

High Street Neighborhood News

BY ADELLE FOLEY

Stock up on library books

The headline in the *Tribune* read "City Shuts Doors." While we're not ready to ask the last person to turn off the lights on the way out of town, Oakland's fiscal crisis will affect all of us. To balance the budget the City Council voted to close down many city services, including libraries, one day a month. The result is a five percent reduction in pay for staff. And Melrose Branch, already down to a skeleton crew, will have an even harder time providing service to the community. At the end of the year the cost-saving measures and the Christmas-to-New-Year holiday will mean that the libraries will be closed from December 25 until January 3—a total of 11 days. We'd all better stock up on holiday reading early this year.

A Windy Cleanup

Warm winds whipped through the yard at Horace Mann Elementary School as neighbors, students, and teachers, organized by Jeanne Nixon, spent the morning weeding, pruning, gluing tiles to planters, and cleaning up leaves and trash. The tiles were created during the Melrose-High Hopes NCP's summer block party, and the planters had been assembled at an earlier cleanup. As the group enjoyed refreshments, bug expert Eddie



JULIE HUGHES

Eddie Dunbar, affectionately known as "the bug guy," helping neighbors move some of the caterpillars into a special cage where students can view them going through the stages of becoming butterflies.

Dunbar gave an impromptu introduction to caterpillars. Remember to watch for daffodils in front of the school early next year.

Holiday Fun and Helping Others

Melrose-High Hopes neighbors gathered at Horace Mann to enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving potluck feast and squeeze in an abbreviated NCP meeting. By tradition, at the end of the evening the members join in packing holiday food, including turkeys and other fixings, provided by neighbors. Councilmember Desley Brooks added ten turkeys to the donations for families of Horace Mann students chosen by the principal and vice-principal. The number of

families has grown over time to this year's total of eleven. Rounding out the community effort, the food is delivered in boxes decorated by Discovery Center youngsters.

Come to Eat and Dance After last year's successful first annual holiday party, members of the Maxwell Park community will have another chance to enjoy good food and practice their line-dancing skills. There will be activities for the kids, music, and time to get to know your neighbors. Be sure to bring along a nonperishable food donation. The potluck party will be at Maxwell Park International Academy (formerly Maxwell Park Elementary School) on Fleming and Monticello. For

continued on page 4