

# Temescal News & Views

Published by Temescal Neighbors Together with the support of Temescal merchants



*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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## The Temescal Street Fair

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## Third Annual Temescal Street Fair

The 3rd annual Temescal Street Fair will take place on Telegraph Avenue between 48th and 51st Streets on Saturday, June 17 from noon to 6 PM. It's a chance to meet your neighbors and support local businesses while continuing to develop Telegraph Avenue as a shopping and retail destination. The main sponsors for the event are the Temescal Merchants Association, The City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Association, and Civiq, the new housing and retail development at 51st and Telegraph. Activities and offerings will include:

- Delicious food and drink from local restaurants, including Lanesplitter Pub and Pizza, La Calaca Loca Taqueria, Tanjia, Bakesale Betty, and Connolly's
- Art making with Studio One, martial arts demonstrations, and capoeira
- Fine artists, craft and community booths
- A Main Stage sponsored by H & R Block featuring dancing in the street with Jesus Diaz y QBA (Cuban timba music), KTO Project (original music from Africa, the Americas and the Middle East led by Kelly Takunda Orphan), Destiny Arts (youth hip-hop and martial arts), and Robert Temple (political folk/rock)
- A Children's Stage sponsored by Dreyer's Ice Cream and Children's Hospital featuring Asheba, Madame Ovary, Mixcoatl Anahuac Aztec Dancers, Jeremy the Juggler, and more
- Roving clowns and balloon twisters to delight children

Valet bicycle parking will be offered by the East Bay Bike Coalition, with free tune-ups by Montano Velo. The Fair is eight blocks from MacArthur BART. Volunteers are needed to help with publicity (flyer and poster distribution), set-up and take down of booths, and staffing the information booth. Please call 654-6346, extension 2 for more information. Visit [www.temescalmerchants.com](http://www.temescalmerchants.com) for a complete schedule of the stage acts. We look forward to seeing you there!

—Karen Hester

## Temescal Mayoral Forum May 7

A Temescal Mayoral Forum, sponsored by the North Oakland NCPD (Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council), Temescal Neighbors Together, the Temescal News & Views, The Friends of Studio One and the Oakland Technical High School PTSA (Parents, Teachers and Students Association) will be held on Sunday, May 7 from 3-5 PM at Faith United Presbyterian Church, 430 49th at Webster.

Oakland City Councilpersons Nancy Nadel and Ignacio De La Fuente have confirmed their attendance. As of press time, the campaign of candidate Ron Dellums has declined to accept the Temescal invitation.

This will be a great opportunity to hear the candidates' views on such critical issues as neighborhood crime, local development, responsive government, education and the environment—all issues of major concern to our Temescal community. All residents are encouraged to attend this important forum. The Oakland mayoral election is June 6.

—Judy Belcher

## Emerson Elementary School Update

Emerson Elementary is the neighborhood elementary school for Temescal, with an assignment area that extends north to Clifton St. in Rockridge and south to Mosswood Park. In the past, many motivated families from the Temescal area have gotten transfers to higher-performing schools such as Chabot and Peralta Elementary Schools in Rockridge. However, Peralta and Chabot were in high demand this year and took few transfers in Oakland Unified School District's recently-completed "Options" school assignment process.

Emerson School Neighbors, a group of neighborhood families dedicated to building community support for Emerson, sees this as an opportunity to draw more students from the Temescal community. They will hold a "pre-kindergarten play date" at Emerson for neighborhood families with young children to meet each other and learn more about the school. Families with children entering kindergarten this fall, including siblings, friends and care givers, are especially encouraged to attend, but all are welcome. The play date will be on Saturday, May 20, at 10:30 am on the Emerson School grounds, 4801 Lawton Ave. To learn more about Emerson School Neighbors, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EmersonSchoolNeighbors>.

—Christie Beeman

## Spring Happenings at the Library

It looks like the rain may finally stop...and I imagine many of you are probably planning projects for your apartments, homes and gardens. Remember to visit the library for books and videos on decorating, home repair and renovation, landscaping and gardening. You can also borrow tools (2900 tools

at this writing and more coming every month) from the Tool Lending Library when you undertake your projects.

Speaking of the Tool Library, we would like to acknowledge the dedicated volunteers who have helped organize and clean the space, repair and engrave tools, and enter information into our database. Hooray for Ringit, Ingrid, Gerald, Anna, Donna, Dave, Alison, Colin, and Tony!

The Summer Reading Program for children will run from June 10 through August 12. Children can win prizes for reading and enjoy free shows at the library. The June shows are:

– The Bubble Lady, Thursday, June 15, 10:30 AM. See amazing soap bubbles!

– East Bay Vivarium, Thursday, June 22, 10:30 AM. Meet live insects, amphibians, and reptiles. Recommended for ages 4 and up.

– Timothy James, magician. Monday, June 26, 7 PM. Watch astounding and funny magic tricks.

Look for more shows in July and August!

We are glad to announce that the library will have a Teen Summer Reading program this year for teens in grades 7-12. Teens will be asked to write short reviews of what they read, and will receive a prize for signing up, plus a paperback book and an additional gift. Visit the library for details.

For those of you interested in happenings abroad, the library will be hosting a program, "Report Back from Cuba," on May 8 from 6:30-8 PM. Oakland artist Alan Leon will show slides and drawings from a mural conference and sister city delegation that he attended in Santiago de Cuba in January 2006. See you in the library!

– Sally Bean, Branch Manager, Temescal

### Summer Fun at Temescal Pool

If you are looking for some good, clean fun for your kids, head over to the Temescal Pool this summer. In addition to learn-to-swim programs and public swimming, youth can participate in junior lifeguard classes and swim team. The Oakland Parks and Recreation Aquatic Unit offers summer swim team opportunities at several pools. The Temescal Tidal Waves swim team is looking for boys and girls ages six to 18 who can swim 25 yards of freestyle with side breathing. (You don't need to be a fast swimmer. You just need to get to the other end of the pool.) Experienced coaches will improve stroke techniques in fun, spirited sessions. Not only

does swim team give the kids something to look forward to on weekday afternoons, but it also keeps them in shape. Saturday swim meets allow the family to watch the progress of their child's abilities and goal-setting disciplines. Friendships blossom and self-esteem blooms in this summer recreation program.

Program dates are June 19 to August 12, 3:30-5 PM, Monday through Friday. Fees are \$25 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Scholarships are available. This is the best recreation bargain in town! For more information, contact Temescal Pool at 457-0513. The Temescal Tidal Waves are looking forward to making new friends this summer. See you at the pool.

–Michelle Cox

### Renovation of Studio One Breaks Ground

The \$10.5 million renovation of Studio One has begun at its location next to the Temescal Pool on 45th St. BBI Construction was awarded the contract to complete the much anticipated renovation by the summer of 2007. The Studio will house an expanded program of ceramics, painting and drawing, photography, media arts, theater and fitness classes when its doors open again in 2007. In the interim, classes are being held at the Malonga Center at 14th and Alice St. in downtown Oakland.

The building and landscaping will include energy efficient systems and materials, including a pedestrian-friendly landscape that honors the historical tree-lined entrance. Friends of Studio One is working closely with the new director of Studio One, Kola Thomas, to plan for the building's reopening. Together they are beginning the fundraising campaign to raise more than \$330,000 for furnishings, including kilns, computers, tables and chairs. Early contributors to the campaign include local developers Ron Kriss and Roy Alper.

Friends of Studio One was recently honored with an award from the regional California Parks and Recreation Society for its contribution as an outstanding Non-Profit Organization Partner in Parks and Recreation. We are seeking new members to help fundraise, staff upcoming events and write an email newsletter. To see design plans and for more information, visit our website at [www.friendsofstudioone.org](http://www.friendsofstudioone.org) or call Beth Maher at 420-5852.

–Karen Hester

### News from Temescal NCPC

Crime surged in February and March, with everything from street assaults (with guns) to home invasions. In the largest turnout in five years, over 100 residents attended the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) meeting on March 18 at Faith Presbyterian Church. While asking for more police on the streets, they also asked, "What can we do in our neighborhoods to prevent crime?"

The answer? Form Neighborhood Watch groups. The simple steps to put together a group are:

– Let them eat cake! Invite a few of your neighbors to your apartment or house for dessert one evening.

– Share names, addresses and phone numbers.

– Create a street map and contact list with the information and share it with the attendees.

– Ask neighbors to contact nearby residents who couldn't attend but who want to be included on the contact list.

That's the basis for Neighborhood Watch. This list is also useful for disaster preparedness, such as when the Big Quake comes.

Finally, our newly elected steering committee officers for 2006 are: Donald Lowrey, Chairman; Lee Edwards, Vice Chairman; Jennifer Oberholzer, Secretary; Buck King, Treasurer; George Spies and Isidro Gonzales, At-Large Representatives. For more information about the NCPC, visit [www.temescal.us](http://www.temescal.us).

–Donald Lowrey, Chairman, NCPC

### Business Improvement District Focuses on First Impressions

As Temescalites, we appreciate Telegraph Avenue and its vibrant commercial district. Maybe we've been dismayed by graffiti at a bus stop or on a trash receptacle. Perhaps we've learned to accept such visual nuisances as part of Temescal's gritty charm. But to those who don't know the area, first impressions are significant.

With Oakland's recent crime wave, it becomes even more important to make sure that environmental cues convey and help ensure our neighborhood's safety. The Temescal-Telegraph Community Association (TTCA) that manages the BID has a crew that maintains and landscapes the public right-of-ways on a regular basis. It is encouraging merchants and property owners to take advan-

tage of the city's matching grant façade improvement program. TTCA is hoping to receive federal funding for a streetscape plan, which includes better lighting on the Avenue.

TTCA is holding a campaign to enhance Telegraph Avenue and create an environment for positive social interaction. We hope that crime will be reduced because would-be offenders realize that residents in Temescal care about their neighborhood and don't tolerate negative behavior and activities.

We encourage you to notify the city about graffiti, illegal dumping, street cleaning issues, and even potholes, at 615-5566. The city has generally been responsive within 24 hours. You can also contact TTCA at 860-7327 if you have any concerns or suggestions.

—Darlene Rios Drapkin

### A Neighborhood Plan for Temescal

The high demand for housing in the Bay Area has led developers to look with interest at the few remaining empty lots left in North Oakland. Many neighbors are interested in what these new buildings will look like and how they will affect the area.

I've started meeting with concerned residents and plan to hold future meetings in the community on this topic. Claudia Cappio, the City of Oakland's Director of Planning, has committed to updating the zoning for Temescal within the next six months, and it is critical that we get community input into this process.

The topics that we need your input on include: What's the right height for buildings along Telegraph Avenue? How much space should be set aside for retail in new buildings? How do we evaluate the impacts of traffic and parking in the neighborhood? What should the proper setbacks be?

Please call my office at 238-7001 or email me at jbrunner@oaklandnet.com if you would like to be on our list to be notified of upcoming meetings on this topic.

—Jane Brunner, City Councilmember

### Development Pressures Continue in Temescal

Since October, a significant number of neighbors have joined the Telegraph/51st Gateway Coalition in voicing their opposition to aspects of the proposed development at Telegraph and 51st St. While many appreciate the community benefits that have been added to the project and in general support increased

density along Telegraph, we have found that many remain opposed to maximum density, six-story projects in Temescal's predominantly two-story commercial district.

With over 700 signatures on a petition opposing the excessive height of the project at 51st and Telegraph, and after the Planning Commission approved the developer's plans in January, the Coalition filed an appeal to the City Council contesting the project's height and density, the inadequacy of the traffic analysis that was performed for the project, the lack of a guaranteed affordable housing component, and the absence of any public environmental review.

With Councilmember Jane Brunner mediating, however, Coalition representatives finalized a compromise with the developers moments before the appeal was to be heard. The signed agreement included:

1) The tower on the corner of Telegraph and 51st St. will be reduced from 65 to 57 feet. The rest of the building, which extends along 51st St., will be lowered from 57 to 52 feet. The developers will also either reduce the entire building by one more foot or step back the tower at the fourth floor.

2) The building facing Global Entertainment will be stepped back to reduce the perception of height and allow more light into the Greenbelt pathway, which will extend along the base of that building.

3) The developers will pay \$15,000 for a pedestrian safety study that will include community input to identify hazards and improvements for the streets adjacent to the development.

4) The developers will pay \$50,000 into a fund for pedestrian safety improvements at the intersections on the edges of the development.

5) The developers will pay \$20,000 toward the cost of permits for a Residential Parking Permit program in the area bounded by Telegraph Ave., Cavour St., Shafter Ave. and 49th St. Residents within this area will have the opportunity to vote for or against instituting this program on their block.

These agreements are in addition to several community benefits that were negotiated in an earlier process, such as a publicly accessible extension of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt through the development to 51st St., lowering the height and increasing the step back of the townhouses along Clarke St., public landscaping, and designating up to 25

### A TNV Farewell

We are sad to announce that our fellow editor Lisa McElroy is leaving Temescal News and Views as she moves to another community. We will miss her proofreading prowess, enthusiasm, and great ideas!

With Lisa's departure, there is space open for another editor. If you enjoy writing, have some time every two months, and would like to get involved, contact us at [temescal\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:temescal_news@yahoo.com).

—Carla Koop and Viki Maxwell

percent of the units as affordable housing (at 80 percent of median area income).

Coalition members believe that even with the negotiated concessions, the height and density of the project at Telegraph and 51st will still adversely impact the neighborhood. Nevertheless, we have turned our focus to joining Councilmember Brunner in establishing a community review process to ensure that all future development in Temescal conforms to zoning regulations and community standards, and, in the process, supports developers whose projects are appropriate for our neighborhood. For more information, call 238-7001.

—Jeff Norman

### A Dissent on the Proposed MacArthur BART Transit Village

The train has left the station for a huge housing project, with twin towers 20 and 22 stories tall, at the MacArthur BART station. The Environmental Impact Report process began with a scoping meeting before the City Planning Commission on March 15. After years of various proposals, community members may be unaware of the transit village's current form.

The City's Redevelopment Agency, BART, and the largest privately held home builder in the country, Shea Homes, are partnering in this housing project that includes some 800 units of housing but a relatively modest amount of retail and "community space"—some 30,000 sq. ft. The 160 units of below-market rentals would occupy their own building; the other 540 units of for-sale condos would occupy the twin towers alongside Hwy. 24. The current 600 parking spaces for BART users would be halved, with some 1,030 spaces created for use of the residents and retail. Preliminary drawings are sketchy at

# Temescal Calendar

**Thursday, May 4, 9 AM.** Friends of Temescal Creek needs help collecting water samples for testing. temcrk@mountaincurrent.net.

**Saturdays, May 6-27.** Temescal Amity Works is open from 12-5 PM at 482 49th. www.amityworks.org.

**Saturdays, May 6-27, 10:45 AM.** *Embodying Space: The Geometry Of Movement*—a dance class. Temescal Arts Center, 48th at Telegraph. www.SomaticsSeries.org.

**Sunday, May 7, 3 PM.** Temescal Mayoral Forum. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster.

**Monday, May 8, 6:30 PM.** Alan Leon presents *Report Back From Cuba*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Wednesday, May 10, 6 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Thursday, May 11, 7 PM.** Willard Neighborhood Forum on the Bus Rapid Transit plan. Willard Middle School. 2425 Stuart Street, Berkeley. 644-9415.

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

**Friday, May 12, 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, May 20, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. 459-3967 or temcrk@mountaincurrent.net.

**Saturday, May 20, 10:30 AM.** Emerson School Play Date. 4801 Lawton Ave. 879-1152.

**Saturdays, June 3-24, 10:45 AM.** *Life Spiraled*—a dance class. \$20 fee. Temescal Arts Center, 48th at Telegraph. www.SomaticsSeries.org.

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

**Friday, June 9, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. 472 44th Street (between Telegraph and Webster). 594-2200.

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

**Thursday, June 15, 10:30 AM.** The Bubble Lady. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Saturday, June 17, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. 459-3967 or temcrk@mountaincurrent.net.

**Saturday, June 17, Noon.** Temescal Street Fair! Telegraph Ave. between 48th and 51st. 654-6346 ext. 2 or www.temescalmerchants.com.

**Thursday, June 22, 10:30 AM.** East Bay Vivarium. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

**Monday, June 26, 7 PM.** Timothy James, Magician. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 597-5049.

best, and the proposed retail has not been identified.

Several speakers praised the project for its high-rise density, citing the crises of oil shortages and global warming. Some even called for more density and one speaker said that over 10 stories, you didn't notice anyway. (For comparison, the downtown Federal Buildings are 15 stories tall.)

Viable measures to stem global warming will require serious planning and investment. We don't feel that the creation of twin towers at BART (with that many parking spaces) is a step in the right direction. Citizens are encouraged to contact their councilpersons (Nancy Nadel and Jane Brunner) with their concerns about this project. For more information, call Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts, Neighborhood Preservation, at 655-3841.

— Robert Brokl and Alfred Crofts

## Green Waste Solution

I welcomed the new green bins from Waste Management and applaud the effort to get people to throw out less land fill borne trash. I compost, so I use most of the kitchen waste that could go in the green bin, but I don't like to put meat, grease, animal fat, bones, etc. in the compost as that tends to attract rodents. The instructions on the kitchen green bin say to put all natural kitchen waste in there (and subsequently to the outdoor green bin), but I was reluctant to do that because the meaty things can smell bad. So I figured out a solution that I would like to share.

Since paper bags are okay to go in the green bin, I take meat/grease/bones, put them in a paper bag, and put it in the freezer. When it is time to take the garbage out, I take the bag out of the freezer and put it directly, bag and all, into the green bin. If I forget one week, it's not a big deal as it will stay frozen

until the next week. Hopefully, this will make it easier for people to start getting kitchen waste to the right place. — Rebecca Weinstein

## Willard Neighborhood Forum on Bus Rapid Transit Plans

*The BRT proposal discussed in this forum will affect the entire length of Telegraph, including the segment running through Temescal. Temescal residents are encouraged to join our Willard neighbors in learning more about this far-reaching proposal. — Editors*

On Thursday, May 11, at 7 PM, the Willard Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Education Forum at the Willard Middle School Cafetorium (2425 Stuart Street in Berkeley). The BRT is a proposal from AC Transit to improve bus service along a corridor that stretches from San Leandro to downtown Berkeley. The Berkeley part of the plan may involve dedicated bus lanes on Telegraph, Bancroft, and Durant (and removing automobile lanes). It may also involve having a bus-only "transit mall" on Telegraph north of Dwight. The Forum is designed to answer three questions:

1) What, exactly, is the BRT? Jim Cunradi from AC Transit will explain all the details of the proposal.

2) What is the process? Shirley Dean, Former Mayor, City of Berkeley, will explain the "ins and outs" of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process.

3) How can I advocate "for" or "against" the BRT? Marie Bowman, President, Berkeley Alliance of Neighborhood Associations will talk about how to advocate for or against the BRT during the EIR Process and during the review by the City of Berkeley.

The presentations will be followed by a Q&A session where the presenters and other city officials will be available to answer questions from the audience.

— Greg Murphy, Vice President, Willard Neighborhood Association

*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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Yes, I want to help.

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I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.