

Chris Treadway: New mentoring program for youth begins this week

By [Chris Treadway](#)[Contra Costa Times](#)

Posted: 01/11/2011 12:10:07 PM PST

Updated: 01/11/2011 01:46:26 PM PST

A new mentoring program launches this week in Richmond, using Martin Luther King Jr. and the holiday in his honor as inspiration to guide the city's youths to lead productive lives and work to stem the violence they often experience.

The Mentors for Martin Program kicks off with a town hall gathering today at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 684 Juliga Woods St., where volunteers will be recruited to provide mentoring and training.

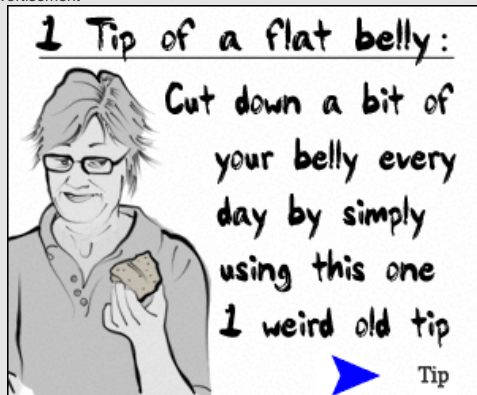
"Many of the children within our community need someone to tell them, impress upon them, and show them that they are as good as any child," said the Rev. Dr. Alvin Bernstine, pastor at Bethlehem Missionary. "Mentors for Martin is an opportunity for all of Richmond to assess, consider and commit to making sure our young people will live with a powerful sense of 'somebodyness.'"

The program is being led by a coalition that includes the West County arm of Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Organizations. Other groups involved include the churches Bethlehem Baptist, St. Mark's Catholic, Easter Hill United Methodist, Temple Baptist and Word Impact Christian Center, as well as the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council and Be A Mentor.

More than 50 students from Kennedy High School will take part in the launch; they will be joined by civic, religious and educational leaders, along with mentoring supporters. At the event, 8-year-old Jason Hill will present highlights from King's

"I Have a Dream" speech.

Advertisement



Anyone interested in joining the effort is welcome. For details, call 510-232-0193 or go to www.bethlehemmissionarybaptistchurch.org.

- The interfaith group and a host of other organizations are teaming with the city to sponsor the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which is set for 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday at locations along the Richmond Greenway.

The holiday to honor King was designated a day of service by Congress in 1994, and organizers of the Richmond observance this year are using the theme "Make It a Day On," as opposed to taking a day off.

Community work parties will be held at Greenway Gardens at Sixth Street between Ohio and Chanslor Avenues near Lincoln Elementary School; the Edible Forest Project at 16th Street; and the Greenway Trailhead Beautification Project at Carlson and Ohio avenues.

Volunteers are advised to dress in layers, wear sturdy

shoes and, if possible, bring work gloves. A welcome table will be located at the Sixth Street site, where volunteers can sign up and be assigned to a team.

A free lunch and community celebration will follow the work parties from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food, a Kids Zone, and a stage with DJs, guest speakers and live music will be featured. The celebration will include an REI raffle and a purple tree collar giveaway, and the Greenway Community Leader Awards will be presented.

For details, go to www.mlkdayrichmond.org.

WEST COUNTY NOTES: A meeting to preview the city's pedestrian plan will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Jan. 20 at the Recreation Complex at 32nd Street and Macdonald Avenue.

The pedestrian plan is being prepared with a companion bicycle plan, both with a goal of creating a more inviting place for getting around without a car.

For details, call 510-620-6887.

- El Cerrito plans to adopt a negative declaration for its project to rebuild and expand the Recycling Center on Schmidt Lane. A negative declaration is made when there are no significant environmental consequences to a project that would require an environmental impact report.

An official "Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration" for the project is available for review online at www.el-cerrito.org/esd/newrecyclingcenter.html.

Contact Chris Treadway at 510-262-2784 or ctreadway@bayareanewsgroup.com. Follow

him at [Twitter.com/christreadway](https://twitter.com/christreadway).

 BOOKMARK  [Print](#)  [Email](#)  Font Resize  [Return to Top](#)