PANIL Notes

Volume 29 Issue 5—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—May 2004

APRIL PANIL MEETING

Kaiser Permanente

By Jim Ploss

The biggest announcement from Kaiser at the April PANIL meeting was that the proposed new hospital facility at the McArthur/Broadway complex is expected to be approved by the Kaiser board in the next few months. Assuming approval, the planning and public comment period will begin shortly thereafter. We could expect to see demolition of the current structure in 2007 and the new facility open in 2011.

PANIL has long supported this site as the logical place for hospital expansion, but there will be many neighborhood concerns to be addressed in the next 7-8 years. We are looking for volunteers from PANIL, from Richmond Blvd and Mosswood neighborhoods to form a working group to coordinate with Kaiser.

Kaiser representatives Sue Muscarella and Eric Miller (with Jennifer Scanlon, P.J. Ballard, John Green, Kaye Stodd, and John Cowee) gave an overview of Kaiser's vision for the neighborhood. Immediate plans call for enlargement of the Emergency care facility, with construction to begin in the near future. No city approval is required. Neither plans nor drawings were available at the PANIL meeting. Concerns include the elimination of on-street parking between the Fabiola building and MacArthur, the movement of storage tanks, con-

Continued on page 3

ON THE BEAT

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — NCPC, Beat 9X

By Bill Manley, NCPC Beat 9X Chair

Fortunately things have been pretty quiet in Beat 9X over the past few months. But there is plenty of activity in other beats in Police Service Area (PSA) 2 as we learned in a March 20th meeting with other NCPC leaders. We have recently seen increased crime in the troublesome Shattuck corridor between 48th to 59th, as well as evidence that some dealers have moved to the area around 59th and Adeline.

On the other hand, overall crime is down 6-7% this year on top of a 4% decline last year. And robberies are down a whopping 19% (apologies to those of you who have been robbed).

As you may know, the ballot measure to add more police and social services narrowly failed in the November election. Councilmembers Wan and DelaFuente are promising a more streamlined measure for the fall. Maybe the rewriting will help the measure garner another 2% — the percentage by which the measure failed in November.

On a more local focus, with summer approaching, the NCPC turned attention to what the situation may be around Oakland Technical High School when kids get out of school. We are especially concerned about

Continued on page 3

Zoning updates

By Valerie Winemiller

PANIL wins a reprieve for cemetery landscape

A settlement agreement will withdraw plans and approvals for the 18,000 square foot development proposed in Mountain View Cemetery's historic landscape. As we go to press, PANIL, the California Preservation Foundation, Mountain View Cemetery, and the City of Oakland are signing the agreement that resulted from a lawsuit filed by PANIL and CPF.

Further details will be available in the next issue of PANIL *Notes* and at www.panil.org after the settlement is formally approved.

New rules could loosen requirements and change neighborhood appearance

HOUSES: Residential Design Review attempts to ensure that new home construction, as well as major additions and alterations, will preserve and enhance the appearance and livability of the surrounding neighborhood. Projects in our North Oakland district currently receive more careful review under a pilot project set of codes. The city now proposes to adopt a revised set of codes citywide, which would reduce public notification, expand exemptions from review, and control only those aspects of design (such as wall height) which can be quantified.

Continued on page 3

PANIL Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 pm, Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street, 11th Floor, Sky Room

Topic: AC Transit — more changes coming in June

Speaker: At-Large AC Transit Director Chris Peeples

To place an item on the agenda, please call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League
PO Box 20375
Oakland CA 94620
www.panil.org

PANIL *Notes* is the monthly publication of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). Writing, editing, and layout are all done by volunteers. Articles may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors. To submit story ideas or articles call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com
Circulation: 2,000 copies.

Steering Committee and Working Groups

Arts/Culture/History/Media
Jim Ploss
420.0570, jopl@mindspring.com
Finance/Membership/ Underwriting
Bess Ellinger
923.1748, eaellinger@earthlink.net
Library/School/Parks/Gardens
Joan Dark
339.6460, Ext 1316
Public Safety/9X NCPC Chair
Bill Manley
658.2419, bmanleynow@yahoo.com
Zoning/Building
Valerie Winemiller
653.4552

PANSA
John Woodbury
654.6591, drjohnw@ix.netcom.com
PAMA
Ann Kraynak
428.2698

City Government
District 1 Councilmember
Jane Brunner
238.7001, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
District 1 School Board Representative
Kerry Hamill
879.8653
kerry.hamill@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us

Oakland Police Department
Sandi Mauricio
Neighborhood Services Coordinator
615.5929, smauricio@oaklandnet.com
Lt. Lawrence Green
238.7147, lgreen@oaklandnet.com

PANIL *Notes*
Editing–Gail Jara and Joan Dark
Coordinator–Ronile Lahti

THE LIBRARY

Jamie Lee Turbak now permanent head librarian at Piedmont Avenue branch

By Sarita Cordell

Jamie Lee Turbak, the head librarian at our Piedmont Avenue Branch, grew up in a small town in Minnesota. She first came to our neighborhood when she got a job at Piedmont Cinema to support herself while a student at UC Berkeley. Like many who are new to the neighborhood, Jamie was hooked. This was a very appealing place.

She decided by the time she graduated that she wanted to become a librarian. It was necessary to go as far afield as San Jose State to obtain her Master in Library Science degree. During her library courses she worked part time as a Berkeley Public Library Aide. Within six months of getting the credentials, she was hired by the Oakland Public Library.

Asked what she finds distinctive about the Piedmont Avenue Branch, Jamie said, "It has the most neighborhood feel of any place I've worked. We see a lot of the same people every day; we know their names and often details they tell us about their lives. And people here are so accommodating. They give generously — money, time, book donations, work on our book sales. All the other librarians are envious that I work at a branch with such an active Friends of the Public Library (FOPL) chapter."

Good news: Thanks to the passage of Prop Q (thank you to everyone who voted for this proposition), the book budget has increased and we can expect to see the library open on Saturdays in the Fall.

More good news: we have a new Children's Librarian — Helen Bloch.

Check out our branch. It's great!

MAY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY:

5/7, Friday, 3:30 PM
MOCHA (Museum of Children's Art) will teach children how to make paper flower bouquets for Mother's Day. The event is free but registration is required. Call 597.5011.

5/10, Monday, 6:30 pm
Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Book Club. This month's selection: Tipping the Velvet by Sara Waters.

PIEDMONT AVENUE SCHOOL

Book sale a great success

During the March 30 Reading Partners' book sale held at Piedmont Avenue School more than 700 books were sold to students at bargain rates, raising $150 for the Reading Partners program.

To volunteer for Reading Partners, call Ruby Long at 595.9514 or Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862.

Thank you!

Piedmont Avenue School is receiving $140 for the box of used ink cartridges collected at Piedmont Copy Center. A big thank you to the copy center and everyone who brought in their cartridges.

There's a new box in place so please continue to take used cartridges to Piedmont Copy Center, 4237 Piedmont Avenue for recycling. It supports our neighborhood school.

Wizard of Oz — Piedmont Avenue School and Studio One

Mark your calendars! Piedmont Avenue School and Studio One are presenting a production of the Wizard of Oz. When: Friday, May 14, 6:30 pm. Where: In the school auditorium – 4314 Piedmont Avenue. Donation: $3/adults, $1/children.

May 22 — Owl Park Carnival

PANSA (Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association) will hold a carnival at the school on Saturday, May 22, 11 am to 2 pm. There will be games, booths, food, and fun for everyone.

Good news! Another raffle for Owl Park is coming in June. Tickets will be available at the carnival.

Want to help? Food for the carnival and prizes for the raffle are needed. Call Lesley Mandros Bell at 654.1386.

Zoning updates, continued

TREES: Citing sidewalk damage, increased trip-and-fall suits, and access problems for disabled persons, the City of Oakland has proposed to make it much easier for the city to remove street trees. Community speakers at a meeting called by Councilmember Brunner on the topic overwhelming and passionately defended trees. Tree-loving neighbors should write to Councilmembers Brunner (District 1) and Chang (Councilmember at-large) and Mayor Jerry Brown (see box) in support of keeping **Oakland** as a green city.

Mayor Jerry Brown
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com

Councilmember Jane Brunner
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Councilmember Henry Chang,
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
cityochang@aol.com

Condo-mania again?

In the 1980's, PANIL supported strict rules for condominium conversions after a number of area tenants were displaced when their apartments became condos. In many cases the condos were bought as investments and simply became higher-priced rentals. Now, the Planning Commission is considering a proposal to eliminate controls on condo conversions. A public hearing on the topic is expected on May 12.

NOTE: For further information on any of these zoning updates, please call Valerie Winemiller at 653.4552.

WANT ADS

Computer Helpdesk Comes to You!

In home or office, personal desktop support. System recovery, Internet, E-mail and antivirus. Wired and wireless networks. DSL: installation and sharing. Certified PC hardware/software, network specialist. Donegan Consulting, MCSE, CCNA, 510.338.0645 or donegand@pacbell.net.

Kaiser expansion, continued

struction noise and the re-configured on-site parking.

The addition of 130 parking spaces at the M/B site has already caused problems for Richmond Boulevard residents who note increased parking congestion and wrong way traffic on one-way streets. The new spaces accommodate the return of the women and infants health care facility to Kaiser Oakland.

Kaiser representatives have said they will work to obtain residential parking for the neighborhood. (PANIL earlier obtained a use condition at the time of the construction of the Fabiloa Building requiring Kaiser to pay for residential parking in our neighborhood for 25 years.)

NCPC, Beat 9X, continued

Spring fever and the frivolity that accompanies the end of the school year there. In 2002 we had some incidents with students roaming in gangs. In 2003 there were reports of gun toting on Shafter. This year, in the last few weeks, there were reports of dice games and dope smoking behind the mini-mall on Whitmore (this has been addressed by local law enforcement). Accordingly, the NCPC will write a letter in conjunction with Don Lowrey (of Beat 12x where the school is located) asking for increased police presence around the school in late May and early June.

Next school year, beginning in September, at long last, Oakland Tech will become a closed campus! This policy is designed to keep the students in and keep miscreants out. As we learned in the February PANIL meeting, the school campus has a lot to offer its students.

JULY PANIL STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

Interested in our community? Help PANIL continue our neighborhood advocacy by running for a place on the PANIL Steering Committee.

For further information call Bess Ellinger at 923.1748 or email eaellinger@earthlink.net.

Calendar

PANIL Meeting
5/12, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street, 11th Floor
923.1748

Glen Echo Creek Work Day
5/8, Saturday, 9:30 am
Monte Vista Avenue, 654.1930

PANSA
General Meeting
Book Care Night
5/4, Tuesday, 7 pm
Piedmont Avenue School
654.6591

White Elephant Sale
5/1, Saturday, 9 am to noon
Piedmont Gardens
Linda/Glen — 654.7172

First Friday Night Out
5/7, Plymouth Church, 7 pm
Music, Board Games, food
424 Monte Vista, 654.5300

Mountain View Docent Tours
2nd Saturday of the month
10 am, free

Mountain Views
(Dance in unexpected places—Nina Haft and Company)
5/1, Saturday, 7 pm
5/2 Sunday, 7 pm
5/8, Saturday, 4 pm
Mt. View Cemetery
595.8388, ninahaft@aol.com

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
160 41st Street, 597.5011
Family Storytimes
Toddlers
Wednesday, 10:30 am
Pre-School
Wednesday, 11 am

To place an item on the PANIL web or newsletter calendar, email Minnie Sage at mamsage@earthlink.net.

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

Count Me In!

___Here's my check for $_____(minimum $15.00) to join PANIL.

___Please send me a safety whistle ($3.50/each).

Name/s_____

Address_____

Phone/Email_____

Mail to PANIL, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620
Contributions to PANIL are not tax deductible

Please check your expiration date

Neela & William Manley
4132 Gilbert Street
Oakland, CA 94611
D2 Membership Expires 8/15/2004

PANIL *Notes* is printed on recycled paper by — Piedmont Copy — 4237 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 655.3030

Thank you to Piedmont Grocery Company and the Chapel of the Chimes for renewing their advertising for another year.

Thank you to new and renewing members:

Karen Keene, Martha West, Lorna Jones, Martha Neve, Jeanne Hassenzahl, Imogene Kling, Collete Sidi-Schoulal, Renee Torres & Bruce Wade, Nancy Lovejoy & J. Hassard, Frank Russell, Irwin & Phyllis Luckman, Gail Cooper, Ann & Joseph Ayankoya, Gale Gray, Sandra Linke & Kamal Shah, Keira Williams, Patricia Cook, James Wilson and Salvatore Archini

GEORGE LEE HORTON
ARCHITECT

Residential additions and Remodeling

Oakland, CA
510.653.1641

ARCHWAY SCHOOL
- Kindergarten - 8th
- Rich & rigorous hands-on curriculum
- 10-12 students per class
- Exceptional teachers
- Before and after school program on site

Limited openings for September 2004 510-547-4747 • 250 Forty-First Street, Oakland

CHAPEL of the CHIMES
FUNERAL HOME
MAUSOLEUM
COLUMBARIUM
CREMATORY
(FD-1254)

City of Oakland
DISTINGUISHED
LANDMARK 129

4499 PIEDMONT AVENUE
OAKLAND CA 94611
510.654.0123
www.chapelofthechimes.com

Adjacent to Mountain View Cemetery and to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

PIEDMONT GROCERY

COMPLETE LINE OF
U.S.D.A. CHOICE MEATS
GOURMET PRODUCE
WINES & SPIRITS
GROCERIES-GOURMET FOODS
WITH PERSONALIZED SERVICE
Open 7 Days
Mon-Sat 9 am-8 pm
Sun 9 am-7 pm
FREE PARKING IN REAR

PIEDMONT GROCERY

Credit Cards & ATM's Accepted
4038 PIEDMONT AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94611
510.653.8181

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE EAST BAY
7th & 8th Grades

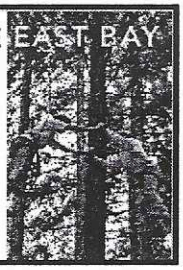
Engaging Academics: Interdisciplinary & project-based curriculum emphasizing social justice

Emphasis on the Arts: drama, art, video, dance, band, drumming & chorus

Student empowerment& building leadership skills

Focus on social/emotional development of adolescents

215 Ridgeway Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611
510.923.0505 — www.cseb.org — cschooleb@aol.com



Joan Dark

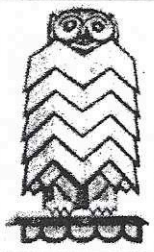
The Neighborhood Realtor
Proud Supporter of Piedmont Avenue School

PACIFIC UNION

510.339.6460 — 1900 Mountain Boulevard

PANSA Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association

Piedmont Avenue School Library—4314 Piedmont Avenue

General Meeting and Book Care Night
—first Tuesday of each month, 7 pm

Call 510.654.6591 for more information