

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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Join Your Neighbors for Creek to Bay Day

Saturday, September 18, neighbors become creek volunteers to give the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt an end of summer cleanup. It's a good time, and a good time to help our creek and park. We meet at Temescal Creek where it runs through the Claremont DMV parking lot, at Redondo and Cavour. We'll start the morning with coffee, juice and morning snacks.

The first fifty volunteers will receive official 2004 Creek to Bay Day t-shirts. All ages are welcome, kids especially are encouraged to bring their parents and show them their favorite spots along the creek. We spend the morning pulling weeds, picking up litter and gathering green waste of all kinds, including dead branches, ivy, blackberry brambles and eucalyptus bark.

This is the sixth year the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland have sponsored the Creek to Bay Day creek cleanup along Temescal Creek between Clifton and Clarke Streets. The City of Oakland Public Works Environmental Services Division supplies us with many of the tools we'll need for the cleanup, rakes, brooms, shovels, litter pickup sticks, loppers, gloves, garbage bags. Things you can bring include a water bottle, your own gloves, and your favorite gardening tool. Extra wheelbarrows are always a big help. Please label any tools you bring with your name and phone number.

After a morning of creek cleaning we finish up with a potluck lunch in the Greenbelt at the corner

of Cavour and Redondo, across from the DMV parking lot. Alameda County Flood Control turns off the creek pump to allow us to clean the creek bed in the morning and then turns it back on in time for the potluck, so we can dine al fresco beside our bit of Temescal Creek. The potluck starts at 12:15 and features neighbors' donated salads, side dishes and desserts. The main course, a huge quantity of yummy pasta, is donated from the Colombo Club. The DMV Neighbors Association contributes beverages and dessert. We always have a lot of food and anyone that does cleanup in the area is invited.

Please join us. It always looks so much better after our morning of work. All are welcome. For more information or if you have questions surf to www.oaklandpw.com/creeks or contact Margaret at 655-1767.

— Margaret Pinter

Oakland Celebrates World CarFree Day

The City of Oakland is joining with dozens of cities around the globe to observe World CarFree Day. Oakland's event is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, to coincide with the Regional "Rideshare Thursday" promotion, which encourages commuters to use commute alternatives. A transportation fair will be held at Frank Ogawa Plaza (14th and Broadway) from 11 AM until 2 PM. A press conference is scheduled for noon on City Hall steps.

The City of Oakland and the CarFree Day Steering Committee — a consortium of area businesses, employers, transit agencies and nonprofit groups —

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Temescal Street Fair A Resounding Success! *The neighborhood's first Street Fair was held on August 21st and featured musicians, artists, non-profits, and merchants. Many thanks to those who staffed a booth, volunteered to set up and clean up, and worked hard to bring this fair to Temescal. Photo: Jeff Norman*

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are organizing the event. On CarFree Day, commuters will be encouraged to try an alternative to driving alone to work. Event festivities will include displays, demonstrations, music, fun activities, and prizes.

This event will be a great opportunity to learn about and experience alternative travel options. Information will be displayed by a broad representation of organizations that provide services, make policy and build projects that encourage using public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, telecommuting and smart growth. Less car-dependent living has many benefits, including decreased traffic congestion, better air quality, more free time, better health and less sprawl.

The Downtown Oakland CarFree Day event will be promoted to Oakland employers and their employees, transit users, downtown shoppers and area residents.

World CarFree Day became an annual event in 2000 and last year garnered participation from 295 cities and towns in Europe as well as seven cities in the United States and numerous others from Edmonton to Adelaide to New Delhi.

Additional information and updates are available on the event website at www.carfreecity.us/Oakland.html. Or contact Gus Yates of CarFree City USA at 849-4412, gus@carfreecity.us or Jackie Stiasny of RIDES for Bay Area Commuters at 273-2070, jstiasny@rides.org. — *Kathryn Hughes*

Temescal Pool Now Open

We now have an enviously beautiful new pool in Temescal at the old location next to Studio One, at 371 45th Street. It is state-of-the-art, with tiled lane lines, a disabled chair lift and a new deck. The men's locker room was redone and there is a new lawn in the back.

TNV Needs Volunteers

Like to walk? Want to meet your neighbors? It only takes a little time once every two months to ensure your block gets this newsletter! We need volunteers to help with distribution along a few routes. If you can help, please call Tomi Kobara at 420-1197.

The showers are hot. Come and swim and enjoy your property taxes at work. Lap swims, aquatics classes for children and youth, and public swim times are available. Visit the Oakland Parks and Recreation website to view the schedule for August and the fall at www.oaklandnet.com/parks/facilities/pp_temescal.asp. You can also call the pool at 597-5013.

The Temescal Masters Swim Team practices at the Temescal Pool. We are always looking for and welcome new members. Morning swims are from 6 – 7 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Evening sessions run from 7– 8 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Weekend swims are from 8:45 – 10:15 AM on Saturday and Sunday. Dues are \$40.00 per month or \$20.00 for 5 swims, and your 1st swim is free! Visit www.temescalmasters.org for more information about the team.

— *Beth Cohen*

Temescal Email Lists

Did you know that Temescal boasts several community email lists? These lists are an easy way to become more involved in the community. Send an email to the address to join.

temescalfamilies@yahoo.com is a community bulletin board, posting events, resources and referral information.

Temescal_ncpc@yahoo.com is the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) for the Temescal Neighborhood.

temescal@egroups.com is a family group that organizes brunches and weekend get-togethers.

TemescalTalk-owner@yahoo.com is a moderated neighborhood discussion forum.

— *Chris Pew*

Friends of Studio One Seeks Committee Members

The 10.5 million dollar renovation of Studio One, an art center owned by the City and located on 45th St. near Broadway, is now being designed by Shah Kawasaki Architects. The initial renderings are now available for public comment on the Friends of Studio One web site. The City has also formed a sustainability committee that is exploring the possibility of installing photovoltaics (solar power) on the roof and other ways to insure a sustainable design.

A Community Design Input Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Oct 18th, from 7 to 8:30 PM at Studio One. Please check our website (www.friendsofstudioone.org) for confirmation.

Committee members are needed to shepherd the design and construction stages, advocate for holding classes in alternate sites once construction starts in 2005, and fundraise for fixtures, computers, kilns, etc. To become involved call Beth Mayer at 420-5852 or email info@friendsofstudioone.org

— *Karen Hester*

Telegraph Pedestrian Streetscape Improvement Project

The Redevelopment Agency, in cooperation with Councilmember Jane Brunner's Office, has funded a planning study for pedestrian-oriented streetscape improvements on Telegraph Avenue. The project will focus on Telegraph Avenue from 20th Street to Claremont Avenue. 20th Street is the northern-most extent of the Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan and Claremont Avenue is the northern boundary of the Temescal commercial district. The design for this project will likely be broken down into key segments that will represent different phases of construction implementation.

Due to its importance as a multi-modal transportation corridor, Telegraph Avenue has been the focus of numerous planning efforts over the past few years (some of which are still ongoing) that have looked at redesigning the street to accommodate different modes of transportation. These planning efforts include the Telegraph-Northgate Plan, the City of Oakland Bicycle Master Plan, the City of Oakland Pedestrian Master Plan, the Downtown Streetscape Improvement Plan, and AC Transit's Bus Rapid Transit project. Since so much planning ground work has already been completed, this effort will focus on integrating the common elements of the different plans and will include an in-depth feasibility and design study, including preliminary surveying work, and detailed cost estimation for the pedestrian component. Improvements that will be considered as part of this project include sidewalk repaving, ADA accessibility improvements, street trees, pedestrian-level street lights, street furniture, crosswalk improvements, and bulb-outs.

The Redevelopment Agency plans to host a series of community meetings to get input on the proposed design ideas. The first meeting will likely be held in mid-October. The date and location of this meeting is still being determined. Please contact Kathy Kleinbaum at 637-0247 or kkleinbaum@oaklandnet.com to find out more information about the upcoming meeting.

– Kathy Kleinbaum

Temescal Library Extends Hours

All branches of Oakland Public Library will be open six days a week beginning September 11th! In addition, we will be expanding our book collections and making improvements in technology in the coming months. Thanks for all this goes to Oakland voters, who passed Measure Q (a parcel tax for the library) in March 2004.

The library's new schedule will be: Monday 12:30 – 8:00 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am – 5:30 PM; Friday 12:00 – 5:30 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM. Tool Library hours will remain the same: Tuesday 12:30 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday and Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM and Friday 12:00 – 5:30 PM.

Voters will once again have a chance to go to the polls on November 2, and the library is a good place to learn about the candidates and issues. For those of you who need to register to vote, Oakland Public Library is participating in the ALA / Working Assets voter initiative. You can fill out your registration form online at the library or from your home computer by logging onto the library website at www.oaklandlibrary.org. After filling out the form, you can print it out and send it to the local registrar of voters. The library also has an ample supply of voter registration forms that you can fill in by hand and mail in.

– Sally Bean, Branch Manager

Median Revitalization Project Looking for Volunteers

A group of neighbors are working on a project to plant and revitalize the medians on 40th Street between Telegraph and Broadway. We have two landscape designers in the neighborhood who are doing the design. We are working on the city to donate the plants. We are looking for volunteers to help with the organization of the event and planting. We will be planting on November 1. Please send

an email to edgarchris@earthlink.net if you would like to become involved in this event.

– Chris Pew

Park Day School Needs Your Books

Park Day School will be collecting elementary school level books for distribution to Oakland's public elementary schools. We will accept donations from Halloween until December 15. Books go directly into classrooms in Oakland where they are most needed. Help us share the fun and wonder of words with kids who will cherish your book donations. Call Laurie Grossman at 653-0317, ext. 105 for more information.

– Laurie Grossman

Fall into Oakland Theater

This fall should be a good one for Temescal theater lovers! First, the Un-Scripted Theater Company will be presenting their comedy improv play *The Short and The Long of It* at the Temescal Arts Center on Friday and Saturday nights from September 10 through October 2. The first half of the show consists of improv scenes and games. Then the audience votes for the one they like the best, and the group turns that game or scene into a whole play-like story for the second half of the show. Full of audience participation, this show combines comedy and drama, scenes and songs, short skits and a long story, all for only \$10! Friday, September 10, is a half-price preview night with an audience feedback session after the show. Saturday, September 11, is opening night, and special events are in the works for that night. Visit www.unscripted.com for more information.

Second, the City of Oakland welcomes the highly acclaimed National Theatre of Greece in two West Coast performances of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* at the historic Calvin Simmons Theatre in the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center, on October 1 and 3. In this hilarious comedy, after twenty years of war between the Greeks (Athens on one side and Sparta on the other), the Athenian Lysistrata thinks up a way of blackmailing the combatants into concluding peace by using the weapon of a sex strike. The play is performed in Modern Greek with English supertitles. Pre-performance talks with Director Kostas Tsianos will take place one hour before each performance. For tickets, call 482-6186.

–Viki Maxwell

Studio One Fall Class Schedule Now Available

Begin your trail of discovery by calling 597-5027, Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 - 4:45 PM, to receive Studio One Art Center's Fall session brochure. Like fall colors, the new classes runs from Monday, September 13 through Saturday, November 13. Leaf through almost 80 class offerings which focus on physical, mental and artistic fitness. Adult classes get filled quickly since most are held to a comfortable size of 15 people. Classes of special note include Ikenobo Ikebana, Marbled Papers, Broken Plate Mosaics, Cooking Caribbean & Baking Brazilian, Matting Flat Art, Simple Book Making, The Art of Woodblock Printmaking, and Architecture of Our East Bay. Children can enjoy a variety of offerings including art exploration, drama classes, parent-child photography, or parent-child ceramics. Teens aged 13-17 can explore photography, acting, or compile a Dream Journal. Studio One will be closed on Thanksgiving and the Friday after. Celebrate the creative spirit in all of us.

– Tomye Gouache

NCPD News

Mother Nature blessed the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Annual Picnic on August 8 with perfect weather. Newcomers joined longtime residents and members of our local fire station to hear the news of the neighborhood. Our Steering Committee wishes to thank the staff of Park Day School for the use of its delightful campus. Residents interested in enrolling their children in the school can call 653-0317.

Neighbors on 43rd St., concerned about a rash of home burglaries, asked us how to better secure their homes. Here are some tips:

- Put in a home security system.
- Install heavy metal screen doors for front and back entrances.
- Use a secure locking mailbox.
- Cheapest of all...insert window security clips. They only cost \$2-3 a window. These let you open windows up to 6 inches, but thieves can't open them any higher.
- To avoid identity theft don't put financial records into your recycling bins, use a shredder instead.
- Finally, get to know your neighbors. Share names, phone numbers and ad-

Temescal Calendar

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

Tuesday, September 7, 2:30 PM. The Partners for Achieving School Success (PASS) program returns to the Temescal Library. This free ongoing after-school homework assistance program is offered Tuesdays through Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:15 PM. Children should bring their homework; recreational activities are offered after homework is completed. Visit the library during PASS hours to register. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Wednesday, September 8, 6 PM. Lawyers in the Library offers free legal assistance and referral presented in conjunction with the Alameda County Bar Association. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

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

Friday, September 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.

Fridays and Saturdays, September 10 — October 2, 8 PM. The Un-Scripted Theater Company presents *The Short and The Long of It*. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St. (at Telegraph). 923-1074.

Saturday, September 11, 9 AM. Rich Street Block Garage Sale. Come browse and buy! Rich Street (between 42nd and Webster).

Wednesday, September 15, 6 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Wednesday, September 15, 7 PM. NCPC Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, September 18, 9 AM. Creek to Bay Day cleanup. Meet at Temescal Creek where it runs through the Claremont DMV parking lot, at Redondo and Cavour. Bring labeled tools and a salad, side dish or dessert for the potluck that follows. 655-1767.

Thursday, September 23, 11 AM. Transportation Fair to celebrate World CarFree Day. Frank Ogawa Plaza (14th and Broadway). 849-4412 or 273-2070.

Saturday, September 25, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

Friday, October 1, 8 PM. The National Theater of Greece presents Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. Calvin Simmons Theater, 10 Tenth St. 482-6186.

Saturday, October 2, 9 AM. Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 658-2488.

Sunday, October 3, 3 PM. The National Theater of Greece presents Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. Calvin Simmons Theater, 10 Tenth St. 482-6186.

Friday, October 8, 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, October 13, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Saturday, October 16, 9:30 AM. NCPC Fall Community Meeting. Come discuss neighborhood issues, meet with Jane Brunner (councilmember for North Oakland) and Lt. Lawrence Green (Police Commander for North Oakland). Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Monday, October 18, 7 PM. Studio One Community Design Input Meeting. This date is tentative, please confirm at www.friendsofstudioone.org. Studio One, 365 45th St. 420-5852.

Wednesday, October 20, 6 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Wednesday, October 20, 7 PM. NCPC Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, October 23, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

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dresses. Know who lives on your block and who doesn't.

Our Fall Community Meeting is scheduled for October 16 at Faith Presbyterian Church (49th & Webster). A continental breakfast will be served from 9:30 to 10 AM. From 10 to noon we'll discuss neighborhood issues and meet with Jane Brunner, Councilmember for North Oakland, and Lt. Lawrence Green, police commander for North Oakland. See you there. — Donald Lowery, NCPC Chair

Need Help Catching and Socializing Homeless Neighborhood Kittens

I began feeding a family of neighborhood feral cats when I saw a kitten running clumsily after her mom while the adult cat tried looking for food, which she obviously wasn't

very successful at. Her fur clung to her bulging ribs. I recognized the mother as a cat who has been raiding neighborhood garbage cans for about a year and had recently been seen running across the street with a big rat between her teeth. I felt a certain admiration for her since she was so skinny and raggedy, and her kittens looked fat, healthy and clean. She was obviously a good mother.

I first saw the kitten with her mother about three months ago. The kitten is now pregnant and the mother has four more kittens. There are now seven cats, including the scraggly tom cat that I think may be responsible for all of the kittens. I recently decided to look into seeing if there was a way to find homes for the kittens before they are too old and wild, which may already be the case. The organization that has been most responsive to my e-mails and calls has been ICRA, Island Cat Resources and Adoption. They said that they can help me get traps to catch the cats and kittens, assess the kittens and fix the cats. The person who has been writing to me stated that their foster homes are full and overwhelmed. I'm afraid if I take the cats to animal control they will put the cats that aren't adoptable to sleep. I'm particularly concerned about the mother, since she may have been out on the street her whole life and is very frightened of people. I've acquired a fondness for her, as I watch her walk across the street, looking out for danger and food while her little family run behind her to catch up.

I am wondering if there is anyone in the neighborhood who would be interested in helping me catch the cats, seven is probably more than I can do on my own. I am also wondering if there is anyone out there who is interested in socializing a feral cat to get it ready for adoption. If you have suggestions or would like to help, please email me at lorylyh@yahoo.com. — Lory Hayward



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 519 43rd St., Oakland, CA 94609. — Thank You!*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Yes, I want to help.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.