



April 26, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 16



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from
Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!



The older kids race for thousands of eggs hidden on the Dunsmuir-Hellman Estate.

EASTER 2011 BANNER: *Dying eggs at Dunsmuir House, making bonnets at Lincoln Square, intermediate egg hunt at Montclair Park, Easter baskets at the 25th Ave neighborhood hunt.*

Like so many other things in our city, Easter traditions are diverse and have a distinct Oaktown flavor. They also demonstrate the generosity of our community. I took time this weekend to sample a few of the celebrations. The largest and most traditional was the big production on the vast lawn of the [Dunsmuir-Hellman House](#). On Saturday over a thousand participants posed with the Easter Bunny, dyed eggs, made bunny ears, had their faces painted, rode ponies or just picnicked on the estate. A modest fee allows our Park and Rec Department to hold the event and hopefully subsidize our free hunts in other parts of the city.

*This publication is not produced
at public expense.*

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In the News

["Temescal Flows" mural project in North Oakland beautifies area under freeway, connects neighborhoods](#)
Angela Hill, Oakland Tribune, April 21, 2011



Meeting real rabbits at the ASPCA exhibit at Dunsmuir when parents were encouraged not to give bunnies or chicks for Easter.

For decades I have started my Easter at Montclair Park where the Fire Department sounds the horn at 9 am sharp to start 3 simultaneous egg hunts divided by age. The drizzle did not discourage the hundreds of intrepid kids who seemed to swarm over every inch of the park in minutes. The wonderful [Montclair Lion's Club](#) veterans who sponsor the effort each year often have a few eggs to drop for those tardy parents who do not get there in time. They also recycle those plastic eggs, so if you have more than you need, I'm sure they could always use more.



Meeting the Easter Bunny in Montclair.

We then went onto the 55th Annual [Wa Sung Pancake Breakfast](#), where hundreds enjoy pancakes and local talent ranging from taiko drums and Chinese martial arts to ballet dancers. The service club uses the proceeds for its many year- round good works for children and seniors. For many of the immigrant children here, it is their first encounter with 5-foot rabbits, even in the Year of the Rabbit.

[East Oakland Rallies Against Childhood Prostitution](#)

Jennifer Ward, Oakland Local
April 20, 2011

[Oakland Human Trafficking Rally Draws Mayor Quan](#)

Zennie Abraham, SF Gate
April 20, 2011

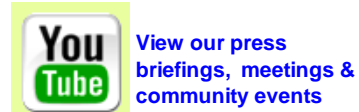
[Oakland schools paying for administrator's errors](#)

Chip Johnson, San Francisco
Chronicle April 15, 2011

Follow the Mayor



Facebook subscribers can also [become "fans", hit the "like" button to receive daily updates.](#)



Discover Oakland

Oakland Walking Tours
2011 Season Begins May 7



Free Saturday guided walks in Oakland's downtown introduce you to Oakland's rich cultural history. Tours run from 10 am-Noon, from May through October.

The eight itineraries take you to

- Jack London Waterfront
- Preservation Park
- The Uptown district
- City Center
- Churches and temples
- New Era/New Politics (an



Eggs found in the play structure are turned in for stuffed animals in Chinatown.

Our final Easter stop was on 25th Avenue. Many neighborhood groups host local events. By afternoon the sun had come out and it was a perfect spring day. Eva Robinson (*in red*), her friends and neighbors host an event second to none in adjoining backyards. Here we started the event by reading her book [Ella B. Jenkins meets President Obama](#), the story about a girl who goes to the White House. I shared the story of my visit to the White House, too. After the hunt they had an amazing multi-ethnic potluck.



If you missed the KDOL airing of "Youth Focus: Oakland's Future," you can watch the YouTube version here:

African-American history theme tour)

- Chinatown
- The Old Oakland historic district

The season kicks off Saturday, May 7 at 10 am by the fountain at Pacific Renaissance Plaza for a tour of Chinatown that will retrace the steps of the "**Remembering and Making History Walk**" from my inauguration.

This walk is listed on the **Jane's Walk USA** website as one of several hundred walks honoring the late renowned urban planner and author who died in 2006.

For more on Jane Jacobs and Jane's Walk USA, go to www.janeswalkusa.org. The listings for Oakland's downtown walking tours are available at www.oaklandnet.com/walkingtours. Reservations are recommended but not required. To receive a brochure with tour dates, or volunteer to help lead a tour 238-3234.

*Change will not come if we wait for some other person or for some other time.
We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

Barack Obama



YOUTH FOCUS Oakland's Future with Mayor Quan



On Thursday, I will help launch **Get Connected! Oakland**, a city-wide initiative to eliminate the digital divide. Partners include the Oakland Housing Authority, OUSD, Oakland Tech Exchange West, Alameda County District Attorney/Alameda County Family Justice Center; Alameda County Department of Social Services/General Assistance/ CalWorks/Foster Youth; Alameda County Office of Education; Oakland Digital Arts and Literacy Center; Oakland Parks and Recreation; Oakland Public Library; and Santa Rita Jail/Educational Services.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS: Our office receives many requests for appointments and for Mayoral proclamations. Please use email us at mayors-schedule@oaklandnet.com if you want to schedule an appointment or an event with me. We provide proclamations for special recognition. Requests for proclamations should be send to mayors-proclamation@oaklandnet.com at least 3 weeks in advance.

LATE NEWSLETTER: We try to get this out on Sunday's, but I personally write many parts of the newsletter and do the final edit. My apologies; with my trip to Detroit, work on the budget and unusually busy week of community events I ran late.

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Mike Lydon on Piedmont Avenue



In 1979, during another Oakland budget crunch, the City eliminated street cleaning as a cost saving measure. The Piedmont Avenue Merchants Association noticed that a small part of the avenue near Fenton's was always clean and discovered why. Mike Lydon's dad was a gardener at St. Leo on Howe Street, near the family home close to Piedmont Avenue. They met young Mike and with his help, the Clean



Sweep program was born. Today, he is still an honorary member of the 30-year-old Clean Sweep program.

"I've been raised with an intrinsic need to give back. If you appreciate where you live, one has an obligation to give back. I do it by making sure my neighborhood stays beautiful," explained Mike, who retired four years ago after a 38-year career with KTVU as a program services manager.

Over the years, the Piedmont Avenue Merchants Association has raised sufficient funds to hire two individuals to work with the volunteers on the Clean Sweep program. After all these years, Mike continues to volunteer two days a week. Most recently, he and his group rejuvenated two plazas - putting in benches and giving the area a feel of a shopping experience with a place to rest one's feet and take in the beauty. *(Above, Mike at the mini-plaza at Linda and Piedmont Avenue.)*

Submitted by Sara Somers

2. Discover Oakland This Week



Chabot Elementary School's Book Fair Goes Local with Laurel Books!, Wednesday, April 27-Friday, April 29: Parents at Chabot Elementary are supporting two big local initiatives-- encouraging the joy of reading in their students AND supporting a local business. Their librarians have hand-picked a great selection of books for all ages from local independent Laurel Book Store. The Book Fair is open to Chabot Parents on Thursday and Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 am, and for the public on Thursday, April 28 from 5 to 7 pm. This is a terrific way to add to your kids' library!

Public Invited to Provide Input on Completing the Broadway Valdez District Specific Plan (BVDSP), Thursday, April 28, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 2619

Broadway @ 27th: With a new staff in place, we are dedicated to [restarting the process](#) and bringing this important plan to completion. The goal of the BVDSP is to build upon the District's many assets and to facilitate its transformation into a vibrant neighborhood that combines destination retail, housing, transit. Please join me at this important community meeting. Call 238-7905 or email bvdsp@oaklandnet.com for details.

District 2 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 30, 10 am-12:30, Regeneration Church,

238 E. 15th Street: This is our fifth town hall meeting and the third one in April. Residents from District 2 are invited to participate in break out groups to discuss issues of concern in their neighborhoods. I will consider their priorities, along with those from the rest of the town halls and other community meetings, as I develop the budget and my plans for the coming year. Participants will each lunch in neighborhood groups. For details, contact rcowan@oaklandnet.com.

Turfin 247 Playoffs, Saturday, April 30, 2-6 pm, Allendale Rec Center, 3711 Suter Street: The Turfin 247 Dance Tournament is an innovative effort by the Laurel District Association Security Ambassadors Program, the Laurel merchants, Allendale Recreational Center, Council Member Libby Schaaf and Urban Shield Security. The goal is to encourage young people to take ownership and develop pride in the Laurel/Allendale neighborhood. This in turn helps with long-term community security and safety in the neighborhood. Playoffs are held the last Saturday of each month, March-July. For details, contact Tommy Wong at 710-8874 or email turfin247@gmail.com



Free Financial Fitness Fair, Saturday, April 30, 10 am-2 pm, City Hall: Free information about credit and debt management, sponsored by the Oakland Community Action Partnership and the Federal Reserve. For more information, call 238-2362.

KaBOOM! and Foresters are Building a Playground in West Oakland, Saturday, April 30,



Wade Johnson Park, 1250 Kirkham Street, 8 am-3 pm: Volunteers are needed to help with planning and building a new playground at Wade Johnson Park next to the former Cole Elementary School in West Oakland. A joint project between the City and OUSD, the site was picked by OUSD Police Services Chief Pete Sarna who recognized the children in the area did not have a playground to keep them busy. [KaBOOM!](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving play and fighting the Play Deficit by ensuring that every child has a great place to play within walking distance. All types of volunteers are needed: planning, team leaders, worker bees, food and food services (breakfast and lunch) and youth leaders. Contact [Carletta Starks](#) in Councilmember Nancy Nadel's office at 238-7032.

3. Disaster Preparedness Citywide Drill on April 30th



On Saturday, April 25, 8:30-Noon, the City will be hosting a FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Community Based Organizations in collaboration with CARD (Collaborating Agencies Respond to Disaster). The interactive training is designed for nonprofits, faith agencies and services providers. This event is designed to help build everyday capacity to mobilize resources, and help agencies serving in and around the City of Oakland to be successfully included in disaster planning efforts. RSVP to [Denise Kittell-Nwuke](#) at 238-3523. The event will be held at the OES facility at 1605 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

- Participate in or observe the **April 30 Citywide CORE exercise.** So far about 60 neighborhood groups are participating in our annual citywide preparation for an earthquake on the Hayward Fault. Neighbors rehearse a search for victims, establishing emergency first aid and communication centers, and communicating with the central citywide Emergency Operations Center for the city. >>*CORE volunteers at the Emergency Operations Center.*



Make a Personal Emergency Plan:

The tragic events in Haiti and Japan serves as a reminder that we, too, need to be prepared:

- Put together an [emergency plan](#) and share with all your family members.
- Create an [earthquake kit](#), with sufficient water (1 gal per day per person) for at least a week.
- Share contact information with your neighbors--better yet, sign up for training with Oakland's [CORE program](#) (Communities Organized to Respond to Emergencies). You can now take the [class online!](#)
- **If your home is not seismically retrofitted, consider making this investment now.** Typical retrofits are \$4,000 to \$20,000 depending on where your home is located, size, and building materials--just a fraction of the cost of replacing or repairing your homes after a major earthquake. This week's special newsletter on Japan included [good resources on retrofitting your](#)

[home](#). Thanks to Japan's much more strict building standards very few of the deaths were due to the seismic damage; most were victims of the tsunami.

[It is predicted that a major expected on the Hayward Fault \(which runs through Oakland\) could lead to up to 15,000 deaths.](#) WE CAN CHANGE THIS BY RETROFITTING OUR HOMES AND BUILDINGS. My staff and I have been working on seismic retrofit standards and increasing funding for retrofit assistance for many years. If you own a building, determine whether your building needs a seismic retrofit and get it done. The costs far outweigh the risk of losing your building or life.

More Useful Resources:

[72hours.org](#), [FEMA](#), [ABAG Earthquake & Hazards Program](#), [American Red Cross-Bay Area](#)

4. The 25% Solution

If all Oaklanders bought 25 percent more of their normal purchases from Oakland retailers, the sales tax increase would be about \$10 to \$15 million. This year that could eliminate up to one-quarter of this year's budget deficit.

Oakland is Wine Country!

Did you know that Oakland has it's own wineries? Or that some are part of a consortium--the [East Bay Vintners Alliance](#)-- that opened up a wine bar in Hong Kong to promote East Bay wines because more and more Chinese are acquiring a taste for California red wine? I will be visiting their Wine Bar when I travel to China next month.

But you don't have to travel far to go on an Oakland Wine Tasting Tour:



[Cerruti Cellars](#)

100 Webster St.
Oakland CA, 94607
(510) 550-2900

This is the latest addition to the Oakland wine scene. While not a working winery like the others below, the Tudal Family Wineries of Napa have opened a tasting room up in the Jack London Square area. It is open by Appointment Only.
Wednesday-Friday: 4:30pm-7:30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 11am-6pm

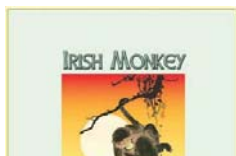
[Dashe Cellars](#)

Oakland Winery & Tasting Room
55 4th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 452-1800



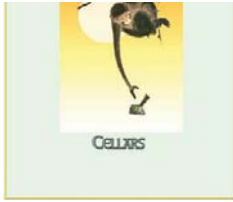
[Enat Winery](#)

910 81st Avenue, Suite 18
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 632-6629



[Irish Monkey Cellars](#)

1017 22nd Avenue



Oakland, CA 94606

(510) 533-3349

[JC Cellars](#)

55 4th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 465-5900



[Urban Legend Cellars](#)

621 4th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 545-4356



Check out one of our **40 unique neighborhood business districts**. Each one has a different mix of restaurants and shops. The [Shop Oakland website](#) is a great place to start. There's a [wonderful map](#), as well.

Visit [Oakland Grown](#) for the latest on local independent merchants and their wares.

5. The Greening of Oakland: Garden Tours, Plant Sales, Free Solar



Bike To Work Day, Thursday, May 12: This will be the first year that I will not be able to join riders from my home district on the annual ride to City Hall, as I will be returning from a trade mission to China. Each year more and more people take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and make a statement about reducing our carbon footprint by bicycling to work. For details, contact the [East Bay Bicycle Coalition](#).

Free Solar Electric Installations, Energy Efficiency Services and Trainings for

Oaklanders: Through generous funding from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the City of Oakland's Redevelopment Agency and a number of foundation, corporate and individual donors we have been able to dramatically increase the number of families and workers served in Oakland and around the state of California. To qualify for the program, residents need only:

1. Reside in a single-family, owner-occupied home in an Oakland Redevelopment Area (or have a deed-restricted home)
2. Have a total household income below 80 percent AMI
3. Posses a solar-suitable roof in good shape (generally less than 12



- years old) or be willing to work with the City of Oakland for a low-interest deferred loan
4. Provide basic documents (PGE bill, tax return, homeowners insurance declaration) to GA Staff in a timely way

Contact Jahahara Amen-RA Alkebulan-Ma at Grid Alternatives at 731-1320, jahahara@gridalternatives.org

East Bay Regional Parks Master Plan Survey: You can add your two cents on their online survey for the 2011 Master Plan at <http://www.ebparks.org/planning/mp/survey>.



[Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Sunday, May 1:](#)
A free tour of showcase native plants throughout the East Bay. [Register here.](#)

Merritt College Horticulture Spring Community Plant Sale, Saturday, May 7, 9 am-3 -m, and Sunday, May 8, Noon-3 pm: Rare fruits, perennial and annual vegetables, grasses, California natives, food, music, permaculture tours and more. 12500 Campus Drive. www.merrittlandhort.com.

FOSC Community Workshop in Dimond Park: The Backyard Ecosystem, Saturday, May 7, 10 am-Noon: Jennifer Smith will present on creating garden space for native plants that attract native bees, and Friends of Sausal Creek Restoration and Nursery Manager Megan Hess will discuss the environmental advantages of gardening with native plants. Meet in the native plant demonstration garden uphill from the tot lot next to the Dimond Recreation Center (3860 Hanly Rd., Oakland). Please RSVP to field@sausalcreek.org or 325-9006.

2011 Bay Friendly Garden Tour, Sunday, May 15, Alameda County: The 8th annual Bay Friendly Garden tour is expanding beyond Alameda County, Now it is Napa and Santa Clara Counties, as well. The [Bay-Friendly Coalition](#) and its sponsors hope that by expanding into a regional event the tour will encourage more residents to make environmentally friendly gardening choices. In previous years, the tour had been organized by StopWaste.Org and was only offered in Alameda County. This year, the tour is being organized by the Bay-Friendly Coalition. [Registration](#) \$10.



Strawberry Creek Restoration Program Presentation at Friends of Sausal Creek Meeting, Wednesday, May 18, 7-9 pm, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue:

The Strawberry Creek Restoration Program at UC Berkeley is a success story of habitat renewal in resource-constrained times. Led by students in partnership with the UCB Office of Environment, Health and Safety and the Grounds Management Department, the mostly volunteer program is rolling back nearly 30 years of neglect and invasion by non-native vegetation within the campus natural areas. Join Environmental Protection Specialist Tim Pine and Lead Student Restoration Coordinator Tyler Grinberg for a presentation on the challenges overcome to restore biodiversity and habitat health in UC Berkeley's part of Strawberry Creek. This environmental education presentation takes place at the [bimonthly Friends of Sausal Creek member meeting](#). All are welcome! For more information, call 501-3672 or email coordinator@sausalcreek.org.

6. City News: Budget Proposals to be Released This Friday, Pothole Blitz, Parcel Tax or an ALL Cut Budget ?



At long last, 2011 Spring Pothole Blitz Begins April 25! Every year the winter rains take their toll on our city streets. I our Town Hall meetings throughout the City, the number one infrastructure issue is fixing our potholes. With limited resources, it's always



a balancing act as to which streets and how much we can replace. Even so, we greet PWA's 4-week Pothole Blitz with a great sigh of relief! Starting April 25, weather permitting, crews will start in West Oakland. The week of May 2nd, they will concentrate on Central Oakland; the week of May 9th, East Oakland, and during

National Public Works Week (May 16), they will focus on completing outstanding pothole repair requests in high traffic areas citywide. (Photo above: Pot Hole Blitz 2010)

Potholes are an ongoing and growing problem for all major cities, especially in the spring when the moisture from rains causes the roadway surface and structure to erode. Streets generally last about 30 years. Unfortunately, our infrastructure resources only provide funding to pave our streets every 85 years!. Until additional resources are provided to repave streets, we'll continue to patch, patch and patch some more. If you have a favorite pothole, please call the PWA Call Center at 615-5566 or send an email with the closest street address to PWACallcenter@oaklandnet.com.

MAYOR'S BUDGET TO BE RELEASED THIS FRIDAY: The Bad, the Really Bad & the Ugly

After 4 months work, my office will release **our recommendations for the next 2 Year Budget beginning July 1st this Friday**. Because so much is still in the air, we present 3 budgets. One will represent no employee contributions and no additional parcel tax funds, this is an all cuts budget. The second represents only public employee contributions and cuts; currently we are bargaining with all our unions. The third represents a combination of employee contributions and the passage of a parcel tax. **Currently, the Council has not scheduled a new vote on a mail ballot for a 25 cent a day emergency parcel tax for 5 years; I am asking them to let the voters decide.** All of three budgets are painful but an ALL CUTS budget will mean major closings of libraries, fire stations, and recreation centers, reduction of days at senior centers, and reduction by attrition of the police force. **Council meetings on the budget are scheduled for May 2, 12, and 19.**

Council Delays Parcel Tax Vote: Several weeks ago the Council agreed to put an \$80 parcel tax on the special election ballot planned by Governor Brown. When it became apparent that Brown would not be able to get a special election, our office went to the Council to ask for an all mail vote. Disappointingly, three members of the Council did not support an "urgency" vote which needs 6 votes.

- **Does this Kill the Parcel Tax Vote?** This does not kill the initiative but does delay the vote until next months because of the Council recess.
- **Why is the delay important?** It means that if we get a special election by mail, we will not know the results until August two months into the fiscal year. Even if the parcel tax passes, **we will likely have to layoff and cut programs during July & August.** This is something I was hoping to avoid.
- **Is the Vote by Mail expensive?** Actually a vote by mail is about the same cost to the city as being part of a consolidated election, about \$800 K.
- **I believe the citizens of Oakland should be allowed to decide.** The parcel tax would raise about one fifth of the funds needed to close the gap, it would cost the average home owner about a quarter a day.
- **Without a parcel tax we will have an all cuts budget for the most part.** Ironically this parallels the struggles going on in Washington and Sacramento.

The Budget Process: Since I took office we have worked every day on the budget.

- We spent most of the first two months establishing the **budget baseline**, correcting mistakes in reporting and estimates that were too optimistic. We



expect the current budget to run up to a \$6M shortfall.

- We also started **meeting with departments** immediately to work out what options we would have to increase revenues or to reduce their budgets by 15-20%.
- We have spent much of our time fighting proposed deep federal and state cuts including redevelopment. Federal cuts could be \$7-8M and state cuts could be over \$30 M, including redevelopment.
- Last month we issued an 85-page budget memo for our day long **Budget Workshop with the Council and the Cabinet** [You can download the report here](#). We are starting the budget process about 6 weeks earlier than in past years. In past years the Mayor and Council had retreats to discuss city priorities in the fall or new year, that did not happen this year so this was a critical meeting. The document focuses on the \$46M shortfall in next years general fund budget. To close that gap I believe all options must be on the table and everyone must contribute: 1) There will be cuts to programs and consolidation of programs, but we must leave the city in the best possible position for when the economy rebounds . 2) Employees will be asked to contribute; this will mean a continuation of furlough days and other items now under negotiations with all our unions. 3) We need the passage of the \$80 emergency parcel tax for 5 years to reduce the necessary levels of cuts. 4) Other new revenues including increasing rentals of city facilities, sharing of services, etc. 5) Collaborating with other government agencies and organizations to reduce costs.
- **We will release 3 budgets this Friday.** One will represent no employee contributions and no additional parcel tax funds. The second represents only public employee contributions; currently we are bargaining with all our unions. The third represents a combination of employee contributions and the passage of a parcel tax.
- **Council & Public Hearings: Council meetings are scheduled for May 2, 12, and 19.** We are planning a series of community hearings with Council members and will distribute budget fact sheets through the remaining Town Hall meetings, Neighborhood Councils and other organizations. In the past some programs were spared such as police, senior programs and Headstart, I think this year all programs will take a cut although not necessarily equally.
- **Council Hearings and Votes:** Historically, the Council holds its final budget hearings in June. **The charter requires a budget by June 30th.**



Oakland Seeks New Locations for FREE Lunch to Summertime Youth: Health is one of the most basic necessities, and good nutrition is a large component of good health. Last year, fewer youth-serving and faith-based organizations were able to host the FREE Summer Lunch Program than in 2009. This means that fewer lunches were served to a growing population of hungry children and teens. Last summer, the Department of Human Services Summer Food Service Program served 82,000 FREE health meals to Oakland's children. Organizations interested in becoming a Summer Foods Service Program site should contact [Carmela Chase](#) at 238-7992.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

We are still looking for a few good volunteers to serve on the **Citizen's Police Review Board**. This important body "investigates and reviews certain complaints regarding conduct of Oakland police officers," which makes it an extremely important volunteer activity, especially if you can evaluate people and actions in an even handed manner. In particular, we are trying to ensure that members of this Board come from throughout the City. Contact [Richard Cowan](#) at 238-3990 if you are interested.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the **Parks And Recreation Commission (PRAC)**, which oversees projects in Oakland's parks and recreation centers. Contract [Richard Cowan](#) at 238-3990 if you are interested.

Oakland has nearly 30 Boards and Commissions ranging from community policing to cultural affairs. This means that Boards and Commissions can provide over 400 opportunities for rewarding volunteer activity. Since I became Mayor, my staff has filled many vacancies and there are many more openings ready for you to participate in. You can access a directory of Boards and Commissions at the [City website](#). Take a look and [let us know](#) where you would like to work.

Alameda County Arts Commission Accepting Submissions for Two New Opportunities:

Professional artists who make two-dimensional or low-relief, wall-mounted artwork are invited to apply for two projects:

- **Ashland Youth Center, small-scale artwork commission program** to produce a series of artwork in the studio. This is an opportunity for artists who make youth-focused artwork; are interested in youth empowerment and working with diverse communities; and artists who want to create artwork which contributes to safe, supportive and healing environments and is positive and uplifting. At the end of the contract period, the artists' work will be acquired by the County and installed at the new Ashland Youth Center. \$16,000 is available to commission approximately 4 artists to make new artwork for this facility. **Application deadline is May 13, 10:59 pm.**
- **Purchase of Existing Artwork for the County's Art Collection:** The Arts Commission is building a public collection of artwork created by Alameda County Artists. Artwork purchased through the 2011 Purchase Program will be placed at County buildings for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. Artwork should have a broad appeal and be appropriate for a variety of public spaces with diverse visitors of all ages and cultures. Approximately \$75,000 is available this year to purchase existing artwork. **Application deadline is June 10, 2011, 10:59 pm.**

Applications must be submitted online through the [CaFE](#) website. Search the list for "Alameda County Arts Commission". Complete application information is available at www.acgov.org/arts or call 208-9646 to receive a copy by mail. A separate application must be submitted for each opportunity.

7. School and Youth

Oakland A's starting pitcher [Gio Gonzalez](#) and team mascot **Stomper** visited Manzanita SEED Elementary School as a reward for the students' hard work and academic achievement. SEED, a Spanish-English Bilingual School, was one of two California public schools to be named the 2010 National Title I Distinguished Schools by the National Title I Association in November, 2010.



Gonzalez participated in a school assembly that featured a Q & A session, trivia contest and raffle of various A's prizes and autographed items. He invited the students to participate in the A's "Mathletics" Program, sponsored by Ross Dress For Less and Comcast SportsNet California, that features a workbook incorporating simple formulas for calculating baseball statistics to show the importance of math. Students who completed the workbooks correctly, and submitted the answer sheet to the A's were rewarded with two A's ticket vouchers. *(Photo above by Anna Hiatt, Oakland A's)*

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction, Saturday, May 14, 11 am-3pm; 4314 Piedmont Avenue: Games & prizes; international food; bouncy house; rock wall; free book exchange; community vendors; silent auction--enter to win a cruise for 2! Proceeds from the event fund enrichment programs such as music, pay for field trip transportation, and provide supplemental classroom materials. Visit their website at <http://tinyurl.com/paesauktion2011> for details.

Half Price Books and [East Bay Children's Book Project](#) Literacy Event, Saturday, May 14, 1-4 pm, FM Smith Park, 1969 Park Blvd.: Free books, entertainment and food. For details, call 408-READ.

8. Safe and Healthy Oakland

Free Whooping Cough Immunization for OUSD Students, 7-12 Grade, Thursday, April 28 10 am-4pm, 470 27th Street: Students entering middle and high school can receive their required Whooping Cough (Tdap) shots for free at a special Alameda County Health Clinic. Contact [Renne Cheney-Cohen](#) at 268-2139.



Rally & March against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors on International Blvd last Wednesday.

Campaign to End Sexual Exploitation of Minors Continues: Last week Oakland organizations rallied to encourage merchants and neighbors to continue to organize against what amounts to child slavery and to demand fines appropriate for the crime. One such bill is Swanson AB 18, which will raise the fines for pimping children up to \$25,000, the same as sexual assault.

Baby College Grads: On my first weekend as Mayor we walked deep East Oakland to recruit parents with children under 3 for a 6 week parent training program based on the Harlem Kids Zone model that has been high successful in preparing students for school. At Sobrante Park elementary last week over 60 parents graduated. Parents have been very excited about the program and several promised to help us recruit others if we can get the funding to continue. >>*The Mayor with graduates.*



Parent Class on Gang Prevention at Carmen Flores Recreation Center, Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm: Project Re-Connect in collaboration with Carmen Flores Recreation Center offers effective parenting classes. Call 482-1738 for details. 1637 Fruitvale Avenue.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| April 28, 2011 | Substance use and abuse |
| May 05, 2011 | When Stress gets Your Best |
| May 12, 2011 | Nutrition |
| May 19, 2011 | A Safe Home |
| May 26, 2011 | Putting it all Together |
| June 02, 2011 | Celebration |

Chinese Community Rallies to Purchase Cameras for Lincoln Square: This weekend the Chinese Community held a Safety Fair to celebrate the completion of a major surveillance system that covers the block around the popular recreation center and school playground in Chinatown. Gateway Bank, Bay Alarms, Wa Sung, the Chinatown Lions, and the many hundreds of residents who use the area raised funds at the request of the beat officer Ed Yu. The community hopes the system will deter crime and keep the estimated 2000 youth and seniors who use the park



each day safer. >> *Thanking contributors Saturday.*



Organizing and \$30,000 Reward in the Fruitvale Murder: Oakland police continue to investigate the murder of Jesus "Chuy" Campos. We continue to have increased the police presence in the Fruitvale business district. The Measure Y crisis response team and the resources and services provided by Youth Alive, Khadafy Foundation and Catholic Charities will also be available. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Oakland Police Department at (510) 238-6946.

Rash of East Oakland Murders Continue: Police are also offering rewards in several murders involving young men.

Crime Down for Fourth Year: Even with the surge in homicides, violent crime rates are still going down overall for the city by about 4%; -14% for all crimes. OPD and community leaders in our neighborhood councils and in merchant groups such as the one in the Fruitvale are working together to address crime in our city.

9. Circle Your Calendar.



Future Fridays at Chabot Space & Science Center, Friday, May 6, 6-7:30 pm:

Join Mary Roach to celebrate the release of the paperback version of her bestselling book: *Packing for Mars*. Ms. Roach is a columnist and popular science writer, who dares to ask experienced space travelers the questions only children have the courage to inquire. What happens if an astronaut vomits inside a space helmet? What does the space shuttle smell like after a two week mission? Mary Roach will sign copies of her book *Packing for Mars* after the event. [For ticket information.](#)

Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Annual Spring Carnival and Silent Auction, Saturday, May 14, 11 am-3 pm, 4314 Piedmont Avenue: Games & prizes; international food; bouncy house; rock wall; free book exchange; community vendors; silent auction--enter to win a cruise for 2! Proceeds from the event fund enrichment programs such as music, pay for field trip transportation, and provide supplemental classroom materials. Visit their website at <http://tinyurl.com/paesauktion2011> for details.

Oakland Indie Awards, Friday, May 13, 6 pm, Kaiser Center Theatre: Celebrate the social and environmental impact of Oakland's independent businesses and artists at the annual [Oakland Indie Awards](#). Party at the Kaiser Rooftop Garden, 300 Lakeside Drive following the awards (6:30 pm.) Sponsored by the One Pacific Coast Foundation and East Bay Express.

Garden Party & Luncheon at the Camron-Stanford House, 1418 Lakeside Drive, Saturday, May 14, Noon-2 pm: Tour the spring garden at Camron-Stanford House and enjoy a catered buffet on the veranda overlooking Lake Merritt. Hear Bobbi Feyerabend, of Feyerabend & Madden Landscape Design, present the history of 19th century gardens in Oakland, and introducing "The Victorian Garden Project" at Camron-Stanford House. Reservations are required. Members \$20, Non-members and guests, \$30. Call 847-7802 for details



Half Price Books and [East Bay Children's Book Project](#) Literacy Event, Saturday, May 14, 1-4 pm, FM Smith Park, 1969 Park Blvd.: Free books, entertainment and food. For details, call 408-READ.

25th Anniversary of the Bay Area Black Comedy Competition and Festival, Saturday, May 14, 8 pm-Midnight, Paramount Theatre: See the final round of the world's largest, longest-running and most diverse showcase of urban stand-up comedians. This year's Competition began last February in Pleasanton, with 67 comedians chosen from a poll of hundreds of potential participants from diverse backgrounds from all across America. They're competing for over \$15,000 in cash and prizes, which include future bookings as well as potential television and film opportunities. Final Round show tickets are \$45, \$40 and \$25. \$55 for special pre-show VIP reception ticket for the Annual Inspired Artist Awards Reception and admission to the Final Competition. For more information call 421-9207 or log on to <http://www.BlackComedyCompetition.com>



6th Annual Walk to End Poverty, Saturday, May 21, 9 am, Oakland Lake Merritt Bandstand: Free community fair, children's activities, and live entertainment. Sponsored by the Oakland Community Action Partnership. For more information visit OaklandCAP.org or phone 238-2362.



Try it FREE today.