

Feb 2008

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PHA Newsletter

Published by the Panoramic Hill Association

Berkeley/Oakland, California

Announcements:

PHA GENERAL MEETING

March 9th, 2008

4-6pm

14 Mosswood Rd

Bring a dish to share with your neighbors.

2008 PHA membership fees due! Please renew today if you haven't already.

SCIP legal fund needs your continued support!

Inside:

Rambles from the Pres

Oakland Parking Permits

UC SCIP Update

Emergency Prep write up

Flu Season

Tragic Loss

Classifieds



PHA GENERAL MEETING

Sunday March 9th, 2008

4-6pm

Home of Hilary Bendich; 14 Mosswood Rd

See back page for agenda!

Don't forget to change your clocks and smoke alarm batteries on March 9th!

WILL WE BE SAFE IF BERKELEY APPROVES CONSTRUCTION AT 161 PANORAMIC WAY?

By Cathy Orozco

The proposed development at 161 Panoramic Way will be a nightmare for residents during construction and will be a threat to public safety after completion, said neighbors at January 29 Berkeley's city council meeting. The council will hear the matter again on March 25, 2008 and neighbors have until March 25 to voice their concerns about the project.

Partial blocking/narrowing of the upper and lower Panoramic Way will increase emergency response time to an unacceptable level. Dick White, a member of

Berkeley's Disaster Commission, states that Berkeley Fire Department's response time is 7 to 9 minutes to any point in Berkeley – 90% of the time, but Panoramic Hill isn't in that 90%! Dick says Fire Department officials have said it takes 14 to 15 minutes to get up Panoramic Hill and an additional 4-5 minutes from the closest fire station to the bottom of Panoramic Hill. It would take up to 18 or 19 minutes to get from the fire house to a spot midway on Panoramic Hill, just a bit above the 161 parcel. The response time can only

be lengthened by the presence of impediments like construction vehicles bringing in materials, concrete pumpers locating themselves, and worker vehicles parking.

While roads are required to be 20 foot wide, partial closures on the lower road will leave only a 12 foot narrow lane open for cars and emergency vehicles to pass. Before construction begins the city requires that an engineer confirm that the narrow lane is strong enough for fire engine

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Rambles from the President

By Jerry Wachtel

SAFETY IS OUR
MANTRA.

Having now lived in this wonderful place for nearly eight years and having been involved with PHA and its Board for six of them, it is quite amazing to me how much of a one-note organization we are. And I say that in a positive way.

Several hill residents were born and raised here, others lived on the hill or in I-House during their Cal days and simply stayed, and still others came for the convenience of their work on campus or at the lab. But the fact is that a great many people came to Panoramic Hill because it is such a special place – historic homes, spectacular views, natural beauty all around, great convenience, and an overwhelming feeling of having left the troubles of the real world behind as soon as one starts up the tortuous path home.

And it's not that we take these pleasures for granted – far from it. Many of us know full well what a special place this is, and we work hard to keep it that way. I am continually amazed about our deep rooted and underlying concern for

safety of those of us who live here. Indeed, one cannot live here without a constant consciousness of when the 'big one' will hit. During this rather (thankfully) wet winter, we never know when a mudslide will greet us as we round the next bend in the road. And, shocking though it may be while our own Derby Creek tributary is gushing, we know only too well that fire season is just around the corner.

In a real way, these "facts of life" make the pleasures of living on the hill all the more precious, and we have a ready answer to anyone who asks why we are so (supply your own adjective) to live up here in this scary and treacherous place.

What I find so incredible as a neighborhood "activist" is that almost everything I have been involved with since joining the PHA Board six years ago revolves around safety. Our lawsuit against UC's plans to build an athletic training center tied to a crumbling football stadium? Safety – emergency access to the hill, and egress for us and 60,000 others from these dead-end, narrow roads. Our diligent pursuit of a recently awarded pair of

grants (from the City of Berkeley and UC) to study the feasibility of an emergency access route to the hill? The same. Our continuing battles over the ill-advised construction of a house on a steep lot adjacent to the narrowest stretch of the road? Yes, safety again – specifically, the ability of emergency vehicles (and others) to access the hill when the applicant's construction crews are likely to be blocking the road for extended periods of time. And our ongoing work with the city of Oakland to revise our zoning and require lot mergers? Once again – safety is foremost – especially the need to minimize the number of houses that might be built, bringing more traffic and more burdens to our terribly inadequate infrastructure. How about our recent, successful efforts (thanks largely to Katherine Bond) to obtain residential permit parking for part of the Oakland section of the hill? That's right – the safety issue of an increasing number of cars, trucks and vans parking on Oakland roads, sometimes for weeks at a time – often without consideration for the narrowness of the road.

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"...these "facts of life" make the pleasures of living on the hill all the more precious..."



Jerry Wachtel
President

RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING IN OAKLAND (Update)

By Katherine Bond

As of January 31, 2008, Oakland Residential parking permits are required for anyone parking between house numbers 401-701 on Panoramic Way. For years, parking spaces were usurped and cars damaged by non-residents avoiding paying for Berkeley K permits. Katherine Bond, an

Oakland Panoramic Hill resident, with the enthusiastic support of the majority of her neighbors, worked with the City of Oakland for two years to establish the permits. As with K permits, non-residents may park for no more than two hours. Signs indicating these regulations have been installed. The neighborhood will be patrolled daily by Oakland

Traffic Enforcement vehicles and tickets issued for cars without stickers. Semi-annual and temporary permits can be purchased through the City of Oakland.

More information can be found on the City of Oakland website:
<http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page547.aspx>



PHA's LAWSUIT AGAINST UC (SCIP Update)

By Michael Kelly

For the past three months we have expected a decision from Judge Barbara Miller in the case brought by PHA, the City of Berkeley and the California Oaks Foundation against UC Berkeley over plans for Memorial Stadium and the proposed new athletic training facility (SAHPC). Last month Judge Miller requested additional "expert opinions" in the form of declarations regarding the interaction between the SAHPC and Memorial Stadium. Those declarations were filled on February 22nd, and will be followed on March 7th by a final day of oral arguments in the Alameda County court house in Hayward.

The relationship between the SAHPC and the

stadium is significant because of the language of California's Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. Very briefly, the Act prohibits the addition to or alteration of structures that sit on active earthquake faults (as Memorial Stadium does) if those additions or alterations exceed 50% of the value of that existing structure. So the question is: does the SAHPC constitute an addition or alteration of the Stadium? The judge's final ruling in our case will, in part, hinge on the answer to that question, and that is the reason why the judge has asked for the declarations of experts in this matter. It is interesting to note that "Alquist" has seldom been tested in the courts, so Judge Miller's decision could have wide ranging impact.

The SAHPC is the "first phase" of a three phase plan for the stadium renovations. In phases two and three, the University would like to demolish much of the stadium and rebuild it while adding a luxury-press box, an underground commercial concourse, permanent light towers and a utility building. During this process, only the historic stadium's exterior walls would be preserved. Although a simple reading of Alquist-Priolo indicates that the plans to rebuild Memorial Stadium are a fundamental violation of the law, it is important to remember that the current lawsuit does not address the University's phases two and three plans. This is
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"During this process, only the historic stadium's exterior walls would be preserved..."

Rambles from the President (continued from pg 2)

Some neighbors recently discovered a cache of old PHA newsletters and we hope to bring you snippets from them in future newsletters. It is amazing to me to read these documents from 50 years ago and find that safety was the mantra of Panoramic Hill residents back then too.

We have been accused by some members of the Berkeley City Council of contributing to our own safety problems by living here in the first place, and by not being more aggressive in forcing the cities of Berkeley and Oakland to take action to improve our situation.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. As I said at the outset of this column, the PHA is, it seems to me, a one-note organization. And that's a good thing.

ARE YOU READY?

By Penny Rink

When it comes to emergency preparedness, most of us on Panoramic Hill probably think of earthquake and/or fire. However, a third emergency has been referred to as a "Public Health Earthquake" or flu pandemic. Several pandemics occurred in 1918, 1957 and 1968. Influenza (flu) is caused by a virus and is a serious disease. In an average flu season, the flu causes 36,000 deaths and more than 200,000 hospitalizations in the US. The virus is very good at attacking the human respiratory system and is able to spread very easily via respiratory droplets (from a cough or sneeze), contact with contaminated items (doorknobs, phones, shopping carts), touching our nose, mouth, eyes with contaminated

hands or close contact with an infectious individual (people can be infectious 1-2 days before they have symptoms such as fever, cough, congestion).

An influenza pandemic is an outbreak that occurs with a new flu virus, to which no one has immunity or resistance. As a result, it spreads from person to person quickly around the world. A pandemic virus can affect a lot more people and make even healthy people very sick. Experts feel millions of people worldwide could die in a pandemic.

So, how can we increase ours and others protection against a flu pandemic?

1. Cover your cough or sneeze
2. Wash your hands frequently
3. Avoid touching your

- nose, mouth or eyes
4. Stay at home if you are sick
5. Avoid contact with ill individuals
6. Avoid or limit close contact with large groups of people (mass transportation, elevators, churches, large stores, crowded social gatherings/concerts)
7. Wear a face mask when caring for someone who is ill or when you are ill and interacting with the community
8. Store extra supplies of food/water in the event the local health department determines the need to enforce school closures or cancel public gatherings, limit your use of public transit, etc.
9. Include in your emergency supplies: prescribed medical supplies, alcohol-based hand wash, fever medication, fluids with electrolytes, tissues,

disposable face masks (remember that home care may be necessary if our local hospitals are inundated with patients), These items are available at local drug stores

10. Become informed through sources (which were used for this article) such as the following:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

<http://bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov/epo>

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/>

Lawsuit (continued)

because the lawsuit is based only on the parts of the UC plan that were approved in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was rubber stamped by a Regents committee in December of 2006. In that EIR the University proposed, but did not give final approval for, the reconstruction phases, stating that

additional study may be necessary. As a result the legality of phases two and three have not been scrutinized in the current lawsuit. The legality of those phases looms on the horizon.

Judge Miller's decision is likely to be a series of verdicts on a long list of

different causes of action before her. The lawsuit is based both on the Alquist-Priolo Act and a law known as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We will keep you posted, by email, on the PHA website, and at the next General Meeting, as this phase of our legal battle draws to a close.

How'd It Go? (Emergency Preparation Exercise Oct 21st 2007)

Excerpts from The Oct. 21st 2007 Emergency Preparation Exercise (for a full account see the PHA Website)
by Dick White

About 35 "Panoramicans" attended the 10-12 am Sunday event organized by Penny Rink, Sidney Kennedy, Fred Toth, and Dick White. Participants' comments suggested that the event was a success: "I learned a lot", "Requiring hands-on problem-solving was great". In preparation for the morning's role-play, Dick White and Penny Rink set up several "crisis" simulations including downed power lines and an injury that required triage.



Teams were sent out to identify these sites and when appropriate, to use equipment from the cache.

Members of The Berkeley Fire Department attended and were instructed in the opening of the cache. In a serious emergency when the BFD is stretched thin, one of them might come up alone and direct volunteers to deal with real problems using the tools in the cache.

It took the BFD

Type 3 engine 14 minutes to get from the bottom of the Hill to our location because of illegally and badly parked cars, and tight turns that required some back-and-forth maneuvering.

Every usable white fire hydrant on the Hill has a letter of the alphabet attached to it, from "A" at 2311 Prospect at the bottom to "W" at the top of the Connector at 904 on the short street near the water tank. The engine crew noted that hydrant T is partially covered with dirt that slid from the hillside just above it, preventing rapid activation of that hydrant

The Oakland Fire Department had agreed to assist with our drill, but had problems finding us. We're going

to give them maps of the Hill also. The BFD crew chief told us about a foot trail not on our hydrant maps, which were passed out to attendees and the engine crew. We'll add that unpaved trail to the map, and ultimately get one or both maps on the PHA web site. We learned about two additional on-foot escape routes and the intention of a neighbor to complete another such route. More news later on those.

BFD Deputy Chief David Orth emphasized that *information* is key to preparedness. Learn how to deal with emergency situations.

- Check out the free CERT courses offered through the Berkeley Fire Department. Imagine that it becomes

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161 Panoramic (Continued from cover)

Contact your representatives:

Mayor@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 GWozniak@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 KWorthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 DSpring@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 BOlds@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 DMoore@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 LMaio@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 LCapitelli@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 MAnderson@ci.berkeley.ca.us,
 clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Oakland residents also can contact:

JBrunner@Oaklandnet.com and
 DLindheim@oaklandnet.com

use. Ann Slaby reports that the former Deputy Fire Chief has stated that the cantilevered section is unsafe for fire engines. Neighbors suggest that the verification should be done before the City approves the project.

While the developer has stated that the road will be partially closed for four days, construction experts believe that the time needed for this work could be twice that, and have requested that the developer provide actual plans to verify the time estimates. Bill Robbins comments, "Construction projects are subject to numerous delays – many of them unavoidable. Whether due to adverse weather, equipment breakdowns, delivery delays, personnel illness, unexpected site conditions, or myriad other reasons, construction rarely proceeds in accordance with a schedule, however well intentioned. Residents of Panoramic Hill have ample, frightening experience with unanticipated or unannounced road closures. Vehicles will back up on both sides of the closure, resulting in gridlock, thus greatly exacerbating the risk of the closure itself. Vehicular traffic, often including dozens of vehicles, can be frozen for

many minutes or even hours."

The second phase of the construction affects the upper road and proposes to deliver materials to the parking places between the third hairpin and Arden Steps and carry them down to the site by hand. Partially blocking the upper roadway will endanger the public safety for months. Mark Toma, a local architect states, "This roadway is perhaps the most dangerous in Berkeley. Steel cages for the concrete piers are to be built off-site, unloaded at 265 Panoramic and hand carried to the site at 161. These cages, constructed of steel reinforcing bars ("rebar"), will be several hundred pounds each, and at least 15 feet long. They will require many workers to carry. They are heavy, clunky and awkward and will have to be maneuvered across the road to get them in a position to be lowered down the hill. In so doing they will block the road on a blind curve creating a very dangerous situation for both workers and drivers."

Neighborhood parking places will be lost because the development will use from 3/8 to 5/8 of the available parking spaces between the third hairpin and 265 Panoramic.

Construction permits are usually given to park in front of one's own home while construction is done on your property, but because there are no parking spaces in front of 161, the applicant is asking for use of up to 5 spaces leaving only 3 spaces for the use of neighbors for their guests, repairpersons or home healthcare workers.

The house will pose a permanent hazard when cars are parked in the two pairs of tandem parking on the roof of the house. Jerry Wachtel demonstrated that the outer two cars must back fully into Panoramic Way perpendicular to the direction of travel midway between two blind curves. "This is a disaster waiting to happen, and will be present for the life of this property."

Dan Lindheim, Director of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency states, "The City of Oakland is concerned that the conclusions in the MND are inconsistent with previous discussions and correspondence between Oakland and Berkeley regarding sewer capacity, emergency access and future development."

Emergency Preparedness Event (continued)

necessary to evacuate the Hill quickly.

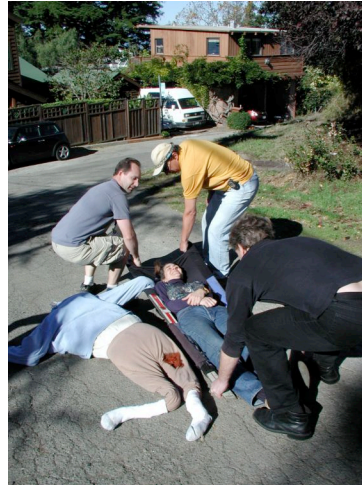
- Follow Sydney Kennedy's example and put crucial items in a backpack by the front door. This could include necessary documents, some cash, some food and water, supplies for kids and pets, and so on.

-Select someone outside the Bay Area as

a post-emergency phone contact for your group.

-Learn how to use our handheld radios, contact Fred Toth (848-5829) for some quick instruction.

Please see the Website for a much more detailed account of this successful event and more suggestions for ensuring a safe evacuation of the Hill in emergency situations.



"Participants employ a makeshift stretcher to transport the injured to the medical station."

Hill loses beloved neighbor



Excerpts from "Community Mourns Woman Pulled Out to Sea"

*By Carol Yur
The Daily Californian
Wednesday, February 20, 2008*

The Berkeley woman who was swept out to sea this weekend is remembered by friends and family as an active community member and avid nature enthusiast.

Molly Keane, 42, was last seen Saturday by witnesses who saw her being pulled out to sea as she tried to save her dog from the tide at Gualala Point Regional Park, a 195-acre park in Sonoma County situated approximately 115 miles northwest of Berkeley.

On Saturday, a joint land, air and sea search by local authorities combed through the area looking for Keane. The search was called off on Sunday.

A body that washed ashore Monday morning has tentatively been identified as Keane by the Sonoma County Coroner's Office.

Neighbors said Keane loved her dog, a twelve-year-old cocker spaniel named Beau Beau, which she often walked twice a day on the Fire Trail.

Keane majored in nutritional science at the University of Connecticut, said neighbor Jim Kantor.

To those who knew her, Keane was a warm and open person who made a point to say hello and start conversations with others.

There are tentative plans to hold a memorial service on March 8.

See <http://www.dailycal.org/article/100455> for complete article.

Classifieds

Mathematics tutoring offered on Panoramic hill all levels, experienced college instructor elizchem2000@yahoo.com or call Elisabeth 510 689 9227

\$60 / hour , \$80 / 90 mn

Tame chicken found
Are you missing a pet chicken? A very tame chicken was found in the 400 - 500 block of Panoramic Way on February 9th, 2008. The friendly hen hung around for several hours

until taken in for the night by a neighbor. The chicken was taken the next day by a friend who cares for over 20 chickens. Contact newsletter@panoramichill.org if want to claim this chicken.

Panoramic Hill Association

P.O. Box 5428
Berkeley, CA 94705

E-MAIL:
info@PanoramicHill.org

About Our Organization...

The Panoramic Hill Association is a non-profit mutual benefit association dedicated to serving its members and community. The association strives to ensure the safety and preserve the character of the neighborhood by working with local officials throughout the year.

General meetings are held three times a year, with board members elected at the annual meeting in the Spring.

Membership is a modest \$15 per household per year. Membership is not required to attend meetings.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.PanoramicHill.org

Boardmembers

Jerry Wachtel	President	JerryWachtel@PanoramicHill.org
Michael Kelly	Vice President (UC)	MichaelKelly@PanoramicHill.org
Susan Chainey	Secretary, Newsletter Editor	SusanChainey@PanoramicHill.org
Marcos Gandara	Vice President (Oakland)	MarcosGandara@PanoramicHill.org
Cathy Orozco	CNA Liaison	CathyOrozco@PanoramicHill.org
Eric Choate	Webmaster	EricChoate@PanoramicHill.org
Paul Salz	Treasurer	PaulSalz@PanoramicHill.org
Regula Muller	Vice President (Berkeley)	RegulaMuller@PanoramicHill.org
Dick White	Parliamentarian	DickWhite@PanoramicHill.org

PHA Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form Year 2008

Mail to: _____ or drop off at 650 Panoramic Way
 PHA Treasurer
 PO Box 5428
 Berkeley, CA 94705

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

New Member ____ Renewing Member _____

Dues for the PHA are a modest \$15 per household per year and cover the calendar year from January to December. Please renew today so that the PHA can continue to protect and improve your neighborhood and keep you informed with the newsletter, website, advocacy and our annual emergency preparedness event.

Calendar

Event	Date/Time	Location
General Meeting	Sunday, March 9th, 2008 / 4:00pm – 6:00pm	Home of Hilary Bendich; 14 Mosswood Rd
<p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates on UC lawsuit 2. Efforts to ensure safety of construction at 161 Panoramic Way 3. Update on PHERC (Panoramic Hill Emergency Route Committee) <p>Special Guest will be Jim Hynes, Assistant City Manager, Berkeley. Jim will discuss recent cooperative projects between UC and the City to benefit neighborhoods, and will be present to respond to neighbors' questions.</p> <p>Don't forget to change your clocks and smoke alarm batteries on March 9th!</p>		