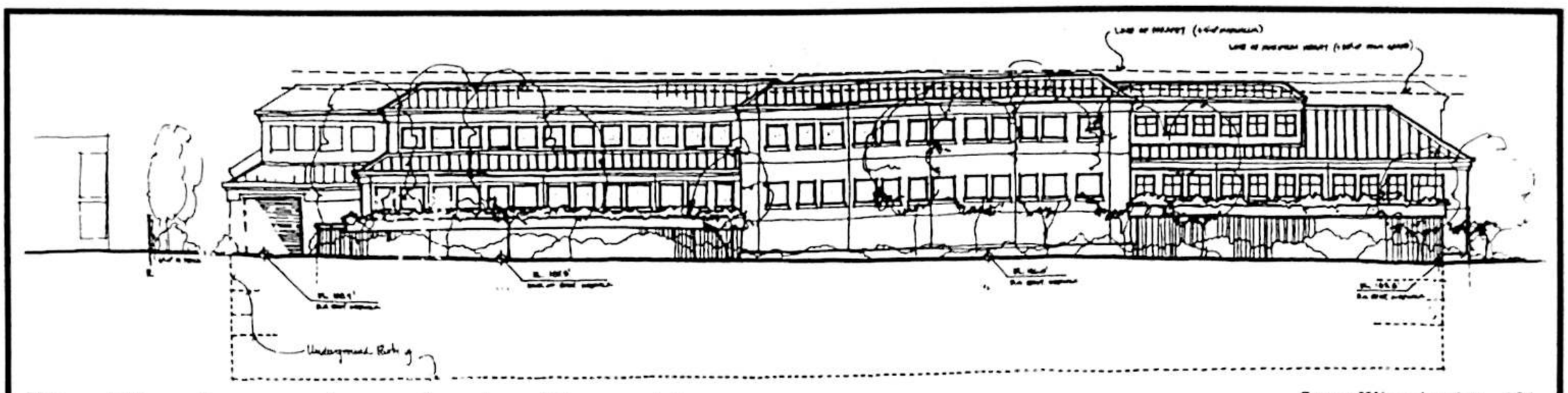
THE Rockridge News

VOL. 10 • NO. 2 • ISSUE NO. 99 • FEBRUARY 11, 1995 CIRCULATION: 4500 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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View of Dreyer's proposed expansion along Claremont Avenue. *Steve Wisenbacker, AIA*

RCPC Seeks Candidates for Board

April Elections for 1995-97 Term

If you think Rockridge is a special place and would like to become more involved in your neighborhood, here's your chance. In April 1995, the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) will hold an election for the five positions which will open at that time. The Board consists of ten elected positions

See "RCPC Board" on page 3

General Membership Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 16, 1995, 7:30 p.m.
College Ave. Presbyterian Church
5951 College Avenue (Sanctuary)

- **Dreyer's Update**
  (See article on this page.)
  - **Application filed for 57,200 sq. feet building addition on Claremont Avenue**
- **Update on Rockridge Library**
  - **Ground-breaking on February 11**

Dreyer's and the C-31 Zoning, or Why 194,517 Square Feet Is Too Much

by Annette Floystrup

COLLEGE AVENUE ONE OF THE MOST ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS IN OAKLAND!

ROCKRIDGE HAS HIGHEST CRIME RATE IN CITY!

These are not grim fantasies but the absolute realities of the late sixties and early seventies here in Rockridge. Imagine College Avenue with at least 50% of the storefronts boarded up, add a few empty, trash-strewn lots and the highest crime rate in the city, and you then have the conditions facing neighbors in the early 1970's, when the C-31 Commercial Zoning was created by those same neighbors.

Historical perspective lends a valuable dimension to most discussions, shedding light on passions that cannot be explained by other means. The RCPC community is once again preparing to vigorously defend its Special Retail Commercial Zone Regulations in the face of a Dreyer's expansion, as it did beginning in 1986. Why is the C-31 Zoning so important to our community—and to all of Oakland?

Zoning is a legally binding economic contract between a city and its citizens. Zoning determines your quality of life and your property value, which in turn determine a city's property tax revenues. Good zoning enables a city to plan development around existing and future infrastructure, such as traffic, sewers and storm drain systems, and to project revenues to pay for maintenance of these systems. Such zoning creates and builds economic prosperity by creating and preserving stable, well-functioning neighborhoods and commercial districts. Zoning is the reason why you will not one day have a factory next door to your home and why College Avenue doesn't have any 10-story buildings. Your home's zoning is critical to your property value, and so are the adjacent zones. In Rockridge, College Avenue's zoning heavily determines the quality of all our lives as well as property values and, in turn, the City's property tax income stream.

A Capsule History

I've lived in Rockridge since 1955, when it was the Chimes District. College Avenue was a thriving commercial district where you could buy anything from bikes to cars, lingerie to children's clothes. We had florists, pharmacies (three!), grocery stores, bowling and movies, and a number of good neighborhood restaurants. The heart of the Avenue's community life was Dreyer's restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner,

See "Dreyer's" on page 4

Book Corner

by Gay Ducey, Children's Librarian, Rockridge Branch Library

Broken Hearts ... and Mended

I stopped giving valentines in the seventh grade. From then on, I waited, with a sense of entitlement, for valentines to come to me. And, to my father's increasing unease, they did. He was often on the front porch when the swain du jour arrived with the offering. Their eyes never met, because Dad was always surveying the lawn. My father was proud of that ripple-free blanket of St. Augustine and he liked to look at it. Certainly it was better than the alternative, for I was inclined toward the bad, the strange, and the truly funky. But my dad refused to be drawn in. He did not seem to notice the fellow who sang arias outside my window, or the kid with a hole in the hood of his car to let the flames out. So Dad was experienced enough to say nothing when I took up with a Cajun biker. When that beau arrived on a low-slung, evilly polished motorcycle, Dad grimaced and examined the lawn more closely. When the biker took to summoning me to the curb by revving the motor, my father lowered his lids and raised the newspaper. But the day my boyfriend wheeled his Harley Hawg onto the grass and scorched out a valentine heart right between the wisteria and the hibiscus, my dad chased him for three blocks, returning to ask, "Are you specializing in unlikely pairings?" My mother said, "Love is a fine and unpredictable madness." Looking back from parenthood's hard-earned perspective, I wonder if my father was running toward that boy to defend both grass and girl, or if he was running away from certain knowledge that children leave to make other alliances, lead other lives. I only gave one valentine during those years. It was the next year and it was to my father—a package of grass seed.

Below, books about unlikely pairings and fine madness:

Alice, In Rapture, Sort Of by Phyllis Naylor, 1989. (4th grade and up)

Beauty by Robin McKinley, 1978. (5th grade and up)

Bingo Brown, Gypsy Lover by Betsy Byars, 1992. (4th-6th grades)

Children of the River by Linda Crew, 1989. (5th-9th grades)

Good Night, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian, 1982 (5th grade and up)

Haveli by Suzanne Fisher Staples, 1993 (5th grade and up)

Margaret Ziegler Is Horse Crazy by Crescent Dragonwagon, 1988 (1st-3rd grades)

The Moves Make the Man by Bruce Brooks, 1994 (5th grade and up)

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan, 1985 (2nd-4th grades)

The Secret Elephant of Harlan Kooter by Dean Harvey, 1992 (3rd-4th grades)

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher, 1993 (6th grade and up)

Strider by Beverley Cleary, 1991 (3rd-5th grades)

Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush by Virginia Hamilton, (5th grade and up)

Whiskers Once, Whiskers Always by Roris Orgel, 1986 (2nd-4th grades)

1995 RCPC General Meeting Schedule

Plan ahead to attend general meetings of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, which are held the third Thursday monthly, except in August. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue. The dates follow:

February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, No August Meeting, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21.

ROCKRIDGE BRANCH LIBRARY

5803 Birch Court at College Avenue

Note the new phone number: 597-5017

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 12:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Closed Friday, Sunday

Closed Monday, February 13 for Lincoln's Birthday

Closed Monday, February 20 for Presidents' Day

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by The Rockridge Community Planning Council, a neighborhood-based nonprofit organization. Membership includes everyone living within the organization's boundaries. The goals of the organization are to promote community involvement in neighborhood planning and area development, to address neighborhood concerns (such as educational and recreational resources and the deterrence of crime), and to serve as a liaison between the community and the City of Oakland, in particular the Oakland Planning Commission.

Rockridge News Production

Kathy Walsh	Editor-in-Chief
Trish West	Editor
Valerie Knight	Graphics; Layout
Susan Montauk	Advertising
Maya Byrne Nissanka	Billing
Mary MacDonald	Writing; Editing
Don Kinkead	Distribution

Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in *The Rockridge News*? Call 814-6060, or write to 5856 College Avenue, #130, Oakland 94618.

To advertise, call Susan Montauk at 547-3855. **March deadline is February 25.**

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juicy NEWS

RCPC Board

from page 1

and one appointed position.

RCPC has established itself as a strong voice in the planning issues confronting the Rockridge area and has been instrumental in providing many services. These include helping to obtain funding for the new Rockridge Library, providing a forum for the community to participate in the library's design, publishing *The Rockridge News*, establishing the Crime Alert Hotline, and holding monthly neighborhood meetings covering topical issues.

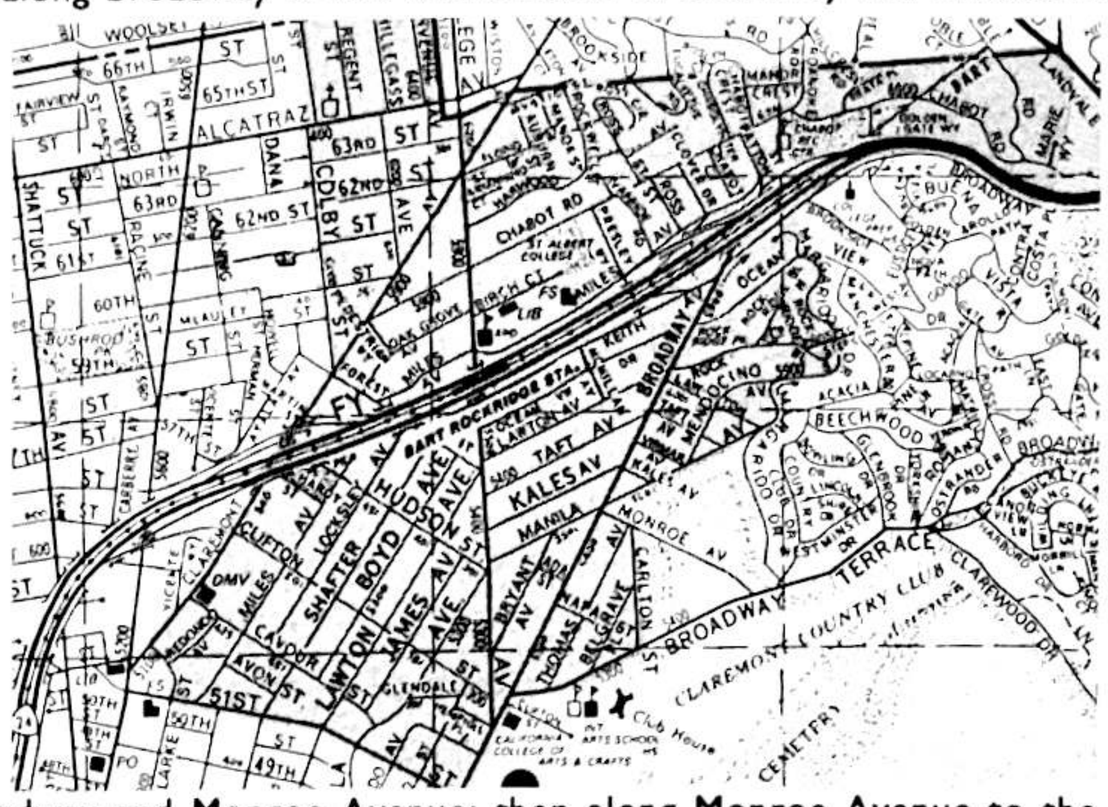
Candidates must be at least 18 years old and reside within RCPC's boundaries. To run for the board, send a short letter stating your interest as well as a "Candidate's Statement" of about 150 words to RCPC, 5856 College Avenue, #130, Oakland 94618, **no later than February 28, 1995**.

The Candidates' statements will be published in the March 1995 issue, a candidates' forum will be held at the March 16, 1995 General Meeting, and the election will be conducted in April 1995. Terms will run from June 1995 to June 1997. If you have any questions, call 652-2696. ■

RCPC Membership Boundaries

(Amended as of February 19,1993)

Begin at the intersection of College Avenue and Woolsey Street in the City of Berkeley, and proceed along College Avenue to the northerly boundary of the City of Oakland; then in an easterly direction along said boundary of the City of Oakland to a point where said boundary first intersects the right of way of Tunnel Road (State Route 13); then in a direct line to the easterly end of Chabot Road; then due south to Broadway; then along Broadway to the intersection of Broadway and Brookside Drive; then to the intersection of Brookside Drive and Claremont Path; then to the intersection of Claremont Path and Ocean View Drive; then along Ocean View Drive 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 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 the intersection of Colby Street and Woolsey Street; then returning to the intersection of Woolsey Street and College Avenue. The above boundaries include both sides of all boundary streets and paths, with the exception of 51st Street.



Take It for Granite

by Nancy Dutcher, Chair, Neighbors for a Rockridge Library

Just launched: A fund-raising campaign to purchase furnishings, books, and learning aids for the new library. The library entry will be faced with granite, and this same granite will be used as paving in the entrance and lobby. Donors may buy 1/3 of a 12" square tile for $100 and have up to three lines of engraving, or a whole tile for $300, with up to four lines. Numerous Pacific Union realtors have joined the effort by dedicating a tile section to each person who refers a buyer or seller whose escrow closes in 1995. Other ways of making donations will be outlined in a letter to go out to all Rockridge residents soon. To order a tile now, or for further information, call Nancy Dutcher at 653-6018 ■.



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PRIDE CHIROPRACTIC

Dreyer's

from page 1

and those wonderful evening ice cream delights. That restaurant, with its low-cost senior meals and the waitresses who knew us all by name, was the first casualty of Dreyer's corporate expansion.

Rockridge was a neighborhood of working families, much as now, though there were more children because families were large and more mothers worked at home. My block of 63rd Street had 40 kids. My father was a carpenter, and among our neighbors were a machinist, a drycleaner, salesmen, a fireman, an artist, a jazz musician, a fire chief, and an Otis elevator repairman. None of these good people could be described as what are now termed "yuppies," but they were active in the group of people who wrote and established the C-31 Zoning for College Avenue when the times forced them into action to save the Avenue and their neighborhood's quality of life.

The Avenue's prosperity of the 1950s and early '60s was utterly destroyed by the building of the Grove-Shafter Freeway (Highway 24) and the BART line. More than 3,000 homes were demolished to make room for the modern commuter age, beginning in 1965, and the economic impact was much worse than the Hills Fire. Then, unlike now, College Avenue businesses were almost wholly dependent on local residents. In the pre-freeway age, regional shopping meant a long drive on surface streets, and a destination store meant Sears, Kahn's, or Capwell's downtown. It was a big deal to drive to Montgomery Ward on the other side of the Lake.

The depressed economy brought a huge increase in crime. The nationwide Neighborhood Alert program started right here as neighbors helping neighbors. It was no great leap for RCPC (yes, it existed over 20 years ago) to begin meeting to consider how to revive the Avenue and safeguard a rapidly vanishing quality of life. Talks soon centered on how to recreate the bustling shopping district of the '20s through the early '60s. People asked: What made College Avenue so special in that era? What made it work? The answer: lots of small shops serving local needs, pedestrian-oriented shopping, people living above the shops to keep life on the street at night, and some upper-story offices for local professionals. That's what had made up their successful neighborhood shopping district before.

The quality of life and property values of thousands of individuals are at stake along both sides of College Avenue.

The New Zoning

These ideas were incorporated into a brand-new zoning designation, the C-31 Special Retail Commercial Zone. It had never been tried as law before, and the neighbors held their collective breaths. In only a few years the Avenue again prospered. Small shops of every description were drawn here, and inappropriate developments (e.g., a Taco Bell at Harwood and College) were successfully fought off by a coalition of merchants and neighbors. The property values of the surrounding neighborhood increased beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and the businesses tax and property tax revenues rolled into City coffers, to the benefit of all of Oakland. No one would ever have imagined that Rockridge could surpass Montclair in property values, but it did.

In the same time frame, Telegraph Avenue in the Temescal neighborhood, once a thriving business district, declined miserably. Store after store closed its doors, and a hodge-podge of empty shops and car-oriented strip malls replaced them. Surrounding property values stayed depressed for years, and tax income to the City decreased or simply failed to grow. One big difference between College and Telegraph is property zoning. Neighborhoods like Piedmont Avenue copied the C-31 zoning and thrived on it. Today, the College and Piedmont Avenue shopping districts are two of the most successful in Oakland, and other areas are exploring the C-31 zoning option, hoping to achieve economic progress and stability for their own neighborhoods.

Destruction of Zoning

The proposed Dreyer's project so totally destroys both the letter and the spirit of the C-31 zoning that it would make it legally impossible to enforce many aspects of this zoning in the future. Indeed, if the City allows this destruction of the C-31 Zone, the ability to enforce ANY zoning law in Oakland will be called into serious question, and the City will have breached that legal contract with its own citizens.

See "Dreyer's" on next page

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Dreyer's

from page 4

"The C-31 Zone is intended to create, preserve, and enhance areas with a wide range of retail establishments serving both short and long terms needs in attractive settings oriented to pedestrian comparison shopping." This is the statement of purpose contained in the zoning code as evolved by our neighborhood 20+ years ago and vigorously defended ever since. One of the most important provisions of this zoning is the limitation of total floor area for any single establishment to 7,500 square feet.

The current Dreyer's proposal asks for a total square footage of 57,420 square feet for offices and 87,813 square feet for parking. Combined with the existing 49,282 square feet of office space, Dreyer's is requesting that the City permit it to put 194,517 square feet under roof in a two-building complex for the exclusive use of a single establishment. This is an expansion of the permitted square footage of 2,500%, i.e., approximately 26 times larger than allowed without a conditional use permit. Only one other building in the C-31 Zone has exceeded the 7,500 square foot limitation, Medical Insurance Exchange of California (MIEC) on Claremont. This has occurred to the great detriment of the quality of life of the surrounding neighbors. Be assured that MIEC is currently watching Dreyer's proposal intently, as it too has wanted to expand greatly at its existing site. The new Rockridge Branch Library, at 15,200 square feet mandated by the state, will also exceed the bulk/size limit, but I can guarantee that the Library will be here in twenty years (barring natural disaster), and no such guarantee can be made for either Dreyer's or MIEC. Besides, the library is a civic, not a commercial, use and thus of a different order entirely.

If the city allows this destruction of the C-31 Zone, the ability to enforce ANY zoning law in Oakland will be called into serious question.

Let's use another example: If the height provision in C-31, which limits buildings to 35 feet in height, were to be expanded by the same factor of 26, we would have 910-foot high buildings on College Avenue. That's about 80 stories high. When you look at these extreme comparisons, what Dreyer's is requesting looks like what it is—completely out of line with the C-31 zoning's stated purpose and limitations.

Dreyer's received its initial permission to overbuild for the zoning in 1989 (their existing office space is 6.6 times greater than allowed by C-31). This occurred even though the City's planning staff wrote that "Staff believes the Final EIR (Environmental Impact Report) to be inadequate and, therefore, not in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act." A vastly different Planning Commission certified the EIR and the City Council, under a very different administration, denied an appeal, permitting the project to happen.

The truth is that it is inappropriate for a municipality to put the desires of one corporate entity above the legal contract it holds with thousands of its citizens. The quality of life, public trust, and property values of thousands are at stake along both sides of College Avenue. History teaches us this: As the Avenue goes, so goes the Neighborhood. ■



Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor,

As Rockridge residents, homeowners and taxpayers, we were appalled to see Joe Thornhill's incitement to NIMBY-syndrome action in the last issue [January 14, 1995] of *The Rockridge News*.

What exactly could neighbors have to fear from a halfway house for five HIV+/AIDS affected formerly homeless persons? Might they go from house to house forcing us to share their needles? Mr. Thornhill apparently recognizes that there is no rational basis for fearing the project, relying as he does on the time-tested slippery slope. Who knows what the zoning board might permit next – perhaps a check-cashing franchise or methadone clinic.

None of us like to see homeless people in Rockridge, or anywhere else. We recognize, however, that homelessness will not be solved by blocking the development of the very transitional services people need to help themselves escape homelessness. We are proud to live in Oakland because of its diversity, and the spirit of community action which fosters the development of non-profit organizations like the group planning the project in question. We are, however, occasionally disappointed by our neighbors.

Gabrielle Lessard, Rachelle Feldman
Daniel Levin, Benjamin Quinones
– *Armanino Court*

Editor's note: Any institutional or quasi-institutional use of propery in an area zoned only for residences will impact the area, regardless of the nature of the activity. For example, the City Planning Commission recently denied a group assembly permit for a home in Rockridge which was the residence of a few Zen Buddhist practitioners who planned to conduct meditation sessions for non-residents. A public hearing on the proposed halfway house would allow all sides to express their opinions on whether "transitional services" are appropriate in certain zones. We believe that the case raises valid zoning regulation issues which are best addressed through the permit/public hearing process. ■

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Birds and Habitat

by Annette Floystrup

The Backyard Naturalist

Big birds capture the imagination of people all over the world in a unique way. I recently sat in my dining room window seat sipping my morning coffee and enjoying the rare sight of a Great Blue Heron standing at rest on my neighbor's roof. With the possible exception of ostriches, which look simply silly to me because they don't fly, there is a majesty to big birds that is unmatched in nature.

My opinion was shaped by a couple of events in my teens involving two quite different birds. First I climbed up to the roof of Ribe cathedral in my native Denmark, and looked out over a sea of red rooftops, many sporting wagon wheels in the hope of attracting storks to nest. That day we counted 27 nests with young. Some years later, I had the rare privilege of seeing a California Condor in its silent flight. My girlfriend and I noticed it because it cast a shadow over the river bank the size of a small plane, but there was no accompanying sound. As we stared up in awe, a huge primordial, dark bird with a wingspan that seemed to fill the sky floated over us as it rode the thermals down the river canyon. We felt deeply blessed, like original humans in the forest primeval.

We were recently in Denmark for a family birthday, and the subject of storks was raised. "How many this year?" I asked. I was shocked to hear only seven in the whole country. What a sad difference 30 years has made. The beautiful white stork with its jet black wing tips and festive bright orange-red legs and beak, so much an icon of Denmark's identity, may soon come no more from Pharaoh's land as in the children's songs I sang long ago. Habitat encroachment in Denmark in the form of lost wetlands drained for agriculture and the global thinning of the ozone layer have taken a disastrous toll on the stork's primary food source, frogs. People in Ribe have taken to digging man-made ponds and stocking them with frogs so that their stork families will not starve before they leave the nest. At the other end of their migration, human overpopulation in Egypt has almost obliterated the stork's wintering grounds.

Here in California, the Condor is all but extinct, surviving only through heroic efforts by humans to breed them in captivity and release them. Already, several of the released birds have been found dead by both natural and human-caused means. Finding a large enough habitat for them, relatively free of humans who will not shoot them for the perverse pleasure of killing the last of a species, is proving difficult.

Habitat is the key to all life. We vacationed in Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. last May, and along with many delightful memories, we also took home one of the saddest. While we were staying at the resort area of Whistler, the only birds we saw in a week were a couple of ravens and some ducks. The hillside outside our condo was covered with bushes and trees, a veritable bird paradise of food and shelter, and utterly devoid of life. Go one week without birdsong and without bird flight and activity, and you know how much they add to our daily experience. I talked with birder friends in Alberta who confirmed our impression. While everyone in America knows about the destruction of the Amazonian rain forests, the disappearance of the vast majority of the rain forests of the Pacific northwest has not entered the greater consciousness. Most of Vancouver Island is clear-cut with enough left along roadways to hide the devastation except from the air. NASA photos reveal a far higher percentage of destruction of our rain forests than of South America's.

In the face of such huge changes, what can we do here? Start simply. Buy and stock a birdfeeder or two. Plant a garden. Put up a birdbath. If you have the inclination and the energy, join a wildlife organization and write letters on behalf of the species which cannot speak for themselves. Learn to appreciate what we have here, and teach your children and neighbors to value these small lives too. Without them, the silence is deafening. ■

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Changes on College

E Line Ale House

5612 College
(formerly The Lobby)

The old E Line, which linked Oakland and San Francisco in pre-BART days, will be memorialized in a new pub to be opened in late February. The three co-owners, Greg Boudreaux, Rick Warner (the brewmaster), and Mia Yellin, would love to borrow trolley car memorabilia for the decor and are interested in talking to local-history buffs. E Line will have 16 to 20 beers on tap at a time. All are brewed off-premises. Families will be welcome at the pub, which will serve inexpensive pub lunches. In fact, the four offspring of one of the owners (who is also a neighbor) will be frequent visitors.

Levy's Bagels & Company

5640 College
(formerly Xerxes)

This New York-style establishment aims to open in mid-April. See April's *Rockridge News* for more information.

Choices

5817 College

After a short stay, the owner bids adieu to the Avenue. The cause is that old story – not enough customers. If you'll miss this and other potential leave-takers, remember to support Rockridge businesses!

Bottom Line Hair Salon

310 Forest
(around corner from Noah's Art)

The specialty of owners Stacy and Scott is hair color.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD MERCHANT

by Trish West

COSMOS

5655 KEITH AVENUE • 547-1606
(across from Rockridge BART)

The collision of several fortuitous events made Crystal Terry the owner of Cosmos Flowers. Crystal had long been a customer of the shop under its previous owner. When that owner mentioned that she was considering selling the shop, Crystal had just begun seeking a business venture in her community. (She lives in Upper Rockridge.) Then Crystal's mother, Barbara Terry, was thrust into the job market when the San Diego Councilmember for whom she was administrative assistant decided against rerunning. Crystal and Barbara put their heads together, and a few months later, Barbara had completed a floral design course, rented a house three doors from her daughter's, and started happily arranging flowers at Cosmos.

Although Crystal also works at the shop on weekends and some afternoons, she has another demanding career to attend to: she is an anesthesiologist with Summit Hospital. Her seemingly boundless energy has propelled her into a yet another avocation, manager and fundraiser of the Savage Jazz Dance Troupe, which is based in Rockridge. As a former dancer herself, Crystal speaks proudly of the fledgling troupe's successes. For instance, the troupe was invited to participate in the recent Dance Festival at Theater Artaud in San Francisco. Crystal calls herself the troupe's "den mother": "I sew up the costumes, drive dancers to rehearsal, and tape up their ankles." Crystal's initial contact with the dance troupe was also a Rockridge happening, as she and Reggie Savage met in Oliveto Cafe.

It may seem hard to believe, but Crystal also finds time to be a mentor to several students who want to enter the medical field. AND, she is adding to her classical talents at the piano by learning jazz. How does she do it all? Crystal answers, "Everything I've taken on has been because I wanted to. I guess that, plus enjoying the creative outlets, is what gives me the energy."

One of Crystal's busiest days of the year is just ahead at the flower shop. It happens to be my own favorite holiday, Saint Valentine's Day. Crystal and Barbara will set up an express window at their small shop on that day. They'll even offer a 10% discount for phone orders placed and paid for before noon on February 13. Small bouquets at $5-10 for modest budgets will stand beside more extravagant offerings. Of course there will be scads of roses and tulips, but Crystal also suggests the beautiful lisianthus, which comes in purple, pink, and white and combines some of the characteristics of its more traditional sisters. All flowers will be charmingly arranged in Cosmos' distinctive full, airy, European-style array.

Crystal and Barbara warmly invite community members in for a chat and a look at the beautiful flowers arranged inside what probably used to be a carriage house. Says Crystal, "We live – as well as work – in Rockridge and want to be connected to our neighborhood."

Cosmos, at 5655 Keith, is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. ■

Hazardous Household Waste Disposal Dates Set

You can dispose of unwanted paint, batteries, and oil on March 4 and 5 in Oakland and April 1 and 2 in Berkeley. To make the required appointment and get directions to the drop-off site, call 1-800-750-4096 M-F, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Let Barbara Terry of Cosmos Flowers put together a bouquet for your Valentine.

Photo: Trish West. Printed and developed courtesy of Ag photo, College Avenue.

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Comments

by Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor, District 5
Northern Alameda County Urban Environmental Conference

On Saturday, March 25, I will be hosting a unique opportunity to dialogue about environmental issues: the Northern Alameda County Urban Environmental Conference.

The interest in such a conference became apparent to me as the Board of Supervisors struggled to finalize the East County Area Plan (ECAP), addressing future development in the North Livermore/East Dublin area. I received over 300 letters and inquiries *from District 5 residents* regarding this plan—a fundamentally important piece of policy, but one with little direct impact on the Fifth District.

I am further convinced of the need for this forum as I work with neighborhoods, environmentalists and the business community to make policy regarding land use and public health. I have participated in lengthy negotiations where stakeholders struggled to balance the needs for economic development, jobs, open space, and safe, stable communities. In spite of this effort, costly legal battles often ensue.

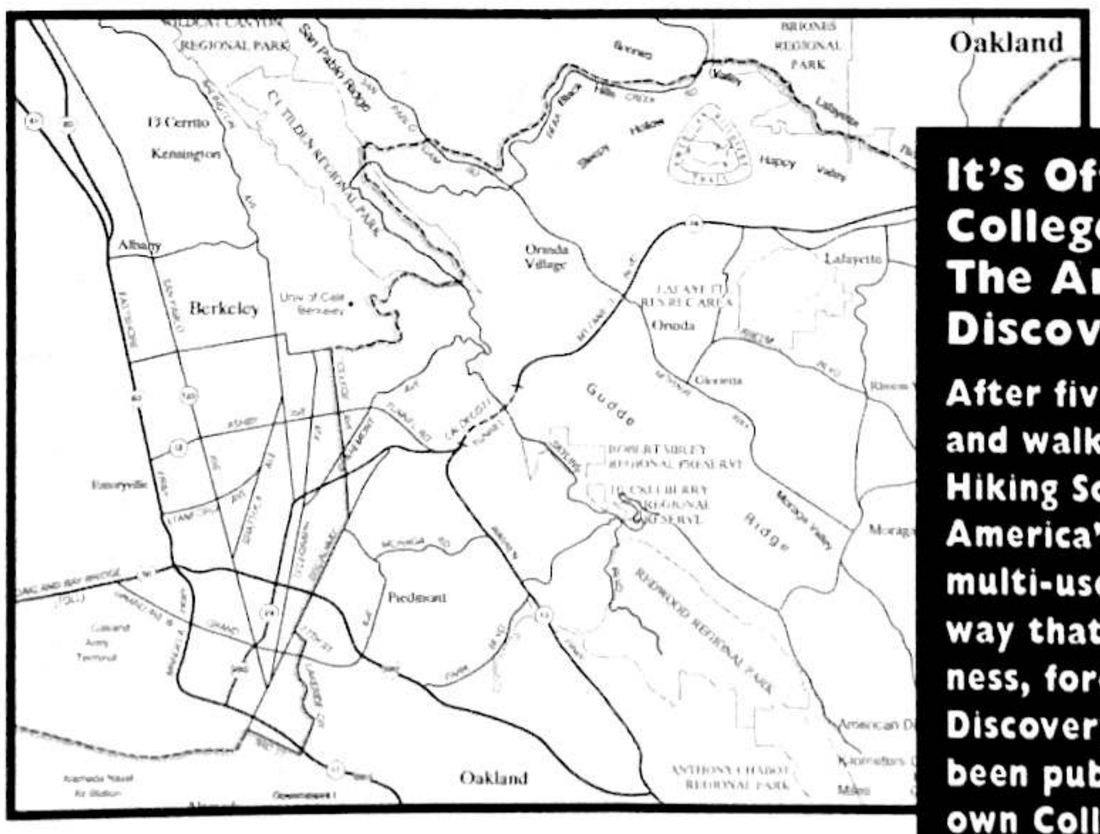
The goal of this event is to bring a diverse, community perspective to this discussion. This free conference will include an interactive panel and break-out sessions addressing specific environmental and economic issues in northern Alameda County.

Mary MacDonald, Chair of RCPC, will co-facilitate a session addressing the Transit Village concept with representatives of BART and Urban Ecology. This session will contrast the Fruitvale and Rockridge station sites, allowing us to explore the benefits of this planning concept in an appropriate setting. Other break-out sessions will address community gardening as a neighborhood development tool, the recycling market development zone and its emerging industries, and lead poisoning prevention in older homes. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to learn from exhibits and demonstration models at a morning-long Information Fair.

Alice Waters, renowned owner of Chez Panisse Restaurant & Cafe in Berkeley, is volunteering her time as consulting chef to provide a vegetarian feast showcasing produce from local growers. She will also give a keynote speech addressing her innovative efforts to promote the consumption of local foods in season.

Throughout the past five months of planning, my office has enjoyed the support of an energetic and creative Steering Committee consisting of neighborhood activists, local business people and representatives of many organizations. Together we have created a truly unique event.

I hope you will join us at the King Junior High School in Berkeley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Should you have any questions, please call my assistant, Amalia Egri at (510) 272-6685. ■



Map courtesy of Trails Illustrated, Evergreen, CO, 1-800-962-1643.

It's Official: College Avenue Is on The American Discovery Trail

After five years of planning and walking, the American Hiking Society has developed America's first coast-to-coast, multi-use hiking trail - a pathway that links cities, wilderness, forests and deserts. The Discovery Trail map has just been published, and our very own College Avenue is part of the trek through California.

What's Cooking in Rockridge?

by Susan Montauk,
RCPC Boardmember

Old Mother Hubbard's Kitchen

was nothing to brag about.....

but we bet yours IS!!

RCPC is seeking notable *Rockridge kitchens* for our September kitchen tour.

If you'd like to help call: Maya Nissanka 658-5897

On September 17, the Rockridge Community Planning Council will sponsor a kitchen tour and tasting feast, with tidbits from our superb College Avenue eateries. You can glean some great ideas for remodeling and, at the same time, sample local culinary offerings. If you (or a friend or neighbor) have a kitchen you think would be of interest, or if you'd like to volunteer as a docent, contact our selection committee, Maya Nissanka (658-5897) or Susan Montauk (547-3855). ■

Chabot School Kindergarten Registration

Don't forget that February is kindergarten registration month for fall 1995. Children should be five years old by December 2, **1995**. (Note correction in date.) Kindergarten open house will be held Thursday, March 2, 6:00 p.m., at Chabot School, 6686 Chabot Road. Come meet the kindergarten teachers, see the classroom, and have your questions answered. ■

College Avenue Adult Activity Center

5951 College Avenue

Invite your friends to come along with you to the following programs, all at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays:

February 15 Elsie Hanson: slides of the 24th anniversary at the White House

February 22 The "Sirs," a.k.a. "Singing Roosters," will present a musical program

March 1 Charles Fitch: slides of the 17-Mile Drive in Carmel and Monterey

March 8 China scholar Robert Jones will talk about China

Rockridge Crime Report

The following is a summary of serious incidents phoned into the Rockridge Crime Alert Hot Line since our last issue.

Over the New Year's weekend, professional offices on **Oakgrove Avenue near College** were broken into. Items of value were ignored by the burglar, who apparently was searching for cash, checks, and prescription pads.

On Monday, January 9, about 7 p.m. on the **5800 block of Chabot**, residents were solicited at their door for cash donations to the Ghandi Foundation. The solicitor had a clipboard with lots of papers about the foundation but was unwilling to give any out and was incensed when money was refused. About fifteen minutes later, rocks were thrown against this resident's window and a flower pot was thrown against the house of a neighbor who had also refused to give. The resident who reported this incident could not be positive that the solicitor was responsible but believes that the circumstances led to this possible conclusion. The solicitor is a white male, between 40 and 50 years old, gray-haired, balding, scruffy, about six feet tall.

On January 28, at 12:30 a.m., residents of a home near **Ocean View and McMillan** were awakened by a loud noise that they thought was an earthquake. Their 1-3/4-inch deadbolted door was kicked in by a person apparently wearing heavy boots. Police officers responding to the call conjectured that the pair of intruders were in need of quick drug money and stood on a 5-gallon paint can to peer inside the lighted house. The owner of the house confronted them at the front door and estimated the whole incident took less than 10 seconds. As the perpetrators fled, one returned to pick up a dropped item, looked at the owner standing on the front porch, and said, "Thanks!"

To stay informed, or to report any suspicious activity, be sure to call the Hotline. The message is updated every Friday. ■

ROCKRIDGE CRIME ALERT HOTLINE

Dial 814-2255 (814-CALL) to report suspicious activities or to hear weekly updates on criminal activity in Rockridge

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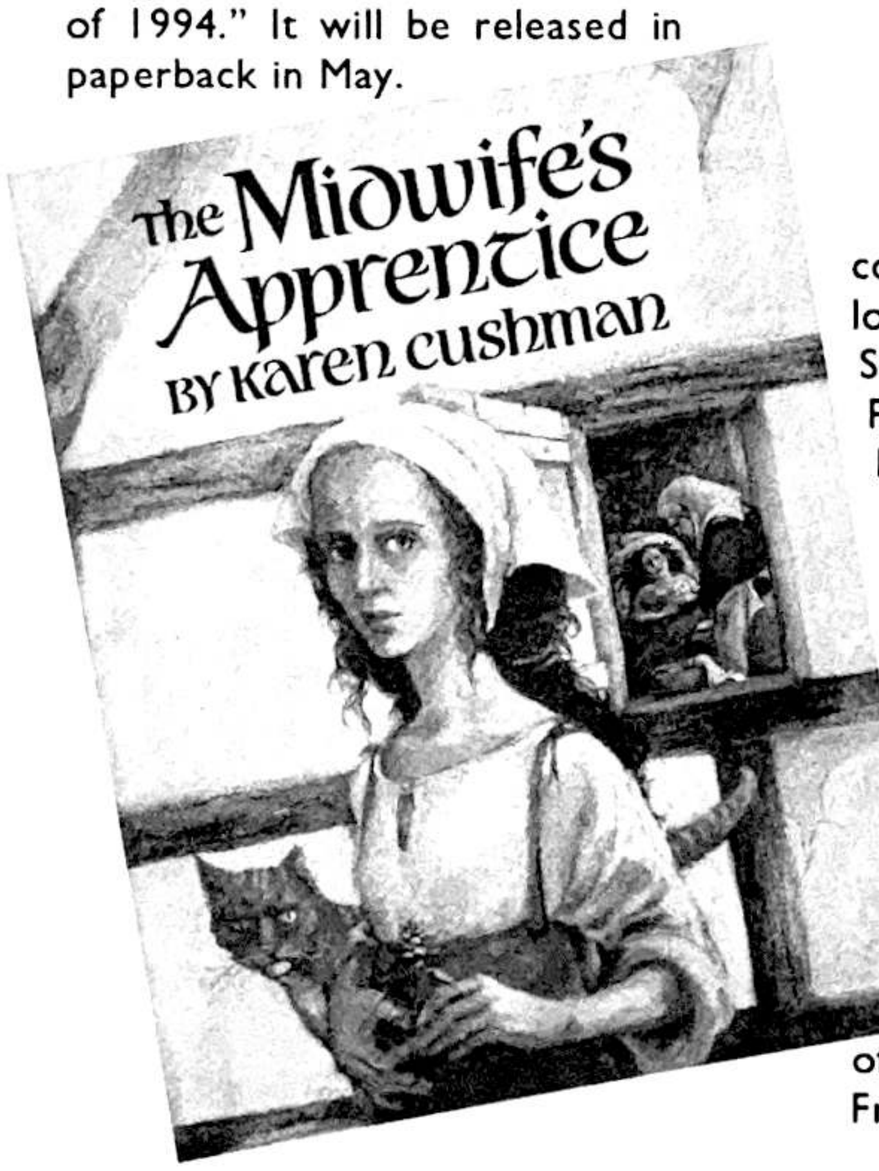
Absolutely everyone who's ***anyone*** *must be cued in on what's happening in Rockridge. So, whether you're a reader, an environmentalist, a parent, a child, an artist, or all of the above, The Muse has gathered some special treats for* ***your*** *muse.*

His and Hers (Books, That Is)

Lawton Avenue residents Karen Cushman and Philip Cushman have both written a book – but not the same book. Philip Cushman's tome, *Constructing the Self, Constructing America: A Cultural History of Psychotherapy*, will be available around the end of February/beginning of March and, as the title implies, he intertwines the development of the country with that of psychotherapy. Favorable reviews of his book can be found in *Kirkus Reviews* and *Publishers Weekly*. And, watch for his appearance at local bookstores; that is, when he's not teaching full-time or engaging in his psychotherapy practice on College above Citron restaurant.

Karen Cushman, a writer of books for young readers, has just published her second book (available in March), *The Midwife's Apprentice*. The moving story follows the blossoming of an abandoned girl in medieval England as she finds her place in the world.

Karen's first book, *Catherine, Called Birdy*, has done very well indeed: it received the Carl Sandberg Award, and the Friends of the Chicago Public Library voted it "the best children's book of 1994." It will be released in paperback in May.



The Rockridge Muse

Children's Art at Christensen-Heller Gallery

Jan Christensen-Heller is committed to interesting children in creating art as well as involving them in causes that their art can benefit. Currently, she is working with 4th-8th graders at St. Augustine School who will display their art work at her gallery (5831 College Avenue), the proceeds of which will go toward the children's choice of the following: Children's Hospital, Earthquake Relief, Family House, Make A Wish Foundation, Mocha, SPCA, Salvation Army, Tuition Assistance, and Your Art Program. From February 21 through March 4 (the opening will be from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, February 25), 30 matted and framed works will grace the walls of Christensen-Heller Gallery (more will be in a portfolio), available for sale at $30 each. All proceeds will go to the designated organization(s). Help this worthy effort, and encourage young artists at the same time.

Three (to the nth) Makes a (Madding) Crowd

Never an organization to shirk from controversial topics, the Sierra Club's local chapter is sponsoring a talk by Sierra Club's Executive Director Carl Pope. The event, entitled "Talking About Population," will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5951 College Avenue. Admission is free.

Fred Beddall, the Club's Conservation Representative, tells us that, despite the fact that the Club's national headquarters is in San Francisco, it is unusual for the Executive Director to make a local appearance; thus, an inference can be drawn about the importance of this issue. For more information, call Fred Beddall at 653-6127.

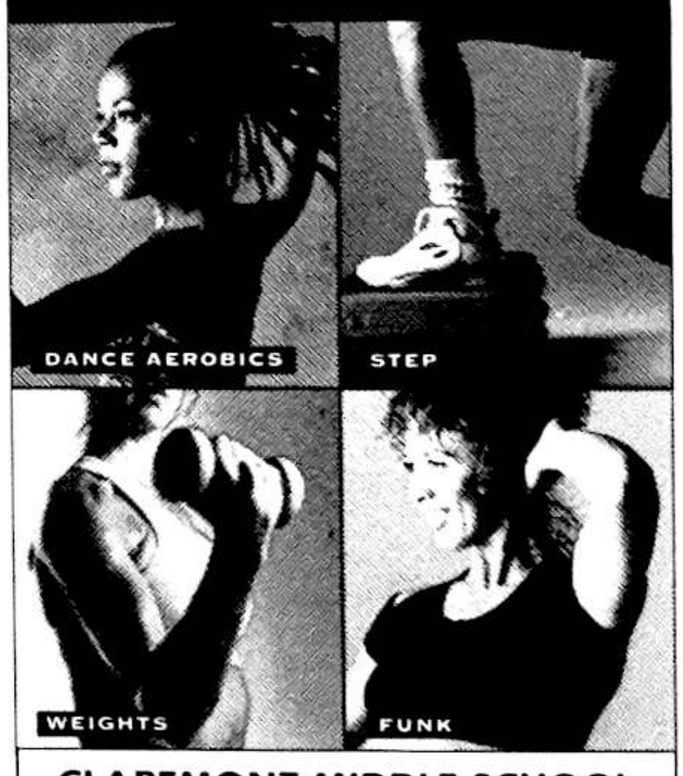
Liz Maxwell's Paintings Fuel Diesel

Whether you're attending one of the many scintillating authors' talks at Diesel, A Bookstore (5433 College Avenue) or just browsing, cast your eyes upwards to enjoy the work of local artist Liz Maxwell. Most of the works are oil on canvas plus a few linoleum block prints, with subjects that range from jazz musicians to dream-like landscapes.



Keep everyone in the know: let The Muse know – at 5856 College Avenue, #130, Oakland 94618. ■

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Zoning Applications

This column provides a list of new and continuing City of Oakland Planning Department applications as well as decisions affecting the Rockridge area. RCPC tracks all commercial and residential applications, usually provides comments on proposals to the City's Planning Commission, and brings to the attention of the Rockridge community those propositions that merit community-wide concern.

The information listed in the column is taken from the Planning Commission's agenda, the Commission's final report to the applicant, and/or the case file or comments made at public hearing. The number following the applicant's name and address is the Planning Department case number. Call the Planning Department at 238-3911 for additional information on a particular item.

Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream/5929 College Avenue CMD95-6

Application for a Major Conditional Use Permit and Design Review for a proposed 57,208 sq. feet, two-story office structure, with a three-story, partially underground parking garage with 232 spaces. The structure will be physically attached to the existing Dreyer's building on College which consists of 58,958 sq. feet (49,284 used by Dreyer's; 9,674 used by ground floor retail). Total building above ground, with proposed addition, will be 116,166 sq. feet. City will determine whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required, and a public hearing on the Major Conditional Use Permit and Design Review will be held. City's determination on the EIR not available at publication time; hearing date not yet scheduled.

FitLab/5335 College Avenue D94-251

Application for Design Review to install three new business signs and to exceed the maximum aggregate sign area (150 sq. feet proposed; 100 sq. feet allowed). Comments on application were due at Office of Planning and Building/Zoning Division by January 20, 1995. No decision available at publication time.

Levy's Bagels & Co./5640 College Avenue CMD94-250

Application for Major Conditional Use Permit to establish new General Food Sales Commercial Activity and Design Review to alter exterior (at former site of Xerxes). Public hearing held January 11 and 25, 1995. No decision available at publication time.

RN Classifieds

Your 36-word message: $15 (phone number counts as one word). Mail to: RN Classifieds, 5856 College Avenue, #130, Oakland, CA 94618. **March deadline is February 25.**

Storyteller Available

Add the magic of storytelling to birthdays, holidays, bridal or baby showers, day care, and classrooms. Multicultural stories of wisdom, love and adventure. Folktales that celebrate the natural world. Mary Ellen Hill, 763-5145.

Antique Armoire for Sale

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Memory Lane Video

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Alternative Pet Sitters

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Shared Babysitting Arrangement

Looking to share with one or two families starting in April. Our child is 2 months now. If looking to expand existing group, start a new one, or provide day care, call 653-0935.

House for Rent

Sparkling Upper Rockridge Craftsman. Two bedrooms, den, remodeled eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood throughout, garage, workshop, deck, view, enclosed level backyard. Great closets and storage. On quiet street. $1,400/month. 253-0581.

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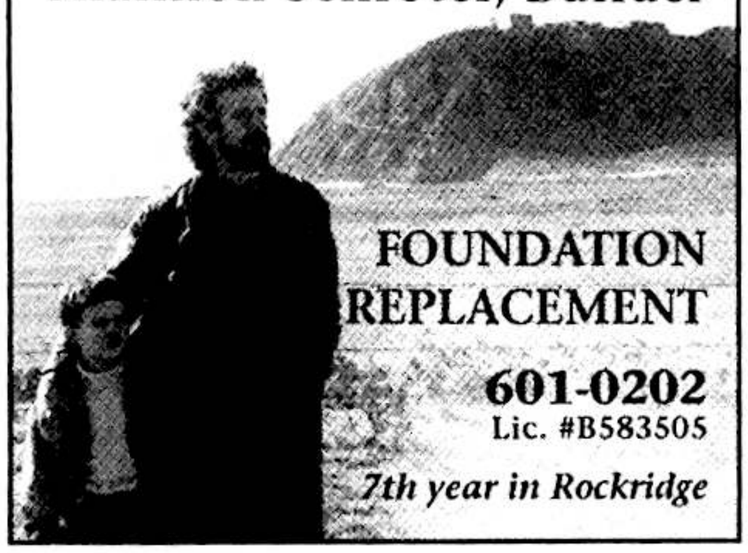
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