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Urban Releaf

eNewsletter | Summer 2011

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"Building Healthy Communities One Tree at a Time"

Channel 5 Feature: *Lessons In Growing Shade*

The Channel 5 Eye Witness News team interviewed Urban Releaf Staff on June 7th for a special feature. Director of Education Gregory Tarver, Jr. focused on environmental education and research while Kemba Shakur focused on the need for jobs. We also highlighted our current 31st Street Research & Demonstration Project and showed Reporter Patrick Sedillo the current conditions and future expectations of the project.

Quick Links

Watch the video.

Support Urban Releaf

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UC Davis Alumni Magazine

Learn more about us at urbanreleaf.org.

UC Davis Alumni Magazine interviewed Gregory Tarver, Jr. on recent urban forestry research projects such as the Ettie Street



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Spotlighting our Board Member

Watershed Evaluation. Staff Writers also spoke with Tree Planting and Maintenance Managers, Akeem Davis and Jamal Davis, about the environmental education they have received working with Greg as well as their experience working in the community. This article will be featured in the magazine's upcoming fall issue.



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Climate Gap Research

The College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity partnering researcher team selected Urban Releaf for an important case study. On July 7th, UC Berkeley PhD Students Ellen Kersten and Marlene Ramos interviewed Kemba Shakur on urban forestry and how it relates to the current climate gap as well as its effect on communities of color. Kemba shared some of the political, social, and economic challenges that Urban Releaf has faced over the years.



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West Oakland Clean-Up and Tree Planting

On July 27th, a group of young volunteers from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon joined Urban Releaf staff to perform a community clean-up and tree planting on 18th Street in West Oakland. We would like to send a special thank you to Westminster's Director of Youth Ministry Bethany Nelson for reaching out to our organization and helping to coordinate the event.





Nancy Sidebotham has been a tax preparer for 35 years and brings a passion for Oakland politics to the Board of Directors. She has worked diligently in the City of Oakland to bring Oaklanders together to deal with issues effecting quality of life.

Urban Releaf is a Winner



As part of the Throwdown with the Town event, the Ella Baker Center sponsored a photo contest and we submitted the winning photograph, which captured one of our young Girl Scout volunteers in action! As the winner, Urban Releaf will receive two tickets to the Ella Awards and a shout out on the center's blog, Ella's Voice.

Oakland Peace Center Volunteer Day



Over 25 youth from the Oakland Peace Center joined us for a day of work in preparation for the Greening the West with the Black Cowboys Project. Volunteers performed a variety of tasks from preparing informational material, maintaining tools, and transporting mulch. In addition, they also distributed posters and replaced maples trees on 30th Street in West Oakland.

First Annual Greening the West Event



On August 6th, in partnership with the Oakland Black Cowboys Association, Urban Releaf brought numerous organizations together to plant trees in West Oakland. Partner organizations included the Dogtown Neighborhood Association, Weekend Training Academy, Target, Farm Fresh Choice, Keep Oakland Beautiful, and Mo' Better Foods. An Aztec dance troop kicked off the day's activities and rallied the crowd, and the Black Cowboys gave free horse rides to volunteers and community members



Greening the West Tree Planting

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Marcus Garvey

members.



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Throwdown for the Town

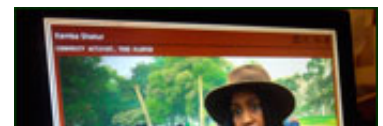


On Saturday, August 13th, Urban Releaf participated in a citywide community service event with Soul of the City, a campaign of the Ella Baker Center. We worked in the much-needed area at 32nd Street and San Pablo Avenue, transforming the block with red maples. While more than 100 volunteers were on hand to assist with the makeover, we want to especially thank Girl Scout Troop 30017 for all their hard work and KTVU Channel 2 for spotlighting our efforts.

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Modern Day John Muir

In the spirit of the author and naturalist John Muir, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) has



selected Urban Releaf's Kemba Shakur as a "Modern Day John Muir," in connection with the exhibition entitled, A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey. Alongside other environmentalists, Kemba is recognized for her active efforts as a tree planter advocating for the Oakland community. This inspiring and interactive exhibition runs from now through January 2nd, 2012.



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