

Temescal News & Views

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Temescal News & Views is published bimonthly and distributed to 3,000 households, schools and businesses.

Our Mission

The mission of TNT is to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community through revitalization of our homes, businesses, schools and public services by providing an ongoing forum for community education, interaction and empowerment.

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Is Your Garden Overflowing? Temescal Amity Works Can Help

If you see a hand-pushed cart loaded with citrus, apples or herbs rolling through the neighborhood, stop and say hello. The cart is part of a neighborhood project started by two local artists in collaboration with the Temescal Merchants Association.

The Temescal Amity Works is created by Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves to facilitate and document the exchange of backyard produce, conversation, and collective biography within the Temescal neighborhood. Over the next year, we will maintain a storefront just off Telegraph Avenue and a community crop-sharing program called *The Big Backyard*. We are also planning the production of neighborhood talks, gatherings and an ongoing series of printed materials—including profiles of neighbors, free postcards, and a community map. These will be available in local businesses throughout the year. Temescal Amity Works received its initial funding from the Elise and Walter Haas Foundation's Creative Work Fund and is sponsored by ProArts, an Oakland-based artists' support organization.

The project grows out of both of our professional lives as artists and art professors, a common interest in the practice of community and site-based art as well as a shared history of grow-

ing up in farming and gardening families. We are interested in how communities build relationships through the lens of its personal and transactional economies, as well as how an art project might overlay itself onto those relationships and bring them into a new focus. By documenting these relationships and including the neighborhood residents in the process, a shared community history arises, a story leading to new avenues of interaction.

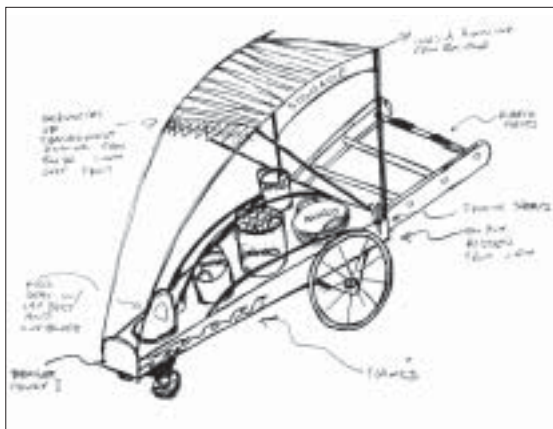
We would like to harvest and collect any surplus growing in your yard. We will come pick it or pick it up. All produce that we collect from the neighborhood will be given away to Temescal residents or local cafes and restaurants. Temescal Amity Works has a studio/storefront located at 482 D 49th street. If you have time during our open hours, stop in and say hello, take a few postcards, talk about the neighborhood and taste fruit or juice made from local trees from a recent harvest.

If you would like to participate in the produce sharing or have any other questions about the project, please visit our website: www.amityworks.org or email us at bigbackyard@amityworks.org.

— Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves

Lower Shafter Hole to Sprout Homes

Commercial real estate developer Patrick Ellwood and architect Kava Massih held a meeting on October 6 to show plans and hear community concerns about the empty lot on Shafter between 40th and 41st. Mr. Ellwood has divided the development of the land into two phases. The first development phase, which he hopes to begin early next year, calls for ten narrow, three-story detached houses on 41st Street. The second phase of the plan proposes a four-story, 18-unit condo with a storefront on 40th Street. The project has doors and small yards directly on the street, with all parking hidden; variation in wall heights and setbacks are intended to prevent the structures from feeling massive and isolated. Mr. Massih's drawings show some shrubbery on the Shafter side, and Mr. Ellwood



Don't be surprised to see this cart around the neighborhood soon! Temescal Amity Works is a new Temescal project to facilitate the exchange of local produce among neighbors. Artwork: Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves

Breakfast at Temescal Café

Blueberry waffles, a side of chicken sausage and a single mocha with whipped cream for here please, thank you with a smile and a couple clink clinks of a few coins in the tip jar. The cashier gives me a number and I sit down with a free local paper. In a few minutes, the cook brings my breakfast with a friendly "good morning." The food is pleasantly presented with butter and syrup on the side and a bit of fruit included on the plate. It is a sunny Saturday morning at the Temescal Café and locals are gathering for a meeting of the minds, some looking like they just rolled out of bed, others dressed to chat and catch up with friends. Large storefront windows shed bright light into this quaint joint, local art decorates and livens up the walls, lots of seating is available and there is a piano in the back. A friendly place this is and very conducive to enjoying a weekend morning breakfast with friends or solo.

The breakfast menu also includes poached eggs, fruit, pastries, bagels and schmear. Lunch is served including an array of sandwiches (with weekday specials), pizzettas, soups and salads. And of course, coffee and espresso drinks are available (and beer, but that is for later). Even though I'm moving away from Temescal, I will surely continue to come by for an enjoyable breakfast here. But in the meantime, after having eaten all of my breakfast and drunk all of my café mocha, let me jitter my way out the door to start the day. I will miss you Temescal! – *Maile Nakamara*

Temescal Café
4920 Telegraph Ave
594-4102

says there will be on-street lighting. One concern is the development's effect on neighborhood parking. Most units are two bedrooms and some are three bedrooms, but the plans provide only one parking space per unit.

To see the plans, visit Massih's web site, www.kavamassiharchitects.com. To comment, call Ellwood's office at 238-9111, or the principal project architect in Massih's office, J. Connell, at 644-1920. The case planner for this project at the city's zoning division is Andrew Smith, 238-6414. – *Dan Littman*

Median Clean Up Along 40th

Please come out for one day to make your neighborhood more beautiful. Join us on November 6 from 9 AM to 12 PM at 40th Street and Shafter. We will be weeding and planting the 40th Street medians between Broadway and Telegraph. Coffee and bagels will be provided. Please bring gloves and any garden tools such as hoes and shovels that you think would be appropriate. Be sure to write your name on your tools. Support your community on November 6 or please contact me and find out how you can help with a donation or through other activities. Please send an email to edgarchris@earthlink.net if you would like to become involved in this event. We need your support! Come enjoy our community spirit while you beautify Temescal. – *Chris Pew*

Give Your Input on the MacArthur Transit Village Plan

Councilmember Jane Brunner and the MacArthur BART Citizen's Planning Committee invite you to participate in a community meeting for the proposed MacArthur Transit Village on Monday, November 15. Our new development team, including national homebuilder Shea Homes and non-profit housing developer Bridge Housing, will present a first look at their project plans and hear your comments and ideas.

The meeting will be at Beebe Memorial Church, 3900 Telegraph (39th and Telegraph) at 7 PM. For more information, please contact Kathy Kleinbaum of the CEDA Redevelopment Division at 637-0247. – *Kathy Kleinbaum*

Temescal Library Expands Hours

We hope that all of you have heard by now that Temescal Library is open on Saturdays again! Beginning on September 11, all branches of Oakland Public Library expanded to a Monday – Saturday schedule. In the next few weeks, we will also be receiving an infusion of materials including new fiction, CDs, DVDs, videos, books on hobbies, consumer law, home improvement and small business. Thanks for all this goes to Oakland voters, who passed Measure Q (a parcel tax for the library) in March 2004.

Joy, Children's Librarian at Temescal, has a program planned for Tuesday, November 9 at 1:00 PM. The group Word for Word will be presenting a Norwegian folktale called *The Master Maid*. And she would also like to let people know that there is still space in PASS, our after school homework program for children in grades 2 through 8. PASS operates from 2:30 – 5:15 PM Thursdays in our downstairs meeting room.

Ty in the Tool Lending Library (TLL) wants to remind people that tools can no longer be renewed by phone. To renew, you must bring the tool to the TLL in order to check it against the daily waiting list for tools. And speaking of the waiting list, if you want to get on the list for a popular tool, you must sign up in person at the TLL. Also, we ask your patience in trying to reach the TLL by phone. When there is a line out the door, TLL staff sometimes cannot get to the phone in time to answer your call, so please know that we are here and be sure to phone back.

As the seasons change, don't forget to visit the library and borrow books, magazines, CDs and videos to take home on those wintry, rainy evenings. You can

catch up on your fiction reading, plan a project or learn something new! For more information, call 597-5049.

– Sally Bean, Branch Librarian

Studio One Holds Sale, Seeks Space

Studio One will host its Annual Sale on November 20 from 11 AM –1:30 PM, offering ceramics, glass and other items. The sale will be a brief pause from the hunt for space to relocate Studio One art classes during the upcoming Studio One building renovation. Please inform the Center Director, Johnette Morton (597-5027), of any available space to hold classes, equipment, tools, and materials. We are looking for a total of 20,000 square feet, which does not have to be in one building. Your support in locating space and at the sale will help immensely!

– Tomye Gouache

Temescal NCPC News

School has reopened to the roar of cars zooming around the streets near Oakland Tech High School. Neighbors from Shafter, Lawton, Manila and 45th Streets have complained about dangerous driving, “a tragedy just waiting to happen.” At our Steering Committee meeting on October 20, we identified this issue as one of three crime priorities to Helene Schmitt, Problem Solving Officer. Other issues are students cutting class, smoking marijuana on neighbors’ properties and truancy. Our Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council is committed to having a closed campus for Tech in the near future. You can help with these problems by reporting incidents to the following numbers: the Police Non-Emergency line at 777-3333; the Traffic Department at 238-32156; the Truancy Hotline at 879-8172; and Sheila Andujar, Oakland Tech Principal, at 879-2326.

Telegraph Beat Officer Johnna Watson offers the following five ideas to protect yourself as it begins to get dark earlier. When walking home or to your car, don’t

TNV Editors Stepping Down

In an odd coincidence, two of the Temescal News and Views editors will be leaving their posts with this issue of the newsletter as both of them move to other communities. Below, they share their thoughts with us.

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I have lived in North Oakland, mostly in the Temescal neighborhood, since 1989, when I moved to California to attend graduate school. When my wife and I bought our house in 2001, we never thought twice about where we wanted to live. This neighborhood was my home, and I threw myself into community work with the intention of staying here for the long term.

One never knows. It’s three years later and Ruth, my wife, needs to make a move that is right for her. We are going to Merced, in the Central Valley, where she will be a faculty member at the new campus of the

University of California. There are excellent opportunities for me, a small green entrepreneur, as well. Though it’s disappointing for me, it’s the right move for my family, and so I have to say goodbye.

This is my last issue as co-editor of the newsletter. I have appreciated having the opportunity to co-edit this newsletter for the last two years. I’m not leaving the neighborhood – I’ll be working with Karen Hester again on the Temescal Street Fair next year, and I continue to have many friends and commitments here. Who knows – maybe you’ll still have me back one day.

– Kenny Mostern, Editor

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Farewell, Temescal! It was nice getting to know you for the past four and half years, but alas, it is time for me to move on. I have grown so much during my time here, and I am especially honored to have participated in editing and writing for the Temescal News & Views with Viki, Kenny and Jeff Norman. To be involved in the community through a vessel like this

was wonderful and gratifying. I will never forget it. We hear you and your voice will be heard throughout – please continue to write, volunteer and participate. Since I am moving on, a space as editor is now open for one or more who want to be a part of a community that works together for a shared vision. Be a part of it.

– Maile Nakamura, Editor

As Maile notes, there is a space open for another editor. If you have some time every two months and would like to get involved, please contact Viki Maxwell at temescal_news@yahoo.com.

keep your backpack/purse slung on your shoulder, or put it under your jacket to avoid being pulled backwards by a thief. Carry your car keys separately from your house keys. Place your money separately from your purse or wallet, perhaps in a sock or pocket. Program your cell phone to 777-3211 for police/emergency calls. Finally, stay alert and look around as you walk.

– Donald Lowrey, NCPC Chairman

Neighborhood Kittens Looking for Homes

There is an update concerning the feral kittens reported in the last newsletter. As the article mentioned, I contacted several organizations to help me catch the seven cats living on my street. The first to respond was ICRA, Island Cats Resource and Adoption. Merry, a dedicated volun-

continued on next page

teer, came out and kitty wrestled six of the cats into cages in about 40 minutes. She was very professional and quick. ICRA is a wonderful grass roots, volunteer run, feral cat advocacy program. If

anyone would like to support them and their amazing work, volunteer or get advice, you can reach them at www.icraeastbay.org.

The six cats were housed in Merry's garage until some wonderful neighbors stepped in. Heather found out about the cats through the Temescal Neighbors email list and helped to transport them to the clinic, where they were fixed. She and her husband, Dan, later fostered two of the kittens. Another couple, Nicholas and Monica, learned about the cats through this newsletter and have fostered the other two kittens. The two female adults were fixed and released back on 47th Street, where I still feed them.

Three weeks ago I was able to lure the seventh cat into a carrying case. With the help of Merry, Heather, and ICRA, we were able to have him neutered and began treating him for an infected eye. He is very sweet, loves to be pet and scratched, and purrs up a storm. He was obviously an abandoned or lost pet since he has taken so comfortably to being indoors. He was a mess when he lived out in the street, always beat up, very dirty, limping. He now is a handsome guy, and will be a source of warmth and comfort to any home that decides to take him in. We are not able to keep cats here so I have to find a home for him immediately.

One of the kittens, Peaches, is ready to be adopted now. The other three will be adoptable soon. All of them are beautiful and playful. If you are interested in helping these sweet Temescal kitties find a permanent home please e-mail me at lorylyh@yahoo.com. —Lori Hayward

Temescal Spotlight

SO WHAT

Guess what. If love is only chemistry—phenylethylamine, that molecule that dizzies up the brain's back room, smoky with hot bebop, it won't be long until a single worker's mopping up the scuffed and littered floor, whistling tunelessly, each endorphin cooling like a snuffed glass candle, the air stale with memory.

So what, you say; outside, a shadow lifts a trumpet from its case, lifts it like an ingot and scatters a few virtuosic riffs toward the locked-down stores.

You've quit believing that there's more, but you're still stirred enough to stop, and wait, listening hard.

What Is This Thing Called Love, W.W. Norton, 2004

Kim Addonizio has published several poetry collections and been a National Book Award finalist. Her first novel is due from Simon & Schuster in 2005. She moved to Oakland from San Francisco in 2002 and teaches poetry classes and workshops in the area. A group of her students will be reading their material at the Temescal Cafe on Friday, November 12 at 7 PM. Kim can be reached at <http://addonizio.home.mindspring.com>.

Temescal Calendar

Saturday, November 6, 9 AM. Median Cleanup along 40th Street. Meet at 40th and Shafter. Contact edgarchris@earthlink.net for more information.

Saturday, November 6, 9 AM. Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

Tuesday, November 9, 1PM. The children's group Word for Word presents *The Master Maid*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Wednesday, November 10, 6-7:30 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Friday, November 12, 7 PM. Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or just come to enjoy. 472 44th Street (between Telegraph and Webster). 594-2200.

Friday, November 12, 7:30 PM. Poetry Reading. Kim Addonizio's students read at Temescal Cafe, 4920 Telegraph Ave. 595-4102.

Monday, November 15, 7 PM. Community Meeting on the MacArthur Transit Village Plan. Beebe Memorial Church, 3900 Telegraph (at 39th). 637-0247.

Wednesday, November 17, 6PM. NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Wednesday, November 17, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, November 20, 11 AM. Studio One Art Sale. 365 45th Street. 597-5027.

Saturday, November 27, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

Saturday, December 4, 9 AM. Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

Wednesday, December 8, 6 - 7:30 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Friday, December 10, 7:30 PM. Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or just come to enjoy. 472 44th Street (between Telegraph and Webster). 594-2200.

Wednesday, December 15, 6PM. NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Wednesday, December 15, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Help Support This Newsletter and TNT. Volunteers are doing the work of getting out this newsletter (and occasional fliers)—but we still need to pay the printer! If you value our community efforts, please consider making a donation. Any amount will help. Make your check payable to TNT, and send it with this form to: TNT, c/o 469 Rich St., Oakland, CA 94609. —Thank You!

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I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.