

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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What's New, Pussycat? Development Coming to 51st and Telegraph

How long have you lived in the Temescal area? Do you recall what was at the corner of 51st and Telegraph in the "Roaring Twenties"? From 1914-39 the site was home to The Claremont movie theater. Then it changed to the Tower Theater. In 1977 it became the adult Pussycat Theater, but after considerable neighborhood opposition to this X-rated use, the theater was shut down in the late 90s. Later it was occupied by homeless people until a fire caused the city to tear it down in 1998.

In 2000, after a series of neighborhood meetings, a "Values Statement" was produced to guide future thinking around development concepts for the site. Further neighborhood participation resulted in community design charettes convened in the summer of 2001. A series of drawings resulted, indicating the preferred development outcome: a mixed use project, with housing over retail.

This information was then relayed to city staff who began discussions with the property owners as well as Children's Hospital, owner of the adjacent parcel (currently an employee parking lot). City staff successfully lobbied both parties to sell simultaneously, and in stepped local real estate developers Ron Kriss, Roy Alper and Pat Zimski - builders of the recently completed Temescal Place (48th and Telegraph). This group obtained site control for both parcels, and plans to create the mixed use, infill development that the Temescal and Rockridge neighborhoods have sought for many years.

Though plans have not yet been developed, the developers have hired the architectural firm of Van Meter, Williams and Pollack, who originally participated in the community design charettes (so they know the site well). The developers plan to be reaching out for community input this summer. Stay tuned for future updates.

— Bill Lambert

Plums and Projects at Temescal Amity Works

The summer stretches ahead, and Temescal Amity Works is on the lookout for any surplus plums, figs or summer produce that you don't have time to pick and can't use for yourself. We will come pick it or pick it up! Whatever we gather will be redistributed or made into communal preserves, jams or sauces and given back to the neighborhood.



The rain stayed away, and fun was had by all at the second Annual Temescal Street Fair! Thank you to all the local businesses, artists, musicians, and nonprofit groups who participated, and all the Fair-goers for making it a great day! Photo: Carla Koop

We are also working on and hosting two community projects in the next month. First, we are designing a free Community Resource Guide, in collaboration with the Temescal Merchants Association and the Temescal Telegraph Community Association. This resource guide will be a walking map and a listing of local businesses, community resources, and community activities that currently support, serve and identify this district, and it will be available for free in local businesses. We would like your help in identifying what makes this neighborhood unique so that these ideas can be reflected in the publication. Please drop us an email and let us know how you feel about Temescal. What community resources and landmarks do you feel are important for people to know about? Which ones have been important to you?

Second, Temescal Amity Works is hosting the collaborative group It Can Change as a part of our Reading Room project series. It Can Change will be in residence at Temescal Amity Works from June 26–July 10. We are looking to meet people who are interested in changing their local environment. We are going to be holding meetings with interested individuals both individually and in group settings. The connections made during these meetings will determine the course of the project. Please contact us if you are at all interested in getting involved. Any contribution that you may be able to make is

welcome. To schedule a meeting, contact Anthony at 501-4466 or send an e-mail to itcanchange@itcanchange.com.

If you would like to participate in the produce sharing or have any other questions about our projects, flag us down when you see our cart rolling through the neighborhood or visit our website at www.amityworks.org.

– *Susanne Cockrell and Ted Purves*

Neighbors Oppose Redevelopment Initiative

On May 9, over 200 residents filled the North Oakland Senior Center for a meeting on redevelopment expansion called by the city's Redevelopment Project Area Committee and Community Economic Development Agency (CEDA). The scheme's representatives were met by some strong opposition from North Oakland residents organizing against the plan.

On the face of it, the plan afoot to add virtually all of North Oakland west of Telegraph—including the Telegraph Avenue commercial strip—to the existing redevelopment zone centered around the MacArthur BART station seems odd. This is a neighborhood with housing prices doubling and tripling.

Some of the concerns neighbors are raising include the following:

- Technically, we are not eligible. Under state redevelopment law, areas must be found to be "blighted" and the city must declare that the only way the blighted conditions can be corrected is through redevelopment. Councilperson Brunner allowed in her May 25, 2005 letter to constituents that the proposed zone includes "...areas without significant blight." The market and passage of time are creating improvements without the heavy hand of government. Temescal Place, the newly developed residential tower in Temescal is an example an infusion of private capital and entrepreneurship.
- Redevelopment is forever. The redevelopment period lasts 45 years, but can easily be extended. Sellers must disclose that the property is in a redevelopment zone.
- Redevelopment zones capture tax increment money that would otherwise go to the General Fund for police, fire, libraries, sidewalk repairs, schools, and other essential services. Much of Oakland is

already in redevelopment zones, so the city has to go to the taxpayers to make up for missing General Fund money.

- Redevelopment is no magic wand for community improvements. The underfunded, proposed MacArthur Transit Village for 500-1000 residential units may suck up most redevelopment money. Tax increment money generated by the escalating property values in the proposed expansion area is the need behind the expansion.
- Eminent domain is a real threat. There are only proposed protections against legal seizures of residences in the existing redevelopment zone.

Redevelopment—with too many risks and too few benefits, and lacking a legal rationale in an unblighted neighborhood—is a bad idea and will undermine gains we've seen.

– *Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts*

The authors were founding members of NOVA and are currently active in Neighborhood Preservation (NP). Contact them at 655-3841 or broklcrofts@earthlink.net.

Editor's Note:

As we go to press, CEDA plans to make additional presentations on the proposal at two regularly scheduled community group meetings on Wednesday, July 13: The Piedmont Neighborhood Improvement League meeting (653-4552) from 7:30-9:30 PM at 110 41st Avenue in the 11th floor Sky Room of Piedmont Gardens; and the Temescal Merchants Association meeting at the Temescal Library at 6:00 PM.

According to Kathy Kleinbaum of the City of Oakland CEDA, Redevelopment Division, the proposed expansion of the redevelopment area will not go forward without more community support. She can be contacted with questions at 637-0247.

Picnics and Tips from the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

The NCPC Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 7 at Park Day School (43rd and Shafter) from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. We'll provide hot grills for barbecuing, plates, utensils and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to share and food to grill.

Some crime prevention tips: Assume your car is always being eyed by thieves. Don't leave your wallet in the car (a resident called me to report he left his wallet in his car and

he had a break-in and a theft). Don't leave CDs, or any items a thief might want in your car.

Know your neighbors, look out for them, and ask them to do the same for you. That was the basis for starting Neighborhood Watch, which originated in Oakland in the 1950's. For information on forming a neighborhood watch group call Brenda Ivey at 777-8621.

Know when and how to call the police. Is someone looking into cars on your street? That's an emergency. Here are the numbers to use: from your home (landline) phone call 911. With a cell phone, call 777-3211. Give the address first, then a brief description of the problem. For non-emergency issues call 777-3333. If it's a neighborhood issue then contact your neighbors and this NCPC.

In other news, our local WhistleStop program, led by Jennifer Oberholzer and Len Burkhart, distributed 500 flyers and 42 whistles in the 40th St. neighborhood along with additional whistles and flyers at our March community meeting. Thanks to Council Member Jane Brunner for funding this program! We'll resume it in October, when Daylight Savings Time begins and darkness encourages more robberies, especially those targeting returning commuters.

Our NCPC meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM in Faith Presbyterian Church at 49th and Webster. Upcoming dates are July 14 and August 11. Join us and visit us at www.temescal.us!

– *Donald Lowrey, President, NCPC*

Summer Bounty at the Temescal Library

We hope that many of you got a chance to visit the library's new Bookmobile at the Temescal Street Fair on June 18. That was also the first day of the library's annual Summer Reading Program for children, but there is still plenty of time for kids to sign up and participate! The theme this year is "Wolfen' Down Books" and the program continues until August 13. We have some fun activities for kids and families planned for July and August:

* Prescott Circus Theatre, Tuesday, July 12 at 2:00 PM - Talented Oakland kids juggle, clown around, and walk on stilts.

* Family Reading Night, Monday, July 18 at 7:00 PM - Listen to a story and read together. Make a wolf puppet, and enter a special raffle.

* The Museum of Children's Art, Thursday, July 21 at 3:30 PM - Celebrate the new Harry Potter book by creating your own wand.

* Fratello Marionettes, Monday, July 25 at 7:00 PM - Come enjoy a production of the classic "Peter and the Wolf."

* Village Rhythm with Baba Shibambo, Tuesday, July 26 at 2:00 PM - Listen to a drumming story and learn about musical instruments from Africa.

* The Blue Fairy Storyteller, Tuesday, August 9 at 10:30 AM - Hear songs and stories from the fairy, her puppet Pinocchio, and her guitar, Prince Charming.

Don't forget our regular Preschool Storytime for children ages two through five, which takes place every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:00 AM. And for all of you gardeners, we have a workshop on organic gardening planned for August 13. Stop by the Tool Library for more details. We look forward to seeing our Temescal neighbors in the library this summer! – *Sally Bean, Branch Manager*

Artist Selected For Temescal Public Art Commission

Following a selection process which attracted responses from artists all across the country, a finalist has now been chosen for the lucrative public art commission associated with the upcoming renovation of the Studio One Art Center.

San Francisco sculptor Cork Marcheschi was named in early June by the City of Oakland's Cultural Arts Department as the artist chosen by its selection panel to create and install a yet-to-be-designed public art piece for the Temescal neighborhood site. The panel chose Marcheschi after reviewing fifty-one applicants in a process of winnowing their choices to four finalists. That decision was recently accepted by the Oakland Public Art Advisory Committee.

The public art commission is worth approximately \$100,000, which represents a mandated percentage of the project's construction budget. The \$10 million renovation of the historic 1894 building, scheduled to begin this summer under the supervision of Shah Kawasaki Architects, was made possible by Oakland voters in November 2002 with the passage of Measure DD, the \$198 million Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks Bond.

The selection panel was composed of artists and art professionals and was advised

by community members and city staff as well as the project architects and landscape designers.

The city had advertised the public art opportunity earlier this year with an Artist Request for Qualifications (RFQ), listing specific requirements and criteria. The decision of the selection panel in naming the four finalists was based upon individual responses to that RFQ and the quality of each respondent's body of work. Finalists were then asked to submit proposals specific to the designated site, the front yard and central plaza of the 45th Street Oakland Park and Recreation facility.

Even as they were impressed with each finalist's portfolio, the panel found the specific proposals all inappropriate for Studio One, choosing instead to ask their first choice Marcheschi to develop a new concept following a proposed interaction this summer with the local community and the project design team.

An open house is being planned for mid-July as an opportunity for dialogue among the artist, city and public art program staff, members of the Studio One community and residents of the Temescal neighborhood. The date has yet to be determined but will take place at a location close to Studio One. Cork Marcheschi will be introduced, share examples of his past work and will welcome questions and concerns. Oakland project management staff, the advocacy group Friends of Studio One and the project architectural team will also be present to provide context and background.

In response to this meeting and after working with the project design team, the artist will develop a new proposal for Studio One. This proposal will be presented at a second community meeting in August before being considered by the selection panel.

Both neighborhood meetings will be public and widely announced when scheduled. To follow developments around this issue or around the building's renovation or to learn more about the history, programs and role of Studio One in our community, visit www.friendsofstudioone.org.

– *Patrick Daughton, Friends of Studio One*

Local Nonprofit To Benefit From Microbrew Fundraiser

The Marin Brewing Company will be hosting the fifth annual Fermenting Change:

Microbreweries Battling Breast Cancer, a beer-tasting fundraising benefit for the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic (CMCC), featuring 22 local microbreweries, outdoor barbecue, live music, silent auction and raffle. The event will take place on Saturday, July 16 from noon to 5 PM at the Marin Brewing Company on Larkspur landing.

Proceeds will benefit the Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic. With clinics in Temescal and San Francisco, CMCC is a state-licensed primary care clinic providing free complementary alternative medicine treatments (acupuncture, massage therapy, Chinese and Western herbs, therapeutic imagery), social services and educational workshops for low-income women with cancer. For more information on CMCC, visit www.charlottemaxwell.org.

Admission for the event is \$20 at the door and \$18 in advance. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.charlottemaxwell.org or at the Marin Brewing Company, located at 1809 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur (415-461-4677). – *Lynda Hanwella, CCMC*

Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt Public Art Proposals Displayed Through July 21

The City of Oakland's Public Art Program invites the public to view and comment upon three unique proposals for interpretive artwork to be integrated into Phase II of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt. The finalist proposals are on display now through July 8 at the Rockridge Branch of the Oakland Public Library, 5366 College Avenue. From July 11 to 21, the proposals will be displayed in the Dalziel Building, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, adjacent to City Hall in downtown Oakland. The selected artwork will be integrated into the greenbelt's new landscaped pathway to highlight Temescal Creek and other park features. The art project is meant to engage and intrigue viewers, both young and old, in such a way so they are compelled to explore the entire length of the greenbelt.

A selection panel of artists, art professionals, community members and representatives from the Rockridge Community Planning Council and Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt was assembled to jury the project. The panel requested proposals from Mark Brest Van

Temescal Calendar

Multiple Dates in July. The Temescal Library hosts several fun family activities. Check the article on pages 2 and 3 for details. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Saturday, July 2, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Telegraph. 655-8855.

Friday, July 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, July 13, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. Topics will include the proposed redevelopment area expansion. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Wednesday, July 13, 7:30 PM. Piedmont Neighborhood Improvement League meeting. Topics will include the proposed redevelopment area expansion. 110 41st Avenue, 11th floor Sky Room, Piedmont Gardens. 653-4552.

Thursday, July 14, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, July 16, 12 PM. Fermenting Change: Microbreweries Battling Breast Cancer, a beer-tasting fundraiser for Temescal's Charlotte Maxwell Complementary Clinic. Marin Brewing Company, 1809 Larkspur Landing Circle, Marin. 415-461-4677.

Sunday, July 17, 12 PM. Jane Brunner's Council District 1 community picnic. Food and drinks will be provided, also bring a dish to share. Lake Temescal North Picnic Area. 238-7001.

Saturday, July 23, 11 AM. Walk Oakland for Life kick-off. Walk to Lake Merritt to enjoy music, food, prizes, and fun. Wear yellow! Meet at Carter Middle School, 4521 Webster St. 444-9655.

Saturday, August 6, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at 51st and Telegraph. 655-8855.

Sunday, August 7, 12 PM. Temescal NCPC annual picnic. Bring a dish to share and food to grill. Park Day School (43rd & Shafter). 420-6974.

Tuesday, August 9, 10:30 AM. The Blue Fairy Storyteller performs for kids. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Thursday, August 11, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, August 13. The Temescal Tool Library presents a workshop on organic gardening. Check with the Tool Library for times and details. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Saturday, August 27, 4 PM. Dover Street Block Party for the residents of the 500 block of 41st and 42nd Streets and any other interested neighbors. Join us to meet and greet your neighbors and celebrate our ongoing progress at keeping the neighborhood clean and safe. lmcgihon@hotmail.com.

Kempen, Mark Bulwinkle and the team of Lauri Twitchell and Tracey Cockrell, all Oakland-based artists. The panel will reconvene on July 22 to review the three proposals, interview the artists and recommend one proposal to be commissioned for the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt interpretive art project. The panel's recommendation must be approved by Oakland's Public Art Advisory Committee and Cultural Affairs Commission prior to approval by the Oakland City Council.

For further information, contact Steven Huss, Public Art Coordinator, at 238-4949.

– Steven Huss

Walk Oakland For Life

A new campaign, Walk Oakland for Life, kicks off on Saturday, July 23 at 11:00 AM with a walk from North Oakland's Carter Middle School to Lake Merritt, where walkers will enjoy an afternoon of music, exercising tips, healthy food, prizes, and fun! This program is sponsored by the City of Oakland, Alameda County, Healthy Oakland (a grassroots non-profit), and Councilmember Nancy Nadel, and strives to connect Oaklanders with existing health clubs, encourage them to form walking groups, and inform them about the benefits of walking for health. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors, and see how fun walking can be! For more information or to sign up, call Healthy Oakland at 444-9655 or check www.walkoakland.org.

– Viki Maxwell

Soak Up Summer at Oakland Summer Camps

Two local camps, one for families and one for youth, are open for business this summer!

The Oakland Feather River Family Camp, run by the nonprofit Camps in Common, is a fun place for families to enjoy together. In

addition to regular camp activities likes arts and crafts, sports, campfires, and hikes, Feather River offers themes each week such as Family Garage Band Week, Folk Dancing Week, and Olympiad Week. Plus, there are special supervised activities each morning for children aged two to five and six to nine. Unlike other local family camps, Feather River has no minimum stay requirement nor designated arrival and departure days. Daily rates include lodging in rustic cabins or tent-cabins, with or without electricity, three meals a day, and all camp activities. A five night stay for a family of four runs about \$750. Oakland Feather River also has week-long summer camp programs for children age seven to eleven (\$400), and Wrangler Camp for girls age ten to twelve who love horses (\$700). For more information, please contact Camps in Common by phone at 336-2267, by e-mail at info@featherrivercamp.com or on the web at www.featherrivercamp.com.

The Oakland Peace Camp is a two-week arts and activism summer learning experience for Oakland youth. The camp combines creative arts with nonviolence and social justice education programs for 90 middle and high school Oakland kids. The program runs from July 5 through July 15 at Cesar Chavez Education Center in the Fruitvale area of Oakland. Participants will learn peace and justice skills through discussion groups and two arts workshops per day. The workshops are focused on one of three areas: Hip Hop (students write rhymes, make beats, record tracks, dance, and produce CDs), arts (projects in mural painting, video documentary, and theater), and physical movement (salsa, soccer, and leadership development). Applications and information are online at www.oaklandleaf.org, or call Oakland Leaf's office at 839-1200, x210.

– Terry Cullinane and Michael Siegel

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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