

The Brooks Blotter

A summary of news & events from the Office of Council Member Desley Brooks

Heartlands Merchants Business Workshop Series

Catch up with what's going on in the Heartlands, District 6, with Councilmember Desley Brooks. Join us for the Heartlands Merchants Business Accelerator Workshop Series with Michael Bush, prolific Entrepreneur, Business Advisor and Educator, on **Wednesday, February 12, 2014** at Mills College (Public Safety Building just behind the clock tower). Class One: Mission and Cash. The class will begin at 8:30 AM. Plenty of parking available! Please RSVP to kevinebest@aol.com as seats fill up quickly!

District 6 Empowerment Meeting – EDUCATION

Since September 2013, **Councilmember Brooks, Pastor L.J. Jennings, Pastor Curt Robinson, Pastor Joe Smith, Pastor Mark Smith, & Pastor Cornell Wheeler** have hosted a series of meetings in Councilmember Brooks' District 6 to empower the community to finding information to improve their community. The meetings occur the 3rd Saturday of each month (with the exception of December) from 10am to 12noon at various locations in District 6. The next Empowerment Meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 15, 2014**. The topic of discussion will be **EDUCATION**. (Location TBD).

Check out the American Heart Association's half-marathon training program

It starts up on **February 8th** with training locations throughout the Bay Area. A modest fundraising minimum is required. Walking is a great first step to becoming heart healthy, and the money raised will be spent locally on community education, policy outreach, and medical research. For more information, please see the website: www.starttrainingbayarea.org.

FLU SEASON IS HERE!

As February commences, we find ourselves in the middle of flu season. Everyone is encouraged to become familiar with and adhere to the current recommendations for staying healthy and preventing the spread of viruses. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention provide tips to help you and your family cope with this season's flu bugs. More information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Oakland A's 2014 FanFest

On Saturday, February 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Oakland A's host their annual FanFest with current and former players on hand plus autograph sessions. This will take place at the O.co Coliseum and the Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way. For more information, please visit http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com/oak/fan_forum/fanfest.jsp.

Happy Chinese New Lunar Year 2014 – Year of the Horse

On **Saturday, February 8th**, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC), is bringing in the Year of the Horse with their 10th Annual Lunar New Year Festival. You can support OACC by attending their upcoming Lunar New Year celebration, volunteering, and donating to support their classes, exhibits, collaborative projects, school tours, and Mapping Morsels project. The festival will include performances from wonderful local talent like Seibi Lee (Indian Kathak dance), Shirley Muramoto (Japanese koto), Ong Dance Company, Emeryville Taiko (taiko drumming), and Cynthia Lin (singer-songwriter). A Free Daytime Festival is happening at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Suite #290 on Saturday, February 8th (11am-4pm), and an Evening Benefit Concert from 7pm-9pm. The evening benefit concert will be preceded by a reception at 6pm and will be followed by a dessert bar. For more information on the day festival, evening benefit concert, to purchase tickets and for donations to OACC, please visit their Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/oacclny>. or visit the website: <http://oacclny2014.eventbrite.com>.

Oakland Museum joins in the New Lunar Year Celebrations

On Sunday, February 9, Noon - 4:30 p.m., the Oakland Museum is celebrating the Chinese New Lunar Year - Year of the Horse with a day of Asian New Year traditions for the whole family. For more information, visit www.museumca.org

Free Tax Filing and Preparation in East Oakland

Assemblymember Rob Bonta invites families and individuals with household incomes of \$52,000.00 or less to receive FREE, quality tax return preparation and filing through the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program on Saturday, February 8, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the East Oakland Youth Development Center, 8200 International Boulevard, in Oakland.** Appointments are required, so please call (510) 286-1670 to schedule. Additionally, students and parents can talk to advisors about financial aid opportunities and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student AID (FAFSA) to help students and parents find ways to pay for college. The event is sponsored by California State Controller John Chiang, Assemblymember Rob Bonta, the East Oakland Youth Development Center, and the East Bay Consortium/Cal-SOAP. For more information, please contact Jaqueline Orpilla at (510) 286- 1670.

High School Students Look to WMAC for Sustainable Solutions

On a recent visit to Waste Management Headquarters (WMAC) as part of the Oakland Unified School District's *Exploring College and Career Options*, 27 juniors from Skyline High School's Physics of Energy Science class displayed their environmental passion and knowledge. The day kicked off with a recycling challenge, pitting three students to sort materials between landfill, recycling and composting bins in 60 seconds. The results were impressive - they were all expert recyclers. A common challenge was the bio-plastic spoon; it belongs in the landfill. This sparked a more in-depth discussion about what's recyclable, what's not and why. The rest of the day students met with staff to discuss their career roles in the collection, processing and reuse of materials in Alameda County. Students not only learned how landfill gas is turned into green electricity and near zero-carbon fuel, they also learned about the career opportunities associated with all facets of waste management. The students all left understanding Waste Management's central role in sustainable systems.

PG&E Scholarships for Students

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has announced its third annual PG&E Bright Minds Scholarship Program for high school, college and vocational students! The scholarships are also available to individuals who are not currently students, but who are interested in returning to school in the 2014-2015 academic year. Scholarship winners will receive awards of up to \$20,000 per year for up to five years. Program finalists will receive \$2,000 towards their studies. PG&E has provided close to \$60 million towards educational initiatives over the last 10 years, and they are proud to continue supporting the educational goals of students as part of their commitment to supporting the communities where we live and work. The PG&E Bright Minds scholarships will be awarded based on a combined demonstration of community leadership, personal triumph, financial need and academic achievement. The deadline for applying for the PG&E scholarship is Friday, February 28, 2014. For more information and to apply, visit www.pge.com/brightminds. Scholarship winners will be announced in the spring.

Multifamily Building Energy Efficiency Training in February

Attention Contractors and Property Managers! The City of Oakland is pleased to announce two free training opportunities in February 2014 for multifamily contractors and property managers working in the San Francisco Bay Area. These trainings are part of the statewide Energy Upgrade California program to support energy efficiency improvement projects in multifamily residential buildings with five or more attached dwelling units. Improving energy efficiency may increase comfort and energy affordability for tenants, and can reduce operating costs for both owners and tenants. The program is streamlined and flexible; it is designed specifically for the multifamily sector to help make energy upgrades to multifamily properties easy and more affordable. Eligible properties may earn \$750 per dwelling unit in rebates to help pay for enhancing old or inefficient energy systems. To learn more about these free trainings, or to learn more about energy efficiency for multifamily properties, call (855) 213-2838 or visit: www.multifamilygreen.org/training.

PWA's 2014 Bulky Pickup Program

Public Works Agency mailed out an announcement to the occupants of 90,000 Oakland single-family residences (1-4 units), including owner-occupied and rental properties notifying them of the 2014 Bulky Pick up Program. Oakland residents can call **(510) 613-8710 to schedule a pickup appointment**. For more information on the guidelines and for any questions you may have about the program, please contact PWA's Recycling Hotline, at 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandnet.com.

Re-Create 2014 Art Contest and Travelling Exhibition

Students in Oakland schools are invited to participate in the 2014 Re-Create Art Contest, Oakland's annual recycled art competition. Participants will use discarded or reused materials in a creative application of the 4Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot. All students in grades K-12 are eligible to participate in the contest. Art supply sets, theatre and museum passes will be awarded to students who enter this year's contest and exhibition. A public reception to recognize participants and contest winners will be held on **Friday February 28, 2014, 6-8pm at Pro Arts, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA**. The Oakland Re-Create 2014 Art Contest and Travelling Exhibition is sponsored by

the City of Oakland, Public Works Agency and produced by Pro Arts. For contest deadline and entry information, see ReCreate brochure. **Free Re-Create Workshops-** Pro Arts will provide **FREE** hands-on workshops at several Oakland Public Library branches to assist the students in creating artwork from discarded materials: The last two workshops are on Thursday, Feb 6, 2014, 3:00pm at Melrose Branch Library, 4805 Foothill Blvd., and on Friday, Feb 7, 2014, 1:00pm at Brookfield Branch Library, 9255 Edes Ave.

Grants Available for Home Repairs

Do you have a pre-1978 home in Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville or Oakland? Are there any children under 6, or a pregnant woman, living in the home? Or do children under 6 regularly visit? Is the household low-income? If so, you may qualify for up to \$4,000 in grants for lead hazard and other safety repairs in the home, from the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department. Rental and owner-occupied homes are eligible. Lead poisoning, asthma triggers and safety issues in the home are a serious threat to our children's health. The Alameda County Healthy Homes Department has services to assist low-income residents and property owners in making their homes safer for young children. Grants and technical assistance are available to reduce lead hazards, and other health and safety issues in the home, as well as free consultation services. To find out more about home repair grants and to apply, go to www.achhd.org or call 510-567-8280.

Oakland Garners 50% of Finalists for EBEDA Regional Innovation Awards

On Thursday, February 13, entrepreneurs and leaders from throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties will gather for the 2nd Annual East Bay Innovation Awards event at the Fox Theater. The awards program honors leading companies in the region demonstrating leadership in fields as diverse as cleantech, information technology, food production, life sciences and education. Last year, Oakland companies took home five of these prestigious awards in the inaugural event. This year, Oakland firms have captured fully half of all of the finalist slots in the seven categories being covered. The event will also name surprise winners in the Legacy and Catalyst categories for exceptional achievement. Among Oakland's finalists are Back to the Roots, Children's Hospital and Research Center, CyArk, Mosaic, Revolution Foods, Sungevity, Techbridge and Youth Radio. For tickets and more information on this exciting gala event, please visit www.eastbayeda.org/iawards/innovation_home.html.

Upcoming City of Oakland Job Announcement

Part-Time Summer Employment Opportunities With OPR – Now through Friday, February 21, the Office of Parks and Recreation will be accepting applications for Part-Time Summer Employment for the following positions:

- Lifeguard, Part-Time
- Pool Manager, Part-Time
- Recreation Leader I, Part-Time
- Recreation Leader II, Part-Time
- Recreation Specialist I, Part-Time
- Recreation Specialist II, Part-Time
- Sports Official, Part-Time
- Water Safety Instructor, Part-Time

Beginning February 24 through March 17, applications for Recreation Aides and Recreation Attendants will be accepted. For more information, please visit the Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) hiring website at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/oaklandca/default.cfm>. This Employment Information page also contains information on minimum qualifications of specific job classifications, how to apply for a job online and how to submit a job interest card for positions not currently posted. For more information, please contact the Department of Human Resources Management Receptionist at (510) 238-3112.

