The Rockridge News

Sponsored by ▪ The Rockridge Community Planning Council ▪ 5856 College Avenue #130 ▪ Oakland, California ▪ 94618

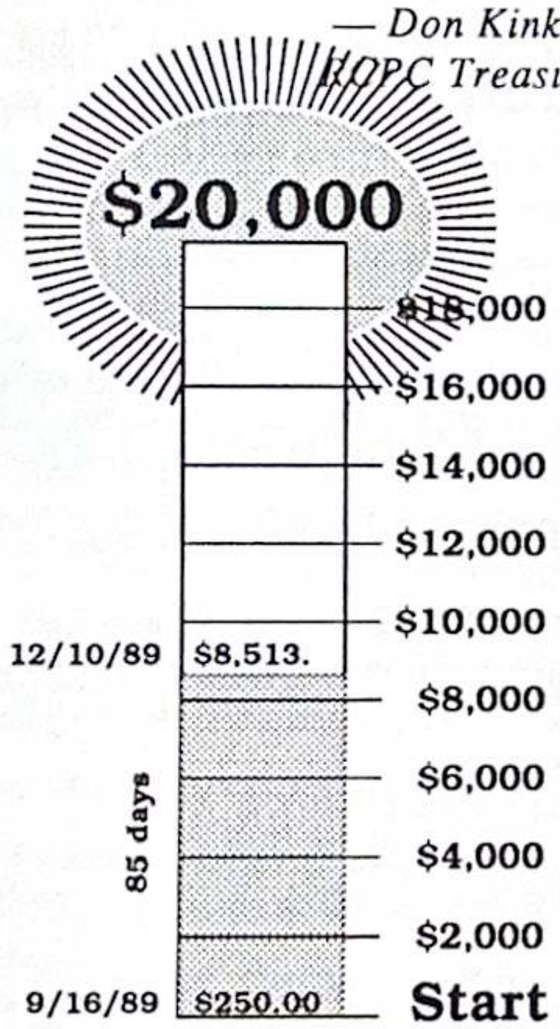
Vol. 4 No. 8 Issue No. 42 ★ December 16, 1989 ★ Circulation: 4,500 Residences; 200 Businesses

Scissors City

This issue of The Rockridge News is a coupon clipper's delight. With a few deft snips of your scissors, you can register your candidacy for a position on the RCPC Board of Directors (page 2), ask the City Council to resume live coverage of their meetings (page 6), and make a donation to the Neighborhood Legal Fund (page 3).

Ah, yes. The Legal Fund. Rocked by earthquakes and socked by the holidays, donations to the fund have been less robust this past month. Nevertheless, the need continues. The suit against the City is beginning its move into the courts (page 3) and expenses are on the rise. Please take a moment now to make your donation for the Neighborhood.

— Don Kinkead
RCPC Treasurer



RCPC Membership To Vote For New Board Members In 1990

Two Polling Dates: February 17 and 21

Neighborhood voters will cast their ballots in February for five new members of the ten member RCPC Board of Directors. The new directors will serve a two year term, until 1992. Outgoing directors are Beth Allen, Barbara Anderson, Lisa Curet, Nancy Dutcher, and John Gussman. Directors Glen Jarvis, Don Kinkead, Brooke Levin, Bill Manley and Andréa Walhof will serve through 1991.

Neighbors Vote ByLaws Update

At the November 15 RCPC general meeting, Neighbors approved bylaws changes to update RCPC election procedures and clarify boundaries.

Election Schedules

The annual election meeting will now be held in February, with an alternate voting date on the Saturday before the meeting. A separate "candidates' forum" will be held earlier in the month. Proxy voting is abolished.

Membership Area Refined

Other amendments adopted delete that portion of the membership area in Berkeley, and clarify that when a membership boundary is along a street, both sides of the street are included (except along 51st Street).

Candidate Procedures Amended

A change adopted by the board of directors at its most recent meeting will now provide that persons wishing to become candidates for election to the board may do so by notifying the direc-

See "Procedures," page 3

Voter Eligibility

Voters must be at least 18 years of age and will be asked to verify their residence within the Rockridge area as defined in the ByLaws of the Rockridge Community Planning Council. (See Page 2 for a written description of the membership boundaries.)

New Election Procedures

Procedures for the 1990 annual election will reflect changes adopted by the general membership in November. There will be an alternative voting time for at least three hours during the day on February 17th, the Saturday immediately preceding the annual meeting date, the third Wednesday evening in February. Also, there will be a Candidates' Forum on Thursday

See "Election," page 2

Season's Greetings From RCPC and The Rockridge News

There will be no December General Meeting

Dates Calendar Events Calendar Dates

Monday	Jan 3	7:30 PM	RCPC Board Meeting	
Tuesday	Jan 9	7:30 PM	City Council	Garden Center, Lake Merritt. RASP Grant. (Check with City Clerk.)
Wednesday	Jan 17	7:30 PM	RCPC General Meeting	College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue
Saturday	Feb 19	TBA	First day of RCPC Election. Time and location to be announced.	
Wednesday	Feb 21	7:30 PM	RCPC General Meeting/Election: 2nd Day	College Avenue Presbyterian Church

RCPC Legal Fund Crowds Half–Way Mark! • Use The Coupon On Page 3

Election Notice

On February 21, 1990, the Rockridge Community Planning Council will hold its annual election meeting. Directors will be elected to fill five (5) seats on the Board of Directors. Voting will commence at 7:30 p.m. at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue.

The polls will also be open on Saturday, February 17; the place and time will be announced in the January issue of The Rockridge News.

Persons interested in becoming candidates for the board of directors should notify the Board of Directors in writing, no later than January 5, 1990. (or sent by certified mail, no later than January 3, 1990.)

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, and must reside within the RCPC boundaries.

RCPC Membership Boundaries

(Amended November 15, 1989)

That area of the City of Oakland lying within the following boundaries:

Begin at the intersection of College Avenue and Woolsey Street in the City of Berkeley, and proceed in a direct line to the end of Chabot Road in the City of Oakland; then due south to Broadway; then along Broadway to the intersection of Broadway and Brookside Drive; then in a direct line to the intersection of Ocean View and Margarido Drive; then along Margarido Drive to the intersection of Margarido, Manila, and Acacia Avenue; then along Manila Avenue to the intersection of Broadway and Monroe Avenue; then along Monroe Avenue to the intersection of Monroe Avenue and Carlton Street; then to the intersection of Carlton Street and Broadway Terrace; then along Broadway Terrace to the intersection of Broadway Terrace and Broadway; then to the intersection of Broadway and 51st Street; then to the intersection of 51st Street and Clarke Street; then to the intersection of Clarke Street and Claremont Avenue; then to the intersection of Claremont Avenue and Colby Street; then to intersection of Colby Street and Woolsey Street; then returning to the intersection of Woolsey Street and College Avenue.

RCPC Election Procedures, Schedule Set For 1990 Vote

Election from page 1

evening, February 15th. On recommendation of the Elections committee, the membership eliminated proxy voting, and supported expanded coverage of candidates' views in the monthly newsletter.

Candidates Sought

Candidates for the 1990–1992 Director positions must send notice of their interest in writing (see convenient "Statement of Intent " coupon below or write) to:

Nancy Dutcher, Secretary
Rockridge Community Planning Council
5856 College Avenue #130
Oakland, California 94618

Candidates must be at least eighteen years old, interested in the purposes of the organization, and a permanent resident within the membership boundaries. Statements of intent must be received at the above address no later than January 5, 1990 (or sent by certified mail no later than January 3, 1990).

Subject to verification of eligibility, candidates will be listed in the January 12, 1990 issue of The Rockridge News. Each candidate may submit a statement for publication in the newsletter.

Statements must not exceed 150 words and must be received at the above address no later than January 5, 1990, or mailed, subject to the same filing requirements as above.

RCPC Election Schedule: 1990

Friday, January 5	Deadline for receipt of Statement of Intent and Candidate's Statement
Friday, January 12	List of Candidates and Candidates' Statements published in January Rockridge News
Wednesday, January 17	RCPC General Membership Meeting College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 15	1990 Election Candidates' Forum, College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 17	1990 Annual Election of RCPC Board of Directors *(Alternate daytime Polling Date)*
Wednesday, February 21	1990 Annual Meeting, Election of RCPC Board of Directors College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue, 7:30 pm

Statement Of Intent To Be A Candidate For The RCPC Board of Directors 1990–1992

I hereby state my intent to be a candidate for the RCPC Board of Directors (1990–1992). I am 18 years of age or older and I reside permanently within the RCPC membership boundaries.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Work): _____ Phone (Home): _____

I enclose my Candidate's Statement (150 words maximum length) for publication in the January issue of The Rockridge News.

Send to:

Nancy Dutcher, Secretary
5856 College Avenue #130

Rockridge Community Planning Council
Oakland, California 94618

Statements must be received at the above address no later than January 5, 1990 (or sent by certified mail no later than January 3, 1990).

From The Zoning Counter

Medical Insurance Exchange of California (MIEC)

6250 Claremont Avenue
(ER 89–42/CMD 89–317)

As reported in the October 1989 Rockridge News, the City determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was required. According to Mr. Charlie Bryant, City Environmental Officer, the applicant has yet to begin the process.

Shell Station

5755 Broadway at Taft

City staff denied the application for Design Review to modify the building's exterior. Denial was based on the Planning Department's finding that "the proposed design does not take into consideration the significant visual exposure of the site. Broadway is one of the City's primary arterial streets linking North Oakland with downtown." No appeal was filed and the appeal period has passed.

City Design Review

The City Council approved the staff recommendation to move forward on city–wide design review. The checklist process proposed by Planning Director Alvin James will now be refined by representatives of neighborhood groups, the AIA, developers and the Oakland Development Council, etc.

Meeting dates will be publicized by the City.

— Brooke Levin

Rusty Miller, C.M.T.
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- *the release of physical and/or emotional pain*
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- *the process of self–awareness and transformation*

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Where Is City Hall Now? CanYou Get There From Here?

Because several City buildings were so damaged by the quake that they have had to be temporarily closed, some official offices and functions have been temporarily relocated to other addresses. The following is a list of offices and current phone numbers:

General Information —
Cityline 444-2489

Office of Public Works 372-3961
1330 Broadway — 2nd Floor
At the same location:
Zoning Department 451-6210
also – 451-6321
Building Department 273-3443
Planning Department 451-6210
Permit Department 273-3444
Earthquake Damage Assessment 273-3137

Other Offices, Other Locations:
City Manager 273-3301
475 14th Street
Traffic & Engineering 273-3466
7101 Edgewater Drive

— Compiled by Lisa Curet

Storage Space Available
in garage...
Claremont–Rockridge area.
Call 547-8070.
(Not suitable for automobiles.)

RCPC Seeks Halt To Demolition Process

In a step preliminary to beginning construction on their proposed headquarters project, Dreyer's has applied for demolition permits to raze structures currently on the project site, including the two residences on Chabot Road near College. On December 13 — just as The Rockridge News went to press — RCPC filed a petition in Superior Court to prevent the City's issuance of demolition permits.

RCPC believes that irreparable harm to the residential character of Chabot Road will result if the destruction of these houses is not prevented. RCPC also contends that construction on the project at this time would prejudice the community's right to a full hearing on the merits of the case.

Procedures from page 1

tors in writing no later than December 31 of any given year, unless a later date has been specified by the board. (For the 1990 election, the board has designated January 5 as the deadline.)

Beginning Tai Chi Chuan
Classes Starting January 10th.
Strength, awareness, healing for body, mind, spirit. Centered, fluid, meditative movements. Gentle aproach.
College Avenue location.
Karen 268-1777

Rockridge Community Planning Council Neighborhood Legal Fund Donation Form

Enclosed is my check payable to the RCPC Neighborhood Legal Fund to help cover expenses in the RCPC vs. City of Oakland suit (Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc. project approval). I understand this is a tax-deductible donation.

☐ $_____ Neighborhood Legal Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to:
Rockridge Community Planning Council
5856 College Avenue #130
Oakland, CA 94618

Thank you for your support!

Library Plans Advance

Neighborhood Survey Supports Assessment Plan

by Nancy Dutcher

Thanks to eighty–six per cent of those responding to the recent library survey in support of an assessment district, the Rockridge Library Committee feels we can now move to establish the assessment district that will become part of a funding package for a new Rockridge Library.

Meeting on Monday, December 11, Councilmember Marge Haskell, Ezra Rapport of the City Manager's office, Terry Brown of the City Attorney's office, and Nancy Dutcher and Andy Young of the Rockridge Library Committee established a timetable to place an assessment district measure on the November ballot.

Besides showing support for the assessment district concept, survey results will also help determine the boundaries of the assessment district. Based on comments received on the surveys, it is clear the assessment should be for a stated period of time and for a specific amount.

Early in the New Year, we will begin collecting signatures on a petition requesting the City Council to put the assessment district on the November ballot. We are counting on a lot of Neighborhood volunteers to help with this signature campaign.

The meeting with city staff and Marge Haskell was encouraging. The library committee feels that by continuing on the path we established we will ensure the assessment district will be put on the November ballot, a first and very important step toward a new library.

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to prepare your
1989 tax return now!
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Blocking Sidewalk Driveways Hazardous To Those On Wheels

While it may seem harmless and inconsequential to park vehicles in driveways and thus obstruct sidewalks, for people pushing strollers, using wheelchairs, or riding bicycles, it's not only frustrating, it's dangerous.

Even drivers who feel they leave ample room for pedestrians to squeeze by or step off the curb don't realize the difficulty presented to "pedestrians on wheels." Most baby strollers and wheelchairs are wider than those "ample" spaces and cannot step off curbs. Thus, one alternative for such sidewalk users would be to backtrack to find a useable driveway (one that's not too craggy or steep), face traffic, and hope that passing vehicles will see the baby in the stroller, the child on the bike, or the person in the wheelchair in time to avoid an accident. The other alternatives — re–routing and using the street as a pathway — are inconvenient and just as perilous.

The simple solution is for Rockridge residents to be more conscious of neighborhood parking practices, and to remind visitors, repair people, contractors, etc., that blocking sidewalks (even "just for a minute") could obstruct someone's life.

— Denise Sherer Jacobson

Telegraph Avenue Recycling Center Clones, Migrates

The North Oakland Recycling Center, located at 59th and Telegraph since 1985, has been closed. A new program, run by the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse at 1027 60th Street (two blocks above San Pablo), is offering the same program with the same materials and the same hours (7 days a week, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

In December, the Oakland Recycling Center will be opening a new recycling center at 27th Street and Sycamore under the 980 Freeway, offering donation and buyback services to North Oakland residents. The Depot program is a donations–only program.

Call the Depot at 547-6470 or the Oakland Recycling Association at 655-5373 for additional information.

— Robin Boone

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clothing	*wind chimes*
	jewelry boxes

holiday hours: m-f 10-7, sat. 10-6, sun. 12-5
open till 8:00 piedmont location: dec. 14 & dec. 18-23
college ave location : dec 15 & dec 20-23
$5.00 off any purchase of $20.00 or more
at the college avenue store thru dec 31 with this ad

Council Approves Permit Parking For Taft, Boyd, Ocean View, Birch Court

by Annette Floystrup

Responding to petitions filed by Neighbors, the Oakland City Council voted December 5th to approve permit parking on Taft Avenue between Broadway and College, on Boyd Avenue between Forest and Hudson, on Ocean View between College and McMillan, and on Birch Court.

According to Kevin Cummings of the City's Traffic, Engineering and Parking Division, residents now have 90 days to purchase a minimum number of parking permits to finalize the process. Residents may pay the $25 per car fee now for a one year permit that will be processed in January.

The newly created parking permit streets will be posted with parking limits of 4 hours on Taft and Boyd, and 2 hours on Ocean View and Birch Court. In addition, the part of Birch Court fronting on Claremont Middle School and the temporary library will be posted "No Parking" 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to maintain that strip for teacher parking. The green zone in front of the library will remain.

Aside from two non–resident speakers, Council allowed one speaker pro and one con from each affected street. Arguments *pro* permit parking centered on access to parking during the day by residents without off—street parking, and visitors and service people to Boyd, Taft, Ocean View and Birch Court. Residents complained of being forced to be an unofficial parking lot for BART and pointed out that the UC Berkeley parking survey of 2 years ago proved that for each all–day BART parker, 7 to 15 cars with potential patrons of College Avenue businesses were unable to park. Arguments *against* permit parking centered on free access to the streets by all citizens of the area whether or not they were residents.

Upper Telegraph Challenges Zoning

Residents in the vicinity of 59th and Telegraph feel that a recent Planning Commission decision to permit the fabrication of steel security gates and window guards in the commercial zone near their homes as an "accessory to a retail business" works against their goal to improve Telegraph Avenue. They contend this is actually a "General Manufacturing" activity normally permitted only in M-30 or M-40 industrial zones.

The Upper Telegraph Coalition (UTC) learned that activities not normally permitted or conditionally permitted in a given zone may be allowed as an "Accessory Activity" without any variance, use permit or public notice.

This means that although a small auto repair shop would be excluded on Telegraph under the moratorium, a large auto supply store would be allowed an auto repair facility with up to 3,000 square feet of floor area.

UTC is asking neighborhood groups throughout Oakland to work together to resolve the problem of "Accessory Activities", to revise other commercial zone regulations and to address planning issuessuch as design reivew and sign limitations.

For further information, call John Wagers at 653-1871 or Henry Johnson at 655-4464.

— John Wagers

College Avenue Presbyterian Invites Any And All To Attend Advent Events

at 5951 College Avenue, Oakland (Church Office: 658-3665; Pastor Bill Beatty's Home Phone: 652-7516.)

Third Sunday in Advent: December 17th

9:15 a.m. Sunday School — all ages

10:15 a.m. Pre–Worship Inspirational Singing

10:30 a.m. Worship begins. Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

1:00 p.m. Pastor's Annual Christmas Open House, hosted by the Deacons and Elders of the Church, at 5653 Ocean View Drive, Oakland. All Members and Friends of College Avenue Presbyterian Church, and of our Pastor are invited to attend throughout the afternoon and early evening.

Saturday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Meet at the Church for Christmas caroling in the Neighborhood, with a party following. Bring flashlights.

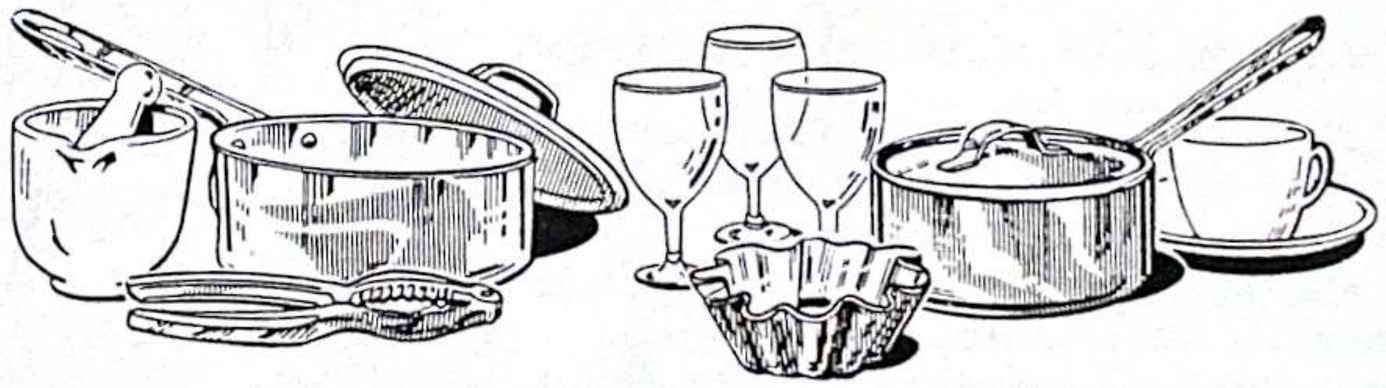
Fourth Sunday in Advent: December 24th

10:00 a.m. Meet at the Rockridge BART station for our annual Bagpipe–led Christmas processional, proceeding in to the Sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

7:00 p.m. Annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service, involving kids, as well as the receiving of the Communion. This service is designed particularly for the convenience of young families.

New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, December 31st, beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Church. Varied activities for all ages and interests, from watching movies, playing table games, to use of the gymnasium.

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In My View...

Comments by Marge Gibson-Haskell
City Council, District 1

The following is the text of a letter Councilmember Haskell sent to the BART Board of Directors concerning their plans for an environmental assessment of the Rockrdige BART station. — Editor

BART Board of Directors:

I understand that your Public Affairs, Access and Legislation Committee voted on November 28 to put the Rockridge station plan and environmental assessment study on your Board consent calendar for December 7. I support the concept of community involvement and the serious consideration of a wide range of alternatives.

When the Board approves the proposal, there are certain issues I would like to see specifically addressed in the environmental assessment.

Neighborhood Parking Demand

First of all, I think it is necessary that any proposed alternative take into account how parking demand in the neighborhood is affected.

Explore Options To Parking Expansion

Second, more options to expanding parking space at the Rockridge station should be explored, such as the comparable cost of subsidizing augmented AC Transit services, or running or subsidizing a small bus service to the station. I would also urge the Board to charge the staff with getting the input and cooperation of the surrounding community and the groups that represent its opinions at every stage of the assessment process.

Study Station Use

In addition, I request that before the actual environmental assessment begins, a study of who is actually using the BART station be done. A number of residents think that casual carpoolers, UC students and/or employees, and area merchants and their employees are currently using many of the spaces which should be available to BART patrons.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Quake Aftermath: Oakland Potluck Helps Feed Families

Oakland Potluck collects food that might otherwise go to waste, passing it on to thirty organizations that operate free dining rooms and brown–bag handouts.

After the quake, when national organizations opened up emergency shelters and provided food vouchers, we saw a reduced strain on donated supplies, but soon dining room lines were back, filled by residents of the closed downtown residence hotels and families from the West Oakland Cypress ordeal.

We are on the lookout for:

Packaged and canned food; fresh produce; surplus prepared food from caterers, restaurants and private parties. Cash donations are used to purchase staples for the organizations we serve.

Oakland Potluck • 678 13th Street•Oakland 94612 • 272-0414.

Want To See The City Council, Live?

Have you missed seeing the City Council meetings broadcast live Tuesday evenings on Channel 13? Many of us have, and we want to urge the City to resolve the problem. Since the Council has been meeting at the Garden Center building at Lake Merritt, meetings have only been available as delayed broadcasts, too late to monitor the agenda as it unfolds.

Take a moment to write to the Mayor and to City Councilmember Marge Haskell at:

One City Hall Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612

or send in the coupon below.

One City Hall Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mayor Wilson and
Members of the City Council:

Council meetings broadcast live on TV help keep us informed and up–to–date on the latest news. Please immediately arrange for the necessary cable extensions to the Garden Center to continue what you have started — good public access to your meetings.

Sincerely,

_____

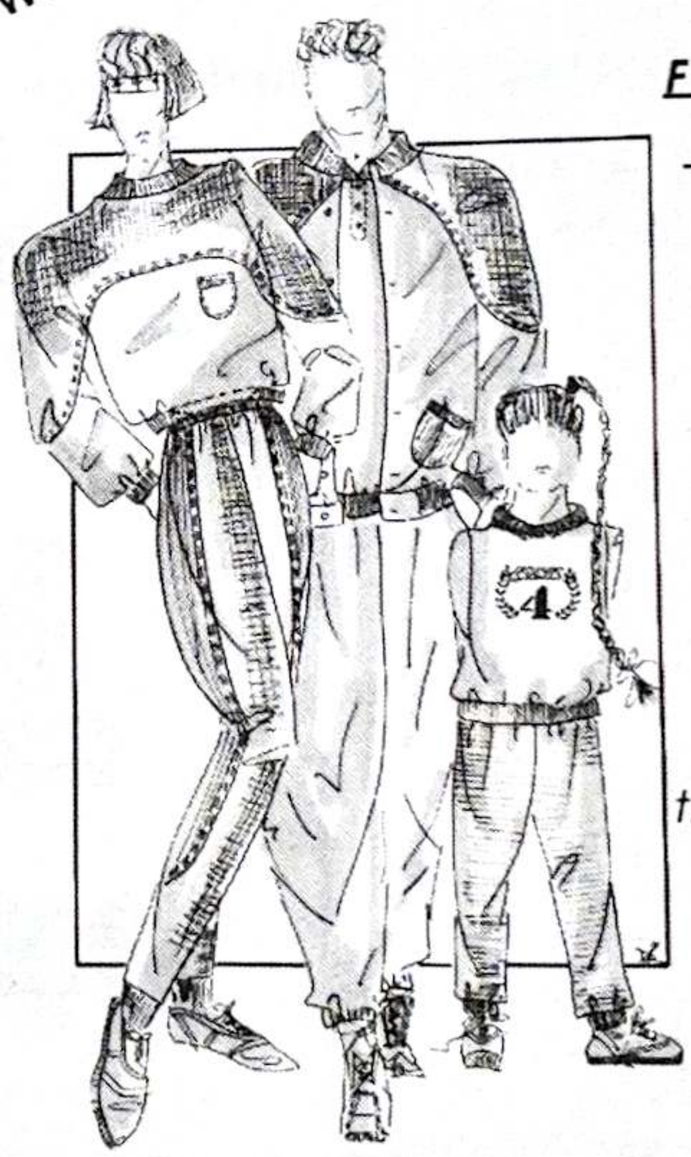
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Letters To The News

Keep BART Green

This letter was received last month and inadvertently omitted from the November Rockridge News. — Editor

Editor:

In response to Sue Hone, October 14, 1989 Rockridge News, page 5, regarding the Rockridge BART station:

Yes, more parking is needed. If an upper level is added, yes, a buffer will be an important aspect to consider to "soften the line between BART facilities and surrounding homes." However, we cannot see how "low–rise apartments might serve this purpose." Adding apartments will only add to the need for more parking. Even if the tenants of these new places had no cars, they would certainly have visitors who would drive to see them, multiplying overall congestion.

What will be needed are more trees, bushes and vines all around the perimeter. The redwood grove at Forest and Shafter must not be removed. Rockridge has sacrificed enough for the good of the masses by having the freeway and BART cut it in half.

Stores on College Avenue under the structure would be appropriate, but massive planting of vegetation should surround the rest of the parking lot areas. Do not underestimate the importance of a large percentage of vegetation as a pre–requisite to a healthy environment.

— Nancy Macleod

Parapets And Height

Editor:

Many Rockridge neighbors who have been following the reconstruction occurring at 5819 Lawton Avenue have been disappointed at the result of our battle to require this owner/contractor to conform to the zoning regulations.

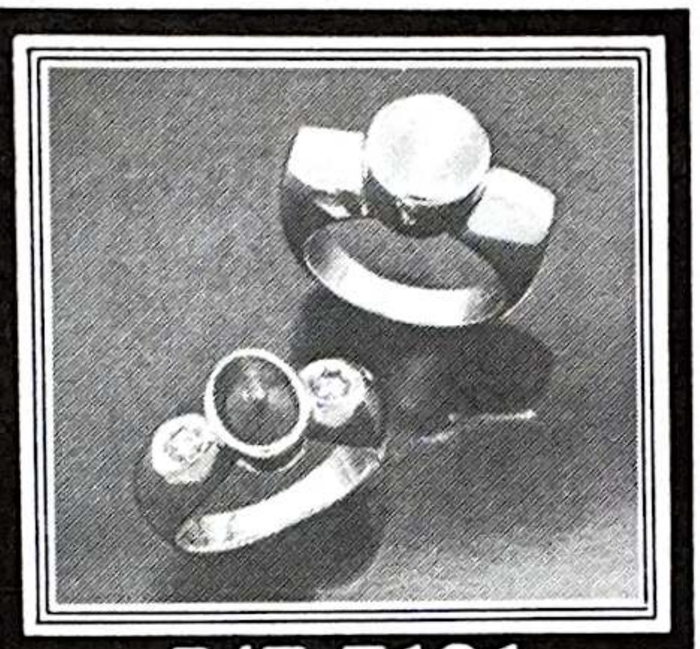
The resulting construction is a squarish, 34–foot high, 3–story structure. Consequently, it's difficult to remember that this owner lost his request for a Minor Variance to build above the 30–foot height limit and was required to observe this limit while being allowed to add a 4-foot parapet wall.

We are left wondering just how Oakland's building codes and zoning ordinances define "parapet wall." Since, as we have seen at 5819 Lawton, it can so easily be used to evade the 30–foot height limit, just what function was it originally supposed to serve?

We have many questions abut the interpretation of this section of the building code and would like to see it clarified so that similar manipulation does not occur again. What has to change so that the 30-foot height limit is actually a meaningful and enforceable ordinance?

—Kathleen Walsh

***Editor's Note**: RCPC has expressed the same concern in its challenge to the Dreyer's headquarters project.*

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RCPC Committee List

Listed below are standing committees of the Rockridge Community Planning Council with their respective Chairs and Co-Chairs. Please call any of the individuals listed if you have questions or problems with what's going on:

Committee	Chair/Co-Chairs	
Clean Rockridge	Gity Baxter	652-8419
Design Review	Glen Jarvis	654-5953
Library	Marc Beyeler	654-6787
	Nancy Dutcher	653-6018
RASP	Andréa Walhof	420-1593
Rockridge News	Don Kinkead	655-7474
Traffic	Bill Manley	658-2419
	David Reinke	653-5312
Zoning	John Gussman	655-8817
	Brooke Levin	653-7522

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5830 College, Oakland, CA 94618, 658-5208
2845 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94707, 654-2511
1550 Oakview Ave., Kensington, CA 94706, 526-1010

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654-6504
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Oakland, CA 94618
(1 Block to Rockridge BART)
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R'ridge Methodist Offers Christmas Eve Service

Rockridge residents are invited to celebrate Christmas Eve at the Rockridge United Methodist Church, corner of College, Hudson, and Manila Avenues on Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.

The festive annual candlelight Christmas Eve service will include traditional carols and anthems sung by the RUMC choir and Sunday School.

All are welcome, including the young of any age. Contact: RUMC at 652-4155 or Susannah Wood, choir director, 658-0967.

Chimes Grocery
For All Your Urban Provisions

Season's Greetings to our neighbors from the Management and Staff of Chimes. Laurice, Eddie, Renee, Mark, Christine and Matthew

Please Note:
Chimes will be closed Christmas Day

New Sunday Hours!

7 AM to Midnight Monday–Friday
9 AM to Midnight Saturday
9 AM to 9 PM Sunday
5642 College Avenue At Rockridge BART
428-9256

Specials good with this ad only. One coupon per customer/household. Expires in 30 days unless otherwise stated. This ad supersedes all others. Prices subject to change without notice.

The Rockridge News is published monthly in Oakland except in August and is sponsored by
The Rockridge Community Planning Council.

Got something planned you'd like to have The Rockridge News tell about? Call Don Kinkead at 655-7474 or write to 5626 Oak Grove Avenue, Oakland 94618 (of course!) and let us know.

January issue deadline is January 8th.