

PANIL

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League

News and Notes / Volume 36 / July-August 2011

PANIL was formed in 1974 and to this day continues its mission to be the voice of the community on matters of public interest, public safety and neighborhood affairs. Member dues, advertising, and volunteer services pay for all activities.

Tree trimming on the Avenue

By Mike Lydon

In late June, an unidentified and unauthorized tree trimmer severely cut four trees on Piedmont Avenue in front of Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. None of this was done with the city's knowledge or approval and seems to have been done to improve sight lines for a large billboard located on private property adjacent to the school. This is the second time in three years the trees have been cut in this manner. The Oakland tree division is working with the city's attorney to stop this practice. If you see tree trimming done by other than city crews, take down the license of the vehicles. Better yet – photograph it with your cell phone! Pass this information on to Jane Brunner's office at jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, 238-7001 and also email PANIL at contact@panil.org.

Farms in Oakland?

You bet! But controversies remain

By Valerie Winemiller

On July 21, there were over 300 people at a zoning workshop about creating new Urban Agriculture codes for Oakland. Not the usual smattering of policy wonks! Most of the passionate crowd was aged 25-35, multi-ethnic, many multiply-pierced, tattooed, and/or dread-locked. One fellow had two baby kids on leashes. And there was a delegation of urban 4-H children in uniform.

Everybody loves backyard tomatoes. The hottest policy questions seem to be 1) Under what circumstances (if

any) should neighbors be allowed to raise and slaughter meat animals? and 2) Should people be allowed to sell produce (or meat) or cooked goods from their home, and to what controls should this activity be subject? "Farm City" author Novella Carpenter seems to have partially triggered the current controversy by slaughtering rabbits at home and selling meat pies...then there were the goats slaughtered clumsily and brutally for back yard pit bar-b-ques by neighbors of a late friend of this writer.

The new rules should address crops (location, size and intensity of farming and community gardens), animal husbandry, bee-keeping, hydro- and aquaponics, farm stands, permitting processes and standards and other agriculture activities. Impacts to be considered are noise (machinery, animals) odors (fertilizers, animals), sales activity (traffic, etc.) and health issues (contaminated soils, animals, vermin attracted by animal feed, bees). Some issues will continue to be regulated by county, state and federal agencies.

Animal welfare is partially covered by the Animal Services division of the police department. This overworked and under funded agency not only deals with abused pets and aggressive dogs, and impounds up to 100 fighting roosters in a single raid, but is now struggling to care for an influx of traditional farm animals.

To get on the notification list for future meetings on this issue, contact city planner Heather Klein at hklein@oaklandnet.com. You may send written comments to: City of Oakland, Attn: Heather Klein, Strategic Planning Division, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3315, Oakland CA 94612 or fax to (510) 238-6538. And let PANIL know what you think at contact@panil.org.

PANIL monthly meeting; bring the information to you and let's you ask questions.

Wednesday, September 14

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — 7:30 pm

General Meeting — 8 pm

Walking in Oakland: Doug Johnson from Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's (WOBO) policy committee will discuss **pedestrian priorities** for Oakland following up on August's meeting about bike lanes on Piedmont Avenue. Doug is a 15 year resident of the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood and a transportation planner

**PANIL meetings are the second Wednesday of each month
Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street — 11th Floor Sky Room**

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PANIL Meeting
 2nd Wednesday of the month
 7:30 to 9 pm
 Piedmont Gardens
 110 41st Street
 11th Floor Sky Room

PANIL Steering Committee meets monthly
 For the time, date and place email contact@panil.org



Glen Echo Creek
Oakland Creek to Bay Day 2011
 Saturday, 9/17
 9am to noon
 Monte Vista Avenue,
 654-1930

Mt. View Cemetery Tour
 Docent led tour
 2nd and 4th Saturdays
 10 am, FREE



PIEDMONT AVENUE
ART WALK
NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTS
THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
6 TO 9PM
GO TO
WWW.PIEDMONTAVENUE.ORG
FOR A LIST OF PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS



Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
 160 41st Street, 597-5011

Storytimes
 Toddlers
Wednesday, 10:15 am
 Pre school
Wednesday, 11 am

National Night Out 2011

- L-R
- Row 1: Entrada/Glenn/Arroyuelo, Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, 4200 Montgomery, John Street
 - Row 2: Gilbert/Ridgeway, Montell, 4300 Montgomery, Kelton Court
 - Row 3: 40th Street Way, Ramona/Pleasant Valley Courts, Howe Street, Glenn/Linda
 - Row 4: Rio Vista, Kempton Place, Terrace, Echo/Glenn
 - Row 5: Monte Cresta, Plymouth Church
- Not shown — Brandon and View Street.

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League
P.O. Box 20375
Oakland, CA 94620



*Organization matters.
Persistence matters.
PANIL delivers these.*

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Free stairmaster workout! **PANIL needs help delivering this newsletter!**

A few blocks of our neighborhood receive this newsletter erratically because there are not enough volunteer distributors. Get a free workout delivering this newsletter—and get a new perspective on your block from your neighbors' front porches. It takes less than a hour per issue.

Please contact Margitta Gardner at 652-6609 or MIGBRYNAS@aol.com if you are willing to help out with any of the blocks listed below:

- Mather Street, 200 block
- Ridgeway, from Howe to Terrace
- Terrace Street, 4100 block
- Howe Street, 4100 and 4300 blocks
- Monte Cresta Avenue, either walking the non-security homes or distributing in your security apartment building



Piedmont Avenue Elementary School

*Working to Ensure Academic and Social
Success for Every Student!*

Reading Partners: Not tutoring, but reading together — Volunteer 1/2 hour a week with a student — Call 915-0220 (after 5pm) or email paesreadingpartners@gmail.com for more information

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HOME * AUTO * LIFE * BUSINESS

As a long time Oakland resident, Ruth established her agency in Oakland in 2006 to serve the community she calls home. Ruth and her team provide insurance services to families and business owners throughout the East Bay.