

PANIL Notes

Volume 32

Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League - PO Box 20375, Oakland CA 94620

May 2007

ASKED ON THE AVENUE

How Has the High Price of Gasoline Affected You?

All photos by Joyce Benna



Bill Manley, Gilbert St.

Not much. I try to bike or BART everywhere. I'd be happy to pay \$5 a gallon as long as the extra amount went to improve bus and rail service instead of to the record profits of oil companies.



Lise LaTorre, Ramona Ave.

I've been trying to reduce my reliance on gasoline for a long time now, commuting to San Francisco on BART, driving a hybrid for those times I must go by car, and living in this wonderful neighborhood where I can get everywhere I need to on foot.



Chris Peebles, Howe St.

I put my 1966 Volvo up on blocks seven years ago, and I now ride the bus everywhere. I mostly take the 51 and 57 lines. To get to San Francisco I take the C, which runs during commute hours, or the NL, which runs 24/7.

I've been a bus guy since I was a kid growing up in San Francisco.

Chris is a director-at-large for the AC Transit District.



Kelsey Krausen, Entrada Ave.

It's made me more aware of how much I'd been paying. I now commute to downtown Oakland on my bike or I take BART.



David Peterson, Yosemite Ave.

I hardly drive at all. I ride my bike to MacArthur BART and take the train to Walnut Creek, where I work as an urban planner.

**The Question for Next Month:
Where do you volunteer?**

City CarShare - Is It for You?

By Martin Huff

Interested in improving the environment and quality of life in the Bay Area? Look into City CarShare, a Bay Area non-profit that owns a fleet of vehicles available for short term use from numerous locations in the East Bay and San Francisco.

Owning a car has become so ingrained in our national culture that we rarely stop to calculate the economic cost, let alone what cars are doing to the environment. If you add insurance, gas, and maintenance to a typical monthly auto payment, the cost can average \$500 a month.

City CarShare is not for everyone, but it may be worth the time to see if it fits your needs.

There are a dozen locations in Oakland, another dozen in Berkeley and twice that many in San Francisco. The Piedmont Avenue location is in the city parking lot by Longs at 41st and Piedmont Avenue, in front of the Key System mural.

You must be a member to use the service. A \$30 application fee and a \$300 refundable deposit are required. The monthly membership fee is \$10 plus sales tax.

You may reserve a car on the web or by phone. From 10 am to 10 pm there is an hourly charge of \$4. The hourly rate is \$2 for the other twelve hours. In addition, there is a charge of 44c per mile. The latter includes gas, insurance, and towing.

Continued on pg 2

May PANIL Meeting
Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 pm
Piedmont Gardens 110 41st Street
11th Floor Sky Room

7:30—8:00 pm
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

8:00—9:00 pm
PANIL Meeting

**Piedmont Avenue
Neighborhood
Improvement League
PO Box 20375
Oakland CA 94620
www.panil.org**

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**Steering Committee
and Working Groups**

Advertising/Library/Media

Joan Dark
338.1316
jdark@pacunion.com

**Beat 9X NCPD Co-Chair/
PANIL Distribution**

Margitta Gardner
652.6609
migbrynas@aol.com

**Beat 9X NCPD Co-Chair/
Finance and Membership**

Bill Manley
658.2419
bmanleynow@yahoo.com

Senior Liaison
Moir Nichols
652.3192

Zoning/Building
Valerie Winemiller
653.4552
vwinemiller@hotmail.com

PAMA

Ann Kraynak
428.2698
piedmontsys@sbcglobal.net

City Government

District 1 Councilmember

Jane Brunner
238.7001

jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

District 1 School Director

Kerry Hamill
879.8653

kerry.hamill@ousd.k12.ca.us

Oakland Police Dept

Lt. Jim Meeks
238.7147

jmeeks@oaklandnet.com

NSC Paul Brekke-Miesner
Neighborhood Services Coordinator
238.3102

pbrekke-miesner@oaklandnet.com

PSO Melvin Bermudez
Problem Solving Officer
773.6947

mebermudez@oaklandnet.com

City CarShare *continued from pg 1*

The car at the Piedmont Avenue location is a Scion xA four door hatchback. Additional makes and models are available at the other locations.

My experience shows that it is important to plan your time carefully so that the length of your reservation closely matches the errands you wish to run.

Always allow some leeway for traffic congestion and other possible delays. If no one has reserved your car in the time slot after you, it is possible to call in and extend the reservation. A fifteen minute leeway is allowed in returning the car.

Owning a car has become so ingrained in our national culture that we rarely stop to calculate the economic cost, let alone what cars are doing to the environment.

An orientation session is required. This is currently held only in downtown San Francisco, but East Bay orientation is planned for the future.

There are various fees for not complying with the rules. Late fees are high in order to discourage inconveniencing other members.

While I do not use the service frequently, I find that it is well worth the deposit and monthly fee to have it available when I need it. For me, the location is only a block away!

My recommendation is that you take a hard look at your need for a car 24/7 and your current auto costs compared to City CarShare. It may be the answer for you! For more information or to subscribe: Telephone: 415/ 995-8588 Web: www.citycarshare.org



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PANSA'S SUCCESSOR

Walk to School

By Philippa Barron

My husband and I have lived in the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood for almost 10 years; we have 5-year-old twins. We live a block away from Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. Exactly one year ago this month, I began talking to everyone I encountered who had small children (including babies in strollers!) about getting together for play dates and about the possibility of sending all of our kids to the local school. I quickly found several families who expressed interest in getting to know their neighbors and having their kids someday walk to school.

I decided to start an online Yahoo group, which I named "walktoschool", so that the parents and neighbors could easily exchange information.

At least 10 "walktoschool PANSA" members' kids will be starting kindergarten or first grade at Piedmont Avenue Elementary in September.

The online group started small, but now has over 120 members. Typical postings include information about kid-friendly art and music events, questions about and results of the recent Oakland school district Options (school-choice) process, and plans for forming babysitting circles or getting together for play dates and other fun events. We also post timely and critically important ques-

tions such as "where is the best trick-or-treating in the area?" Many of the walkto-school members are members of the school's PTA or attendees at the PTA meetings on the second Monday of the month.

Last fall, I met with John Woodbury, the outgoing president of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association (PANSA.) He told me about the good education his two daughters had received at Piedmont Avenue Elementary in the last ten years, and about all of the good work that PANSA and its members have done over the years at the school. As PANSA was about to dissolve, he agreed to propose that PANSA's membership and organization—and 501(c)(3) status—be passed along to the walktoschool group. In hopeful anticipation and to honor PANSA's many contributions to the school, I renamed our Yahoo group "walktoschoolPANSA"!

The process for PANSA members to approve the formal change was slowed by the untimely death, late in 2006, of one of the founding members of PANSA, Gary Abrams. [PANSA members voted on the proposal in April.]

Recently I got some wonderful ideas from Susan Killebrew of the Peralta School group—parents who have really succeeded in changing the neighborhood's perception of their local school on 63rd Street. The volunteer support for the relocation of the school after the fire on March 26 is an indication of the strength of the community. [See story on page 4.]

Small groups of walktoschool-ers have met with Dr. Angela Haick, the school's principal, as well as with Kerry Hamill, our school board representative (whose daughters also attended Piedmont Avenue,) and John Woodbury. In addition, we had a brainstorming session about future fundraising possibilities and ongoing school projects that might need funds.

Continued on pg 4

Calendar

(for more neighborhood events go to www.panil.org/calendar)

PANIL Meeting

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

PANIL Steering Committee
email info@panil.org for time, date and place of monthly meeting

Glen Echo Creek Work Day

2nd Saturday of the month
Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 am
654.1930

Mt. View Cemetery Tour

Docent led tour
2nd Saturday of the month
10 am, FREE

Events at the Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue
654.0123

Historical and Botanical Tour

3rd Saturday of the month
10 am to noon, FREE

Jazz at the Chimes

3rd Sunday of the month
\$10-20/children under 12 FREE
2 to 4 pm

Oakland Heritage Alliance Lecture Series

2nd Thursday of the monthly
7:30 pm
\$8 OHA members/\$10 non-members/\$5 low income
Further information:
www.oaklandheritage.org or
763.9218

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library
160 41st Street, 597.5011

Storytimes

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

Saturday Knitting Club
Every Saturday 3 to 4 pm

To place an item on PANIL's calendars, send e-mail to: info@panil.org

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COMPLETE END-OF-LIFE PLANNING, SERVICES, SUPPORT

WalktoSchoolPANSAs *continued from pg 3*

I am happy to report that at least 10 walktoschoolPANSAs members' kids will be starting kindergarten or first grade at Piedmont Avenue Elementary in September 2007. We are looking forward to joining the families already at the school, both from the neighborhood and from throughout Oakland.

We sponsored the First Annual "After-Easter, After-Passover, Right-Smack-in-the-Middle-of Spring Egg Hunt" on the school lawn on April 15th. It was a lot of fun, and a real pleasure to see a crowd of kids from 18 months to 7 years old running around the school's front lawn. Our next event will be a summer yard sale, to benefit the school. You will learn about it if you sign up for the walktoschoolPANSAs group. We invite you to participate whether or not you have young children and regardless of where your children go to school. To join, send an e-mail to walktoschoolPANSAs-subscribe@yahoo.com.



From left to right and front to back: Jackson Pilisuk, Ben Huntington, cute girl w ponytails, Noah Fisher, Penelope Martindale, Natalie Salop, Matthew Neilan, Lucy McNeill Cole (top of head), Abby Wheeler, Cameron, Ben Salop, Andrés Kuri, Caitlin Pilisuk, Declan Ward



Joan Dark

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Peralta School Relocates and Rebuilds

Peralta School, 63rd Street near Telegraph, suffered a devastating fire on March 26. The school was relocated to the Carter School, on Webster at 45th Street, which had been unoccupied for this school year. The Peralta Parent Teaching Group has organized volunteers from their community and from all over Oakland to revitalize that campus as a welcoming, homey, and well-stocked school at the same time that local families are trying to raise money in order to rebuild the Peralta campus.

The Peralta Pledge

- Peralta Is Our Name.**
- Learning Is Our Game.**
- Peralta Is The School.**
- We Think It's Really Cool.**
- The Teachers Teach.**
- The Students Reach For Each & Every Tool.**
- We Need To Learn In School.**
- We Listen, We Do.**
- We Help Each Other.**
- We Learn From Our Mistakes & We Succeed!**

From www.peraltaschool.org

For more detail, visit www.peraltaschool.org, where you can make a donation to this effort. We are told that they need books to stock the library. Books can be dropped at the school, 4521 Webster, during school hours.

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Something Old

by ShopGirl

Antique, vintage, used, recycled—if you prefer possessions with a past, just start walking (and browsing).

Yesteryear's state-of-the-art technology has a home at **Lost & Found Antiques**, where a visitor might discover slide rules, inkwells, fountain pens, a razor strop (\$60), a 1930s Victrola (\$225), and an English banker's scale (\$495). Owners **Bill and Mary Doniger** set up shop on Piedmont in 1991 after a dozen years in an antiques' co-op on Solano Ave. Bill once worked for a manufacturer of precision tools; his fondness for science and engineering his evident in his store's neatly organized inventory. He scours flea markets for medical instruments, walking sticks (one handsome example, priced at \$125, has a compass in the knob), and mounted specimens of butterflies and bugs (\$75 and up). He also carries some unusual works by California artists, such as illustrated menus from the S.S. Lurline cruise lines' voyages of the 1950s and 1960s.

If you have a spare \$300,000 and a penchant for 19th century French art, ask about the Jean-François Millet painting that **Marty Martinez**, owner of **Piedmont Lane Gallery**, is restoring. Not quite so flush? The 8,000-square-foot space is crammed with a dazzling array of goodies, from typesetter's cases to old LPs (\$4 to \$12), from a yellow rotary phone (\$24) to a wild striped wingback chair (\$165). Marty, an Oakland native and 1951 graduate of CCAC (now CCA), has been on the avenue for 36 years; he buys entire estates, goes to garage sales, and depends on a network of sellers. "We get as excited over a rare \$2 item as we do over a rare \$1,000 item," he says. About half of the building is devoted to paintings, furniture, and collectibles; the other half is a collective where consigners lease space and sell vintage housewares (a red Le Creuset griddle pan is \$58), clothing (much of it suitable for costumes), and shoes (two pairs of almost-new early-1950s A'mano sling-back pumps, size 7AAAAA: \$20 each).

Eager shoppers pack the American Cancer Society's **Discovery Shop** every July for the annual jewelry event

(this year's sale: Saturday, July 14). Other popular events, scheduled whenever there's sufficient merchandise, include a costume sale (usually in October), vintage-clothing sales, and "everything French" (which can comprise Limoges china, French cookbooks, and Eiffel Tower replicas). On ordinary shopping days—the shop is open seven days a week—you'll find a well-displayed selection of furniture, housewares, and men's and women's clothing. A long muumuu, made in Hawaii, was \$7; a pair of new Kenneth Cole purple pumps was \$14. Other famous labels have included Prada, Tod's, and Stuart Weitzman. If you plan to donate, manager **Linda Payne** reminds us that the "no, thanks" list includes computers, skis, televisions, exercise equipment, and textbooks. Linda adds that the store always welcomes volunteers.

Cynthia Lloyd says she "always tore my clothes apart" to make them more comfortable and artistic. Now she recycles fabric, T-shirts, snap tape, shell buttons, and bicycle inner tubes into unusual and one-of-a-kind wearables for men and women. She opened her shop on Broadway, **Cyzuki Industries**, a year and a half ago, and gets customers mostly through word of mouth. (Call before dropping by to make sure the store is open.) Cynthia cuts, serges, and topstitches T-shirts into "T-skirts" suitable for bicycling (about \$50 each), and transforms tees into tote bags of various sizes (\$30 to \$75). She's also a skilled crocheter; crochet shows up as trim for a custom-designed men's suit and in a dress that combines a recycled basketball-jersey top and a crocheted skirt.

May and September are the big sale months at **Dress Best for Less**, where all proceeds benefit the Piedmont public schools. Store manager **Janice Chipman** says the store features "high-end donations at low-end prices." A lot of the merchandise is new and unused, such as an Italian handbag, originally \$350, priced at \$85. But you'll also find a harvest gold fondue pot—very 1972!—for \$5 and a set of six vintage lace-trimmed linen napkins for \$15. Spotted on the women's clothing rack: size 6 floral Lilly Pulitzer pants (\$12), a size 8 cropped Jones New York silk pin-stripe jacket (\$14), and size 12 cropped Façonnable khaki pants (\$12).

Lost & Found Antiques
4220 Piedmont Ave.
654-2007

Piedmont Lane Gallery
4121 Piedmont Ave.
654-4706

Discovery Shop
127 41st St.
601-0100
cancer.org

Cyzuki Industries
4020 Broadway
645-9044
stores.ebay.com/cyzuki-industries

Dress Best for Less
3861 Piedmont Ave.
658-8525

WANTED: ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Join the PANIL Notes Team!

We're looking for an able and enthusiastic volunteer who will coordinate advertising for the newsletter. If you have a little time and talent to contribute, email us using the CONTACT US button on the PANIL website at www.PANIL.ORG or drop us a line at P.O. Box 20375, Oakland 94620.

If you want to support PANIL's efforts to keep the neighborhood informed and make our voices heard, become a member.

Send \$15, with your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number, to PANIL, Box 20375, Oakland 94620.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Basic Needs in a Disaster

By Ruby Long

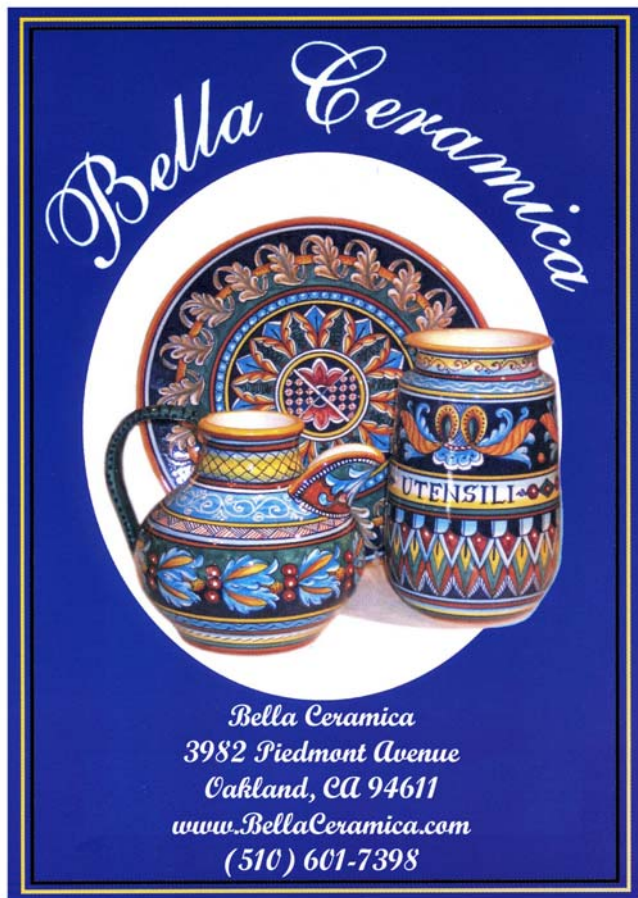
When the big one hits and there is no water or power, where will you go to the toilet?

The need for emergency toilets was voted the top priority in an apartment complex on Monte Cresta after the residents took CORE I training. CORE is Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies. The toilets are primitive—5 gallon buckets with removable seats, plastic bag liners and chemical packets - but they store easily under an outside stairway. There is less possibility of their being crushed in that location should the building collapse.

The toilets cost \$35 each, an expense easily covered by a fund created by collecting \$10 from each of the twenty-five residents. The toilets were ordered from a source found by Googling “earthquake supplies.” (Google returned more than 10 pages of companies that offer emergency supplies, with a wide range of prices.)

If these toilets are ever put into use, they will be moved to improvised shelters constructed of sheets or tarps supported by trellises or scavenged building supplies.

Residents say that having taken the CORE I training and making preparations for a possible disaster have made them feel more secure and less anxious about that possibility. Future articles in PANIL Notes will describe other steps they have taken to cope with a devastating event.



Emergency Preparedness for Preschool and School-age Children

By age 3 or so, children can understand what an earthquake is and how to get ready for one. Take the time to explain what causes earthquakes in terms they'll understand. Include your children in family discussions and planning for earthquake safety. Conduct drills and review safety procedures every six months.

- Show children the safest places to be in each room when an earthquake hits. Also show them all possible exits from each room.
- Use sturdy tables to teach children to Duck, Cover, and Hold.
- Teach children what to do wherever they are during an earthquake (at school, in a tall building, outdoors).
- Make sure children's emergency cards at school are up-to-date. Although children should not turn off any utility valves, it's important that they know what gas smells like. Advise children to tell an adult if they smell gas after an earthquake.

From the California Office of Emergency Services http://www.oes.ca.gov/CEPM2003.nsf/htmlmedia/body_children.html Accessed 4-19-07

- Duck** — Duck or drop down on the floor.
- Cover** — Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.
- Hold** — If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, hold on to it and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.