



March 27, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 12



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from
Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!

*This publication is not produced
at public expense.*



The Raiderettes cheer on the start of the half marathon.

MARATHON BANNER: (l-r) Son cheers on parents; Mayor poses with runners; Tony Torres, 4th in the full marathon, with Robert Olivera, 1st place in the half marathon; Kids Run participant; and Nika Marks sings the Star Spangled Banner before the race.

City Hall was the hub of activity this week as I hosted the Social Media for Small Business event organized by [Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center](#) and a forum organized by the Oakland Education Association on School Cuts...both were attended by hundreds.

Then about 7300 runners from 35 states and 6 countries participated in the sold-out second annual Oakland Marathon in

In This Issue

1. Building Oakland:Howard Nathel
2. Discover Oakland This Week
3. City News You Can Use
4. Safe and Healthy Oakland
5. Disaster Preparedness and More
6. The 25% Solution--Buy Oakland
7. The Greening of Oakland
8. Oakland Works
9. School & Youth Events
10. Circle Your Calendar

Send This To A Friend

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Quick Links

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

In the News

[Oakland opens up its streets, heart to marathoners](#)

Joe Garofoli, San Francisco Chronicle

almost perfect running weather on Sunday. Participants of all ages participated in 4 events--the traditional 26.2 mile marathon, the half marathon 13.1 miles, a relay contest, and special kids run. The runners and winners reflected the diversity of our city and the mix was beautiful -- Ethiopian political refugee and veteran runner Tegenu Beru won the marathon, first time marathon runner and young mom Anna Bretan was the women's winner, and public school moms the Oaktown Girls won the 4 person relay.



Raiderettes and Mayor greet Berkeley mom and women's winner.

From the raised hands at the start it looked like about half of the participants came from out of town; it is estimated this event generated about \$2 million in spending this weekend. Police costs were paid for by Corrigan Sports, the organizers.

Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, City staff, and Corrigan Sports for doing a great job. This was a great way to showcase our city! The goal is to grow the marathon into 25,000 participants in 10 years like their Baltimore marathon. They hope to increase corporate sponsors; I would like to see more high school and student participants. The best part of the day for me was listening to the runners tell me how much they enjoyed the variety and beauty of the city and the warmth of our citizens. Several people from out of town made a point to note the cheering from crowds in West Oakland! [This Chronicle article captures the flavor.](#)

NEW INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City of Oakland is facing its toughest budget yet. To help develop a budget that is fair and preserves City services to the best of our ability, I've asked the City Council to [approve a contract for Interim City Administrator](#)



March 28, 2011

[Oakland teachers, parents, students rail against layoff threat](#)

Josh Richman, Oakland Tribune
March 26, 2011

[Annalee Allen: North Oakland Senior Center set amid Oakland architectural, educational history](#)

Annalee Allen, Oakland Tribune
March 26, 2011

[P. Lamont Ewell named Oakland's interim city administrator](#)

Cecily Burt & Sean Maher
Oakland Tribune
March 24, 2011

[Oakland foreclosure forum draws 500](#)

Irene Florez, Oakland Local
March 21, 2011

[A Thoroughly Modern Oakland](#)

By Irene Lechowitzky, LA Times Travel,
March 20, 2011

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Discover Oakland

[First Friday's Art Murmur](#)
April 1, 2011



If you haven't yet attended Oakland's Art Murmur, consider attending this Friday, April 1, from 6 to 9 pm. Most Murmur spaces are within walking distance of the 19th Street and MacArthur BART stations.

While your enjoying the art displays and people watching, check out the hot new restaurants in the area (see item 5 below).

Change will not come if we wait for some

[Lamont Ewell](#). Ewell first came to Oakland 13 days before the 1991 Oakland hills firestorm as Fire Chief and served as Deputy, Assistant and Acting City Manager from 1995-97 before going on to serve as City Manager in Durham, NC, then San Diego and Santa Monica. Last year he came out of retirement to serve in a similar role for Culver City.



other person or for some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for.

Barack Obama

He starts tomorrow Monday, March 28; I am optimistic that the City Council will give their formal approval to finalize the appointment next week. As a [professional city manager with broad experience](#) and knowledge of Oakland, I am confident he will help us focus on the City's budget challenge while we continue the search for a permanent City Administrator.

"TEN YEAR STORM"

Last week's winter rains remind us to take care, especially if you live near one of our many creeks and their tributaries. See #6 for how you can help avoid floods while protecting our creeks and the bay. The city provides sand bags and plastic sheet at Fire Stations, the Public Works Corporation Yard at 7101 Hegenberger Road and the Shepherd Canyon Corporation Yard at 5921 Shepherd Canyon Road. Friday's storms were considered a "ten-year storm." The heavy rains caused Sausal Creek to overflow in Dimond Park. Watch Tim Chapman's video:



Great Flood of 2011

FURLOUGH DAYS THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Please note that City offices--including the Mayor's office--will be closed Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1 as part of budget furloughs.

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Howard Nathel at Campbell Village

Through his volunteer work at the Office of Parks & Recreation and formerly with Students Run Oakland, **Howard Nathel** mentors, trains and tutors students all over Oakland. He has been a catalyst in the success of OPR's [Radical Roving Recreation](#), a program that caters to underserved youth and young adults offering academic assistance, employment opportunities, promotion of health awareness and physical activity, social and mental development, cultural arts, crime prevention and peaceful conflict resolution at Campbell Village Recreation Center. He also trained students from [Running for a Better Oakland](#) who participated in this weekend's Oakland Running Festival.>>



"I love working with kids; I think I get more out of it than I give to the kids," said Howard, a former scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Howard has been volunteering for four or five years in various capacities in Oakland.

His math and science tutoring have made a difference in the lives of high school students at Castlemont, MetWest, Oakland Tech, and now at Campbell Village Recreation Center in West Oakland. He derives pleasure in the "a-hah" moments when students "get-it", and from accolades of appreciate parents.

"I am very fortunate in that I have the luxury of flexible time and the resources to volunteer. It takes commitment--you have to be consistent, discipline, and compassionate to build trust with the students," he said. These same tenets are how he raised his own son. "Being a big kid myself makes things easier." In addition to his work with Oakland youth, Howard serves on the Board of the [Friends of Oakland Parks & Recreation](#). He encourages more people to volunteer, reminding them to be realistic about balancing their volunteering with their work, family and other commitments.

2. Discover Oakland This Week

Lakeview Library Chess, March 29, 3:30-5 pm, 550 El Embarcadero: Join chess facilitator, Marvin Willis, and learn the fundamentals of Chess and meet new friends. All ages and skill levels are welcome to the Lakeview Chess Club! Meets every Tuesday afternoon.



Cesar Chavez Day Farmers Market Festival in Sobrante Park, Thursday, March 31, 9 am-Noon: In celebrating the values and mission of Cesar E. Chavez, the Sobrante Park schools invite community members to a fresh Farmers' Market at James Madison Middle School March 31. On this day, James Madison Middle School will also begin its new recycling program, collecting cans for cash, so guests are encouraged to contribute any available recyclables. Contact [Stephanie Gebhardt](#) for details at (707) 332-6452.

Cesar Chavez Work Day at East Oakland Pride Elementary School, Thursday, March 31, 10 am- 3 pm, 8000 Birch Street: Join parents and volunteers from Oakland Rotary, Home Depot, Americorps and others in the community in an intensive beautification workday. Help build planters

and benches, and then fill the planters with soil and plants. For details, contact [Gordon Piper](#) of the Oakland Landscape Committee at 910-2969.

AC Transits Freedom Bus On Line 1

April 1st: An AC Transit bus wrapped with student art that honors the 55th anniversary of Rosa Parks' historic bus ride in Montgomery, Alabama, will start its service on Line 1 on Telegraph Ave. Keep an eye out for it.

AC Transit Board Member Joel Young said he "hoped this would bring history to young people and remind us all about the need to fight for civil rights."



[First Friday Art Murmur Uptown](#), Friday, April 1, 6-9 pm: See description upper right column.

While you are downtown check out what the NY Times describes as the "hottest restaurant scene" in the East Bay. See #5. Check out the online [Meet Downtown Guide](#):

75 [restaurants](#) and [cafés](#),

33 [galleries](#) and [cultural venues](#).

40 [clubs](#) and [bars](#).

32 [major attractions](#) and [events](#).

THE OAKLAND STANDARD | April Ful's Night, April 1, 6-9 pm, Oakland Museum: [The Oakland Standard](#) presents a communal meal and conversation centered around Egypt's revolution, and the recent uprisings throughout the Middle East. Over roasted goat and fava bean 'ful' (Egypt's national dish, pronounced "fool"), join a discussion exploring the emotional impact and political relevance of the spirit of liberation that has ignited imaginations around the world. April Ful's Night will include music and spoken word, a video program in the Oakland Museum of California galleries, a live link to Cairo, handmade banner and signs, and time for guests to speak to their own experience. Free with admission, limited seating; please bring a blanket to sit on.

Oakland Museum Artist Talk, April 1, 6:30-7:30: Also at the Museum which is open until 9 pm every Friday-- hear artist Tom Marioni and Chief Curator of Art Phil Linhares talk about art in the Gallery of California Art. In 1970 that Tom Marioni, founding Director of the Museum of Conceptual Art in San Francisco (1970-84), performed "the Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art" here at the Oakland Museum. Hear how Marioni works and gains inspiration for his conceptual happenings and join in an informal conversation. Included with Museum admission.

Brookfield Village Garden Work Day, Saturday, April 2, 9 am-1 pm, rain or shine, 401 Jones Avenue, off of 98th/Edes: Join students, families and friends as they build benches and arch for garden entry, move soil and mulch into garden beds, paint signs to label garden beds, weed garden beds and sow sees, reading and sharing projects on the life of Cesar Chavez. Bring a small plant or packet of vegetable seeds. Call 639-3310 for details.

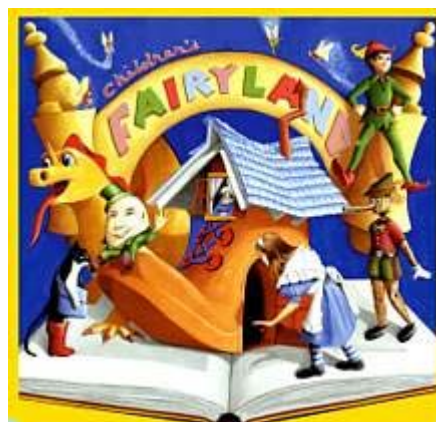
District 1 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 2, 10 am-1:30 pm, North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way: Please join Council Member Jane Brunner and city representatives as I host the third of seven Town Hall meetings. This Saturday we focus on District 1 concerns. Working with neighborhood leaders and volunteers from [Block By Block Organizing Network](#), the Town Hall is organized to provide local residents with opportunities to focus on top priorities in the areas of **public safety** (crime prevention, community policing, NCPC's, Measure Y, gang injunctions, etc.); **youth & schools**; **public works** (blight, beautification, parks, street trees, sidewalks, potholes, etc.); **economic development & zoning**; **wildfire prevention, vegetation management & ingress/egress**; **traffic engineering** (transportation safety, bike/pedestrian,

traffic lights; emergency preparedness (emergency response, earthquake, CORE, etc.); and the **Highway 24/Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore**. I will also be making a special presentation on **budget challenges** the city is facing. We are especially interested in **encouraging youth participation**. All youth 10-18 years of age are eligible, by raffle, to win a Day with the A's. The winner can take a friend to the afternoon game vs. The Texas Rangers and then have dinner in left field with all the players. The friend is not invited to that. Each winner will have an adult fan to hang out with to make sure the winner meets all the players, gets autographs and has a great time. For details, please contact [Richard Cowan](#) in my office at 238-6514. To get an idea of how these town halls work, check out my [official home page](#) on the city's website.

Richard Aoki Day, Saturday, March 2, 1:30-4 pm, West Oakland Library Branch, 1801 Adeline St: The West Oakland Branch Library and It's About Time will host a celebration on the life of Richard Masato Aoki, a Japanese American from West Oakland who became a leader in the Black Panthers, and later was a faculty member of Laney College. An exhibit focusing on his life will be displayed at the West Oakland Branch Library. Also a film documentary will be shown and public testimonies from people who knew him will be heard. For more information, contact Veronica Lee at 238-7352 or itsabouttime3@juno.com

[Children's Fairyland](#)

Puppet Show, April Weekends, 11 am, 2 & 4 pm: Anansi the Spider. Every weekend Fairyland has live performances and puppet shows. This month's puppet show is based on an African folktale. Have you ever wondered how all the stories on earth came to be? This is the story of a little spider who does three large tasks and is rewarded for his effort. Nyame, the Sky God, gives Anansi all the tales of the world to bring back to the people on earth. Scenery by Lewis Mahlmann & Annie Wong. Puppets by Randal Metz. Find a kid to go with you!



3. City News: Export Conference, Council Budget Retreat Set, Deadline for Mother of the Year Nominations, Free Tax Help

District 5 Townhall Meeting Set for Saturday, April 9, 10 am- 2 pm, St. Jarleth's Church, 2634 Pleasant Valley. Join the Mayor, City Department and neighborhood leaders to discuss neighborhood issues, solutions, and priorities.

[Special Council Meeting to Discuss Army Base](#) and Collaboration with the Port of Oakland, Tuesday, March 29, 2 pm: The Council will discuss the next step in complicated negotiations over the future of the Army Base and the Port of Oakland. In a major commitment to modernize the Port, the City and Port are negotiating to develop a joint plan with AMB Property, L.P./California Capital Group. The vision would develop intermodal (ship, train, truck and other logistics) facilities that would make the port more efficient and attractive for international trade.

Budget Retreat Set for Monday, April 11: My staff is working hard to provide the first outline of the City's budget by this week. 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 release a shorter summary next week. On April 11th the City Cabinet and City Council will hold a full day retreat to discuss the budget.



Mayor Quan Named Woman of the Year: I was honored to be nominated by Assemblyman as his district's Woman of the Year. As I sat on the assembly floor I realized how the representation of women at the state level has lost some ground; women represent only about 20% of the Assembly and Senate.



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.



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.

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.

OPR Accepting Nominations for 2011 Mother of the Year, February 1-March 30: Oakland's Mother of the Year program was initiated in 1954 to publicly honor an Oakland citizen whose contributions to the community symbolize the finest traditions of motherhood. Past honorees have included hard-working, dedicated community servants whose volunteerism has been exemplary. [For more information...](#)

4. Safe and Healthy Oakland

Judge Rules for City of Oakland in Measure Y Case: In a tentative ruling on March 22, Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch denied all causes of action in a lawsuit contesting the City's use of money raised by the Measure Y public safety parcel tax. The lawsuit was the second filed by the same plaintiff challenging the use of Measure Y funds. The first lawsuit was ultimately decided In December 2010, when a state appeals court panel in San Francisco ruled that Oakland did not mispend millions of dollars generated by the tax. Voters approved the Measure Y Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act in 2004. It provides about \$20 million annually for police, violence prevention/social service programs and the Fire Department. The measure authorized the City to

"hire and maintain" 63 community policing officers, with most assigned to neighborhood beats across Oakland.

The long-running legal battle over the tax started in 2008, when a local attorney sued the City, arguing that money raised by the tax could be used to hire new officers, but only if those officers were immediately assigned to community policing positions. However, Oakland Police Department policy requires new officers to be assigned to the patrol division for three years. The trial court issued a split decision in that case, but the appeal ultimately validated the City's use of Measure Y funds to "backfill" the patrol division, thereby freeing up more experienced officers to take on community policing assignments. On



March 18, 2010, during the appeal, the plaintiff filed a second lawsuit with seven causes of action, all of which were denied by Roesch this week. The ruling is expected to become final in coming weeks after the City enters a final Statement of Decision with the court. A copy of the tentative ruling can be found [here](#). (Above) Deputy Chief Howard Jordan thanks Measure Y organizations for their work. The passage of Measure BB in the fall enabled the city to continue to provide funding for this year.



McCullum Youth Court 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.

5. Disaster Preparedness Citywide Drill on April 30th Needs Volunteers

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 Northridge 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](#)

6. The 25% Solution--Buy Oakland

After watching the runners at the Oakland Running Festival, consider checking out one of the hot new downtown restaurants that are all the rage. 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.

Some of the best new restaurants in the Bay Area call Uptown Oakland home:



Hibiscus
1745 San Pablo Avenue @ 18th Street
Oakland, CA 94612
444-2626
hibiscusoakland.com

Chef Sarah Kirnon's menu of bold and innovative Caribbean-Creole dishes area a modern homage to flavors of her childhood in Barbados. The food is a patchwork of colors, textures and flavors, woven from the cuisines of Africa, Europe, Asia, India and South America. Within walking distance of City Hall, I do many working lunches and dinners here.

Cafe Van Kleeef
1621 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
763-7711
cafevankleef.com

According to the S F Chronicle, Cafe Van Kleeef is #2 of ["five places in the West that would do the Big Easy Proud."](#)



Luka's Tap Room & Lounge
221 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
451-4677
lukasoakland.com

Luka's serves lunch and dinner, offers 16 beers on tap, has DJs & dancing, pool table and pinball and is open seven nights a week. They have fresh oyster specials and good American food. What more could you ask? How about Fresh Steps-- monthly live hip hop performances resident DJ aebidee on the turntable, every third Sunday at 9 pm.

Flora Oakland
1900 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
286-0100
FloraOakland.com

Flora is the creation of Dona Savitsky and thomas Schnertz and their desire to create a restaurant and bar that echoed the prohibition era and Art Deco Style. It is housed in the beautifully ornate Oakland Floral Depot building, a landmark Art Deco jewel of Eat Bay architecture located across the street from the Fox Theater. Fine food, when I am auctioned off for lunch for some local cause...I often take my guests here.



Ozumo
2251 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
286-9866
ozumo.com

Contemporary Japanese cuisine and robata grill, sushi and sashimi, complemented by a wide range of premium imported sake, wine and more. Perhaps the best Japanese restaurant in town with private rooms. My daughter wanted her birthday dinner here.

Pican Restaurant
2295 Broadway @ 23rd Street
Oakland, CA 94612
834-1000



picanrestaurant.com



Experience California-infused Southern Cuisine in an elegant atmosphere.

The New Parish

**579 18th Street @ San Pablo
Oakland, CA 94612**
thenewparish.com

Music, comedy club and bar.



The Den at the Fox
19th and Telegraph
Oakland, CA 94612
thedenoakland.com

The renovation of the majestic Fox Theater has brought a lot of excitement, and great music, to Oakland's historic Uptown neighborhood. The building houses more than just the exquisite Art Deco theater - The Den, adjacent to the entrance of the Fox, serves as a lounge for the theater. On concert nights it is the perfect place to schmooze in a jungle of like-minded concert goers before and after the show. The after work scene is more laid

back.

Era Art Bar

19 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612
832-4400
oaklandera.com

A combination art gallery and bar.



Mua

2442a Webster Street
Oakland, CA 94612
238-1100
muaoakland.com

Uptown's latest happening night spot, right in the middle of Broadway Auto Row. Innovative California cuisine meets comfort food.



Plum
2214 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
444-7586
Plumoakland.com

Celebrated Bay Area chef Daniel Patterson, best known for his complex concoctions and bold mixing of flavors at Coi, brings his rich taste to Oakland's newest Uptown eatery, Plum. Unusual combinations of very fresh ingredients and a changing menu makes me want to come back.

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.



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

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. (Above) Last year's Earth Day Clean Up at Montclair RR Trail.



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. 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 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.



[Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Sunday, May](#)

*Bringing Back the 'Natives'
Garden Tour*



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.

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.



8. Oakland Works

Friday's Social Media Conference for Small Business in the Council Chambers was sold out! Local business owners and leaders of nonprofits heard from Shaun Tai of Oakland Digital, Kelly Flint of Constant Contact, Stephen Perez of YP.com, Erick Gilbert of Yahoo! Small Business, Patrick Hurley of InOak, Andreas Weigend, Phd. of City of San Francisco, and Thor Muller of Get Satisfaction. I shared how this e-newsletter helped me connect with thousands of Oakland residents every week. (Photo by Howard Dykoff)



BUSINESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Request for Proposals:** The Summer Youth Employment Program is a component of the Youth Comprehensive Services Strategy of Measure Y. Employment directly supports the mission of Measure Y for the specific purpose of providing job placements for a minimum of 80 Measure Y eligible high risk youth, targeting court involved youth and juvenile probationers.
- **East Bay Regional Park District** offers two training programs for student aides to work year round at the visitor centers or with the Public Safety Department. Call 544-2154 or go to www.ebparks.org.
- **Office of Parks & Recreation Aquatic Summer Hiring Event, Saturday, March 19, 9:30 am -3:30 pm, Temescal Swimming Pool, 371 45th Street:** Must be 16 years or older to apply for water safety instructors and lifeguard positions. Bring a copy of your certification, a completed application, swimwear and towel. You can pick up an application at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd floor or download one from www.oaklandnet.com. Call Montrice Goodman at 238-3112 if you have additional questions.
- **Green Jobs Opportunities:** The Ella Baker Center has launched a [Green-Collar Jobs Campaign](#) to advocate for creating green pathways out of poverty and into the green economy for low-income people and people of color. Their website lists a number of free training programs designed for adults facing barriers to employment.



9. School & Youth Events

"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 no later than Monday, April 4.**

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: planing, 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.



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

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.
- Montclair Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 24, 9 am sharp:** Montclair Park.



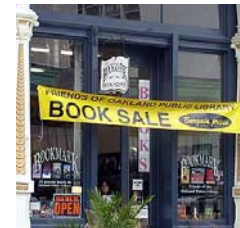
10. Circle Your Calendar.

District 1 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 2, 10 am-12:30 pm, North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, (enter through automatic gate on 58th Street): This will be the third of seven Town Hall meetings that I pledged to hold early in my administration. Thanks to volunteers from Block by Block Organizing Network who are planning the program and canvassing neighborhoods to reach out to local residents, I hope that we will continue to have a great turn out as we have had for the first two events. Council Member Jane Brunner is co-sponsoring the Town Hall, during which residents will break out into groups to generate a list of top three priorities in the areas of Public Works (blight, beautification, parks, street trees, sidewalks, potholes, etc.); Public Safety (crime prevention, community policing, NCPC's, Measure Y, gang injunctions, etc.); Economic Development & Zoning; Youth & Schools; Wildfire Prevention, vegetation management, ingress/egress; Traffic Engineering (transportation safety, bike/pedestian, traffic lights. etc.); Emergency Preparedness (emergency response, earthquake CORE, etc.), Highway 24/Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore. For additional information, please contact [Richard Cowan](#) in my office at 238-6514



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.

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>.



District 5 Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, April 9, 10 am -2 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. For details, contact [Richard Cowan](#) at 238-6415.

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.

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 or call Sara at 502-5344.



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.

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.
- **2011 Youth Law Academy Graduating Seniors**

[Tickets](#) are \$120. For more information, call Jennifer Miller at 437-1554, ext. 127 or email her at jennifermiller@centrolegal.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](#). Party at the Kaiser Rooftop Garden, 300 Lakeside Drive following the awards (6:30 pm.) Sponsored by the One PacificCoast Foundation and East Bay Express.



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.

