

The Point

AN ADAMS POINT ZINE

ISSUE #2
WINTER 2026

Foreword

Welcome back to The Point.

What's The Point this time? A walk? A pause? A raccoon with a curatorial vision? Maybe all of it.

This issue stays close to home and moves at neighborhood speed. It's less "destination" and more "long way around." We circle the lake with our phones tucked away, catching an egret mid-step and remember how good it feels to look at the water. We wander Vernon like tourists in our own backyard, paying respects to the Face Tree, then add our own color to the neighborhood map, block by block.

We also take a practical detour to answer a question many of us have had: what's the deal with those clusters of e-bikes and lone e-scooters on the sidewalk? Adams Point has three shared systems, ready to give you a small electric boost when your feet are tired or the hill feels personal, an easy excuse to explore a little farther.

And because this is The Point, we follow the odd and wonderful. Inside the Trash Falcons' Trash Museum of Trash, the things we usually pass by, from bottle caps to answering machine tapes (and even someone's teeth), become artifacts with backstories. Even what we throw away says something about who we are.

Think of this issue as a gentle scavenger hunt, part field guide, part love letter. A reminder that a few streets can hold a whole world if you slow down enough to notice.

However you move through it, we're glad you're here. If you don't see yourself in these pages, send us your story for the next issue. See you out there, probably taking the long way home.

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK

A community stroll around Adams Point neighborhood.

- **When:** The first monday of the month, 5:30–6:15 PM
- **Where:** The corner of Vernon St. and Lee St.

APNG MEETING

A leadership meeting for the Adams Point Neighborhood Group.

- **When:** Second Monday of the month, 6–7:30 PM
- **Email** adamspointneighborhood@gmail.com for location.

TRASH FALCONS MISSION

A weekly trash cleanup of Adams Point, Lakeside Park, and the North East Shore of Lake Merritt. (Gear provided).

- **When:** Every Sunday rain or shine, 9–10:30 AM
- **Where:** 400 Perkins St. aka Castle Trash Falcon
- **Contact:** trashfalconsoakland@gmail.com for more info
- **Instagram:** [@trashfalcons](https://www.instagram.com/trashfalcons)

TASTING NOTES

Hoping to launch a quarterly cookbook club/dinner.

Please fill out the form at the link/qr code below if you're interested!



bit.ly/4358VqT

Walking Around the Lake

by Eli Andrew Ramer

“Put your phone away, Grampy!”
I’d just caught an egret flying over the lake.

I look down at Eva, turn off my phone, and stick it in my jacket pocket.
“I know I told you this before. Your generation did so much to destroy the world.”
I nod. A month before, on another walk, she made me promise:

“Never listen to music or talk on the phone when you’re out walking by yourself.”

I promised.
“Everyone is so disconnected these days. You need to notice everything around you!”
She takes my hand and points to a heron perched on a rock. So elegantly beautiful.
I want to pull out my phone, but don’t. Instead we stop and watch it for a while.
Continuing on, she says:
“And try to remember to smile or nod or say hi to everyone you pass.”

She always does, and does just then, to a mother with a baby in its stroller.
The mom is talking on her phone. When they pass us Eva looks up at me. Pouts.
“I know I told you this before. But I came back to help to heal the world.”

I nod.
“And telling you this is part of my work!”

I look down at her and smile. Amazed. She smiles back.
“Thank you for listening, Grampy.”
“Thank you, Eva! For being who you are!”

She’s been talking like this since she could talk. And now she’s all of seven.
She squeezes my hand. Looks up at me.
“Remember, Grampy. On a soul-level, I’m much much older than you are.”

Eli Andrew Ramer lives on Vernon Street and is the author of the new book “Tales of an Urban Mystic: A Spiraling Memoir.”

LE PERSIMMON



The Top Three Tourist Destinations on the North Side of Vernon Between Perkins and Bay

By Claire Spafford

Adams Point is a study in contrasts. Gracious single-family homes abut large apartment complexes. Shockingly tiny dogs prance and do their business on the same streets as shockingly large ones. Recent transplants griping about parking share the roads with longtime residents griping about parking. And lovingly tended gardens share sidewalk space with discarded furniture that might be illegally dumped but also might have been put out by someone hoping that a neighbor could give it a new home. It's hard to tell when someone's trash might be someone's treasure and we treasure several street finds that have been given pride of place in our home).

Whether you're planning a first-time visit, or just want something to look at on your morning walk to BART, I encourage you to check out the top three tourist destinations on the north side of Vernon between Bay and Perkins:

#3: This very small grocery employee

Several new residents moved in during the pandemic, and this grocery store worker is among the friendliest. They're always there and happy to greet both tourist and resident alike. Give them a tiny high five as you walk by!



#2 This utility pole supported by a floating pole supported by a very skinny pole

Is it a wonder of the world? Maybe not officially, but it's obvious to all who encounter it that it should be. This pole situation is the most Oakland pole situation in all of Oakland. I love it and I hope you do, too.



#1 The Face Tree

The vagaries of weather and time contribute to an ebb and flow of which parts of the Face Tree are present at any given moment, but we seem to be in a moment of maximum face. I hope all visitors get to enjoy the splendor of the Face Tree during its season of abundance.



TRASH FALCONS

TFTMoT

Trash Falcons Trash Museum of Trash

You've heard of the **Trash Falcons**. You know they pick up trash, you know they build community, you probably also know they like to have fun... but did you know they also have a museum?! **The Trash Falcons Trash Museum of Trash (TFTMoT)** features amazing and questionably historic items found on weekly Trash Falcons missions that document and display the hidden stories in Oakland's found trash.



You can see selected items from the collection on display at:
The Junior Center for Art and Science
558 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA 94610
February 9 - March 6, 2026

Join us for a closing party set for Friday March 6, 6:00-8:00pm when the **TFTMoT Gift Shop** will also be open!



Item #001

The Trash Diamond

Magpie spotted something strangely circular in the shallows. After extricating this item from the ooze and cleaning it in lake water, it was revealed to be a Trash Diamond!

View the entire collection on line at
www.trashfalcons.org/museum



Item #022

Someone's Teeth! AHHH!

Sometime back in '21 or maybe '22 we started finding a lot of evidence that there was a disillusioned dentist in training in the Lakeside area. This plastic mold is evidence of that strange and wonderful time.

Item #030

Remote Control Alligator Head

A mean spirited person was trying to scare boaters in Lake Merritt but unbeknownst to them, they were eaten by Nellie, the unusually benevolent giant alligator that lives in Nell's Deep.



Item #104

Secret Service Database

When the Trash Falcon you suspect of being a super-spy finds the micro-chip thingie. Suspicious?

Item #070

Answering Machine Tapes

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT:

"Hey, man. Nothing going on. I was going to return some videos to Blockbuster and maybe pick up some Cheetos."



Different kinds of singing

I sing in the garden wearing skirts
Inside metal cages keeping cars out
When I feel it come over me I am not me
Tethered to a siren echoing from
The football field we all knew
I quit the bells on the inside
I am flying whether its there or not
In my dream he called and gave approval
I wonder what the gnawed hands mean
Alone at night in Brooklyn before California
I am walking by the library where I finally lost you
What a disaster I thought it was complete
I felt light for only a moment today
When I remembered I am also me
The library, the garden, the school
Different types of time
Will I fail now can I love in
California will I evaporate
Solid statues and tattoos
I'm not afraid to sing to children
I loved singing in the garden
Wearing skirts, jewelry where I lost you
I will never be on 9th Street again

En Plein Air

Wet black velvet
In pairs giggling
Gentle dive like I remember
Central park in winter
Black or the darkest blue reflected back to me
This is not a bay; this is heaven
Imagine missing out now or even later
A white ring or face curtain
Over ten variations of green
Healthy like I know chess
I remember asking for the knife
Because you were too scared

DIVINE LOVE - ALEX VALDES



Shared e-Bikes and e-Scooters Services in Adams Point by AP Transport Beat

Have you ever wondered about the stations full of e-bikes or random e-scooters on sidewalks throughout the neighborhood? Adams Point has access to three shared e-bike and e-scooter systems that can help you get to your destination with a boost of electricity while you enjoy the ride! Bikeshare (BayWheels with stations) and both stand-up (Lime) and sit-down electric scooters (Veo) provide access to BART, other neighborhoods within Oakland, and parts of Emeryville and Berkeley

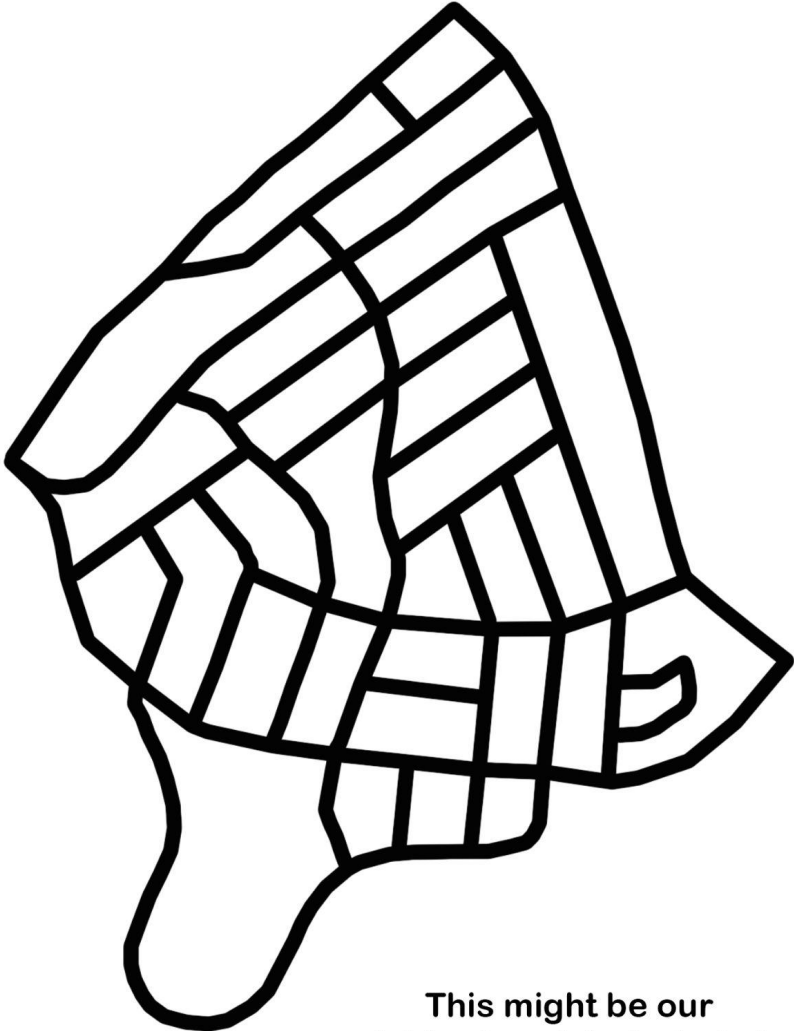
Bikeshare (BayWheels in app stores): Adams Point has three BayWheels bikeshare stations where bikes can be rented and dropped off at other stations in Emeryville, Berkeley, and at locations in other Oakland neighborhoods (Fruitvale, downtown, West, and North Oakland). These bikes are part of a larger network with stations also in San Francisco and San Jose, allowing for bike trips on both ends of a BART, ferry, Capital Corridor, or Transbay bus trip. BayWheels offers both regular bikes (\$4 for 30 minutes) and e-bikes (\$4 unlock + \$0.30/min), which can be accessed with the Lyft or BayWheels app. For regular users, there are membership deals (\$150/year), which cut the per-ride cost by more than half (free unlock and regular bikes with \$0.15/min e-bike rides). For households that qualify for CalFresh, SFMTA Lifeline Pass, or PG&E CARE, there is a \$ 5/year membership, with a maximum fee for e-bike rides of \$1. See <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels> for details.



E-scooters (Lime & Veo in app stores): There are two dockless e-scooter services; Lime with green and white stand-up scooters, and Veo with green and black sit-down scooters, which are more sturdy and safer to use than stand-up e-scooters. These services are generally more expensive than BayWheels at \$1 to unlock and \$0.45/minute, but can be parked anywhere within Adams Point and are great for getting directly to locations around the lake, downtown, or neighborhoods northwest of Adams Point. They also offer low-cost options with similar qualifications to BayWheels.

These shared e-bike and e-scooter options will become even more useful to the neighborhood with the planned bike lanes on Grand Avenue and other streets around the lake, and offer a great way to quickly get downtown or to BART without having to worry about parking.

Color Adams Point



**This might be our
neighborhood, but what else
can you make by coloring
our streets?**

What's *The Point* ?

The Point is a media project created for neighbors by neighbors in the Adams Point neighborhood of Oakland, CA. This project exists to remember the Adams Point before us, define the Adams Point of now, and build a better Adams Point for the future. Above all else, the mission of *The Point* is to build a sense of belonging, trust, and resilience among our neighbors through shared stories, art, news, resources, and opportunities to connect and gather. This is *The Point*.

Thank You to This Issue's Committees & Supporters

Design Committee

Scott, Wen, Amalia, Emma, Marie

Editorial Committee

Chris, David, Diane,
Katie D., Lilli, Kai

Logistics Committee

Brian D., Anne, Ryan, Sal

Cover Image Josh Keller

Individual Supporters

Emily, Kurt, Brian, Emma, Sal,
Gavin, Sam, Ivan, Mifta, Noel,
Kathryn, Cody

Local Business Supporters

Farley's East

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join one of our organizing committees (editorial, design, logistics), contribute to our next issue, and/or help fund *The Point* by completing our form at the link/QR code to the right! Also, feel free to email us at: thepointzine1909@gmail.com.



bit.ly/ThePointZine

Share this zine:

Pass it on to a neighbor or leave it at your nearest free little library!