

PANIL Notes

Volume 30 Issue 3—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—February 2005

ON THE AGENDA

New development at Pleasant Valley Road and Piedmont Avenue



The vacant lot at Pleasant Valley Road and Piedmont Avenue has been sold for development. As reported in the January issue of PANIL Notes, a three-story structure is planned which will include two commercial spaces and twenty-six residential units. A central courtyard will divide the living units, allowing light and air circulation and visually reducing the size of the structure.

Come to the 2/9 PANIL meeting where details of the project will be outlined by John Protopappas (developer) and Kirk Peterson (architect).

Did you make joining PANIL one of your New Year's Resolutions?

It's not too late.

JOIN NOW!

(Use the coupon on pg 4)

Thanks for supporting our neighborhood.

The "DEDICATION"



Artist Rocky Baird and Betty Wurm

Neighbors and merchants gathered together on Saturday, 1/22 to celebrate the completion of the Key Route Plaza mural.

Thanks to all who made this project possible. Special recognition is due to Rocky Baird (artist), Ann Kraynak, the Martin & Ann Huff family, residents of Piedmont Gardens, Betty Wurm & family, Valerie Winemiller, Ronile Lahti, PANIL, Mike Lydon, Michael Scollard, Steve Eigenberg, Jennifer Flanigan, Raymond R. Criosetti, Leslie E. Smith, the Svendsgaard family, Tim Curtin family, David Walker, Lord Carol, Andrew Hass, Jr., Jeff Sahadi, Darcel Walker, the Sullivan family, Austin Long-Scott, Capt. William Wells, Emilio Escudero, Peter Khyn, Kevin H. Martin & Art Tile, Carolyn Crocket, Jim Ploss and Richard Stone.

Pictures of the dedication will be in the Key Route Plaza kiosk in the near future and limited-edition signed copies will be available at Piedmont Systems, 3871 Piedmont Avenue.

Go to www.rockybaird.com for more information about the creation of the mural.

OUR LIBRARY

Library committee ponders future possibilities

By Joan Dark

Still in fact-gathering mode, the committee has been reviewing neighborhood surveys (available at the library and by e-mailing Ronile at rklahti@aol.com or calling 655.1723) and assessing options. Early survey results indicate a strong preference for a larger space at the present location to include all the aesthetic design elements of the present building. The most realistic and popular ideas emerging from the committee are:

- expand/enlarge the present library,
- acquire a building elsewhere on or near Piedmont Avenue,
- build a new library somewhere in the neighborhood.

Any option will cost money for which special assessment districts, bond measures, and other sources of revenue are being explored.

Speakers from the city attorney's office and the library system will attend the Committee's 2/2 meeting to be held at:

**Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
5th Floor Lounge
7 pm**

All Piedmont Avenue residents are invited. We need your input!

PANIL Meeting

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

Agenda: New development at Pleasant Valley Road and Piedmont Avenue

Speakers: John Protopappas (Developer) and Kirk Peterson (Architect)

To place an item on the agenda, please call Ronile Lahti at 655.1723 or e-mail 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 e-mail rklahti@aol.com
Circulation: 2,200 copies.

Steering Committee and Working Groups

Arts/Culture/History

Jim Ploss
420.0570, jopl@mindspring.com

Finance/Membership

Bess Ellinger
923.1748, eaellinger@earthlink.net

Library

Joan Dark
338.1315, rklahti@aol.com

Media

Ronile Lahti
655.1723, rklahti@aol.com

Public Safety/Parks

Bill Manley
658.2419, bmanleynow@yahoo.com

Advertising/Senior liaison

Martin Huff
655.1748, martin_huff@hotmail.com

Zoning/Building

Valerie Winemiller
653.4552, vwinemiller@hotmail.com

PANSA

John Woodbury
654.6591, drjohnw@ix.netcom.com

PAMA

Ann Kraynak
428.2698

City Government

District 1 Councilmember

Jane Brunner
238.7001, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

District 1 School Board

Representative

Kerry Hamill
879.8653
kerry.hamill@secmail.ousd.k12.ca.us

Oakland Police Department

Sandi Mauricio
Neighborhood Services Coordinator
615.5929, smauricio@oaklandnet.com
Lt. Lawrence Green
238.7147, lgreen@oaklandnet.com



ON THE BEAT

Car thefts and burglaries on the rise

By Bill Manley, Beat 9X NCPC Chair

We've had several reports of a dramatic jump in auto thefts and break-ins. This type of crime often increases over the holidays but this year is especially bad. It appears there have been a number on John and Montgomery Streets. At the January PANIL meeting, John Street resident Lesley Mandros Bell reported seeing thieves at work in broad daylight. Sandi Mauricio, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC), said that official reports confirm the observations of unhappy neighbors.

Preventive measures bear repeating:

- If your suspicions are raised, make a report to the police non-emergency number — 777.3333.
- Pay attention to anyone who appears to be loitering, casing targets, carrying a bag or any tools that could be used for break-ins.
- Don't leave valuables visible. A purse, cell phone, laptop, power tools are prime targets. Even empty bags or old equipment are targets and the damage from the break-in can cost you even more than the stolen items.
- Consider cylinder locks for trunks and doors. These are generally harder to crack than key locks.
- Car alarms are helpful — however, make sure you arm them.
- Anti-theft devices like steering-wheel and brake locks also help. They won't prevent theft, but they might convince a thief to try an easier target.

For repeat or chronic problems:

- E-mail Sandi Mauricio, Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) at smauricio@oaklandnet.com or call 615.5929.
- E-mail Bill Manley, PANIL NCPC 9X Chair at bmanleynow@yahoo.com.

The John/Montgomery Street area has been cited as a police priority for this month. In addition, Sandi Mauricio will see if we can arrange a discount on anti-theft devices for PANIL members. ##

Crime can find you; can the police?

By Joan Dark

Picture this. It's 4 am. You hear a suspicious noise downstairs. You call 911 from your bedside phone. The police car reaches your street in five minutes but then has to cruise slowly up and down your block looking for your house.

- Are your house numbers visible?
- Is your porch light on?

Police, fire, ambulance all tell us this is a big problem in reaching emergencies in time. Pretend you are having a heart attack at home some night. Think of the ambulance driving up your street in the dark of night. **Can you be found?**

Leaving porch lights on all night is one of the least expensive, most effective crime prevention measures available. Some streets where lights are lit on almost 100% of the homes seem to have lower crime rates. Lighted porches say, "Our street is alive and we are aware of each other." Burglars go where it's dark, and no one can tell what's going on across the street on the neighbor's porch.

Get those house numbers up and out where they can be seen from the street, and light them up at night. We have a great neighborhood — we should be proud to show it off, day or night!



Distribution Coordinator — Good News!

Long time Piedmont Avenue resident and PANIL Steering Committee member Margitta Gardner has agreed to become the distribution coordinator for PANIL Notes.

We still need distributors for the following blocks: 4100 and 4200 blocks of Terrace Street, Ridgeway (between Piedmont Avenue and Broadway), 4100 block of Montgomery, Linda (between Kingston/Rose and Piedmont Avenue), Glen Avenue/Panama Court (between Piedmont Avenue and Linda) and the 3800 thru 4100 blocks of Howe Street.

Can you help? Contact Margitta at migbrynas@aol.com or call 652.6609. Thanks!

MY VIEW

Bus shelters on the Avenue

EDITOR'S NOTE: PANIL's opposition to bus shelters is based on the hazardous conditions they create because of the narrow sidewalks on Piedmont Avenue as well as on questions related to the aesthetics of their design and on the fact that Avenue merchants have to take second place in placing advertising in the shelters. PANIL held a drive on Saturday, 1/15 to gather signatures on a petition protesting the installation of a shelter at Linda and Piedmont Avenue.

The following letter was sent to Councilmember Jane Brunner and Rafael Godinez of the Public Works Department.

I am a homeowner in the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood and a member of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). It has come to my attention that Ad-Shell, with sanctioning from the City of Oakland, intends to install a huge bus shelter near the corner of Linda and Piedmont.

As a bus rider and consumer who shops on Piedmont Avenue, I do not believe such a large, obtrusive structure is appropriate for this little-used bus stop. There is little sidewalk space for pedestrians on Piedmont Avenue as is, and such a structure would only diminish that space.

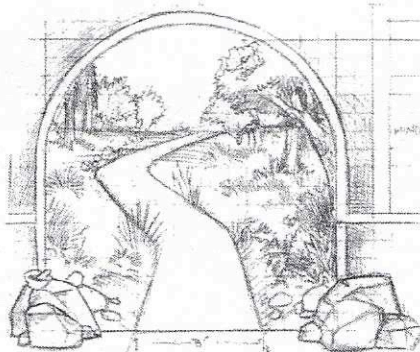
The bus stop is adjacent to one of the only open-space areas amidst the businesses on Piedmont Avenue — an area shared by a restaurant with seating in the plaza for outdoor dining.

The City of Oakland must make up its mind. It urges people to spend their money in Oakland and, yet, when there is an opportunity to preserve and enhance by "leaving well enough alone," it takes a blind, giant leap, waving dollars irresponsibly in the face of the community with minimal concern for the community and for the aesthetic impact.

Piedmont Avenue is one of the best shopping areas in Oakland. It is one of the City's few regional business districts that provides basic neighborhood services. Part of its charm is the small streets, old buildings, and overall intimacy. A simple bus stop bench is what fits into this environment, not an eight-foot high, eight-foot wide, five-foot deep glass and metal structure that, despite its design, will simply be an eyesore because it does not fit and it takes away from the maximal functionality of the corner.

—Crystal H. Weston, Kempton Way

PANSA

Owl Park mural, eSCRIP

The Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association (PANSA) has commissioned Rocky Baird to paint another neighborhood mural, this time at the Piedmont Avenue School playground, aka Owl Park. We hope the mural will have been started by the time of the community work day scheduled for 3/19 (or 3/26 if it rains on the 19th). Note the change of date from February.

Volunteers are needed for other painting projects, planting trees and installing benches and working on the mini-amphitheater.

Another way to support our neighborhood school — eSCRIP:

Here's a way to support our neighborhood school and it costs you nothing. Sign up at www.escrip.com or pick up a registration form at any PANIL or PANSA meeting. Every time you shop at participating stores (Safeway, Payless Shoes, Piedmont Grocery, Whole Foods — to name a few), the store makes a donation to Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. What could be easier?

PANSA meets the second Monday of every month in the Piedmont Avenue School library, 7 pm. However, because of Valentine's Day, the February meeting will take place on 2/7. All are welcome.

TO COMMENT ON THE BUS SHELTER

Councilmember Jane Brunner, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, 238.7001.

Mayor Jerry Brown, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, office@hemayor@oaklandnet.com, 238.3141

Raul Godinez II, Dept of Public Works, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, rgodinez@oaklandnet.com, 238.3961

**PANIL
Calendar****PANIL Meeting**

2nd Wednesday of the month,
(See page 1 for information)

Steering Committee

1st Friday of the month, 7 pm
655.1723

**Glen Echo Creek
Workday**

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

PANSA Meeting

2nd Monday of the
month, 7 pm
Piedmont Avenue
School Library
654.6591

**Piedmont Avenue
Branch Library**
160 41st Street, 597.5011**Storytimes**

Preschool
Wednesdays, 11 am
Toddlers
Wednesdays, 10:30 am

**Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender
Book Club**

2nd Monday of each month
6:30 to 8 pm

This month's selection:
Memory Mambo by Achy Obejas

Learn to knit with Sonya Phillip
Bring a ball of worsted wool
and a pair of #9 needles
Saturday, 2/5, 11 am to 12:30 pm
FREE

To place an item on PANIL's
newsletter or web site calendars,
e-mail Minnie Sage at
mamsage@earthlink.net.

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.

___ 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

Complimentary Copy

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Photo/drawing credits: Ronile Lahti, lot at Pleasant Valley and Piedmont Avenue, page 1; The wonderful Phil Laing, the "Dedication," page 1; Rocky Baird, proposed mural for Piedmont Avenue School, page 3

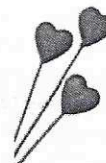


**Join the
 Piedmont
 Avenue
 School
 Reading
 Partners**

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

COUNCILMEMBER JANE BRUNNER'S FEBRUARY COMMUNITY ADVISORY MEETING

Saturday, February 5, 10 am to Noon
 Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street
 Topic: Proposal for an Oakland Waterfront Casino
 Updates: Al's Liquors, School closings, St. Albert's Seminary and Residential burglaries



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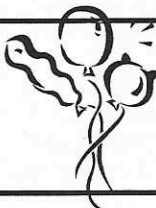


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PANSA

**Piedmont Avenue
 Neighborhood
 School Association**

Piedmont Avenue School Library—4314 Piedmont Avenue

General Meeting and Book Care Night
 —second Monday of each month, 7 pm

Call 510.654.6591 for more information

