

IT'S GARAGE SALE TIME AGAIN!

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Announcing the 6th Annual JOHN STREET JUMBLE SALE

WHEN: Saturday, July 7
TIME: 9:30 am—2 pm

Want to participate?
Contact Lesley Mandros-
Bell at 654.1386 or email
lmbell@slip.net

PANIL MEETING June 7

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

Agenda

- Results of the safety walk
- Panel discussion with Kerry Hamill, members of the Oakland Community Policing Unit and representatives from Oakland Tech. TOPIC: The PANIL Neighborhood and Oakland Technical High School

For more information
email: rklahti@aol.com or
call 655.1723

An Overview of the Safety Problems and Solutions at Oakland Technical High School

by Kerry Hamill, Member, Oakland Board of Education

Regardless of what you read in the newspaper, I urge you to resist the temptation to define Oakland Technical High School by its lowest common denominator.

Yes—it has been a sometimes leaderless and menacing place this year—and its violence has spilled over into the neighborhoods. A number of students from the school have been arrested after a series of incidents since March involving robbery and physical attacks against citizens.

The violence is a headline grabber. But it's not the whole story. As a school board member and the mother of two girls who will eventually attend OTHS, I spend many hours weekly there and find the school as complex and compelling as the city itself—teeming with challenges but still a thriving, sophisticated educational center which boasts some of the state's award-winning "academy programs" for literature, California studies and engineering.

The recent incidents of OTHS students attacking area residents after

school must prompt fundamental changes in the school's security form and function. And as we endeavor to make the campus exist in better harmony with the neighborhood, a number of pivotal pieces must be aligned.

The first has to do with an environment and an attitude about children and learning. It means a strong teacher in every classroom who challenges students but is respectful and enthusiastic. It is a school where nearly every child comes equipped with basic educational skills like reading, writing and math. It's a place with strong leadership—where teachers are supported to ensure that they have what they need, including some daily time to think, process and create. Safe schools are places where there are codes of conduct that are clear and fairly implemented, and where students who cannot or will not follow the rules are not allowed on campus.

All of these features are lacking at Oakland Technical High School in varying degrees, and contribute to this year's unruliness. Beyond the school environ-

ment, some basic tactical features of the campus interfere with control. The school is overcrowded with nearly 2,000 students, and many students feel invisible. The school's successful "academy programs" should be broken up into smaller "schools within schools" around the campus so that students become a part of a small learning community and don't get lost.

There are over 30 entrances and exits throughout the school and many cavernous hidden corners—like basements, stairwells and long hallways. Campus security officers, police officers and the administration often work without communication. There are never enough adults visible throughout the campus—and no intentional policy that puts teachers in the hallways where they are visible between class periods.

The Oakland police department changes shifts at 3 pm—exactly at the time when school ends and students are on the streets in droves, sometimes making trouble and sometimes being victim-

(Continued on page 5)

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

PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League (PANIL). Writing, editing and layout is all done by volunteers. Articles published in PANIL Notes may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors. To submit story ideas or articles call 655.1723, email rklahti@aol.com or fax 652.2611.

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Officer Steve Bukala	238.2054
voicemail	112.8081

*Note: During Angela's maternity leave our NSC Coordinator will be Yeda Altes, phone 615.5802

GET SOME EXERCISE AND HELP OUR COMMUNITY

Distribute PANIL Notes to your neighbors.

We need distributors for the following areas: Howe Street (all blocks), 4100 Terrace, Moss Avenue, Bayo Vista, El Dorado, 40th Street Way, Cerritos, 41st Street, Ridgeway, Moraga, Pleasant Valley Road, Monte Vista. Interested? To volunteer complete The PANIL Coupon on this page.

May 3—PANIL Meeting

by Jim Ploss

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

April 11, three people were beaten in two different attacks on Howe and Terrace streets. The attacks occurred in the late afternoon and were apparently independent acts by two groups of young men. While the attacks were extremely troubling, the police response was even more so. Captain Ralph Lacer, Area 1 police commander for Oakland, explained that such "rat-pack" robberies were "not a problem" in our neighborhood (but they are in other parts of Oakland). He went on to depict a gang of young men screaming racial epithets as "youthful exuberance" and warned us to be alert for the real crime problems in our neighborhood – auto burglaries and recycling theft. Almost as disturbing has been the difficulty PANIL members have encountered in trying to get the facts behind these attacks. (Lacer explained that we should not expect return calls from the police department in as short a time as three days.) Rumor is that the majority of participants in these attacks were students at Oakland Technical High School. We will spend

most of our June meeting discussing how our community can best respond to both the actual attacks and the conditions at Oakland Tech which contribute to such behavior.

(Continued on page 5)

It Was Fabulous!

by Sandy Strehlou

Saturday, May 19th proved to be a perfect spring day for PANIL's first ever, Secret Gardens Tour. Seven Piedmont Avenue neighbors opened up their backyards to share with others their tips for designing, nurturing and enjoying gardens, big and small. From enchanted cottage gardens, an elegantly landscaped patio, a rented apartment with a postage stamp-sized water and sculpture garden, a bromeliad greenhouse, a California native plant re-vegetation project to your classic California bunga-

Photos—page 3 (l-r) Susan Martin—Water Garden, Joanna Smith—Bungalow Garden, Chuck Eckerman and Chris Sereda—Formal Urban Garden (with Chris' unique sculptures), Lorinda Hartwell—Cottage Garden (complete with Lorinda's ceramic pieces), Welcome to the Tour (hope you didn't miss it!), Lana Fisher—Bromeliad Greenhouse, Registration at Glen Echo Creek Park (Elizabeth Hansen, Volunteer), Tom and Carolyn Armour—English Cottage Garden, Lesley and Steven Mandros-Bell—Orange Tree in the Shady Back Garden (one of their three gardens). Photos courtesy of David Meiland and Sandy Strehlou.

THE PANIL COUPON—For 26 years PANIL neighbors have been coming together to address the issues facing the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood. PANIL meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held in the Sky Room, 11th Floor, Piedmont Gardens (enter at 110 41st Street). All meetings are open to the public.

Count me in! I love this neighborhood and want to help keep it the wonderful community it is.

_____ Here's my check for \$_____ (minimum \$12.00) to join PANIL

_____ I will distribute PANIL Notes to my neighbors

Whistle Stop Program

I wish to purchase _____ whistles. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____

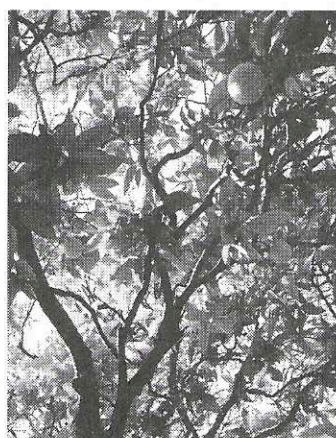
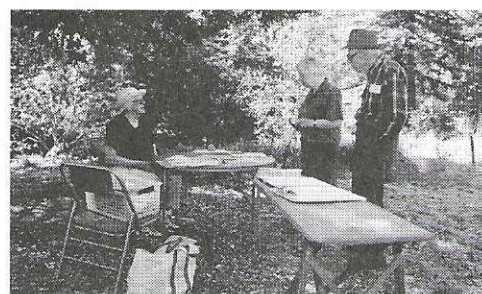
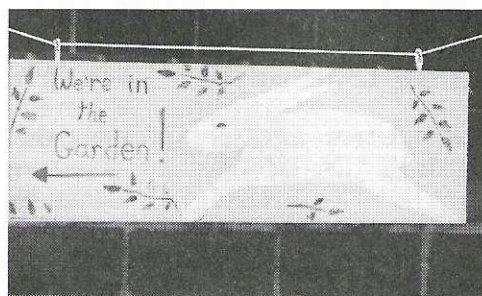
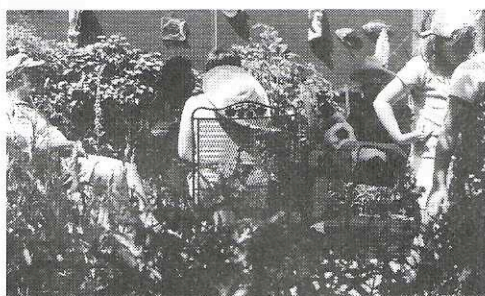
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If you are a member but are not receiving issues of PANIL Notes, please call 655.1723 or email rklahti@aol.com

SECRET GARDENS OF THE PIEDMONT AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD



OAKLAND HERITAGE ALLIANCE WALKING TOURS 2001

The Oakland Heritage Alliance announces its 21st annual Oakland Summer Walking Tours. No reservations are required; please meet promptly at the given times and locations. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended, as some walks are hilly; particularly on the afternoon tours, bring water. Donations: \$5 OHA members, \$10 general. Sign up for membership or renewal and the tour is free. In case of rain the tour will be canceled. For further information call OHA, 763.9218.

Saturday, July 7, 10 am—12 noon	Modern Downtown Oakland, led by Michael Crowe, meet at 11th and Broadway in front of the Marriott Hotel.
Sunday, July 8, 10 am—12:30 pm	Mountain View Cemetery, led by Michael Crowe and Barbara Smith, meet at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue.
Saturday, July 14, 10 am—12 noon	"Borax" Smith, led by Phil Bellman, meet at the redwood tree, corner of McKinley Avenue and Home Place East (one block off Park Boulevard).
Sunday, July 15, 10 am—12 noon	Fifth Avenue Point, led by Robin Bartoo, meet underneath the billboard at 5th Avenue/Embarcadero.
Saturday, July 21, 10 am—12:30 pm	Lake Merritt Modern, led by Bill Coburn, meet at the Lakeview Branch Library, 550 El Embarcadero, between Grand and Lakeshore Avenues.
Sunday, July 22, 10 am—12 noon	Historic Pagoda Hill in Rockridge, led by Annalee Allen and Fred Hertz, meet at the corner of Chabot Road and College Avenue.
Saturday, July 28, 10 am—12:30 pm	Brockhurst Street, led by Bill Coburn and Madeline Wells, meet at the Calou House, 3251 Martin Luther King.
Sunday, July 29, 10 am—12:30 pm	Rebuilding Oakland Point, led by Betty Marvin, Ruth Knapp and Kathy Hirsch, meet at Liberty Hall, 8th and Chester Streets.
Saturday, August 4, 1:30—4 pm	Foothill/Seminary District, led by Jane Powell, meet at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Seminary Avenue at Tom's Chinese Kitchen.
Sunday, August 5, 10 am—12:30 pm	Broadway Auto Row, led by Betty Marvin, meet at 28th and Broadway.
Saturday, August 11, 1:30—3:30 pm	Lakeshore/Trestle Glen, led by Dean Yabuki, meet at the Lakeview Branch Library, 550 El Embarcadero, between Grand and Lakeshore Avenues.
Sunday, August 12, 10 am—12 noon	Fruitvale Commercial District, led by Betty Marvin, Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, Raquel Contreras, meet at the Fruitvale Hotel, 3221 San Leandro Street near Fruitvale Avenue.
Saturday, August 18, 10 am—12 noon	Joaquin Miller Park and Cascades, led by Helen Lore, meet at Woodminster Theater entrance off Joaquin Miller Road; park in theater lot on Sanborn Drive.
Sunday, August 19, 10 am—12 noon	Produce Market and the Waterfront Warehouse District, led by Gary Knecht, meet in front of the Oakland Grill, 3rd and Franklin Streets.
Saturday, August 25, 10 am—12:30 pm	Oakmore, led by Cynthia Haines, meet in the Rocky's Market parking lot.
Sunday, August 26, 10 am—12 noon	Lake Merritt Estuary Channel, led by Annalee Allen, meet in front of Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Drive.

(Garden Tour—Continued from page 2)

low gardens, the tour offered something for every taste. The event was organized by PANIL's Gardening Group, an informal club of local gardening enthusiasts, for both beginning and advanced gardeners.

Special thanks go to the wonderful neighbors who shared their gardens with us: Tom and Carolyn Armour, Lesley, Steve and Lila Mandros-Bell, Chuck Eckerman and Chris Sereda, Lana Fisher, Lorinda Hartwell, Susan Martin and Joanna Smith.

If you would like to recommend a local garden for next

year's tour, or would like to be notified of future gardening activities, email: Strehlou@mindspring.com or send mail to the PANIL Gardening Group, P.O. Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620.

Mather/Gilbert Street Traffic Islands

by Judy Belcher

25 neighbors turned out on Saturday, Memorial weekend to weed, shovel soil, sweep, rake compost and place 90 4" tiles along one side of the traffic island walkway. These colorful tiles, decorated by neighbors over the past year, look great. Also installed on the walkway was a bench,

the first of four planned for the area, and a large terracotta pot.

The Traffic Circle is now a lush bouquet of wildflowers with California Poppies in many shades of orange. Perhaps the Circle will become a permanent California Wildflower Garden.

The plan for July is to rototill compost (and maybe some elephant dung!) into the island soil to counteract the lack of hummus and loam discovered during recent testing.

The City of Oakland, with neighborhood volunteers, is scheduled to complete landscaping in the Fall. A survey of area residents has indi-

cated a preference for California Natives and other drought tolerant plants.

This project has been a cooperative effort of the neighborhood, Parks Department, Traffic Engineering and our Council member Jane Brunner. The Mather/Gilbert Street residents would especially like to thank Jane and her aide Megan Van Sandt for all their assistance and support.

Want to get involved?

Come to a monthly work session—last Saturday of the month, 11 am, at the islands.

A special thank you to Ellen Gordon for her help with this issue of PANIL Notes

(Oakland Tech—Continued from page 1)

ized. When school ends, security officers stay on campus while the students migrate through the adjacent neighborhoods entirely unsupervised.

Because of the "turf" mentality so common in government, there is little communication between the police departments run by the city and the school district. Believe me—all of these issues can be addressed and improved. Our new superintendent is working diligently with me to fortify the school on the education side. There is a strong level of parent interest and involvement at the school that must translate into an organized parent patrol (one is in the works), mentoring for struggling students and better links to the city for after-school activities.

Our City Council member, Jane Brunner and I meet weekly to discuss common constituent interests. OTHS is a frequent topic. In response to the

recent violence, Jane and I have created a small working group with the neighborhood, parents, students and teachers to identify safety obstacles and solutions that can be addressed over the summer to ensure a safer year in September, 2001.

I have had the privilege of working with the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League over the years as we have rejuvenated our neighborhood elementary school (Piedmont Avenue Elementary School) and made learning significantly better for kids. I welcome your interest in OTHS, and look forward to continued communication. I'll see you on June 7.

(PANIL—Continued from page 2)
Casinos in Oakland?

Mayor Jerry Brown and City Manager Robert Bobb are well on the way to signing a deal to put an Indian casino on the Oakland Army base. City Council Member Nancy Nadel spent some time explaining to PANIL

why this may not be a good idea. Some of the problems are procedural. The Oakland Army Base Reuse commission has spent many years reviewing alternatives for development of the base. None of those included a casino, but such a proposal was in the presentation city staff made to the City Council. (By law staff must present the proposals from the Reuse committee.) The City Council rules committee (chaired by Ignacio de La Fuente) will not allow a council policy vote or public discussion on whether or not a casino would be a good idea. Most of the problems are social. The report of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (<http://www.ngisc.gov/>) is sobering reading, as are the crime statistics associated with the recently opened San Jose card rooms. Casino jobs are lower paying than the alternatives recommended by the Base Reuse commission. The general perception is that

casinos represent wealth transfer mechanisms rather than economic growth. PANIL voted to oppose such a development. On May 13, PANIL members circulated a petition at the corner of 41st and Piedmont Avenue requesting public hearings on the issue.

Cathedrals on Lake Merritt?

At the May 10th steering committee meeting, PANIL officers voted to send a letter in opposition to Mayor Brown's proposal to sell parkland on the edge of Lake Merritt to the Oakland Diocese for the construction of a cathedral. This is in accordance with PANIL's policy to oppose the sale of any parkland to private developers, and to keep the shores of Lake Merritt as open space. The city attorney has informed the mayor that he may not pick a private developer and make such a sale without engaging in due process.

UNDERWRITERS

PANIL Notes is generously underwritten by these businesses and organizations. To find out how your business or organization can become an underwriter, please call Sandy at 652.8084.

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Please check your expiration date

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY

PLEASE JOIN PANIL NOW!

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CALENDAR

June 2	Saturday, FOPL Book Sale, 10 am—3 pm, Piedmont Avenue Branch Library Courtyard
June 5	Tuesday, PANSA Book Care Night, 7—8 pm, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 654.1386
June 7	Thursday, PANIL Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sky Room, 11th Floor, Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street
June 9	Saturday, Temescal NCPC, Neighborhood Schools, 10 am—12 noon, Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th and Webster, Attendees: Principals of Emerson Elementary, Carter Middle and Oakland Technical High School, Superintendent Dennis Chaconas and School Board Vice President and District 1 Representative Kerry Hamill
June 9	Saturday, Glen Echo Creek work day, 9:30 am—12 noon, Monte Vista Avenue (1 block off Piedmont Avenue), 654.1930
June 14	Thursday, PANIL Steering Committee, 7 pm, 655.1723
June 19	Tuesday, PANSA Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 654.6591
June 24	Sunday, Council member Jane Brunner's Annual Picnic, Lake Temescal, 1—5 pm, 238.7001

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN

(3rd—8th grades)

Does your child have an interest in poetry, writing, music, art? This program is designed to encourage and develop these interests.

WHERE: Plymouth Church, Fireside Room, 424 Monte Vista Avenue

WHEN: Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Asia Patterson at AsiaP42@cs.com or phone 658.0670. The program will be on vacation during July and August. Do you have talent in any of these areas? Volunteers are always welcome.

PIEDMONT AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY, 160 41st Street, 597.5011

Wednesdays, 10:30 am and 11 am, Children's Storytime

Summer Program:

June 9	Saturday, 11 am, The Gold Rush Sisters—Music and Stories of the Gold Rush
June 23	Saturday, 11 am, The Bubbleman—Amazing Bubbles
June 26	Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Swetha Dixit—Classical Dance of South India
July 12	Thursday, 12 noon, Snapdragon Puppets—"The Big Little Circus"
July 17	Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Carolyn Alexander—"Teen Talk" Storyteller
August 14	Tuesday, 1:30 pm, Calamari Brothers—Magic and Laughs
August 25	Saturday, 3:30 pm, Yo-Yo Man—Entertaining Tricks

Thank you and welcome to new and renewing members: Virginia Anderson, Jennifer Lawrence, Kathleen Diepenbrock, Eileen Conneely, Peggy Kincaid, Margaret Zechman, Paul and Margaret Salop, E M. Ginger, Gaye Lenahan, Eric Elvin and Tami Rowell, Marilyn Tracy, Stephanie Romano, Alanya Snyder and Carol Bertram, Bess Ellinger and Marla Cass, Loa Lovely, Joel Berg, Ann Rees, Pete Klosterman, Katie Hurt, Mary Ann Brownstein and Kerry Woodward, Christine Merlo, Lisa Simon, Jane Lee, Paul Berman and Ana Abrales, Gary and Christine Abrams, Sally Wood