avenue	Steveston Highway to Moncton Street
Colbeck Road	
Palmberg Road	
Kozier Drive	Vibration complaint
8117 No. 1 Road	Vibration complaint
6651 Blundell Road	Westbound lane – vibration complaint
13000 Block Cambie Road	Jacombs Road to No. 6 Road
Gilbert Road	Northbound lanes (River Road to Elmbridge Way)

Work hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends. Night time work hours will be from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (typically).

Traffic will be reduced to single-lane and there may be temporary lane closures. Delays may occur. The use of an alternate route is strongly encouraged.

This work is weather dependent and dates are subject to change without notice.

The scope of the advertised work may be adjusted or cancelled in line with available funding.

Questions may be directed to Wasim Memon, Supervisor, Engineering Inspections, at 604-276-4189, or visit the City's paving program webpage at www.richmond.ca (City Services > Roads, Dykes, Water & Sewers > Construction Projects > 2020 Paving Program).

Contest encourages connection

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been more challenging for people to find ways to connect.

But a new contest launched by the Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD) is encouraging people to share photos that display connection with people or things around them. The RCD Instagram account will post photos each day, exploring different forms of connection and focusing on people, community and nature.

People are also encouraged to share their own photos to interact with the "Community Connect" event, which began March 1.

Share photos in the following ways:

- By emailing bernice@rcdrichmond.org
- Via your personal Instagram account (ensure it is set to "public" so your photo can be reposted), tagging @richmond_rcd and using the hashtag #rcd_communityconnect

If possible, write a short caption to accompany your photo, explaining how it relates to the theme of connection. The submitted photo with the most "likes" will receive the grand prize: a \$50 Moxie's gift card. Two runners-up will each receive an RCD T-shirt.

The deadline to submit photos is March 22, and the event ends March 26. Winners will be announced on April 1 via the RCD "Get Good @ YouTube show.



Photo courtesy Richmond Centre for Disability

RCD is accepting photo submissions.



In Loving Memory

**Margaret H. R. Thomson
(nee Ness)**

Born in Ayr, Scotland on Aug 10, 1927

Died in Richmond, BC on Feb 24, 2021

Margaret emigrated to Canada with her husband, William Thomson, in 1952. They lived in Victoria BC, where Margaret worked for over 30 years as a government (Parks and Recreation) secretary. On retirement, they moved to Vancouver and finally to Steveston.

Margaret encountered many hardships in her long life, but with style, grace, determination and resilience, she overcame them all.

Margaret will be remembered and loved by her family and many others, as a strong, modern-thinking, warm, engaged, demonstrative, opinionated, deeply loving, incredibly intuitive, direct, courageous, wise, vivacious, and powerfully feisty woman. She was a person who affected the atmosphere of any room she entered.

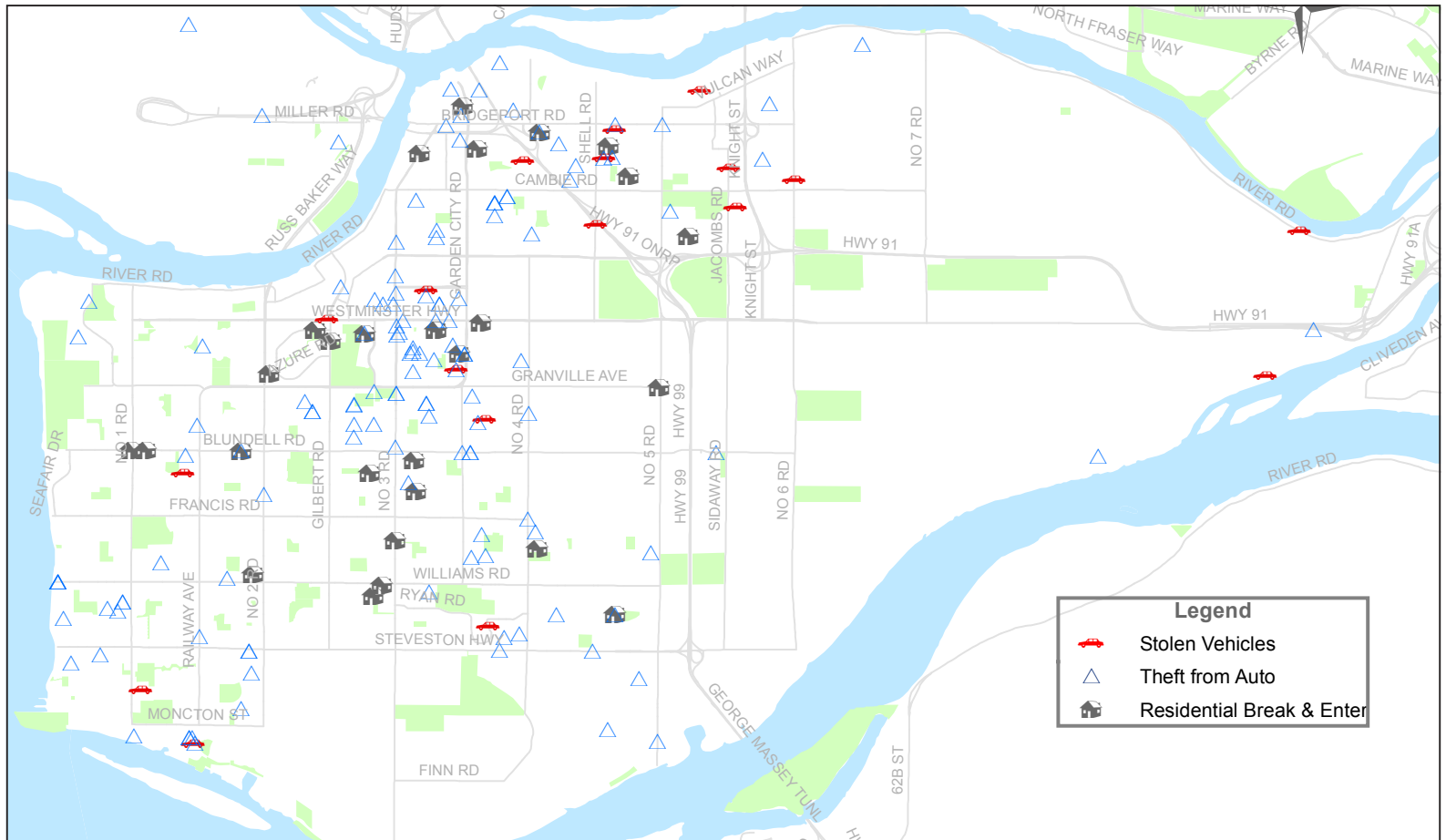
Margaret will be deeply missed by her daughters Lorraine Thomson and Carolyn Thomson, son-laws Richard Carswell and Michael Kenyon, grandsons Christopher Boyanton and Ashlan Grey, dearest friend Rena Harrop, and the staff, nurses and caregivers of Fraserview Care Home.

Margaret will join her husband William and her eldest daughter Alison Kirkley in whatever lies beyond this world. We bless you and love you forever.



RCMP

Crime Map Feb. 1 - 28, 2021



Detachment commander appointed chief superintendent

Will Ng has received a promotion.

The Richmond RCMP's detachment commander for the past four years is now Chief Superintendent Will Ng.

Lower Mainland district operations officer Chief Superintendent Maureen Levy announced the appointment via video conference in mid-February.

"I have had the pleasure to work alongside Chief Superintendent Will Ng since November of 2019," said Levy. "He is the consummate professional who is an extremely dedicated, humble and exemplary member of the RCMP. His unwavering commitment to his team, community and external stakeholders is truly noteworthy. He leads with grace, distinction and has a genuine respect for all and we are truly fortunate to have him lead the Richmond RCMP Detachment."

Mayor Malcolm Brodie also participated in the announcement.

"Richmond has experienced significant growth in recent years and officer-in-charge Will Ng has played an important role in ensuring our RCMP detachment has a strong presence in the community," said Brodie. "Under his leadership, the Richmond RCMP has created new engagement opportunities with residents, spearheaded programs to build in-

clusiveness, and established important programs such as FOX-80. We congratulate him on his appointment as chief superintendent and look forward to his leadership in making Richmond a safe and resilient community."

Ng began his RCMP career in Surrey in 1995, where he first worked as a general duty member. From there, he moved on to work on a number of specialized teams including drugs section, serious crime, major crime and the emergency response team. He also worked on the integrated homicide investigation team and as part of the combined forces special enforcement unit. His wealth of serious and major crime experience serves him well as an accredited team commander.

Ng has received both a commanding officer and commissioner commendation, and been awarded the British Columbia Medal of Valor, the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal and the Queen's Dia-



Photo courtesy Richmond RCMP
Newly-appointed Chief Superintendent Will Ng has been Richmond RCMP's officer-in-charge for four years.

mond Jubilee Medal.

He arrived in Richmond as officer-in-charge in spring 2017. Upon his arrival, he immediately began seeking out opportunities to enhance the detachment's service delivery and improve workplace culture. Many of the initiatives implemented under his leadership have improved public safety, employee wellness, accountability mechanisms, and community outreach and engagement.

In their own words...

Dedicating a half century to reducing greenhouse gas emissions



Harold Steves
Councillor

When I was young, I was intrigued by a story about my grandfather Joseph Steves noticing bubbles rising through a pond of water as he walked from his house to the barn over 100 years ago. Surmising that the bubbles were probably natural gas, he inverted a 45 gallon drum over the top, punched a hole in the bottom with a nail and lit a match. Using a lamp chimney from a kerosene lamp, my grandfather now had a light by the walkway at night. The flammable gas was "swamp gas" from rotting vegetation and roots that had been covered by water and silt from the Fraser River over the centuries. It is the basic principle of what we today call Anaerobic Digestion, a process where microorganisms break down and produce biogas which is combusted to generate electricity and heat, or processed into renewable natural gas and transportation fuels.

I have always been interested in developing energy alternatives to dams,

fossil fuels and nuclear power. In the early 1970's we successfully stopped the construction of the Moran Dam on the Fraser River that would have decimated the fishing industry. We also thought we had stopped the Site C Dam on the Peace River.

When elected as provincial NDP MLA in 1972, I was instrumental in having the government hold a week long Alternate Energy Show during the PNE Fair. Scientists and inventors from across North America demonstrated the latest in solar, wind, geothermal and tidal power, and how to produce methane from manure and plant waste. All BC Hydro knew at the time was how to build dams. It was still promoting the Hat Creek coalfields and had to be told to participate in this new way of thinking.

In 2008 Metro Vancouver adopted a regional target of an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2009 Richmond banned the use of herbicides and pesticides in residential Richmond, resulting in the production of fertilizer from leaves and lawn clippings safe enough for organic gardens after it went through an Anaerobic Digester. Then Richmond developed its own geothermal district energy for downtown apartments using heat from the ground along trails and in parks and heat from sewers.

Now Metro Vancouver is embracing



City of Richmond's Alexandra District Energy Utility

these ideas. It has published seven discussion papers. Zero emission vehicles, increased transit, anaerobic digestion of agricultural and sewage waste, local food production, agriculture that sequesters carbon, zero emissions buildings, electric heat pumps, zero carbon district energy systems are just a few ideas to be adopted. Under discussion are roadmaps for clean air that include buildings, industry, transportation, nature and ecosystems, agriculture and waste, plus infrastructure, human health, alternate energy and growth management that strengthens the Urban Containment Boundary and protects agriculture and natural carbon sinks.

It has taken 49 years to get here, and we have no time to lose.

City of Richmond Council Meetings Calendar

In accordance with public health orders, members of the public can no longer attend Standing Committee, Council and Public Hearing Meetings in person. The public can still watch all open meetings online and participate remotely.

For further information, meeting schedules and assistance, please visit richmond.ca/cityhall or contact the City Clerk's Office at 604-276-4007.

Mar 16 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel
Council Chambers

Mar 22 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting
Council Chambers

Mar 23 | 4:00 p.m.
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee
Council Chambers

Mar 24 | 3:30 p.m.
Development Permit Panel
Council Chambers

Apr 6 | 4:00 p.m.
General Purposes Committee followed by Finance Committee
Council Chambers

Apr 7 | 4:00 p.m.
Planning Committee
Council Chambers

Apr 12 | 7:00 p.m.
Council Meeting
Council Chambers

Apr 13 | 4:00 p.m.
Community Safety Committee
Council Chambers

For meeting agendas and reports visit www.richmond.ca.
Meeting schedule subject to change

Visit www.richmond.ca/watchonline to link to live streaming or watch archived video.



RAPS COMMUNITY REPORT Caring for the animals who care for us

When planning, think about your pets too



**Eyal
Lichtmann**

Spring is a time of looking forward. This year especially, as we anticipate the vaccine roll-out and a return to a greater degree of normalcy, there is a sense of optimism.

This is also a time of long-term planning and taking care of details. Not only are we opening up the garden sheds and planning the first mow of the year, it's also tax time. We are assembling our papers and receipts from the past year and making RSP contributions. It's a time to reflect on the big financial picture and think about saving and budgeting.

When we set our clocks forward, we are also reminded to put fresh batteries in our smoke and CO2 detectors. This is also a good time to think about planning ahead for the well-being of our pets. Here are a few ideas.

- Keep a card in your wallet in the event of an accident with your address and a note that you have a pet at home who needs care in the event you are hospitalized.
- Give a spare key to a friend, family member or neighbour who can care for your pet in the event of an emergency.
- Stock your earthquake kit to have items for Fido and Fluffy, such as food, medications, treats, pet first aid kit and such.
- Put stickers on your doors and windows (they can be bought online) indicating that a pet is in the house so that the fire department is aware, in the event of a fire.

There is something else we might take a moment to plan for. It's not pleasant to think about



Photo by Sara Dane Photography

During financial and estate planning, don't forget to consider the future of pets who might outlive you.

but ... if not now, when?

Most of us should have our last will and testament in place. (If not, you really should contact a lawyer.) But have you considered what will happen if your companion animals survive you?

Estate planning is all about caring for those we leave behind. Animals are part of our families. We don't need to go full Michael Jackson, who left \$2 million to his chimp Bubbles, or Leona Helmsley, the New York hotel magnate who left \$12 million to her dog Trouble. But we owe it to them to ensure that, in our absence, they aren't abandoned.

At RAPS, we see a great number of sad stories in which dogs and cats who have lived wonderful lives find themselves homeless when their beloved guardian dies.

Many animal organizations, including RAPS, have professionals like lawyers and estate and financial planners who volunteer to advise on how to plan for your pets' care in the event of your passing. They can advise on setting up a pet trust or, for example, RAPS can arrange to rehome your pet in the circumstance.

Whatever option you choose, it is an obligation we take on as pet guardians to ensure these animals are cared for during their lives. That can mean planning ahead for a time when we might not be around. Your financial planner or lawyer can help. Or you can email RAPS (admin@rapsbc.com) to connect with one of our professionals.

Eyal Lichtmann is CEO and Executive Director of the Regional Animal Protection Society.

MY NAME IS BLOSSOM

Blossom is a megastar to the RAPS family. She came to us in horrific condition, having been neglected and abused. We have been addressing her multiple physical and emotional conditions and we are now seeking a very special forever home for this resilient and magnificent dog. Find out more about Blossom's story at rapsbc.com.

****Due to COVID-19, all meet and greets will be by appointment only. Please call us at 604-275-2036 to set up an appointment.****



ADOPT ME!

REGIONAL ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY (RAPS)

rapsbc.com | City Shelter: 604-275-2036
Head Office: 604-285-7724



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RAPS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

rapsanimalhospital.com
604-242-1666

The RAPS Animal Hospital and Animal Ambulance are supported by Applewood Nissan



Online learning extended through end of school year

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond school trustees voted unanimously to extend the district's transitional learning program through the end of June.

The decision was made at last week's school board meeting. At Spul'u'kwuks and Garden City elementary schools, which use alternate term calendars, the program will be in place through the end of their school years, which run into July.

Currently, 2,200 elementary students and 300 secondary students (in Grade 8 and 9) remain in the program. There are 20 teachers responsible for the elementary program and 12 for the secondary program, plus one counsellor. A reallocation of \$900,000 from the federal return-to-school funds is required to pay those teachers. The district's secretary-treasurer Roy Uyeno said the funds can be taken from previously uncommitted contingency funds as well as removed from funding allocated to technology and cleaning supplies.

"The district will continue to meet all health and safety requirements with a reduction in spending within these accounts," Uyeno confirmed.

Superintendent Scott Robinson said the hope was initially that most students would be back in school prior to the December break. Richmond Teachers' Association president Liz Baverstock



Photo by Hannah Scott

Richmond's transitional learning program will continue through the end of June, following a unanimous vote by trustees at a special school board meeting last week.

echoed that sentiment.

"As we look back, had we known we would be in this place today, we may have made very different decisions because we would have known that this was not going to be a transitional piece," said Baverstock.

A report from Robinson in advance of the meeting recommended extending the program.

"There are a number of parents who, for a variety of very valid reasons, have a different perspective than public health experts at this time, and don't

believe that it is safe to send their child back to school," said Robinson.

While trustees supported the current extension, they were unanimous it will be a joyful day when all students are back in class in person.

"I do think we should continue the (transitional) program, but what a wonderful time it will be when students can go back to school and be with their teachers and have school communities again," said trustee Debbie Tablotney.

•hannahs@richmondsentinel.ca



Need someone to talk to?

Access free, confidential support at your fingertips with Chimo's NEW Live Chat.

Chat with a trained volunteer on our secure, virtual platform for immediate emotional support and resources. Live Chat is available on your phone or PC, from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Message us at:

www.chimoservices.com/live-chat



Richmond COVID-19 vaccination clinics revealed

The East Richmond Community Hall, Jackson Lam Adult Day Centre/Austin Harris Assisted Living, and River Rock Casino Resort show theatre will be the locations of COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Richmond.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) began implementing phase two of the B.C. immunization plan this week to residents aged 90 and above and Indigenous peoples 65 years of age and older and Elders.

• **East Richmond Community Hall (12360 Cambie Rd.)**

Hours: March 20-21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

March 27-28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

April 10-11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Jackson Lam Adult Day Centre/Austin Harris Assisted Living (5411 Moncton St.)**

Hours: March 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

April 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **River Rock Casino Resort show theatre (8811 River Rd.)**

Hours: March 16-20 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;

March 23-27 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;

March 30-April 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.;

April 6-10 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dedicated sites have also been established for Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), which will offer services that are culturally safe, with ceremonial plans in place.

Seniors aged 85+ and Indigenous peoples aged 65+ are invited to call VCH's appointment booking phone line at 1-877-587-5767.

To prepare for your call, please have available a pen and paper, personal health number, full name, date of birth, postal code and phone number.

Visit vch.ca to learn more about VCH's COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

Local family donates \$120K to hospital

When Tam and Ngoc Phi (Monika) Do, together with their son Trevor, were rescued from a refugee camp in the early 1980s, they made a pledge to help others whenever they could.

Last month, they pledged \$120,000 for Richmond Hospital's ACT NOW campaign to support the build of the Yurkovich Family Pavilion, a new acute care tower with a new emergency department, medical imaging centre, larger operating rooms, private inpatient rooms and much more.

"Monika and I knew we were so blessed to have what we have, and we were so happy to lend our support to Richmond Hospital to make it even bigger and better," says Tam, who worked his way up in the retail industry and now owns five Chevrons in Richmond. "We wanted to show our appreciation and give something back to Richmond because this community has been so



Photo submitted

Trevor and Tam Do presented a cheque to the Richmond Hospital Foundation.

good to us."

For more than 20 years, the Dos have given back to many organizations in Canada and overseas. Having seen Richmond Hospital firsthand in recent years, the Dos knew that the hospital could use their support, and were pleased to recently add the hospital to their philanthropic efforts. Tam has dedicated the donation to his wife Monika, who sadly succumbed to cancer soon after the pledge was made.

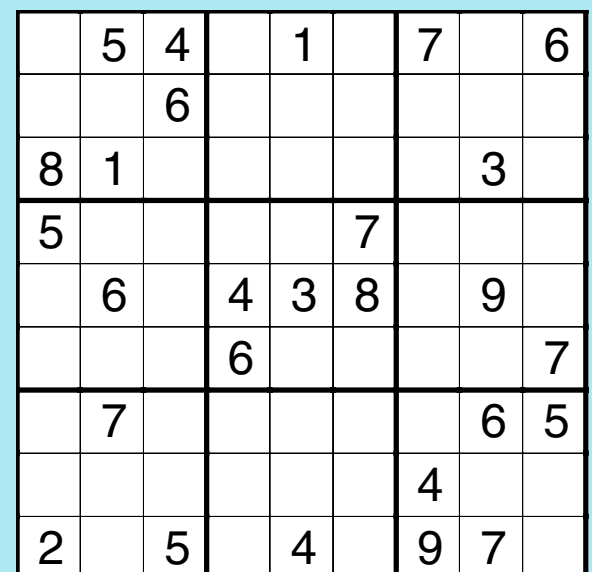
"Tam and Monika Do committed to caring for and about others as others have cared for them along their journey," says Natalie Meixner, president and CEO at the Richmond Hospital Foundation. "We appreciate this generous act of kindness to support physicians and the health care teams as they deliver the highest quality of health care for people, right here in Richmond."

STR8TS

No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their row or column.



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Orthopedic Surgeon
Richmond Hospital



Dr. Daniel Kopac
Head, Department of Surgery
Richmond Hospital



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