



District One Newsletter – OCTOBER 2013

Greetings. A lot has happened since we passed our 'All-In' budget at the end of June. We are spending more on public safety, working to promote smart economic development for our city, and increasing our efforts to deter illegal dumping and beautify our neighborhoods.

This is the third District One newsletter for 2013. Previous newsletters are available on the [District One website here](#). If you are reading this e-newsletter because it was posted on a listserv or forwarded to you by your neighbor, please sign up to [receive our e-newsletters directly by clicking here](#).

Community Town Hall Meetings

OCTOBER TOWN HALL MEETING

Our **October Town Hall** meeting is set for **Saturday, October 26th** from **10:00am – Noon**. We will be discussing the **Wildfire Prevention District**, which you can read about below, and **Emergency Preparedness Training**. Come to the College Prep School, **6100 Broadway**, Oakland. Please spread the word and invite your neighbors.

Beginning in January, I will be holding Town Hall gatherings approximately once every other month. The bi-monthly town hall meetings will be on local topics relevant to District One residents. These town halls will be created with the goal of providing information and dialogue with the public on important issues facing our city, as well as to facilitate conversation and gather opinions on how we can proceed going forward.

Feel free to e-mail us with any ideas you may have for future town hall events.

Public Safety Update



Chief Whent joins Councilmember Kalb and neighborhood leaders at the community public safety meeting in Rockridge on October 9th.

Over the past several weeks and months, robberies and other serious crimes have become all too common in a number of North Oakland neighborhoods. While some serious crimes are trending down this year, armed robberies are up. And even if some crime numbers are down compared to last year, they are still too high. Clearly, more needs to be done to stem the problem and make our neighborhoods safer. Everyone has a right to feel safe—and *be* safe—in their own neighborhood.

I am acutely aware of the serious problem we have with armed robberies and other serious crimes in our neighborhoods. Accordingly, I have been meeting frequently with senior police officials, my colleagues in City Hall, and numerous residents and community leaders from throughout North Oakland about the crime problem.

Please read about some of the things that my colleagues and I, and your police force, have been doing (academies, investigations, etc.) to reduce armed robberies and bring all serious crime under control throughout North Oakland [here](#).

Wildfire Prevention District – Time-sensitive Update

Sometime around October 20, the 22nd anniversary of the Oakland Hills Firestorm, voters throughout the Oakland Hills will receive a special envelope from the City Clerk asking them to vote by mail to renew the Wildfire Prevention District. The ballot is due back to Oakland City Hall *no later than* 8:00pm on Wednesday, November 13.

For the past 10 years, property owners in the fire-prone Oakland hills have paid an annual fee on their property tax that funds wildfire prevention services in Oakland; however, that fee will sunset in 2014.

Voters within the District—the area between Berkeley and San Leandro on the north and south, the Contra Costa County line on the east and a few blocks west of Highway 13 and Highway 580 on the west—will be asked to approve a \$78 annual fee for the next 10 years. There will continue to be citizen oversight of the Wildfire Prevention District, annual audits, and this time, a requirement of an annual plan with specific area plans informed by a plant biologist and residents of the Wildfire Prevention District.

The new Wildfire Prevention District will continue to pay for

- Goat grazing to clear excess brush
- Maintaining firebreaks so fire cannot spread
- Fire patrols on high fire danger days
- Roadside mowing
- Dead tree removal
- Brush cutting to clear emergency escape routes

This has been a long and severe fire season, with devastating fires in Yosemite, Mount Diablo and other areas of California. Fortunately, the good work and stewardship of the Wildfire Prevention District have protected Oakland neighborhoods from a devastating fire. We are not out of the fire season yet.

Look for the red envelope this month in the mail.

Sue Piper
Co-chair, Keep Oakland Firesafe 2013

Empowering the Public Ethics Commission – Progress Report #2



Councilmember Kalb's Ethics and Good Government (EGG) working group on October 30, 2013

The Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) was formed in 1996 with the goal of ensuring “fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity” in City government. The PEC is charged with law enforcement and policy development in the program areas of local election campaign finance, lobbying disclosure, open meetings and public records, and conflicts of interest for government officials. However, for years, the PEC has had only a single full-time staff person. With the 2013-2015 “All-In” Budget, the PEC received a second full time staff person, but two staff is not sufficient for the PEC to be able to fulfill its mandates. Moreover, the PEC’s structure and programs are in need of upgrading.

A 2013 report from the Alameda County Grand Jury found that the PEC lacks the financial resources to do its job adequately and that the PEC’s limited power to enforce ethics violations reduces the PEC’s effectiveness. The Grand Jury recommended that the Council provide the PEC with both enforcement mechanisms, including fines and mandatory training, as well sufficient financial resources to properly investigate allegations of violations. The City Council, in its response to the Grand Jury report, went on record as acknowledging the need to provide more resources and enforcement authority for the PEC.

Also this year, the PEC itself sent correspondence to the City Council regarding its limited authority, requesting the provision of (1) a local ethics ordinance, as enacted in various other local jurisdictions, (2) enhanced resources, and (3) evaluation of its structure with regard to appropriate independence within City government. Various other local jurisdictions in California have Ethics Commissions with significantly more authority, responsibilities, and resources than Oakland’s PEC.

In my August newsletter, I announced that I had completed selecting an Ethics and Good Government (EGG) working group to assist me in studying and making recommendations regarding empowering the PEC and improving and expanding the laws and programs under its purview. At the conclusion of the project, I intend to use the recommendations to develop a series of legislative proposals, including strengthening amendments, new ordinances, and likely even a Charter Amendment ballot measure. The proposals will be publicly vetted, including with the PEC and subsequently with my fellow City Councilmembers.

On September 30, 2013, I held an open meeting with the EGG working group to receive input from the public on the reforms that they would like to see implemented. The meeting was televised on KTOP TV 10, and was covered in articles written by [Oakland North](#) and [Oakland Local](#). Oakland residents attending the meeting uniformly expressed support for strengthening the PEC.

The names and bios of the working group members assisting me with this project are available online on my website’s [“Transparent, Ethical, Responsive Government” Issues page](#).

The subject matter being examined by the EGG working group includes the following topic areas: PEC structure, authority, & resources; election campaigns and campaign financing; transparency; lobbying; government ethics; and whistleblower protection.

If you would like to submit suggestions regarding improving the PEC or any of its oversight programs, please e-mail my Policy Manager, Oliver Luby, at oluby@oaklandnet.com.

Development Projects in D-1

At the September 25th Oakland Planning Commission meeting, two significant development projects were approved. Each was a demonstration of work well done in productive and respectful collaboration among local government staff, neighborhood residents, and developers.

Rockridge Shopping Center Safeway (Broadway and Pleasant Valley Ave.)

This project will offer 330,942 square feet of retail space, a community room, bike paths, restaurants and other amenities in North Oakland between the Piedmont Avenue, Rockridge and Temescal neighborhoods. You can see more details about this project [here](#).

Golden Gate Recreation Center Renovation & Expansion

For many years this location has been serving the Golden Gate neighborhood, providing various opportunities for kids to play outdoor sports and develop their artistic talents and a safe space for the entire family to gather. However over the years existing buildings came to disrepair and do not provide enough space to accommodate the current demand.

Fortunately, a group of your neighbors has worked diligently with the City of Oakland to find funding and develop a community center that is more modern with better facilities for the Golden Gate Community. The new recreation center will break ground this Spring 2014. To see the development plans please check [here](#).

Santa Fe Community Association of Neighbors (CAN)

Last month, District One welcomed the inception of its newest neighborhood-based community organization—the **Santa Fe Community Association of Neighbors (CAN)**.

Over seventy residents of the Santa Fe neighborhood came together to build community and create a plan for bettering their neighborhood. After mingling at an opening reception, the new participants listened to event organizers discuss a vision for the organization and then chose a committee to join. Committees include Economic Development, Public Safety, and Education, just to name a few. Each committee identified issues they wanted to work on and dates for their next meeting.



Santa Fe CAN meeting September 2013

In all, it was a very successful and energetic organizing meeting. An organized population of residents can assist in identifying issues in our communities and come up with creative solutions that we can work on together. We welcome the Santa Fe CAN as partners in these efforts and can't wait to see what kind of changes they make to our community.

The next meeting of the **Santa Fe CAN** is from **6:30-8:00pm on October 29th** at the **CHORI Library**, 5700 MLK jr. Way. Please contact Cathye L. at 2lawcel@gmail.com or join the [Facebook](#) group for more information.

Councilmember Kalb's Community Office Hours

In addition to his availability at City Hall, Councilmember Kalb has Community Office hours generally the first Saturday morning of each month. Any District One resident can sign up for a 15-minute slot by emailing Dannette Lambert at dlambert@oaklandnet.com. The last half-hour, from 12-12:30, is for drop-ins for 5-10 minutes per person on a first come, first serve basis. Feel free to include the topic of your inquiry or issue when you reserve a spot.

What: Sign up to have a face-to-face discussion with Council Member Dan Kalb

When: Generally the first Saturday of the month 10am-12:30pm

Where: Rotating cafes – please see below.

Council Member Kalb's Community Office Hours for the next three months are as follows:

November 2nd, 10:00am-12:30pm

Barkada Bakery Café

4316 Telegraph Ave., 94609

December 7th, 10:00am-12:30pm

Earthly Café

5506 Martin Luther King Way, 94609

January 11th, 10:00am-12:30pm (2nd Saturday)

Broadway Terrace Café

5891 Broadway Terrace, 94618

If you are part of group of neighbors or neighborhood association, or representing an organization, Councilmember Kalb is available most days at City Hall. Contact Olga Bolotina at obolotina@oaklandnet.com to schedule a meeting at City Hall with the Councilmember. When invited, Councilmember Kalb also meets groups of neighbors in people's homes to discuss issues of local concern.

Events Calendar:

October 2013 District One Community Town Hall Meeting

What: Wildfire Prevention District and Emergency Preparedness Training Town Hall Meeting

When: **Saturday, October 26th**, 10:00am – Noon

Where: College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway, Oakland

Alameda County District Attorney's Office & the Alameda County Family Justice Center

What: Event commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month with A Day of Remembrance

When: October 25, 11:30am-1:30pm

Where: Alameda County Administration Building Plaza, 1221 Oak St., Oakland

Begins 11:30am with Children's Art Exhibit and agency resources tables; 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm: Formal program, including a survivor story, a Reading of Names and Bell Ringing Ceremony. Call 510-267-8810 for more information.

Urban Releaf Fall Kickoff Tree Planting

What: Fall Kickoff Tree Planting

When: October 26th, 10AM-2PM

Where: 1018 Standford Ave.

Claremont Middle School Black & Orange Ball

What: An Auction Gala for Claremont Middle School

When: Saturday, October 26th 6PM - 10PM

Where: Uptown Body and Fender, 401 26th St., Oakland

The Claremont Middle School 7th Annual School Auction is just around the corner. Your attendance and participation at the auction benefits Claremont Middle School students all year round by supporting programs that may not exist without your help: Design Thinking & Making, music, tech support, afterschool teacher assistance, and community events such as Family Nights - Science, Math & Literacy. It takes us all to keep our school going.

2nd Annual North Oakland Day of the Dead Procession & Celebration

What: 4pm Help set up the altars and add your own candles, photos and flowers

5pm Procession through the neighborhood (starts and ends at Dover Park)

When: Friday November 1st, 2013, 4:00pm till dusk

Where: Dover Street Park, Oakland

Participants are invited to wear a costume or facepaint, bring flowers, candles and/or digital photo copies of their beloved dead for the altar. It is also recommended to dress warmly and bring a blanket to sit on. We respectfully ask folks to refrain from picture taking during the procession and ceremony. Other times photography is welcome.

PLACE for Sustainable Living

What: Festival of the Commons – A Neighborhood Placemaking Block Party

When: November 9, 2013 at 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Where: PLACE for Sustainable Living, 1121 64th Street, Oakland 94608

A unique street festival in Oakland's Golden Gate District at 64th and Marshall Street with several neighbors to celebrate the re-imagination of the public commons with several projects including a community intersection painting project.

Studio One Pottery & Crafts Sale

Support your local artists.

What: Annual STUDIO ONE Pottery & Crafts sale

When: Saturday, November 30th, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Where: Studio One Art Center, 365 45th Street, Oakland, 94609

For more information please call [510-597-5027](tel:510-597-5027) or click [here](#).

Phat Beets

What: Food N' Justice Free Workshop Series

When: Every Saturday 11am-1pm

Where: Please visit <http://www.phatbeetsproduce.org/events/> for more information



Destiny Arts Center celebration on October 19, 2013

Sincerely,

Dan Kalb

[District One, Oakland City Council](#)