



NEWS

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Memorial Walk to be Held in Remembrance of Murder Victim

Oakland Community Organization to Bring Attention to 2004 Unsolved Murder

(Oakland, CA) The Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council will hold a walk on Saturday, September 24 at 9:00 am to honor neighbor Jim Ballay who was brutally attacked last year while walking in the Laurel District of Oakland. A consummate neighbor and animal lover, Ballay often walked in the neighborhoods surrounding his East Oakland home. In the early morning hours of September 24, 2004 he was attacked and knocked to the ground by assailants who tried to rob him --- although friends said he never carried money. Ballay died of blunt injuries to the head sustained in the attack. He was 77. His death remains unsolved and was Oakland's 72nd homicide for 2004.

Friends and family will gather at the traffic circle where Best, Kingsland, and Virginia Avenues meet, starting at 9am. The walk will culminate at MacArthur Boulevard and Loma Vista Avenue where Ballay was attacked. All are invited to attend.

Ballay was known for his predawn sojourns. Typically, he'd go to sleep at 6 p.m. and awake just before midnight to take a two-hour walk. He would return home and take another walk before dawn. Each day, he logged 10 miles despite having had heart problems. Relatives and neighbors mourned the loss of a selfless man who showered them with acts of goodwill such as bringing groceries for elderly friends, sharing his newspaper and reminding people to move their cars on street- cleaning days.

Police and Crime Stoppers of Oakland are offering up to \$10,000 in reward money for information leading to the arrest of the attackers. Anyone with information about the case can call police at 238-3821 or Crime Stoppers at 238-6946.

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About the Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council: *The Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council (MPNC), one of Oakland's Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils, consists of the residents, institutions and businesses of Police Beat 28X. The MPNC works to create a socially cohesive community that acts for the common good by promoting trust, respect and understanding. For more information go to www.maxwellparknc.com.*