# 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 aftercare 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

n 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

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

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#### ON THE AVENUE

#### Dopo doesn't disappoint

By David Martindale

Dopo, Piedmont Avenue's newest eatery, opened late last year to great critical acclaim. Garnering as much notice for its postage-stamp size as for its wonderful dishes and excellent service, the tiny trattoria has quickly become a must-try dining experience. Given the Oliveto-bred pedigrees of owners Jon Smulewitz and Adam Bruss, this should come as no surprise.

One tip: get there early, put in your name and prepare to wait. Dopo doesn't accept reservations.

We arrived at 5:45 on a Saturday night, just 15 minutes after the door opened, to find the restaurant full with a forty-minute wait. This is the price to be paid for Dopo's growing reputation and intimate setting (six tables inside, two on the sidewalk, and four stools at the counter). To the credit of the staff, they did offer to take our cell phone number and call us when our table was ready, giving us time to stroll the Avenue.

Dopo's ever-changing menu, highlighting fresh, interesting, and local ingredients, features three appetizers, one soup, one salad, three pasta dishes, and five pizzas. There are no meat entrées on the menu.

We opted for the antipasti misto for four (\$25). The seared big-eye tuna (which has appeared on Dopo's menu in many different dishes in the past) was cooked through and served with cardoons, anchovy, and sliced, boiled egg (\$9 a la carte). The tuna seemed just a touch overdone, but the anchovy added some pop to the flavor and the egg provided a lovely, creamy texture.

The slight bitterness and cool temperature of the salad of niman ranch pork confit, cannellini beans and radicchio (\$9 a la carte) offered a nice change of pace to the other, more savory appetizers.

Not to be missed, though, were the artichokes stuffed with garlic, pecorino romano, and parmesan (\$9 a la carte). Browned, bready, and nutty, livened up with a squeeze of fresh lemon, these were truly something special.

We sampled each of the pastas. The fusilli with ragu (\$12) was a thick and hearty dish with a spicy, authentic sauce, covered with grated cheese — simple, but

perfectly prepared. The lasagne alla napoletana (\$11) was a colorful, spicy dish, packed with layers of flavor.

The real winner was the tortellini of black trumpet mushrooms with sugo (\$13), a perfect showcase for the delicate house-made pasta. The wonderful earthy flavor of the mushrooms was complemented with a beautiful light gravy.

Dopo offers a small but very competent wine list, including a prosecco, a lambrusco, and a handful of whites and reds, all available by the glass. The '02 pinot grigio (\$6/\$20) was a refreshing complement to the appetizers. The '01 barbera d'asti (\$6/\$20) was a bit spicy on top of the spicy pasta sauces; the '00 valpolicella (\$6/\$20) might have been a better choice. Ask your server (they are all professional and very helpful) for a recommendation.

The pizzas come in the thin, crispy-crusted Italian style with delicious, fresh toppings. The ingredients are continuously changing. Try the pizza dopo with cheese and (optional) anchovies (\$10). There seems always to be a house-made sausage pizza. Garlic lovers can look for the pizza with calabria peppers and garlic. The pizzas are big enough to have a slice or two left over to take home, but good enough to eat in a single sitting.

Enjoy the casual, sophisticated atmosphere (which can get a bit noisy at times) for dinner Monday-Thursday 5:30-10, Friday-Saturday 5:30-11 and for lunch Monday-Friday 11:30-2:30. Dopo is closed on Sundays.

Pizzas and selected pastas available for takeout.

Dopo is located at 4293 Piedmont Avenue, across from Piedmont Avenue School. Phone 652.3676.



#### 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

ere'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!



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	
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Please check your expiration date

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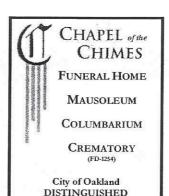


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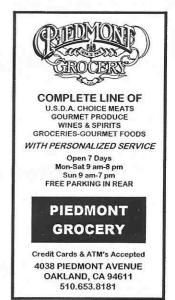


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Adjacent to Mountain View Cemetery and to St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery



### 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

