PANIL Notes

Volume 28 Issue 11—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—October 2003

PANIL Meeting October 8, 2003 Wednesday 7:30 pm

Agenda

Kaiser Permanente projects and programs

Speakers

Sue Muscarella
Vince Carrick

Moderator

Bess Ellinger

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Bess Ellinger at 923.1748 or email eaellinger@earthlink.net

PAMA's 17th Annual Halloween Celebration Saturday, 10/25

11:00 am
Costume Parade
Meet at the Blockbuster parking lot
(corner of Montel and Piedmont Avenue)

Trick-or-Treat at "Candy Station" merchants until 1:00 pm

Kaiser's Emergency Department to expand

By Jennifer Scanlan
East Bay Community and Government Relations Manager, Kaiser Permanente

The expansion of Kaiser Permanente's Emergency Department, slated to begin this Fall, will include modifications to the existing sidewalk and changes in the drop off and delivery of emergency patients on Howe Street.

The first stage of the expansion will include the removal and relocation of storage tanks to another area of the hospital campus. Construction will begin between 7:00 and 8:00 am and conclude around 7:00 pm. However, there are no anticipated disruptions of traffic around the facility during this first phase of the project.

Neighbors can call Eric Mitchell in the Public Affairs Department at 675.5759, if they have questions.

Also under way at the Oakland Medical Center Campus:

- Friday Fresh Farmer's Market
- Howe Street improvement
- Consideration of different options for rebuilding the hospital to both serve our members and meet seismic requirements
- Bringing OB services back into the hospital

Sue Muscarella, director of hospital operations, and Vince Carrick, director of facility operations, will attend the PANIL meeting on October 8 to provide background and discuss the projects.

Preston Maring, MD and Mr. Carrott at the Kaiser Permanente Friday Fresh Farmer's Market
Photo: Kaiser Permanente

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School starts a new year

By Ronile Lahti

When asked for Piedmont Avenue Elementary School's top two priorities for the new year, new principal Dr. Angela Haick quickly responded: literacy and attendance improvement.

Attendance: Last year's average daily attendance (ADA) was 93%, which cost the district $112,416.35. This year, Dr. Haick is looking for an average ADA of 98% and needs volunteers to make calls to parents when students are absent. To sign up, please call 879.1460.

Literacy: While overall school Math CST performance significantly improved last year, CST performance for English Language Arts (ELA) did not show the same school-wide improvement. However, Dr. Haick is quick to point out that there has been ELA improvement within grade levels. For example, in the 4th grade, 2.5% moved up and out of the category called "far below basic," and the number of 5th grade students reading at grade level increased by 6.1%. While a full time literacy support teacher is expected by November, more assistance is needed and volunteers can help. In the last issue of this newsletter, PANIL member Joan Dark described the Reading Partners program. Dr. Haick would like to see this program expanded. If you have a free hour or more a week—**volunteer!** Call Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862 or Ruby Long at 595.9514.

Facility update: The long anticipated new wing will be ready for occupancy the first of October. During the removal of the portables (10/1 to 10/15), the playground will be closed and students will use the front lawn for recess, lunch, and other outside activities. Please use extra caution when driving by the school during this period.

Owl Park: Grass has won out over astroturf and the sod will be planted once the portables are removed. Note: a site map of Owl Park can be found on PANIL's web site—www.panil.org.

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

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A NEW PLACE TO SHOP

Pimlico Place: an antidote for "ordinary"

By Lesley Mandros Bell

A window filled with an eclectic mix of new and old lures shoppers into interior designer Annette Benyamin's store, Pimlico Place. Simple but elegant renovations to the former location of USO Clothing (4135 Piedmont Avenue) have made innovative display spaces, with 19th century lighting fixtures hanging from the open black rafters illuminating mirrors, glassware, and engravings from the same period. Curtained alcoves make cunning corners where sconces and modern paintings hang side by side.

Annette Benyamin at Pimlico Place
Photo: Lesley Mandros Bell

Banyamin sees her shop as the culmination of a career in design and "the combination of all I love to do." She continues her design work and her lectures; she works with people; and she travels in search of unique treasures.

"My affection for beautiful things is not confined by a period style," she says, adding that, as you would in a home, she combines the things she loves regardless of their era or origin. Much of Pimlico Place's merchandise does in fact originate in Europe, especially England where Benyamin searches yearly for vintage prints, light fixtures, and jewelry. The store's unique pillows are mostly designed by Benyamin and sewn from silks, trims, and embroidery pieces that, like the store in general, range from the old to the new. Italian Murano glass chandeliers and antique Asian furniture are all shipped in to become, as the business card says, "unique cosmopolitan accents for the home from the 19th c. to the present."

Benyamin chose to locate Pimlico Place on Piedmont Avenue due to the "cozy" feel of the neighborhood, and the excellent foot traffic that brings people past her window.

Benyamin is equally welcoming and knowledgeable. I observed her helping a young woman pick out a special bridal gift. Not only did she stay within the modest budget, but she also helped out with beautiful packaging materials and an extra shell button to complete the effect.

If a vintage Italian ice bucket in aluminum or colorful costume jewelry appeals to your sense of whimsy, if you need a gift for a special occasion, or if you are seeking a touch of change or color in your home, visit Pimlico Place. With stock that ranges in price from modest ($6 for carved jade, $14 for fun and funky plastic earrings) to more, you will find something for almost any event–and enjoy the search! Piedmont Avenue has always been a wonderful place to shop, and Annette Benyamin's unique style and welcoming personality make Pimlico Place another great destination.

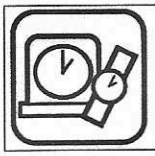
Around the Avenue

No, they didn't move. **OmniDesign** has taken the paper off their windows and are open for business. They've edited their selections and now feature Framatac American hardwood furniture (made in the USA). Other services available: staging for homes when selling, floor stenciling (500 foot minimum, problem concrete floors a specialty), and product design for other manufacturers. New Hours: Tuesday, by appointment; Wednesday thru Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Caffe La Piedmonte, 3953 Piedmont Avenue, is open under new management.

Get A, featuring Japanese food to go, has opened at 165 41st Street.

Computers and coffee. Something new at **Rooz Café**, 4252 Piedmont Avenue: they've gone wireless! Check it out.



"Fall back"
Day light savings time ends
Sunday, October 26

ON THE BEAT

Crime is down!

By Bill Manley

Some good news. North Oakland crime overall is down this year over last (see box). The bad news is the high murder rate that grabs all the headlines. Police information indicates that most incidents are gangster-on-gangster crimes, but innocent victims do get caught in the crossfire. A good Samaritan last month was fatally shot after going to the aid of another shooting victim. The murders and crime inflict trauma, in many forms, on the community: the fear, desperation, loss of confidence by residents and businesses, and the ensuing cycle of joblessness, poverty, and more crime.

North Oakland Stats
The good news—
Total crime: -12%
Residential burglary: -37%
Auto burglary: -25%
Commercial burglary: -22%
Other burglary: -18%
Robbery: -8%
Auto theft: -6%
General theft: -3%
The bad news—
As of September, there have been 12 murders in District 1 this year, compared to 4 last year. Assaults with firearms have risen from 16 in 2002 to 21 in 2003.

To address this cycle, the District Attorney, Oakland Police Department, Judges, and Probation and Parole officers are holding another meeting at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, October 18th, from 9:00 am to noon. This is a follow up to a similar meeting held in February that focused on resources available for rehabilitation. We hope the October 18th meeting will focus strictly on reducing crime. The meeting is open to the public, and we are trying to get questions submitted in advance. Please forward your questions and comments to Beat 9X NCPC Chair Bill Manley at bmanleynow@yahoo.com.

On our beat, there was a report of a strong-arm robbery on September 10 at 9:30 pm. On John Street, an individual was accosted by a group of African American males who robbed him of his brief case and wallet. Reports are a gun was involved.

Jane Brunner's October meeting will be about crime in North Oakland. Chief Word will attend.

Zoning updates

Soundproofing of **Fentons'** roof compressors is underway. Neighbors are still negotiating garbage, parking, and delivery issues.

The four contiguous lots at **Bayo Vista and Harrison** are back on the market, with a potential buyer who is scheduling a meeting with Vista neighbors.

Mountain View Cemetery. The Writ of Mandate described in the last PANIL *Notes* was filed on September 5. For further information, contact Valerie Winemiller at vwinemiller@hotmail.com or call 653.4552.

Books needed for Family Reading Night—Oct 30

Family Reading Night at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School is scheduled for October 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. This program is sponsored by the Oakland Parents Literacy Project and our school board member Kerry Hamill. Well-worn children's books are needed to give as gifts to students who attend the event. To contribute (arrangements can be made to have books picked up), please contact Kelsey Krausen at 879.8253 or email kelsey.krausen@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us.

Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) 11th annual book sale

WHERE: Bookmark Store
721 Washington Street
444.0473
WHEN: Wed 10/8 to Sat 10/11
10:30 am to 5:30 pm
WHAT: 40% OFF 17,000 books from private libraries & estates
NO library discards

TIRED OF TRIPPING?

Sidewalk Repairs

Long awaited side walk repairs are to take place in December. Unfortunately, the only locations scheduled for repair in our neighborhood are: 225 and 258 40th Street, Piedmont Gardens (41st Street, Glen Avenue, and Linda Avenue), and 5100 Broadway. Questions? Call Jane Brunner's office at 238.7001.

Calendar

PANIL
10/8, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street, 923.1748

Steering Committee
10/2, Thursday, 7:00 pm
923.1748

Glen Echo Creek Work Day
10/11, Saturday, 9:30 am
Monte Vista Avenue, 654.1930

PANSA General Meeting Book Care Night
10/7, Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Piedmont Avenue School

First Friday Night Out
10/3, Plymouth Church, 7:00 pm
Music, Board Games, Food
424 Monte Vista, 654.5300

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
160 41st Street, 597.5011

Family Storytimes
Toddlers
Wednesday, 10:30 am
Pre-School
Wednesday, 11:00 am

Jane Brunner's Monthly Meeting Topic: Crime in North Oakland
10/4, Saturday, 10:00 am
Peralta School, 460 63rd Street
238.7001

Community School of the East Bay
invites you to celebrate their new campus
10/12, Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
215 Ridgeway Avenue
923.0505

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

PANIL web calendar:
http://www.panil.org/calendar

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P.O. Box 20375
Oakland, CA 94620
www.panil.org

Count Me In!

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

___I wish to donate $_____to the Mountain View Cemetery fund.

Name/s_____

Address_____

Phone/Email_____

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

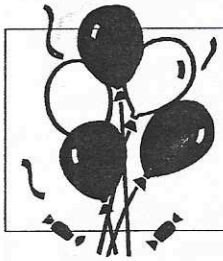
Please check your expiration date

Complimentary Copy

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

The Piedmont Avenue School Reading Partners need you!
To volunteer call
Ruby Long at 595.9514 or
Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862

Thank you to new and renewing members:
Bill and Neela Manley, Catherine Merschel, Dorothy Black, Joyce and Herb Williams, Esther Norman, Laura Scheflow, Daniel Francis and Elizabeth Lake, Wilfred and Alice Ward, Peggy Stinnett, Sandy Strehlou and David Meiland, Matt and Tal Levy Chen, Jana and Mark Hall, Sara Glaser, Jean McIntire, Ernestine Gerlach, Kenny, Jackie, and Casey Shea Dinkin, Sharon Floor, Kelly O'Connell



Support OUR Avenue Merchants
Please Shop Local

Yoga on Ridgeway

MON 6PM
WEDS & SAT 9AM

CALL 452.5919 TAUGHT BY ELLEN WEBB

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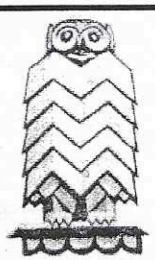
www.kaiser.org

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



OOPS!!!

Change in plans

Piedmont Avenue
Merchants Association (PAMA)

PAMA HALLOWEEN PARADE

Same time: 11:00 AM

Same place: meet at
BLOCKBUSTER'S parking lot
(Montelland Piedmont Avenue)

DIFFERENT DATE:
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Trick-or-Treat
at "CANDY STATION"
Merchants
until 1:00 PM