

PANIL Notes

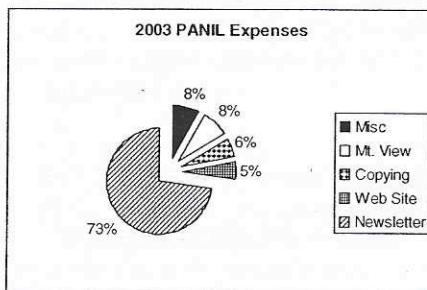
Volume 29 Issue 3—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—February 2004

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? PANIL financial report

By Bess Ellinger

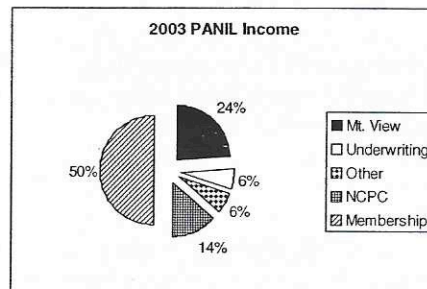
Many neighbors have generously contributed to PANIL by becoming members. Where does your \$15 membership fee go? The answer is—primarily to the newsletter where printing and mailing costs represented the single largest PANIL expense in 2003, as it did in 2002.

PANIL expenses in 2003 were comprised of the newsletter (73%), the Mountain View Cemetery appeal (8%), the web site (5%), copying (6%), and miscellaneous (8%) such as postal box fees and the Steering Committee election mailing.



PANIL's income in 2003 was derived primarily from our members (50%). For the remainder, 14% came from the Oakland Police Department in support of our work as the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) for beat 9X. Neighborhood businesses underwriting the newsletter provided 6% of our income, down from 14% last year. Contributions towards PANIL's efforts to

preserve the design of Mountain View Cemetery was 24% of our income in 2003. (Note that these contributions are being used only for expenses related to the Mountain View Cemetery effort.) The remainder (6%) was obtained from other contributions and PANIL's fundraising events such as the Garden Tour and the John Street Jumble Sale.



If you have any questions or comments regarding PANIL's financial condition, contact Bess Ellinger by emailing eaellinger@earthlink.net or calling 923.1748.

Honoring Elizabeth Hansen

Donate a book in her name to the
Piedmont Avenue School
Library.

Support Owl Park.
Contribute to the tree fund.

Tax-deductible contributions may be
sent to the Piedmont Avenue
Neighborhood School Association
(PANSA) at PO Box 20375,
Oakland, CA 94620.

Community mourns loss of Jeannette Sherwin

A force of nature passed from Oakland on January 18 with the death of Jeannette Sherwin. Jeannette dominated every gathering she attended with her wit, intelligence, and booming voice. Yet, her energy, enthusiasm and acerbic wit always enfolded and included those around her in a common journey. Throughout her life, she demonstrated prodigious abilities.

Jeannette was most effective as a gadfly in the side of everything stupid or venal in Oakland, much of which she documented in her website www.oaklandnews.com. She will be sorely missed by those of us left behind to continue those fights. Check www.oaklandnews.com for date and time of her memorial.

News from Piedmont Avenue School

- **Book Sale:** The Annual Reading Partner Bargain Book Sale for *Children Only* will be held on Tuesday, March 30. If you have used children's books in good condition you wish to donate, please call Ruby Long at 595.9514 to arrange a pick up.
- **Kindergarten Orientation:** Piedmont Avenue School is providing orientations for parents of children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall. The orientations are held on selected Friday mornings. If you are interested, call the main office at 879.1560 to schedule.

PANIL Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 7:30 pm

Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street, 11th Floor, Sky Room

Topic: Parcel tax increases and the at-large city council seat

Speakers: Council member Nancy Nadel, Kerry Hamill, Frank Brodsky, Council member Henry Chang, Melanie Shelby

To place an item on the agenda, please call Rohile Lahti at 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com

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

PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). Writing, editing, and layout are all done by volunteers. Articles may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors. To submit story ideas or articles call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com
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PANIL Notes

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Coordinator—Ronile Lahti



MY VIEW

March ballot

By Jim Ploss

I will be voting for the parcel taxes on the Oakland ballot March 5. Some of my friends have serious doubts about these increased taxes in a climate of economic depression and have asked me to explain why I support them.

We are living in some very hard times. In our country we are seeing a widening gap between the rich and the poor. At both the national and the state levels, the programs aimed at narrowing that gap are under attack and being cut or eliminated. So, the big picture choice is whether to stand with those protecting their own security or with those willing to sacrifice some of their personal well-being so that all of us may live in a more healthy community. I would like to help build a healthier community, so I will be standing with people who vote to tax themselves.

I am not pleased with many of the decisions our elected officials have made, but I was not faced with the difficult choices. Those choices will get even harder with the cuts in both federal and state budgets. We can get different results by electing different people, or by voting to fund the things which are important to our communities. We don't have a lot of options to vote in different people, but we do have the opportunity to vote to fund some needed services.

A note about parcel taxes: parcel taxes are by their nature regressive taxes. The tax amount is the same regardless of the size or the value of the parcel. Better would be ad-valorem taxes (based on the value of the property). While the value of a property is not a foolproof way to measure the owner's ability to pay, it is certainly a good first step.

A comment on special funding for basic services: when we find ourselves voting for special assessments for basic services (police, fire, library) and the sidewalks are still broken and the potholes are not filled, there is a problem in the city government. That problem is corrected by electing people who will care.

Measure E—School Tax increases the \$123 annual parcel tax we already pay by \$72 to \$195. The Oakland school district has made some incredible gains in the past few years, reversing years of decline. The problem was that those gains turned out to cost more money than the district had available. Not surprisingly, we found out that better results cost more money. Every study in economics or crime prevention tells us that money spent on early education gets better results. We know that money has already produced results in our schools. If I were to vote for only one of the taxes on the ballot this would be the one because it addresses the greatest need in our city.

Measure R—Police Personnel: The Oakland Police force is smaller with fewer police officers per capita than in most cities our size. Of course, there are cities larger than Oakland, with even smaller forces and they have lower crime rates—which indicates that we are not the very best at using the resources we have. The size, history, and organization of the Oakland police department relegates them to a reactive mode. To change, they need some extra resources, and this \$90 annual tax will provide them. It will also fund local anti-violence programs which may provide some longer term benefit. While I would prefer that Measure R include some evaluation process, I will vote for it because, given our current murder rate, it is irresponsible not to.

Measure Q—Library Tax will maintain our neighborhood libraries and extend their hours to include weekend days. Frankly, I'm upset that the library administration hasn't already established weekend hours and sacrificed a weekday to the current budget problems. In addition to being open shorter hours, the libraries lost most of the funding for new books in the last round of budget cuts. Libraries are the heart and soul of any thinking society. The only way to maintain quality libraries is to pay for them. The additional \$36 annual fee of helps us on the way.

With the federal and state governments tripping over themselves to take money away from community programs, somebody needs to be voting for these ballot measures. ##

"Camellias" and "Cow Pies"

Here's your chance to vent. Let PANIL know who you think deserves a "camellia" for service above and beyond the call of duty of a "cow pie" for their lack of concern.

Send to Ronile Lahti at rklahti@aol.com or call 655.1723. PANIL will publish the list every other month.

Here are our picks for February:



To Noel Pinto, Manager, Parking Division, 986.3688, npinto@oaklandnet.com for never answering his phone or returning messages.



To Michael Lydon and his crew who continue to keep Piedmont Avenue one of the cleanest shopping districts in Oakland. Thanks, Mike!



To PAMA (Piedmont Avenue Merchant's Association) and Dick Stone of Continental Hearing Aids for once again lighting Piedmont Avenue during the holiday season.

DO YOU REALLY NEED TWO CARS?

January 14 PANIL meeting

By Ronile Lahti

Three alternative ways of getting around this area were outlined at PANIL's January meeting.

Biking. Stating that bikes belong on the streets and not on the sidewalks, Kathryn Hughes from the City of Oakland discussed the city's recommended bikeway network and outlined future events planned to showcase biking as an alternative mode of transportation—bike stations at all BART transit villages, repair lessons for kids sponsored by Parks and Rec, bike racks on AC Transit buses, and the May 20 Bike-to-Work Day featuring a free pancake breakfast, great prizes, and free valet bike parking at Oakland's city-center. Contact: www.oaklandpw.com/bicycling/index.htm.

City Carshare (or why you don't need that second car). In a little less than 3 years, this local non-profit has grown to 3,000+ members. Cars are provided at the rate of \$2-4.00/hour (depending on the time of day) plus \$.44 per mile. For this fee you receive a clean car, fully gassed, complete insurance, AAA, and a guarantee for all repairs. To join: \$30 application fee, a refundable deposit of \$300, valid California license, a credit or debit card, and two years of driving history. For more information, contact www.citycareshare.org. Note: one of their cars is parked at the city parking lot at 41st Street and Piedmont Avenue.

Bus services. Chris Peebles, long time PANIL member and current AC Transit director-at-large, explained recent changes in the AC Transit system, which currently serves a quarter million residents a day via 800 buses.

Bus service in our neighborhood. While the #6 route has been cancelled (to the consternation of neighbors because it was our direct route to the Caltrans depot in Emeryville), service is still every half hour on the #12, and #59 (Piedmont Avenue) and every 10 to 15 minutes on the #57 (MacArthur—now going to all 3 Emeryville shopping centers) and the #51 (Broadway). The #11 (Oakland Ave.) and the "C" (during commute hours) remain. For trip planning call "511" or go to www.actransit.org.

Will there be more changes? Possibly in June. Watch PANIL Notes for updates.

Calendar

PANIL Meeting

2/11, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
Sky Room, 11th Floor
923.1748

Steering Committee

2/5, Thursday, 7 pm
923.1748

Glen Echo Creek Work Day

2/14, Saturday, 9:30 am
Monte Vista Avenue, 654.1930

PANSA

General Meeting Book Care Night

2/3, Tuesday, 7 pm
Piedmont Avenue School
654.6591

First Friday Night Out

2/6, Plymouth Church, 7 pm
Music, Board Games, Food
424 Monte Vista, 654.5300

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597.5011

Family Storytimes Toddlers

Wednesday, 10:30 am
Pre-School
Wednesday, 11 am

Special program: Happy 100th birthday to Dr. Seuss, Monday, 3/2, 6:30 pm. "Read aloud" plus refreshments. Open to all ages

Jane Brunner's Community Meeting

February meeting:
the March ballot
2/7, Saturday, 10 am
Peralta School, 460 63rd Street
238.7001

To place an item on the PANIL web or newsletter calendar, email Minnie Sage at mamsage@earthlink.net.

Give yourself a Valentine

Join the
Piedmont
Avenue School
Reading
Partners



To volunteer, call Ruby Long
at 595.9514
or Donna Bersaglieri at 482.0862

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

Count Me In!

Here's my check for \$_____ (minimum \$15.00) to join PANIL.

I wish to donate \$_____ to the Mountain View Cemetery fund.

Please send me a safety whistle (\$3.50/each)

Name/s _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

Mail to PANIL, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620
Contributions to PANIL are not tax deductible

Please check your expiration date

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Thank you to new and renewing members:

Diane Kettberm Stephen Gutowski, Cynthia Kopec,
Eleanor Luce, Nancy Warren, Julie Cote, Jamie Turbak,
Gaye Lenahan, Joihn and Veronique Sumnicht,
Claus Jaeger, Carolyn and Tom Armour, Sherman Welpton,
and John Woodfin



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Piedmont Avenue School Library—4314 Piedmont Avenue

General Meeting and Book Care Night
—first Tuesday of each month, 7 pm

Call 510.654.6591 for more information

