



April 3, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 13



# Take A Fresh Look at Oakland--*AGAIN!*

## News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!

*This publication is not produced at public expense.*



*Teacher Young-wan Choi gives the report from the Youth and Education discussion group at yesterday's District 1 Town Hall.*

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### **LET'S GO OAKLAND, OPENING NIGHT FOR THE A'S**

**BANNER:** (l-r) Banners in left field, tail gating with "[Let's Go Oakland](#)" with Oaklandish's new pennant, the view from my seat, and "Godzilla" Matsui on his first night with the Athletics.

### Send This To A Friend

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**Apologies... Constant Contact let's more than one person work on it at the same time. Sue, our early bird, sent out the newsletter before I finished adding the budget and other sections this morning. Please read this version.**

### Quick Links

- [Official Mayor's Website](#)
- [Official Oakland Website](#)
- [Mayor's YouTube Library](#)
- [Budget Suggestions](#)
- [Constituent Problem Solving](#)
- [Submit items for the newsletter](#)

About 400 signed in at our District 1 meeting Saturday, in our biggest Town Hall yet at the North Oakland Senior Center. Every part of the district was represented from hills to the bay. Thanks to District 1 leaders Chris Waters, Don Link, Susan Montauk, Veronyca Redmond, and Dagmar Serota, as well as Floyd Huen,

### In the News

Christine Quan and the entire [Block by Block Organizing Network](#) for organizing the discussion groups and joining me in walking the neighborhoods for turnout. Thanks also to the City Staff including most of my staff who gave up a Saturday in the middle of a 4-day weekend to participate. Many good ideas came out of the discussion, see #3. Local food purveyors including La Farine, Great Harvest Bread, Semifreddi's, Noah's Bagels, Jump'n Java Coffee House, Grocery Outlet, and Starbucks provided breakfast.



At this Town Hall meeting we started the Budget discussion for the year. Last week I released a [budget overview](#) and options for a budget workshop April 11th. See more detailed information in #4.

We also had 181 people contributing a total of \$461.12 for tsunami relief aid in Japan thanks to Joseph Lum and his wife (*left*) who passed a jar in the crowd. With a dollar-for-dollar employer match from Verizon Wireless that's a total of \$922.24.



Sunday the immediate neighborhood around the Senior Center came out for another great event celebrating [Cesar Chavez Day](#) in the revitalized Dover Park next door. Congratulations to Claudia Heron and Chris Vernon for bringing the neighborhood together; the edible community garden and new mural (*above*) are beautiful.

[What it might be like to volunteer in Mayor Quan's plan to mentor Oakland Youth](#)

Barbara Brady, Oakland Local  
March 30, 2011

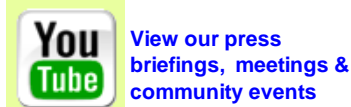
[Tammarlin Drummond: Oakland 2011 a vibrant multicultural city](#)

Tammarlin Drummond, Oakland  
Tribune  
March 26, 2011

[APAMO Engages in Dialogue](#)

Mary Gordon, Nation Cities Weekly  
March 2011

### Follow the Mayor



### Discover Oakland

[Beyond Burgers Joints and Bar Nuts](#)

The East Bay's late night dining scene grows up

Ellen Cushing's article in the East Bay Express, March 30, 2011

*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*



Walking with volunteer Ron San Miguel, Mayor's Staff Hatzune Aguilar, and area Sargent Todd Mork in the Fruitvale to publicize next week's Town Hall.

**DISTRICT 5 TOWN HALL MEETING NEXT SATURDAY AT ST. JARLATHS, APRIL 9TH, 11 AM - 2 PM:** In conjunction with Council Member Ignacio Delafuente we holding our 4th Town Hall meeting. Translation will be available in Spanish and other languages upon request, please contact our office at 238-3141. [For the Town Hall summaries and videos and schedule of remaining meetings.](#)



**MARATHON'S A WINNER:** Last weekend's 2nd Annual Running Festival accounted for [\\$3 million in sales as reported](#) here in the *Tribune* ! It also brought a lot of positive attention to Oakland and our vibrant and diverse neighborhoods, food, and cultural scene to the 7800 runners! [Runner Scott Dunlap's blog](#) will make you feel that you were running right beside him.

**FOLLOW US:** An increasing number of people are following us on our social media links in the column on the right. This week I launched my Facebook "fan" page for those who want to know what's happening more frequently and from more perspectives, rather than just relying on my weekly e-newsletter. If you are not on Facebook, bookmark [www.Facebook.com/mayorjeanquan](http://www.Facebook.com/mayorjeanquan) and check it out whenever you want. **For those of you who are already Facebook subscribers, just hit the "like" button and you will automatically become a "fan".** It's also a great place to direct people who want to sign up for the newsletter, if they are not being forwarded the newsletter from some other source.

*jean*

## Mayor Jean Quan

### 1. Building Oakland: Dale Ridsen at The Abbey

**Dale Ridsen** (far right in photo) has lived near Joaquin Miller Park almost of all his life and remembers the days when Juanita Miller, Joaquin Miller's daughter, would invite neighborhood kids for theatrical presentations in the park.



Dale was one of the first people who responded when we called community meetings to develop a long term plan for the 500 acre park over 6 years ago; he went onto help implement it as an active member of the Joaquin Miller Working Group. As a leader of the non-profit successor group, the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, Dale put his "money where his mouth was" to lead the effort to restore Joaquin Miller's home, the "Abbey" to its original 1900's condition.



He and his partner, Patrick Lo Chiatto, volunteer their professional landscape and architectural skills as restorers of historical building and gardens and have organized a mostly volunteer effort to replace rotting steps, create new pathways and recreate the bridge, bench and arbor that appears in c.1890 photo of Joaquin Miller in front of the Abbey. They provided thousands of dollars of professional work for free as a "labor of love," said Ridsen.

Along the way, he has inspired neighbors and students from the International Community High School to help.

"One of the most exciting moments was last year when the students and I uncovered the original creek bed by the Abbey. We thought we were going to dig a faux creek, but we found the original rocks that had been buried under the dirt when Joaquin Miller Road was built years ago."

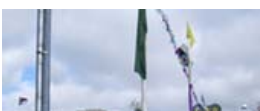
"I love this park and the history that it represents. My hope is that by restoring the Abbey, more people will stop and appreciate the fabulous legacy that Joaquin Miller gave to Oakland when he created an artists' retreat in the "Hights above the City of the Oaks."

**In one of my last acts as a Council Member, I funded the creation of series of informational displays that will be installed by the Abbey in mid May, one of the many projects of the Friends of Joaquin Miller Park. Check out [Friday's article in the Montclarion](#)**

Their second annual meeting will be held May 21 at the Horseshoe Picnic Area. For more information, visit Friends of Joaquin Miller Park at [www.oaklandnet.com/joaquinmillerpark/Friends-of-Joaquin-Miller](http://www.oaklandnet.com/joaquinmillerpark/Friends-of-Joaquin-Miller).

### 2. Discover Oakland This Week

**Learn about Sausal Creek Dimond Park Restoration, Tuesday, April 5, 7-9 pm, Dimond Recreation Center, 3860 Hanly Road:** Learn about plans for the upcoming restoration of Sausal Creek in Dimond Park. More information [here](#).



**Greenbelt Alliance Broadway-Valdez Specific Plan Policy Platform, Thursday, April 7, 5:30-7:30 pm,** at the former Connell Chrysler Jeep



Dodge Dealership adjacent to Z Cafe and Bar at 27th and Broadway: The City of Oakland is pursuing a specific plan to guide new development along the nearly 1-mile stretch of Broadway between 23rd Street and Highway 580. The [Broadway-Valdez Retail Corridor Specific Plan](#) will create a framework for the construction of over 1 million square feet of new retail and more than 1,700 new homes. Hear [details of the policy platform](#) and then discuss in detail. RSVP to Marla Wilson at [mwilson@greenbelt.org](mailto:mwilson@greenbelt.org).

**Help Our Public Libraries, Bookmark Book Store Spring Book Sale, April 7-10:**

Mark your calendar for the semi-annual book sale at the Friends of the Oakland Public Library's Bookmark Book Store, located in Old Oakland at 721 Washington Street. Thursday is Member's Choice Day, where books will be sold at 50% off. To join, call 444-0473 or go to their website at <http://www.fopl.org>.



**Training for Volunteers in Health or Careers for 6-Week Pilot ESL Program, Friday, April 8, 2-3 pm. Oakland Adult & Career Education, 2607 Myrtle Street:**

OUSD seeks volunteers to work in a community school site under the direction of the classroom instructor to assist students who need to learn basic English speaking skills in order to get a job or gain basic health information. Volunteers will work one-on-one or in small group settings to help students practice English. A high degree of patience and a willingness to learn and try different teaching strategies are also necessary. Volunteers should be able to commit to 3 hours 2x Week (3:30-6:30 pm OR 4-7 pm). The volunteer assignment will be from April 25-June 10, 2011. All school holidays are observed. For details, contact [Joan Adams](#) at 273-2325.

**[OMCA CONVERSATION | Insights to Textile Conservation](#), Friday, April 8, 7-9 pm, Oakland Museum:**

Learn from the pros how to conserve your most precious textile belongings! OMCA Curator of Costume and Textiles Inez Brooks-Myers leads this lively discussion featuring local expert and special guest Denise Migdail, textile conservator at the Asian Art Museum. Learn the best practices in preserving, conserving, and storing textiles-from christening gowns, wedding gowns and family quilts to liturgical vestments and coverlets

**District 5 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 9, 10 am -1:30 pm, St Jarlath's Church, 2634 Pleasant Street:**

Residents from throughout District are invited to share their concerns and priorities with representatives from the City. We encourage youth, ages 10 to 18, to join us. Spanish translation will be available. (See outcomes from Saturday's D 1 Town Hall below, item #3) For details, contact [Richard Cowan](#) at 238-6415.



**[Yuri's Day](#), Saturday, April 9, 11 am - 4 pm, Chabot Space & Science Center:**

Celebrate the spirit of human space exploration and achievements of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first human to journey into outer space. Go through astronaut training, talk to veteran's of American and Russian space programs, try their equipment. For and additional \$10, sign up for a "mission" in our Challenger Center.

**"How the Law Treats You Differently When You Turn 18", a Free Youth Empowerment Symposium in collaboration with the American Bar Association's Civics & Law Academy, Saturday, April 9, The Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, 11:15 am-4 pm:**

A one of a kind networking opportunity for students to interact with attorneys, judges and politicians. The symposium will provide an analysis of the NBA's first installment of the "Lifting as We Climb" Series and is designed to inform young people of their rights and responsibilities once they reach the age of 18. The event is free and lunch will be provided. Charter buses to the event are available **but space is limited. To RSVP for lunch and space on the bus, contact Altheria Merricks at [amerricks@eapdlaw.com](mailto:amerricks@eapdlaw.com) no later than Monday, April 4.**

**Update on West Oakland Teen Center, Saturday, April 9, 2-4 pm, M. Robinson Baker YMCA, 3265 Market Street:** Learn more about the progress on the teen center. RSVP to [Carletta Starks](#) in Council Member Nancy Nadel's office at 238-7032 or [Sandra Ousley](#) at 238-7213.

**Free Dental, Medical and Eye Care Clinic for Children and Adults, April 9-12, Oakland**

**Coliseum, East Side Building:** Remote Area Medical Foundation sponsors free health clinics for uninsured or under-insured, unemployed or under-employed. Free parking. Parking lot opens at Midnight on April 9. Patient services will be provided on a first come, first served basis starting at 5:30 am. RAM anticipates that there will be enough people on line at that time that the entire day's schedule will be full by 6 am-- so get an early start! It may be a very long day, so bring some food and beverages, wear comfortable clothing--it can be cold at 3 am, so dress accordingly. Bring items to relieve boredom-- there will be long waits. Volunteers will provide:

- **Dental**-- cleanings, fillings, extractions
- **Eye Care**-- Complete dilated eye exam, prescription glasses-- bring your current eye glass prescription.
- **Medical**--acupuncture, breast exams, Diabetes screening, general medicine, physicals.

**Obscura Day 2011, Saturday, April 9, 2:30-5:30, Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th**

**Avenue:** Obscura Day 2011 is an international day of expeditions, back-room tours and hidden treasures, in cities and towns all over the world! Obscura day is organized by the folks behind [Atlas Obscura](#), a compendium of the world's wonders, curiosities, and esoterica. This international event is occurring at 80 different sites around the world and Oakland's [Peralta Hacienda](#) is one of them! Step back in time and experience the Victorian farmhouse lit by candlelight. Ascend to the restored widow's walk. Meet the ghost of Maria Peralta performed by tour guide Diane Wang. Enjoy tamales and sangria in the Peralta House's beautiful kitchen.



**Measure Y Peace Walk at Rainbow Recreation Center, Saturday, April 9, 3-6 pm, 5800**

**International Blvd:** The Peace Walk is a community response to the amount of shootings and homicides that have taken place in East Oakland. The Walk will start at the Rainbow Recreation Center. We will walk from Rainbow Rec to High Street then back to the center where there will be food, refreshments and activities for the youth.

**OPD's All American Lip Sync Show Benefiting Special Olympics Northern California, Saturday,**

**April 9, 6:30 pm-1 am, Greek Orthodox Theater, 4700 Lincoln Avenue:** Watch regular folks" Singing with the Stars" at this special fund raiser for Special Olympics Northern California. \$40 tickets include show and appetizers. Contact 417-9423 or go to their [website](#).

**Party with the Castlewood Workers, Saturday, April 9, 7 pm, First Christian Church of**

**Oakland, 111 Fairmount Avenue:** One year into the Caslewood lockout, help raise funds to help workers pay their rent. Sponsored by UNITE HERE Local 2850. Individual tickets \$35; Discount tickets \$25. Preregister at [www.endthelockout.org](http://www.endthelockout.org) or call Sara at 502-5344.



**Purple Silk Spring Concert, Saturday, April 9, 7:30-9:30 pm, Farnsworth Theater, Skyline High School, 12250 Skyline**

**Bld:** A wonderful evening of music in support of music education for inner-city children of Oakland through traditional Chinese instruments. Hear the Great Wall Youth Orchestra and Chorus of Laney College and the Purple Bamboo Orchestra and Chorus of Lincoln Elementary School. Tickets are \$35 (Section A) and \$25 (Section B). [Purchase and print tickets online](#) or email [purplesilkevents@gmail.com](mailto:purplesilkevents@gmail.com).

### 3. Neighborhoods Speak Up in North Oakland: District 1 Town Hall



About 400 North Oakland residents gave up a beautiful Saturday morning to meet with Council Member Jane Brunner, School Board Member Jody London, Police Chief Anthony Batts and other City department heads at my third Town Hall Meeting. This was the largest turnout yet, thanks to the outstanding outreach of the District 1 neighborhood organizers and volunteers from [Block by Block Organizing Network](#).

[Both Councilwoman Brunner and I addressed the budget.](#) I distributed a summary of the preliminary budget document released last week.

As with our other Town Halls, participants broke out into small groups chosen by neighborhood leaders to share with the City issues, their top priorities and possible solutions. Their top priorities included:

### **Economic Development & Zoning**

1. Need to develop well paid jobs with sufficient hours to support a family; make permits easier to obtain and support small business.
2. Concern about proposals for the two Safeway projects-- the need for more design professionals on the Planning Commission which should enforce the current zoning.
3. Lowell Street-- relocate businesses that are less appropriate and support the history, artists and residents that are there. Make the sidewalks walkable.

### **Public Safety**

1. More police presence on the streets.
2. Concern about the increase in residential burglaries.
3. A systematic, proactive approach to offering young men and women alternatives to criminal activities.



### **Public Works**

1. Community collaboration for planting more trees and sidewalk plants, especially on MLK.
2. Eliminate blight on Lowell and reduce illegal dumping--construct sidewalks and plant trees and flowers.
3. Elimination of pot holes in the city-- consider citizen financing for pot hole repair; follow up with utilities to ensure they replace pavement in as good, if not better, condition; prioritize high traffic streets for pot hole and street repair.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

1. Basic, block by block citizen response-- helping neighborhoods organize and be trained for preparedness.
2. Disaster preparedness for multi-family units-- help train management in emergency preparedness and response.
3. Sustainability practices--disseminate information that informs people.



### **Wildfire Prevention**

1. City and Mayor to develop an adopt a parcel program in the hills to solve some of the liability

- issues of volunteers doing ongoing maintenance on public lands.
- 2. Equal enforcement of proper vegetation management on public lands-- and collecting fines for those who don't.
- 3. Perpetuating the funding for the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District-- up for renewal in 2014.

**Seniors**

- 1. Concern about rumors about closing of senior centers due to budget pressures. The Mayor responded that while every program faced cuts she was not recommending closures & would work to find other ways to keep the centers open.
- 2. Transportation for seniors.
- 3. Resources, meals, referrals and activities for seniors.



**Youth & Schools**

- 1. City/School collaboration.
- 2. Early literacy.
- 3. More parent involvement programs.



**Traffic Engineering**

- 1. Bicycling and pedestrian Safety on streets, particularly pedestrian safety for seniors.
- 2. Design streets to work for everyone-- pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles; traffic calming for safety for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 3. Enforcement for drivers who speed on arterials.

Check my [website on the City's website](#) later this week for the full report and video.

**4. City News: Council Budget Retreat Set, Export Conference, Free Tax Help**



**Budget Retreat Set for Monday, April 11:** My office released an 85-page report to begin the discussion about the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. With federal and state cuts still up in the air and with key decisions on direction still needed by the Council, I am calling this a budget outline with options. I will send out a shorter summary next week.

*<< Explaining budget handout at the District 1 Town Hall meeting.*

**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 week we issued an 85-page budget memo for our **Budget Workshop with the Council and the Cabinet on April 11th**. [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 is 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.
- After the Budget Workshop with the Council we will release our detailed recommendations by the end of the month. This will allow the new city administrator to weigh in with his expertise and for us to get a clearer reading of the Council's priorities and direction on key pension issues.
- **Public Hearings:** We are planning a series of public hearings and will distribute budget fact sheets through the remaining Town Hall meetings, Neighborhood Councils and other organizations. Not all the options listed are planned but we wanted to demonstrate what might have to be done and how deep the cuts may be. 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.**



**Council Votes to Approve Interim City**

**Administrator:** The Council confirmed the Mayor's appointment of P. Lamont Ewell as City Administrator at a special meeting last Tuesday.

*<<City Clerk LaTonda Simmons swears in interim City Administrator Ewell.*

**[Let's Go Oakland](#) Kicks Off the Season with Oaklandish and a "Stay" Tailgate Party:** While discussions continue the fans kicked off the new season with a sold out crowd. Doug Boxer and the Oaklandish rig helped the fans tailgate on opening night. Oaklandish has a new "banner" and t-shirt. They gave out hundreds at the party (can't sell inside the Coliseum). Please help us send the message to Major League Baseball and help pay back by Oaklandish by buying their "Stay" merchandise.

*Mayor & Oaklandish Crew at Opening Night. >>*





**2011 Northern California MegaRegion Exports Summit, Friday, April 15, 7:30-2:30 p-m, Oakland Marriott-City**

**Center:** President Obama's goal is to increase jobs by doubling exports by 2015. Oakland is one of the few ports in the nation to export about the same as we import and can play a key role. As Mayor I appoint Port Commissioners and plan at least one trade mission. To increase jobs, exports and imports I have been actively working on this annual regional summit sponsored by the Port, the City of Oakland and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. I am inviting public officials from across Northern California to join businesses

for an in-depth look at the state of our regional economy. We hope to improve the organization of our export market which is increasingly selling foods, wines, small medical equipment and other exports to Asia. ["Competing Globally, Succeeding Locally"](#) will leverage expert opinions and unique access to public officials to address the implications of this new economic reality at home. To register, call 874-4800, ext. 319. (Above) Meeting with Korean business groups and federal officials to increase trade with Korea this week.

**FREE TAX HELP**



**Taxes Due April 15. Are you eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit?**

If you earn less than \$49,000 a year, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites are offering free income tax preparation for families making \$49,000 max (no one will be turned away if their income is slightly higher). Certified and confidential free tax preparation is available until April 15. Last year there was a 25% increase in refund returns which came to about \$9 million in Oakland. **Free Tax Help** is available at 17 VITA sites, 9 AARP sites and 1 Tax Aide Site. The AARP sites are at local libraries, including the Main Library, Cesar Chavez, Dimond, Eastmont, and Golden Gate. Click here [for library schedule](#). Contact Sayla at Peoples Federal Credit Union at 267-0450, x305 or [sayla.eisner-mix@peoplesfederalcu.org](mailto:sayla.eisner-mix@peoplesfederalcu.org).

**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.

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.

**5. The Power of Using Your Voice**

*I've always believed in the power of grassroots organizing. Here are two ways your voice can count:*



**1. Help Change the Conversation about Head Start, so critical to give Oakland's toddlers a**



**good start on their education:** One of the City of Oakland's goals has been to achieve universal early childhood education for our youngest residents. So it was with great sadness that we saw both the state and the federal government propose devastating cuts to Head Start and the Early Childhood Centers that serve our preschoolers.

Only a few weeks ago we faced the prospect of a 22.4% cut in funding for Head Start and Early Head Start. The national conversation about our financial

predicament was consistently one-sided: cut Federal spending now -- across the board -- to balance the budget. The conversation has changed during the past several days. We are beginning to hear discussions about the wisdom of making investments now in programs like Head Start and Early Head Start that will really pay-off for our country in the long term.

It is not coincidental that in the past few days thousands of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and children in strollers visited the offices of their elected officials to talk about the importance of their programs to the economic success of their communities. It is not coincidental that many Senators and Representatives now have beautiful hand-print murals from Head Start programs hanging on their walls. And it won't be coincidental to hear dozens of Representatives and Senators reading to Head Start children in the next few weeks.

The National Head Start Association organized these events. Dollar Per Child enabled them to organize them. And they have helped change the conversation about Head Start. **Dollar Per Child needs your support now.** We have changed the national conversation with less than a Dime Per Child. Think what we could do with a Dollar Per Child! Go [here](#) and contribute now.



**2. Vote and Vote Often for Oakland in the Reader's Digest "We Hear You America" Campaign. Deadline May 16:** This week I met with representatives of the *Reader's Digest* "We Hear You America" Road Trip Team. They are visiting 100 cities across the country in 100 days. Oakland was #62 on their list, which was compiled from among the top green cities in the nation. I accepted a check for \$1000 which I donated to the Mayor's Mentoring Program. You can help us win up to \$40,000 for the Mentoring Program by going to [www.wehearyouareamerica.readersdigest.com](http://www.wehearyouareamerica.readersdigest.com) and voting for us-- **the more often the better!**

This is one time where it not only matters that you vote, but how often you vote!

You also have a chance to win the RV. Check it out!

## 6. Block by Block in East Oakland



**Rally & Neighborhood Walk for Literacy, Saturday, April 16, 10 am-1pm, 81st Avenue Branch Library (1021 81st Avenue at Rudsdale):** Oakland's newest branch library is about to launch [Second Start](#), the Oakland Public Library's adult literacy program. The rally and neighborhood walk is design to raise awareness and attract adult literacy students and new volunteers. Please join this free event and help spread the word.

**More than 60 Turn Out for Cesar Chavez Work Day at East Oakland Pride Elementary on**

**March 31:** Students, parents, and volunteers from [Aspiranet Oakland](#), [Super Stars Literacy](#), [Oakland Home Depot](#), [Coming of Age](#), [Oakland Rotary](#), [Oakland Landscape Committee](#), [Living Labs Project](#), [Keep Oakland Beautiful](#), and [Oakland Public Works](#) built planter boxes and benches to turn the asphalt playground into the beginnings of a lush living garden lab. The school is located at 8000 Birch Street in the Beat 30 X, next to Beat 33x. Read [Katy Murphy's story from the March 31 Oakland Tribune](#).



**Beautification at Brookfield Elementary School:** At Saturday, April 2's Brookfield Village Elementary School Gardening Day, 150 volunteers came to build community and an elementary school garden. Workers built benches, weeded, filled planter boxes with soil and mulch, planted new flowers and spring vegetables, and painted. Partners included volunteers from [Living Labs](#), [Oakland Landscape Committee](#), [Superstars Literacy](#), [Reading Partners](#), [Girls Inc. of Alameda County](#), [Higher Ground](#), [Piedmont Middle and High School Teachers and Students](#), [Oakland's First Presbyterian Church](#), [UC Lawrence Hall of Science](#), [Sierra Club](#), [Weekend Training Academy](#), William Coburn Architecture. School volunteers included 15 Brookfield Village Elementary School teachers and staff, and 60

Brookfield elementary students with their families. Many other helpful Brookfield Buddies also participated, from Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, [San Leandro](#), [Castro Valley](#), Concord, Santa Rosa, and San Jose.

## 7. Safe and Healthy Oakland

**Crime Rates Continue to Go Down for 4th Year:** Crime rates are still going down overall for the city by about 4%; however, murders in the beginning of the new year in Oakland and several other major cities are up. The police department is working with youth outreach workers to increase call-ins of probationers with histories of violent crime.



**Community Focuses on Sexual Exploitation of Children:** Last week the Oakland Coalition of Organizations and others in the Eastlake area rallied to protest the visible child exploitation in the 20's of International Boulevard. The Law Corps has charged at least 3 motels in the area and will be going to hearing in May. We encourage the neighborhood to keep reporting child prostitution and to attend the hearings.

### How Do I Report Prostitution Activity?

- Call our Prostitution Tip Line at (510) 238-2373.
- You can also email us at: [youthandfamilyservices@oaklandnet.com](mailto:youthandfamilyservices@oaklandnet.com)

**Quarterly Latin Merchants Meeting, Wednesday, April 6, 1 pm at LaEstrellita, 446 East 12th Street:** Last year a group of merchants from the Fruitvale attended a Public Safety Committee meeting complaining that they had called the police



and no one responded after a robbery. In order to improve communication with Latin merchants I held a meeting with central area police and merchant associations. We decided to continue on a quarterly basis, please RSVP to Hatzune Aguilar at 238-3141.



>>Area Sgt. Mork and Mayor Quan invite merchants in the Fruitvale to the Merchant meeting and District 5 Town Hall.

**Sign up for new Community Notification Service for OPD Area 2:** OPD has introduced a new Community Notification Service called "Nixle" for Area 2. Neighbors are encouraged to sign up and receive information directly from OPD via email, SMS/text message, and over the world wide web. Notifications may include: crime alerts, missing children information, major road closures and other important public safety matters. Information can be received online and via e-mail for free. Residents receive messages by phone as part of their text messaging plan (otherwise standard text message rates apply) The system is simple to use and there is no spam. Register now and learn more at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

**Parent Class on Gang Prevention at Carmen Flores Recreation Center, starting Thursday, April 7, 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.

<u>April 07, 2011</u>	<u>Self Esteem: Communication</u>
<u>April 14, 2011</u>	<u>Violence Prevention 911- 411</u>
<u>April 21, 2011</u>	<u>Conflict Resolution</u>
<u>April 28, 2011</u>	<u>Substance use and abuse</u>
<u>May 05, 2011</u>	<u>When Stress gets Your Best</u>
<u>May 12, 2011</u>	<u>Nutrition</u>
<u>May 19, 2011</u>	<u>A Safe Home</u>
<u>May 26, 2011</u>	<u>Putting it all Together</u>
<u>June 02, 2011</u>	<u>Celebration</u>

**March & Rally Addressing the Sexual Exploitation of Minors, Wednesday, April 20, 11 am:** Ever since becoming a Council Member eight years ago, I have been a strong advocate for better support for sexually exploited minors. Over the years, the City of Oakland has worked closely with the County, the DA and local nonprofits, as well as our own police, to change the way we interact with sexually exploited youth. I will be joining Supervisor Wilma Chan, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, SEM Network providers and others on a march from Abundant Life Ministries (24th and International Blvd. to San Antonio Park at 11 am, followed by a rally at 12:30 pm. For more information, contact [Sarai Theolinda Smith](#) or [Charles Go](#).

**Needs Funds:** One of the city's most innovative ways to give "First Time offenders and second chance" is the McCullum Youth Court. The oldest and largest youth court in the nation serves about 400 youth ages 10 to 17 each year. First time offenders are counseled, represented, prosecuted and sentenced by teen volunteers. For the most part I have found them tougher and fairer than the traditional legal system; their sentences include restorative justice practices This peer program works because 85% of the offenders feel more positive about their future after they complete the program, teens sentenced to Juvenile Hall are 6.5 times more likely to re-offend. Because of state and federal cuts they have lost \$400,000 in funding. [Help us save this program](#). (Above) I had a chance to speak at a recent fundraiser and meet these Oakland teens in the McCullum program and staff.

## 8. Oakland Works--Oakland Shines!



While shooting publicity shots for an upcoming insert in the *San Francisco Business Times* about Oakland as a national leader in Green Business Development, I recruited the owner of



Peony Restaurant to our new **Oakland Shines!** energy efficiency program.

Oakland Shines is a cutting edge, results oriented energy program for Oakland businesses that seeks to make downtown the most energy efficient in the nation. It provides a free energy audits, technical support, project management and incentives for business owners to use green, energy conserving technology to save dollars and

energy. The program's goal is to reach businesses throughout a 200-square block area of Downtown and encourage them to install energy saving technology aiming to save at least 20% of their energy costs.

The **Pacific Renaissance Plaza** was one of the first buildings to sign up. It reserved a \$67,000 rebate for 90% of the cost for installing energy efficient lighting technology and controls. What they save in monthly energy bills will pay off their remaining 10% investment in less than four months! And then they will continue to reap close to \$28,000 worth of savings every year due to reduced utility bills.

This program is funded by a \$5M grant from the California Energy Commission and leverages additional funding from PG&E. Business and commercial property owners have until March 2012 to participate. Services and incentives are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, while funding lasts. I will be joining Oakland Shines' staff in the next few weeks as the city canvasses in Oakland Chinatown to help spread the word about the program.

For details, call **Brendan Havenar-Daughton**, Program Manager at **(877) 304-6133** or Email [info@oaklandshines.com](mailto:info@oaklandshines.com).

## 9. Disaster Preparedness Citywide Drill on April 30th Needs Volunteers

**On 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](mailto:Denise.Kittell-Nwuke@oaklandca.gov) at 238-3523, no later than April 11. The event will be held at the OES facility at 1605 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

### Preparing Here at Home:

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!](#)

- **Plan on participating or observing 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 rehearse a public service announcement at the Emergency Operations Center.



### Calling all Thespians

The City seeks volunteer victims for the April 30 CORE exercise. You will act out the role of a person injured by the simulated quake, giving neighborhood volunteers an opportunity to practice their Disaster First Aid skills. No experience is required. You must be 18 years of age or older, Interest in improvisational acting is helpful. Oakland residency is not required, nor is prior participation in CORE. Prepare to give 4 hours on Saturday April 30. For details, call 238-6351 or to go\_ <http://www.core@oaklandnet.com>

- **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.
- **Free Earthquake Retrofit Workshop for Homeowners, Saturday, April 9, 10 am - Noon,** Castro Valley Library, 3600 Northbridge Avenue, Castro Valley (near Castro Valley BART station). Learn the basics of a quality retrofit and how to evaluate contractor bids. Sponsored by the ABAG ([Association of Bay Area of Governments](#)), retrofit contractor Howard Cook ([bayarearetrofit.com](#)), and retrofit structural engineer Thor Matteson ([shearwalls.com](#)). This workshop will teach homeowners the basic components of a proper retrofit, how to strap your furniture and cabinets and the importance of an earthquake kit. For more information, call Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator at 464-7951 or go to <http://quake.abag.ca.gov>

[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](#)

## 10. The 25% Solution--Buy Oakland

*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-third of our deficit.*

## Consider The Dimond



**The Dimond is one of Oakland's great comeback success stories!** When I first became a Council Member eight years ago, the area was considered the 4th worst crime spot, and business was flagging. Working with neighbors in a collaboration with city and county departments, we closed down the nuisance-attracting Hillcrest Motel at the corner of Lincoln and MacArthur Blvd. We helped bring in new business, such as Farmer Joe's, La Farine, Peet's Coffee and Nama's Sushi, and today, The Dimond is one of the most vibrant, community-oriented neighborhood business districts in the City. Each October, the Dimond Improvement District sponsors the annual [Oaktoberfest](#), this year on Saturday, October 1, which attracts more than 10,000 people to the beer and community festival.

**Farmer Joe's Marketplace**  
3426 Fruitvale Avenue  
428-8899  
[www.farmerjoesmarketplace.com](http://www.farmerjoesmarketplace.com)

A family-run business in Oakland since 1994, Farmer Joe's specializes in fresh organic and natural foods.



**La Farine Bakery**  
3411 Fruitvale Avenue  
531-7750  
[www.lafarine.com](http://www.lafarine.com)

Started 29 years ago on College Avenue, the Fruitvale site serves as the main bakery for this growing local chain known for wonderful french breads and tarts. (Other sites are on Piedmont Avenue and Solano Avenue in Albany.)



**Peet's Coffee & Tea**  
3401 Fruitvale Avenue  
482-0203  
[www.peets.com](http://www.peets.com)

A Dimond hang-out for coffee and conversation.



**Nama Japanese Cuisine**  
3400 Fruitvale Avenue  
[namadimond.blogspot.com/](http://namadimond.blogspot.com/)



Sushi, sake and tempura in the heart of the Dimond.

**Paws & Claws**  
3436 Dimond Ave (off MacArthur)  
336-0105  
[pawsnclawsoakland.com/](http://pawsnclawsoakland.com/)

Co-owner Ruth Villesenor celebrated the holidays last winter with natural pet food and goodies for our favorite pets.



**Two Star Market**  
2020 MacArthur Blvd.  
531-3576  
[www.2starmarket.com](http://www.2starmarket.com) www.2starmarket.com

A family-owned and community-oriented business located on the historic site of Tepper's Beer Garden in Oakland's Dimond neighborhood. Each year, Two Star Market hosts the annual Thanksgiving dinner for local residents (left) and provides the food for the Dimond Improvement Association Annual Picnic in July in Dimond Park.

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.

## 11. The Greening of Oakland: Have You Chosen Your Earth Day Project?

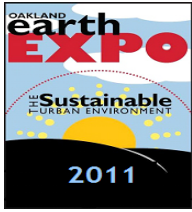
**East Bay Regional Parks Master Plan Survey:** You can add your two cents on their online survey for the 2011 Master Plan at <http://www.ebparks.org/planning/mp/survey>.

**Two important upcoming dates to calendar for Friends of Montclair RR Trail:** Ever wonder about who keeps the pathway from Montclair Village to Shepherd Canyon looking so good? It's your neighbors and Friends of Montclair RR Trail. They have a **workday scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 9-11 am**. Volunteers meet the third Saturday of the month for regular work days. Their **annual meeting is set for Saturday, April 9, 10 am at the US Bank Lobby in Montclair**. Find out how much this one-year-old volunteer stewardship group has accomplished during the past year, and join in the fun. Help elect officers. For details, check out their website at [www.montclairRRtrail.org](http://www.montclairRRtrail.org). (Above) Last year's Earth Day Clean Up at Montclair RR Trail.



**Nature in our backyard: EBRP Sunday walks 10-Noon: Sunday April 10, Explore Redwood Park (11500 Skyline Blvd.)** Dunn/ Golden Spike/ Monteiro Trail - Explore a beautiful serpentine prairie and all its glorious wildflowers on this moderate 3 mile loop. \*Directions:\*\* From Hwy 13, take the redwood road exit and follow redwood road all the way up the hill until it intersects with Skyline Blvd. Turn left onto Skyline, then make a right into the 11500 Skyline Boulevard staging area.

For details, go to the [EBRP website](#).



**Oakland EarthExpo, Wednesday, April 13, 10 am-2 pm, Frank Ogawa Plaza:** Plan on stopping by the Plaza for free exhibits from 100 community and environmental groups, green businesses, environmental artists and government agencies. This year the EXPO adds **LOCAL EATS**: buy lunch from vendors serving up fresh, local, sustainable food. Pass on the news to your friends who work downtown--a great way to spend a lunch break!

**Earth Day 2011, Saturday, April 16, 9 am-Noon, all over the city:** There are 41 sites registered so far throughout the city. You can also stop by one of these staging areas at 9 am:

- Redondo Park, Hardy Circle near Miles Avenue
- Morcom Rose Garden, 700 Jean Street (West of Grand Avenue)
- Raimondi Park (18th & Wood Street)
- Lake Merritt Boathouse (568 Bellevue Avenue)
- Sausal Creek at Dimond Recreation Center, 1860 Hanly Road
- Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Avenue
- Arroyo Viejo Park & Arroyo Viejo Creek, 7701 Krause Avenue
- Knowland Park at Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Road



For a complete list of sites citywide, visit [www.oaklandearthday.com](http://www.oaklandearthday.com) or call 238-76111.

**Tilden Botanic Garden Plant Sale, Saturday, April 16, 10 am-3 pm:** The East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden is located at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive in Tilden Park, Berkeley. [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org).



**[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](http://www.merrittlandhort.com).

**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.



## 12. School & Youth Events

**[Children's Fairyland](#) Welcomes 1,200 Children and Their Families from Oakland Head Start & Early Head Start, April 15:** On April 15, 2011 Fairyland will welcome over 1,200 children and their families from Oakland Head Start and Early Head Start centers. Fairyland is partnering with Oakland Head Start in celebrating the Week of the Young Child with a Traffic, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Fair for the second year in a row. The Fair will involve events throughout Lakeside Park, including admission for participants to enjoy a day of fun and special safety performances at Fairyland.

**KaBOOM! and Foresters are Building a Playground in West Oakland, Saturday, April 30, Wade Johnson Park, 1250 Kirkham Street, 8 am-3pm:** 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 [Caletta Starks](#) in Councilmember Nancy Nadel's office at 238-7032.

**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.

## Easter Activities for the Family

- **24th Annual Lakeshore Easter Parade & Derby Decorating Contest and 3rd Annual Lakeshore Baptist Church Spring Children's Fair, Saturday, April 23, 10 am, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue:** Buy plastic derbies for decorating at shops where they are displayed in the window of Lakeshore merchants. Children may use recycled household items to decorate a theme or any style they like. Easter basket prizes from Lakeshore merchants will be awarded for best hats in age categories. The parade starts at 11 am from Lakeshore Baptist Church. Easter egg decorating, snacks and fun at the church following the parade. Call [Pamela Drake](#) at 451-1257.
- **Great Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 23, Noon-3 pm, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court:** Gates open at 11, Noon -12:30, ages 3 and under; 1 pm, ages 4 to 6; 2 pm, ages 7 to 10. Call 615-5555 for details.
- **Tap Dancing Easter Bunnies at Children's Fairyland, Saturday, April 23, 11:30 am:** Featuring Critters By The Bay walk-around bunny characters. The Tap Dancing Easter Bunnies dance their way into your holiday weekend celebrations. Children's Fairyland located at 699 Bellevue Ave., 452-2259.
- **Easter Egg Hunt at Arroyo Viejo Park, 11 am-2 pm, 7701 Krause Avenue:** In addition to the Easter Hunts, organizations who offer after-school and summer camp programming will be on hand. The Oakland Black Police Officers (OBOA) Association will distribute Easter Baskets to 100 preselected young people.
- **Montclair Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 24, 9 am sharp:** Montclair Park.



- **Wa Sung Community Service Club 55th Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast, "Sracks 'n Sausages", Sunday, April 24, 8:30-11:30 am, Lincoln Square Recreation Center, 11th and Harrison:** There will be hourly drawings, entertainment, Egg hunt for children and more. Grand prize is a \$500 Savings Bond, Donation of \$4.00 to help fund the many projects Wa Sung supports, including their college scholarships.

### 13. Circle Your Calendar.



**Launch of 2011 Movies in Redwood Heights Recreation Center with Toy Story 3, Friday, April 15, Dusk:** These are outdoor movies, so dress warmly, bring a lawn chair or blanket, and friends and family for a great FREE family experience. In case of rain, the movie may be cancelled, so call 482-7827 to confirm. All proceeds from refreshments to the Recreation Center's scholarship fund. Thanks to the Redwood Heights Neighborhood Association for their generous sponsorship of these programs.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Way Streetscape Workshop, Saturday, April 16, 10 am-1 pm, St. Vincent de Paul, 2280 San Pablo Avenue.** Light refreshments will be provided as the community learns more about the streetscape plans for Martin Luther King Jr. Way. RSVP to [Sunny Nguyen](mailto:Sunny.Nguyen@cityofredwoodheights.org)

at 238-6705.

**Centro Legal de la Raza's 42nd Annual Gala, Wednesday, April 20, 6-10 pm, Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive:** This year's theme is Keeping Immigrant Families Together. I will be the keynote speaker at the annual Gala and fund raiser that also honors outstanding community leaders:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award to Bill Ong Hing,** Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco, author and founder of the immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco.
- **Community Justice Award to Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP,** that filed one of the first and principal challenges to the constitutionality of Arizona's new immigration law, SB1070.
- **20011 Youth Law Academy Graduating Seniors**

[Tickets](http://www.centrolegal.org) are \$120. For more information, call Jennifer Miller at 437-1554, ext. 127 or email her at [jennifermiller@centrolegal.org](mailto:jennifermiller@centrolegal.org).

**Children's Memorial Grove Ceremony, Fairmont Ridge, Lake Chabot Regional Park (above the Juvenile Justice Center, Friday, April 22, 3-4:15 pm:** The fourth Friday in April is the national annual observance day for all children who have died by violence. In Alameda County, the Children's Memorial Project holds an annual memorial service in the Children's Memorial Grove at Fairmont Ridge to install a permanent plaque with the names of the children who have died by violence from the previous year. For details call 272-6692 or email the Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer's District 2 office at [district2@acgov.org](mailto:district2@acgov.org)

**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](http://www.oaklandindieawards.com). 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.

**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 form

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](http://OaklandCAP.org) or phone 238-2362.



Try it FREE today.