

# 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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### DISTRIBUTION

Clint Powell: 658-7345  
Tomi Kobara: 420-1197

Printed by KRW Printing  
3905 Broadway ♦ 420-1791

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Creative Reuse Center Comes to Temescal

In October The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse signed a 5-year lease at 4695 Telegraph Ave., on the corner of 47th St. Founded by Oakland teachers in 1979, the Depot is a non-profit arts and crafts reuse organization. The Temescal site was chosen for its proximity to highways, bus lines, and BART.

“Our new retail location will allow The Depot to be even more successful than we already are in serving teachers, students, artists, non-profit groups, and families in the East Bay and beyond,” said Linda Levitsky, Executive Director of The Depot. “We will continue to provide low cost art and educational materials and to educate the public to the environmental benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling.”

In 2004 approximately 440 tons of materials were diverted from landfills and made available as arts supplies. The 4,800 sq.-foot retail space with old Victorian 12-foot tall ceilings includes a loading dock with a roll-up door on Shattuck Avenue that will make receiving and sorting donations easier than the current situation.

The Depot is currently seeking bids and donations for renovating the new Temescal storefront as a showcase of “green” building materials and design. This will support the Depot’s mission of creative reuse. Contact Allysyn Kiplinger at 420-0696 or Allysyn@ArthaSoaps.com for more information.

The current store at 6713 San Pablo Avenue will remain open while the Depot transitions to its new location. Look for the grand opening in Temescal in early 2007. For more information, visit [www.east-bay-depot.org](http://www.east-bay-depot.org).

– Allysyn Kiplinger, East Bay Depot Relocation Manager

### Medical Fund Benefits Temescal Crime Victim

The Temescal community was recently horrified and outraged by a violent attack occurring in the neighborhood. Resident Sandra Tellis was beaten, tied up, and set on fire in the parking lot behind Studio One in the early hours of September first. She survived

the attack and is slowly recovering from third-degree burns. The police investigation is ongoing; anyone with information on the incident can contact Oakland police at 238-3821.

Many neighbors have wondered how they can help. A medical fund has been set up in Sandra’s name at Bank of America, account number 05555-42840. Deposits can be made in person at any Bank of America branch—simply make out the check to the Sandra Tellis Medical Fund and give the account number to the teller. If you prefer to mail a check, send it to: Bank of America, 2546 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley, CA 94702. Please be sure to include the account number.

Cards can be sent to the Tellis family care of Henry Lee, the San Francisco Chronicle reporter who has been covering the story. His address is: Henry Lee, SF Chronicle, 483 Ninth St., Suite 100 Oakland, CA 94607. For more information, visit [sandratellis.pledgepage.org](http://sandratellis.pledgepage.org).

– Viki Maxwell, TNV editor

### Library Overhaul is Long Overdue

It’s been more than 50 years since Oakland libraries have had major upgrades, and it’s time for repair and rejuvenation. It’s a big job and it’s expensive, but it needs to be done.

Four libraries, including the Piedmont Ave. branch, have no public bathrooms; more have bathrooms without wheelchair access. Electrical systems can’t support the computers needed by students doing homework or people applying for jobs. The droning ventilation system in the Temescal Branch meeting room drowns out normal conversation, and the lack of an air-cooling system at the Rockridge Branch has caused serious problems for seniors and kids in the summer.

Our neighborhood branch libraries depend on the Main Library. It feeds the branches with newly catalogued materials, circulation support and increasingly technology-driven library services. But the Main was old before it was built, constructed in 1951 with plans from the 1930s. It has the same electrical and ventilation problems as the branches. Parking, if you can find it, is inconvenient. Despite

### Temescal News and Views Editorial Policy

TNV publishes submissions from community members. We do not fact-check, although we correct inaccuracies if we know about them. We strive to achieve a neutral tone and may edit articles accordingly, but ultimately TNV reflects the point of view of the authors and not that of the editors.

occupying an entire city block, the Main Library can't even display all its books, and some public areas are crowded and poorly lit. Our treasured Oakland History Room needs adequate climate control to preserve historical documents.

The Oakland Public Library has an excellent track record of fiscal responsibility and transparency. It has delivered on every promise made in Measure Q, passed by voters in 2004, keeping libraries open and increasing library collections. Over the last three years, the library developed the Facilities Master Plan, the first one in more than 100 years. This plan not only addresses current problems but also community needs, and brings the library system into the twenty-first century.

Measure N represents the first major step in implementing this Master Plan, funding the most critical and cost-effective elements. Locally, Temescal branch will receive additional space for computers, improved display of collections, a makeover of the Teen Area, Wi-Fi access, and self-service options for faster checkout, etc. Rockridge branch will get similar improvements plus an air-cooling system, better acoustics and relocation of the quiet reading area. Piedmont Ave. Branch will get 300% more room to hold more computers (plus Wi-Fi access), expanded collections, much more seating (with dedicated areas for quiet reading, kids and teens), a meeting room, ADA access and equipment, and public restrooms.

In all, Measure N will provide facilities improvements for every library, build two new branches in the Laurel and East Oakland neighborhoods; and relocate the Main to the historical Kaiser Arena, where it can better serve the needs of Oakland. For more information about Measure N and what it proposes for each library, please see [www.oaklandlibraries.com](http://www.oaklandlibraries.com).

– Louise Kreifels and Winona Adkins, *Friends of the Temescal Library*

### Wildflower Initiative

Let's grow some wildflowers in every barren spot of our neighborhood this winter! Vendors can provide bulk seed (saving more than 80% of retail) that are local and organic and that have no invasive species. For example, Larner Seeds in Bolinas can provide mixes appropriate for our coastal area. Visit [www.larnerseeds.com/\\_pages/wildflower\\_mixes.html](http://www.larnerseeds.com/_pages/wildflower_mixes.html).

I'm already spreading four pounds of seed. Wildflowers adapted for the local area can be very colorful and beautiful, and just need winter rain and cool temperatures to do their thing—no maintenance needed. We can plant the seeds that you buy if you lack time. Many of the species we'll use make excellent cut flowers, too. Let's have some fun this winter and spring. Contact Frank Snapp at [pallas89juno@yahoo.com](mailto:pallas89juno@yahoo.com) or 595-3279 for more information.

– Frank Snapp, *Temescal Resident*

### Tis the Temescal to be Jolly—2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Open House

If you enjoyed (or missed) our celebration last year, mark your calendar now for Thursday, December 7 (alternate rain date December 14) from 5 PM to 7 PM on Telegraph Avenue from 45th to 51st to enjoy Temescal holiday lights and live music.

The Temescal Merchants welcome the community to join them in kicking off the holiday season with lots of spirited activities and special treats, including a special appearance from Santa Claus and his merry elves.

Brought to you by the Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District and its dedicated elves. For more information and to join the planning committee, call 860-78327.

– Darlene Rios Drapkin, *Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District*

### Temescal Branch Library News

If you see this before the November 7<sup>th</sup> election, remember that you can stop by the library for an Easy Voter Guide produced by the League of Women Voters. And if you're interested in partisan materials, we also have an election table where anyone can put materials—pro and con—on candidates, propositions, and measures.

On Monday before the election, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 PM, we are presenting an original work, a one-man show, called "Raising Sane." Through music and poetry, Mack Dennis traces his personal journey as an activist. He was the first black bus driver for the city of New Orleans, and his lively program highlights the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Panther Party and his time in Angola.

Many of you have seen our newly remodeled Tool Library, but if you haven't—please stop by! The new counter is beautiful, and the reorganized space is streamlined and ef-

ficient. Manager Ty Yurgelevic planned for several months to come up with the optimal solution to our dilemma: many tools and patrons in too little space. Ty will now be able to concentrate on replacing some worn and broken tools.

By the time you read this newsletter, the library will have switched to our new computer catalog system. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, we are scheduled to "go live" and we are looking forward to an updated and improved system, which ultimately means better service to our patrons. Please bear with us as we get familiar with this new system!

– Sally Bean, *Branch Manager*

### New Book about Temescal History

Temescal resident and community artist, Jeff Norman, has written a new book about the Temescal neighborhood. *Temescal Legacies, Narratives of Change from a North Oakland Neighborhood* combines interviews and over 200 photographs to examine five historically significant changes to Temescal since World War II. Topics include: how the community helped establish in the late 1940s the Studio One Arts program on 45th St.; the rise and fall of the Sacramento Northern Railway, which from 1913 until 1957 ran up Shafter Ave.; the building in the late 1950s and early 1960s of the Grove-Shafter Freeway (Hwy. 24); the founding of the East Bay Negro Historical Society in the 1960s and Temescal's changing demographics; and the burying of Temescal Creek near the DMV in the 1970s.

The book was funded in part through grants from the city's Cultural Arts Program and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program.

Under the name of Shared Ground, Norman has created a number of projects over the past ten years that explore the connections between Temescal's past and present. His projects have included the outdoor "History Walk" at the Station 8 Firehouse on 51st St.; "PostMark Temescal," a collaboration with other Temescal artists to create the community interpretive site on Shattuck Ave. outside the post office; and "Beyond the Pussycat: Nine Lives of a Neighborhood Landmark" an on-site installation that traced the history of the vacant lot at the northeast corner of Telegraph and 51st St.

In addition to Norman's new book, Shared Ground has launched the Temescal Community Archive, a new program to collect, cata-

log, and exhibit historic photographs and other materials relating to Temescal's history.

To celebrate the publication of *Temescal Legacies*, the community is invited to a book reading on Saturday, December 9, 2 PM, at the Temescal Branch Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave. For more information about the event, contact the library at 597-5049.

For more information about the book or the Temescal Community Archive, call 653-7190 or visit [www.sharedground.org](http://www.sharedground.org).

—Kathy Geritz, *Temescal Resident*

## New Zoning Recommendations for Temescal

At the final community meeting in the Temescal Neighborhood planning process on October 26, Oakland Planning Director Claudia Cappio presented her recommendations for new zoning and related guidelines for the Temescal District. For this process, the District was defined as the area along Telegraph Ave. from the Berkeley border to Highway 580, excluding the portion abutting the MacArthur BART Station. The Temescal District includes areas south of Highway 24 and west of Telegraph Ave. to the freeway, as well as areas south of 51st St. and east of Telegraph Ave. to Broadway.

- **Height & Stepbacks on Telegraph Ave.:** Telegraph Ave. will be divided into three segments: MacArthur to 45th, 45th to Claremont, and Claremont to the Berkeley border. Along Telegraph Ave. between MacArthur and 45th and between Claremont and the Berkeley border, building heights will be limited to 4 stories or 45 feet for buildings that include a generous 12-15 foot height for retail space on the ground floor. A conditional use permit may be granted for a 5th story, where the additional story is set back from the façade of the building. Approval would depend on the context of the adjacent buildings and block where the building is proposed. For Telegraph Ave. between 45th and Claremont building heights will be limited to 35 feet. A conditional use permit may be granted for height up to 45 feet where the additional height is set back from the façade of the building. Such approval would depend on the context of the adjacent buildings and block where the building is proposed. All buildings along Telegraph will be required to “step down” to the residential buildings behind them.

- **Height & Stepbacks on Shattuck Ave.** For Shattuck Ave. between 51st and 45th

Streets building heights will be limited to 35 feet. A conditional use permit may be granted for height up to 45 feet where the additional height is set back from the façade of the building. Such approval would depend on the context of adjacent buildings and block where the building is proposed.

- **Residential Districts.** The existing zoning which limits height to 25-30 feet in residential blocks will not be changed. Residential areas which are currently zoned for higher density will be down-zoned to lower densities in line with their existing character. The neighborhood bordered by MacArthur, 40th St., Broadway and Telegraph Ave., which is currently higher density, will be rezoned for lower density consistent with the general low scale of the neighborhood.

- **Historical Building & Neighborhood Character.** The protected status of landmarked buildings will not be changed. Additional buildings and specific blocks along Telegraph Ave. will be identified and designated as representative of the character of the district. (A preliminary list of character-defining buildings was available at the meeting.) New development at these locations will be required to incorporate the existing building or building façade.

- **Streetscape.** Developers of new buildings will be required to pay into a fund to improve the streetscape, pedestrian and bicycle safety in the Temescal District to offset the impact of the new residents.

- **Parking.** No change to the existing regulations, which require one parking space per unit.

—Carla Koop, *TNV Editor*

## Shopping Caution for the Holidays

The holidays are approaching, a time for shopping—and some precautions. Put your packages into your car trunk. Keeping them on the car seats invites thieves. In early October a woman parked on College Avenue and went into Hudson Bay Café for coffee. She left her laptop on her car seat. In broad daylight, a thief broke her car window and stole the laptop in a very short period of time. Please...store your valuables in your trunk.

Especially during the prime Christmas shopping time, be alert to your surroundings. Look around you; be aware. Last Christmas season, thieves working from moving cars carried out purse snatchings and thefts along College Avenue. One man would get out, fol-

## TNV Volunteer Opportunities

*Are you looking for a way to contribute to the community? Become part of the team that makes Temescal News and Views a reality! We currently have two openings:*

**Editorial Staff:** *If you enjoy writing, layout, editing, or proofreading and have some time every two months, we would love to talk with you. Contact Viki Maxwell, Carla Koop and Ruth Furgas at [temescal\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:temescal_news@yahoo.com).*

**Distributor:** *Like to walk? We need a person to distribute the newsletter on 40th Street between Telegraph and Broadway. Call Clint Powell at 658-7345.*

low a shopper, steal a purse or wallet, and be picked up by his buddies driving by.

If you are robbed please call the police immediately: from cell phones 777-3211; landline phones: 911. Quick response by the police has captured thieves, saving others the pain of an attack.

For more information on the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, call Don Lowrey at 420-6974 or visit our website at [temescal.us](http://temescal.us). Join us on the second Thursday of each month (except December), 7 PM at Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster Streets.

—Don Lowrey, *Chair, NCPC*

## Fall and Winter at Studio One

At Studio One, we invite you to delve into a “tasty” art-form rather than kvetch about our physical form as the holiday feasting season approaches. Studio One Art Center will offer you a Blue Plate special of goodies for the fall session (Nov. 27 - Dec. 14). For those who can get away for a “snack” on Monday afternoons, there will be four sessions of the figure drawing/painting lab. For those of us who must savor our morsels at night, there are three 6:30-9:30 sessions on Monday nights of Pottery Decoration Class, or perhaps the four sessions of Fused Glass Lab are more to your liking (also offered in the Winter 2007 session). You can reduce your stress with Yoga on four Tuesday mornings or four Wednesday nights of Yoga Meditation (the latter held at the City of Oakland's Lake Merritt Sailboat House, 568 Bellevue Ave.). Teens are welcome at four Wednesday

# Temescal Calendar

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 AM.** Planting day for the 40th St. median. Contact Rick Mead, 652-7795 for more information.

**Monday, Nov. 6, 7 PM.** Mack Dennis performs *Raising Sane*, a one-man show tracing his personal journey as an activist. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7190.

**Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 AM.** Don't forget to VOTE! To find your polling place, go to [www.smartvoter.org/ca/alm](http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/alm). Polls close at 8 PM.

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 PM.** Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) Steering Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster. 420-6974.

**Friday, Nov. 10, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or come to enjoy. 472 44th Street. 594-2200.

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 AM.** Planting day for the 40th St. median. Contact Rick Mead, 652-7795 for more information.

**Thursday, Nov. 16, 6 PM.** Opening reception for the Park Day School Benefit Art Show. Meet talented Park Day School family artists and support a worthy cause—the East Bay's most progressive K-8 program! The show runs through Jan. 2. 4810 Telegraph. 595-1669.

**Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Lake Temescal inlet near the Broadway Terrace park entrance. 459-3967 or [temcrk@mountaincurrent.net](mailto:temcrk@mountaincurrent.net).

**Thursday, December 7, 5 PM.** Second Annual Temescal Holiday Fair. Enjoy holiday lights, live music, and a visit from Santa along Telegraph Ave. Rain date December 14. Telegraph Ave. between 45th and 51st. 860-7327.

**Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 PM.** Poetry Saloon. Bring a poem that you have written and one by someone else to share, or come to enjoy. 472 44th Street. 594-2200.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 AM.** Holiday Party at Ruby's Garden featuring massages, coffee and treats from Bakesale Betty. 4925 Shattuck. 595-5325.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 11 AM.** Community Holiday Party at Desa Arts. Join us for cocoa and holiday treats. 4810 Telegraph. 595-1669.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 PM.** Jeff Norman reads from his new book *Temescal Legacies, Narratives of Change from a North Oakland Neighborhood*. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7190.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6 PM.** Temescal Merchants Association monthly meeting. All are welcome. Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph. 653-7196.

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 AM.** Help monitor water quality in Temescal Creek. Lake Temescal inlet near the Broadway Terrace park entrance. 459-3967 or [temcrk@mountaincurrent.net](mailto:temcrk@mountaincurrent.net).

afternoon Drawing/Painting classes. The last course to "consume" is the Stained Glass Lab offered on four Thursday mornings, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Don't wait until the portions are gone! Enjoy our "nutritional" courses at Studio One, 1428 Alice Street off 14th St. in downtown Oakland. Call 597-5027 for reservations or register on-line at [www.oaklandnet.com/parks/registration/default.asp](http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/registration/default.asp). —Tomye Neal-Madison, *Studio One*

## BUSINESS NEWS

### New Contemporary Art Gallery

In March North Oakland residents Narangkar Khalsa and Pete Glover opened Rowan Morrison, an exhibition space located in part of their art studio. The gallery, located at 330 40th St. (at Broadway), runs two-month solo exhibitions featuring artists working primarily in two-dimensional media: painting, photography, printmaking and drawing. Most exhibitors are local artists with formal arts educations, and many studied at California College of the Arts, as did the owners.

RM carries a variety of books ranging from self-published zines and comics, art biographies and anthologies, and art history books. Many books focus on local art movements like the Bay Area Figurative Painters and the Society of Six.

The gallery is also part of the Oakland Art Murmur, which consists of about a dozen spaces (including Boontling, also located in Temescal) that participate in art openings on the first Fridays of every month. For more information about the Art Murmur, visit [www.oaklandartmurmur.com](http://www.oaklandartmurmur.com).

RM gallery hours are Thurs.-Sun. 12-7 PM. For more information, call 384-5344 or visit [www.rowanmorrison.com](http://www.rowanmorrison.com).

—Narangkar Khalsa and Pete Glover, owners

## Shop Local for the Holidays

The Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District encourages residents to patronize Temescal businesses for the following reasons:

**Community benefits.** Studies show that locally owned businesses put 70% more money back into the local community than chain stores, per square foot occupied. And if each household redirected just \$100 of planned holiday spending from chain stores to locally owned merchants, the local economic impact would be significant. Non-profits also receive an average 350% more support from local business owners than they do from non-locally owned businesses.

**Diverse shops and products.** Temescal has many unique independent businesses that can offer a range of product choices tailored to the needs of local customers.

**Service.** In a local business, you get to know the person behind the counter, and they get to know you. They understand the products they're selling and take time to serve their customers.

**Jobs.** Local businesses are owned by people who live and work here and have a personal investment in the community. They are far less likely to pull up stakes and move operations to another city or country, taking their jobs with them.

**Health & environment.** Less driving, less stress.

**Taxes.** Temescal Telegraph businesses need comparatively less infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to nationally owned stores. Stay tuned for a Turn to Temescal-Telegraph First campaign. If you would like to help implement this plan, contact Darlene at 860-7327, [ttbid@california.com](mailto:ttbid@california.com).

—Darlene Rios Drapkin, *Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District*

*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!

Yes, I want to help.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

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I'd like to volunteer. Please call me.