



March 6, 2011

Vol 1, Issue 9



Take A Fresh Look at Oakland

News from Mayor Jean Quan

Greetings!

This publication is not produced at public expense.



Mayor Quan and Emeryville Mayor Nora Davis cut the ribbon at the new Target which officially opens today, Sunday, March 6.

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1. Building Oakland: Jo-Ann Donivan-The Laurel Art Garden
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Send This To A Friend

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If weeks had themes, this week's theme would be "listening to our youth." This week's banner demonstrates this (l-r):

- Early this week I found this banner [Bay Localize](#) created from patches made by kids visiting [Bill Nye's Climate Lab Exhibit](#) at the Chabot Space and Science Center's outside my office in the City Hall mezzanine. [Oakland has just adopted the strongest goals of any US industrial city in our Climate Action Plan.](#)
- Jamilah Lawson, a leader of the [Block by Block](#) Youth Caucus, moderates the Youth break out session at the Mayor's District 6 Town Hall meeting.
- Principal Dennis Guikema and students from the [Urban Promise Academy](#) interview the mayor in preparation of their trip to Washington, D.C. to lobby for Oakland youth.

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

[New Target bring jobs to Oakland/Emeryville area](#)
Cecelia Vega, KGO-TV
February 27, 2011

- Taylor Murray and Jasmine King spoke at a bag lunch forum about an experiment in Restorative Justice that [almost eliminated suspensions from their West Oakland School](#). The report on the project is available [here](#).



School Board Member Chris Dobbins, student, Mayor's Policy Adviser for Education Lewis Cohen, and Coliseum College Prep Principal Aaron Townsend report back on education problems and solutions.

250 ATTEND MAYOR'S DISTRICT 6 TOWN HALL MEETING

I continued to be impressed by what our youth are thinking and their ideas when I sat in with the youth break out group. In organizing this meeting Block by Block brought together youth from several neighborhoods and projects to form a Youth Caucus. They designed the Town Hall leaflet, helped distribute it, and planned the Youth break out session. They asked me and Chief Batts to sit in on their session (due to the death of a close friend, Chief Batts has promised to meet with them later.) Cecily Burt did a very good job covering the day in [today's Tribune](#).

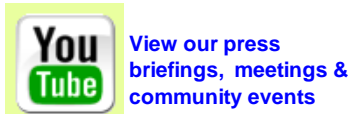
What they told us is that they were worried about the budget cuts in their schools and the already inadequate after-school activities, they need more female mentors for young women to stop sexual exploitation, they want a better education and more respect between teachers and students, they want families to be more involved in keeping schools and community safety, and we need to improve the relationship between police and the community (especially youth) with more positive contact.

[For summaries and full schedule of the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting.](#)

[Dave Newhouse: At Skyline High, it's all about jazz](#)

Dave Newhouse, Oakland Tribune
February 27, 2011

Follow the Mayor



Discover Oakland

Fruitvale latest hot spot for food

Chow/Chowhound is touring Oakland's restaurants. They started with a tour of Fruitvale and will be exploring Oakland through March 13.

<http://www.chow.com/food-news/74642/chow-tour-oakland-unpretentious-street-food/>

**[Fruitvale, the New Hipster Hangout?](#)
Baily Pennick, East Bay Express
March 2, 2011**

*Change will not come
if we wait for some
other person or for
some other time.
We are the ones we
have been waiting for.*

Barack Obama



Jamilah Lawson and Stefanie Buggs lead your break out group discussion of problems and solutions.

CITY TAKES DRAMATIC ACTIONS TO PROTECT REDEVELOPMENT PROPERTY AND FUNDS

Last week a State Assembly Committee voted to eliminate over 425 Redevelopment Agencies as early as next week. While this did not surprise us some of the provisions did, including the **wholesale seizure and sale of Redevelopment Agency properties**. The redevelopment assets would be turned over to a county committee with only one city representative on it to carry this out. This massive theft of local real estate is obviously more than the \$1.7 billion they say they need and seems to amount to nothing less than the largest land grab in the history of the nation. It could also destabilize many of the economic projects we have in the making -- housing and retail near transit hubs, new retail for downtown and uptown, industrial and commercial expansion. One of these properties is over a hundred of acres of the Army Base. The City and Port have been working for years to modernize our shipping and transportation facilities there; to protect those plans the Council in their role as the Redevelopment Agency have "sold" this and many other assets to the City at a [special meeting of the City Council on Thursday](#). We also bonded ahead of schedule for \$27 million in affordable housing projects to keep funding from being seized.

The League of Cities believes these moves are unconstitutional and are a directly opposed to Prop 22 just passed by over 60% of the voters to protect local taxes. I believe this endangers the recovery in California; we cannot afford to have the state's major economic projects tied up in legal suits for years. For [their legal opinion](#) or [for more information](#).

I discussed the reasoning behind these efforts at my weekly media briefing. You can view the briefing at the [Youtube library](#) on my Mayor's page at the [City's Website](#). We post these every Friday -- so you can see what was discussed with the local press.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: 100 YEARS OF STRUGGLE



Join Us on the Bridge on March 8th

March 8 is the 100th Anniversary of the International Women's Day, a holiday in other parts of the world started in recognition of the struggles of working women. I worked in the Lower East Side of NYC as a patient advocate just blocks from the site of the [infamous Triangle Shirtwaist fire](#) that inspired the day. The sweat shop owners chained the doors to keep the women from taking breaks, a fire caused the deaths of 146 [garment workers](#), who either died from the fire or jumped to their deaths. Most of the victims were recent young immigrant Jewish women. The incident led to a strike and national movement for better working conditions for women and children workers, safer industrial standards and shorter working days and weeks. It also led to the founding of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, to which both my sister and mother-in-law were members.



Mayor Quan with Oakland Girl Scouts at a forum on [Girl Power](#).

Today women are still facing many economic struggles for equity. As Oakland's first woman mayor and a long-time women's advocate, I want to honor the progress we have made and organize for the progress still needed. Please take a moment this week to thank the women who have played a significant role in your life-- your mother, wife, sister, teacher, co-worker, friend--and even your daughter, who are already learning how to be the leaders of tomorrow. **I'll be joining local leaders at Crissy Field at the**

Golden Gate Bridge on Tuesday, March 8 at 10 am at Google's "Join WoMEn the Bridge" campaign in support of [Women for Women International](#).

And a reminder, **Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 13.** Time to turn your clocks forward by 1 hour-- and it's always a good idea to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and the water in your emergency supplies.



A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Jean".

Mayor Jean Quan

1. Building Oakland: Jo-Ann Donovan- the Laurel Art Garden

Most drivers probably speed by the 35th Avenue and Delaware Street highway 580 entrance....

However, it's worth slowing down to take a closer look. For the past eight years, a group of dedicated community activists have worked hard to clean and beautify this neighborhood through an innovative art installation called the Laurel Art Garden.



Jo-Ann Maggiora Donovan, a native Oaklander, [jewelry maker](#), and President of the Laurel Village Association, originally helped reclaim this abandoned space and revitalize it into a thriving "pocket park." In addition to the regular bulb and native plantings, tree trimming, and weeding, members of the Laurel Village Association decided to take the project one step further: the garden would boast both plants and artwork.

With help from Richard Cowan in my then Council Office, the Laurel Village Association has transformed this space through the [Oakland Adopt A Spot program](#). While cleaning the Laurel Art Garden, Jo-Ann discovered several abandoned hubcaps and, with the help of her husband, began painting them so that "the neighbors across the street have something pretty to look at instead of the stretch of wire fencing when the flowers aren't blooming." Today, the fence itself has bloomed, with various artists and sculptors offering to help contribute even more to the efforts -- all with little to no funding, just pure creativity and donated paint! Here's to getting active and uncovering beauty in unlikely places throughout your neighborhood!

Submitted by David Drabkin

2. Discover Oakland This Week

International Women's Day Concert # 2, Tuesday, March 8, Lake Merrit Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Drive: Community Women's Orchestra, Dr. Kathleen McGuire, conductor Sandra I. Noriega, assistant conductor.



Identity Theft Workshop, Monday, March 9, 7 pm, Monaghan's Restaurant, 2820 Mountain Blvd.: Sponsored by the 22X Neighborhood



Coalition for Positive Change Crime & Safety Committee. Scheduled presenter is OPD Lt. James Meeks.

Lawyers in the Libraries: Several branches have these free consultations provided by the Alameda County Bar Association on Tuesday, March 8th. This is an on-going program. Check the [events on the Oakland Library website](#) for more dates.

- 5-7 pm, sign ups start at 4:30 pm, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, 7200 Bancroft Ave., Ste. 211
- 5:30-7:30 pm, sign ups start at 5:15 pm, Abogados en la Biblioteca, both English and Spanish speaking attorneys. Cesar Chavez Branch, 3301 East 12th St., Ste. 271
- 6-8 pm, sign up starts at 5:45, Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd

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.](#)



CALIFORNIA FUTURES TALK | Boom! A Journal of California

Launch, Oakland Museum, March 11, 6- 8 pm: In celebration of the launch of BOOM: A Journal of California, OMCA hosts this lively conversation investigating California issues. A peer-reviewed quarterly journal published by UC Press, BOOM features the vital social, cultural, and political issues of our time. A panel of journalists and scholars will explore higher education and remaking California government. [RSVP Required.](#)



[Sun-Earth Day at Chabot Space and Science Center, Saturday,](#)

March 12, 11 am- 4 pm: Build your own ancient solar observatory with light and modeling clay in the Sunwatcher's Lab. Engage in hands-on solar and cultural activities with Chabot's Galaxy Explorers and teens from UC Berkeley Space Sciences Lab's Surfing the Solar Wind program in the Solar Exploration Plaza. Chabot volunteers will present the Sun through solar telescopes, up close and personal, on the Observatory Deck. (Weather Permitting)

Youth & Family Conference for North and West Oakland on OUSD's Strategic Plan, Saturday, March 12, 9:30 am -2 pm, McClymonds High School, 2607 Myrtle Street:

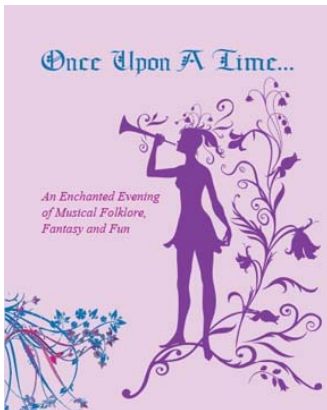
Since last September, 14 task forces have been meeting on a range of issues, including effective teaching, effective leadership, defining quality schools, literacy, African American males, budgeting, school choice, facilities. The [March 12](#) event will allow people to hear about all of this in one place and provide input. Childcare and food provided. RSVP to Raquel Jimenez at 703-4824 or email her at raquel.jimenez@ousd.k12.ca.us.



Spring Forward to Save the Bay, Saturday, March 12, 9 am-Noon: As spring approaches, the native seedlings Save the Bay has planted over the last several months are taking root and thriving after those winter rains. Unfortunately they are running out of time to reach their goal of planting 25,000 native seedlings by the end of March, so come out and help spring our natives forward! Due to the sensitive nature of the restoration site, space is limited and RSVP is required. You must [sign up at our website.](#)

Knit/Crochet Group Moves to Melrose Branch Library, Saturday, March 12, 3- 5 pm: Starting back in the summer of 2009, this neighborhood knit/crochet group met at the picnic tables in Maxwell

Park. They've moved to the Melrose Branch Library. All levels are welcome. Bring your project with you. For details, contact [Laurie Umeh](#).



Oakland Youth Orchestra's Gala, Saturday, March 12, Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue: Enjoy an enchanting evening of musical folklore, fantasy and fun along with more than 100 silent and live auction items at this annual fund raiser for [Oakland's Youth Orchestra](#). Tickets are \$125. Call 832-7710 or email zahram@oyo.org.

Oakland Community Chorus, Concert, Sunday, March 13, 4 pm, Our Lady of Lords Catholic Church, 2808 Lakeshore Avenue: The Oakland Bay Area Community Chorus will welcome spring with a Joyous Celebration of Spirituals, Gospel \ Jazz.

Oakland Civic Orchestra Free Concert, Sunday, March 13, 4 pm, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Avenue: The Oakland Civic Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director Martha Stoddard and Associate Conductor Kate McLoughlin, presents its "Petite Treasures" concert. The program features Roussel's *Petite Suite*, Debussy's *Petite Suite*, and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*. Admission is free. For more information, please call 238-7275 or visit http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/programs/ca_civicorchestra.asp.

3. Neighbors Speak-- District 6 Town Hall Meeting



More than 225 people attended our second Town Hall Meeting, this time at the former Havenscourt Middle School in District 6, now home to Roots International Academy and Coliseum College Preparatory. Participants broke up into seven groups and presented three priorities for each:

Education

1. More money into schools
2. City-District collaboration toward full service community schools
3. Parent involvement

Healthy & Sustainable Communities

1. Environmental-Pollution, emissions controls, impact on health (asthma, cancer)
2. Promote Sickle Cell awareness/education
3. Obesity-Physical fitness/nutrition/prevention

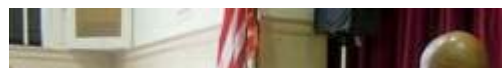
Jobs & Industry

1. Community benefit agreements
2. Training tailored to specific market opportunities
3. Strengthen local hiring policies

Local Business Districts

1. Develop a Citywide strategy to support small business at all levels
2. What can be done to support current businesses and bring in new business
3. Business to business networking

>> Mayor Public Safety Adviser Reygan Harmon,



Eddie Banks of the Eisenhower Foundation, and Assistant Chief Howard Jordan report out



Public Safety

- 1. Police abuse
- 2. Senior safety
- 3. Improved relationships w/OPD - building trust

Spanish

- 1. Get the School District to continue supporting Coliseum College Prep Academy achievements
- 2. School budget cuts impacts
- 3. Stop youth violence

Youth Caucus

- 1. Education-Caring teachers, respect discipline
- 2. Budget cuts-Make yourself known, get organized
- 3. Relationships/Violence

Many thanks to the neighborhood volunteer coordinators Karen King, Athaleane Jones, Jeffrey Cash, Kevin Mann, Chris Quan, Jose Dorado, Marjorie Ford, Dr. Vickie Alexander, Marilyn Lawson and youth of Lion Creek/Digital Connectors for organizing the event.

For The Oakland Tribune's article about the event: [Oakland mayor's second town hall full of people, ideas and cooperation](#)

Check out my [Youtube Library](#) later this week for a video of the day's events, as well as other items of interest. Portions of the Town Hall will be broadcast on KTOP Channel 10 starting Friday.

4. City News: Target Opens, Council Votes to Protect Redevelopment Property and Funds, Free Tax Preparation, Deadline for Planning Commission



Target Opens This Week with 300 New Employees: Around our office we have been saving up linen, kitchen, Easter egg and other purchases for this week's opening of Target, part of our goal to increase shopping in Oakland by 25%. Target staff told me their opening was one of their smoothest. The store features a large grocery section in hopes of capturing some of the West Oakland market that currently has no major grocery store. The store located on the Oakland side of the shopping area, splits taxes with Emeryville like all of the stores in the center; we expect over \$200,000 annually depending on the economic recovery.

Surveyors Needed for Food Policy Council Survey in East & West Oakland: The Oakland Food Policy Council is helping several community groups including the HOPE Collaborative, in doing a short survey to find out what East and West Oakland residents want in a grocery store. If you are interested, please attend one of the following trainings:

Monday, March 14, 5:30-7 pm --Grocery Store Training East Oakland

Tassafaronga Recreation Center, 975 85th Avenue

RSVP by Thursday, March 10 to 444-4221 or Sabrina@hopecollective.net

Tuesday, March 22, 5:30-7 pm --Grocery Store Training West Oakland

Peoples Grocery, 909 7th Street

RSVP by Friday, March 18 to 444-4221 or Sabrina@hopecollective.net

Nigerian Sister City Delegation Visits Council:

Last year the City signed Sister City agreements with Bauchi, Nigeria. This week the Council passed the official agreements and welcomed a Bauchi delegation. >>



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.

Final Call for Planning Commission Candidates for this Cycle: The Planning Commission requires a major unpaid commitment. The Port Commissioners once appointed operate as an independent body without further review. A letter of interest and resume for all appointments should go to [Richard Cowan](#). **Planning Commissioners** make many decisions without further review; major projects must still be approved by the Council and some appeals also go to the Council. At this point I am looking for candidates with experience in planning, the construction industry or development.

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.

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 New Federal Cuts Also Hit the Poorest Kids and Seniors Hardest

This week Congresswoman Barbara Lee held an online press briefing with local mayors and local media to further discuss the proposed federal cuts and their impact on the East Bay. Last week she joined us at one of the City's Headstart Centers (*right*) to oppose **the proposed Republican cuts which would eliminate about one fifth of Headstart funds or almost 300 child placements.** It would also totally eliminate the 0-3 year old programs. Together the School District and City serve about 3000 preschool students, about half of the eligible low income children. The School district closed several centers this year, this now the second major hit to one of the most proven strategies to give low income children an even start in their education.



Low income mothers losing their child care may also be forced out of the work force if they have to pay for child care.

OTHER PROPOSED FEDERAL CUTS:

Employment & Job Training Programs -- The Workforce Employment Act Programs will be slashed.

- The proposed cuts will eliminate the training programs that train about 460 high school youth and 200 adults each year.
- Close four job training centers which serve about 10,000 to 15,000 people a month.
- Eliminates funding for the Mayor's Summer Youth Jobs Program.

Homeless & Hunger Programs -- Oakland saw a 20% decline in homeless last year, partially due to the innovative collaborative programs funded by the programs below which will be cut. We would lose almost all of our homeless and hunger programs funds.

- 100 vouchers for homeless Veterans
- Funds for all special needs populations including AIDS patients, disabled, and elderly residents.
- Nearly \$1 million in rent assistance (pays part of rent) to keep low income people from becoming homeless
- Funds to renovate buildings for transitional housing for the chronically homeless, disabled and special needs patients.

Senior Funds --

- Would eliminate most our senior employment funds. Our **Assets Program** provides employment counseling some employment (\$150/week) to low income seniors and would be cut by more than 60%.
- The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Program provide invaluable volunteer support

to isolated seniors and youth in need of adult attention; both would be eliminated. They make home visits, work in schools and child care and other community agencies. They serve over 1000 people.

Community Services Block Grants Could Be Cut in Half after Years of Steady Cuts -- Projects that are too small to get funding elsewhere receive grants from community boards. This is how last year's money was spent.

• Anti-Crime	1,700 individuals	\$65,000/year
• Homeless	400 individuals	\$405,000/year
• Hunger Relief	1,359 individuals	\$177,000
• Microenterprise & Business Assistance	6,050 individuals	\$247,300
• Misc. Public Services	600 individuals	\$90,000
• Senior Services	1,172 individuals	\$312,009
• Youth Services	1,606 individuals	\$619,662
• Public Facilities & Infrastructure Improvements	9 facilities serving immigrants, children & youth, adults, and recent paroles	\$516,604

6. The 25% Solution--Buy Locally

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 would eliminate up to one-third of our deficit.

Consider Farmers Markets!



March 20th marks the first day of spring, meaning a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables will be introduced at the Farmers Markets in Oakland. Some seasonal treats to look out for include arugula, artichokes, lemons and nettles - cherries and mushrooms are right around the corner in late spring. Begin your shopping at the [Fruitvale Market](#), held bi-weekly on Thursdays from 2- 7 pm. Every Friday, you'll find markets in [Old Oakland](#), which serves as a perfect stop for a lunchtime break, as well as the [East Oakland Farmer's Market](#), a smaller market with smoldering BBQ grills and blow-up houses for the kids. The [Kaiser Hospital Farmer's Market](#) is another great option on Fridays in the Piedmont area, promoting health education and organic produce. On Saturday, stop by the [Grand Lake Farmer's Market](#), voted as the top market in the East Bay in 2010, serving tasty treats just adjacent to [Lake Merritt](#). On Sundays, stop by the [Jack London Square Market](#) on the waterfront, the Fruitvale market at the Fruitvale BART Station, the [Montclair](#) market near the Oakland Hills, or the [Temescal](#) market nestled between the Temescal/Rockridge districts. For more on Farmer's Markets in Oakland, visit www.visitoakland.org.

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- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SMALLER FARMERS MARKETS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).**
- The Oakland Food Connection runs smaller Farmers Markets on Saturday's in the Laurel at 4173 MacArthur Boulevard, between 35th Avenue and High Street.
- Some schools including the Melrose Leadership Academy are also experimenting with small markets to promote good nutrition and more produce.

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. Oakland Works



San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and I talked about the region's positive economic future at the March 2 Annual Mayor's Economic Forecast event sponsored by the San Francisco Business Times and Grubb & Ellis. More than 800 business leaders attended this annual event. I promoted Oakland's central location with a highly educated workforce, port, great public transportation, hot restaurant market, diversity, great weather and great cultural vibe.

Why businesses like Target are looking to move to Oakland: This weekend's opening of the Oakland/Emeryville Target is one of many new businesses that have chosen to call Oakland home. [Check out this video to learn why Pandora, Numi Tea and others have chosen to locate in Oakland ...](#)

Did you know that Oakland is:

- Ranked 11th best retail market by *Market Forecast, 2009*
- Ranked among top 10 best office investment markets in the US by *Grubb & Ellis Global Real Estate Forecast, 2009*
- Ranked 8th in the nation in the percentage of women-owned businesses by the *Center for Women's Business Research based on 2000 Census*

Note: Women -owned businesses increasingly are driving the economic health of the top 50 metropolitan areas through job creation and generating revenue.

- The nation's 5th Coolest City, *Forbes Magazine, 2010*
- The 4th most sustainable city in the US by *Smarter Cities Project 2009*
- California's 2nd most literate city, *America's Most literate Cities 2010*

If you are considering starting a business or know of someone who is, this guide -- [Resources for Business in Oakland](#) -- is a good start.

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.

8. Keeping Oakland Safe-- Neighbors & OPD Working Together, New City-School Effort to Stop Violence



40 Problem Solving Officers Undergo Training to Prepare for New Beats: This week I spoke to 40 problem solving officers who were completing their training before heading out to their beats. The group has been talking to a wide variety of officials and representatives of community partners as part of their training. [Click here for the KGO-TV story by Cecelia Vega.](#)

Overall Crime Down Slightly, But Murders are Up: So far this year the overall crime trend has been down by single digits, but murders are up. This week in our joint City-School cabinet meeting, **one of our topics was how to bring down the juvenile murder rate. We are working on proposals to open up schools, recreation centers and even the 81st Library on Friday and Saturday nights when most of the shootings involving school aged youth over the last decade have taken place.**



Home Repair Scams Return: While of was walking in the Millsmont area along Seminary for Saturday's District 6 Town Hall meeting, I ran into several families whose burglaries/home robberies seem to be linked to an old scam. Some one will come to the door with an a price probably too low to believe for some home repair or yard improvement. While you are outside usually in the back yard negotiating a price, the accomplice burgles your home.

Person of Interest in Assault Investigation: The Oakland Police Department is asking for the public's help in identifying the man in this video, whom the police are calling a "person of interest," not a suspect, in the February 7 sexual assault of a woman in the Lake Merritt area. Video on the [OaklandNorth](#)

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. Circle Your Calendar.

First Friday's are for the [Art Murmur](#):

While much of the Murmur is in the twenties along Telegraph Ave, don't miss the galleries in the Temescal and enjoy the great cafes there. This is a standing date with my husband, this Friday we started at the [Slate Gallery](#), at 4770 Telegraph for Hiroko To's exhibit (*right*), she is from our sister city



Fukuoka. We also stopped at the [Great Wall outdoor film screening](#) (*far right*). The April Show on the Great Wall will be entirely dedicated to Oakland, Oakland artists and artists who have something to say about this great city. From now until Friday, **March 18th**, they are accepting video art, short movies and documentaries about Oakland or by East Bay artists (our location boundaries are loose - our West Bay neighbors are invited to submit artwork too!)



Rockin' Robins Kicks Off Another Round of Fun Programs for Families at the Library: The popular Rockin' Robins program resumes this month with programs for families with babies newborns to 12 months). This month brings three different programs--Spanish and Chinese translation available at selected branches:

Main Library-Children's Room, 238-3615

Saturday March 12, 10:30 AM - Your Baby's Sleeping Issues.

Saturday March 19, 10:30 AM - Yoga For You and Your Baby.

81st Ave Branch, 615-5812

Saturday March 12, 10:30 AM Your Baby's Health.

Cesar Chavez Branch, 535-5620

Saturday March 12, 1:30 PM - Yoga For You and Your Baby.

West Oakland Branch, 238-7352

Saturday March 19, 1:30 PM - Your Baby's Health.

Saturday March 26, 1:30 PM - Your Baby's Sleeping Issues

Birds of the Sausal Creek Watershed, Wednesday, March 16, 7-9 pm, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue: [Friends of Sausal Creek's](#) next meeting hosts Glen Tepke and his presentation on the fantastic birds of the Sausal Creek Watershed. Glen will use his photos to explain how to identify the common--and no so common-species, describe their habits and habitats, and give tips on where and when to look for them in our own urban wildlife refuge.

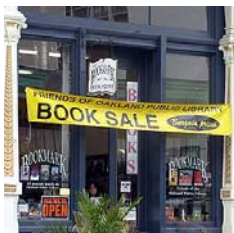


St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Thursday, March 17, Noon- 1 pm, Oakland City Center Plaza: Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! Join Oakland City Center honor this festive holiday with a special performance by **Driving with Fergus**.

Maxwell Park Garden Swap, Sunday, March 20, 4:30-5:15 pm, Maxwell Park picnic tables:

Bring your extra seeds, starter plants and garden-grown fruit and vegetables to share. Last year compost worms were a hit. There is a desire for local eggs and more. MP Garden Swaps are held the third Sunday of the month through October. For details, contact Brenda Hansen at myelin@ix.netcom.com.

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.



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>.

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!

