



Published bimonthly by Temescal Neighbors Together (TNT) and distributed to 2,500 households, schools, and businesses.

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 TNV reflects the point of view of the authors and not that of the editors.

Please email submissions to: temescalnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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Layout & design: Jeff Norman
Distribution: Tomi Kobara and Viki Maxwell
Printing: Piedmont Copy

Thank You!

This issue generously funded by
Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District (BID)
and



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Temescal News & Views

THE VOICE OF NORTH OAKLAND'S TEMESCAL NEIGHBORHOOD

September/October 2011

Future Plans for the Tool Lending Library

Patrons and supporters of Temescal's Tool Lending Library spent much of the summer working to save the TLL from possible closure due to city budget cuts. Luckily, and thanks to the lobbying efforts of Oakland Public Library patrons, the Temescal Branch and the Tool Lending Library will remain open!

Now the Friends of the Tool Lending Library, formed in the summer of 2010, is focusing on a new effort: the need to expand. The TLL first opened in January 2000, and had 51 check-outs that first month. But the TLL has grown so popular that it often opens with a line 20 deep, and waiting lists for high-demand tools such as

weed-whackers are the norm. The TLL collection currently consists of over 3,000 garden and home improvement tools and 4,000 are circulated during the peak months of March through September. In some months as many as 200 new members have registered.

Our wonderful Tool Lending Library has reached the limits of its current space and staff. The Friends group is planning for the future, with discussions about staggering the return of tools, automizing the wait-list and possibly expanding beyond the Temescal Branch. The Friends of the TLL has the ability to lobby the city of Oakland

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Big Changes In Store for this Newsletter

In an effort to go green, reduce our printing costs, and expand our reach, *Temescal News & Views* will have an online version in the coming months. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out the community survey—your input is appreciated!

For nearly 20 years, volunteers have delivered the bimonthly newsletter to doorsteps within the area bounded by 40th St. to 51st St. and Broadway to Highway 24. Because our readership has expanded to include residents throughout North Oakland, and the vast majority of newsletter readers who responded to the survey have access to the Internet, we will be placing greater emphasis on distributing the newsletter online.

The newsletter committee has agreed to the following changes:

- Phase out door-to-door delivery of the newsletter by January 2012.
- Provide an online version of *Temescal News & Views* on local websites such as the Temescal Telegraph BID's (temescaldistrict.org/district.html) and community listservs such as TemescalNeighborhood@yahoo.com.
- Send a PDF of the newsletter to readers via e-mail. If you'd like to get an e-version,

e-mail your contact info to temescalnewsandviews@gmail.com. Please write "subscribe" in the subject line. Your information will not be shared, published or sold.

- Hard copies of the newsletter will still be available! Pick up your copy at the following businesses and institutions, strategically located throughout the neighborhood:

Asmara Restaurant, 5020 Telegraph
Faith Presbyterian Church, 49th & Webster
Alem's Coffee, 5353 Claremont
Jump'n Java, 6606 Shattuck
Mama's Royal Cafe, 4012 Broadway
Manifesto Bicycles, 421 40th St.
Mariposa Bakeshop & Cafe, 5427 Telegraph
Mixing Bowl, 4920 Telegraph
PetVet PetFood, 4814 Broadway
Remedy Coffee, 4316 Telegraph
Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College
Temescal Branch Library, 5205 Telegraph
Temescal Pool, 371 45th St.

Stay tuned for more details, and thanks for your support!

— Newsletter Committee members Dana Hull, Jeff Norman, Tomi Kobara and Viki Maxwell



The Front Porch

Dana Hull Interviews Kathy Hatzke, New Principal at Emerson Elementary



Kathy Hatzke, 41, lives in Temescal with her partner and three kids. But she's not just a new neighbor. Kathy, a longtime educator, is the new principal at

Emerson Elementary, taking over for Wendi Caporicci, who retired this spring. Kathy began her teaching career in Los Angeles Unified, where she taught middle school and high school social studies. She has a special education credential and worked for many years as an administrator in Berkeley Unified. She was principal of Berkeley's Rosa Parks Elementary from 2007 to 2009, where she boosted the school's test scores, and was then principal at Olinda Elementary in El Sobrante.

Temescal News & Views editor Dana Hull interviewed Kathy about her new neighborhood, her new job and her plans to tackle the challenges Emerson faces.

DH: *Welcome to the neighborhood! You were living in Richmond. What made you choose Temescal?*

KH: I really wanted to be able to walk to a lot of places, and Temescal is centrally located to everything. When we bought our house at 43rd and Shafter, I applied to Oakland Unified to be a principal, and I really wanted to work at Emerson. I got the job and I'm thrilled. I can walk to work, which is huge.

DH: *Many neighborhood parents don't send their children to Emerson because of concerns about low test scores and demographics: it is a Title 1 school with a predominantly low-income student body. So they try to get into Peralta or a charter school like NOCCS, or opt for private school if they can afford it. It's a cycle that's hard to break: how do you turn that around?*

KH: Temescal is a great neighborhood, but it's striking that most people who have school-aged kids don't send their kids to Emerson, and that's definitely something that I want to change. I don't

know how many parents have visited the school or been on campus when school is in session. One of the big questions I have is figuring out what percentage of Emerson students are truly neighborhood kids, and what students are coming from other parts of the city or even from other districts. We have to start attracting children from the local community while maintaining the school's diversity.

DH: *What should people know about Emerson?*

KH: There's a lot more to a school than test scores. Emerson's test scores are not where they should be, but they are on the rise, and have gone up 89 points over the last six years. Emerson has 290 students in kindergarten through 5th grade, and there are usually two classes per grade. It's the smallest elementary school I've ever worked at, and I'm excited because I'll get to know all of the kids and what each child's strengths and weaknesses are. Emerson's biggest asset is the quality of the teaching staff. They are willing to work collaboratively to increase student achievement. We have an amazing PTO that has raised thousands of dollars for an art program and a music program, and a local artist is painting a mural of native plants in the hallway. I'll know a lot more once everyone is back at work and I can meet the families.

DH: *The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law means that public school students take a lot of standardized tests. Some parents resent the focus on testing, but the data has allowed educators to realize the extent of the phenomenon dubbed the "racial achievement gap" - the scholastic chasm that separates black and Latino students from their white and Asian-American peers. What's your view on NCLB?*

KH: The best thing about NCLB is that it makes you as a teacher and principal really look at data and get a true sense of how each and every student is achieving. Some schools have great overall test scores, but there may be a huge achievement gap

within that school. Truly great schools educate all kids. The testing data opens up a lot of conversations about why some kids are learning and others are struggling. Testing is not going away, so my feeling is that we should use the data as a tool to refine our instruction. One of the things I plan to focus on this year is literacy and writing, and using writing as a way to build vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. I want every kid to feel that everyone is invested in their success.

DH: *Parents within Oakland Unified face a lot of anxiety about the "options process," the process of ranking schools that you hope to get into. Any advice?*

KH: Don't make a decision about a school based on hearsay and rumors. Don't just walk or drive by the school and guess. Visit each school and see what's happening on campus and in the classroom. Meet the principal and the kindergarten teachers. Make an informed decision, and please come visit Emerson. I will be available to give tours every Wednesday morning.

DH: *There are also a lot of people in Temescal who don't have school-aged kids, or kids at all. What's your message to them?*

KH: I want you to feel that Emerson is a part of your community, and I want you to learn about what's really happening at our school. If we have a clean-up day or a garden work day or a yard sale, come out and get involved. Volunteer for a few hours. Spend an hour a week reading to our kids. We have an amazing PTO, but they need help, particularly with fundraising. We have a dedicated Emerson Enrichment Fund that supports music and art programs as well as field trips and events, and you can donate via PayPal at www.emersonschool.net.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Oakland botanical artist Tenaya Gunter Brown is creating a mural about native plant and animal life for Emerson's hallways. You can learn more about the project and donate via Kickstarter at <http://kck.st/nc2U5y>. ♦*

Your Temescal Neighborhood Yahoo Group

“Temescal Neighborhood” is an 875-member strong e-mail and web-based Yahoo group serving the greater Temescal area. Started in 2003 as “Temescal Families,” the group has grown steadily as a medium for community communication.

The group was recently renamed “Temescal Neighborhood” to better reflect and serve the current membership and usage patterns. Appropriate posting topics include: news and event announcements, crime and safety, items for sale or free, and pleasant and polite discussions.

You may interact with the group either via e-mail or through the web site. The group is located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TemescalNeighborhood/> ♦

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Email your contact info to us at: temescalnewsandviews@gmail.com and write “subscribe” in the subject line.

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To access the newsletter online, go to: temescaldistrict.org/district.html



Event organizer Karen Hester at **Bites Off Broadway**, a community celebration of Oakland’s food culture. Join your neighbors for mobile food and family fun every Friday night through Oct. 21st. Now located in front of the Studio One Art Center, 365 45th St. near Broadway. For more information call 654-6346. *Photo: Matt Dibble.*

New “Roman Chariot” Mural Nears Completion

Several young and talented Temescal artists have donated their time and creativity over the last several weeks to a wonderful new mural on the south-east corner of Telegraph Ave. and 43rd St. Be sure to drop by soon to see this uplifting work for yourself and meet some of the artists while they are finishing up—weekends are the best opportunity.

The mural is enormous, extending 156 lineal feet down 43rd St. and 75 lineal feet down Telegraph, and covering more than 4,000 square feet of surface.

Marcela and Ronn Simpson, owners of the building since 1978, were inspired to have a mural gracing the building’s walls by their son Michael Linton Simpson and his close friend Derek Weisberg. Both graduates of CCA, the California College of the Arts, Michael and Derek started the now-closed Boontling Gallery and were instrumental in founding the monthly Art Murmur events with other Oakland galleries and artists.

Derek curated the mural, and local artists F. Purth, Kara Joslyn, Jeremy Ehling, Jake Watling, Billy Sprague, Rich Jacobs, Nick Mann, Daniel Jesse Lewis and Michael Linton Simpson participated. Work began on July 9th, and each

artist was free to do his or her own work. Financial support for the mural came from the Temescal Telegraph BID, Kelly-Moore Paints and Mark’s Paint Spot. The name of the mural is “Roman Chariot.”

If you’d like to be added to the list of donors, please mail contributions to Ronn Simpson, 4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609 and write “Mural” on the face of your check. Any amount is welcome, and all donations go directly to the artists. ♦ — Ronn Simpson



New mural (detail, by Jake Watling), 43rd and Telegraph Ave. *Photograph: Yoko Kukuchi.*

Tool Lending Library

continued from front page

for expanded services in a way that staffers, who are city employees, are unable to. The regular staff at the TLL are manager Ty Yurgelevic, Peggy Simmons, Jason Colson, Adam Twain and Blair Reese.

The TLL is open to residents and property owners in Oakland, Piedmont and Emeryville, and you must have an Oakland Public Library card before signing up to use the TLL. For more



Tool Library Class. Photograph by Teresa Mora

information, go to: www.oaklandlibrary.org/Branches/temtll.htm.

The Friends group is always looking for new members to contribute to discussions about the future, volunteer with tasks such as data input and the marking and cleaning of tools, and organizing classes. We've sponsored three free hands-on workshops on tiling, foundation bolting and an Intro to Urban Orchards, and we hope to sponsor four to six free classes each year. We're always looking for professionals to volunteer their services and lead a class. The Friends usually meets on the first Saturday of every month from 11am-noon in the Temescal library's Community Meeting Room.

More information on the group, including upcoming events, can be found at www.branchfriends.org/index.php/tool. E-mail us at toollibrary@branchfriends.org to join our e-mail list. Our Sept. meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 10 due to the Labor Day weekend. ♦ — Teresa Mora

Temescal Telegraph BID News

The Temescal Telegraph BID has had an incredibly busy summer, and we're excited about the fall. Here's a recap of our neighborhood enhancement projects:

- How does everyone like "**Temescal Flows**," the colorful mural at the 52nd St. Underpass? We're hoping to work with BART to complete a few more columns. Special thanks to artist Alan Leon and local resident Bill Lambert who navigated through a lot of bureaucracy for two years to bring this project to fruition.
- **The Temescal Street Fair.** The date change to July 10th didn't dampen the attendance. Special thanks to Steve Tiffin and Karen Hester for producing an event Temescal can consistently be proud of.
- The 4th annual **Temescal Street Cinema** couldn't happen without the dedication of its creator, Suzanne L'Heureux. And congratulations!—the *East Bay Express* named it the Best Local Film Festival.

- We're lighting up Temescal! **New street lights** are going in on Telegraph between 40th and 42nd streets. We are adding tree lights on upper Telegraph near Alcatraz.

- Save the Date: the 3rd annual **Taste of Temescal** takes place Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-8:30 pm. Enjoy an evening of food, drink, live music and fabulous prizes. Proceeds benefit: Emerson Elementary School, Claremont Middle School, Lion's Center for the Blind, Women's Cancer Resource Center, and Oakland Technical High School. Taste of Temescal is a wonderful community event, and we appreciate Temescal eateries donating their time and good food so that our local organizations can raise extra money for their causes! Get your tickets directly from your favorite organizations or go to our website: www.temescaldistrict.org, where there is a small handling fee. ♦

— Darlene Rios Drapkin,
Executive Director, BID

TEMESCAL CALENDAR

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. Please bring your own bags. The farmers' market also accepts W.I.C. coupons.

Every Monday, 5:30–6:45 pm. Donation-based Community Hatha Yoga Class at Heartwalker Studio, 4920 Telegraph Ave. (upstairs). Suggested donation, \$10-15; no one turned away for lack of funds. Classes also held Tuesday mornings.

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 in its new location, Mosswood Recreation Center, 3612 Webster St. Info: 408-READ or www.ebcbp.org.

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

Every Friday, 5:30–8:30 pm. Bites Off Broadway, featuring Oakland's mobile food trucks and family fun. Now at 365 45th St. 654-6346 or www.bitesonbroadway.com.

Saturday Sept. 10, 11 am–noon. Friends of the Tool Lending Library meet in the Temescal Branch Community Meeting Room, 5205 Telegraph Ave.

Tuesday Sept. 13, 5:30 pm. Emerson Elementary monthly PTO meeting. Potluck dinner at 5:30; meeting in the library at 6 pm. Childcare provided and everyone is welcome. 4803 Lawton Ave., 654-7373.

Wednesday Sept. 14. Temescal Merchants Association meeting. Contact Carlo Busby at Sagra for time and location, 653-7196.

Friday Sept. 16–18. Memorial Tabernacle Church's 86th Anniversary Celebration. 5801 Racine St. 652-4915 or www.memorialtabernacle.org.

Saturday Sept. 17, 11 am. Celebrate the restoration of Oakland Tech's beautiful 1917 Steinway grand piano with a ceremony and student performance. Free and open to the public. Oakland Tech. Enter on 42nd St., off Broadway.

Tuesday Sept. 20 6-8:30 pm. 3rd Annual Taste of Temescal, an evening of food, drink, and live music. Proceeds benefit local schools and non-profits. Tickets: www.temescaldistrict.org.

Sept. & Oct. Help Oakland Technical High School raise \$65,000 to upgrade the auditorium. Donate at www.oaklandtech.com/auditorium or send a check to Oakland Tech PTSA, c/o 3708 Lake Shore Ave., Oakland, CA 94610.

Sunday Oct. 16 10 am-5 pm. East Bay Mini Maker Faire, Park Day School. Enter at 42nd & Manila. www.ebmakerfaire.com.