



February 13, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 6



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from
Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!



Special guests at the Year of the Rabbit celebration at the Asian Cultural Center (OACC) on Saturday.

Year of the Rabbit at OACC Banner: (l-r) Butterfly harpists, water color rabbits, learning calligraphy, lions open the festivities.

The Asian community continues to celebrate the Lunar New Year over the next weeks. Yesterday the [Oakland Asian Cultural Center](#) held its Lunar New Year program to showcase its cultural programs. Pan Asian dance, music, martial arts, calligraphy, cooking and art classes of all kinds take place year round. The center receives limited matching funding from the City and, like many non-profits, needs donations and more participants in its classes. Its central location above the Asian Library in Chinatown makes it a fun destination.



*Fruit carving by
Chef Jimmy*

*This publication is not
produced at public expense.*

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Zhang.

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[Mayor Jean Quan, East Bay officials push back against plans to eliminate redevelopment funds](#)

Jennifer Ward, Oakland Local
February 9, 2011

If you read this on Sunday, the [Oakland Museum](#) has another very diverse and fun family event with Pan Asian cultural activities, Noon-4:30 pm. I'll be speaking at the theater at 3 pm.

Redevelopment's Future:

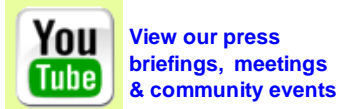
Alameda & Contra Costa Mayors, business & labor leaders in Uptown which was revitalized with redevelopment funds.>>



I spent much of this week forging coalitions to protect the City's redevelopment funds. To me the saddest and most cynical thing in this debate is that some justify the raid on local funds by pitting mostly poor urban neighborhoods against statewide health care and education. Before anyone falls into that trap they need to ask:

- Why destroy the Redevelopment Program for \$1.7 billion when the Oil Extraction Tax (\$6 B) or the Prison Guards Pensions are not on the table?
- Why cut Redevelopment Programs when they generate \$2B/year in taxes? That's more than the Budget estimates the state will gain and we believe that figure is too high.
- Prop 22 was passed by 60% of the voters to prevent raids on local funds by the state. Redevelopment is part of the Constitution. Is the legislature going to put state ballot measures before the voters to reverse these laws?
- Is the continual shift of the state's debt to local governments fair? A recent study showed that cities have laid off a higher percentage of workers during the

Follow the Mayor



Discover Oakland

The Oakland History Room of the Main Library, 125 14th Street 2nd Floor 238-3222

This treasure trove contains a wide variety of materials relating to the history of Oakland and the larger Bay Area, including books, magazines, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, sheet music, trade catalogs, and scrapbooks:

- Biographical and genealogical sources
- Images of Oakland, Emeryville and Piedmont
- Unique collections on local authors
- Sources for researching Oakland's houses and other buildings
- Primary materials related to Arts & Culture
- Sports memorabilia
- Sources for the study of local history

Please check the library's

recession.

- Redevelopment funds are the largest source of affordable and senior housing funds, how will state and local governments meet state requirements without them?
- Most transit villages and in-fill development is funded with redevelopment funds. Are we backing off of our global warming legislation -- AB 32 and 375?
- Redevelopment creates over 300,000 jobs a year. What is the impact on the economy, especially in high unemployment cities like Oakland? [See estimates.](#)



This week, Oakland hosted the monthly meeting of the Alameda County Mayors Conference (left) and a California League of Cities press conference in the midst of the new Uptown development of Fox Courts, beautiful

affordable housing made possible with redevelopment funds. I also attended the Executive Board meeting of the California League of Cities in Modesto where we discussed legal and political strategies on how California cities can work together to stop the State's raid of local funds as a means to balancing the State's own fiscal woes. [For more information.](#)

Contact Our State Representatives:

[Governor Brown](#)

[Senator Hancock](#)

[Assemblyman Swanson](#) (central/most of Oakland)

[Assemblywoman Skinner](#) (north Oakland)

[Assemblywoman Hayashi](#) (deep East Oakland)

Port of Oakland: [Attracting new business to Oakland and our Port is essential to Oakland's climb out of the recession and long-term future development.](#) Over the last month I have met with Port Commissioners and am interviewing applicants for upcoming positions. This week, I joined Oakland Port Commission President James Head and Executive Director Omar Benjamin at the 2011 State of the Port Breakfast. [Click here for the highlights of the meeting.](#)

[online catalog](#) to check the availability of specific items. Materials in the Oakland History Room do not circulate.

Questions relative to Oakland's history are eagerly accepted over the Internet at the [Oakland Public Library's Information Center.](#)

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



Schools

As Community Centers: Superintendent Tony Smith and the Board of Education are hosting Parent and Youth Conferences around their strategic plan centered on the idea of bringing more services and community participation into the schools. On Saturday I attended the East Oakland meeting at Arise Academy (*above*). I have always supported this concept and will work to bring more joint programs to schools and link our neighborhood councils more to school sites.



Happy Valentines! Check out where you can buy Oakland produced chocolate in #5.

<<The tower on City Hall has been lit this week in red for the Lunar New Year & Valentines.

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Cynthia Slater in West Oakland



On weekdays, Oakland resident **Cynthia Slater** (far left) is a Human Resources director at UC Berkeley. On weekends, she transforms the lives of five and six year old children at the Willie Keyes Recreation Center, 3131 Union Street in West Oakland.

Since 2008, together with other volunteers from the [Oakland Baha'i community](#), Cynthia spends her Saturdays promoting "spiritual empowerment" through art and music projects. In addition to providing healthy



snacks for children in need, the volunteers teach 10-20 children such basic values as kindness, generosity, community, and love through cooperative, non-competitive games.

"Forming bonds and ties of friendship and love between kids and their families" has helped her "understand the underlying issues in community and community building." Most of all, Cynthia is passionate about her volunteering because she is unlocking hidden potential -- she is helping youth "understand that they have innate abilities within themselves to achieve."

--Submitted by David Drabkin

On Saturday, February 26, readers are invited to attend an "Appreciation and Encouragement Brunch," at the Willie Keyes Recreation Center from 11 a -2 pm.

2. Discover Oakland This Week

Free Workshop for Manufacturers, Distributors, and Suppliers, "Lean Manufacturing," Thursday, February 17, 8:30-10 am: [To register:](#) space limited.

Adinkra Cloth Learning & Doing, Thursday, February 17, 3:30 pm, Rockridge Branch Library: Kids can learn about and design these traditional West African textiles.

From the Quarters to Lincoln Heights, Thursday, February 17, 2 pm, AAMLO: A screening of a documentary film that traces the migration of African Americans to milltowns of Siskiyou County.



Public Meeting on AC Transit Fare Policy, Thursday, February 17, 5-7 pm, AC Transit General Offices, 1600 Franklin Street: AC Transit is developing a comprehensive fare policy and looking for public input on elements ranging from goals and principles, to pass pricing and transfer rules, to the timing and level of fare increases. The overall aim is to have fares that are more logical and equitable, and fare changes that are more rational and predictable. Learn more about the issues at www.actransit.org, ("Have Something to Say About Fares"

article) and then give your input via online form (see link near the end of the article), e-mail, voicemail, fax, or letter.

Theater performance "Teret Teret" ("I Shall Tell a Tale"), Thursday, February 17, 7:30 pm, Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit Street: A humorous production with well-known Ethiopian Israeli musician Abate Berihon. Performed in English, the play focuses on the lives of three Ethiopian Jewish immigrants to Israel who attempt to ease their adjustment to their new surroundings through stories and songs. Sponsored by the Israeli Consulate in tribute to Black History Month.

Family Journeys: A Celebration of Black History and the African American Family, Saturday, February 19, 10 am-2 pm, The Black Repertory Theatre, 3201 Adeline Street, Berkeley: Learn about the journey of black migration to the Bay Area and discover your own family history at this special community forum, sponsored by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson and The Socially Responsible Network.



Volunteer Maintenance of Montclair RR Trail, Saturday, February 19, 9-11 am: Join other trail users to remove invasive plants and restore native plantings, third Saturday each month, 9-11 am. Meet at the canopy on the trail, near the Corporation Yard spur. Bring work gloves; large tools provided. Community efforts are making a difference!

<<Volunteers at Montclair RR Trail last Earth Day.

The Future is Now! Initiating the Plans that You've Been Putting Off, Saturday, February 19, 9:30 am-1 pm, Lincoln Court, 2400 MacArthur Blvd.: The Congress of California Seniors in conjunction with Self Help for the Elderly present a workshop on wills & trusts, health care and self-help and end of life issues/choices. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from an attorney, medical doctor and retired insurance agent concerning the costs associated with getting older and question how they can make better preparations. Fee \$5 at the door, lunch provided. Call 336-1952.

District 6 Outreach for Saturday, March 5 Mayor's Town Hall Meeting: Join residents of Council District 6 and volunteers from [Block by Block Organizing Network \(BBBON\)](#) to canvas neighborhoods as part of the outreach for the upcoming Mayor's Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 5 which will be held at Havenscourt Middle School, 1390 66th Avenue. For details, contact



Montera Middle School Crab Feed, Saturday, February 19, 5-8 pm, Montera Middle School, 5555 Ascot: Help raise funds for the 8th Grade class trip to Washington, DC. \$40 per ticket-- great crab feed AND a raffle! Contact co-chairs co-Chairs [Connie Adachi](#) or [Tracy Zeltser](#).

Black Family History Day, presented by the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Sunday, February 20, 2-5 pm, Family History Center at the Mormon Temple, 4766 Lincoln Avenue: Volunteers from the AAGNSC will be available to help attendees

prepare a 4-generation ancestor chart as a start in gathering their family histories.

3. Celebrating Black History and Oakland's Civil Rights Legacy

February is **Black History Month**, and here in Oakland that means no shortage of events to celebrate African-American heritage. From church extravaganzas featuring stirring song, spoken word, and theatrical and dance performances, to library exhibits that showcase local treasures, to amazing performers who bring historical heroes both known and unsung to life, to hands-on cultural events for quilters, drummers, and kids, Oaklanders of all ages will be enlightened *and* entertained all month-long!

My office is hosting Two Finale Events at the end of the month:



Friday, February 25, Out on the Town for Oakland, 6 pm, African American Museum of Oakland (AAMLO): Celebrating Black History Month and benefiting the Mayor's Mentor Program with music, food, networking and featuring Oakland's own Kev Choice. \$15 cash or check at the door, Sponsored by Comcast, Clorox, Kaiser Permanente, and co-hosted by 100 Black Men, BWOPA and First Fridays.

Saturday, February 26, Join Us for a Walk/March: Pathways to a New Future--for Oaklanders of all ages! Assembly member Swanson joined me for [my Inaugural March](#) and our conversation during that march, inspired this one. We'll be joining up again, this time to honor our city's black pioneers.

- **1:30-2:45 pm March/tour** Meet at the African-American Museum and Library (AAMLO) at 14th and Jefferson. Free parking in the Clay Street garage. Assembly member Sandre Swanson and I will be leading the City's [New Era/New Politics Walking Tour](#) that showcases Oakland's rich history of African-American leaders.
- **2:45- 5 pm Step Competition at the annual Black College Expo, Oakland Convention Center:** Watch the exciting Step Competition featuring high school and college step teams.

Attention college-bound juniors and seniors! The first 50 to respond will receive an all-day pass to the Black College Expo (9 am- 3 pm) to speak with representatives from more than 50 historically black colleges and universities, attend informative seminars and catch the spirited Step Competition at 3 pm. **Some colleges will offer "on the spot" acceptance!** For more information go to thecollegeexpo.org and click on Oakland.

[African American Quilt Guild of Oakland](#), Saturday, February 26, Noon, West Oakland Public Library, 1801 Adeline Street:

The guild meets every 4th Saturday but this month the emphasis is on Black History month. Quilters of all backgrounds and abilities come to these great events. They have starter packages for sale for beginners and children are welcome.



[Joyce Gordon Galleries](#): Along 14th Street near Franklin downtown, Joyce Gordon has started a string of art galleries reflecting African American artists from around the nation and the world. Her original gallery features African American urban artists, the store on the corner features photographs of jazz greats.

Also, be sure to stop by the 3rd floor of City Hall to see the **Amulets Exhibition-- Traditional Ethiopian Art** between now and February 28, an exhibition of handmade tapestries by Jewish women from Ethiopia who immigrated to Israel. The exhibit is hosted by the Israeli Consulate, in conjunction with Clay-Artisan, Inc.

<<Council woman Kaplan, Mayor Quan, and the Israeli Consul General Akiva Tor at the exhibit opening.



Check both [the City of Oakland's events calendar](#) and [the Black Wall Street events calendar](#) for happenings near you.

4. City News: Free Tax Preparation and more



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 email sayla.eisner-mix@peoplesfederalcu.org.

Expanding City Mentoring Programs: The Mayor's Office has submitted a resolution to set up a process allowing the City Administrator to set up mentoring programs within departments of the City. This will help us give young people work experience and give the City an opportunity to "grow our own" future employees.

Park Blvd Retrofitting Contracts Finally Move Forward: After years of discussion (my entire term as City Council member, 8 years) the funding for the retrofit of the section of Park Blvd near the Oakmore/Dimond Canyon bridge was been released by the State and the City Contractor has been chosen. A vote on the contract comes up this Tuesday. The work is scheduled to start in May and end in December of this year.

Council to Look at Redevelopment Options: The committee will look at priorities for the City's remaining Redevelopment funds in light of proposals to eliminate redevelopment programs. It will also discuss the revisions for resident and commercial zones that staff have formulated based on over a year of hearings around the city.

Civic Engagement: The **Mayor's Commission on Aging**, has four vacancies. The Commission on Aging works in partnership with the Department of Human Services to identify and support senior resources to address the needs of the City's diverse population of senior citizens. For more information, contact Tracy Jensen at tjensen@oaklandnet.com or call 238-3434.

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 a month ago, my staff has filled upwards of 30 vacancies in this aspect of Oakland civic life, and there are many more openings ready for you to participate. 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. Note that t

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...](#)

5. The 25% Solution--Buy Locally

If all Oaklanders bought 25 percent more from Oakland retailers, the sales tax increase would be about \$10 to \$15 million. This year that would eliminate about one-third of our deficit.

Consider The Laurel District!



As Tommy Wong, the Executive Director of the Laurel District Association, will tell you, there's never a



shortage of things to do or things to buy in the Laurel. Between the arches, there are over 80 thriving local businesses -- everything from restaurants to copy/print services to hair salons to tax/insurance firms. Commerce aside, there's even plenty of public artwork on display to keep your senses engaged. The Laurel is a crossroads community in the heart of Oakland, many cultures blend in this neighborhood where many artists and musicians reside.

Look out for the seven new mural panels produced by local artists, with two more currently in the works. Also, **to honor Black History Month, be sure to get your children's coloring book at any merchant establishment.** Finally, pick up a coupon book in any business in the area, and enjoy deep discounts through the middle of this month!

Check out the August 1, 2010 story by Cynthia Joseph from Oakland Local on the [Laurel Mural Art Walk](#).>>

And, be sure to mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events:

[Youth Dance Tournament](#)

Last Saturday of Each Month (3-7 pm)

Allendale Recreation Center

Co-sponsored by the [Laurel District Association](#) "Security Ambassador Team"

[Laurel Street Fair](#)

Second Saturday in August

Submitted by David Drabkin

The Mayor's Laurel Favorites: This neighborhood is full of restaurant bargains.

- **Full House Cafe**, 3719 MacArthur, some of the best breakfast dishes in town. I like the Eggs Benedict with salmon on the weekends. Different muffins every day.
- **World Grounds Cafe**, 3726 MacArthur, we did our office hours here because it is a real community center with good wifi, coffee and snacks.
- **Trattoria Laurellinos**: Very reasonable and good family Italian food. I always end up taking the left overs for lunch.
- **Phnom Penh**, 3912 MacArthur: Great Cambodian food
- **Happy Garden**, 4112 MacArthur & **Fountain Seafood**, 3836 MacArthur: Two very reasonable family style restaurants frequented by the neighborhood's Chinese population, inexpensive and very good. Try the family style meals at set price, best bargains in town.
- **Laurel Bookstore**, 4100 MacArthur, and independently owned bookstore with many author programs. Luann will custom order anything you need.

Oakland Made Chocolate for Valentines:

I should have run this last week, but here are 4 options for Oaktown produced chocolates.

- **Michael Mischer Chocolates**, 3352 Grand Ave, 986.1822. Hours: 12-9pm mon-sat, 12-7pm sunday. The gelato here looks great, too; but where else could you buy a barbecue flavored chocolate? The inside has Everett & Jones sauce flavored filling. There are plenty of traditional flavors so don't worry, Michael (*right*) will hand pack the box of your choice. This is where I bought the valentine for my husband ...and also the promised valentine for Chief Batts.



- [Vice Chocolates](#), her main outlet is at the Temescal Farmers Market, Sundays 9 am-1pm. You can order on line. Intense and very original flavors.



- [The Oakland Chocolate Company](#), owned by my colleague Council woman Nancy Nadel, uses organic chocolate from sustainable farmers in Jamaica. I keep her chili mango slices dipped in chocolate on hand for a quick pick-up. She sells at the Old Oakland Farmers Market on Fridays, but her wares are also available at: Savemore Market, 4219 Park Blvd; [La Borinquena](#), 582 7th St; Blue Sky Coffee Shop at 377 17th St; [Mandela Foods](#) at 1430 7th Street.
- [Socola Chocolatier](#): These are made in Oakland but hard to find, best to order on line. I love the burnt caramels. They are suppose to available at the Rockridge Market Hall, but they were out when I went by.



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

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



6. Oakland Works

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.
- [Contracting & Hiring Opportunities at the Oakland Zoo, February 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm](#), Zimmer Auditorium, Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd. [Register here.](#)
- **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 Summer Recruiting/Interviewing Event, Saturday, March 5, 9:30 am-4 pm, City Hall Plaza

OPR will be accepting completed applications at the door and will conduct on-site oral interviews for:

- Recreational leaders for recreation centers and programs
- Recreation attendants for central reservations
- Recreation leaders and sport officials for sports programs

- Recreation specialist and recreation leaders for cultural arts programs
- Recreation leaders for summer camps

Most require applicants to be 18 years old by May 31, 2011 or older, and a high school graduate. Pick up applications and supplemental information at OPR, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor or download [here](#).

Call Montrice Goodman at 238-3112 if you have additional questions.

7. The Greening of Oakland--Spring is in the Air!



The daffodils that so many people have planted over the years on medians, at schools and at freeway entrances as part of Keep Oakland Beautiful are beginning to poke up through the ground and the fruit trees are beginning to blossom, so Spring is just about here! Can the annual plant tours and plant exchanges be far behind? Check here for upcoming events for the green thumb in the family! <<Daffodils at Mountain and Joaquin Miller Road last Spring.

[8th Annual Lakeshore Neighborhood Free Spring Plant Exchange, Saturday, March 26, Noon- 4 pm, 3811 Lakeshore Avenue](#)

This year they expect more than 500 people who come from throughout the Bay Area for free plant cuttings, full-size plants, garden tools and accessories, even goldfish! This is a great way to meet new neighbors and foster community spirit. Grand Lake Ace Garden Center donates plants, as do hundreds of residents with lots to share. Plant donations and volunteers are needed. Contact [Odette Pollar](#) at 866-8482.(Can you imagine, they do it again in the Fall!)

Tilden Botanic Garden Plant Sale, Saturday, April 16, 10 am-3 pm, Tilden Park, Berkeley:

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden is located at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive within Tilden Regional Park in the hills above Berkeley, California.

www.nativeplants.org/



Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Sunday, May 1: This annual extravaganza spans the entire East Bay, from Albany to Walnut Creek! Tours are free, but donations are gratefully accepted. [Click here to register.](#)

Merritt College Horticulture Spring Community Plant Sale,

Saturday, May 7, 9 am-3 pm, and Sunday, May 8, Noon-3 pm. 12500 Campus Drive: Rare fruits, perennial and annual vegetables, grasses, California natives, food, music, Permaculture tours and more! www.merrittlandhort.com/

Annual Bay Friendly Garden Tour, Sunday, May 15, various sites throughout Alameda County:

The annual self-guided Garden Tour celebrates the diverse styles of Bay-Friendly with a new crop of home gardens throughout the Bay Area. Includes backyard orchards and kitchen gardens; urban habitats for butterflies, birds and bees, drought tolerant replacements for water thirsty lawns. Cost \$10 per guidebook. Gardens open from 10 am-4 pm. [Register by May 6](#) to receive directions and garden descriptions Space is limited.



8. Keeping Oakland Safe



Partnering With Your Local Merchant Association, Wednesday, February 23 6:30-8:30 pm, City Hall, Hearing Room 4: [Neighborhood Watch](#) is all about building community-- and for those residential neighborhoods near business districts, it's also about partnering with your local merchants! Oakland's Neighborhood Watch Program offers a free special workshop called "How to leverage the power of your Neighborhood Watch group by partnering with your Merchant Association. Hear Eddie Simlin, police technician and [Merchant Watch](#) Coordinator to learn how residents and merchants can work together for safer neighborhoods. Please RSVP to [Felicia Verdin](#) at 238-3128. Validated

parking in the Clay Street garage.

Do You Know Who Your Problem Solving Officer Is? The Oakland Police Department has posted the list of neighborhood based problem solving officers with their contact information. [Check here.](#)



[For more information on how you and your neighbors can help OPD prevent crime...](#)

9. Healthy Oakland



Wednesday, March 9-Thursday, March 10, Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day--[Get Screened Oakland](#) encourages women and girls to Get Screened for HIV/AIDS at one of our local confidential HIV Testing sites. More and more women have become infected with HIV since it was first reported in the early 1980s. Today, about one in four Americans living with HIV are women. And African American women are most affected. [Click here for a list of sites.](#)

<<Actor Danny Glover and Mayor Quan talk about HIV testing at the Warrior's half time.

2nd Oakland Running Festival Marathon Registration is Open for March 26 & 27: About 6000 participants are expected in this year's run. They are still looking for sponsors and volunteers, too.



Free Montclair Community CPR Class, Saturday, April 16, 9 am- Noon, Fire Station 24, 5900 Shepherd Canyon Road: Sign up for this free training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in time for the Spring CORE exercise. Pre-registration is required by emailing sadillard@oaklandnet.com or calling 238-6957.

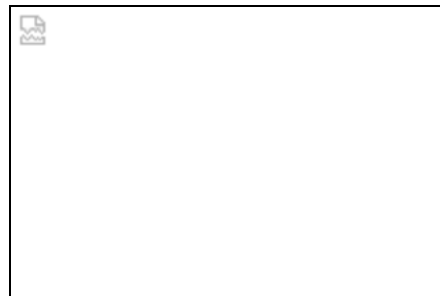
Time to Organize Your Block for the Spring CORE Exercise, Saturday, April 30, 9-Noon: In a major emergency we will need to rely on each other to get through the first hours-- or even the first days, if it is a large scale disaster. Here's the perfect opportunity to help your neighbors help themselves. If you are already CORE trained, sign up to practice neighborhood evacuation and demonstrate effective communication in the CORE Citywide Emergency Response Functional Exercise. And if you and your neighbors have not yet been trained, volunteer to serve as an observer. Details at www.oaklandcore.org or contact 238-6351 or email core@oaklandnet.com.

2011 Trails Challenge: Last year nearly 10,000 participants discovered new parks and trails in the popular self-guided hiking program offered by the East Bay Regional Park District in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. Find out more and sign up today at www.ebparks.org.



10. Circle Your Calendar.

O Zone: Soundtrack--The Drum, Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Friday, February 25, 5 pm: Beat to the drum of African Diaspora sound from West Africa to California! OMCA comes alive to celebrate the power of the drum and the African rhythms that infiltrate the soundtrack of our lives. [For more information...](#)



Skyline Jazz Band at Yoshi's, Monday, February 28 7 pm and 9 pm, Yoshi in Jack London Square: Yoshi's presents the award winning Skyline High School Jazz Band in a benefit concert. All proceeds go to support the return of the band to the Reno Jazz Festival where they placed first in their division last year.

Oakland's Changing Demographics: OUSD's Hard Decisions: Thursday, March 3, 5:30-8 pm, Jack London Aquatic center, 115 Embarcadero: [Join GO Public Schools and MK Think](#) for a community convening to discuss the capacity, enrollment and demographic data being used for OUSD strategic planning. Refreshments and child care will be provided. [RSVP Today! Click here to download the event flyer in English>](#)



EBRP Tidewater Boating Center Opens, Saturday, March 5, 1 pm, Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park on Oakland Estuary, 4675 Tidewater Avenue: The boating center is the new home to the East Bay Regional Park District's Recreation Department and the Oakland Strokes, a nonprofit junior rowing organization.

Programs include kayaking, nature study, bicycling and environmental education. [Oakland Strokes](#) operate one of two boat houses and provide outreach to local youth in the sport of competitive rowing. The complex also has an ADA-accessible dock for public launching of car-top boats.

2011 White Elephant Sale, Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6, 10 am-4 pm, 333 Lancaster Street: Great bargains. Last year the White Elephant Sale grossed \$1.4 million for the Oakland Museum. Free shuttle from Fruitvale BART. Free admission. For details, go to www.whiteelephantsale.org.

OAKLAND MUSEUM



