



Temescal News & Views

THE VOICE OF NORTH OAKLAND'S TEMESCAL NEIGHBORHOOD

JULY/AUGUST 2014

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Temescal Neighbors Together
(TNT)

OUR MISSION

TNT seeks to enhance the quality of life in our diverse community through revitalization of our homes, business, schools, and public services by providing an ongoing forum for community education, interaction, and empowerment.

EDITORIAL POLICY

TN&V publishes submissions from community members. We do not fact-check, although we correct inaccuracies when we find them. We strive to achieve an unbiased tone and may edit articles accordingly, but ultimately TN&V reflects the point of view of the authors and not that of the editors.

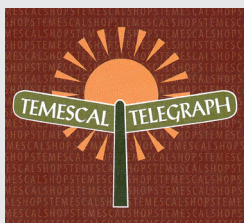
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The Temescal Telegraph
Business Improvement District
(BID) www.temescaldistrict.org



A Better Telegraph for Residents and Businesses



Image courtesy of NACTO: National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Everyone invested in Telegraph Avenue has a wonderful and immediate opportunity to make a statement about the quality of life we seek in the community we call home.

The businesses on Telegraph also have a great opportunity to take advantage of a redesigned Telegraph Avenue and encourage more people to shop and dine here and stay longer.

We know a Telegraph Ave. reimagined for people will create a more inviting main street in Temescal for all who love our iconic East Bay Avenue, and will generate more retail activity in the process. We are confident Telegraph can be improved for people while at the same time providing good access for locals and visitors needing to drive, and for our patrons and staff who take public transit. It's a win-win.

As Oakland transitions to a greener city, people of all ages are walking, bicycling, and taking transit in record numbers. Kids walk and bike to school and to see their friends. Young and old sit in cafes along the avenue, stroll to the farmer's market, and walk their dogs. For those with mobility issues and our seniors, walking is key to self-sufficiency. For all of us,

We support repurposing Telegraph for its people, as part of the City's Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets Plan. We support bringing Telegraph down to one traffic lane in each direction, with a center turn lane, keeping parking lanes, and adding protected bikeways along the curb.

a Telegraph full of people, a safe Telegraph, a shared Telegraph is a better Telegraph.

We inherited a Telegraph redesigned in the 1950's for cars, and now the street suffers from speeding cars and a crash every week. Just recently, we lost one of our own neighbors to a fatal hit-and-run at 51st. We still have all the ingredients in place for a great Telegraph Ave., we just need to take the next step to making it safer and friendlier.

We support repurposing Telegraph for its

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A Better Telegraph *continued from page 1*

people, as part of the City's Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets Plan. We support bringing the street down to one traffic lane in each direction, with a center turn lane, keeping parking lanes, and adding protected bikeways along the curb as shown in the image on p. 1. This redesign will make traffic predictable and make drivers more aware of the shoppers and residents around them. It will significantly improve safety of people crossing the street and riding their bikes by calming traffic. It will also make Telegraph Avenue a much safer street at night because more people are the best deterrents to crime.

Protected bikeways will of course encourage many more people to bicycle Telegraph Avenue and shop here. When we hear that people spend more money overall walking and

Our vision of a better Telegraph may seem ambitious, but it's possible with careful planning and attention to detail.

bicycling to local businesses, we believe it. We see it every day. People on Telegraph are continually stopping to grab a bite to eat or pick up something at a local business when they walk and bike. Speeding traffic just zooms through, hardly noticing Temescal. For those who want to drive, there are opportunities to add on-street parking to the district and make their stay in our neighborhood more pleasant by greening the street with additional trees, planters and space for them to stay and enjoy.

We understand concerns about traffic backing up, and we share those concerns. We

don't want added congestion either. We are confident that Telegraph has plenty of space for people, bikes, and cars, and we also know that there are other options for commuters who cut through our neighborhood to get home. Our vision of a better Telegraph may seem ambitious, but it's possible with careful planning and attention to detail. A redesigned Telegraph is easily adjusted; lights can be retimed and lanes restriped. This is why any redesign of Telegraph is a de facto test, or at least an iterative process to develop a street that works best for everyone. It's time to make Telegraph Avenue a street for people. ♦

—Stephanie Sockel, Manager,
Marc 49, Cocktail Bar & Restaurant

—Martin Robinson,
resident, Temescal District

Fair Share for Temescal Update - Success!

The Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District (TTBID) seeks YOUR SUPPORT NOW to get a Fair Share For Temescal of the \$8 million in CalTrans funds made available by the Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Settlement Agreement.

The City of Oakland's 2013 list had eliminated funding for any project in the Temescal/Telegraph district. The pedestrian light project to finish installing lights on Telegraph from 49th to 57th Streets and from North St. to the Berkeley border was too far down on the prioritized funding list to ever see implementation. TTBID has been able to install pedestrian scale lighting on Telegraph between 40th to 49th and on 51st Street to Children's Hospital, through various funding sources. TTBID has been seeking frantically to finish this all important

public safety project, to make strolling on all of Telegraph Avenue an "enlightened" experience, particularly 49th to 51st.

Fortunately, Councilmember At Large Rebecca Kaplan, TTBID, and your requests rallied to get us just back in, within the funding line!

What happens next? We are project 23 on the list, the last to be funded. We're being told that we have to wait our turn in line for the other 22 projects to be completed before our \$259,000 lighting project can be implemented. Please visit: <http://www.rockridge.org/news/city-releases-updated-caldecott-project-list> to get an idea of the large scale of many of the projects. It could take years before we can install the lights with budget overruns and other unforeseen circumstances hampering the possibilities.

The pedestrian lights contribute to improve public safety, a vital concern for all Oaklanders, with our police force so diminished since 2010, while some of the other projects on the list are amenities!

Tell your elected officials to act now to allocate a Fair Share For Temescal in 2014, not sometime in the who knows distant future, or not at all if the funds are depleted:

- Councilmember Dan Kalb (District 1):
dkalb@oaklandnet.com (510) 238-7001
- Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan
(At Large): rkaplan@oaklandnet.com
(510) 238-7008
- Mayor Jean Quan: jquan@oaklandnet.com
(510) 238-314101
- Brooke Levin, Director Public Works:
blevin@oaklandnet.com (510) 238-4470

Security Patrol Launches in Temescal

Everyone who lives in or visits Temescal should feel safe here. Far too many people don't, and a campaign to fund a neighborhood security patrol was launched in April to address that. Subscribers to the campaign succeeded in funding a 6-month patrol with Intervention Group, Inc. (IGI), and the patrol started mid-June. The patrol covers 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a minimum of four passes by each subscribing household.

What those of us who have signed up for the patrol want is to explore the possibility of doing something together to make our neighborhood safer right now.

Anyone who lives in the area to be patrolled can sign up with IGI for a cost of \$25 per month. The area to be patrolled is bounded by Telegraph to the west, 51st to the north, Broadway to the east, and 40th to the south. Not everyone is able or willing to pay the \$25/month for the patrol, but those who can't/don't opt in can still benefit from the extra eyes and ears on the street. Anyone can call to report problematic situations to IGI during the patrol hours, regardless of whether they are a contributor/subscriber or not.

IGI and all other security companies are overseen by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). All IGI patrol officers complete a training program in accordance with BSIS, with ongoing training thereafter, and are checked through the Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigative Services, DMV (with

quarterly driving checks), drug screening and thorough background and reference checks.

The patrol is fundamentally about community safety and preventing people from being hurt or from hurting others. The patrol is not about privatizing security, creating private police, or replacing the City and OPD's responsibility to create an environment where we are all safe.

This is not an "either/or" situation. It's a "both/and" situation. We absolutely need to continue to get to know our neighbors, attend block parties, organize walking groups, pick up litter, report suspicious behavior, support our local schools, and advocate for effective constitutional policing. But while we engage in these activities we need to be safe now. And while the City's and our individual efforts are important, neighborhoods can also organize for mutual benefit.

One of the criticisms I've heard about hiring security patrols is that by doing so, those residents or neighborhoods are turning their backs on their neighbors and their community. All I can say is that isn't the case for me. As someone who has hosted numerous neighborhood block parties, happy hours, national night outs, been part of a weekly litter pick-up for the last 4 years, and volunteered on the Temescal-Telegraph Business Improvement District, I know my neighbors and engage with my community. I've also donated to both Emerson and Oakland International High School, in addition to being a major contributor to the effort to renew Measure Y. But that's not enough to keep me safe. I know this because I've been robbed twice in front of my own home, once at gunpoint.

What those of us who have signed up

Initial findings from the Rockridge patrols launched last November indicate a significant 43% decline in burglaries and robberies relative to what would have been predicted absent the patrols.

for the patrol want is to explore the possibility of doing something together to make our neighborhood safer right now. I've heard concerns that by implementing a security patrol, we're becoming a community where people we don't recognize as neighbors may be suspect. But that won't be a by-product of having patrols. That's already happening. I'm not suspect of people I don't know or recognize. I'm suspect of someone who is looking into my neighbor's backyard, or has driven around the block 3 times.

There are no long-term studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of security patrols, but initial findings from the Rockridge patrols which launched November 4 of last year indicate a significant 43% decline in burglaries and robberies relative to what would have been predicted absent the patrols. I have no doubt that many of the people who signed up for the patrol, myself included, are not entirely convinced that crime will go down in Temescal because of the patrols. But every single person I've spoken with who lives in a neighborhood that has implemented a security patrol has said that crime has gone down, in some cases to zero, since starting the patrol.

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TEMESCAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Security Patrol

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People have asked who to call: OPD or the patrol. If there is the slightest hint of an emergency or possible violence, call 911 first, then call the patrol. If a totally non-violent, non-emergent situation, call the patrol first and then call non-emergency OPD.

Anyone within the patrol area can call IGI if they need help—this includes subscribers and non-subscribers. However, IGI can only enter property where subscribers have a signed contract with them. The number to contact IGI for patrol/dispatch is 1-877-272-8765.

Please introduce yourself to the IGI officers. It will take time for the officers to integrate, meet residents, earn the trust and cooperation of the community, and generally understand the personality and traffic of the neighborhood. The more people the officers get to know, the more effective and familiar their services will become.

New subscribers can still sign up for the patrol service during the 6-month trial period. Email help@SaferTemescal.org for how to do that or for more information about the patrol.

By the end of the trial period, the subscriber base will have to grow to about 250 from the current 100+ or we will have to reduce coverage. Safer Rockridge has generously volunteered to provide periodic crime data analysis for all of us to evaluate the trial. ♦

—Ellen Kim, Temescal resident

GOT AN ITEM FOR THE CALENDAR? E-mail: temescalnewsandviews@gmail.com

Every Sunday, 9 am - 1 pm. Temescal Farmers' Market, 5300 Claremont Ave., DMV parking lot. WIC coupons accepted.

Sundays, 9 am. Keep Temescal Clean & Beautiful meets to pick up trash and clean graffiti. 43rd & Shafter. Rain cancels. Gloves, bags and litter pick-up tools are provided. Call Tim Anderson at 698-2393 or AndersTim@gmail.com. More info at <http://www.facebook.com/KeepTemescal-Clean>.

Every Mon - Fri, 9 am - 3 pm. The North Oakland Senior Center is open for members of the community. The annual \$12 membership entitles seniors 55 and older to qualify for discounts on activities and trips. Come enjoy arts and crafts, health insurance counseling, exercise and dance, trips and tours and classes at 5714 MLK Jr. Way, 597-5085.

Every Monday, 7 pm. East Bay Toastmasters meets at 4130 Telegraph Avenue; enter through the parking lot on 41st St. For more information contact Bill at 510-922-8414.

Every Tuesday, 2 pm - 7 pm. Phat Beets Farmers Market at Children's Hospital, 744 52nd St., between MLK Way and Dover.

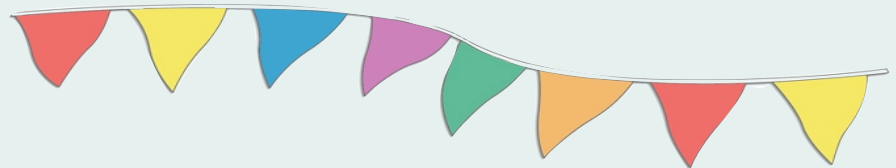
Wednesdays, 10:30 am. Preschool story time. Temescal Branch Library, 5205 Telegraph Ave., 597-5049.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3 - 6 pm. The East Bay Children's Book Project, which gives books free of charge to professionals who work with children in need, is open at the Mosswood Recreation Center, 3612 Webster St. 408-READ or www.ebcbp.org. Wednesdays, 10:30 am.

Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm. North Oakland Farmer's Market in the Santa Fe neighborhood at 5715 Market Street, in the historic Arlington Medical Center "Doc Watson Clinic" parking lot. Sponsored by Phat Beets. <http://www.phatbeetsproduce.org>.

Saturday July 5, 11 am - 1 pm. First Saturday playdates at Emerson Elementary School. Come to the kindergarten playground on Shafter to meet neighborhood families, play together and learn more about what's happening at Emerson. Repeats Aug 7. Learn more about Emerson Elementary at <http://www.emersonschool.net/>.

Friday July 7, 6 pm. Poetry Saloon (drunk on poetry!) the second Friday of the month with a casual potluck at 6 pm, reading at 7:30 pm. For the reading, bring a couple of poems of yours and someone else's, or 2-3 pages of prose, or come just to enjoy. Dessert, coffee and tea are provided. Hosts are Kayla Sussell and Jayne McPherson. 472 44th Street between Telegraph and Webster. Contact Clive Matson (510-654-6495) with any questions. Repeats August 8.



Temescal Street Fair Returns July 6!

Mark your calendars for the Temescal Street Fair, Sunday, July 6th 2014 noon-6pm, Telegraph Avenue between 40th and 51st. New this year will be a demo of protected bike lanes by Bike East Bay and East Bay Church of Religious Science's street party with live music and vendors at 42nd Street.

This family-friendly fair features three food courts and stages showcasing local performers and 150 booths teaming with handmade crafts, local artistry and artisanship, representative of the area's culturally rich milieu. For more information, go to: www.temescaldistrict.org.