

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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**Printed by KRW Printing
3905 Broadway ♦ 420-1791**

Thank You!

THIS ISSUE OF
TEMESCAL NEWS & VIEWS
HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY
FUNDED BY

TEMESCAL ACUPUNCTURE
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Speak Out for Oakland Libraries

Oakland Public Library will be celebrating our 125th anniversary in December! In preparation for the celebration, we are asking the public to *Speak Out* for Oakland Public Library by telling us in words, pictures, or photos what our library means to you and how it—or a staff member—has made a positive difference in your life. Come by the library to find out more about sharing your stories. We will have birthday cards to the library for all to sign, which will be displayed later at the Main Library and possibly at City Hall.

We would like to invite parents with young children to come to the library on November 17 from 5 PM to 8 PM when we will be hosting *Go Places, Read*. This event will include a workshop for parents on at-home learning activities and a performance for children by Magic Dan. There will be refreshments, a raffle, and a free book and small backpack for children ages 0-6.

Some new tools for check out from the Temescal Tool Library include chain saws, leaf blowers, and hydraulic (house) jacks. Also, in partnership with the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the TLL now has two HEPA vacuums for removal of lead paint chips and lead dust.

Lawyers in the Library is now a regular program at our branch. On the first Monday evening of every month, a lawyer is here to provide a free 15-minute consultation. Anyone interested should be here at 5:45 PM to sign up for a time slot.

As the seasons change, don't forget to visit the library and borrow books, magazines, CDs, and videos to take home and enjoy on those wintry, rainy evenings. You can catch up on fiction, plan a project, or learn something new! For more information, call 597-5049.

— Sally Bean

NCPC Crimefighting Tips

Are you concerned about street crime, drug dealing, or the appearance of your neighborhood? If so, please join the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council at one of our monthly meetings. The Steering Committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at Faith Presbyterian Church. You can get on the agenda by calling Donald Lowrey at 420-6974. The Crime Abatement Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Faith Presbyterian Church. Call Bill Peterson at 652-4507 for more information. The Blight & Beautification Committee usually meets at

the Temescal Cafe on Telegraph Ave. Contact Buck King at 655-8855 for the exact time and place of upcoming activities.

With the end of Daylight Saving Time, many commuters will be walking home in darkness from the MacArthur and Rockridge BART stations. Remember, thieves prey upon commuters, especially those with laptop computers. Try to walk with other people, and walk along well lighted main streets as far as you can.

What do you do if you're carrying a cell phone and see a crime in progress? Who do you call? On a cell phone, 777-3211 is the most direct way to reach the Oakland Police Department (if you're at home on a land line, 911 is still the way to go). For ongoing crime situations such as drug dealing (not emergencies) call the two Problem Solving Officers for North Oakland. Be sure to give the date, time, and location of the events. Our officers are Steve Mitchell at 928-8100 and Jay McCort at 928-9084.

— Donald Lowrey

Opera Piccola Brings Oakland Stars To Starbucks

On Thursday, November 20, at 6:00 PM, Oakland Technical High participants in Opera Piccola's ArtGate residency program will entertain coffee drinkers at the Piedmont Avenue Starbucks. The special evening of teen poetry and skits is the kick-off event to a year-long partnership between Opera Piccola ("Small Works") and Starbucks, which awarded \$5,000 to the small Oakland theater company to support its work in the Oakland public schools.

"With Opera Piccola I can express myself through poetry about things that are really going on. I used to be shy but now I have more confidence to talk to other people," says Elois Thomas, one of the students who will perform at the event. The students will present a scene from their original play, "Not My Baby," which grapples with themes of trust and betrayal, and delivers a message to stop the violence in our cities. They will also read their own poetry about teen life in Oakland.

Opera Piccola is an Oakland theater company that has presented community performances and arts education programs throughout the Bay Area since 1989. The ArtGate Program in the Oakland Public Schools provides literacy and youth development through the arts, as well as arts education professional development for classroom

continued top of next page

teachers. Students choose a theme important to their lives and then create art that expresses their research, ideas, and feelings on the theme. The residencies culminate in a final presentation that brings together family and neighborhood residents to validate their hard work. The program is currently provided at ten Oakland public elementary, middle, and high schools,

including the Temescal neighborhood schools of Emerson Elementary, Carter Middle, and Oakland Technical High.

– Ann Kimball

Got Books?

Park Day School and Emerson Elementary School are conducting their annual book drive collecting books for elementary schools in the Oakland Unified School District. You can donate your kids' books or run a book drive at your work place, place of worship, or favorite club. In the last four years 54,000 books have been contributed! Oakland's public schools need us more than ever. Call Laurie Grossman at Park Day School for information at 653-0317, ext. 105.

– Laurie Grossman

A Letter to the Temescal Community

The revitalization of neighborhoods like Temescal is the future of Oakland, and the cornerstone for any neighborhood revitalization is safety. I do not feel that we have sufficient police coverage. Therefore, I would like to organize a community effort to increase police protection for our neighborhood. Currently, there is only one duty officer assigned to Temescal and Lower Rockridge. We are underrepresented in police protection when compared to both national and local statistics.

I am starting a Temescal family e-mail list, which we can use to organize our community efforts and pass on neighborhood information. I would also like to host a meeting of Temescal families at my home or at another location. If you are interested in joining the e-mail list or attending the meeting, please contact me.

Public officials claim that crime has decreased overall, but we have had armed robberies in the area in the middle of the day. I can put up with not walking the streets late

at night, but I refuse to feel unsafe walking in my neighborhood during the day.

Please contact me at 547-1582 or e-mail edgarchris@earthlink.net. Together we can put pressure on the city council for additional police protection in our wonderful neighborhood.

– Chris Pew

Temescal Families Connect

Want to connect with other families who have small kids? We meet on the third Sunday of each month for brunch and sometimes at other times too. We have an email list so we can notify each other about neighborhood happenings. Most of the kids are ages one to six. To get involved, send an email to noriben@sbcglobal.net or call Ben Thompson, 420-8864.

– Ben Thompson

Holiday Fun at Studio One

Education can be fun and inexpensive, particularly during Studio One Art Center's holiday session, November 24 through December 19. On Monday nights, you can enhance your ceramic skills on the kick wheel, learn to make luminous watercolors, use the glass fusing lab or the photo lab, or do yoga. You can start Tuesday with yoga, attend an afternoon jewelry, photography, or glass bead making lab, or improve your pottery glazing techniques. On Wednesdays, join the pottery lab, painting lab, black and white photo printing class, or back awareness class. On Thursdays, the stained glass, painting, and photo labs are available. You can even learn to make your own holiday cards. On Friday, we offer the pottery lab, photo lab, and a yoga class. Hand make your holiday gifts this year! There will be no Saturday classes this session - the staff appreciates the time off. But they will be eager to return January 5 through March 6 for our regular winter session. Make sure you receive our next schedule by calling 597-5027.

– Tomye Gouache

Temescal Calendar

Saturday, November 1, 9 AM. Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

Monday, November 3, 5:45 PM. *Lawyers in the Library* offers a free 15-minute consultation with a lawyer. Temescal Library, 5202 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Tuesday, November 4, 6:30 PM. NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Wednesday, November 12, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5202 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Monday, November 17, 5 PM. *Go Places, Read* event includes a workshop for parents and a magic show for children. Temescal Library, 5202 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Wednesday, November 19, 7 PM. City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency Community Workshop on MacArthur BART improvements, Beebe Memorial Church, Telegraph and 39th. 637-0247.

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

Thursday, November 20, 6 PM. Enjoy poetry and skits from Oakland Technical High students enrolled in the Art Gate program. Starbucks, 4098 Piedmont Ave.

Saturday, November 22, 9 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

Monday, December 1, 5:45 PM. *Lawyers in the Library* offers a free 15-minute consultation with a lawyer. Temescal Library, 5202 Telegraph. 597-5049.

Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 PM. NCPC Crime Abatement Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 652-4507.

Saturday, December 6, 9 AM. Green Panthers planning meeting. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

Saturday, December 6, 10 AM. Councilmember Jane Brunner's Community Advisory meeting. The topic is *Livable Communities in North Oakland*. Urbanist Peter Calthrope is the featured speaker. Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd St. 238-7001.

Wednesday, December 10, 6 PM. Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All welcome. Temescal Library, 5202 Telegraph. 653-7196.

Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 PM. Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th St. and Webster. 420-6974.

Saturday, December 27, 8 AM. Green Panthers beautification activity. Meet at Temescal Cafe. 655-8855.

Help Support This Newsletter and TNT. *Volunteers are doing the work of getting out this newsletter (and occasional fliers)—but we still need to pay the printer! If you value our community efforts, please consider making a donation. Any amount will help. Make your check payable to TNT, and send it with this form to: TNT, c/o 519 43rd St., Oakland, CA 94609. –Thank You!*

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Yes, I want to help.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

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

I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.