



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!



President Obama invited 14 urban mayors (including Mayor Quan in pink) to discuss economic growth and jobs. White House Photo.

I held this week's newsletter up to make this announcement: After 6 month's of searching, **I am pleased to announce that Ms. Deanna Santana will be Oakland's next City Administrator.** The City Council confirmed her appointment unanimously today. Ms. Santana is currently the Deputy Mayor of San Jose and started her career in Oakland as an intern when our current interim City Administrator Lamont Ewell was City Manager in Oakland. We will be introducing her to the community tomorrow at a City Hall press conference. Mr. Ewell described her as "one of the "smartest and energetic public administrators I have worked with in my career."



This publication is not produced at public expense.

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

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In the News

[Shining Internet star Pandora could be a boost for downtown Oakland](#)
George Avalos, Oakland Tribune
June 16, 2011



Mrs. Obama addresses a friendly crowd at the Claremont Hotel

It's not often that you are lucky enough to talk with both the President and First Lady in one week, but that's the kind of week it's been. I started last week co-hosting a standing room event for First Lady Michelle Obama. [She spoke from the heart about how the people she met on the campaign trail moved her to get involved](#) (above). As my daughter and I listened to her talk, she resonated with our feelings about public service so strongly and I felt like going out to start an Obama 2016 Committee for her! It was a unique political event, featuring breakfast by Alice Waters that was as delicious as the anticipation. The East Bay is often ignored by national campaigns but tickets sold out in just 2 weeks. It was a proud day for the city; but, when will we get the media to recognize that the Claremont is in OAKLAND, not Berkeley?



Mayor Quan and San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee at a State Dept briefing with Global Intergovernmental Rep Reta Jo Lewis

By week's end I was in Washington meeting with top administration officials on a wide range of critical issues for the City and Port: police support; highway, road and

["We need all of you," Michelle Obama extols supporters in Berkeley visit.](#)

Josh Richman, Contra Costa Times
June 14, 2011

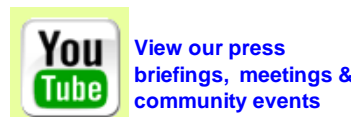
[Oakland opens its doors to keep kids off the street](#)

KCBS Radio
June 12, 2011

Follow the Mayor



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



Discover Oakland



Enjoy the urban wine boom on a bike. Now you can taste and learn by the glass. Drink wine poured by the vintner--the way they used to in Napa.

Visit [East Bay Winery Bike Tours for details.](#)

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

transportation funding; increased federal enforcement against semi-automatic weapon violations; new regulations to help the airport and tourism; funding for dredging for the Port; housing and jobs training programs.

Mayor Ed Lee joined me at the State Department for a briefing on Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's initiative to involve municipal and local leaders here and abroad in trade and economic development, especially for small and medium sized businesses. [Reta Jo Lewis](#) briefed us on one of the first possible opportunities of partnership with the State Dept, the upcoming Asian Pacific Economic Council meeting here in the Bay Area in September. There will be a special session of women leaders.



UN Secretary General Han Ki-Moon addresses the USCM.

On the weekend I joined the [US Conference of Mayors](#) (USCM) in nearby Baltimore. I was named to chair of the International Relations Committee which is taking up as one of its major initiatives supporting the President's goal of doubling exports. For me the highlight of the conference was sitting with the UN Secretary General talking about the international status of women and sharing my work with sexually exploited minors. He told us that he hoped to make the status of women a priority in what is expected to be his second 5-year term.

[The USCM released a report on the economy of mega cities.](#) The eight top US mega city regions are equal in size to the whole Chinese economy. While the economy is improving, progress is slow. It anticipates that the nation's gross domestic product will jump from a sluggish 1.9% growth during the first half of 2011 to 3.5% for the second half and that by December 2014 over half of metro areas will have returned to their previous peak employment level.

Yesterday I had the rare opportunity to sit with the President, Vice President Biden, Chief of Staff Bill Daley, and Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett to discuss our urban economies and specifically--jobs. President Obama asked us specifically about our priorities and which job programs we thought were most effective. The discussion was frank with clear give and take; I was proud to represent the city. When the President called on me, I spoke about the sudden loss of the Summer Jobs Program -- 500 for Oakland. I asked him to find an alternative so city youth do not lose what is for many of them their first real job and opportunity to experience the world outside their neighborhoods. *(Photo on top in the Roosevelt Room, just steps from the Oval Office).*

A FAIR SHARE BUDGET: Despite my travels I can assure you that I am constantly in touch with our union negotiations and budget staff. In the next weeks I hope we will have a fair deal with all of our unions and that the Council will vote on a fair budget by June 30th *(see #2)*. As I said five months ago, this is the toughest budget year in my 20 years of public service. No matter what scenario, we will lose city workers and it will be my duty to provide the best services possible with continually diminishing resources. Thank you everyone who has communicated their opinions and to the many who have volunteered to work on the parcel tax campaign. Please stay tuned to the decisions which will be made in the next few weeks.

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Discover Oakland This Week



BWOPA East Bay Issues Forum with David Muhammad, Alameda County Chief Probation Officer, Monday, June 20, 5:30-7 pm, Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center, 2500 Fairmount Drive, San Leandro: The Oakland/Berkeley & Hayward/South County Chapters of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) invite you to hear Chief Muhammad share his vision, p revention plans and strategies to reduce the number of African American youth entering the juvenile justice system. [To register, click here.](#)

Town Hall Meeting to Support People Living with HIV/AIDS, West Oakland Senior Center, Wednesday, June 22, Noon - 2 pm, 1724 Adeline: The community is invited to participate in this forum to help people who are currently living with AIDS or are at risk of contracting HIV. Sponsored by the Oakland TGA Collaborative Community Planning Council. For more information call [326-3476](tel:326-3476).

Alameda County Fair, June 22-July 10, Alameda County Fair Grounds, Pleasanton: For many people -- including Sue Piper and her



husband in our office, a visit to the Alameda County Fair is an annual right of summer! There's something to enjoy for the entire family-- food, rides, music, arts and crafts exhibitions and the barkers selling products you didn't know you needed. [Tickets](#): \$8 adult,\$6 Seniors, \$4 children.



Health & Resource Fair for Seniors at North Oakland Senior Center, Thursday, June 23, 1-4 pm, 5714 MLK Jr. Way: Come for lunch and a raffle while learning about the wide variety of benefits and services available to seniors. Take advantage of the health screenings, legal advice, massages, vision testing and much more. Bring your expired or un-needed medications and we will safely dispose of them) Call the North Oakland Senior Center at 597-5085 for information .

[Oakland Zoo's Walk in the Wild](#), June 23, 5-10 pm:

The East Bay Zoological Society brings together some of the Bay Area's finest bakeries, breweries, caterers, restaurants, and wineries for the Oakland Zoo's largest annual fundraiser. Guests of this unique event will stroll through the Zoo and enjoy delicious cuisine, libations, fabulous entertainment, and dancing under the stars.



Pacific Fine Arts & Crafts Festival, Friday- Sunday, June 24-25, 10 am-6 pm (5 pm on Sunday) Montclair Village: A team of volunteer Mayor's Ambassadors will join me at my "booth" at the Farmer's Market on Sunday 9 am- 1 pm. Please stop by to say hello.

30th Anniversary of Downtown Oakland Senior Center, Friday, June 24- Sunday, June 26, 200 Grand Avenue: The weekend's events start with a luncheon program and barbecue kick off. I'll be joining community members to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Downtown Senior Center. On Saturday, from 8 pm until midnight, there's a 30th Anniversary Dance in the historic ballroom. On Sunday at 2 pm, see the documentary *Big Band Magic* and then the professional dancers will show their stuff!

6th Annual Summer Solstice Music Festival in the Laurel, Saturday, June 25, 9 am - 8 pm: Over 25 bands all day long in the Laurel Shopping District-- MacArthur Blvd. between 35th Avenue and High Street. Sponsored by the [Laurel Village Association](#).



A Youth Mosaic Celebration at Maxwell Park, Saturday, June 25, 11 am-1 pm: Students from Maxwell Park Elementary School, Melrose Leadership Academy, Frick Middle School, Fremont High School, the High Street Boys and Girls Club, the Discovery Center at Brookdale Park, and neighborhood children have contributed more than 100 designs for this 3rd mosaic mural on the outside walls of the Maxwell Park restrooms. The results are stunning! Come view the results and celebrate! I will be joining the neighborhood at the celebration. For details, contact [Nancy Karigaca](#) at 853-1223.



Unity in the Community Block Party, 18th and Adeline, West Oakland, Saturday, June 25, Noon - 4 pm: Come to an old-fashioned block party and celebration honoring the transformation of city streets by the Public Works Department. Ribbon Cutting at 1 pm. (See Item # 3 below.)



Turfin 247 All Styles Dance Tournament, "For the Movement", Saturday, June 25, 2-8 pm, Allendale Rec Center, 3711 Suter Street, off of 35th Avenue: Free event for teens, sponsored by the Laurel District Association, the Laurel Merchants, Urban Shield Security, Allendale Recreation Center and Turfin 247. Watch [Turfin 247's "I-Dummy" Featured on National TV](#)

+ San Francisco Pride!!
Oakland Mayor Jean Quan invites you to walk with her at SF Pride 2011: "In Pride We Trust"



When: Sunday, June 26th
Where: San Francisco, CA
RSVP: 510-238-7072, haguilar@oaklandnet.com
Bring your Oakland pride to San Francisco!
 Show your pride in the LGBTQ community! Show your pride in Oakland! Come alone or organize a group!

- Who's walking with us in San Francisco?**
- ✓ Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan
 - ✓ Oakland Pride
 - ✓ Block By Block
 - ✓ Bench and Bar
 - ✓ Club 21
 - ✓ Mouthing Off, Mills College
 - ✓ Bay Area Derby Girls'
 - ✓ Oakland Outlaws (**)
 - ✓ Lavender Seniors (**)
 - ✓ **You!!**
- (**) = invited but not confirmed



2. Budget & Parcel Tax Vote Delayed Again, Council Cuts the Mayor's Pay

BUDGET DECISIONS DELAYED: **The Council appears to be delaying their budget vote until close to the charter mandated deadline of June 30.** Typically in the last decade, the Council would propose their changes to the Mayor's budget at the first Council meeting in June. Then it appeared the first vote on the budget would be today June 21st, **but then budget documents did not appear last Thursday online as would be required for a vote.**

It now appears some proposals will be made public later this week, but a formal vote would likely be delayed possibly until the next Council meeting on June 28th, just days before the charter mandated date, and this may be the new target. The budget also requires a second vote before June 30th.

MORE CUTS MAY BE NECESSARY: It is likely there will be layoffs no matter what budget scenario is adopted. **The later the budget passage, the later the effective date, and the greater number of cuts required.** The budget scenarios below were calculated on an effective date of July 1st. Employees must be given a two week notice and in many cases bumping rights are enacted and more senior employees bump lower seniority employees in other classifications. **The whole process could take up to a month, requiring about 8% more personnel cuts.**



PARCEL TAX VOTE DELAYED: It appears that the Council also delayed once again a vote on the proposed \$80/yr or less than a quarter a day 5 year tax. Part of the delay is linked to timing, now that it appears there may be a special electio

I am hopeful that the Council will let the citizens decide on the parcel tax and will not stop it from being placed on the ballot. Thanks to the several dozen volunteers who came to plan for the campaign at the Dimond Library.

MAYOR'S SALARY: Every two years the Council must set the salary of the Mayor according to the charter. Mayor Dellums salary was set at \$183K when he came into office. The rate must be within the range of no less than 70% and no more than 90% of the three larger and three smaller cities bracketing Oakland. The range this year was \$161,000 to \$209,000. The Council voted to use the lowest amount, which is still more than the 25% cut in wages that I agreed to.

BUDGET PROPOSALS ARE ON LINE: The Bad, the Really Bad & the Really Ugly
Because so much is still in the air, we presented 3 budgets. I support the Fair Share Budget C which will require layoffs, 15 leave days without pay, other employee contributions and a Parcel Tax of less than a quarter a day. Everyone contributes, it saves most services.

Because the Council delayed a vote on putting a parcel tax on the ballot and because negotiations with the unions are on-going, we believe the Council must start with Option A and PRIORITIZE add back programs based on alternative cuts and then prioritize its add backs as negotiations with the unions are resolved and THEN IF A PARCEL TAX ELECTION IS ALLOWED AND PASSED.

For example, I assume that libraries are a high priority and that new funds would go there first.

- [Budget Facts](#)--a quick overview of the budget:
- [1 page comparison](#) - a good way to understand the 3 options below
- [The Bad](#)--(Option C) Balancing the budget with cuts, employee contributions and the Parcel Tax
- [The Really Bad](#)--(Option B) Balancing the budget with cuts and employee contributions
- [The Really Ugly](#)--(Option A) Balancing the budget only through cuts

The Council has again delayed a new vote on a mail ballot for a 25 cent a day emergency parcel tax for 5 years ; I am asking them to let the voters decide. All of three budgets are painful but an ALL CUTS (Option A) budget will mean major closings of libraries, fire stations, and

recreation centers, reduction of days at senior centers, and reduction by attrition of the police force. Months ago the Council agreed to put an \$80 parcel tax on the special election ballot planned by Governor Brown. When it became apparent that Brown would not be able to get a special election, our office went to the Council to ask for an all mail vote. Disappointingly, three members of the Council did not support an "urgency" vote which needs 6 votes.

- **Does this Kill the Parcel Tax Vote?** This does not kill the initiative but does delay the vote until the fall.
- **Why is the delay important?** It means that if we get a special election by mail, we will not know the results until November four months into the fiscal year. Even if the parcel tax passes, **we will have to layoff and cut programs during July through November.** This is something I was hoping to avoid. With an urgency finding we would have known on July 5th just days into the new fiscal year. The process of layoffs is costly and we may lose many good employees.
- **Is the Vote by Mail expensive?** Actually a vote by mail is about the same cost to the city as being part of a consolidated election, about \$800 K.
- **I believe the citizens of Oakland should be allowed to decide.** The parcel tax would raise about one fifth of the funds needed to close the gap, it would cost the average home owner less than a quarter a day. Commercial properties and rental properties will also pay.
- **Without a parcel tax we will have an all cuts budget for the most part.** Ironically this parallels the struggles going on in Washington and Sacramento.

The Budget Process: Since I took office in January 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 year 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.
- In March we issued an 85-page budget memo for our day long **Budget Workshop with the Council and the Cabinet** [You can download the report here.](#) We are starting the budget process about 6 weeks earlier than in past years. In past years the Mayor and Council had retreats to discuss city priorities in the fall or new year, that did not happen this year so this was a critical meeting. The document focuses on the \$46M shortfall in next years general fund budget. To close that gap I believe all options must be on the table and everyone must contribute: 1) There will be cuts to programs and consolidation of programs, but we must leave the city in the best possible position for when the economy rebounds . 2) Employees will be asked to contribute; this will mean a continuation of leave days without pay distributed by individual request (like vacations) instead of citywide closures 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.
- In April we issued the 3 budget options above.
- **Council Hearings and Votes: The charter requires a final budget by June 30th.**



3. More City News

Seeking Nominees for Boards & Commissions: Because of term limits, nearly all Boards have openings on a regular basis. Here are some of the more popular ones with current openings:

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

Contact [Richard Cowan](#) in the Mayor's Office with a cover letter and your resume.

Public Works Helps Transform the Streets of West Oakland: Senior, disabled and student pedestrian access and safety have been greatly improved at the busy intersection of 18th Street and Adeline Street, thanks to the focused attention of the Mayor's Pedestrian Access and Safety Task Force, Oakland's Americans with Disabilities Act Programs Division, and the Public Works Agency's Department of Engineering & Construction. This "Neighborhood Streets Safety" project leveraged limited City street and sidewalk improvement resources to address the priorities of pedestrians that frequent this intersection. The City has resurfaced the streets, repaired sidewalks, installed new curb ramps, and added audible pedestrian push buttons to facilitate safe crossing. In addition, the City has rehabilitated disabled parking zones, bus stops, and other transportation amenities and added several traffic calming measures. The Mayor's Pedestrian Access and Safety Task Force was one of the the first efforts to come out of our Town Hall Meetings, when residents of West Oakland raised concerns about pedestrian access for seniors and disabled residents. The City and residents will celebrate with **Unity in the Community** on **Saturday, June 25 from Noon until 4 pm.** (See Item 2 above.)

The **Mayor's Summer Jobs Program** needs more local businesses to hire Oakland youth this summer. Unfortunately, in the budget cut compromise last month the Federal eliminated funding for the program. Oakland historically receives funding for 500 jobs, they have all been cut. I've been contacting local businesses to see if they will hire a local teen (age 14 or older) or donate the \$1000 per youth to the program so that the city, another local business or non-profit can do so. More than 1000 youth have applied for the program. **Currently we only have 200 positions available.** \$1000 will cover the stipend youth receive for working 120 hours. \$1000 will cover the stipend youth receive for working 120 hours. The WIB is coordinating the Mayor's Summer Job Program along with the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP). Businesses interested in hiring a summer youth or anyone interested in contributing to the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program should call 238-3588 [or download an application.](#)

AB 184 Signed: Thanks to the efforts of Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, Governor Brown signed AB 184, a bill that allows cities and counties to establish voluntary benefit assessment districts for those wishing to seismically retrofit their homes. Our office has been working closely with the Assemblyman and the Association of Bay Area Governments on this measure, one of a number of elements needed to encourage property owners to seismically retrofit their older homes and apartments. Our next step is to find funding to help establish the pool, from which property owners can draw and then pay back through their annual property tax. The program is modeled after a similar program for installing solar panels. The average single family home costs between \$3,000 and \$10,000 to retrofit; apartments run about \$10,000 per unit. Several years ago, as a Council Member, I co-authored legislation that established a flat permit fee (\$250) for seismically retrofitting older single family homes. For details, go to the [City's Webpage under Building Services.](#)

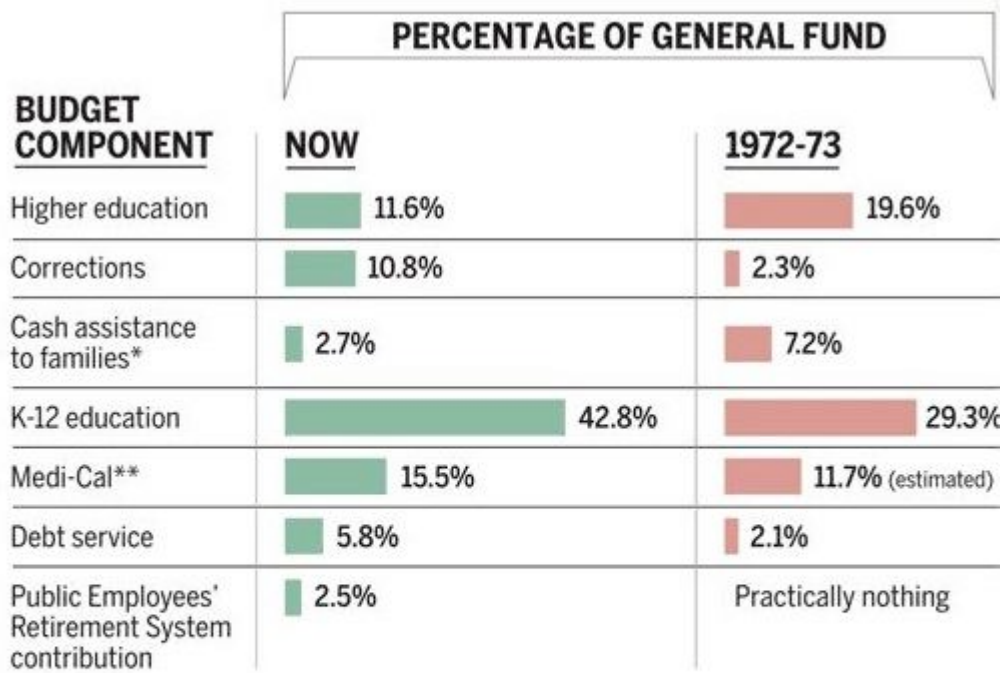
4. Governor Vetoes Budget, Plan to End Redevelopment Bill Passes But Future Now Uncertain; Oakland Schools Bill Stopped

- **Sacramento in Turmoil Over the Budget:** It's been a roller coaster following the Legislature last week and now it seems everything is in the air. I spent much of the weekend talking to our legislators, lobbyist, Big 10 Mayors and the California League of Cities, here's basically where we are:
 - The Legislature, trying to make the mandatory deadline to pass a budget so that they could continue to be paid, **passed a budget last Thursday**. They gave up on getting any Republican votes and passed measures not requiring a two thirds votes or a vote on tax extensions.
 - **It included a trailer bill that eliminated Redevelopment** and then would let city's "buy" back their right to continue...It's not clear whether it would really raise \$1.7B or whether the impact on the economy might hurt more than it would help for this short term budget balancing. It is also not sure whether cities could afford to give the state so much of their revenues, so almost everyone has threatened to sue.
 - **Then the Governor vetoed the budget** hoping to get 4 Republican votes so he can put the tax extensions before the voters.
 - **The Legislature angry at the Governor's veto halted the trailer bills including the elimination of Redevelopment.** Many Democrats were angry that they only agreed to vote for elimination because of the budget, now say they will not vote for elimination again.
 - Today Controller John **Chiang halts legislator pay**.
 - If the Governor cannot get any Republican votes, he will have to make peace with the Democrats who say they already cut \$12B from schools, the poor, seniors, and health care. The State is days away from its fiscal deadline with massive long term debts still to face.



HOW STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES CHANGED OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS

Sacramento Bee Chart



* The 1996 federal welfare law added work and job training requirements to cash assistance programs. The state also offers child care and other aid that was not available from 1972-73.

** Because the state implemented a Medi-Cal Reform Plan in October 1971, state budgets don't list actual general fund spending for Medi-Cal for the 1972-73 budget year.



- School Financial Takeover Bill, AB 609, Put in Suspense:** Assemblyman Sandre Swanson's Bill to relieve the school district from state fines imposed on mismanagement by the state trustees was put into suspense. [The state auditors fined Oakland \\$22M for mistakes incurred during the state takeover.](#) This is in addition to the additional debt run up by the state during the takeover, another \$80M. In plain English this means the city's schools are \$100M more in debt after the state takeover. The original debt that led to the trusteeship was about \$27M.
- State Redistricting Commission Releases Maps, [Comment On-line:](#)** Oakland remains in one congressional district, Fremont is split.
- 70 State Parks Slated for Closure:** This week the *Sacramento Bee* did a good story highlighting some of the [70 State Parks that will be closed under the budget proposal.](#)
- Thanks to \$6 billion more in income taxes than expected, the Governor's latest budget restored some cuts in K-12 education but put most of the money into bringing down the state's debts. This was enough to prevent the layoffs of several hundred teachers in the Oakland Schools but not restore any of last year's cuts.

The increased state income tax revenues do not help the city, which gets no share.

All of the other cuts, including closing state parks, services to seniors, childcare for low income mothers, etc., continue as the stalemate in Sacramento continues.





5. Building Oakland-- Peter Shelton and the Bike Patrol



Oakland Bike Patrol members join members of the Marin Bike Patrol and East Bay Regional Parks Bike Patrol at the annual International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Ales to Trails fundraiser at China Camp State Park.

Oakland Bike Patrol members pictured include: Peter Shelton, Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) Bike Patrol Coordinator (front row), Brent Englund, BTCEB President (rear center), Sg. Arturo Bautista, OPD Bike Patrol coordinator (rear right), John Miller and Daniel Perkins. (Photo by Rachel Lopes)

By day, **Peter Shelton** is an estate planning attorney, but when he's enjoying a bike ride in Joaquin Miller Park, he is easily spotted in his red Bike Patrol T-shirt. About a dozen mountain bike enthusiasts regularly ride the trails in Joaquin Miller Park, Dimond Canyon and Lake Merritt as members of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay's (BTCEB) Oakland Bike Patrol. Peter is their coordinator. OPD's Sgt. Arturo Bautista is the liaison between the Bike Patrol and the Oakland Police Department.

"We educate bike riders and other park users about trail rules and etiquette, and help with medical and mechanical emergencies. We also help maintain safe trails by reporting to the park supervisor when maintenance issues or hazards arise, like fallen trees, fires and illegal dumping in the park. If we need to, we call the police or fire department," he explained.

He said he joined the patrol when he met a BTCEB Bike Patrol member one day while riding in the park. "I thought it was important to give something back by keeping the park safe.

"It's fun to help other park guests learn about the park trails. It's also satisfying to know that the presence of the Bike Patrollers makes the park safer."

BTCEB created one of the first mountain bike patrols back in the 80s. Over the years the patrol joined with the Oakland Police Department, former Park Rangers and the City of Oakland Recreation Department to create the Oakland Bike Patrol. Patrollers are also members of The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) National Mountain Bike Patrol, a nationwide organization. They worked on the Joaquin Miller Park Master Plan with my council office and brought new and different eyes to solutions because of their constant presence on the trails.

If you would like to learn more about the BTCEB Oakland Bike Patrol, contact Peter at Peter@BTCEB.org or visit www.oaklandbikepatrol.com.

6 The 25% Solution: Boutique Gift Stores in Oakland

Got "More" Gifts?

Since we weren't able to fit in all the gift shops into last week's newsletter--we're adding to the list! During this gift buying season, we hope you'll continue to "Shop Oakland" and find the perfect gift for that special person, including yourself!





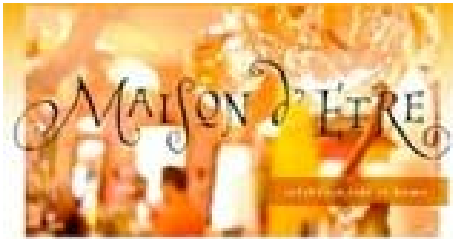
Folks Art
4158 Piedmont Ave
Oakland, CA 94611
510-653-5448
www.folksart.com

If you haven't walked into **Folks Art** on Piedmont Avenue, you're missing out. While you might head there to buy a gift for someone-- beware, you might just come away with a little something, too. Yes, it's that tempting. Their large selection of earrings are wonderful along with other unique gift ideas including clocks, jewelry boxes and vases.

The Cathedral Shop
2121 Harrison Street on the Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
510-496-7280
www.ctlcathedral.org/giftshop



If you've ever walked the lake or driven by The Cathedral of Christ the Light on Lake Merritt, you might have missed the beautiful gift shop. Conveniently situated on the plaza level, **The Cathedral Shop** offers a wide array of inspirational books, sacred art, greeting cards and unique gifts. After your shopping is complete, take a *free* guided tour of the Cathedral every weekday at 1pm.



Maison d'Etre
5640 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
510-658-2801
www.maisondetre.com

"Cute and clever" are the best ways to describe the merchandise inside this Rockridge store, across from Market Hall. They offer a great selection of fun books and

stationary, bedding, soaps and balms, cute things for the home, and an incredible variety of jewelry made by local artists.



Itsy Bitsy
5520 College Ave
Oakland, CA 94618
510-428-1651

For a special gift for a woman in your life, stop by **Itsy Bitsy** today. They offer a huge selection of jewelry and gifts including cute Japanese gifts, sushi plates, tea-sets, and decorative nicknacks for around the house.

Submitted by Kim Bardakian

Check out one of our 40 unique neighborhood business districts. Each one has a different mix of restaurants and shops. The [Shop Oakland](#)



[website](#) is a great place to start. There's a [wonderful map](#), as well.

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



7. Schools and Youth

Prescription for a Great Summer, Read!--Encourage your child to read just 6 books over the summer. Research shows that students can lose up to 1 year's gain during the summer. Reading books--and discussing the books with your kids--can keep your students ready for the start of school in the fall. **The [Oakland Public Library's Summer Reading Program](#) kicks off Saturday, June 18 and runs through August 13.** This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories". All library locations will feature live entertainment and fun activities to lure kids in. As added incentive, prizes will be given to all children who fill out their reading logs and participate in Summer Reading events. Pre-readers can participate by having someone read to them. To entice young people to use Oakland's libraries, the Library's Children's Services Department has lined up a summer's worth of free events featuring live animals, puppet shows, storytelling, music, magic, comedy, arts and crafts, and more. Prizes include books and tickets to fun and educational attractions.

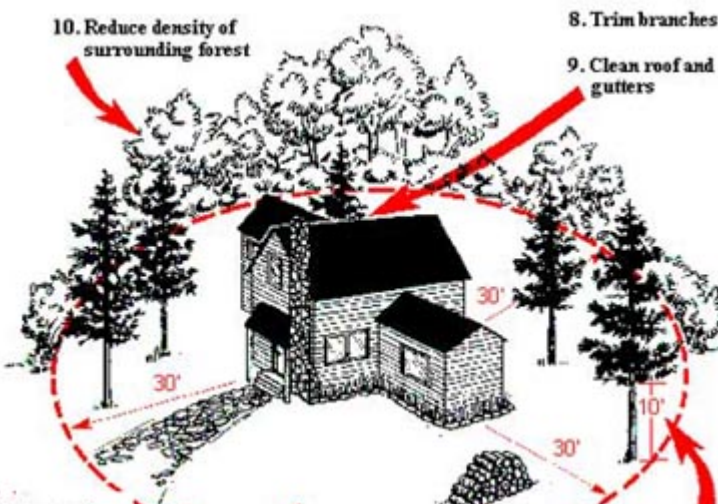


Turfin 247 All Styles Dance Tournament: "For the Movement", Saturday, June 25, 2- 6 pm, Allendale Rec Center, 3711 Suter Street, off of 35th Avenue. Free event for teens, sponsored by the Laurel District Association, the Laurel Merchants, Urban Shield Security, Allendale Recreation center and Turfin 247. Watch [Turfin 247's "I-Dummy" Featured on National TV.](#)



East Oakland Sports Complex Opens Thursday, June 30, 4 pm, 9161 Edes Avenue: We recommended delaying the opening because the new center did not have a budget for staff. Council President Larry Reid and the Office of Parks & Recreation have come up with an alternative plan of fees and fundraising. They invite you to the grand opening of the East Oakland Sports Complex.

8. Safe and Healthy Oakland



ITS FIRE SEASON, INSPECTIONS BEGAN LAST WEEK: Part of Oakland's unique beauty is that our diverse terrain includes urban forests. One of my first projects as a Council Member was working with hill residents to establish the Wild Fire Prevention District. **One of the main features of that district is a program of annual inspections by the Oakland Fire Department. For residents living within**



the District, annual inspections started June 15. Go to the [City website](#) for more information: a map of the district, the phone numbers of the Fire Inspectors and tips on protecting your home.

County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Workshops: The public is invited to help develop a community wildfire protection plan for Alameda County. While Oakland has a plan for the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, there is no such plan for wildfire prone areas outside of Oakland. The workshops will focus on wildfire risks and hazards from Berkeley to Fremont. Please share your concerns and local knowledge. [Register here](#). For questions, contact [Cheryl Miller](#) at 536-143.

- **Saturday, July 16, 9 am-Noon**, Fremont Fire Administration Building, 3300 Capital Avenue, Building A, Fremont.
- **Saturday, July 23, 9 am-Noon**, Oakland Trudeau Center, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland
- **Saturday, July 30, 9 am-Noon**, Dublin Regional Meeting Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Dublin

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

9. Circle Your Calendar.

Seeking Items for Upcoming Friends of the Oakland Animal Shelter Yard Sale this Summer: Help support our pets in need by donating gently used household items for the upcoming fund raiser yard sale. Each item should have at least at \$10 value. All electrical & battery operated equipment should be in working condition. Include any manuals, and all pieces. Wash or dry clean clothing. Dust or clean any equipment. Contact [Amy Haddix](#) or [Jamin Hawks](#) for pick up.

Celebrate National Parks & Recreation Month, July 1-30, Play Day on the Plaza, Friday, July 1, 11-2 pm: Join the Office of Parks & Recreation as they kick off National Parks & Recreation Month with a festival on City Hall Plaza. Bring the entire family. Activities include: Face Painting; Double Dutch; Drumming; Cultural Art Presentations; Basketball and Jumpers. Families and Groups Welcome! Check the website for scheduled open houses at the City's Recreation Centers.



For additional information, please call 510-238-7275; or visit www.oaklandnet.com/parks.

Oakland Municipal Band 100th Concert Season, July 4, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 1-3 pm, Lakeside Park: The Free Concerts are conducted by Troy Davis and performed by 35 musicians featuring an array of jazz, contemporary, pop, big band, international, classical, marches and show tunes. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Picnics welcomed and Flag waving encouraged. For more information, please call 339-2818.



Oliver! at Woodminster Amphitheater, July 8-17: Enjoy musical theater in Oakland's wonderful 2000-seat Woodminster



Amphitheater in Joaquin Miller Park. Tickets and details at www.woodminster.com.

<<Kelsey Venter as Nancy and Grant Lowenstein as the Artful Dodger in Woodminster Summer Theater's Oliver!

Bay Area BBQ Championship/Oakland A's vs. LA Angels at the Oakland Coliseum, Saturday, July 16, 9:30 am/ First Pitch 1:05 pm: Celebrity judges Cesley "Sully" Sullenberger (Hero of the Hudson), Liam Mayclem (Foodie Chap from CBS 5-Eye on the Bay), Joey Altman (celebrity chef, author), Narsai David (KCBS Food & Wine editor), Amy B Sherman (Cooking with Amy), Stan Burger (KCBS Morning Anchor) Doug Sovern (KCBS News Reporter), Brad Levy (Owner/Chef Firefly Restaurant). Live performance by La Toya London, and AFS Children's Guardian Award to Senator John Burton. Proceeds support Alternative Family Services, providing care for foster youth. For details, go to <http://www.bayareabbq.org/>.



Inaugural Oakland Jazz Festival, Saturday, July 23, Dunsmuir-Hellman Historic Estate: KBLX and OPR sponsor what we hope will become an annual musical event celebrating Oakland's musical roots. Tickets (\$57.75+ convenience fee) go on sale starting Friday, May 13. General Admission (Picnic style seating-No reserve seats). Advance tickets available at the Paramount Theatre Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets and ticketmaster.com.

Pre Sale Code word: **JAZZ** **LINK TO:** <http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/1C0046A3B7296253?artistid=1593929&majorcatid=10001&minorcatid=766>

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

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



East Bay Food Fight--Eat, Drink and Battle to End Poverty, Saturday, July 23, Jack London Square Pavilion: Top chefs, sumptuous food and drink, celebrity VIPs and those who love food come together on Saturday, July 23 to support St. Vincent de



Paul's Kitchen of Champions Culinary Training Program. In its first 3 years, the program has graduated more than 200 students; 70% have gained jobs in the food industry. At the East

Bay Food Fight, six of the East Bay's most noted executive chefs will battle it out on stage for a panel of VIP judges with discriminating palates. Taste your way through summer signature menu offerings from 40 of the east Bay's finest restaurants, breweries and wineries. Sample the special Food Fight signature cocktails, gaze height-of-the-summer produce from local farms and delight at culinary demos. Live auction as well. Sponsored by Oakland Restaurant Association KTVU-2, Jack London Square/Port of Oakland, KFOG and Yelp. For tickets and information, go to www.eastbayfoodfight.org.

Early bird prices are available through June 30.

Above) I met with the students at St. Vincent de Paul's Kitchen of Champions Culinary Training Program.

10. Oakland Celebrates Its Neighborhoods: Plan Your Summer Staycation

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

- Sunday, July 10 Temescal Street Fair (rescheduled from June 4 due to rain) , Noon - 6 pm, Telegraph Avenue between 45th and 51st, North Oakland
- Friday, July 15 8th Annual USOA Healthy Living Festival, 8 am-2 pm, Oakland Zoo, Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road
- Saturday, July 23, First Oakland Jazz Festival, Noon, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate
- Saturday, August 13, Laurel Street Fair, featuring the John Santos Sextet, creative crafts, merchants and more
- Saturday-Sunday, August 20-21 Art & Soul, Civic Center
- Saturday-Sunday, August 27-28 Chinatown Street Fest, Chinatown
- Sunday, September 4, Oakland Gay Pride Festival, Uptown
- Saturday, September 10, Noon - 5 pm, Day in the Park, Maxwell Park
- Sunday, September 18, Sundays in the Redwoods, Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday, September 25, Sundays in the Redwoods, Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday September 25, 7th Annual Oakland Grand Prix of Cycling, Civic Center
- Sunday, September 25, Out & About in Rockridge
- Saturday, October 1, Black Cowboy Parade, DeFremery Park
- Saturday, October 1, Oaklavia!, Over 4000 people attended [Walk Oakland-Bike Oakland](#) (WOBO)'s first [Oaklavia](#) in June of last year. This year, the event has been moved to September, where pedestrians, and bicyclists can enjoy a no-auto Broadway and parts of Telegraph from Old Oakland to Uptown. There will be alking, running, biking, eating, shopping, dancing and playing in the street.
- Saturday, October 1, 11 am-6 pm. Oakttoberfest in the Dimond
- Sunday, October 2, Sundays in the Redwoods, Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Sunday, October 9 Sundays in the Redwoods, Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park
- Saturday, October 22, 20th Anniversary of 1991 Firestorm-- 9 am Rockridge BART Tile Wall; 10:30 am Remembrance Ceremony Gateway Exhibit Center; Emergency Preparedness Fair, Noon - 4 pm, Lake Temescal



Try it FREE today.