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THE Rockridge News

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RCPC General Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library
5366 College Avenue (at Manila)

■ Curbing Crime In Rockridge

by Wayne Papy

Rockridge is a wonderful place to live and work, but a recent survey reveals that the two major concerns of Oakland residents are schools and crime. A look at OPD crime statistics (see page 6) shows that residents of Beat 12Y, which includes Rockridge, have serious cause for concern .

June's RCPC General Meeting will examine steps to combat crime and improve safety in Rockridge. Meet Oakland Police Captain Ralph Laser, local policing officer Johnna Watson, and Service

See "Agenda," page 6

Caldecott Tunnel Study Faulted

RCPC joins local cities criticizing the process and findings of the 4th bore study

by Ronnie Spitzer,
RCPC Traffic Committee Chair

As the Caldecott Tunnel study enters its final phase, critical letters are being sent to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) by the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, the Alameda Congestion Management Agency and the Rockridge Community Planning Council, among others. All raise serious concerns about the study process and the validity of the conclusions. Many participants believe that the study has not provided a clear, comprehensive and even-handed evaluation of the issues.



At this point, the process for completing the study is unclear. Dates for the last round of public meetings are still tentative, but will likely occur in late June. While MTC will send the completed report to the California Transportation Commission, it has not decided whether to include a recommendation from the Policy Advisory Committee or what role the latter will play in the final evaluation. Construction may be years away because funding has to be identified first and an EIR completed prior to groundbreaking. The majority of the cost will be borne by the state, with some contribution from Contra Costa County, the project's principal supporter.

Among the RCPC Traffic Committee's concerns are:

■ Low relative priority of the project. Among congested Alameda corridors, the Hwy. 24 "reverse commute"

See "Tunnel Plan Challenged," page 6

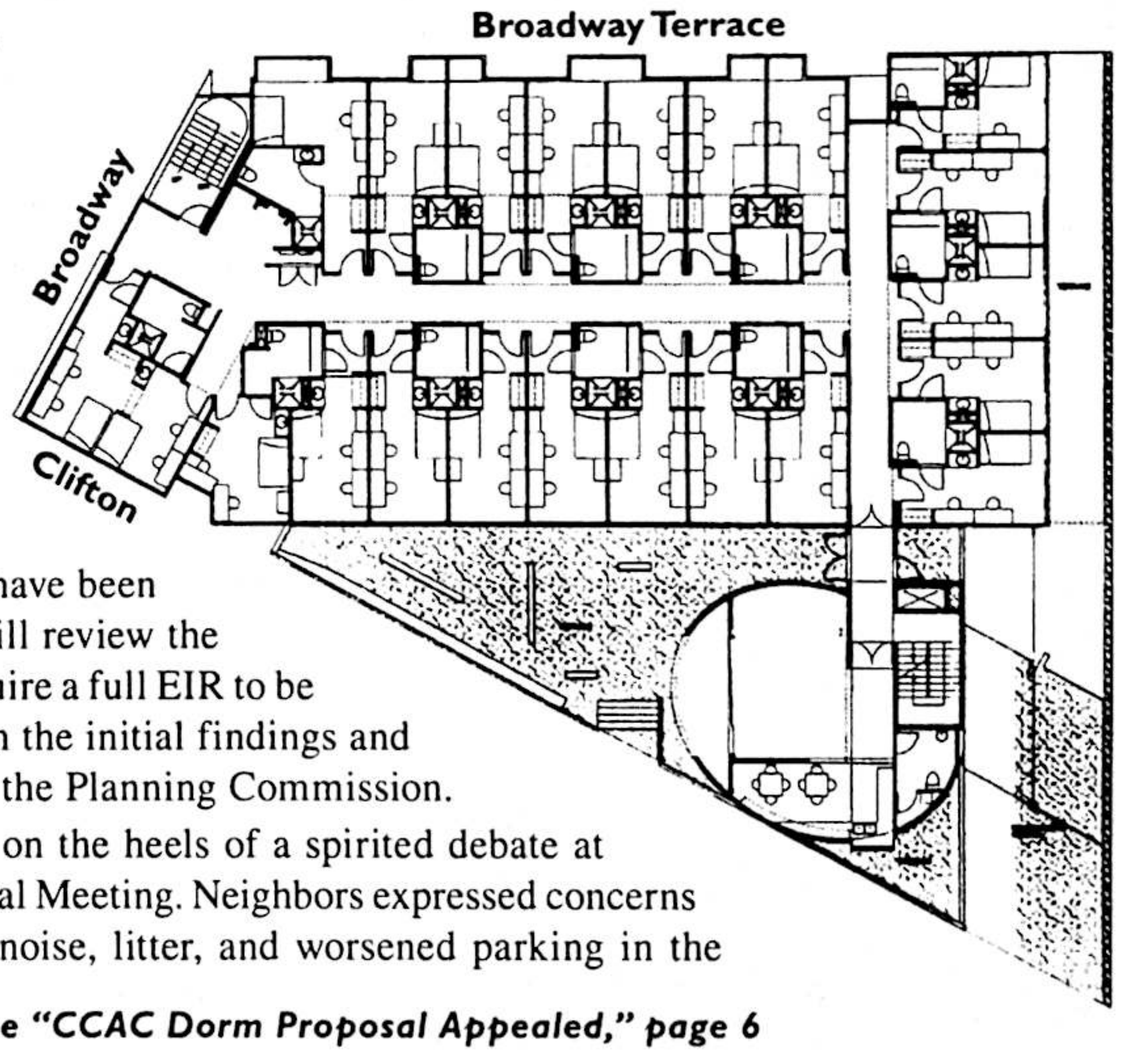
Neighbors Appeal CCAC Dorm/Parking Project

Spirited debate at May RCPC General Meeting

by Chad Thompson, RCPC Zoning and Design Review Committee Chair

Neighbors opposed to CCAC's housing project at Broadway Avenue and Broadway Terrace appealed the initial study, which had concluded a full environmental impact report (EIR) was not required. The study, called a "mitigated negative declaration," concluded that the proposed building conforms to the general plan for the area and that environmental impacts are relatively minor, foreseeable, and can be mitigated by the college as a condition of approval. By filing the appeal, the neighbors delayed the hearing before the Planning Commission scheduled for May 24, at which time approval could have been granted. City staff will review the appeal and either require a full EIR to be performed or confirm the initial findings and submit the project to the Planning Commission.

Shown at right is the first-floor plan for the dorm and parking structure CCAC proposes to build at the intersection of Broadway and Broadway Terrace.



The appeal came on the heels of a spirited debate at the May RCPC General Meeting. Neighbors expressed concerns about loss of views, noise, litter, and worsened parking in the

See "CCAC Dorm Proposal Appealed," page 6

book corner

by **Gay Ducey** Children's Librarian



Photo: Chris Ahlstrand

The Pale Man

We have a garage sale about every ten years. It takes that long to recover and to amass enough stuff to mount another campaign. Now, your seasoned garage sale organizer knows better than to wait that long: things become obsolete in 5 years, but not collectible for 20.

My husband, Pat, and I prepared well. I read a book from the library, we priced things using notes like O.B.O. (Or Best Offer) and Pat made big signs. I felt a thin veneer of confidence about our modest enterprise.

We really wanted to get rid of our daughter's acid green chest bed. Really. And a bunch of other furniture, too. Up at dawn, we were already hissing at each other as we carried out box after box. I attempted an artful display to imply worth, but most of it was lame stuff. Our inventory ran from plastic coffeepots (never sold) to a lurid holograph of the crucifixion (sold immediately). Dealers, we were told, come early. True. They swarmed out of double parked vehicles and swept through like Cossacks, commenting on our tawdry offerings and making offers on same. Near neighbors settled in for the day, dogs dropped by, and our customers came in waves. Everyone rooted around in unopened boxes and slipped into our garage (the staging area). One woman tried to buy my box of SOS pads, a sponge and a roll of paper towels. "Practical!" she said. "Mine!" I said. The green bed looked like a dais for Kermit the Frog, and people averted their eyes as they passed it. We had given up hope when a small child clattered down the driveway and shouted "There it is, Amy's green bed!" My husband latched on like a limpet, slashing the price and throwing in a night stand. We felt great: this was mercantile matchmaking. People we had only waved to before stayed long enough for us to become acquainted. "I'm feeling a Norman Rockwell moment here," confessed my husband.

Early on, a pale, pleasant man told us he had driven in from Castro Valley just for the sale. "Wow," we said. He was a talkative fellow and he picked up every single thing on the table, turning them, fondling them. A small pile of selections rose, including a pair of toy handcuffs. Each time he seemed finished, something else would catch his eye. It was, well, an odd assortment: a tiny toy mouse, a trivet, and ribbon, which he wound through his fingers. After a long time, he paid and left.

We were dog tired, but there was a last rush. The pale man must have slipped in with them. "Just one more look," he said, his fingers lingering on the leavings, patting and stroking. He had left several hours ago. "Have you grandchildren?" I asked. "No. Just me and my wife." His pockets were stuffed with his previous purchases. "She doesn't like me to do this," he confided. I became really uneasy and said, "Well, you've got a lot of stuff." "Yes," he said softly, "but there's always something else."

As we packed up, he was still there, holding, relinquishing. I thought of him late that night, unloading his trinkets, and sitting down to sort them, like Hallowe'en candy.

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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 non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Claremont Hotel Expansion Plans & Lake Chabot Golf Course Fix-Up Challenged by Neighbors

by: Susan Montauk,
RCPC Board Director

The KSL Recreation Corporation sent representatives to Councilmember Jane Brunner's District 1 Advisory meeting on May 6 to field comments from a politely confrontational crowd regarding its proposed expansion of the Claremont Hotel Resort and Spa, and its potential partnership with the Chester Rawls Concessionaire of Chabot Golf Course. KSL, parent company of the Claremont hotel, established its beachhead in the East Bay two years ago when it purchased the Claremont Hotel and Spa.

The Claremont straddles Berkeley and Oakland but pays taxes to Oakland, so the city seems more than willing to accommodate this corporate giant in its quest for expansion. Ted Axe, General Manager of the Claremont, explained that KSL's proposal includes the addition of 90 rooms on the Tunnel road side of the hotel, bringing the total number of rooms to 360. The existing hillside pine grove, which Axe insists is already diseased, would be cleared for the project.

Promises to replace felled trees were made. There are also plans to construct individual units suitable for timeshares on the Claremont Avenue corner of the property. Parking facility additions, perhaps underground, and reconfiguration of the Domingo parking lot are also in the mix. Axe reiterated that these plans are preliminary and open to community input.

Audience members fired questions at Axe. Analee Allen, of Oakland Heritage Alliance, urged KSL to apply for landmark status for the 1915 structure. Others questioned the need for expansion when occupancy is at 80% and voiced concern about worsening the Ashby/Claremont rush-hour gridlock. Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean and other Berkeley neighbors appealed to Mr. Axe to work closely with their city. Mayor Dean was surprised that the Hotel has not contacted Berkeley about the plans.



The Claremont Hotel dominates the Oakland-Berkeley border. Adding 90 rooms may worsen traffic at nearby intersections. Inset: Claremont General Manager Ted Axe at District 1 meeting.

From a postcard © McCords

A proposed upgrade of the Lake Chabot Golf Course by KSL was also on the agenda. Parks Commissioner Jim Ryugo spoke of the need to upgrade the course and its serious design flaws: a road that crosses 5 fairways, small greens, a clubhouse too small to host events. For the last ten years the course has been underused, losing money for the city.

The cost to repair the course and fix the club house, according to Ryugo, is $12 to $15 million. Concessionaire Raymond Chester said a partnership with KSL (and a city lease of 40 years) would "take LCGC to its highest and best use, preserve its beauty and value and bring it up to competitive standards."

Audience concern peaked with the announcement that greens fees would rocket from the current $18 to as much as $135 on weekends for non-Oakland residents. Oakland residents would cough up $45 during the week and $65 on weekends. Claremont Hotel guests would get a discount. City Manager Robert Bobb said that, despite protests that the new course will not be affordable to residents, the proposal has had many public hearings. The EIR (Environmental Impact Report) will be released for public comment this month, and the Council will vote on certification in July or August. A major CUP (Conditional Use Permit) may also be required for the clubhouse and will be aired at a June public meeting. The hotel expansion, however, is in early stages of presentation to the community.

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Special Meeting: Rockridge Park Design Revisions

by Theresa Nelson

A revised design for the new Rockridge Greenbelt Park will be discussed at a special meeting on Monday, June 19, 7-9:00 p.m., at Peralta School. Councilmember Jane Brunner is sponsoring this meeting to respond to the many comments her office received about the proposed design displayed at the library in March. MIG, the park designers, will present new elements that increase the play value of the park and seek community input.

In March and April, many residents expressed a need for more play structures and more efficient placement of them. Locating units designed for different age groups closer together, for example, allows parents and caregivers to supervise kids of various ages simultaneously. Also recommended were play items that provide multiple activities, including climbing, sliding and swinging as well as imaginative play, especially since the "Swiss Family Robinson" concept at Redondo has been eliminated. By improving the Clifton corridor play area, the current plans to cut trees in the Redondo area could be reduced.

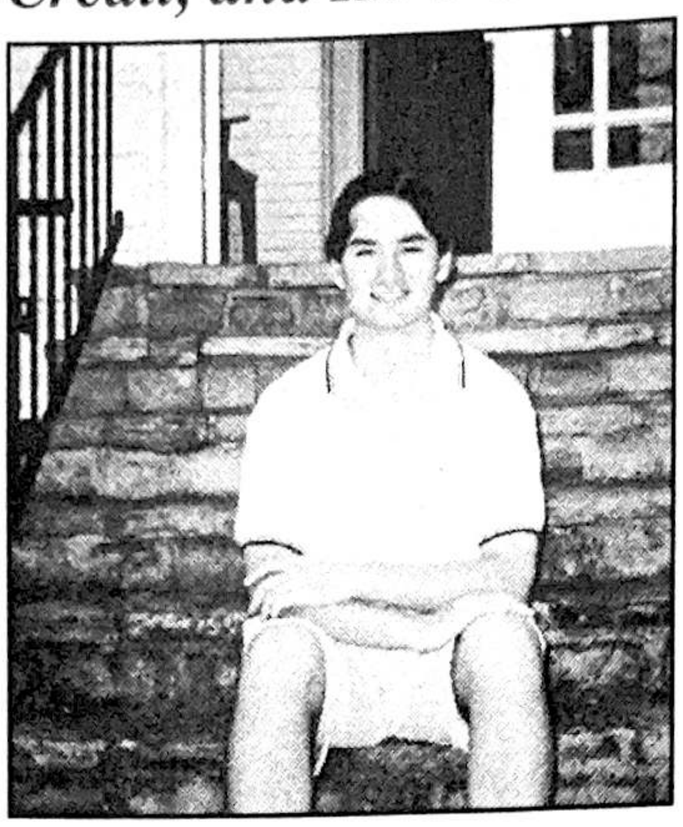
Plan to attend the meeting to discuss these play elements and help move the process toward a final design.

Rockridge Park Fundraiser

A meeting of the fundraising committee will be held at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College, Monday, June 12, 7-8:30 p.m., regarding fundraising opportunities and events to raise additional resources for the park's construction. Everyone is welcome to attend the fundraising meeting and volunteer time and energy for this important effort. Call Steve Costa, 655-4818 for more information.

Rockridge News Volunteers Of the Month

A Young Man Deserves Credit, and He'll Get It!

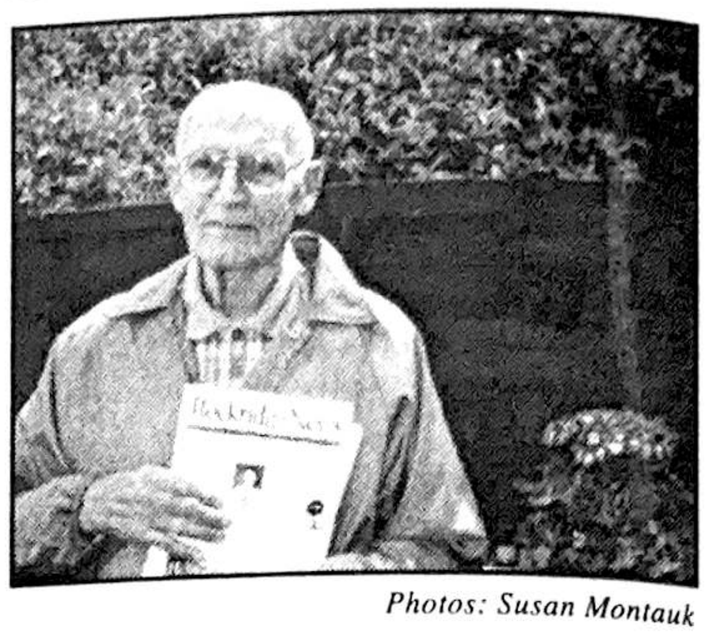


Tom Di Rocco lives on Chabot Road. He attends Head Royce school where, as a freshman, he has a community service requirement of 20 hours.

One Friday a month he crosses the street to the home of Julie Dewey to join a "slightly older" crew who prepare *The Rockridge News* for delivery to over 5000 area homes and businesses.

Tom admits that Julie had to talk him into taking on the job, but, he says, "It turned out to be pretty good. I wouldn't mind doing it again."

Steadfast Neighbor Ends Years of Service



Photos: Susan Montauk

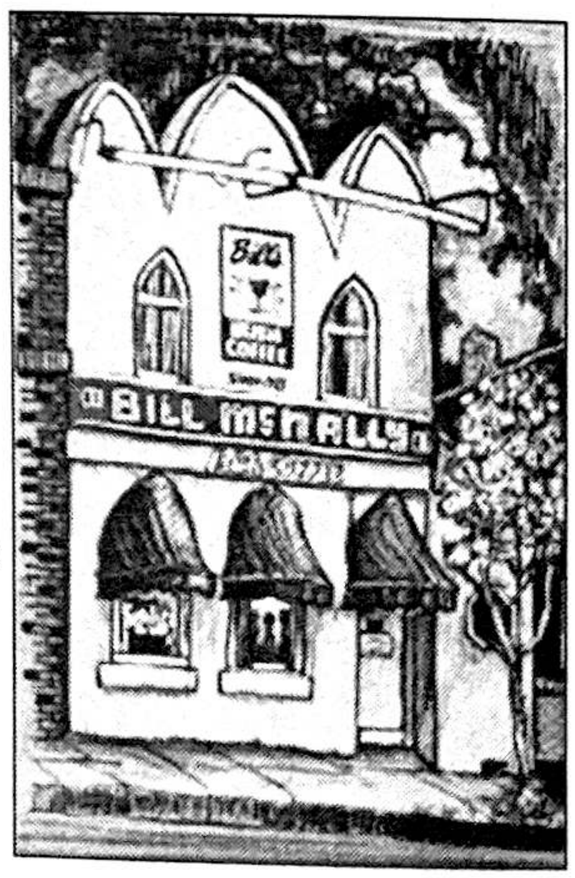
Roger Petrie, 91 years old, delivers his last *Rockridge News* this month to the 5200 block of Miles Avenue as he winds up 6 years of service and support to the neighborhood as a newsletter Block Captain. Mr. Petrie hopes someone will step forward to take his place. Call 547-3855 to volunteer.

RCPC and the staff of *The Rockridge News* thank Tom and Roger, as well as all the 148 volunteers who deliver the newsletter to more than 5,000 neighborhood readers.

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North Oakland Community Charter School to Open in Rockridge

by Raissa Lerner

A new public elementary school will open its doors in Rockridge this September. The North Oakland Community Charter School is the result of two years' work by a group of parents and educators committed to creating a challenging, rewarding and inspiring education for students. The school will open with two classrooms of 20 children each for kindergarten and first grade students only, and will add at least one grade each year up to sixth grade, for a total of 140 children.

The school will focus on early literacy and "teaching for understanding," using a curriculum of carefully designed, thought-provoking projects that call on students to demonstrate a deep understanding of important subject matter. Students will build portfolios of their work throughout the year, subject to continual and innovative grading and assessment under high standards, and their own sense of pride in their work. The school will also employ the California Early Literacy Learning program — successfully implemented in several Berkeley elementary schools — which focuses on building oral language skills, writing and reading comprehension.

Teachers will stay with students for more than one year to foster a sense of community and continuity that builds upon the teachers' intimate understanding of students' abilities, achievements and goals. The school envisions supporting a community of learners with significant parent involvement in the life of the school. Parents may be asked to contribute some time each month to serving on a parent committee, producing a newsletter, accompanying field trips, bringing their special skills and knowledge to the classroom, fundraising, etc.

For the first two years the North Oakland Community Charter School will be located in the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, which has several large, bright, airy classrooms, a playground and gymnasium. Teachers are being hired now. Once staffing is complete, teachers will host a meeting for prospective students and families.

A lottery will be held in June for enrollment in the school. Any child who is a California resident and who will be at least five years old by December 2000 is eligible for the kindergarten; those who are at least six years old by that date are eligible for the first grade. Lottery registration forms may be obtained by contacting Allison Pugh at 290-4541 or pugh@socrates.berkeley.edu

Public Schools Update: Where Is Your Measure A Money Going?

Proposed scope of Claremont Middle School modernization

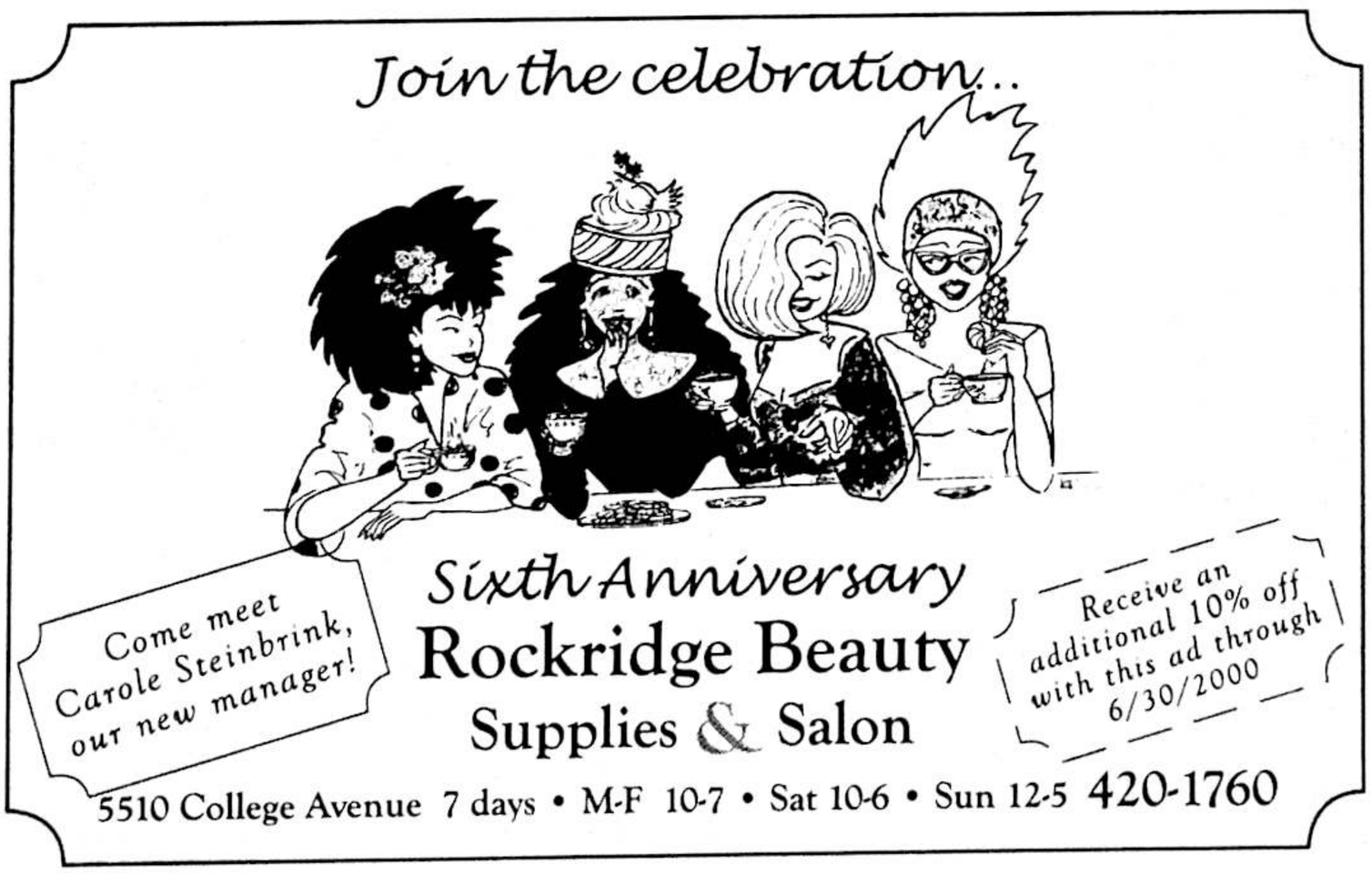
by Susan Montauk

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: $1,260,000

TENTATIVE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE:
June 19, 2000, to September 1, 2000

1. Exterior painting
2. Interior painting*
3. Upgrade fire alarm, entire site
4. Provide new electrical circuits and outlets in all classrooms
5. Extend and upgrade existing data network
6. New intercom P/A system
7. Replace hot water boiler in gymnasium
8. Replace heating system in gym
9. Replace lockers in gymnasium
10. Replace floor tile in old classroom building
11. Replace floor tile in cafeteria and new building*
12. Refinish wood paneling*
13. Remove access barriers at:
    a) Accessible entrances and path of travel
    b) Boys' and girls' restrooms in new building
    c) Men's and women's restrooms in old building
    d) New accessible drinking fountains
    e) New ramp to music room

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Tunnel Plan Challenged

from page 1

ranks 15th. The MTC's own Regional Transportation Plan considers another bore a Tier 2 project;

- MTC's failure to create meaningful evaluation criteria to guide lawmakers;
- Lack of viable transit alternatives to relieve either the regular or the reverse commute;
- Exclusion of Oakland and Berkeley planning staff in defining the study alternatives;
- Misleading cost estimate. Including inflation, the real cost of a 2-lane bore is probably $250-300 million, almost twice the initial estimate;
- No timely evaluation of the impact on Oakland and Berkeley streets. Since the impact report will be delayed until the EIR phase of the study, the nature and cost of mitigations may be determined too late in the process to assure effective implementation.

Our chief concerns are increases in noise, parking congestion, and highway traffic taking shortcuts through neighborhood streets. Some proposals to mitigate these problems have been forwarded to Councilperson Jane Brunner and the City of Oakland planning department:

- Building soundwalls to decrease noise;
- Redesigning Claremont and Broadway off-ramps to reduce traffic conflicts;
- Constructing safer pedestrian crossings on arterials leading to Highway 24;
- Creating a comprehensive parking plan for Rockridge. This could include daytime feeder buses from the Oakland Hills to the BART station with a separate nighttime component.

The City of Oakland has not taken an official position on the 4th bore issue, but has scheduled a hearing for the June 20 City Council meeting. Rockridge residents are urged to attend.

No venue or date has been selected for the final MTC sponsored public meetings. Notices will appear in local newspapers and the dates will be posted on the RCPC website. If you prefer notification by the RCPC Traffic Committee, please contact us at 815-6060.

Agenda

from page 1

Coordinator Yeda Altes for an assessment of how our NCPC and police are responding to Rockridge problems. Most important, discover how you personally can help make Rockridge one of the safest communities in the Bay Area.

Beat 12Y (Rockridge) Crime Statistics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Rape	1	0	0	1
Armed Robberies	2	5	7	1
Strong-Arm Robberies	1	2	2	0
Child Abuse	2	0	1	0
Assault w/deadly Weap.	3	0	2	0
Commercial Burglaries	1	2	4	2
Residential Burglaries	5	9	6	11
Locked Auto Burglaries	29	18	3	0
Stolen Vehicles	9	5	1	7

CCAC Dorm Proposal Appealed

from page 1

area. CCAC presented the fourth revision of the proposed design, responding to concerns about the overall architectural concept, and particularly the Broadway street frontage of the building. The new design shifts the main entrance of the building from Clifton street to the corner of Clifton and Broadway, which will lead to more pedestrian activity on the main street frontage.

More... COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meeting: Childcare

Thursday, June 8: "Crisis in Childcare": Join Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and Wilma Chan, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in a discussion about quality, affordable childcare for families and better pay for child care workers. 6:30-8:30pm. SEIU Local 616, 1630 Webster St. (at 17th) in Oakland. Free. Refreshments served. On-site child care available by calling 658-7353. Sponsored by the Work and Family Coalition,510-642-5898.

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Mental Health Matters

Teens: Begging To Differ

by Michael Simon

April 20th marked the one-year anniversary of the shooting deaths of 13 individuals and the wounding of 21 others at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. A year before the massacre at Columbine, fifteen-year-old Kip Kinkel murdered his mother and father, and then opened fire at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, killing two fellow students and wounding twenty-five others. Kip Kinkel, who grew up in a loving, middle-class family, was branded by police as "a cold-hearted killer." During an 18-month period, from Bethel, Alaska, to Conyers, Georgia, we witnessed over a dozen school shootings.

In that same town of Conyers, Georgia, a highly unusual outbreak of syphilis occurred among a group of its teenagers and the well-off community in which they live. Children as young as thirteen and fourteen named numerous sexual partners; others spoke of binge drinking, drugs and sex parties. Whether or not you have teens, if you watch the nightly news or read the major dailies, you will have ample reason to be deeply frightened and worried about the state of America's youth. There are many parents, though, who would beg to differ with the prevailing view of teens.

Bay Area author and educator Michael Riera is one of those parents. Riera is the former Dean of Students at Marin Academy and currently a consultant on The Diary Project, a non-profit organization and global multimedia resource encouraging teens to write about their day-to-day experiences. In one of Riera's typical presentations, he asks audience members to shout out words that describe teenagers: "selfish, violent, moody, irritable, lazy, demanding, manipulative, aloof, sullen and disrespectful" are among the words that fill Riera's list. Everyone in the audience laughs nervously, perhaps recognizing their own child among the strong adjectives. Next, Riera asks people to name the issues and decisions facing teenagers: choosing friends; sexuality, alcohol and drugs; importance of school and grades; class, race and economy; college and career; AIDS and STDs; violence in school and at home; relationships with family members, and so on.

After Riera has completed the two lists, he pins them up side by side and, usually accompanied by a fit of laughter, remarks, "Probably anyone in that condition (first list) shouldn't be making those decisions (second list)."

Teenagers face an astoundingly complex array of opportunities, challenges and fears. And they must compete with the images projected about them in the media with their own sense of who they are and want to be. Determining self-identity forms the core of adolescent development. Yet at the same time we show and tell our teens how dangerous, lazy and sullen they are, we miss important facts about teens. Teens are involved in voluntary organizations in record numbers — on their own time — ranging from support and care of the elderly to art/media projects on the effects of violence, racism and sexism. The Diary Project (www.diaryproject.com) was inspired by the young Bosnian woman, Zlata Filipovic, author of "Zlata's Diary," the story of her life growing up in war-torn Sarajevo.

This isn't one more article asking you to ignore teen violence and tough decisions about setting limits. It is, however, a begging to differ. Teens are also creative, resolute, extraordinarily compassionate, uncompromisingly just, and just plain fun. They are also our future leaders, our challenging children and a barometer of our commitment to mental health care.

Michael Riera suggests that the parental role shifts in adolescence: we start as managers, needing to more tightly control our kids' experiences to ensure safety and learning. In adolescence, children often need to know who they are by defining themselves as "not their parents." "We get fired as managers," Riera writes, "but we can get rehired as consultants." Our teens may need to push us away, but they do not want us to go away.

Michael Simon, M.S., M.A., is a Rockridge resident (and parent), psychotherapist and adjunct faculty member in the San Francisco State University Department of Clinical Psychology.

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Coffee Culture

In Warren Beatty's epic film *Reds*, John Reed visits anarchist Emma Goldman in prison. Reed and Goldman argue the finer points of the Bolshevik revolution and Lenin's betrayal of the working class. As Reed is leaving Goldman's cell, he asks if there is anything he could do for her. Goldman thinks a moment: "Just make sure I get my Chase and Sanborn coffee — I cannot imagine a revolution without my Chase and Sanborn."

Coffee drinkers are in love with their beverage as much as wine or beer drinkers. Whereas wine and beer drinkers crave variety, coffee lovers tend to settle on one brand, one roast, one method of preparation and most of all one favorite place to drink their daily cup.The coffee drinker seeks a coffeehouse with a comfortable corner to read a newspaper, observe the passing parade of daily life, and pass judgement on personal and world affairs.

How lucky we are. Rockridge's College Avenue is the only East Bay neighborhood commercial street with independent and non-chain coffee specialty shops. A walk down College Avenue finds four distinctive coffeehouses: Hudson Bay Café, Peaberry's Coffee and Tea, Spasso Coffeehouse, and Royal Coffee. Each of these coffeehouses brings a unique offering of coffee and culture. A "perfect" cup of coffee in a coffeehouse is more than the beverage; it is a magical intersection of time, place, and people.

Hudson Bay Café is the oldest coffeehouse on College. It buys its beans from Graffeo and Montanos Brothers, two of the oldest and most respected coffee roasters in the Bay Area. The culture of Hudson Bay Café is the most traditional bohemian. Many of the patrons of Hudson Bay Café are either students or faculty from the California College of Arts and Crafts. On a recent visit, I found people playing Hearts, reading, and writing intensely into journals. For solitude and a wonderful cup of coffee, Hudson Bay Café is ideal.

Moving north, we come to **Peaberry's Coffee and Tea** in Market Hall. Peaberry's is the complete opposite of Hudson Bay Café. More in the Italian tradition of a standup coffee bar, Peaberry's caters to a more upscale and professional Rockridge clientele. Peaberry's serves and carries its own brand of coffee specially roasted for them. They also carry a wide assortment of prestige teas and sweets.



Next is **Spasso Coffeehouse**. At Spasso, *Rockridge News* contributors and production staff meet to review the past issue of the *News* and prepare for the next. *Rockridge News* readers will remember that after Hamid Rasafar, Spasso's former owner, was wounded in a robbery at the store, the community came together to support his family and business. What is most striking about Spasso are the beautiful murals painted by Joshua Sarantitis, assisted by Roberto Guerrero, depicting coffee production in the Arab world. Spasso is a perfect place to meet with friends and talk about the state of the world.



***Rockridge News* staffers gather in front of the Spasso mural after a recent production meeting. Front, from left: Barry Kaufman, Madeline Alcorta. Back row, from left, Don Kinkead, Cy Gulassa, Lydia Gans, Ortrun Niesar, Yvonda Silver and Susan Montauk. (Not pictured is Alice Wilson-Fried.)**

The last coffeehouse on our tour is **Royal Coffee**. Royal Coffee is the only one of the four coffeehouses that imports its own green beans. The beans are roasted by McLaughlin Coffee Company, and sold directly at the coffeehouse. McLauglin Coffee Company is among the finest coffee roasters in the Bay Area. McLaughlin roasts much of the coffee you drink in high-end restaurants and specialty shops. I've been using Royal's Max's Blend for nearly 15 years. I will try other roasts and blends but I always return to Max's. Max's is named after the son of Bob Fulmer, one of the partners in Royal Coffee. I had the privilege of knowing Pete McLauglin when he first opened Royal Coffee. After a battle with cancer, Pete passed away a few years ago, but among coffee lovers he was a legend and a moving force in making Royal Coffee what it is today.

The crowd at Royal Coffee is what I would characterize as neo-bohemian: young, hip-hop culture, with a pick-up edge. It is only at Royal Coffee that you get a freshly brewed pot of any coffee variety sold there.

No recipe this month – just an invitation to enjoy a "perfect cup of coffee" in Rockridge.

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Barking Up the Right Tree

Gallagher & Burk Construction solves Hardy Dog Park resurfacing problems

by Lynda O'Neil, President, HPDOA

It's turning out to be a good year for dog parks: Friends of Cesar Chavez is celebrating the Berkeley City Council's May decision to make the off-leash dog area at Cesar Chavez Park official after a one-year probationary period; petitions are circulating to annex an area of Mosswood park for off-leash use; numerous small and under-used parks are being considered for possible future sites; and Rockridge's own Hardy Dog Park is forging ahead with its plans for resurfacing, site improvements, and a general facelift.



In the April issue of *The Rockridge News*, we briefly discussed our improvement plans and our primary goal of resurfacing the park. The original plan was to eliminate the dirt areas by grading and covering the entire area in asphalt, but after researching this option, it proved unfeasible without the installation of an extensive drainage system that far exceeded our budget. The day was saved by Ted Gallagher, vice-president of Gallagher & Burk Construction, who not only devised a method of grading and resurfacing the dirt areas with finely crushed and compacted rock, but then offered to donate the rock! Thank you, Mr. Gallagher.



Hardy Dog Park supporters and users — bipeds and quadrapeds alike — gather in the park for a general meeting that included socializing, strategizing, and recreational scampering. INSET: Sherlock softens up a tennis ball for some serious play to come.

The Association voted unanimously in favor of the plan. The permit application is in the works, and we expect to be enjoying a dust-free park by the end of the summer. And because the surface material is being donated, we will be able to invest some of our grant money in landscaping and amenities.

In the meantime, we have not been idle. Our first newsletter went out in March and was a great hit with members, visitors and the community at large. Copies are available at the park and the library. Our web site, http://hardydogpark.homestead.com/Homepage.html, is fully functional and linked to dog parks and animal resources throughout the web. You will see familiar dog faces on the web as well as the community board at the southwest entrance to the dog park. Also on the board are postings for lost/found/adoptable dogs, community events and referrals.

Please come visit virtually or in the flesh! For information, contact me at 655-5268, by mail at 5337 College Ave. #436, or by email at hpdoa@homestead.com

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Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Gently on Lake Merritt

by Nancy Morton

One morning last month I set my alarm for the unholy hour of 4:30 a.m. Why? So I could rendevous at Lake Merritt with the Lake Merritt Masters Rowing Team that practices there Tuesday, Thursday. and Sâturday mornings from 5 to 6:30 a.m., rain or shine. Andy Baxter, owner and Personal Trainer par excellence of New Angle Fitness, the neighborhood gym on College Avenue between Hudson and Clifton, invited me to join Coach Al Alcosta in the launch boat to see what sweep rowing was all about. After all, I have been training on the *Concept II* rowing machine at the gym six days a week.

On this particular morning I was invited to join rowers who were training for the San Diego Regatta. By 5:05, eight rowers and the coxswain had the sleek, 60-foot shell bobbing in the lake and were busy adjusting the oars, which I learned had to be "calibrated" in accordance with the height of the rower.

In addition to Andy, the team was comprised of eight fit Oakland men, all of whom looked great in shorts. The coxswain, seated at the stern of the scull, was equipped with a microphone; the first, or bow seat rower, was outfitted with a red bow light ingeniously rigged to his shirt; and Coach Al had a handy megaphone. We shoved off from the dock and headed into the black middle of the Lake.

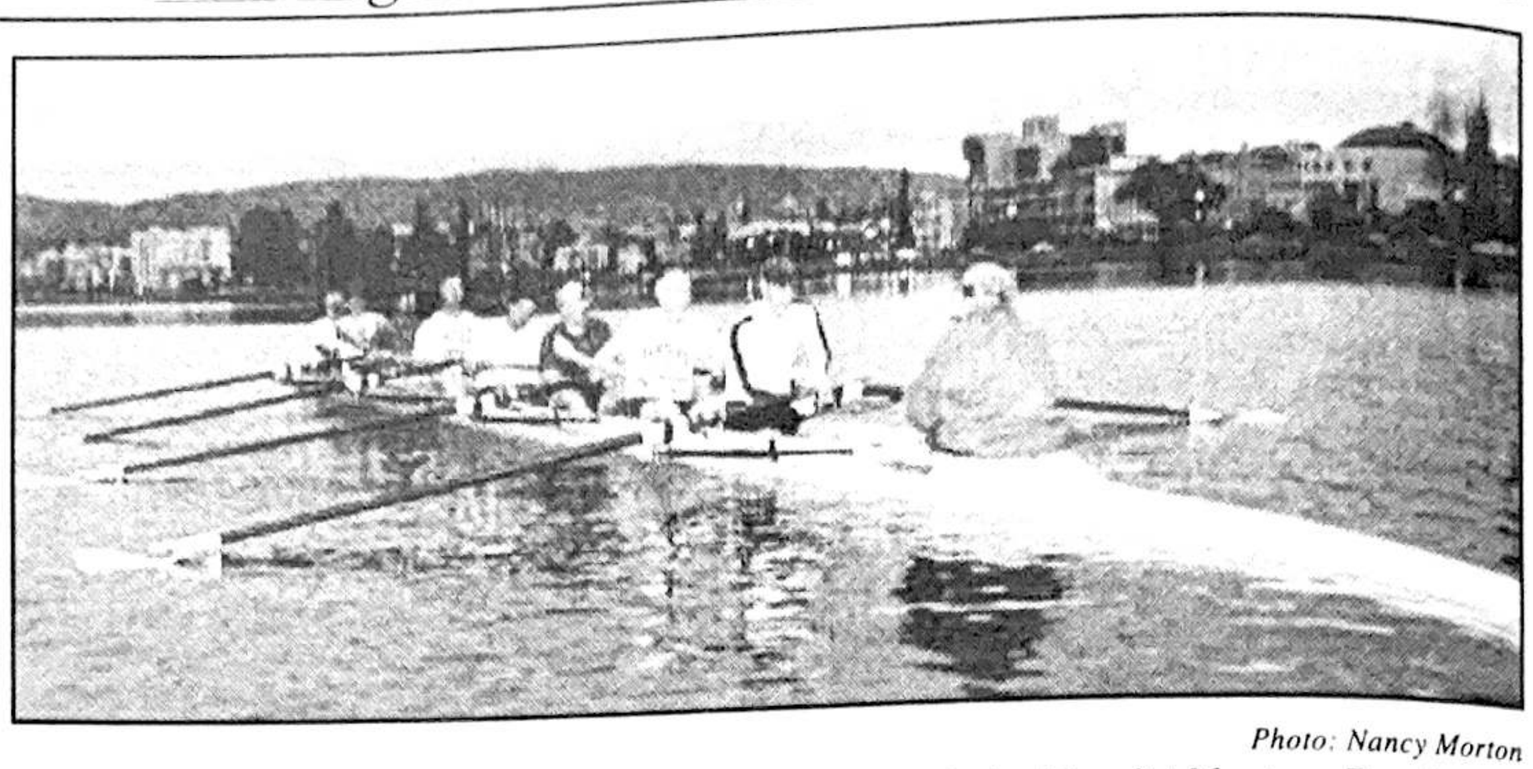


Photo: Nancy Morton

Training for the San Diego Regatta, members of the Lake Merritt Masters Rowing Team leave a smooth wake as they knife through the serene early morning waters of the lake. In August, the team will host the annual National Masters Regatta.

Coach Al is a long-time Oakland resident who rowed at Cal. He now coaches Oakland Strokes, the acclaimed high school team composed of students throughout the East Bay. He trained Lucas and Jessica Ahlstrand, the children of RCPC photographer Chris Ahlstrand, prior to their moving on to university-level rowing. Last year the Oakland Strokes came in third in National competition. Al has been coaching the Lake Merritt team for almost a year which means a lot of 4:30 a.m. wake-up calls.

This morning, he was busy with the megaphone calling out drills and critiquing style in a manner that made sure he could count on a quorum for the next practice. The rowers listened attentively and then followed instructions, moving through the water like the ducks that were becoming visible as the dark gave way to dawn and the sun peeked over the Oakland hills.

The Mormon Temple sparkled like a well-cut diamond, and the Tribune Building was necklaced with strands of twinkling lights. With the spreading sunlight, one becomes aware of exercisers running, walking, biking around the lake, but we were the only ones on the lake. On a great spring morning like this, it made sense to be up with the birds and the rowers.

In addition to San Diego, the team is readying itself for the annual National Masters Regatta to be held in Oakland August 17 through 20.

The Lake Merritt Rowing Club will host as many as a hundred teams all hoping to row away with the trophy.

I'm definitely planning on heading down to the Lake Merritt Boat House to cheer on the local team.



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Property values in Rockridge have risen since this time last year!

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2000 → $510,000 • This is a 25% increase!

Average sales price per square foot
1999 → $201 / Sq Ft
2000 → $289 / Sq Ft • This is a 44% increase!

Average Days on Market
1999 → 19 days
2000 → 13 days

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Music Lessons For All



Music teachers abound in and around Rockridge. So do pianos waiting to be played. And summer is the perfect time to get yourself or your kids involved with both. Here are just a few of those marvelous teachers among us.

Janet Weinstein is already well-loved by many children (her specialty) from Chabot, Bentley and Park Day schools. In addition to teaching piano, Janet coaches and encourages ensemble playing for young people. She performs professionally with her sons in the Ivanhoe Trio. Janet's telephone number is 652-8430.

Margret Elson, former Music Director of Junior Bach, has taught classical piano in Rockridge for 30 years and has many enthusiastic admirers who adore her animated teaching style. Margret accepts intermediate students by audition. She is also a psychotherapist specializing in problems well-known to artists and performers: memory slips and performance anxiety. Her book on those topics will be out soon. Margret lives on Harwood. Her phone number is 601-7044.

Lou Ann Wernli has been teaching classical piano on Russell Street in the Elmwood forever, it seems. Her program is designed primarily for adults seeking their way back to music from the corporate and professional worlds. She loves the fact that her students come to her because they want to. There is no worry about anyone not practicing, and no recitals to worry about. Instead, her students gear up for the popular workshops she holds every four months. Lou Ann can be reached at 841-0333.

For harpsichord lessons for young and old, you might call **Kathy Westine** at 601-9631. Kathy is a marvelous teacher, artist and performer who is also the producer of KATastroPHE Records and the inspiration behind the Florio Street Concerts held quarterly at her home.

Lenny Gill on Harwood marches to the tune of a different drummer. He teaches guitar, bass guitar and drums to little kids and big kids of all ages. Lenny has been teaching for 20 years, both in Rockridge and in Walnut Creek, and is a member of a band, Jolly, which performs throughout the Bay Area. Besides giving private lessons, Lenny is interested in forming and giving band lessons. Call him at 601-1579.

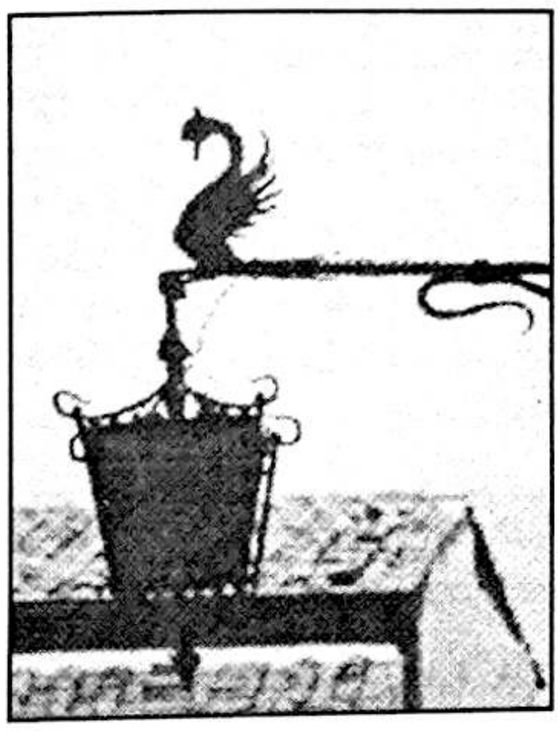
Further abroad, the **Harmony Road Music School** at the top of Piedmont Avenue is now enrolling students for private instruction in a plethora of musical instruments. Kirsten Anderson highly recommends Harmony music teacher **Erica Lee** as a first music teacher for children. Parents, note that the school also offers music summer camps that include dance, voice, theater and musicianship courses. The telephone number is 652-1222.

The Bay Area Children's Theatre Company is now enrolling kids who like to sing and act and dance and clown around. To see a performance, attend their award-winning "The Dangerous Dinos Show" on Saturday, June 17, at John Muir Elementary School. For more information about all of the above as well as the Stagetrippers Academy 2000, call 444-4942.

Rockridge 2000: A Pictorial Essay Update

If you are interested in joining a free-form group of artistic individuals working to create an image of Rockridge in the year 2000, give me a call at 652-6664. We plan to meet again in June.

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Jazz and Classical Piano Lessons

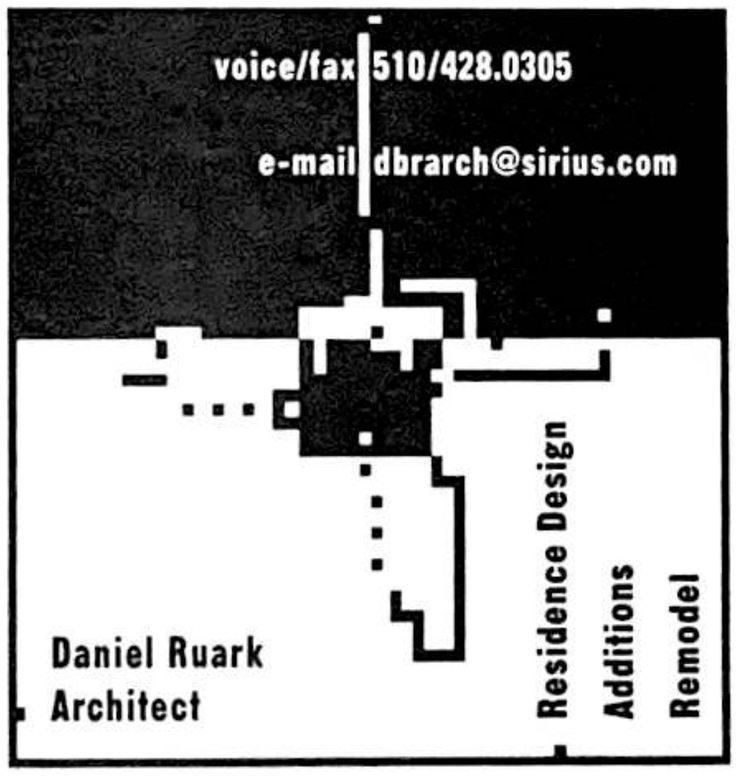
Rockridge jazz pianist with Berkeley Music B.A. offers lessons in theory, eartraining, blues, jazz, technique, beginning and intermediate classical. Experienced, patient teacher of all ages! Janet 653-6783

Apartment/Cottage Wanted

Female graduate student seeking one bedroom, studio, in-law apartment/cottage. $700-$900 range. Near Rockridge, CCAC. I am non-smoking, quiet, solvent, no pets. Please contact Susan, 376-7220. sobeloff@hotmail.com, 206/325-3538.

Clerical Assistance Sought

Busy psychologists' office near Market Hall seeks clerical assistance. Word processing, computer skills required, ability to multi-task. 10-20 hrs weekly, hours flexible. $15/hr. Send vita to Dr. Persons via jbp@sfbacct.com.



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☑ Check Your... COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit Items To RCPC COMMUNITY CALENDAR, 5856 College Avenue, #130, OAKLAND 94618 or call 814-6060.

College Avenue Adult Activities Center

College Avenue Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave.
All activities Wednesdays, 11-noon. Lunch follows, $1.75.
Slide (SS) and video (V) shows in Lighthouse Room.
June 7: (SS) "Norway", Charlie Fitch
June 14: State Farm Insurance presents "Design for Safety", video and talk
June 21: (V) "Canada, East Coast", part 1
June 28: (V) "Canada, East Coast", part 2
July 5: (SS) Charlie Fitch

NCPC Meetings

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meets 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Rockridge United Methodist Church, Manila & College. Public invited.

Oakland Tours

Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and highrises on one of the free guided walking tours. Tours are offered Wednesdays and Saturdays, May through October. On the first Tuesday of the month, there is a tour of historic City Hall and the newly renovated Frank H. Ogawa Plaza. Call 238-3234 to add your name to our mailing list and to receive a 2000 Schedule. Log on to www.oaklandnet.com and click on the community link for map, dates and starting places.

Jane Brunner Community Advisory Meeting

Saturday, June 3, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon at Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street. Topic: Regional Planning: Government and Infrastructure. Guest Speaker: Supervisor Keith Carson.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017

Rockridge Library Storytimes:
- Toddlers: 10:30 am Saturdays
- Preschool: 10:30 and 11:00 am Tuesdays, 6/6 and 6/20
- Pajama: 7:00 pm Wednesday, 6/14 ONLY
- 6/07 Wed @7:00 pm Book Reading by Bay Area author/ illustrator team of Peter Jan Honigsberg and Tony Morse reading their book "Pillow of Dreams".
- 6/21 Wed @7:00 pm Starko the Clown!
- 6/28 Wed @7:00 pm Colibri: Music from Latin America

Oakland Public Library Summer Reading Game begins on June 15 and ends August 19. Read any books you choose, keeping track of your time on our gameboard, and get prizes when you visit the library! Sign up on or after June 15, at the Rockridge branch, or at any Oakland Public Library.

Lawyers in the Library: Free advice 6-8 pm, 1st Thursday each month. Signup starts at 5:00.

Book Discussion Group; Wednesday, June 14, and Thursday, June 29, 7-9 pm. Call 597-5017 for more information.

Toastmasters

Early risers: Conquer your fear of public speaking and develop leadership skills in a supportive, relaxed and friendly environment. Join Toastmasters. 7:00 am every Thursday. Please call 251-3066 or email: spk2@flash.net

Community Workshop 2000

Safe kids, safe neighborhoods in North Oakland. Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call 615-5802 for location.

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Letters to The Editor

The Rockridge News
5856 College Ave., #130
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Telegraph Bike Lanes Will Work

Editor:

Regarding Tom Brown's letter of May 6 arguing against bike lanes on Telegraph Avenue, Mr. Brown mentions "the dangers of biking on such an artery," and then goes on to state that introducing bike lanes would give cyclists "the false sense that Telegraph had suddenly become safe for biking."

I have to tell you that no cyclist in their right mind would ever think that riding on any street alongside automobiles is "safe." We know that we must remain ever-vigilant to avoid conflicts with motorists who just won't recognize our right to share the roads.

Mr. Brown suggests that cyclists use the "Webster-Shafter-Colby" alternative, which in reality is Webster-48th-Shafter-Forest-Colby-Alcatraz-Colby-Woolsey. First, that is a longer, indirect, and confusing route. Second, it is not flat like Telegraph, which I believe most cyclists prefer — Pill Hill is aptly named. Third, Telegraph is well-lighted, which is a big safety concern after dark.

To be fair, Mr. Brown argues in favor of increasing signage and lighting along the Webster-etc. route. But let's be realistic, most cyclists want a flat, direct route to their destination. Since Telegraph is a commercial thoroughfare, most destinations for cyclists as well as motorists are on or near Telegraph, not Webster.

Finally, for those who think that a bike lane on Telegraph will be detrimental to businesses along the route, I suggest riding up and down Valencia Street in San Francisco. Since eliminating one automobile lane and replacing it with bike lanes in both directions and a center left-turn median, that thoroughfare has become one of the most commercially vibrant in the City.

Marcello Aurelio Lanfranchi
Hudson Street

CCAC Dorm Proposal is Faulty in Many Ways

Editor:

I am writing regarding the proposed CCAC structure at Broadway, Clifton and Broadway Terrace. I am in favor of the idea of housing there and administrative use of the ground floor, but I do have several concerns:

• I can't see much justification for a height variance for this project. Most neighborhoods feel that present zoning regulations are too pro-development; why bend the rules to allow greater density?

• The height of the structure could be reduced and/or more parking provided through the use of Klaus Parking Lifts, which allow more cars to fit into a garage. The cost of the machines could be offset through user fees or fewer floors. Some housing projects in Berkeley use such lifts.

• The last block of Clifton Street serves a limited amount of traffic. Perhaps the College, City and Clifton property owners could agree on a better use of the area, such as narrowing the street and using outdoor space for a College plaza.

• The parking lot to the west of the sculpture studio is a great location for an outdoor area. This would not compromise the historic wall on Broadway and could be a better foil for the sculpture building. Perhaps a parking structure with studio space or a terrace on top could be built there, allowing the new housing structure to cover more ground and reducing the need for parking.

• Roof decks are problematic regarding safety and waterproofing, but the new building could have a substantial terrace with a fantastic view. The Art Institute in S.F. has such a roof treatment. This would provide much needed open space and would be safe and controllable.

• UC Berkeley and the City of Berkeley are working on a new Southside Area Plan, where parking is also a big issue. The neighborhood wants the University to take a proactive role in giving car-free students priority. Perhaps CCAC should explore a similar parking pattern. Also, parking should be on a fee basis, it's quite valuable around here.

• My biggest problem with the project is the choice of a 'modernist revival' aesthetic for the building. The Rockridge neighborhood has overwhelmingly

See "Letters," page 15

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Crime Report Q & A

There have been no significant crimes reported in Rockridge for the past month. In lieu of the regular column, below are answers to some recurring questions from callers:

Q: *What is the Rockridge Crime Alert Hotline?*

A: The Hotline is a voicemail system funded by RCPC on which members of the community can leave messages about criminal activity in the neighborhood and hear updates regarding incidents that have been collected by the volunteer staff.

Q: *Where does the Rockridge Crime Report column get its information?*

A: The information published in *The Rockridge News* is a compilation of the incidents reported to the Rockridge Crime Alert Hotline.

Q: *What are the sources of the information reported on the Hotline?*

A: The Hotline relies first and foremost on Rockridge residents calling in and reporting incidents that have happened to them or their neighbors. Additional information is often made available by the Oakland Police Department. Incidents are also sometimes culled from the news media.

Q: *The incidents reported in* The Rockridge News *are dated. How can I find out about them sooner?*

A: Due to the publication schedule, this column is submitted several weeks in advance. To keep up to date on criminal activity in the neighborhood, call the Hotline weekly at **814-2255** to hear about incidents reported in the past week. The message is usually updated on Fridays.

Q: *Can I get the Hotline reports by e-mail?*

A: Yes. The weekly Hotline reports are also distributed by postings to the Rockridge Listserver. To subscribe, go to www.rockridge.org

Q: *How do I report an incident to the Hotline?*

A: You can leave a message at 814-2255, or send an e-mail to RCPC_crime_hotline@yahoo.com. When making reports, please include the date, time and location of the incident, and a detailed description of the suspect, if available. The Hotline has a general policy against relaying anonymous information, so please include your name and telephone number. All identifying information is kept confidential.

Q: *Why are specific addresses not included in the incident reports?*

A: It is the Hotline's general policy not to publicize the name or specific address of crime victims, both to protect their privacy and security, and in hopes that it will encourage people (and businesses) to report crimes that have occurred.

Q: *Is making a report to the Hotline a substitute for calling the police?*

A: No. While the Hotline does pass on information to Officer Johna Watson, our Community Policing Officer, any past crimes or current suspicious activity should first be called in to the Oakland Police Department on the non-emergency number, 777-3333. Crimes in progress should be reported using 911.

ROCKRIDGE CRIME REPORT

Reach Rockridge community policing Officer J. Watson by paging her 1:00-11.00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, at 330-4539; at the tone, enter your return phone number. Officer Watson urges residents not to hesitate to report suspicious activity to the police using the non-emergency number, 777-3333. Dial 911 to report suspected crimes in progress.

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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The Neighborhood Merchant

BY THERESA NELSON



Photo: Chris Ahlstrand

The Great Frame-Up

5820 College Avenue at Birch Court

Have you been wanting to frame that pastel you bought at last year's Open Studios, but just couldn't find the right look? Or perhaps there is a special child's drawing you'd like to do something more with than just tape to the refrigerator? Then take a stroll to the Great Frame-Up at 5820 College Avenue at Birch Court.

Owners Rosemary and Percy Yung opened The Great Frame-Up five years ago, a few years after they immigrated to the U.S. from Hong Kong, where they were involved in the antiques business and garment industry. After spending three years in Houston selling antiques, they moved to the Bay Area. They both enjoyed the creativity of design and home enhancement, and thus became interested in the framing business which they now own. Rosemary does most of the work up front with customers, and Percy is in charge of the workroom and construction in the back of the store.

Entering the store, you see an array of framed items along the left wall, from paintings to diplomas, Father's Day gifts and vacation memories. The right wall has a long magnetic board where you can try out various mattes and frames on your artwork. The magnet wall is popular with children, of course, and they enjoy selecting mattes and frames for their artwork just as adults do. The store offers more than 2,000 frames and about 1,000 options for mattes, truly an incredible assortment. Frame styles range from modern and colorful slender steel to massive 5" gold-leaf made of intricately carved wood, like something from the Renaissance era.

Rosemary's approach to framing an item is to develop several options depending on the style of artwork and the budget of the customer. She notes that "whether you are framing a favorite poster or gallery-level original artwork, different mattes and frames can completely change the look of the art." Her background in garment design comes through in her love of color and style, and her goal in framing is simple: "I want it to look just perfect for the customer. I'm very picky about every detail."

One neighbor came in recently with a print from the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit in San Francisco. This stark rust-and-black print of leaves became truly spectacular in a cherry frame with gray and rust mattes. Another O'Keefe of purple pansies sparkled with its purple matte and silver frame.

Rosemary and Percy enjoy the friendly feel of College Avenue and building relationships with the neighbors. " I remember framing some nursery items for a couple expecting a baby," Rosemary said, "and now they return to frame the child's kindergarten artworks! We really enjoy getting to know people in Rockridge and their tastes."

So stop by with your artwork and see what a great frame-up can do for you.

The Great Frame-Up
5820 College Avenue 601-6389
Mon. - Thurs.: 9:30 a.m. -7:00 p.m.
Fri. -Sat.: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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Letters

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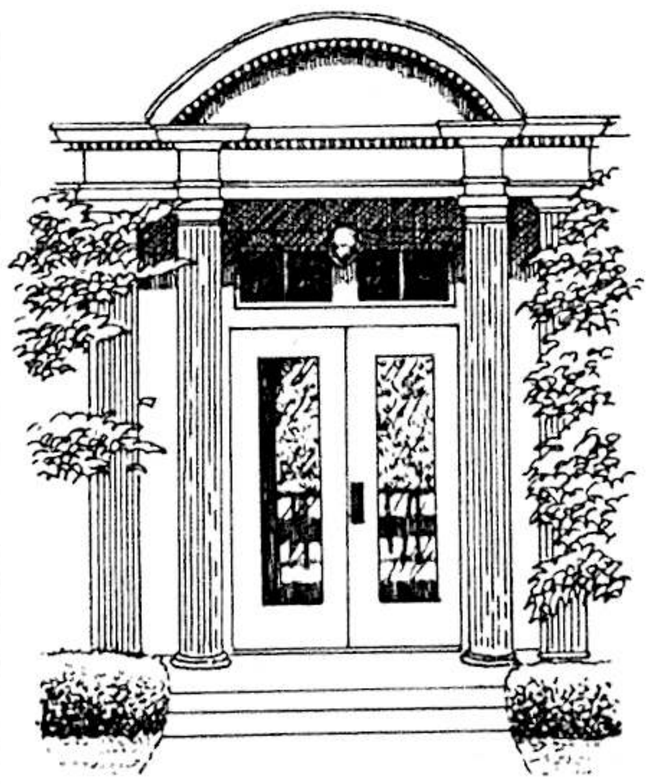
traditional stucco buildings built before WW II. Most of us think this prevailing mode is attractive and would like new buildings to be aesthetically contextual.

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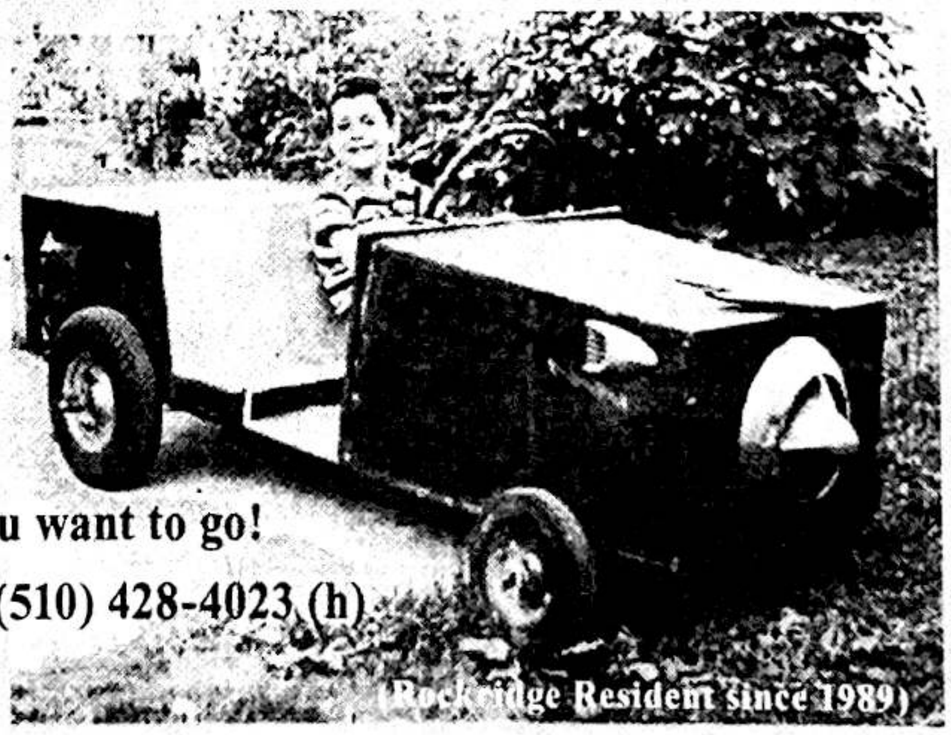
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