

PANIL Notes

Volume 33

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

Nov 2008

The Oakland Police Department's Neighborhood Services Coordinator For the PANIL Area

By Ronile Lahti

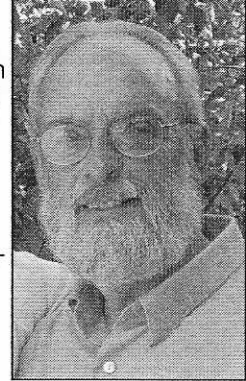
As outlined in Oakland's City Council Resolution 72727 passed in 1996, the Police Department shall have one Neighborhood Service Coordinator for each beat. These individuals will be:

- Non-sworn employees of OPD;
- Work under the OPD command structure for that beat;
- Assist in organizing Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils for each beat;
- Assess concerns and identify problems in each neighborhood;
- Work with all parties to establish priorities and implement strategies and activities to improve the safety and health of the community;
- Coordinate special events and programs to assist community development and crime prevention efforts.

For the past three years, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC) for the PANIL area (Beat 9X) has been Paul Brekke-Miesner. Paul is an Oakland native and attended Castlemont High School. He has a master's degree in community development from Lone Mountain College (now a part of the University of San Francisco). For many years prior to becoming a NSC,

Paul worked as a community organizer in Oakland, most recently as a health and safety officer for the Oakland Unified School District.

Paul is also the Neighborhood Services Supervisor for Police Area 1 (basically council districts 1 and 3) and is currently handling half of Police Area 2. When asked to assess Paul's performance as an NSC, Margitta Gardner (Beat 9X NCPC co-chair) said, "Paul is great to work with. He's always available to help us solve problems within our beat, comes to meetings prepared, and is probably the best NSC we've ever had."



Paul's two sons both graduated from Oakland Technical High School where Paul was and remains one of the major forces behind the construction of the Field of Dreams baseball field development at Carter Field. The boys' field has been completed and plans for the girls' field are underway. Without his dedication and leadership it is doubtful this project would have been undertaken.

Each NSC is charged with developing Neighborhood Watch groups within his or her beat. Over the past three and a half years the number of Neighborhood Watch groups in Oakland has increased from less than 100 to over 500. There has also been a significant increase in the number of Neighborhood Watch

PANIL Monthly Meeting: Wed., November 12 — 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council — 7:30 pm

Paul Brekke-Miesner our Neighborhood Services Coordinator
and members of the Oakland Police Department

General Meeting — 8:00 pm

Representatives of our Elementary Schools

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

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

PANIL Notes is the monthly publication of (PANIL). Writing, editing and layout are all done by volunteers.

Articles may be reprinted only with the permission of the editors.

Circulation: 2,000 copies

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groups within Beat 9X largely due to Paul's perseverance. Neighborhood Watch is the way all citizens can become involved in the community policing process.

For example, when there was a series of takeover robberies in our area, the Neighborhood Services Division created a flyer with tips explaining what shop owners and restaurant employees could do if they found themselves in a takeover situation. Paul walked Piedmont Avenue and distributed/discussed this flyer and the procedures with all the merchants. He's also worked with them to set up safety checks, sends an OPD safety expert to observe merchants' routines and make suggestions about how to make the shops less prone to crime.

Thanks to Paul's leadership the Piedmont Avenue Merchant Association has completed merchant watch training and is now an official Merchant Watch group. Merchant Watch signs should be posted within the next month.

Community Policing, of which the NSCs are an integral part, is problem solving policing built around a partnership of citizens, police officers, and the assigned

A note from Councilmember Jane Brunner says that the Oakland Police Department credits alert residents with calls that led directly to arrests of two men suspected of recent burglaries in North Oakland. Brunner said, "The arrests, made on Oct. 27, were in part thanks to phone calls from residents about a suspicious car prowling the neighborhood. Residents provided the description of the vehicle and the license plate number."

NSC. It only works if everyone becomes involved. NCPC meetings take place during the first part of every month's PANIL meeting.

You can form a Neighborhood Watch group if your block doesn't already have one. For information about how to form a group, go to http://panil.org/ncpc/index.htm#hood_watch. It's an easy process and a great way to add value to your block and get to know your neighbors.

Senior Village

Plans for creations of a Senior Village for the PANIL area are moving forward. Progress has been made toward establishing non-profit status.

A survey of the community to identify interest and assess needs is in development.

The next meeting of the planning group will be held on Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 PM. For the location of the meeting and other information call either Ruby Long, 595-9514 or Nancy Bylin, 350-8608.

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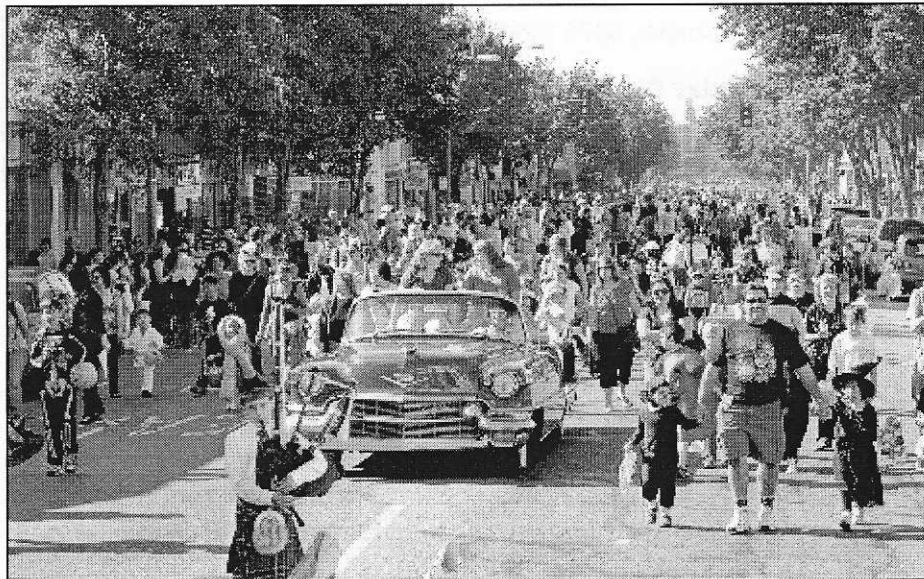
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www.plymouthoakland.org



BIGGER THAN EVER

22nd Annual Piedmont Avenue Merchant Association Halloween Celebration



Photos by Phil Liang

Calendar

(for more neighborhood events go to 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 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,
763-9218

Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

160 41st Street, 597-5011

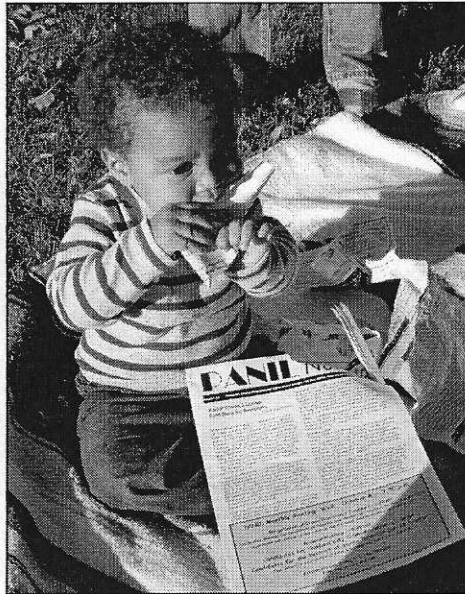
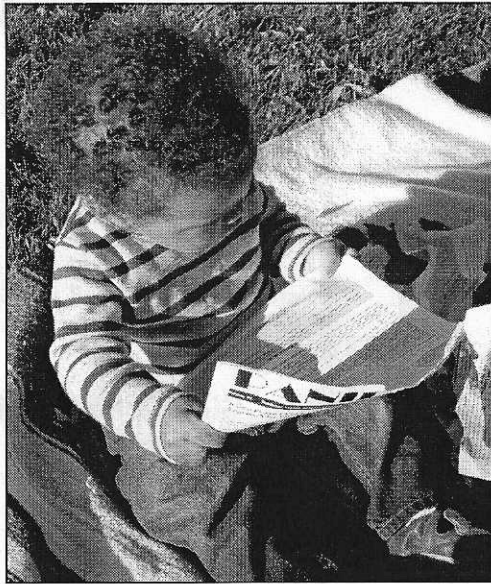
Storytimes

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



Our Readership

Photos by Margitta Gardner

Holiday Events on the Avenue

Albert Brown Mortuary Tree Lighting and Ornament Memorial

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, 4 to 6 p.m. / Grand Chapel, 3476 Piedmont Avenue

Mountain View Cemetery 3rd Annual Holiday Circle of Lights

Dec. 1 to New Year's Day, every day from 5 to 9 p.m.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

Bingo Night

At Piedmont Avenue Elementary School

Wednesday, November 19, 6:00 p.m.,

In the School Auditorium

Food, fun, great prizes.

All are welcome

An activity of the Piedmont Avenue PTA

Reading Partners Wanted

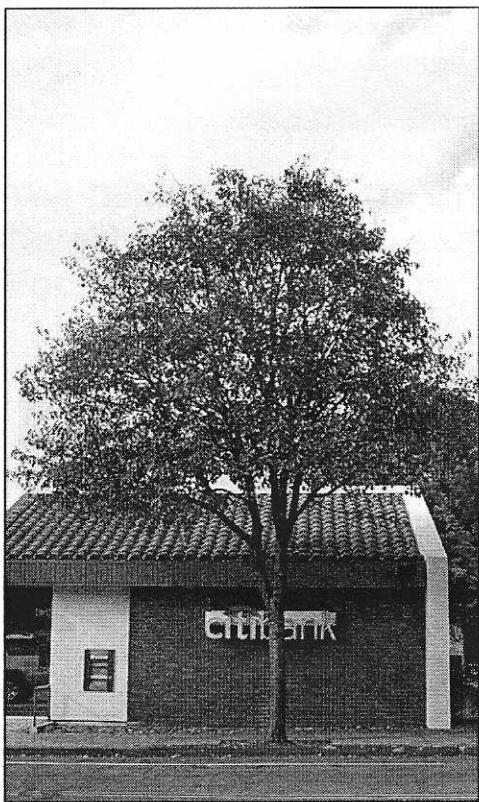
**Share one book with one child
for one-half an hour a week.**

Join a volunteer mentoring group
at

**Piedmont Avenue
Elementary School**

and become a Reading Partner.

For information, call 482-0862.



PIEDMONT AVE PHOTO GALLERY

A View of the Avenue

Our neighborhood is filled with interesting sights.

This photo is by Richard Friedman and appears on his photo blog at www.rchrd.com/photo

We invite photographers to send photos taken on the Avenue or in the neighborhood to contact@panil.org.



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PANIL Notes October 2008. PANIL Notes is printed on recycled paper by

Piedmont Copy

4237 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 94620-3030

Oakland Heritage Alliance Lecture Series at Chapel of the Chimes

The Oakland Heritage Alliance begins its 2008-2009 lecture series at the Chapel of the Chimes on November 13, 2008 with a talk by Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director of the California Preservation Foundation. She will spend an evening giving her take on the state of preservation in California. The California Preservation Foundation is well known for its educational programs and its annual meeting that draws participants from throughout the West. She will discuss the role of the CPF in the preservation world and how Oakland Heritage alliance is a part of this picture.

Here's an exciting opportunity learn about statewide issues, how preservation organizations like OHA are faring in the face of significant challenges and what the future holds for preservation. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

On December 11, 2008, Dave Weinstein will discuss his new book — "It Came from Berkeley: How Berkeley Changed the World," an amusing, touching, anecdote-filled, and colorfully illustrated social history of Berkeley that shows how so much of what

makes America great got its start, or at least a kick in the pants, in the often-maligned city of Berkeley. This book suggests that, rather existing outside of America, Berkeley exists at its heart.

Weinstein writes a popular series about Bay Area architects for the S. F. Chronicle's Home & Garden section, and writes about modern architecture for CA Modern magazine, published by the Eichler Network.

A long time Bay Area journalist, he was a reporter and editor at the Contra Costa Times. A resident of El Cerrito for almost 30 years. He initiated the successful effort to preserve El Cerrito's long abandoned Art Deco movie palace the Cerrito Theater, and is chairman of the Friends of the Cerrito Theater.

The lectures are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Julia Morgan designed Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Avenue. Tickets are \$8 for members of Oakland Heritage Alliance and \$10 for non-members.

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: _____

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