

NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County

JOHN GIOIA (joy-a)

District One
Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2011

SALUTE E VITA RESTAURANTE HOSTS THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR NEEDY FAMILIES IN RICHMOND, CA Supervisor John Gioia and other community leaders help serve food

What: Thanksgiving meals served by community leaders

Where: Salute E Vita Restaurante, 1900 Esplanade, Richmond, CA (in the Richmond Marina)

Who: John Gioia – County Supervisor; Chief Chris Magnus – Richmond Police; Chief Michael Banks – Richmond Fire; Latressa Wilson Alford – Office of Congressman George Miller; Nigel Hearne – Chevron Richmond

Refinery Manager; Jerrold Hatchett – Sims Metal; Keith Hazel - Richmond Rockets; Kathleen Sullivan & Joey Smith - Black Women Organized for Political Action; Lindsay Mayo - Richmond Black Firefighters

Association Members of the Richmond Firefighters Engine # 67

Date: Thursday, November 24, 2011

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

RICHMOND, **Calif.**, 150 – 200 needy or homeless residents in the City of Richmond will be treated to a professionally prepared tasty and healthy Thanksgiving meal and will be dining in an elegant restaurant on the Richmond waterfront. They'll also be served by some of West County's community leaders.

Chefs at Salute E Vita Restaurante, an upscale Italian restaurant in the City's Marina Bay Neighborhood, will be preparing the traditional meal complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

"As we were getting ready for Thanksgiving, I decided I wanted to do something special for our community," said Menbere Aklilu, owner of Salute. "The community has always supported our restaurant. This is the best way for us to show our appreciation to the community."

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who lives in Richmond and represents West County, is one of several "guest" servers who will be donning a waiters uniform during the afternoon meal.

"Many families are struggling during these tough economic times," said Supervisor Gioia. "I'm glad local businesses like Salute's are stepping up and helping our community, especially during the holiday season."

Guests were selected through West County non-profit service providers such as Opportunity West, Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and Brighter Beginnings.

Other city businesses are helping too. Jean-Yves Charon of Galaxy Desserts will be providing desserts. Dosho Shieferan, creator of Boflex, has donated items that will go into "goody bags" that will be given out to each of the diners.

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