

PANIL Notes

Volume 26, Issue 11—Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620—October, 2001

PANIL MEETING

Thursday, October 4

Sky Room, 11th Floor

Piedmont Gardens

110 41st Street

7:30 pm

Agenda

- **Student Panel—Oakland Tech Leadership Program**
- **Kerry Hamil—Measure B**

If you have an item you wish placed on the agenda, please contact Joanna Smith at 653.4052.

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Are you an accountant willing to donate a few hours of your time to the PANIL Steering Committee?

If so, please call
PANIL Treasurer Bess Ellinger
at 923.1748
or email ellinger@netscape.net.

Circulation—1,900 businesses and residences

Welcome and Thanks to Our New Underwriter

The Chapel of the Chimes

**4499 Piedmont Avenue
654.0123**

To find out how your group or business can become an underwriter, please call Sandy at 652.8084 or email strehlou@mindspring.com.

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School It's All Started

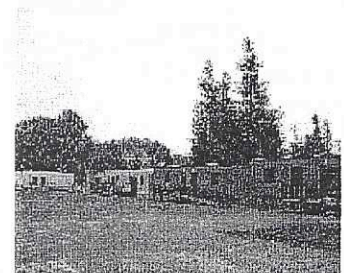
School has started (no glitches)...

by John Woodbury

Three new teachers have actually better than what we've had for started in grades four and five fifty-some years—with air conditioning no (to rave reviews). Class size reductions in grades four and five have started (not quite to the goal of 25 students per class, but close, and we may still get there). Full-day kindergarten has started (not exactly nine-to-five, but more than the 3 hours and 30 minutes that it used to be). Both the class size reduction and the kindergarten day extension are unusual for Oakland schools—we did it by using our state reward money for having the best test score increases in the district last year.

My daughters have started first and fourth grade (ok, I won't abuse my author's privileges again).

Construction has started. The not-so-temporary temporary portables dating

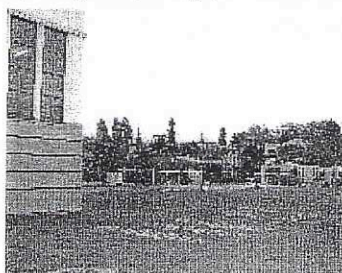


less). The construction fence is up, and work on the really permanent, compatible-with-the-art-deco-main-building new wing looks like it's really going to happen.

PANSA has started (by the time you read this, the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood School Association will have held its first meeting of the year). Our biggest problem starting out is how to spend the close to \$20,000 in our bank account. Our second biggest problem is how to raise more money. Our fundamental underlying problem overriding the first two is how to get YOU involved in our neighborhood public school.

To get involved with PANSA, come to our next meeting on Tuesday, October 16th, at 7 pm in the school library. If you have

questions, comments, or advice, email John Woodbury at drjohnw@ix.netcom.com (I'm not a doctor), or call 654-6591.



from World War II that were in the way of progress are gone. The new truly-temporary portables are in (and they're

PAMA's 15th Annual Halloween Celebration

Saturday, October 27, 11 am—1 pm

11 am—Costume Parade—meet at the Blockbuster parking lot

Trick-or-Treating at "Candy Station" Merchants until 1 pm

Volunteers are needed—call Laura Stern at 601.8424 or Ann Kraynack at 428.2698

**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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voicemail	112.8081
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HELP HELP HELP HELP

**We need distributors for the
following areas: 4100 and**

4200 blocks of Terrace,

Moss, Bayo Vista, El Dorado,

40th Street Way, Cerrittos,

41st Street, Ridgeway,

Pleasant Valley Road, 3800,

4000, and 4200 blocks of

Howe, and Monte Vista.

Interested? Call 655.1723 or

email rklahti@aol.com

Glen Echo Creek Update

by Arleen Feng

Mark October 13 on your calendar for a major workday at Glen Echo Park. We will be replanting some beds that need restoring, reseeding grass in one portion of the meadow area and putting up temporary fencing to protect these areas. There will also be general gardening cleanup and those with more aggressive instincts will go after rampant blackberry vines and ivy. Drop by from 9:30 am—noon at the north side of Monte Vista Avenue, 1/2 block east of Piedmont Avenue.

For more information about next summer's bank reconstruction project on the creek and the community's efforts to improve the final design by the County, come to the October 13 workday or contact Arleen Feng at 654-1930 or by email at ayfeng@alum.mit.edu

The citywide Creek-to-Bay day cleanup on September 15 removed tons of litter from many Oakland creeks. Thanks to our park neighbors and volunteers, trash has not been a major problem in our section of Glen Echo creek. However, the creek has its share of water quality problems, with interesting colors sometimes appearing in the creek and its outlet in Lake Merritt. To address one major source, PANIL Creek Committee volunteers have begun walking the Avenue to reduce illegal dumping and outside equipment washing by restaurants and other food related businesses. Business owners and managers will receive informational brochures about appropriate cleaning practices, and those that agree to have their employees follow these guidelines will be acknowledged in future issues of PANIL Notes. Please patronize and com-

pliment these creek friendly businesses for their conscientious support, and report any ongoing problems you observe to the City storm water contact at 238-6544, or wmadison@oaklandnet.com.

Creek clue: Everyday home and business activities like garden care and building maintenance, as well as automobile use, can contribute to "non-point source pollution"—one of the top sources of water quality problems throughout the United States. Even "biodegradable" soaps will pollute the creek if allowed to drain into storm drains instead of a lawn or gravel area where they will have time to breakdown with extended exposure to the sun.



Websites that describe ways residents and businesses can protect the creek—

www.cleanwaterprogram.com
www.oaklandpw.com/creeks/index.htm

Our condolences to Jim Boot and his family on the death of Lucille Boot, Thursday, September 13.

Long time residents of the PANIL neighborhood, Jim and Lucille were, for many years, the proprietors of Monte Vista Market.

Time Saver: Use the internet to reach the library—www.oaklandlibrary.org

Photos, page 1, courtesy of John Woodbury

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 \$15.00) to join PANIL

_____ I will distribute PANIL Notes to my neighbors

Whistle Stop Program (\$2.50/each)

I wish to purchase _____ whistle(s) My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to PANIL, PO Box 20375, Oakland, CA 94620

Lake Merritt— Parkland or a Cathedral?

by Valerie Winemiller

City council is likely to vote in October on whether to sell development rights on public land to the Catholic diocese for a large cathedral on Lake Merritt. This 16-story modern structure would sit in front of the Kaiser Convention Center, with an elevated concrete platform extending over 12th and 14th Streets. The property was bought as parkland with bond money voted by Oakland residents in the early 1900s. Discussions have been going on between the diocese and Mayor Jerry Brown and City Manager Robert Bobb for about a year, but City Council has held no public hearing/policy discussion as to whether this is an appropriate use of the land. There is also controversy over the legality of selling the development rights without a vote of the people (as required under state law for sale of parklands acquired by publicly-voted bonds).

A group of concerned architects and landscape architects have proposed an alternative public use of the area. Their approach would reconfigure the freeway-like 12th and 14th Streets by the Convention Center. They would increase parkland on the shoreline, add bike and pedestrian connections through the area, and open up a developable parcel further down the shoreline, next to the Lake Merritt Towers apartments. The sale of this parcel could help finance the public improvements.

Public support for this alternate plan will be needed in the coming weeks. Call the Coalition of Advocates for Lake Merritt (CALM) for further information at 835.3041.

FYI-FYI-FYI-FYI-FYI-FYI-FYI-FYI

Community Policing—changes are in the wind. The NCPC (Neighborhood Community Policing Council) Task Force will meet on Wednesday, October 3, 6 pm, Hearing Room 4, City Hall. For more information call 655.1723.

On the web—www.panil.org—

- ☐ **Planning Commission Limits Public Input**—In August, the Commission voted to limit public testimony at hearings to one minute per speaker, and limit the number of speakers from a group who may testify.
- ☐ **Environmental End Run in Oakland?**—State legislation (AB436) has passed the Senate and the Assembly which would exempt certain large downtown projects in Oakland from full review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It now awaits the governor's signature.

Avenue Biz

Pioneer Bike Shop

by Joanna Smith

Quickly now—can you name a business that's been in the Piedmont Avenue area continuously since 1973 and can help you stay very healthy? It's the Pioneer Bike Shop at 11 Rio Vista Avenue! This bicycle shop is now in its third Piedmont Avenue area location. The current owner, Edmond Gee, took over the business eight years ago. While he does sell new bicycles, his specialty is bicycle repair—of all makes and models. He will be happy to help you repair that bicycle (new or old) that's been sitting in your garage collecting dust.

The Pioneer Bike Shop has been at its current location on Rio Vista for 18 years. You may have seen Edmond on one of his antique bicycles: he rides it in the Piedmont Avenue Halloween Parade most years.

Edmond says the turn around time for bicycle repair is "about a day or so"—something that makes for very happy customers. "I've always had good support and business from the neighborhood, and have not had to do extensive advertising. A few years ago I got a top rating in the Bay Area Checkbook, and my business has been growing even more since."

If you're now headed to the garage to find your bicycle, bring it down to Edmond any time Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. He'll be happy to give you an estimate and get you back on the road.

SUJARO—Adding to the Flavor of Mid-Avenue

by Sandy Strehlou

If you happen into Sujaro African and World Imports in the late afternoon as I did, you'll find yourself in a kind of sensory jumble. On one hand, there is the wafting smell of popcorn popping from the Piedmont Theatre; on the other, you are met by hundreds of wooden faces staring. Soon, however, the African art that spills out of every nook and cranny and every inch of wall and doorway replaces the familiar with lands and people far away.

Sujaro owner, art lover, and explorer Andrew Berz, moved his business to the Avenue from its original home in Berkeley. He and his wife, Claudia, live in the neighborhood, a decision that keeps their lives simple and allows them to get to know their customers as neighbors, too. Andrew's history with Oakland goes back well beyond the Berkeley store: after law school and before taking off to see the world, Andrew worked for Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency.

Today, with a partner based in Gambia and a warehouse located in the East Bay, Sujaro sells African art to museums and galleries nationwide. All this from a guy in his 30s who says he loves all kinds of art, from kitschy Hello Kitty to the handmade household wares and decorative arts found in African villages across Central and West Africa. Don't look for Japanese pop art, however, in Sujaro. Here the passion is clearly African with a bit of Mexican silver thrown in.

Many of us were sad when the rubberstamp business, next to the theatre, closed. We feared what new chain food or beverage shop or nail salon would lease the tiny storefront. This time, we were lucky. Now after an evening of living someone else's life at the movies, we can delay our return to our own lives by feasting on the wood, cloth, stone and beaded crafts of someone living in a very different neighborhood. From Sujaro's African art to the nearby shops offering exotic teas, fancy cookware, beautiful stationary, and the Piedmont Theatre's better-than-usual cinema, the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Linda Street is evolving into something interesting indeed.



Shop the Avenue



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



Please check your expiration date

Complimentary Copy

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PANSA

Piedmont Avenue
Neighborhood School
Association

Meetings held third Tuesday of each
month, Piedmont Avenue School Library,
7:30 pm

654.6591

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280 West Mac Arthur
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Coming Events—October

October 2, Tuesday
October 3, Wednesday

October 4, Thursday
October 5, Friday

October 6, Saturday

October 11, Thursday
October 13, Saturday
October 16, Tuesday
October 27, Saturday

October 28, Sunday

PANSA Book Night, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 654.5017, 7—8 pm
Bookmark Bookstore Sale, Sponsored by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library,
721 Washington Street, 444.0473, 10:30 am—5:30 pm—through Saturday, October 6
PANIL Meeting, Piedmont Gardens, 11th Floor, 110 41st Street, 655.1723, 7:30 pm
1st Friday, Plymouth Church, 424 Monte Vista Avenue, 654.5300, 7—9:30 pm
Bored? Enjoy Board/Card Games, Music, Popcorn, Beverages, and Good Company
Council Member Brunner's Monthly Meeting, Peralta School, 238.7001, 10 am—noon
Pleasant Valley Court Median Strip Garden Group, 547.1126, 7:30 am
PANIL Steering Committee, 655.1723, 7 pm
Glen Echo Creek Work Day, Monte Vista Avenue, 654.1930, 9:30 am—noon
PANSA Monthly Meeting, Piedmont Avenue School Library, 654.6591, 7 pm
PAMA HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION, Piedmont Avenue, 11 am
Mather/Gilbert Traffic Island Gardening Group, Mather at Gilbert Street, 11 am
Mather/Gilbert/John/View Block Party, 4300 block of Gilbert Street, 655.1723, noon
Wednesdays, Enrichment Program for Students Grades 3—8, Plymouth Church,
658.0670, 6:30—8 pm

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, 160 41st Street, 597.5011

Wednesdays, 10:30 am and 11 am, Children's Story Time****First and Third Tuesdays, Lawyers in the Library, 6—8 pm
October 27, Saturday Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library Book Sale, Library Courtyard, 10:30 am—3 pm