

Rancho Market painted thanks to community effort

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By Mike Kinney

Community members and leaders gathered at Rancho Market at 500 Market Ave. on Saturday to provide North Richmond's only non-alcohol selling grocer with an exterior paint job.

The Paint Party event was a partnership between Supervisor John Gioia's office and the city of Richmond's [Love Your Block initiative](#), with sponsors including

Kelly-Moore Paints in San Pablo, Professional Powerwashing and Maintenance in Pinole and The Home Depot in El Cerrito.

“It’s a beautification project, and we’re hoping that we get funding for a mural that will eventually beautify this building,” Supervisor Gioia said. “But what this is really about is the community coming together. You can see people here excited about making North Richmond cleaner, more beautiful and this is the result.”

The Paint Party was the culmination of months of hard work and planning, with one of the goals being to make North Richmond safer, particularly for families and children walking to and from nearby Verde Elementary, according to Stephanie Ny, community services associate with the City of Richmond Love Your Block Initiative.

“Feeling great; you can see the smile on my face,” said Lucky Braimah, owner of Rancho Market, which has been a community resource for more than two decades. “My store is changing to a beautiful color, and everyone is coming out.”

The Richmond Tool Library supplied tools for the job, while Grocery Outlet of San Pablo, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Urban Tilth, and the West County Democratic Club donated refreshments for volunteers.