

PANIL Notes

Volume 29 Issue 4—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League—PO Box 20375—Oakland CA 94620—March 2004

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL Will Piedmont Avenue School get an after- care program?

By John Woodbury

One of the biggest challenges of working parents is figuring out who will take care of their children after school. Nearly all private schools, and some public schools, offer after-school programs. For the lower grades, whether or not a school offers options for after school care is a key factor in where working parents choose to send their kids.

Piedmont Avenue School has long had a small before and after-school program (known as the Child Development Center), but it's only for low income families. Efforts to serve all interested families have in the past floundered because of lack of space.

The construction of a new wing has provided a golden opportunity to address this problem.

The new wing wasn't designed to provide extra space, just enough to replace what was lost with the removal of the fleet of old portables that filled the playground. However, the sudden decision late last year to replace the final remaining portable, used by the Child Development Center, with a new portable equipped with restroom facilities, changed all this. This new portable, scheduled to arrive — "any day now" — will have enough space for both the CDC and for an expanded before and after school program.

The ball is now in our court. Several companies provide such programs on a contract basis. The school principal plans to convene a small working committee of teachers and parents to investigate options and interview the potential providers, with the goal of getting a program up and running for this coming fall. If you want to be involved, contact John at 654.6591 or john@openspacecouncil.org for more information.

PANIL mourns passing of charter member Jane Lee



Long time PANIL member Jane Lee has died at the age of 93.

PANIL's treasurer for many years, Jane remained an active member until her death.

A participant in many of PANIL's "battles," Jane will be remembered most for taking the lead in saving our branch library during the 70s and advocating for the PANIL bench — celebrating PANIL's first 25 years — that now graces the plaza at Piedmont Avenue and Linda.

PANIL suggests donating a book in Jane's memory to our branch library. Call our branch librarian Jamie Turbak, at 597.5011 for their "wish list."

ON THE BEAT

CRTs in Oakland

What are they? Do they work?

By Bill Manley

In a world of acronyms, when you ask 10 people what CRT stands for, 5 computer-savvy types will say Cathode Ray Tube (or monitor) and the other 5 will shrug their shoulders. But if your sample includes a policeman, he's likely to answer "Crime Reduction Team." The CRTs are one service that's managed to survive the OPD belt-tightening.

What are they? How do they differ from the average cop-on-the-beat? And, are they effective?

In Oakland, the Crime Reduction Team is a group of officers working four 10-hour days, responding to "hot spots" of crime that appear beyond the control of the individual beat officers. Combining street patrols with community-based policing techniques, they focus on crimes such as armed robberies or drug dealing that are concentrated in one geographic area — especially drug-related activity, since it brings with it a whole set of other crimes such as murders to enforce territory, prostitution, robberies, and burglaries to support habits.

Chief Richard Word set up six CRTs in Oakland about two years ago; they correspond to the six Police Service Areas (PSAs), which in turn correspond roughly to the council districts.

In a recent East Bay Express article, (Express Jan 21-27), "High Times for

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PANIL Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 7:30 pm

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

Topic: Tech High School—What's working—What's not—What's planned for the future

To place an item on the agenda, please call Jim Ploss at 420.0570 or email jopl@earthlink.net



CRTs in Oakland—continued

Drug Kingpins," author Chris Thompson questioned their effectiveness, and pointed out that the CRTs are spread very thin, having to take on duties of the disbanded narcotics unit. However, that article — even with its bit of Oakland bashing — acknowledged that the department is simply understaffed.

North Oaklanders I've talked with say they appreciate the work of the CRTs and feel they've made a difference in areas like the San Pablo and Shattuck Corridor.

According to Sergeant Darren Allison, who commands CRT 2, since the CRT became focused on the Shattuck corridor and made several arrests in late summer of 2003, the crimes — particularly murder — have dropped dramatically. For the first half of 2003 there were 12 murders in North Oakland. Since September 2003 there have been none. Officer Allison credits the drop to activities like buy bust, surveillance, and undercover work. He also credits good cooperation with the Berkeley Police and CRT 1 out of West Oakland.

In terms of challenges, there is always the money needed for better equipment, but Sergeant Allison would gladly forsake new cars and equipment for a few extra officers.

While we don't see much of the CRT in our area (Beat 9X), it's good to hear they're having a positive impact on nearby neighborhoods.

ZONING UPDATE**Boogie Woogie site**

Architect Steve Thorne advises the new building should be ready for occupancy in mid-summer. The owner/developer is still open to suggestions regarding the type of retail the community would like to see in this commercial/residential development. Suggestions can be forwarded to Steve Thorne at 836.1770. Steve advises they are hopeful the Boogie Woogie Bagel shop will return.

**Be a good neighbor
JOIN PANIL**

ARE YOU READY?**City of Oakland CORE
personal preparedness and
response training**

Here's your chance to learn how to protect yourself, your family, and your home in the event of an earthquake, fire, flood, act of terrorism or other emergency situation. Since city officials inform us that we may be on our own for 24 to 72 hours following any such emergency, all of us need to make sure we have the emergency preparedness skills to help ourselves and our neighbors.

The Oakland Fire Department Office of Emergency Services CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) is offering **free** personal preparedness and response training classes during which you will learn how to:

- reduce common household hazards
- create a family emergency plan
- shut off your utilities
- prepare emergency kits
- make an emergency evacuation plan
- safeguard important documents
- respond to earthquakes, fire, severe weather, and chemical emergencies

The classes will take place from 7 to 9 pm (except the Saturday session which will be from 10 am to noon) at the Fire Department Office of Emergency Services, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr Way on Tuesday, March 23, Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, July 22, Saturday, September 18, and Wednesday, November 17. To reserve a space at one of these classes and for more information, call CORE at 238.6351 or email core@oaklandnet.com. Remember: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Vote

**TUESDAY
March 2**

Calendar**PANIL Meeting**

3/10, Wednesday, 7:30 pm
Piedmont Gardens
110 41st Street
Sky Room, 11th Floor
923.1748

Steering Committee

3/4, Thursday, 7 pm
923.1748

**Glen Echo Creek
Work Day**

3/13, Saturday, 9:30 am
Monte Vista Avenue, 654.1930

PANSA**General Meeting
Book Care Night**

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

First Friday Night Out

3/5, 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

Birthday Party

Celebrate Dr. Seuss'
100th Birthday
Monday, 3/2, 6:30 pm
Readings from favorite
Dr. Seuss books
plus refreshments!
Open to all ages

**Jane Brunner's
Community Meeting**
No meeting in March

To place an item on the PANIL
web or newsletter calendar,
email 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.

____ 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

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Thank you to new and renewing members:

A.J. Benham, Victoria Shoemaker and Richard Friedman,
Joan and Clyde Sugahara, Virginia Pearson Anderson,
Roland and Bridget Krausen, Jane and Bert Freeman,
Elizabeth Homans, Rosanne Eigenfeld, Stephen Cole and
Karen McNeill, Daphne Markam and Dennis Donegan



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PANSA Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association

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

