



# Neighborhood Services News

Volume 4



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## Area 4 and Block Captain Networking Event and Training

Where were you the evening of Monday, September 8, 2014? Were you watching Monday Night football? Or perhaps watching the Oakland A's playing one of their rival teams. Perhaps you were at a play or a soccer game rooting for a relative or friend.

Area 4 and 5 block captains (the area between 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and the San Leandro border) were mixing and mingling enjoying refreshments provided by Espresso Gourmet and guessing who the longest serving block captain in East Oakland was. Who was present? There was Jessie, Lolita, Bobbie, Jerry, Nancy, Colleen, Judith, Gwen, Veronica and so many, many more. They found out who went to Castlemont, who has lived in Oakland for over 50 years and who has been a block captain for over 50 years. Well the record for the longest serving block captain in this area goes to Ms. Jessie Brown. She has been a block captain for close to 70 years. Can you imagine 70 years!!!! That means she has seen and done it all.

Two weeks later on Monday, September 22, 2014, the NWSC

sponsored training to Area 4 & 5 block captains. Block captains in attendance learned about the Public Works Division and how complaints are handled and Communications, the department where calls for police service are directed.

Ms. Sabrina Jones, Public Works Call Center Manager showed a video on how the Public Works call center handles calls and/or e-mails received and Ms. Nancy Parlette, Police Communications Supervisor spoke on the call volume (over 660,000 calls a year to Oakland Police dispatch) and the need for more dispatchers. Several block captains believed they learned a lot from the training and are interested in other topics (i.e. Code Compliance, City Attorney's Office, Public Nuisance action).

The next training will be on **Monday, October 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** for Area 1 & 2 block captains. (This is the west and north Oakland area) at the N. Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way.

The goal of the NWSC is to provide training throughout the year for all of Oakland's block captains.

We hope you will be able to attend.

Renee Sykes  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Oakland Police Department  
(510) 238-7929  
rsykes@oaklandnet.com



Top Photos:  
Neighborhood Watch Block Captains that have lived in Oakland for at least 30 years



Middle Photo:  
Neighborhood Watch Block Captains that attended the Networking Event



Bottom Left Photo:  
Sabrina Jones  
Public Works Call Center Manager

Bottom Right Photo:  
Renee Sykes  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator

## Welcome to Lake Merritt

Thanks to Measure DD, there is more park space to enjoy along Lakeshore Avenue, and this year, crowds grew on sunny weekends. While the vast majority has been considerate, some groups brought amplified music and alcohol without permits. Some parties roared on after sunset. Unpermitted vendors set up, including in red zones. Motorcycle groups double parked, revved engines, blasted radios, and created traffic hazards evoking memories of the “old cruising days.”

After each weekend, especially on summer holidays, liquor bottles, charcoal, and litter were strewn all over the worn grass and in the lake itself. Nearby residents had difficulty winding down on Sunday evenings, putting their children to bed, and getting ready for the week.



The Office of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Area 3 Problem Solving Officers and Neighborhood Services Coordinators, City Administrator's Special Activity Permits office, and Council President Pat Kernighan's office coordinated with neighbors to restore balance through education, enforcement, and policy.

Park Ambassadors, reinstated in the budget in time for 4<sup>th</sup> of July, handed out park rules every weekend. Park maintenance staff placed bins for charcoal disposal. Problem Solving Officers and bicycle patrol officers gave warnings and eventually citations for public drinking, amplified music, and other violations, focusing primarily on Sunday late afternoon to evening. Neighbors expressed great improvement by early October, just as updated park rules signs went up. This fall, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will vote on designated barbecue areas. In spring 2015, the interdepartmental team will regroup to prepare for summer.

Hoang Banh  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Oakland Police Department  
[hbanh@oaklandnet.com](mailto:hbanh@oaklandnet.com)  
(510) 238-6566

## Neighborhood Services

Neighborhood Services is a section in the Oakland Police Department. Our programs foster resident and merchant participation at four levels: the block level, at the neighborhood level, and at the citywide level. We invite you to visit our website at:  
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OPD/s/NSD/index.htm>

## Reminder and Safety Tip

- Daylight savings time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> turn on your porch light to “Light up the night!”
- Reduce the chance of identity theft by securing your mailbox & placing outgoing mail in a secure location. Always make sure packages are delivered to a secure location & not left on your porch.

## National Night Out Thank You Party

On Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Services organized a thank you party for 2014 National Night Out party hosts. The celebration included swag bags that contained a National Night Out bracelet, pencils, and pins among other things. Each host that attended the celebration talked about the success of their party. There were hosts from all of over Oakland and each party was different in some way. Captain Toribio of the Oakland Police



Department and Richard Cowan of the Mayor's Office stopped by to give praise to the hosts on their efforts in planning and executing their National Night Out party. We are grateful to all the party hosts citywide, NNO is such a huge success because of your commitment and dedication to your neighborhood! We know it is a lot of hard work bringing your neighborhood together. We look forward to National Night Out 2015 on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>!

# Youth Citizen's Police Academy

The YCPA began with a welcome from Chief Whent and an introduction of his command staff that included DC Downing, DC Breshears, Captain Cunningham, Captain Coleman and Captain Tull. The Oakland Police Youth Citizen's Police Academy has been offered in the past in different forms. This year's YCPA is different because the curriculum was developed by a group of youth that graduated from the "adult" Citizens Police Academy.



I worked with the focus group to select classes that would be educational and interesting to a younger audience. The original 12 week CPA curriculum was condensed down to six classes. Also, the group recommended adding information about the Explorer and Cadet programs, gangs, "what to do if you are stopped by the police" and a youth panel on the opening night. The youth panel included youth that graduated the CPA and are now:

- Members of the CPAAA
- Applying to Master's Program in Criminal Justice
- Applying to be OPD Officers
- In the OPD academy
- Officers in the Oakland Police Department

The youth panel allowed the YCPA participants a chance to discuss issues in a comfortable setting with peers.



I think the most telling part of the whole class was that at the beginning of the class Chief Whent asked who was interested in being a police officer and three youths raised their hands. After the Youth Panel we asked again who was interested in being a police officer and seven hands went up.

Ana Martinez  
Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Oakland Police Department  
amartinez@oaklandnet.com  
(510) 238-7683

## National Crime Prevention Month



Did you know October is National Crime Prevention Month? In 1984, The National Crime Prevention Council designated October Crime Prevention Month. October has become the official month for recognizing & celebrating the practice of crime prevention, while promoting awareness of important issues such as creating safer neighborhoods. Join the celebration & promote Crime Prevention Month in your neighborhood. Share your story with Neighborhood Services & it may be highlighted in our next newsletter. You can view the National Crime Prevention website at <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month>.

Written by Jacqueline Long  
Neighborhood Services Supervisor  
[jlong@oaklandnet.com](mailto:jlong@oaklandnet.com)  
(510) 238-7750

Please join us on wishing McGruff a happy 30th birthday!

