



For Immediate Release

***Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation
Hosts 8th Annual “A Taste of Spring”
to Support Oakland’s Parks and Recreation Centers
Event to be Held May 4 at Oakland’s Rotunda Building
New Community Award to Highlight 30th Anniversary of Group’s Founding***

Oakland, CA — The Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation, will host the 8th annual *A Taste of Spring* fundraiser, on Wednesday, May 4th from 5:30 – 8:00 pm at the Rotunda Building, located at 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza in downtown Oakland. Proceeds from the benefit will be used to fund swimming, boating, and camp scholarships, and special projects designed to support and enhance the City’s parks and recreation centers.

The event will feature delicious hors d’oeuvres from some of the East Bay’s finest restaurants, delicious fine wines, special musical entertainment, and a silent and live auction. Auction items include: a power lunch with Mayor Jean Quan, U2 concert tickets (June 7, Oakland Alameda County Coliseum), Oakland A’s luxury box tickets for eighteen, a football autographed by Raiders tight end, Zach Miller, and more.

A new community award — named after Friends’ founder, Anne Woodell — will be given in honor of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the group. The two community honorees who will receive the first ever Anne Woodell Community award are: Gordon Piper, Oakland landscape Committee and Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson, the 2008 winner of the Oakland Mother of the Year Award. Also being honored that evening for their community support is, the Oakland Raiders; Michael Morgan, Music Director, Oakland East Bay; and Tony Smith, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District.

“Our recreation centers provide invaluable sports and arts programming to Oakland’s youth. And our parks are city jewels,” said Ken Lupoff, Interim Executive Director of Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation. “With yet another round of budget cuts looming, the money raised at *A Taste of Spring* will enable Friends to provide scholarships to children from all across the city, enabling them to participate in Oakland’s many recreational programs. Other funds we raise that evening will help to fund capital improvement projects for our parks and recreational facilities. *A Taste of Spring* is also a fun event, and provides attendees with a chance to meet and mingle with Oaklanders from all corners of the city.”

Tickets are \$75 in advance or \$85 at the door and may be purchased in advance, online at www.oaklandparks.org, by phone at 510.465.1850, or by email at oaklandparks@sbcglobal.net.

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