



July 20, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 28



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!

Oakland Idol Banner: (l-r) Performers from Poplyfe talk about what is needed to make it in the music business, volunteers from the Grammy Foundation sign in contestants, Tracy Reed and producer Wayne Wiggins share their experience, Poplyfe performs.

As part of our effort to provide safer, positive venues for youth on weekends, our **Friday Night Live programs** dramatically expanded this weekend with three exciting new programs. Over the last month we started basketball leagues at **McClymonds High** (Friday/Sat), a variety of sports at [Rainbow Rec](#) (Friday) and [East Oakland Youth Center](#) (Sat), and [Eastmont Technology Center](#). Last Friday the new [81st Avenue Library](#) joined the effort and our "Oakland Idol" competition began with the winner scheduled to help close out the [Art and Soul Festival in Downtown Oakland](#) next month. We are looking for new partners to join this effort by the City, Schools, and non-profits and for adults who would like to come out and show support. There is no new funding for these programs; each site is using existing resources and volunteers.

This publication is not produced at public expense.

During the week, I also post to my Facebook page: [Facebook.com/mayorjeanquan](https://www.facebook.com/mayorjeanquan). Hit the "like" button to become a "fan".

In This Issue

3. Parcel Tax Vote July 19th
4. More City News
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10. Oakland Celebrates Its Neighborhoods

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Quick Links

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In the News

[Oakland Mayor's Chinatown meeting draws huge crowds](#)

Angela Woodall
Oakland Tribune



<< 81st Ave librarians display the Reading Club cards and rewards; any youth who reads at least 8 hours this summer gets a package of rewards including discounts to Oakland attractions like Chabot Science Center or other prizes!

The 81st Avenue library will be open Fridays and Saturdays to 10 pm through August. This Friday night the library hosts the second round of the Oakland Idol contest.

Every Friday night at a different Friday Night Live site, 8 performers/groups can sign up to compete. The talent at Rainbow Rec last

Friday blew us away. The evening started with a panel of adults and youth in the music industry. Members of [Poplyfe](#), who are [performing on America's Got Talent](#) this week, told us that serious performers needed to finish school

and read. Check out their videos and tune-in to vote for these talented young people.

Youth and Family Nights, Fridays this summer, at Willie Wilkins Park (98th Ave & Ave B). Last week I joined the staff knocking on doors in Beat 33X to mobilize for [National Night Out](#) and to let the community know of our effort to get more neighbors out into Willie Wilkins Park for family and youth friends activities. Every Friday this summer we will be hosting some kinds of fun activity in the early evening. Last week we hosted a BBQ for about a 100; movies, games and other activities are planned. *(Above) Local Beat Officers Eric Thaw and Pedro Elias stop by Wilkins Park last Friday. (Below) City organizer Jennifer Argueta (my former council staff) and Measure Y youth outreach worker with kids on the play structure.*



CHINESE LANGUAGE TOWN HALL BREAKS RECORD

About 500 packed the [Oakland Asian Cultural Center](#) (OACC) Sunday as we conducted the first official city meeting where Chinese was the main language; English and Spanish speaking residents wore the earphones for simultaneous translation. As we were holding the Town Hall Meetings in each Council district this year, it became obvious that Chinese speaking residents were having a hard time understanding and being heard at some meetings where we did not have enough translators. Asian Pacific Islanders are about one fifth of the city's population and Chinese Americans are the largest group. Asians are sometimes criticized for not being involved in citywide activities, in recent years we have gotten more immigrants involved at all levels.

July 17 2011

[Surveillance Cameras Go Up in the Fruitvale District](#)

Ray Chavez, Oakland Tribune
July 16, 2011

[Oakland Mayor Quan thankful for City employees](#)

KGO-Radio
July 12, 2011

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events

Discover Oakland

Tour the Hodo Soy Beanery Tofu Factory



Beanery tours are one-hour long and include:

- A short video introduction from Tofu Master Minh Tsai
- Ample time for q&a and observing the production process through the viewing window
- A delicious array of many products to taste
- An opportunity to purchase any of the freshly-made products you taste

The Beanery typically offers one public tour each month on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. To purchase a ticket (\$10) to an upcoming tour, [click here.](#)



Small groups report out their priorities at Sunday's Chinese language Town Hall meeting.

This was our largest Town Hall meeting; the next closest was District 1 at 440. This brings the total number of participants in our Town Hall meetings to over 3000. For several months many volunteers from the City staff and community have been planning this effort; many thanks to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Chinatown Chamber, the OACC, the Chinatown Library, the Chinese Citizen's Academy and the many senior groups that helped plan and mobilize for the event.

The Huffington Post recently launched a San Francisco post to its blog, and asked me to participate. You can read my first posting, [Strong Neighborhoods Are Safe Neighborhoods](#) that was published on July 18. Sign up on my [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) page for alerts whenever I next post something.



Happy Birthday Pete! Oakland is home to generations of music artists and trend setters. This weekend's birthday concerts at Yoshi's for and by Pete Escovedo makes the point in one family. It was fun to see the whole Escovedo clan including Sheila E (left)!

Congratulations Youth Radio:

This week I stopped by National Public Radio's Youth Radio in Downtown Oakland to celebrate their new federal grant (thanks Congresswoman Lee) for job training in the digital media. (Below) Sue Piper and me with our summer intern from Youth Radio, Sheila Blandon.

2923 Adeline Street, Oakland 94608
(510) 464-2977

*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



With the budget passed and the legislative session coming to a close, I will be spending much of the summer working on city reorganization with our new City manager who starts August 1. I hope to get out to as many summer festivals as I can and to continue walking and organizing in the beats I have adopted. Hope to see you soon.

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Discover Oakland This Week

Wildfire Prevention Advisory Board Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 7-9 pm, Trudeau Training Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd.: The public is invited to attend the always informative meetings of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Advisory Board. [For agenda and details](#),...



County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Workshop, Saturday, July 23, 9 am-Noon, Oakland Trudeau Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd: The public is invited to help develop a community wildfire protection plan for Alameda County. While Oakland has a plan for the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, there is no such plan for wildfire prone areas outside of Oakland. The workshops will focus on wildfire risks and hazards from Berkeley to Fremont. Please share your concerns and local knowledge. [Register here](#). For questions, contact [Cheryl Miller](#).

<<Fire started by a car on Skyline.

9th Annual Block Party, Melrose High Hopes Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Beat 27x, Saturday, July 23, 2011, 11 am-3 pm, Foothill Blvd. and Fremont Way, next to the Melrose Branch Library at 4805 Foothill and in the library courtyard. Celebrate community at this fun-filled annual event. Join in the music led by Preston Turner, be a part of the community paper-quilting bee with artist Linda Lawson, bring a book to swap with Children's Librarian Adina Leitner Aguirre. Much more including kids bike-check booth, Discovery Science Center, Green booths, Child car-seat safety checks, fingerprinting for



child safety, talking police car, food. Come join your neighbors for the 9th year of this enjoyable community event. All welcome. Free, but donations to defray expenses are more than welcome. See their Web site. <http://www.ncpcbeat27x.org>



Inaugural Oakland Jazz Festival, Saturday, July 23, Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate: KBLX and OPR sponsor what we hope will become an annual musical event celebrating Oakland's musical roots. Tickets (\$57.75+ convenience fee). General Admission (Picnic style seating-No reserve seats). Advance tickets available at the Paramount Theatre Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.com. Pre Sale Code word: **JAZZ**. [LINK TO](#)

West Oakland Garden Tour, Saturday, July 23, 2-5 pm: Starts at Marston Campbell Garden, Lafayette Elementary, 1700 Market, \$20 to \$40, children free.

Discover West Oakland by bicycle (or van-pool) through a tour of lovely streets and edible gardens, with art at every stop. Wrap up with a block party, full of art, music, and fresh, delicious food and drink from local culinary luminaries. And enter the raffle for prizes like a night's stay at The Huntington, dinners at fine local restaurants, or dinner and a boat trip down the American River. FOOD from Picante | DRINK from Linden Street Brewery | ENTERTAINMENT by TURF FEINZ



East Bay Food Fight--Eat, Drink and Battle to End Poverty, Saturday, July 23, Jack London Square Pavilion: Top chefs, sumptuous food and drink, celebrity VIPS and those who love food come together on Saturday, July 23 to support St. Vincent de Paul's Kitchen of Champions Culinary Training Program. In its first 3 years, the program has graduated more than 200 students; 70% have gained jobs in the food industry. At the East Bay Food Fight, six of the East Bay's most noted executive chefs will battle it out on stage for a panel of VIP judges with discriminating palates. Taste your way through summer signature menu offerings from 40 of the east Bay's finest restaurants, breweries and wineries. Sample the special Food Fight signature cocktails, gaze height-of-the-summer produce from local farms and delight at culinary demos. Live auction as well. Sponsored by Oakland Restaurant Association KTVU-2, Jack London Square/Port of Oakland, KFOG and Yelp. For tickets and information, go to www.eastbayfoodfight.org.

CDS Dressage Show, Sunday, July 24, Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller Park: Come watch equestrians and their horses in the great outdoors. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association. For information about other upcoming events, visit www.mhaoakland.org.

Oakland Municipal Band 100th Concert Season, July 24, 1-3 pm, Lakeside Park: The Free Concerts are conducted by Troy Davis and performed by 35 musicians featuring an array of jazz, contemporary, pop, big band, international, classical, marches and show tunes. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Picnics welcomed and Flag waving encouraged. For more information, please call 339-2818.



2. Parcel Tax Vote Set for Fall, Parker Named Interim City Attorney



PARCEL TAX VOTE SET FOR FALL: After several delays the Council on a 7-1 vote set a vote on the \$80/ Year Emergency Parcel Tax for November 15th. The temporary tax will last for five years; it is my hope that property taxes will recover by then. The \$11 M proceeds would restore some services in these areas:

- Restore 40% of the senior center hours.
- Enable us to schedule at least one more police academy to maintain staffing levels.
- Restore some of tree service and park maintenance crews, we are now at about 40% from five years ago.
- Add at least one street repair crew.
- Maintain youth violence and library programs.

COUNCIL REJECTS ELECTION FOR CITY ATTORNEY, APPOINTS PARKER, SETS VOTE ON ELECTED ATTORNEY: In an interesting set of alliances and compromises the Council decided on several issues involving the City Attorney's position:

- The Council rejected adding the City Attorney to the special fall election. This was an alliance between those who support Parker and those who do not support an elected city attorney.
- The current acting City Attorney known as the attorney staffing Council meetings, Barbara Parke,r was named as the interim City Attorney.
- The Council supported Nancy Nadel and Pat Kernighan in putting a measure on the special election in November eliminating the elected City Attorney and returning to the appointed system of the pre-Brown days.

Unlike the District Attorney or Auditor, the City Attorney is not entirely an independent authority. By charter the City Attorney is the Council, Mayor, and City counsel and has legal obligations to them. The conflict between the City Attorney as a politician with his own policy views has required the Council/Mayor to hire outside counsel and raised issues of conflict of interest or failure to represent client interests. I am interest in seeing if there can be a compromise on how the City Attorney is selected or if guidelines/protections from the conflicts can be established.

LAYOFFS SET FOR JULY 29TH, POLICE RECALLED: The city has completed the layoff notification and bumping process. Employees received a two-week notice as required by contracts. We are compiling a complete list of the impact on city services which we will release later this week, an initial list is in the next section. In addition, based on the police contribution to their pensions, we will be able to bring back more police officers. The budget calls for 22 more positions but to compensate for attrition we will be calling back 30 officers for a refresher academy and expect them to be back on the streets next month.

We begin the new fiscal year with a budget, a new city administrator, and a lot of work ahead of us:

- We will join other cities to take the legislators' decision on redevelopment to court and hope to have a decision by the end of July.
- We will fight the newest state grab of between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million from the state vehicle license fees.
- We are completing the sad job of lay offs and beginning to reorganize city services.

I want to thank everyone, again, for working so hard during these difficult times.

3. More City News



Chinatown

Town Hall discusses increased senior center hours, the new Lake Merritt BART station development, cleaning up litter and commercial waste in Chinatown, community policing, more space for the Asian Library, more economic development & tourism for Chinatown and support for the schools on Sunday.

Changes in Service Levels in Public Works, due to Budget Cuts: As of July 25, service levels and response times in a number of Public Works Agency divisions will be reduced, based in the FY 2011-2013 Budget adopted by the City Council last month:

- **Park Maintenance**--over the past five years, full-time Park Maintenance staffing has been reduced by 54%, leaving only 35 full-time positions on staff today. As a result, parks, medians and open space will be classified in one of four levels:
 - Service Level A--Areas that receive high level of frequent, regular, routine maintenance (A few heavily used parks and facilities)
 - Service Level B- Areas that receive a moderate level of routine maintenance (A few heavily used parks and facilities)
 - Service Level C; Areas with no routine maintenance (Most parks and medians)
 - Service Level D: Areas left in a natural state (open space)

All service level locations will be posted online in early August at www.oaklandpw.com

- **Tree Services**--Tree maintenance staffing has been reduced by 53% over the past five years, resulting in 16 full-time positions today. Tree services will continue to be limited to emergency/hazardous tree response only:
 - Fallen trees blocking streets, sidewalks or public-right-of-way
 - Traffic signal/sign obstruction
 - Dead or diseased trees

Property owners who wish to plant or prune a street tree can download the "Plant Your Own tree" or "Prune Your own Tree" forms from www.oaklandpw.com. there is no cost for this permit.

- **Litter Enforcement/Illegal Dumping**--Since its inception in 2001, the Litter Enforcement Officer (LEO) program has gone from 8 fulltime staff to 0 in the new budget. As a result:
 - There will be no forensic follow-up of illegally dumped material and no one will sort through the piles looking for identification
 - Tag and Tow services will now be handled by the Oakland Police Department Abandoned Auto Detail at (510) 777-8622.
 - Reports of information on dumping (such as witness with information) should be reported on the OPD on-line report process beginning August 1, 2011 at www.oaklandpolice.com. Dumping in progress should be called in to 911.
 - Removal of illegally dumped items will continue.

What you can do:

- **Continue to call in reports of park maintenance, tree service, blight and graffiti (along with pot holes, broken street lights and traffic lights) to the Public Works Call Center at (510) 615-5566 or email them to pwacallcenter@oaklandnet.com**



- Volunteer for the [Adopt-a-spot program](#) - 1 year commitment to help maintain storm drains, medians, parks, and other public spaces.
- Contact [Jocelyn Combs](#), park volunteer coordinator, for upcoming volunteer activities at (510) 615-5411.
- [Oakland Parks Coalition](#) sponsors a clean up of the Bancroft Median on August 20, 2011, 9 am-Noon.



I joined Council President Larry Reid and PWA Gardener Crew Leader Erwin Carpenter at last year's OPC Bancroft Median Clean up.

Seeking Nominees for Boards & Commissions: Because of term limits, nearly all Boards have openings on a regular basis. (Right) Nominees for next year's Youth Commission meet with the Mayor. Here are some of the more popular ones with current openings:

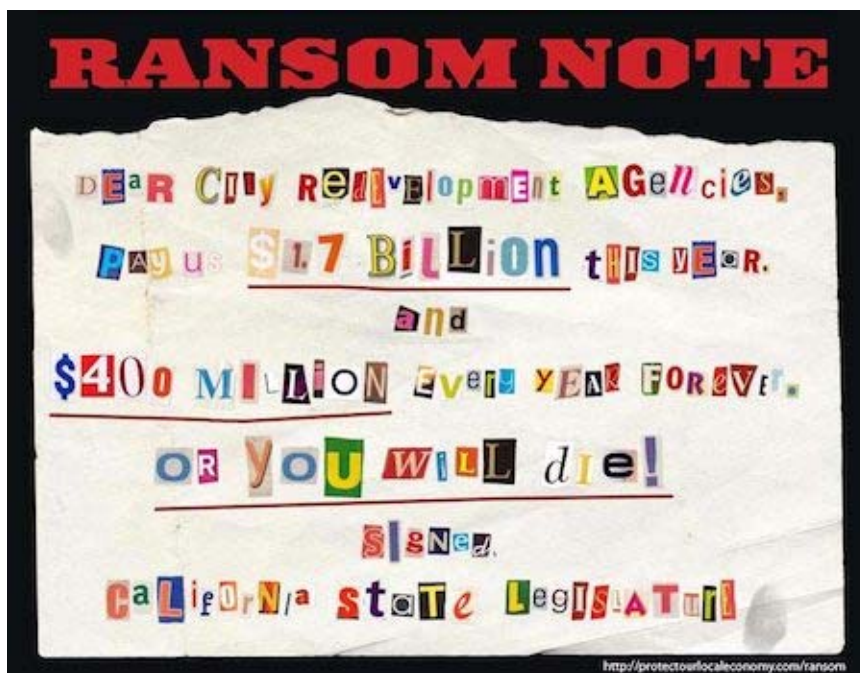
- Oakland Housing Authority Board (opening for tenant/resident of the OHA)
- Commission on Aging [only 1 or 2]
- Budget Advisory [But must be nominated by their Councilmember]
- Citizen's Police Review Board [must have attended Citizen's Police Academy]
- Residential Rent [looking for a landlord seat]
- Library Advisory Commission
- Parks and Rec Advisory Commission
- Violence Prevention [But must be nominated by their Councilmember]
- Measure Z [But must be nominated by their Councilmember]

Contact [Richard Cowan](#) with a cover letter and your resume if you are interested in applying.

4. Cities File Suit Against the State on Redevelopment; Oakland Schools Bill Stopped, "Johns" Fines Raised to \$25,000

- **Cities File Suit on Redevelopment; Hope for Decision on Injunction by August.**

The California League of Cities and other government agencies filed its lawsuit against the state for the "ransom" of redevelopment this week. We thank Assemblyman Sandre Swanson for being our only state official voting against the elimination. Should the suit fail, the city would have to buy back redevelopment at the cost of \$40M this year and \$10 M in future years, greatly reducing the housing and other projects possible. The state would take the lion's share of funds.



Many cities have said they cannot afford to pay, including San Jose, so it is unlikely the state will get the funds they expect.

- **Swanson Bill Signed by Governor, "Johns" face \$25,000 fines:** Fines against "johns" who pay for sex with minors will now range up to \$25,000 under an East Bay legislator's bill signed into law Tuesday by Gov. Jerry Brown. AB 12, the Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation, and Sexual Slavery, or ACCESS, Act by

Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, D-Alameda, also requires that the new fine -- which previously ranged up to \$10,000 depending on the circumstances -- be directed to groups providing therapy, housing, shelter, and education to child victims of sex trafficking. Swanson has worked with us to author several related laws in recent years. His 2008 bill created a diversion program in Alameda County for child prostitutes; Brown last week signed his bill to extend that program. And AB 17 of 2009 increased fines on pimping, pandering, or procurement of a minor, dedicating those funds to help sexually exploited minors obtain education, counseling, and shelter.

- **School Financial Takeover Bill, AB 609, Put in Suspense:** Assemblyman Sandre Swanson's Bill to relieve the school district from state fines imposed on mismanagement by the state trustees was put into suspense. [The state auditors fined Oakland \\$22M for mistakes incurred during the state takeover.](#) This is in addition to the additional debt run up by the state during the takeover, another \$80M. In plain English this means the city's schools are \$100M more in debt after the state takeover. The original debt that led to the trusteeship was about \$27M.
- **State Redistricting Commission Releases Maps, [Comment On-line](#):** Oakland remains in one congressional district, Fremont is split.

4. The 25% Solution

At my Inauguration, I asked Oaklanders to increase local shopping by 25%. If we all do so, we could raise \$9-\$12 million more in sales tax-- that's enough to double our Park and Recreation Programs, or to add another 60 policemen!



Last Friday I joined the **Rockridge Stroll**. We bought some pastries and cheese at Market Hall, picked up the new anti-mosquito lotion that smells good and has not DEET, looked for a book at Diesel (above) and bought a beads on sale at High Strung. There's nothing like walking our commercial areas to discover the unique shopping available in many of our neighborhoods.

Vegetarian Restaurants

Even if you aren't a full fledged, self-proclaiming vegetarian, there are some wonderful restaurants to visit with a diverse menu of fresh fruits, vegetables and grains. Here are some of our favorites!



Amba
6464 Moraga Ave
(between Medau Pl & La Salle Ave)
Oakland, 94611
(510) 339-8000
www.ambafalafel.com/



The Breakroom Café

300 13th St
(between Harrison St & Webster St)
Oakland, 94612
(510) 836-3864



Golden Lotus Restaurant

1301 Franklin St
(between 13th St & 14th St)
Oakland, 94612
(510) 893-0383
www.goldenlotusvege.com



Encuentro Café & Wine Bar

202 2nd St
(between Jackson St & Alice St)
Oakland, 94607
(510) 832-9463
www.encuentroakland.com



Pizza Plaza

6211 Shattuck Ave
(between 62nd St & 63rd St)
Oakland, 94609
(510) 420-1433
www.veganplaza.com

Submitted by Kim Bardakian



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.



6. Safe & Healthy Oakland



FRUITVALE MERCHANTS CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE: This week we held our 4th meeting with Fruitvale merchants to improve safety. It was also an opportunity to announce that we have begun installation our high tech digital cameras which are a joint effort between private merchants and the Redevelopment Agency. When completed by months end, the area will have a total of 100 cameras which are available to the police and should allow help capture any crime on camera.

Keep the OPD phone numbers handy:

911 for emergencies

777-3211 for emergencies from your cell phone

777-3333 for non emergencies

2011 Free Child Safety Events at Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittridge Street, Berkeley:

- Earthquake Safety, July 21, 10 am-Noon, American Red Cross tips
- Poison Control, August 3, 10 am -Noon
- Water Safety, August 15, 10-11:30 am, sponsored by the YMCA
- Choke Saving Skills-- Spanish, September 20, 1030 am-Noon; English, September 21, 10:30 am-Noon

For more information, contact Racel at 647-1111 ext 16 or parented@habitot.org

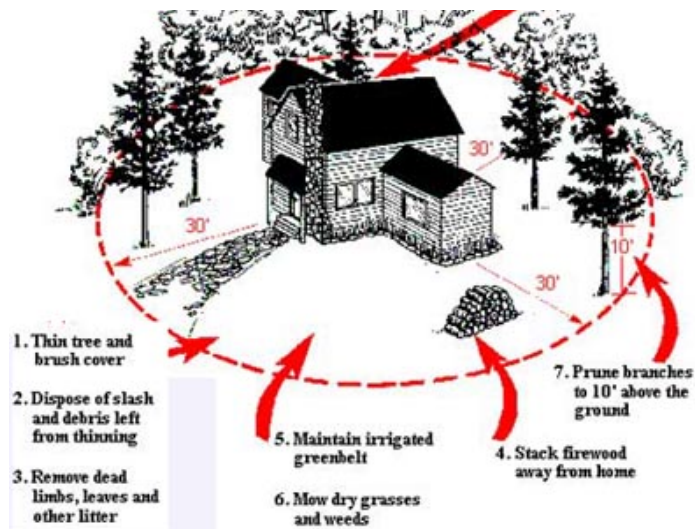


Sign up for National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2, 2011: Last year Oakland residents held 457 block parties to celebrate National Night Out, an opportunity to build community in your own neighborhood. This year, the city hopes to reach 500 parties! The premise behind community policing is that strong neighborhoods are safe neighborhoods; and when neighbors work together with the city and police, we can make a real difference in the quality of life in the neighborhood. Sign up today so that you can ensure that I, the City Administrator or other city staff will stop by your party to say hello and answer questions. Hosts receive a free thank you gift! Call Brenda Ivey at 238-3091 or [sign up online](#).

IT'S FIRE SEASON, INSPECTIONS UNDERWAY Part of Oakland's unique beauty is that our diverse terrain includes urban forests. One of my first projects as a Council Member was working with hill residents to establish the Wild Fire Prevention District.



One of the main features of that district is a program of annual inspections by the Oakland Fire Department. **For residents living within the District, annual inspections started June 15.** Go to the [City](#)



[website](#) for more information: a map of the district, the phone numbers of the Fire Inspectors and tips on protecting your home.

County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Workshops: The public is invited to help develop a community wildfire protection plan for Alameda County. While Oakland has a plan for the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, there is no such plan for wildfire prone areas outside of Oakland. The workshops will focus on wildfire risks and hazards from Berkeley to Fremont. Please share your concerns and local knowledge. [Register here](#). For questions, contact [Cheryl Miller](#).

- ○ **Saturday, July 23, 9 am-Noon**, Oakland Trudeau Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland
- **Saturday, July 30, 9 am-Noon**, Dublin Regional Meeting Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Dublin

OPD Email for Homicide Investigations: The Oakland Police Department Homicide Section has a new email address for citizens to provide information to investigators about any homicide that has occurred. **Tips can always be submitted by calling 238-3821, or Oaklandhomicide@oaklandnet.com** Homicides continue to run ahead of last year but lower than two years ago.

7. Circle Your Calendar.

Opportunities at [Chabot Space & Science Center](#) This Summer:

- **Summer Science Savings** \$10 Every Tuesday in July, 10 am-5 pm.
- **Summer Movie Nights**, Fridays and Saturday in July and August, Chabot's Giant Screen MegaDome theater is the ideal space for documentary films on Friday nights & classic science fiction on Saturday nights. Free with General Admission. Check website for weekly shows and times.
- **Space Explorer Summer Camps**--week-long camps run from July 5- August 5, 9 am-4 pm: Camps include hikes in the surrounding redwood ecosystem, a planetarium show, science thrills and more. A different theme each week for kids entering Kindergarten through 8th grade. Register today while space is still available! [Watch the Summer Camp Video](#)



[Oakland Symphony Chorus Summer Sing Ins.](#) Tuesday's, 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Pascal Baylon Church, 3700 Dorisa Avenue: \$10 per evening, \$45 for 5 evening series pass.

- July 19, Vivaldi: *Gloria*, Ming Luke, Conductor
- July 26, Mozart: *Grand Mass in c minor*, Martha Stoddard, Conductor
- **August 2 7-9 :30 pm, Mozart's Requiem** --Maestro Michael Morgan, Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducts this special event, proceeds will help fund the free 10th Anniversary Remembrance of September 11, 2011 event at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Sunday, September 11. First Covenant Church, 4000 Redwood Road \$15 Special Event/\$60 for evening series pass including the Special event.
- August 19, Orff: *Carmina Burana*, Vance George, Conductor

Call 207-4093 for details.

Lake Merritt Master Volunteers Work Day, Saturday, July 30, 9 am- Noon: Lake Merritt Master Volunteers are an informal can-do group dedicated to maintenance of the wonderful Measure DD improvements at Lake Merritt.

These monthly work days are supported by the Public Works Agency parks maintenance staff who direct the volunteers' work. Meet at the Pergola on El Embarcadero (across from Lakeview Branch Library) to sign in and for assignment. Bring your own gloves, pruners and other favorite hand tools for your use, and water to drink. Contact [Jennie Gerard](#) in Council Member Pat Kernighan's office at 238-7023.

Oakland Municipal Band 100th Concert Season, July 31, 1-3 pm, Lakeside Park: The Free Concerts are conducted by Troy Davis and performed by 35 musicians featuring an array of jazz, contemporary, pop, big band, international, classical, marches and show tunes. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Picnics welcomed and Flag waving encouraged. For more information, please call 339-2818.

California Writers Club (CWC) Picnic in Joaquin Miller Park, Saturday, July 30, 1- 4 pm Fire Circle in Joaquin Miller Park: Join the [California Writers Club](#) for their annual picnic that celebrates the legacy of California's great writers: Jack London, John Muir, Joaquin Miller, and California's first poet laureate Ina Coolbrith, who was also an Oakland city librarian. Please bring your own drink and a dish to share. RSVP to Linda Brown by July 27 at 530-1261.



I Choose Oakland Celebration @ Art Murmur, Friday, August 5, 7:30-8:30 pm, Classic Cars West, 411-26th Street, btwn. Telegraph and Broadway: Please join me as we showcase the finalists from the "I Choose Oakland photo" and video contest. Food, drink and multimedia show at 8 pm. A new member of Art Murmur, Classic Cars West is an eclectic vintage car showroom and art gallery. The space is very cool - with great wall space for the multimedia show and an outdoor patio with huge Burning Man sculpture, tiki lights, etc. It's a cool space and will generate good foot traffic independent of our event.

Fukuoka Sister City Wine Tasting Fund Raiser, Sunday, August 14, 3-5:30 pm, Cerruiti Cellars, Jack London Square: Oakland and Fukuoka will have been Sister Cities for 50 years in 2012. They are raising funds for the 50th Anniversary celebration, to which 100 people from Fukuoka will visit Oakland for the celebration. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$35 per couple in advance or \$25 per person at the door. Silent auction, artwork and wine for sale. For details, contact [Liane Scott](#), president of the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association, at 482-5896.

North Hills Community Association Fire Prevention Committee Workshop, Thursday, September 8, 7-9 pm, Highlands Country Club, 110 Hiller Drive. The first bimonthly educational session will focus on timing of fire prevention activities throughout the year. The Fire Prevention Committee, formerly named the Vegetation Management Committee, will identify its new focus on educating property owners to make their structures more resistant to ignition by embers, creating a non-ignition zone, creating and maintaining defensible space, and creating and maintaining a fire safe zone more distance from the house. For additional information, [click here](#).

8. Oakland Celebrates Its Neighborhoods: Plan Your Summer Staycation



Mark your calendar for the 2011 Street Festival Season. Each neighborhood reveals its own special Oakland vibe. Spend a few hours exploring Oakland's rich cultural heritage!

- Saturday, July 23, [First Oakland Jazz Festival](#), Noon, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate
- Saturday, July 23, [4th Annual Art & Garden Tour](#), Discover West Oakland, 2 pm, Children under 18 free, \$20-\$40 donation supports [OBUGS](#): Kids Cultivating Health Futures.
- Saturday, August 13, [Laurel Street Fair](#), featuring the John Santos Sextet, creative crafts, merchants and more
- Saturday-Sunday, August 20-21 [Art & Soul](#), Civic Center
- Saturday-Sunday, August 27-28 [Chinatown Street Fest](#), Chinatown
- Sunday, September 4, [Oakland Pride Festival](#), Uptown
- Saturday, September 10, Noon - 5 pm, [Day in the Park, Maxwell Park](#)
- Sunday, September 18, [Sundays in the Redwoods](#), Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday, September 25, [Sundays in the Redwoods](#), Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday September 25, 7th Annual Oakland Grand Prix of Cycling, Civic Center
- Saturday, October 1, [Black Cowboy Parade](#), DeFremery Park
- Saturday, October 1, 11 am-6 pm. [Oaktobefest](#) in the Dimond
- Sunday, October 2, [Oaklavia!](#). Over 4000 people attended [Walk Oakland-Bike Oakland](#) (WOBO)'s first [Oaklavia](#) in June of last year. This year, the event has been moved to September, where pedestrians, and bicyclists can enjoy a no-auto Broadway and parts of Telegraph from Old Oakland to Uptown. There will be walking, running, biking, eating, shopping, dancing and playing in the street.
- Sunday, October 2, [Sundays in the Redwoods](#), Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday, October 9, [Out & About in Rockridge](#)
- Sunday, October 9 [Sundays in the Redwoods](#), Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Saturday, October 22, 20th Anniversary of 1991 Firestorm-- 9 am Rockridge BART Tile Wall; 10:30 am Remembrance Ceremony Gateway Exhibit Center; Emergency Preparedness Fair, Noon - 4 pm, Lake Temescal



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