

PANIL Notes

Volume 35 Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League - PO Box 20375, Oakland 94620

Dec 2010

Piedmont Avenue Library Status

By Peg Janosch

When the property on which it stands was sold in 2009, Piedmont Avenue Library lost its lease and was put on notice that the token rent of \$12 a year would be raised to \$51,000 a year, effective Nov. 1, 2010. The Oakland Public Library approved a lease at that rate through Oct. 31, 2011, using funds from Measure Q.

To consider how to provide library services to this neighborhood after October, Gerry Garzon, Associate Director of the Oakland Public Library, has been meeting with staff of the City Council and the City Attorney's office and members of the Piedmont Avenue community. At a series of public meetings, two approaches were offered as short term solutions.

1. Relocate the Library to a portable building; possible locations are Key Route Parking lot or Piedmont Avenue Elementary School.
2. Continue the search for another location in the area that can be rented at a lower cost.

The purchase of a building on Piedmont Avenue is not an option at this time. The City Attorney determined that Measure Q funds can not be used to finance the purchase or to develop a property.

A longer term solution is to purchase or to build a Library with funds from a district tax (Mello-Roos). This is how Rockridge funded their library construction. This alternative will involve years of work by our community.

OAKLAND ANIMAL SERVICES

Stretched Thin Working for Public Safety and Animal Welfare

By Valerie Winemiller

Oakland Animal Services operates the only "open door" animal shelter in the Oakland area, reported Megan Webb at the November 10 PANIL meeting. In its mission to ensure both public safety and animal welfare, Oakland's shelter is called upon to deal with any animal, regardless of temperament, medical condition or species. The shelter receives 6,000 animals a year. Twenty to 30 per day are brought to the shelter, where approximately 350 are held at once. Dogs and cats are most common, but the shelter also receives rabbits, birds, reptiles, and local wildlife. The list has even included 7 wolves and a crocodile. Oakland Animal Services is a division of the Oakland Police Department; Webb served as its volunteer manager for 8 years, and has been its director for a year and a half.

The shelter currently has 10 animal control officers, and a sergeant to help with animal crimes. Personnel investigate every bite reported in Oakland, as well as crimes against animals. Violence to animals is a concern not only on humane grounds, but because it has been shown to be related to violence against people, Webb states. This year several animal crimes were charged and prosecuted; it was the first year any such crimes were pursued to this degree.

Continued on page 2

NEXT PANIL Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — 7:30 pm

General Meeting — 8:00 pm

The Future of a Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
Gerry Garzon, Associate Director, Oakland Public Library

Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street — 11th Floor Sky Room

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Oakland Animal Services (continued)

Vicious Dogs?

"Oakland's vicious dog laws are pretty good," Webb stated, "but we want the community to be more active [in reporting and monitoring]." It was clear that enforcement, however, is a problem, due in part to staffing constraints. Emotions ran high on this topic at the meeting because of two cats killed by dogs near Monte Vista Avenue in recent months.

Off-leash dogs can be cited. A problem pet can be declared a "potentially dangerous dog" if it threatens people twice within any 36-month period, bites a human causing "transitory injury" (i.e., a bruise, not requiring stitches), or if it kills another animal. The designation requires a hearing and has an appeal process. Repeat offenses or a more serious injury to a human can result in designation as a "vicious dog." Both designations carry greater security requirements for control of the dog, and sanctions for failure to comply.

For code details, go <http://www.municode.com>, search for Oakland CA and click on Title 6 (Animals).

To Report Problems

- Animal complaints should be reported to the non-emergency police dispatchers at 777-3333. If an attack against a human is in progress, of course, it is a 911 call (or 777-3211 from a cell phone).

- If you can report a pattern of leash-law or other animal violations (day, time, etc.), send the information by e-mail directly to Webb at mwebb@oaklandnet.com so she can schedule an officer to be present to cite the handler.

You Can Help

The \$160,000 annual budget for Animal Services was recently cut to \$86,000, as a result of the city's budget shortfall. The shelter has been stretching its budget dollars through relationships with rescue groups and other agencies. For example, 50 to 60 dogs were sent to an Idaho shelter where they would have a greater chance for adoption.

Oakland's shelter has put volunteers to good use for years. Moss Avenue neighbor Linda Taylor is a volunteer dog walker and assists the shelter vet. She finds playing with the grateful dogs to be rewarding and an effective stress-reliever. To volunteer, go to <http://oaklandanimalservices.org/volunteer/>

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PANIL Notes Invites Advertisers

Advertisers can reach over 2,000 neighborhood households! For details, see PANIL's website http://panil.org/misc/PANIL_Rates.pdf or contact **Margitta Gardner**, 652-6609 or contact@PANIL.org

Residents Over 55: Share Your Experience And Make A Difference For Children!

By Christine Kehn

What if we told you there were a group of people 55 and older who are eager to go back to *elementary* school this year?? There is!

The **Experience Corps Oakland** is an innovative intergenerational program that recruits, trains and places teams of adults age 55+ in Kindergarten through third grade classrooms to improve literacy rates for struggling students.

Ongoing research has shown that students who are not performing at grade level by third grade become all the more likely to fall further behind, not graduate high school, and face limited opportunity in life. Experience Corps Oakland is committed to addressing this very issue and enhancing the overall quality of students' lives, as well as the quality of our schools and the Oakland community as a whole. And you can help with as little as two hours a week.

Experience Corps provides comprehensive training, day-to-day on-site support,

continued learning opportunities, and leadership development for members. Their personalized, high-impact, team-based approach enables older adults to engage in meaningful work in a supportive environment that affirms their life experience. Members tutor students, one-on-one or in small groups, and provide mentoring for children throughout the school year.

Experience Core, a devoted partner of Piedmont Avenue Elementary for the past five years, is recruiting new tutors/mentors to make a difference in the lives of youth at Piedmont Avenue and other local elementary schools. Monthly stipends are available to members serving a minimum of 10 hours a week. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Christine Kehn at 510-735-5725 or ckehn@aspiranet.org, or visit www.experiencecorps.org.

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FOR INFORMATION

Calendar

PANIL Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month
7:30 to 9 p.m.
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
11th Floor Sky Room

PANIL Steering Committee meets monthly

For the time, date and place
email contact@panil.org

Glen Echo Creek Work Day

2nd Saturday of the month
Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 a.m.
654-1930

Mt. View Cemetery Tour

4th Annual Holiday Circle of Lights
12/1 thru 12/31 daily
from 5 to 9 p.m., FREE
Docent led tour
2nd and 4th Saturdays
10 a.m., FREE

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597-5011

Storytimes

Toddlers—Wed., 10:15 a.m.
Pre school—Wed., 11 a.m.

Saturday Knitting Club

Every Saturday 3 to 4 p.m.

PANIL Web Site Updates

www.panil.org

- Oakland Police Department command changes for North Oakland
- AC Transit Service Cuts 10/31

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or go to www.panil.org, click on "Join PANIL" and use PayPal

Note: Contributions to PANIL are not tax deductible

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League
P.O. Box 20375
Oakland, CA 94620
www.panil.org



Organization matters.
Persistence matters.
PANIL delivers these.

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Neighborhood Services Coordinator Sandra Sanders-West Retires

Our neighborhood's contact person at the Oakland Police Department brings information to our monthly meetings. Since December 2009, that person has been Sandra Sanders-West, who is shown here receiving a bouquet of thanks at the November PANIL meeting. She retired this month.



Personnel Changes at Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

Andrew Demcak, current acting branch manager, is moving to the Temescal Branch at the first of the year.

Jenera Burton, our new branch manager, will come on board December 11.



Piedmont Avenue Elementary School

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www.paesonline.com



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