

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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Temescal Seed Swap

Are you someone who can't resist taking a few of those ripe flower seeds along the sidewalk as you stroll the neighborhood? Do you have an abundance of vegetable seeds produced by your garden? Do you want some local seeds from your neighbor's gardens? Your neighbors Sue Mark and Bruce Douglas in collaboration with Temescal Amity Works are creating a place to swap local seeds.

We are setting up a seed exchange at the Temescal Amity Works community space: 482D 49th Street (the first alley behind Bank of the West) where you can come to share and trade seeds. The community space is usually open Fridays 1-4 PM and Saturdays 12-5 PM. E-mail Temescal Amity Works at bigbackyard@amityworks.org for more information about their hours or to schedule a visit. In the beginning of November our exchange board will be up and stocked with a selection of seeds we have collected. Gather your favorites, bring them, label an envelope, and hang it on the board, or come by and take a few seeds home.

Also, be sure to check out Temescal Amity Works' upcoming Harvest Potluck, date to be announced. Visit www.amityworks.org or the Temescal Amity Works community space for more information.

— Bruce Douglas

"Walk the Talk" Guided Tour of Temescal

Join Temescal historians, artists, activists, and neighbors in a Walk the Talk tour along the path of Temescal Creek to learn about several key neighborhood sites and the community history behind them. The free tour, scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 1-3 PM, will feature guest speakers who participated at the time in the community initiatives and collective actions that helped shape these sites as we experience them today. Topics will include the routing of the Grove Shafter Freeway (Hwy. 24), culverting of Temescal Creek, building of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, closing of the Pussycat Theater, development of Temescal Plaza (Walgreens), and creation of the PostMark Temescal public art site.

The tour will begin at the bulletin board in Hardy Park (aka Frog Park), located at Hardy St. and Claremont Ave. Be sure to bring water and a hat or umbrella as needed. The tour will end with a reception at Temescal Amity Works, just off Telegraph and 49th St.



The latest project by Temescal Amity Works is a neighborhood seed exchange. Photo: Bruce Douglas

Walk the Talk is organized by Jeff Norman, Temescal community artist and founder of Shared Ground. The event is sponsored by Temescal Amity Works (www.amityworks.org). For more information, call 653-7190.

— Jeff Norman

First Annual Temescal Holiday Fair

The Temescal Merchants, in collaboration with the Temescal Telegraph Community Association, are excited about holding the first annual Temescal Holiday Event. On Thursday, December 1, from 6 - 9 PM, Temescal will kick off the holiday season by hosting a sidewalk block party along Telegraph Ave. from 46th to 51st Streets. Approximately 50 businesses are in this compact area—come and visit!

Merchants will have open houses that evening and will be serving holiday treats such as non-alcoholic eggnog and cookies, playing holiday tunes, and providing holiday wrap. There will be a window-display decorating contest to be judged by the community. Look for Santa Claus to make an appearance, passing out candy canes and talking to children. If you would like to learn more or want to get into the holiday spirit and volunteer to make this first-ever community event a success, call Darlene at 860-7327.

— Darlene Rios Drapkin

New Neighborhood Spot for Parents and Kids

Tumble & Tea is a new full-service play space created by two friends who are stay-at-home moms. Our grand opening is slated for New Year's Eve Day with a New Year's countdown to begin at 6 PM, so that all little ones can enjoy bringing in a new year.

We picked Temescal for our location because of its many families, wonderfully diverse mix of people, and the positive energy surrounding the revitalization of this historic neighborhood. Tumble & Tea is under construction at 4210 Telegraph: our 3000-square-foot space includes jumpies and climbers, softplay and dress-up, espresso and pastries, paninis and Wi-Fi. We hope to create an environment that fosters community and child-rearing.

Please visit www.tumbleandtea.com for more details. We are pre-selling memberships at a substantially discounted rate for interested families and invite neighbors to join our mailing list for all our news and events. We look forward to serving you soon.

– *Georgina DeCarlo and Susan Older*

Follow-Up Meeting on Mixed-Use Development at 51st and Telegraph

In mid-September more than 35 people from Temescal and Rockridge came out to hear plans for the new mixed-use residential development project at the corner of 51st and Telegraph. Attendees (including councilmember Jane Brunner) viewed a scale model and several plans and elevations on display and also stimulated a lengthy discussion about community values, the future of Temescal, and various individuals' ideas for this project.

The developers and architects have digested the many comments they received at the first meeting and would like to return to discuss further refinements. The developers, Ron Kriss, Roy Alper, and Pat Zimski, along with their architectural firm, Van Meter Williams Pollack, are planning this return engagement on Monday, November 14, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave.



An artist's rendering of the proposed development at 51st and Telegraph.

Recent project updates include a schedule for the City's public hearings on the development, a completed traffic analysis, and greater detail on the public plaza at 51st and Telegraph. Please attend to hear more and provide further input. For more information contact Bill Lambert at 550-4200 x512 or bill@shastapros.com.

– *Bill Lambert*

Community Responds to Telegraph/51st Development

A community meeting on September 19th hosted by the developers of the vacant corner and adjacent Children's Hospital parking lot at 51st and Telegraph provided the first opportunity for the general public to learn about the proposed project for the site. Drawings of the project showing sixty-eight market rate condominiums with 3,000 sq. ft. of retail and a public plaza on the corner were displayed at the meeting.

Many in attendance took the opportunity to express their opinions and ask questions. Overall the responses were positive, although many voiced concerns ranging from the style of architecture that was proposed, to the loss of views, to the impact of additional traffic on Clarke St.

Among the issues still unresolved is the fate of the proposed Greenbelt extension through the development, designed to link the important intersection at 51st and Telegraph with the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt. The Greenbelt now ends across the street from the development at the mini-park on Clarke St. Responding to a community envisioning process for this important gateway site and subsequent design workshops held four years ago, the architect's drawings that were presented at the public meeting included an extension of the Greenbelt through the development; however, no commitment from developers Roy Alper and Ron Kriss has been made guaranteeing that the walkway would remain open to the public. A group of neighbors from both Temescal and lower Rockridge has been meeting with the developers to explore ensuring public access to the Greenbelt extension as well as the feasibility of alternative routes for the pathway.

Another issue of growing concern to neighbors is the 5-story height of the building as currently proposed for the Telegraph Ave. corner. The height the developers have proposed exceeds current zoning restrictions for that corner, requiring them to apply for a vari-

ance from the city for permission to build that high. The developers have agreed to provide drawings showing the relationship of their proposed building to the adjacent corners at that intersection.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the next public meeting about the project, scheduled for Monday, November 14, 6:30 PM at the Temescal Library. For more information about issues the community is working on with the developers to ensure the best possible project for this important gateway to the Temescal and Rockridge neighborhoods, call 653-7190.

– *Jeff Norman*

iMusicast Looking For a New Home

Sad news for the neighborhood: iMusicast, the all-ages pop venue/Webcasting and recording studio was closed at the end of October due to a building conversion to live/work spaces.

CEO and founder Bryan Matheson doesn't hold a grudge, saying, "The real estate market is so hot around here, so who can blame them? Moving is expensive, and I've been looking at many options...and with more money, there are more options."

A series of fundraisers have upped the chances of the venue finding a new space to re-open. If you would like to help iMusicast in its quest for a new location, visit the Web site at www.imusicast.com to make a donation or just check in for information.

Matheson is hopeful the club will live on. "The overwhelming support from the fans, the parents and the bands is powerful, enthusiastic, and unanimous," he says. "I am constantly reminded that iMusicast has had a positive impact in the community, and I'm inspired and encouraged to fight the good fight and rebuild iMusicast into something bigger and better."

– *Lisa McElroy*

Temescal Branch Library News

I hope some of our Temescal neighbors have been able to attend at least one of our Fall programs. I'm very excited about the last program for this year: "A Year in the Life of an Organic Farm" from 6 to 8 PM on November 7th. Nigel and Tom from Eatwell Farm in Davis will present a year in the life of an organic farm in pictures. They will explain how farmers in our mild climate are able to produce a consistent amount of food year-round, with planting and harvesting taking place continuously and simultaneously.

Eatwell Farm sells at farmer's markets in the Bay Area, and also through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where urban dwellers become partners in sustainable agriculture, committing to purchase whatever the farm produces. Members receive a box of just-picked produce on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Unlike a supermarket where you can find just about anything at any time of the year, Eatwell boxes and other CSA programs bring members a changing assortment of fruits and vegetables that reflect the seasons and growing conditions of local farms. Tom and Nigel will also talk about the history of the CSA movement, and how it is responsible for a renaissance of fruits and vegetables once nearly lost—from heirloom tomatoes to rutabagas, from celery to Indian Blood peaches. The farmers will bring organic treats to taste.

Look for more programs after the start of the new year! So far, I'm planning a program called "Getting Organized," always a good idea at the beginning of the year, and another one on recycling.

Ty has some good and bad news from the Tool Library: the new wallpaper steamer is almost ready for check out, while both pressure washers are still broken, with no definite date for repair.

The library would like to welcome our new neighbor: La Calaca Loca Restaurant in Temescal Triangle. Our staff has already enjoyed some great lunches there, and people who work in the restaurant are signing up for library cards and making use of the library.

— Sally Bean, Branch Manager

Tips from the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

You walk outside your door. Three police cars are parked on your block, and officers are in your neighbor's yard. How do you react?

This was the situation some neighbors on 44th and 45th Streets found themselves in last month. A Crime Response Team in pursuit of a suspect asked neighbors to remain in their homes while they conducted a search. If you find yourself in this situation, here are some things to remember:

- Stay inside
- Keep your doors and windows locked
- Stay away from doors and windows

However, if possible, listen for outside activity that may be coming from a suspect attempting to hide. If you believe that to be the

case, or see anything unusual, call 911 and give the dispatcher your information.

Do not go outside to ask the officers what is going on. They need to concentrate on apprehending the suspect, and distraction endangers you as well as the officers. Please do not be offended if an officer is absorbed in his or her duties.

If you are returning home and find a police action in the neighborhood, take an alternate route, or wait until the incident subsides. If guns are drawn, take cover in a safe place.

When is it OK to approach an officer? If the police action is finished, or has a broad perimeter, identify yourself, keeping your hands visible, and ask if they have a moment to answer your questions.

If you want an incident number to follow the outcome of the police action, call the non-emergency number, 777-3333, with the date, time, and location of the incident. For more information, contact the NCPC at <http://temescal.us/>. Thanks to Debi Mack, our Problem-Solving Officer, for these tips.

— Jennifer Oberholzer

Open House at Emerson School, November 16

Emerson Elementary is your neighborhood school! If you are curious about the school and what it has to offer, please come to a Family Literacy Night and Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. There will be Literacy Night activities throughout the school from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, when you can see teachers in action in their classrooms. At 7 PM, principal Wendi Caporicci and teachers will gather in the school auditorium for a community roundtable forum to talk about the school and answer your questions. See the school grounds, meet the dedicated personnel, and learn more about Emerson. Current Emerson families, Emerson neighbors, and parents of preschool kids are all encouraged to attend! Emerson School is located at 4803 Lawton Ave., near 49th Street.

There are other opportunities to contribute to the Emerson School community! Consider volunteering in the library. Volunteers are especially needed for weekday afternoons when classes visit the library. Contact teacher Tara Wolf at 428-1744.

Participate in Daffodil Planting Day, sponsored by Keep Oakland Beautiful. We will be planting hundreds of bulbs on the

Thank You to Our Donors

The newsletter is an all volunteer effort but depends on your donations to pay for printing. Even a small donation goes a long way — the newsletter costs only 84 cents per household per year to produce. Many thanks to the following neighbors for their generous contributions:

Alma Crestetto
Tom Murphy
Beatrice Baker
Katherine Palau
Danielle Hupp
Consuelo Odegard
Richard Cooluris
Saulberger's Flowers
Mendel Cohen
Gary Alpert

Emerson campus on Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 9:30 AM. Meet at the school and bring your trowel.

Emerson School Neighbors is a group of parents of preschoolers and Temescal neighbors. We have come together with the goals of increasing community support for and participation in the school. We'd love for you to join the Emerson School Neighbors if you're interested. We have a Yahoo group that you can join by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EmersonSchoolNeighbors/>. You can also contact Beth McKenna (beth.mckenna@gmail.com, 594-0571) or Christie Beeman (christiebee@sbcglobal.net, 450-0585) for more information about Emerson School, Neighbors, the Open House, or volunteering at the school. Emerson's terrific principal, Wendi Caporicci, is also happy to hear from the community: 879-1152 or wendi.caporicci@ousd.k12.ca.us.

— Beth McKenna

Exercise with Temescal Aquatic Masters

Temescal Aquatic Masters is a local masters swim team that practices daily at the recently renovated Temescal Pool on 45th at Lawton. We cater to all levels of ability and have an excellent coaching staff. Our team is diverse in age and abilities. The workouts are varied and allow for different skill levels, with swimmers of like speed and ability in the same lanes.

Temescal Calendar

Saturday, November 5, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. All gardeners welcome! Meet at 51st and Telegraph. 655-8855.

Saturday, November 5, 9:30 AM. Daffodil Planting Day at Emerson School. 4803 Lawton Ave. 879-1152.

Monday, November 7, 6:30 PM. A presentation on "A Year in the Life of an Organic Farm." Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

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

Wednesday, November 9, 7 PM. The MacArthur Transit Community Partners will present their vision for the MacArthur Transit Village Project. Mosswood Recreation Center, 36th and Webster. 658-7131.

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

Friday, November 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, November 12, 1 PM. "Walk the Talk", a guided tour of Temescal neighborhood sites. Meet at Hardy Park, Hardy St. and Claremont Ave. 653-7190.

Monday, November 14, 6:30 PM. Community meeting to present development plans for the corner of 51st and Telegraph. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 550-4200 x512.

Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 PM. Emerson School Open House. 4803 Lawton Ave. 879-1152.

Saturday, November 19, 10 AM. Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Meet at the south end of Lake Temescal Park. 459-3967.

Thursday, December 1, 6 PM. First Annual Temescal Holiday Fair. Telegraph Ave. between 46th and 51st. 860-7327.

Saturday, December 3, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at 51st and Telegraph. 655-8855.

Thursday, December 8, 7 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Friday, December 9, 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, December 10, 7 PM. Destiny Arts Center presents "Love in Action", a Winter Celebration Recital. Oakland Technical High School, 4351 Broadway. 597-1619.

Wednesday, December 14, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Saturday, December 24, 10 AM. Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Meet at the south end of Lake Temescal Park. 459-3967.

We encourage everyone to come try our team free of charge the first time. Ongoing, the cost is \$40 a month for unlimited swims or \$25 for a 5-swim pass book. Morning swims are from 5:45-6:45 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. Please visit our web site at www.temescalmasters.org for more information. Please stop by the pool and swim with us—you'll soon be addicted! — Beth Cohen

Winter Classes at Studio One

The holiday session at Studio One Art Center gets underway starting November 14 and running through December 17. Re-energize yourself with a day, afternoon, or evening art or fitness class. We also have good after-school classes. Specific classes can be viewed at www.oaklandnet.com. Call us at 597-5027 Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, to register for a class or to make an appointment for a tour of the facility. Studio One is located at 1428 Alice Street in downtown Oakland while renovation of the 45th Street facility occurs. Please help support Studio One!

— Tomyé Neal-Madison

City CarShare Now Available at McArthur BART

City CarShare now has new 2005 Toyota Prius hybrids available for hourly rentals at the MacArthur BART station. City CarShare offers a convenient, low-cost way to drive that is better for the environment. Last-minute or advance reservations can be made online or by phone for any length of time from half-an-hour to half-a-day or more. Members can immediately access their vehicle at their neighborhood location without further paperwork or delay.

Launched in 2001, City CarShare is the largest non-profit car-sharing organization in the U.S., serving over 4,000 active members with over 90 vehicles in more than 45 locations throughout the Bay Area. Prices are \$4/hour and 44¢/mile and include gas, insurance, parking, cleaning and maintenance. For more information or to become a member visit www.citycarshare.org or call (415) 995-8588.

— Ann Kappes

Reduce Unwanted Mail

If you are tired of your mailbox getting stuffed with the 'ShopWise' ad, there are three ways that you can stop it. Call 888-241-6760 (8-5 EST); go to www.advo.com, click on 'about ADVO' and then 'consumer support'; or write to ADVO, P.O. Box 249 Windsor, CT 06095.

— Kathy Jensen

Yes, Virginia, There is a Market in Temescal

Need a gallon of milk, can of soup, bowl of corn flakes or tofu for your stir-fry? Temescal residents have a grocery option in the neighborhood: U & I Liquor & Grocery has operated at 4875 Telegraph (next to Frazee Paints) for 15 years. Most residents know it as the local liquor store, but a quick tour of the aisles reveals much more: Cereal, milk, tofu, canned beans and ice cream, as well as dish soaps, paper towels, and many other convenience items.

Store manager Dereje Adamu says he is upgrading the store to offer fresh produce soon. He asks local shoppers to please give him suggestions for products they'd like to buy. He is also working with the Temescal/Telegraph Business Improvement District to engage the property owner to initiate some long-overdue exterior cosmetic improvements. The store is open from 8 AM to midnight daily.

— Bill Lambert

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 _____

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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.