

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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Business Improvement District Making its Mark

Keep an eye out for cleanup crews in lime green vests and steady improvements along Temescal's Telegraph corridor, all thanks to the Temescal/Telegraph Business Improvement District (BID). Last year, the area's commercial property owners, including Children's Hospital, voted overwhelmingly to assess themselves an annual fee that goes towards maintaining, landscaping, and marketing Temescal. The objective is to attract more shoppers to a well-organized Temescal district and draw visitors from Children's Hospital and outlying areas. This improvement-district model is an increasingly popular tool used by neighborhoods like Lakeshore and Montclair to beautify and manage their shopping districts. The BID area spans Telegraph from 40th to 66th Streets and includes the 52nd Street overpass to Children's Hospital.

Darlene Rios Drapkin, the new Temescal/Telegraph BID coordinator, believes the Temescal/Telegraph commercial corridor is poised to build an identity for itself and attract new shoppers and businesses. One of the BID's first agenda items is to provide monetary assistance to grow the 2nd annual Temescal Street Fest, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, and serves to create a sense of pride and place for area residents. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to be a part of Temescal's continuing transformation, please contact Darlene at 860-7327. — Darlene Rios Drapkin

Oakland Expands Recycling Services

As of January, all one-to-four unit Oakland residences will receive weekly collection of yard trimmings (now including food scraps and food-soiled paper), and weekly collection of recycling, as well as garbage.

In addition to weekly yard trimmings collection, residents may now set out unlimited amounts of properly prepared yard trimmings and add food scraps and food-soiled paper to their yard trimmings cart. Extra trimmings may be set out in residents' containers, or in 30-gallon paper bags available at many local hardware stores. Branches no larger than 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter may be bundled and set out too. Yard trimmings set out in plastic bags cannot be recycled and may be collected and charged as garbage.

Weekly collection of bottle, can, and paper recycling is also now effective citywide. New gray recycling carts will be delivered to Oakland residences through May, replacing the familiar yellow and blue recycling tubs. Best of all, residents will no longer need to separate cans and bottles from papers, all of which can be placed into the gray cart.

New, two-gallon plastic food-scrap pails, for convenient collection for food scraps in the kitchen, will be delivered with the gray recycling carts, accompanied by a comprehensive Recycling Guide describing all services. Until the food-scrap pail arrives, food scraps can be collected in the kitchen in milk or ice cream cartons, or any other convenient paper container, and placed into the green yard trimmings cart.

A Public Works representative will be at the next Temescal NCPC meeting on March 12 to answer questions about the new services. Temescal residents can find out their recycling cart and food-pail delivery date by calling California Waste Solutions at 836-6200. Complete program information is available at the Public Works recycling Web site www.oaklandrecycles.com. — Peter Slote

Destiny Moves to the Neighborhood

Destiny (De-Escalation Skills Training Inspiring Nonviolence in Youth) Arts Center, a violence prevention/arts education organization, has moved into the Beebe Memorial Cathedral buildings on Telegraph between 40th and MacArthur Streets as of November 2004. For more than 16 years, Destiny has run after-school, weekend, and summer programs in dance, martial arts, performance, youth leadership, self-defense, and conflict resolution for youth ages three to 18 in Oakland. We are excited to bring the center, its mission, and our energy to the vibrant Temescal community.

The Destiny Center is home to the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company, a teen dance/theater/martial arts troupe that co-creates original performances with professional artists to confront critical personal, social, and political issues. Our annual performance extravaganza is coming soon! Don't miss the production of *Tomorrow is Today*, a story about realizing that we all need to commit to personal and global transformation NOW. The story is told through African, modern, hip-hop and aerial dance; martial art; theater; spoken word; song; and rap. *Tomorrow is Today* runs March 18-20, 25 and

26 at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts (formerly Alice Arts Center). For more information please call 597-1619 or check our Web site at www.destinyarts.org.
– Sarah Crowell, *Destiny Arts Center*

Earth Day Neighborhood Cleanup

Oakland celebrates Earth Day on Saturday, April 23 with a citywide cleanup that includes a coordinated effort along Temescal Creek. Please join our team of volunteers when we gather at 9 AM in the parking lot at the Claremont DMV (Claremont at Cavour). We'll begin the day with coffee and snacks and then head out to clean up the area along Temescal Creek from Clifton to Clarke. We wrap up our work at noon and enjoy a potluck from 12:15 to 1:30 at 5275 Redondo (at Cavour).

The City of Oakland Public Works Dept. will supply gloves, garbage bags, and tools (loppers, rakes, hoes, brooms, litter-pickup sticks, etc.). We will be weeding, raking, picking up debris and pruning. We will also work on eradicating the ivy. If you have a favorite tool for these activities, please bring it. Wheelbarrows are especially useful. Don't forget to label your tools. The creek bed will be wet, so boots are recommended footwear.

For the potluck, bring a side dish, a salad, or any dish you wish to share. Bring a chair if you can. The Colombo Club will provide pasta and garlic bread, and the DMV Neighbors Association (DNA) will bring dessert and beverages. Please join us for the potluck even if you can't be at the creek cleanup. This event is sponsored by the DMV Neighbors Association and the City of Oakland. Contact Margaret at 655-1767 for more information.
– Margaret Pinter

Local Developers Seek Input on Kingfish Pub Property

The longtime owners of the Kingfish Pub, the Pruitt family, have decided to pursue other opportunities in life and are selling the Kingfish property as a development site. The Pruitts are hoping the Kingfish can be incorporated in a new development. They have selected local developers Ron Kriss and Roy Alper to buy the property because of their interest in having the Kingfish live on.

Kriss and Alper just finished the highly acclaimed Temescal Place Condominiums at 48th and Telegraph last summer. They do not

have specific plans yet, but are eyeing the Kingfish site for a mixed-use development with retail and parking on the ground floor and three or four stories of condominiums above. They want to find a way to incorporate the Kingfish into the new development and to move the two Victorian houses that are on the Telegraph side of the lot to another site in the area. If you would like to share your ideas about this concept, Steve Pruitt, Kriss, and Alper invite you to a meeting on Saturday, March 26 at the Kingfish Pub, 5229 Claremont Ave. at 10 AM. Ron Kriss can be reached at 547-5970 ext. 55 or at ronkriss@jps.net.
– Ron Kriss

Give Your Old Computer New Life

We're barely into the 21st century and you may be noticing an accumulation of old tech equipment in your garage or closets. After five years or so, once-new computers don't have the power to keep up with the latest software and applications. What should you do with this old equipment, which contains lead and mercury and can't be dumped into landfills? Here are some local options to check out:

If your equipment still works, consider donating to Oakland Technology Exchange. They accept computers, peripherals, and printers for distribution to schools and homes, refurbishing them if necessary. Donations are accepted Tuesdays, 2-6 PM at 1680 14th St., Oakland. You can contact the group at 893-4822, or by e-mail at otxwest@yahoo.com. Their Web site is www.otxwest.org.

The Alameda County Computer Resource Center will take most computer equipment and computer media for a small fee. What can be salvaged will be upgraded and donated to organizations and individuals in need. What can't will be stripped and safely recycled. ACCRC, 1501 Eastshore Highway, Berkeley, 528-4052, www.accrc.org. Open 10 AM-5 PM weekdays and 12-5 PM, Saturday.

Also, check your computer manufacturer's Web site to see if it has recycling programs. Dell and Hewlett-Packard both sponsor programs for their equipment.

Oakland's recycling hotline (238-7283) can refer you to other salvage companies in Oakland who will recycle your old hard drives. The Davis Street transfer station will recycle all computer equipment, including monitors, for a fee: 2615 Davis Street, San Leandro, 638-2303. They are open 7 AM-5

PM, weekdays and 8 AM-4 PM, Saturday and Sunday.

Before you donate or recycle your computer, make sure to run a data-deletion program on your hard drive to wipe out all your files. Trashing them isn't enough to erase them from the disk. "Kill Disk" is a free file-deletion program available at www.killdisk.com/features.htm. You can also have your hard drive degaussed, which completely erases all information but makes the computer unusable. Some recycling centers will degauss for a fee.
– Lisa McElroy

Friends of Studio One Seek Fundraising Volunteers

Classes at Studio One are moving to the Malonga Arts Center (formerly the Alice Arts Center) at 14th and Alice near downtown Oakland for the next 18 months as the long-awaited renovation takes place at Studio One.

The City of Oakland Public Art Program seeks a qualified artist or team of artists to design, fabricate, and install public art elements for the exterior entrance area of Studio One Art Center, located at 365 45th Street. The commissioned public art project will celebrate the creative purpose of Studio One and will be integrated into the plaza, performance space, and/or lawn areas of the front entrance.

Friends of Studio One are beginning to fundraise for the \$400,000 needed for the furnishings, kilns, and computers in the new building. If you can help organize the campaign or make a contribution, please visit our Web site at www.friendsofstudioone.org or call Beth Maher at 420-5852. – Karen Hester

NCPCC News

Please note – our meeting dates have changed! The Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council has changed its monthly meeting dates to the 2nd Thursday of each month. We will still convene at 7 PM at Faith Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of 49th and Webster Streets.

Our Spring Community Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 12 at Faith Presbyterian with coffee and pastries from 9:30 to 10 AM. The general meeting runs from 10 AM to noon. We'll hold our annual election of officers, discuss issues of neighborhood concern, and meet with Councilmember Jane Brunner and representatives from the Oak-

land Police Department. We will also hear about the city's new recycling program.

Projects for this year include setting three crime/quality-of-life priorities each month for police assistance, promoting the Whistlestop program, creating a flyer/phone list of city departments for neighborhood distribution, and establishing a voice-mail hotline to gather concerns and ideas. Please join us at our meetings, contribute your ideas, and get involved!

– Donald Lowrey, Chairman, NCPC

Library a Resource and Respite from Spring Squalls

As I write this from my back office in the library, it is raining steadily with more due the rest of the week. I'd like to give you a snapshot of what's going on in the library this morning. There are people downstairs in the meeting room getting assistance with their income tax forms from AARP volunteers. In the children's area, toddlers are on the rug enjoying board books while their parents chat and watch over them. Several adults are on the computers checking their e-mail and one person is writing his resume. Others are asking questions at the circulation desk or browsing the aisles for the latest fiction or information on home decorating, starting a small business, knitting, or health. Later today, the library will fill with children who get help with their homework through our PASS after-school program. Adults will be using the computers, asking reference questions, and checking out books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, and videos. The library is definitely a good place to be on a rainy day ... a warm and dry refuge from the storms.

Our "Splash" collections (a special purchase from Measure Q funds) of books, CDs, DVDs, and videos have all arrived and are being checked out. These are our first DVDs at Temescal and judging from checkouts, they are very popular. We received a number of classic American movies as well as some newer releases and will definitely be purchasing more.

The group Word for Word will be presenting a children's program, *The Master Maid*, at 1:00 PM on March 8. Several classes from local schools will be attending, but parents and caregivers are invited to bring children five and older as well.

We have some new tools and some changes in the Tool Lending Library. Ty, our

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This Newsletter Needs Your Financial Support

From writing to printing to distribution, the Temescal News and Views is an all-volunteer effort involving more than 20 people. The newsletter's only cost is printing and our funds are running low. We need your support.

After a great discount from our local printer, KRW Printing, the check from the newsletter sponsor on the front page covers about 60 percent of the cost of printing a four-page newsletter. The remaining 40 percent is paid for by donations from you, the Temescal community. The good news is that even a small donation goes a long way – the newsletter cost only 84 cents per household per year to produce.

If you can help, please send in your contribution with the form on the last page. Many thanks to the Temescal Merchants Association for its ongoing support, our newsletter sponsors, and residents Beatrice Baker and Alma Crestetto for their recent contributions.

– Eric Gerber, TNV Treasurer

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tool librarian, has purchased some new HILTI tools for checkout: demo hammers, rotary hammers, reciprocating saws, and jigsaws. The changes involve the fines for overdue tools. Starting February 18, there will be a graduated fine structure from \$1.00 up to \$20.00 per day, based on the value of the tool. For more information, stop by the Tool Library, entered from the rear of the library on the 52nd Street side.

–Sally Bean, Temescal Branch Manager

Studio One Renovation Watch

Keep Studio One Art Center in mind while it is closed for renovations during the next 18 months. Temescal residents can play a crucial part in this project by holding city officials accountable for its progress. Call Oakland Parks and Recreation at 238-3092 for updates and to let the city know the neighborhood needs the Studio's art and fitness services to return to 365 45th Street. Help keep alive a 56-year tradition of color-chalk hopscotch, finger-painted rainbows, and bright tissue-paper-mache art by contacting City Council members (238-3266), the city manager, and the mayor (238-3141).

In the interim, Studio One's staff remains committed to offering as many art and fitness classes as possible at our temporary home, the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, formerly known as the Alice Art Center. Finally, if you can help with packing

and logistics for the move, please call Studio staff at 597-502. The move-out date is Thursday, March 31.

– Tomye Gouache

Temescal Streetscape Meeting

Temescal residents: What do you want Telegraph Avenue, your shopping district, to look like in 5 years? We have been hard at work creating a palette of designs for Telegraph Avenue, including benches, lighting, crosswalk improvements, café seating, and other possible components of your "streetscape." Now is your chance to choose which of these ideas will actually become the part of the neighborhood!

North Oakland Councilmember Jane Brunner will be hosting a community meeting and discussion on the Temescal Streetscape on Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00 PM at the Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Avenue. For more information please call 238-7001.

– Zachary Wald, Aide, Office of Jane Brunner

Park Day Summer Arts Camp Springs Back for Summer

For the past 16 years, Park Day Summer Arts Camp has been providing a wonderful arts-filled program for children in the heart of the Temescal community. Held on the campus of Park Day School from June 13 through August 12, the camp provides a diverse visual

Temescal Calendar

Saturday, March 5, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Tuesday, March 8, 1 PM. The children's group Word for Word presents *The Master Maid*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Wednesday, March 9, 6-7:30 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Thursday, March 10, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Friday, March 11, 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.

Saturday, March 12, 9:30 AM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Spring Community meeting. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Friday - Saturday, March 18-19, 25-26, 7:30 PM; Sunday, March 20, 3 PM. *Tomorrow is Today*, a dance/theater/martial arts performance show presented by Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St. in downtown Oakland. 597-1619.

Saturday, March 26, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Saturday, March 26, 10 AM. Community meeting on the development of the Kingfish Pub property. The developers will be there to hear your input. Kingfish Pub, 5229 Claremont Ave. 547-5970, x55.

Wednesday, March 30, 7 PM. Community meeting discussing the Temescal Streetscape. Designs for various improvements to Temescal Avenue will be presented. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 238-7001.

Saturday, April 2, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

Friday, April 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, April 13, 6-7:30 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

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

Saturday, April 23, 9 AM. Earth Day Temescal Creek Cleanup. Meet at Temescal Creek where it runs through the DMV parking lot (at Claremont and Cavour). 655-1767.

Saturday, April 30, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Broadway. 655-8855.

and performing arts program for children ages six to 13, as well as a Counselor in Training program for teens ages 13-16. Classes are taught by professional working artists from a variety of backgrounds.

Course offerings will change each week and include: dance theater, wood assemblage, clay, silkscreening, photography, video, painting, cartooning, and origami. We would love to see families from the Temescal community participate in this program since it's so nearby and such a beautiful place for a camp.

Both full-day and 3/4-day programs are available as well as weekly registration. Call 719-8652 for a brochure or view our program and register online at www.ParkDaySummerArtsCamp.com.

— Moses LaSabra, Camp Director

Green Panthers Workin' it Out

The Temescal Green Panthers continue to meet informally on the first and last Saturday of the month between 8 and 11 AM to work on landscaping and beautification at 51st Street and Broadway. Activities range from neighborhood gab fests in the sun to litter and weed abatement projects. Interested neighbors are always welcome.

The neighborhood should notice that the former Pussycat Theater lot at 51st and Telegraph has evolved into an off-leash dog park accessible through the gate on 51st Street. The dogs have been doing a tremendous job of knocking down the weeds and preventing the lot from becoming overgrown. Unfortunately, the erosive dog energy has obliterated the labyrinth constructed by community members in the park last year. The Green Panthers continue to look for ideas, energy, and opportunities to enhance park areas in Temescal.

— Buck King

COMMUNITY TREASURES: STUDIO ONE

I've lived in Temescal for over 6 years just a few blocks from Studio One. While I'd heard great things about the studio and even perused their catalog every quarter, I'd never taken advantage of their wonderful offerings. I decided it was time to amend this situation, so I called Johnette J. Morton, the center director, and invited myself over.

Studio One is located between the Temescal Pool and Oakland Tech, on 45th St. A former children's orphanage, the building is U-shaped and two stories. The building is not seismically retrofitted, despite city requirements following the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. Fortunately, voters passed Prop DD in November of 2002, allocating funds for expanding recreational facilities, among other things.

Now the studio's home will be retrofitted and renovated to create a state-of-the-art facility. Johnette is "delighted" that the changes will create a well-ventilated, accessible, and all-inclusive physical space designed to meet the needs of the community. "Studio One provides an atmosphere and setting for individuals to come and get in touch with the creative spirit within," the center director comments.

Johnette is even more delighted that the work won't stop classes from continuing. However, the studio will move during the retrofit, finding a temporary home at the Malonga Center in downtown Oakland. Spring classes will be held in this new location. Staff and volunteers are starting to raise funds to update the interior of the building; they'd like the inside to be as state-of-the-art as the outside. They welcome anyone interested in helping out.

If you'd like more information on classes or how to volunteer, give them a call at 597-5027.

— Shannon Lee Rutherford

If there's a community resource in Temescal you'd like to hear more about in this column, contact me at xanalia@yahoo.com.

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!*

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.