

# PANIL Notes

Volume 33

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

Aug—Sept 2008

NEW 10-STORY TOWER, 81 "INDEPENDENT LIVING" UNITS

## Piedmont Gardens Proposes Bigger Project

By Valerie Winemiller

The proposal for new construction at Piedmont Gardens for the corner of 41st St. and Glen Av. has been enlarged from four to five stories, and a significant remodel of the interior and exterior of 110-41st Street has been added, along with the proposal to demolish the existing building at 33 Linda Ave. and replace it with a 10-story tower containing approximately 81 "independent living" units. Skilled nursing care now housed at that site would be relocated into the new building at 41st and Glen, with fewer beds. (For size comparison, 110-41st Street is 11 stories tall.)

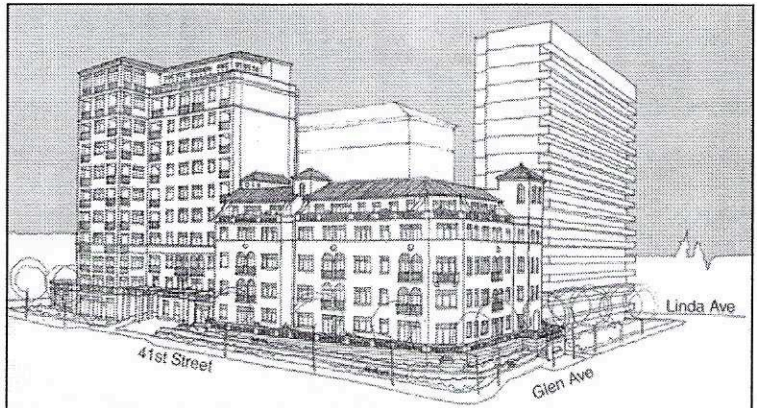
Administrators of Piedmont Gardens and representatives of its parent corporation, American Baptist Homes of the West (ABHOW,) previewed these revisions to the proposals for their properties between 41st Street, Glen Ave and Linda Ave. at an informational meeting with Piedmont Garden residents. They said that the changes were made in response to new economic and structural analyses of the facility. Proposed penthouses on 110-41st triggered seismic upgrade requirements.

The newly proposed tower would trigger additional zoning questions and environmental studies. ABHOW representatives emphasized their intent to provide enough parking to meet the needs of residents and staff. They explained that the design is still being revised, and that they planned full community meetings with comment periods later in the fall.

The massing study reproduced here is a preliminary visualization of the bulk of buildings proposed, but design details could be revised.

ABHOW's "optimal timeline" would be internal remodeling in 2010, construction of the new corner building starting in mid-2011, and 2013 for the new tower.

To receive notification of future meetings on this topic, contact Valerie Winemiller at 653-4552 or [vwinemiller@hotmail.com](mailto:vwinemiller@hotmail.com).



This drawing, from ABHOW, shows a visualization of the newly expanded proposals, but design details could be revised.

**PANIL Monthly Meeting: Wed., September 10 — 7:30 p.m.**

**Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — 7:30 pm**

**General Meeting — 8:00 pm**

Oakland City Attorney John Russo

and

Oakland City Auditor Courtney Ruby

ROAR: Real Oakland Administrative Reform

**Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st Street**

**11th Floor Sky Room**



**Piedmont Avenue  
Neighborhood  
Improvement League**  
PO Box 20375  
Oakland CA 94620  
[www.panil.org](http://www.panil.org)

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**Steering Committee  
and Working Groups  
Advertising/Library/Media**

Joan Dark  
338-1316

[jdark@pacunion.com](mailto:jdark@pacunion.com)

**Beat 9X NCPD Co-Chair/ PA-  
NIL Distribution**  
Margitta Gardner  
652-6609

[migbrynas@aol.com](mailto:migbrynas@aol.com)

**Beat 9X NCPD Co-Chair/  
Finance and Membership**  
Bill Manley  
658-2419

[bmanleynow@yahoo.com](mailto:bmanleynow@yahoo.com)

**Senior Liaison**  
Moir Nichols  
652-3192

**Zoning/Building**  
Valerie Winemiller  
653-4552

[vwinemiller@hotmail.com](mailto:vwinemiller@hotmail.com)

**PAMA**

Ann Kraynak  
428-2698

[piedmontsys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:piedmontsys@sbcglobal.net)

**City Government**  
District 1 Councilmember  
Jane Brunner  
238-7001

[jbrunner@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jbrunner@oaklandnet.com)

**Maria Barra-Gibson**  
238-7014

**District 1 School Director**  
Kerry Hamill  
879-8653

[kerry.hamill@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:kerry.hamill@ousd.k12.ca.us)

**Oakland Police Dept**  
Capt. A. Toribio  
238-6703  
[atoribio@oaklandnet.com](mailto:atoribio@oaklandnet.com)

**NSC Paul Brekke-Miesner**  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
238-3102  
[pbrekke-miesner@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pbrekke-miesner@oaklandnet.com)

**PSO John Cunnie**  
Problem Solving Officer

## Piedmont Avenue's Clean Sweep Program Marks its 20th Anniversary

It all began with a community service project of students from St. Leo's School, then expanded to a coalition that included Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. Students from the two schools picked up litter. Different grades worked on different days, rotating the responsibility among classrooms. The owners of the now gone Pearson Hardware donated painters' caps for all participating students.

The Piedmont Avenue Merchants Association was the leading organization in the coalition. Community volunteers became an important part of the coalition within the first year, and Mike Lydon was one of the first to step into service. He has been cleaning sidewalks and gutters at our main intersections since 1988. He's Mr. Piedmont Avenue, according to many who have seen his work and benefited from his good nature and good will over the years.



Mike Lydon with Ha To Chau, who is retiring after working 21 years in the Piedmont Avenue Clean Sweep Program, receiving the gift basket from Piedmont Grocery in recognition from PAMA.

Photo by Phil Laing

## Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Welcomes New Principal

Zarina Ahmad began the school year as the new principal of Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. Mrs. Ahmad has been in the Oakland Unified School District as Assistant Principal of ACORN-Woodland Elementary School and as a teacher at Chabot Elementary School.

"This is an important time, with the momentum the school is generating with increased parent and community involvement, and we think she is a great fit," said PTA President, Amanda Aguilera.

**Annual  
Halloween  
parade  
sponsored by  
Piedmont Avenue  
Merchants  
Association  
Saturday  
Oct. 25.**

## The Jazz & Justice Church

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## Mike Lydon is Recognized as a Community Hero

**WHEREAS**, The City of Oakland's First City Council District—North Oakland-- is home to the more than 57,000 people who live in the area bordered by the City of Berkeley, the 580 freeway, the City of Emeryville and the county line in the Oakland hills, and

**WHEREAS**, Due to the energy, intelligence and persistence of its residents, North Oakland has by far the highest concentration of active community and neighborhood organizations in the City, and

**WHEREAS**, In each of North Oakland's many neighborhoods are specific individuals who go above and beyond in their efforts to improve their communities, organize their neighbors, keep their political leaders accountable, and make Oakland a better place for all of us to live, work and play, and

**WHEREAS**, It has become customary at the annual North Oakland Summer Picnic to celebrate individuals worthy of recognition for their activism, and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Lydon is one of these individuals. His commitment to clean and litter-free streets and public space is extraordinary. Mike is the co-founder of Piedmont Avenue's CleanSweep program, which gathers contributions from merchants to pay for cleaner streets. Mike is a long-time member of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood Improvement League and a Neighborhood Watch Captain. He was also responsible for getting the Key Route Plaza clock installed; now



**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That Jane Brunner, Councilmember for District 1, on the occasion of the 2008 North Oakland Summer Picnic, hereby recognizes Mike Lydon for his vision, passion, and commitment, and joins his community in conveying heartfelt appreciation for his work—he is a true "Community Hero."

Jane Brunner, Councilmember, District #1

## Summer Session Drawing Lessons in July Acrylic and Watercolor Workshops in August

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## Calendar

(for more neighborhood events go to [www.panil.org/calendar](http://www.panil.org/calendar))

### PANIL Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month  
7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Piedmont Gardens  
110 41st Street  
11th Floor Sky Room

**PANIL Steering Committee**  
email [contact@panil.org](mailto:contact@panil.org) for time, date and place of monthly meeting

### Glen Echo Creek Work Day

2nd Saturday of the month  
Monte Vista Avenue, 9:30 a.m.  
654-1930

### Mt. View Cemetery Tour

Docent led tour  
2nd Saturday of the month  
10 a.m., FREE

### Events at the Chapel of the Chimes

4499 Piedmont Avenue  
654-0123

### Historical and Botanical Tour

3rd Saturday of the month  
10 a.m. to noon, FREE

### Jazz at the Chimes

3rd Sunday of the month  
\$20/children under 12 FREE  
2 to 4 p.m.

### Oakland Heritage Alliance Lecture Series

Thursday lectures start again in  
January  
\$8 OHA members/\$10 non-members/\$5 low income  
For more information contact:  
[www.oaklandheritage.org](http://www.oaklandheritage.org),  
763-9218

### Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597-5011

### Storytimes

Toddlers  
Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.  
Pre school  
Wednesday, 11 a.m.

### Saturday Knitting Club

Every Saturday 3 to 4 p.m.

To place an item on PANIL's calendars, send e-mail to:  
[contact@panil.org](mailto:contact@panil.org)



**RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE  
NEIGHBORS FROM  
2008 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT?**

Right: Gleneden

Below: Entrada, Glen and Arroyo

Below right: Monte Vista Avenue, Robley Terrace, Montell Street, Wilda Avenue

Bottom: Ramona Avenue and Pleasant Valley Avenue



All photos by Ronile Lahti and Phil Laing







Top:  
Kempton Place

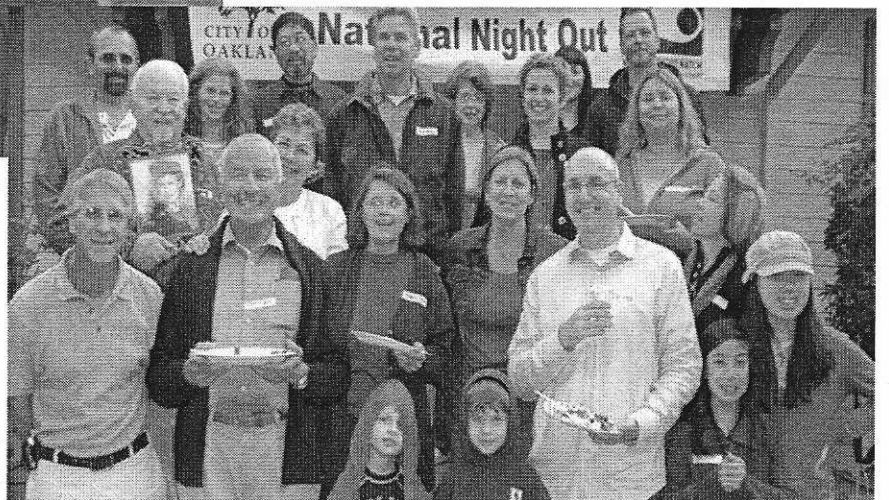
Right:  
Echo Avenue



**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
GOT A BIG TURNOUT.**

Above: Kelton Court and  
Monte Cresta Avenue

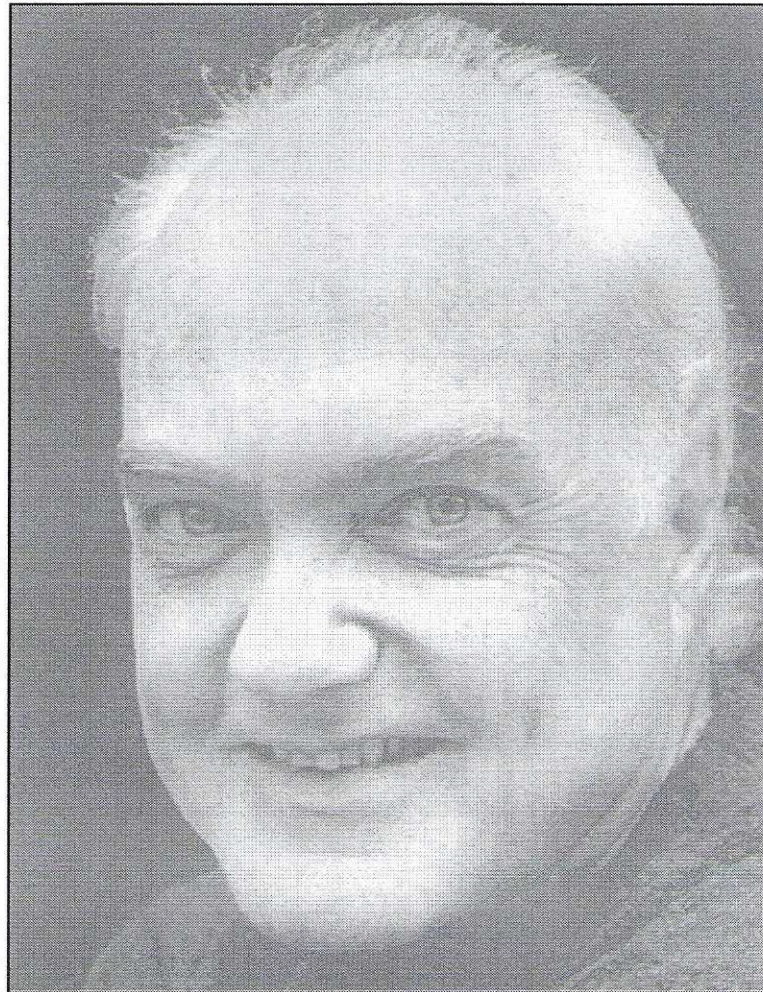
Right: Brandon Street





# **An Evening with Local Actor,**

**THOMAS LYNCH**



**Learn about the local theatre scene  
and an actor's life.**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm**

**Piedmont Ave. Branch Library**

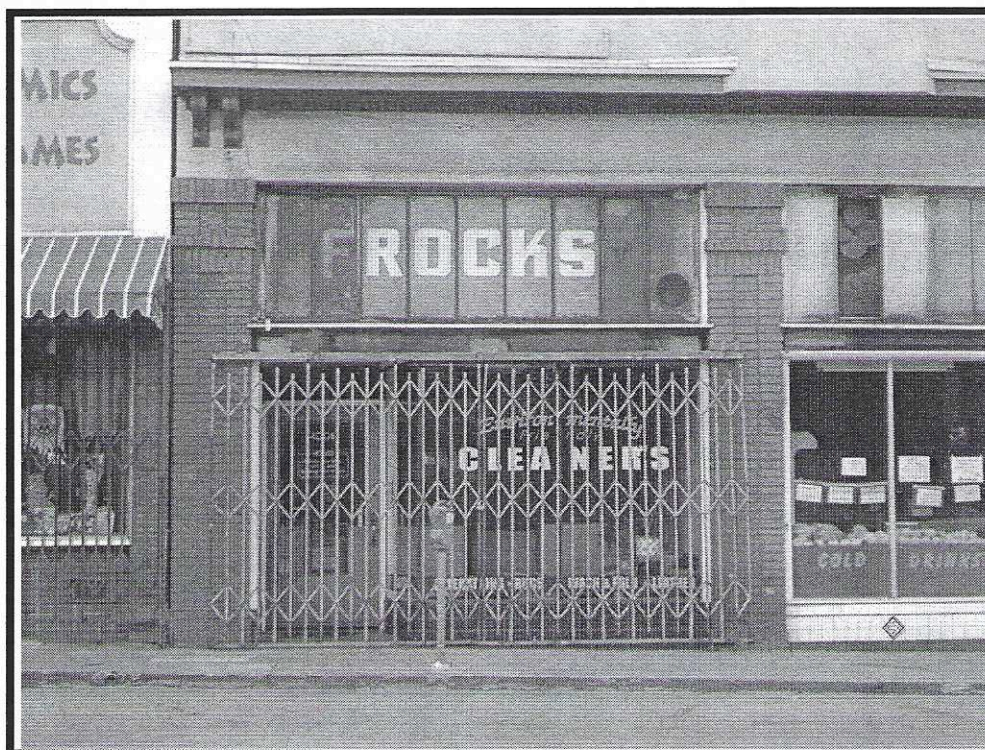
**160 41<sup>st</sup> St**

**510-597-5011**

**All ages welcome**







PIEDMONT AVE  
PHOTO GALLERY

### A View of the Avenue

Our neighborhood is filled with characteristic sights. This photo shows the early signage revealed when an awning was removed from the front of this store.

Photo by Ann Kraynak.

We invite photographers to send photos taken on the Avenue or in the neighborhood to [contact@panil.org](mailto:contact@panil.org).



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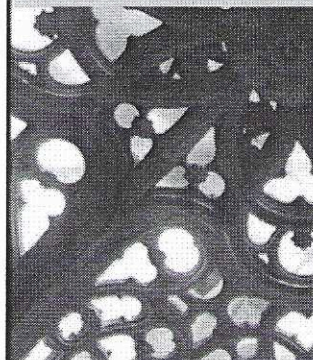
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## Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli-inspired Jazz Group to Play Sept. 21

*Vive Le Jazz!* will perform at JAZZ AT THE CHIMES on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 2pm in a benefit concert for the American Heart Association. Berkeley-based gypsy jazz quintet *Vive Le Jazz!* (formerly known as The Very Hot Club) doesn't imitate or reproduce the music of their inspirational icons Django Reinhardt or Stephane Grappelli of the Quintette du Hot Club de France. They instead renew the original concept, writing new songs in a style that captures the spirit of a time when popular taste and art coincided.

Led by guitarist/vocalist/songwriter George Cole and singer/fiddler/producer Kathy Sierra, along with Vic Wong, Julian Smedley and Carla Kay, *Vive Le Jazz!* creates an irresistible blend of nostalgia and cutting edge modernity.

The band was created by guitar virtuoso George Cole, the band's lead vocalist, guitarist, composer and producer. He's toured with Joe Walsh of the Eagles and recorded with producer Roy Thomas Baker (Queen and Paul McCartney.) George was the lead guitarist for Big Blue Hearts (Geffen/Interscope) and Beatnik Beatch (Atlantic) who performed with Ringo Starr and many others. He recorded on Chris Isaak's platinum selling *Forever Blue* Album and Lee Seung Hwan's multi-million selling Korean pop smash. He has performed with Robert Cray, Boz Skaggs, and Fisher Stevenson. George was guitar instructor and mentor to Billie Joe Armstrong and Mike Dirnt of Green Day for ten years.

The concert at Lifemark Group's Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland on September 21 will be followed by a reception where the public can meet the artists, enjoy refreshments and purchase CDs.

For more information about *Vive Le Jazz!* go to <http://www.myspace.com/vivelejazzmusic> Jazz at the Chimes is produced by Lifemark Group. For more information, visit: [http://www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special\\_events.asp](http://www.lifemarkgroup.com/oakland/special_events.asp) or call 510/228-3218.

### Count Me In

I want to support PANIL's work to keep the neighborhood informed and make our voices heard. **I want to be a member. I want to vote for my representative on the PANIL Steering Committee!**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of \$15) made payable to PANIL

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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