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THE Rockridge News

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CIRCULATION: 5,300 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

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CCAC Dorm Project Approved, With Conditions

RCPC drops formal opposition after Planning Commission responds to community concerns

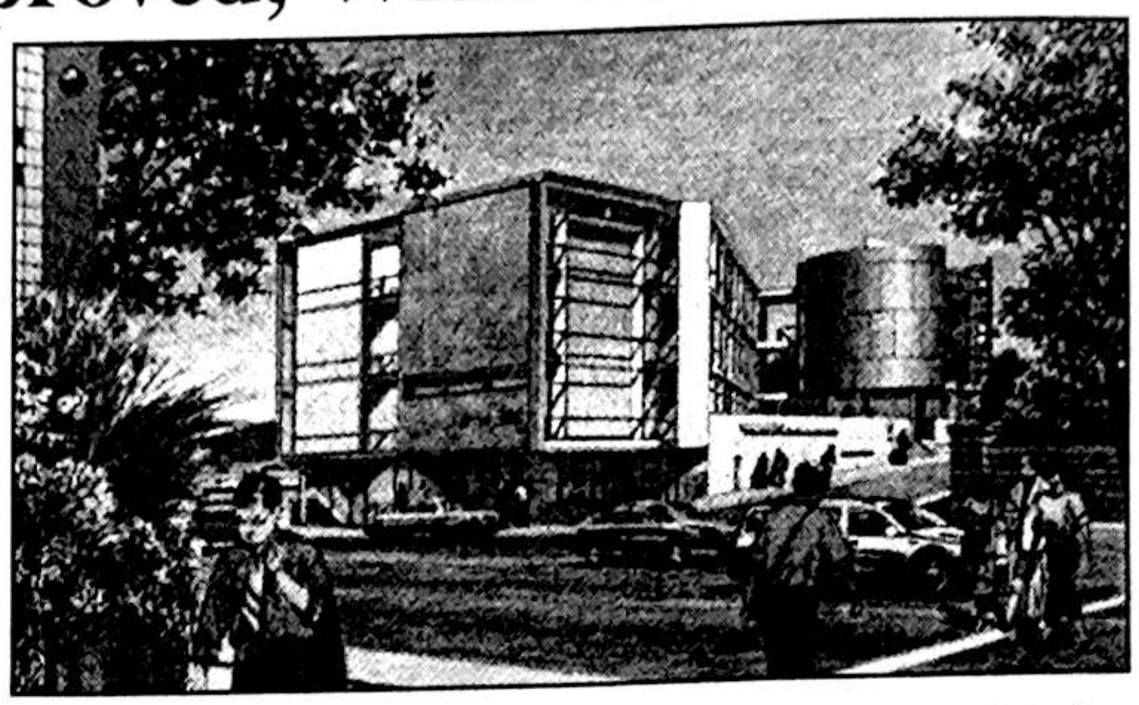
by Susan Montauk, RCPC Chair

The California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC) dormitory project on Broadway between Broadway Terrace and Clifton Street passed a major threshold on September 20 when the Oakland Planning Commission granted zoning approvals for the project, along with conditions responding to community concerns. Construction of the three-story, 66-room dormitory is expected to begin next spring.

By a 5-0 vote (two commissioners abstaining), the Commission granted a conditional use permit and two minor variances for the project, subject to a long list of conditions, many hammered out in eleventh-hour negotiations between RCPC representatives (helped by College Point Neighbors representative Patty Brunn) and CCAC administrators.

The project, which will provide housing for approximately 120 students, aroused significant community opposition after its unveiling in January. Neighbors strongly criticized the size, density, and appearance of the project; the expected negative impact on neighborhood street parking; and other potential side-effects, particularly noise.

At the September 20 hearing, the Planning Commission went along with the size and density proposed by CCAC, but sought to address the other major issues raised by neighbors. Under the project conditions, CCAC must prohibit car ownership or possession by dorm residents (detailed procedures are set forth to assure compliance). The College must also cooperate in a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program, making an annual contribution of $1,500 toward neighbors' permit fees for the first years after the program's inception. CCAC and the community



The architectual rendering above shows how the completed CCAC project should appear viewed from the intersection of Broadway and College. ALL PROJECT GRAPHICS SUPPLIED BY THE ARCHITECT

See "CCAC Approval," page 2

RCPC General Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.
Rockridge Branch Library
Community Room
5366 College Avenue (at Manila)

- **Fixing Oakland Schools:**
  SUPERINTENDENT DENNIS CHACONAS; SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
  Oakland Schools Superintendent Dennis Chaconas will outline his approach to fixing our schools. Board Member Ken Rice will present the schoolboard's agenda for the new school year and Member-elect Kerry Hamill will speak about her special projects for the coming Board term.
  See story page 7.

RCPC Announces $10,000 Challenge Grant for Rockridge-Temescal Park

RCPC will add $1 to every $2 that individuals contribute to the tax-deductible park campaign

by Theresa Nelson
RCPC Boardmember

The Board of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) is supporting the new Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt park with a community challenge grant of $10,000. Every individual gift to the campaign for the new park up to a total of $20,000 will be matched by RCPC in a 2:1 ratio: for every $2 given by the individuals in the community, RCPC will contribute another $1 to the new park. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Several years ago, the Rockridge community raised nearly $175,000 to furnish and equip the new Rockridge Library; that support helped make our library one of the best and most heavily used branches in the Bay Area. Now we invite the community to support this much-needed neighborhood park, in planning by volunteers for more than two years, including FRiends Of the Greenbelt (FROG), which is sponsoring discount dining on behalf of the park (story, page 3).

See "Challenge," page 3

CCAC Project Approval Comes With Conditions



Looking down Broadway Terrace toward Broadway from the vicinity of Thomas Avenue, the architect's rendering shows how the completed project might look next to existing buildings.

Continued from page 1

are to establish a liaison committee, which will meet at least once a year to address "issues of concern relating to the operation of the college." In addition, among other requirements, CCAC must establish a 24-hour nuisance hotline.

The conditions also address RCPC's concerns about future development proposals or changes of use. Planning Commission approval will be required for any future change of use affecting more than 10% of the habitable floor area, or any change to a use which serves other facilities or involves regular gatherings of non-residents (e.g., classroom space). No new use or development on any other lot can be approved as an accessory to the dormitory project.

A number of changes have been made to the initial exterior design of the project. The Broadway Terrace side will now have a bay-studded, terra cotta stucco and steel surface, with the third story stepped back and trellised. These features are meant to harmonize the structure with the surrounding residential architecture. The Broadway elevation — which neighbors felt was too looming and monolithic for a building so close to single-family residences — has been sent back by the Planning Commission for further articulation of the façade. The Clifton Street side, which includes the main entrance and is oriented toward the campus, remains an architectural statement for the College, with planted open space and a semi-detached cylindrical structure containing a student lounge, kitchen, and dining area.

Because of the extensive conditions placed on the project, the RCPC board has decided to discontinue its opposition to the project. RCPC will, however, continue to focus on long-range concerns not addressed by the Planning Commission, including future CCAC expansion and the college's lack of a Master Plan.



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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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Contact us at one of the following addresses or telephone numbers:

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Articles published in *The Rockridge News* may be reprinted only with the permission of the editor.

Publication date of the next issue is

- **November 4, 2000;**
- **November deadline is October 19.**

To advertise, call Madeline Alcorta at 547-2896. *(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)*

frog rockridge temescal
friends of the greenbelt

Help Complete the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt

We need your help in making the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt!

For years, neighbors have been working to create a much-needed park in Rockridge. The City of Oakland has committed $500,000 toward the Phase I construction of the $800,000 Greenbelt Master Plan. Friends of the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG), a coalition of Rockridge and Temescal leaders and organizations, has organized to raise $75,000 towards the full completion of the Greenbelt.

There are many opportunities for you to make a tax-deductible gift to the Greenbelt, ranging from helping to purchase children's play structures and picnic tables to "adopting a foot of the greenbelt." Gifts of $250 or more will be permanently recognized through the inclusion of your name or the name of your family, organization or business on the main park plaque.

Please consider a special gift to the Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt, and help make this major park a reality for our neighborhood. For more information and details on donor opportunities, call Steve Costa at 510/655-4818.

Please detach the form below and mail it with your check to: Park Fund/RCPC, 5856 College Ave., PMB 130, Oakland, CA 94618.
Nonprofit Tax ID #94-3011284

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Gifts of any amount are welcome. We will apply your gift as specified below.

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$_____ Tire Swing ($2,500)
$_____ Public Art/Animal Totems ($1,000)
$_____ Picnic Tables ($750)
$_____ Benches ($500)
$_____ Boulders ($150)
$_____ Trees ($100)
$_____ Adopt a Foot of the Greenbelt ($50 per foot)
$_____ General gift to the park

My total gift to the Greenbelt Campaign is $_____ **Phone** _____

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Dine with a 10% Discount

Local restaurants support the Greenbelt Park

by Eileen Faulkner

Dine out anytime between now and December with a FROG card and receive a 10% discount at any one of 13 participating local restaurants. Show your card upon receipt of the check and receive 10% off before taxes. All card sale proceeds go directly toward funding the new Greenbelt Park that will connect Hardy Park and Redondo along the old Temescal creek path.

Purchase your discount dining card for $20 at **Spasso**, 6021 College Avenue, or at the **Red Tractor**, 5634 College Avenue, or by mailing a check (payable to RCPC/Park Fund) to: Frog Discount card, 5690 Ocean View Drive, Oakland, CA 94618, and begin enjoying College Avenue meals at special prices.

FROG (**FR**iends **O**f the **G**reenbelt) is a volunteer subcommittee of the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC). Its goal is to raise $75,000 to fund amenities including play structures for the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt.

Get your card now and use it for the rest of the year. What better way to support the community and enjoy the flavor of the neighborhood as well? *Bon appetit!*

Challenge

from page 1

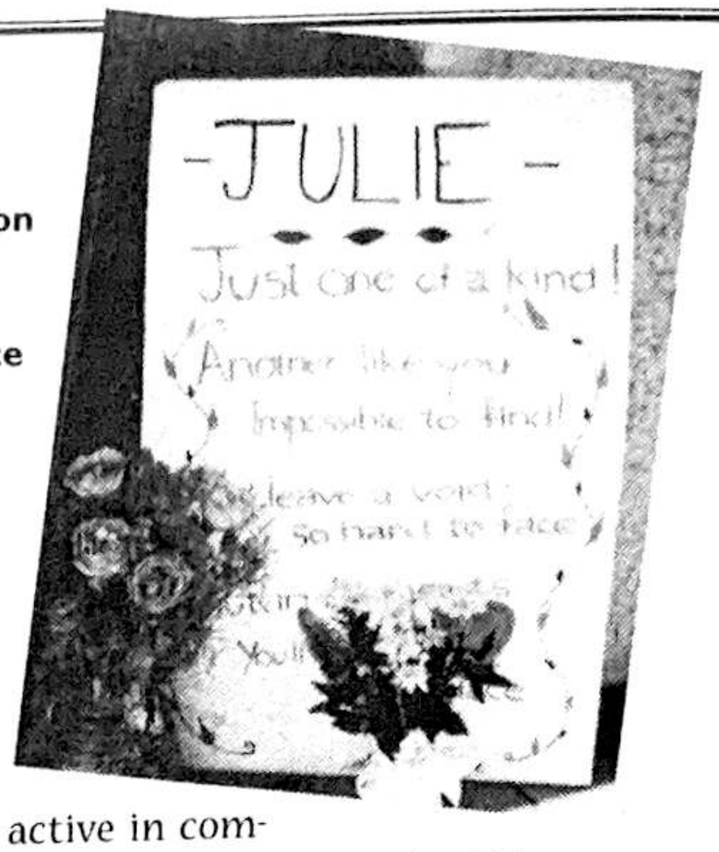
Longtime RCPC Board Member Dan Pitcock, owner of Roberts Electric, kicked off the campaign with a $500 gift toward the new play structure. With his wife Maril and son Shane, Dan expects to share many hours enjoying the new park. Others are planning significant contributions toward the match.

You can help make the park a reality for our neighborhood: select a gift opportunity in the announcement at left above that fits your interest or give a general gift, and mail your check payable to: Park Fund/RCPC, 5856 College Avenue, PMB 130, Oakland, CA 94618. Gifts of any amount are welcome, and all gifts of $250 or more will be permanently recognized through the inclusion of your name or the name of your family or organization on the main park plaque.

Neighborhood Mourns a Loss, Celebrates a Life

Lifetime Rockridge Resident Julie Dewey of Chabot Road Suffers Fatal Stroke





◂ Julie Dewey celebrates with young neighbor Sophie Lee who won "The Right Stuff" award at a recent Ames Center Space Camp. (See story below)

▸ A memorial poster for Julie placed by her neighborhood for their beloved neighbor and friend.

Julie Dewey

Julie Dewey, née Julia Passadore, was born in 1922 in Oakland. Her parents immigrated to this country around 1910 and soon established themselves in North Oakland, purchasing real estate in a post-earthquake and rapidly expanding residential neighborhood. She attended Washington Elementary, Claremont Middle School and University High, which was located on the former Merritt College site on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

She married Eric Gustafson , an Oakland policeman, in 1951. Three years after her divorce in 1964, she married Bob Dewey and they lived first in her Claremont Avenue home and then at 5855 Chabot Road until his death in 1987. Julie worked for the California Employment Service, then as a legal secretary for the Oakland District Attorney and ultimately ran Cheesecake Melba with Bob from their business at 40th and Telegraph Avenue.

Julie became active in community issues, joining picket lines to protest the Dreyers expansion and then hosting the assembly of *The Rockridge News* out of her Chabot home for almost a decade.

She will be remembered by Chabot Road and Rockridge neighbors as a feisty and frank woman who always extended a helping hand to newcomers to the neighborhood and to those in need of friendship and support. RCPC and *The Rockridge News* mourn the passing of a steadfast community activist and volunteer.

A special fund has been set up for donations to honor Julie. Donations will be applied toward the purchase of a park bench dedicated to Julie for the new Greenbelt park. Mail checks to RCPC Park Fund, 5856 College Avenue PMB 130, Oakland, CA 94618. On your check write "Julie Dewey bench." Checks should include your address and phone number.

PHOTOS PAGES 4 AND 5: K. MARKER

Rockridge Girl Has the Right Stuff

by Kathy Briccetti

Wearing an oversized white t-shirt and a blue U.S. Space Camp cap pulled down over her brown curls, ten-year-old Rockridge resident Sophie Lee accepted "The Right Stuff" award during recent graduation ceremonies in Mountain View.

Sophie, who helped Julie Dewey deliver *The Rockridge News*, attended the week-long space camp near Ames Research Center in August. She is pictured above sharing her good news with "Auntie" Julie Dewey.

The camp's counselors chose Sophie from the group of 185 fourth- through seventh-graders as the camper who most demonstrated "The Right Stuff" — what it takes to become an astronaut.

"She has what it takes to go through life," her counselor said during the graduation ceremonies. He described Sophie as someone who does her best, studies hard, believes in herself, and is eager to learn about the space program.

The Park Day School fifth-grader performed some of the duties of a payload specialist and ground control officer while working with the Venus team. Her counselor described her as an ambitious, yet humble, team leader. Sophie's mother, Karen Marker, says that her daughter is passionate about becoming an astrophysicist and astronaut someday.

Meeting real astronauts, trying out the simulators, learning about the history of the space mission, visiting Ames research center, and learning how astronauts use the toilet in space were camp high points for Sophie. She particularly valued working as a team member.

The U.S. Space Camps, located in Alabama, California, and Florida, began in 1982 to educate and inspire children, and to help them explore careers in the space industry. It looks like Sophie Lee is well on her way to becoming the first Rockridge resident in space.





▲ Rachel Lee, one of Julie's many young friends and neighbors. Rachel's biography of Julie will be printed in the November *Rockridge News*.

Bubbles and Baloons. Neighbors and friends gathered at the home of the late Julie Dewey to celebrate her life and mourn her passing.

Julie Dewey Memorial

A Tribute to Julie Dewey September 25, 2000

by Karen Marker

When I left home in Ohio at nineteen and came to the western edge of this country, it seemed that it was harder to feel a sense of permanence. But when I bought a house on Chabot Road 15 years ago, I realized for the first time since I had come to California that something permanent had taken root in my life, and that this permanence had to do with my relationship to my neighbor Julie Dewey. So much so that today almost everything in my life has been touched by her, including the clothes that she helped me choose.

Julie's heart was so big it had room for everyone, but it had special room for those who were most in need of her care — children, animals and orphaned adults. Julie's special gift to us, her neighbors on Chabot Road who came from somewhere else and thus were without extended families of our own, was this sense that we all belonged to her and with her. The doors were always open. That is why I began introducing this woman, as so many other did, as my adopted mother, and why my two children had a daily relationship with her that was closer than with almost any other adult in their lives.

My bond with Julie was really cemented the afternoon that she was grieving the loss of her husband Bob, and I was strolling my baby daughter Rachel down College Ave. That moment she burst into tears right there on the street and shared her pain with me, allowing me to comfort her. A seed was planted then that continued to grow, nurtured by more and more moments like this, where we shared sorrows, regrets, and forgiveness in ways that might otherwise have been reserved for priests, rabbis or therapists.

But it was not only that. Julie shared all the mundane stuff, too. She loaned us the spices, helped us cook meals, baby sat for the kids, and provided a critical eye about the mess on the front porch and the clothes we were wearing. From Julie I learned that both the big and little things were equally important and all were connected. It was in remembering to check in, taking care of ourselves as well as each other, and saying hello and goodbye whenever we came and went. I also learned that it was true, the saying, that joy shared increases, and sorrow shared decreases.

In the last week I've been thinking so much about all this as I've struggled to come to terms with the reality of her loss. As I watched Julie's family come back to her house across the street, I realized that they were helping us heal by caring for our feelings as Julie had cared, and that this process of grieving together was making us all part of something bigger. Like learning to ride a bicycle, Julie is now in our muscles. Once we have done it, we don't forget. Now we know how to keep on going, keep on caring, as she taught us to do.

Julie, today your wish for Rockridge has come true. Because of you we are a real community. A place where everyone has a reason to smile. A place where we all look out for each other. What an amazing and lasting gift this is, this legacy of kindness that you have left us all.

New Oakland Tech Principal Felipe Ibarra Is Welcomed by the School Community

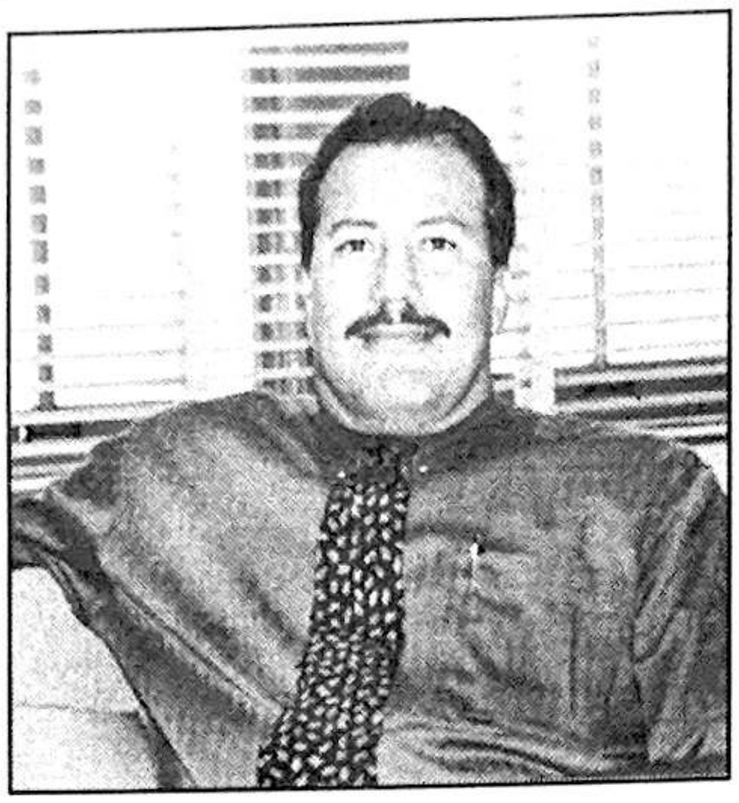
"Charismatic but tough" administrator loves kids and believes in putting them first

by Janet Somers

Little more than a week into his new job, Principal Felipe Ibarra walks the schoolyard and hallways of Oakland Technical High School and is greeted enthusiastically by all the students he meets. A group of giggling girls tries to get him to reveal his first name (it's "Mister.") Mr. Ibarra warmly returns the greetings, patting students on the back and engaging in easy conversation with many of them. And perhaps because his manner is friendly and humorous even when he warns a student about an infraction of the new, no-nonsense dress-code (in this case, no wearing hats in the building), the student responds in kind, removing the hat without losing the smile on his face.

It was that blend of charisma and professionalism that members of a novel "principal selection committee" — made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and even a couple of students — saw in Mr. Ibarra, and that helped lead to his nearly unanimous choice as the new principal.

A native of Guadalajara, Mexico, who



Oakland Tech Principal Felipe Ibarra.

Photo: Lydia Gans

spent part of his childhood in south central Los Angeles, Mr. Ibarra comes to Tech by way of Milpitas High School and San Jose Academy and is no stranger to urban environments. In San Jose he worked with other community leaders to create a truce and define an ongoing mediation process between two rival gangs whose territories divided the school. During that time he got to know the gang members, even visiting some of them at their homes. "Kids involved with street life want to know there's a safe place to go," he says.

Mr. Ibarra says simply that he "loves kids." (He has two of his own: a 21-year-old daughter, who graduated from Stanford and is now pursuing a teaching career in his old Los Angeles neighborhood; and a son, 7.) His simple and uncompromising philosophy is that decisions about the school should always be "student centered" and filtered by the overriding question, "Is this good for the student?"

While emphasizing that real change takes time, Mr. Ibarra is optimistic when he describes what he says are some basic ideas for improving student morale and scholastic achievement at Tech. He wants to recognize and reward all academic improvement, not just accomplishment at the highest levels, he says. He intends to ensure that the highly regarded "academies" at Tech are accessible to all students, even if that requires helping some of them to acquire the skills necessary for success in these programs.

He also wants to explore modern class-scheduling models that can increase and enrich teacher/student contact. And he has begun a process of determining and reporting on necessary repairs to the facility.

His concern for the well-being of the school and his lack of pretension are much in evidence when, at the end of his daily lunchtime "beat," he casually starts to pick up the trash that has accumulated on the front steps of the school building; an onlooker spontaneously follows suit.

It is easy to believe him when he says, "I've encountered many great things going on here on campus since my arrival, and we just need to encourage them and let the public know about them."

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ON THE GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

What's in Store for Oakland Schools?

Superintendent Chaconas speaks to Rockridge: October 19, 7:30 p.m., RCPC General Meeting, Rockridge Library

by Susan Montauk, Chair, RCPC

If you can't reach Superintendent Dennis Chaconas downtown, try him at Oakland Tech or Chabot Elementary. These are two of the six schools he is personally responsible for this year under his plan to build accountability into the Oakland School system. Four leadership directors from the central office are assigned their own schools among the 80 schools in the District. Principals' roles will also change. They will be mandated to spend at least two hours each day in the classroom, observing, mentoring and evaluating their teachers. According to Chaconas, "This district does not need another round of piecemeal crisis management. We need to face up to the district's shortcomings, roll up our sleeves and begin to deliver on the promises we have made to the children of Oakland."



Oakland Schools Superintendent Dennis Chaconas, pictured during a recent interview.
PHOTO: CY GULASSA

Hell-bent on delivering those promises, Chaconas has shaken the establishment to its core. He started by firing or "reassigning" 29 school principals; many of their replacements have been recruited from outside the district. Over 120 teachers and administrators "on special assignment" were moved from the central office to the classroom. A leaner, more efficient central office is the goal, with crucial functions made more user-friendly and directed to support the needs of school sites. These and other central office cutbacks will help meet last year's raises in principals' salaries and the next two years of increases in teachers' salaries. Starting salaries for teachers will reach $37,000 by June of next year, an $8,000 increase from last year. Top salaries will jump to $68,000, an increase of $13,000.

With academics at the top of the superintendent's crisis list, school sites will also have to adapt to curriculum changes to avoid a possible takeover by the State Board of Education. Only 35% of Oakland's third-graders score at or above average on the state reading test. Chaconas chose "Open Court Reading," a phonics-based program, to be implemented in schools with less than 50 percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on the state (SAT/9) reading test. The focus on improving mathematics instruction will start with secondary math, particularly on pre-algebra and algebra instruction, and intervention strategies for 6th through 8th grades.

The elimination of multi-track, year-round schools has resulted in an urgency for new schools to be built. Woodward Elementary in East Oakland opened its doors in September. It is the first new Oakland school in 35 years. The second new school, to be located on the old Montgomery Wards site, will open as a temporary school in fall, 2001, and in September 2002 as a permanent school.

A 10-year construction and modernization program has begun. Everyone is watching closely. You can hear all about the state of our schools and address questions to the Superintendent at the October 19th RCPC General Meeting.

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DISTRICT 1 SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR KEN RICE'S ADVISORY MEETING

OAKLAND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL:
OAKLAND'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

DATE: Monday, October 16, 2000
TIME: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
PLACE: Claremont Middle School Multipurpose Room
5750 College Avenue (next to BART)
(free parking in the BART lot)

Come hear teachers from Tech's nationally acclaimed academy and Paideia programs. Teachers representing the Computer, Education, Engineering, Fine and Performing Arts Technology, and Health/Bioscience Academies will give presentations about their respective programs and curricula.

Additionally, teachers from the ninth grade California Studies English/History block, and Interlinks programs will give overviews of their programs. Tech students will be present to answer questions, along with Tech parents.

Ken



Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Time for Squash

October always brings me back to western Massachusetts. Having left New York to attend graduate school, we lived in a small rural community outside of Amherst. It was in Shutesbury that we planted our first vegetable garden. Befriended by a local university professor and some neighbors, the Brooklynites planted everything that was available from the Burpee seed catalog. I will never forget that first garden with zucchinis that seemed to grow overnight into green monsters from some alien planet. We ate baked squash, squash pancakes, squash puree with cranberries, stuffed squash, squash stew, and... you get the idea. I could wax eloquent about the fall colors of rural New England, but for me October will always mean squash.

On a recent walk through Market Hall Produce, Yasi Market, Safeway, and Albertson's, I was overwhelmed with the variety of squash available to the home cook. Along with corn and beans, squash is part of the "holy trinity" of new-world foods. There is evidence of squash being eaten in Mexico and in the American Southwest over 2,000 years ago. It's hard to imagine, but prior to the introduction of new-world vegetables in the 16th century, Italian food did not include tomatoes or zucchini. Joyce Goldstein, in her cookbook *Cucina Ebraica: Flavors of the Italian Jewish Kitchen*, notes that that many old traditional Italian Jewish dishes include zucchini as a central ingredient. Food historians credit the Jewish community for introducing zucchini into the Italian diet. My mother always made potato and zucchini pancakes (*latkas*).

Squash is generally divided into two major categories: summer squash and winter squash. Summer squash have thin, edible skins and soft seeds. Zucchini and yellow crookneck are most common. Winter squash have hard, thick skins and seeds. Winter squash varieties include acorn, butternut, hubbard, delicata, turban, and spaghetti. You should choose squash that are heavy for their size with a blemish-free, deeply colored rind. Winter squash does not require refrigeration and can be kept for over a month.

I found that Market Hall Produce has the largest selection of summer and winter squash. Although there are many varieties of squash, they all can be baked whole, boiled and pureed for soups, scooped out and stuffed, and fried.

The following recipe for zucchini pancakes (*latkes*) is an adaptation of my mother's specialty. Jewish food historian Claudia Roden believes the dish originated in the Turkish Jewish community and spread throughout the Ottoman Empire and to Italy.

Zucchini Pancakes/Latkes

1 ½ pounds of zucchini (about 3 large)
1 teaspoon of salt
1 carrot, peeled and grated
½ onion, grated
1 large egg
3/4 cup of matzo meal
black pepper to taste
vegetable oil

Grate zucchini on the largest holes of a box grater into colander and combine with salt. Let zucchini drain about 30 minutes

Squeeze as much liquid from the zucchini as possible. In a bowl stir together zucchini, carrot, onion, egg, matzo meal and pepper to taste.

Add about ½ inch of vegetable oil to a skillet and heat over medium high heat until hot but not smoking. Drop four 1/8-cup measures of zucchini mixture into the skillet and with a spatula flatten into ¼-inch pancakes. Cook pancakes 2-3 minutes on each side, or until golden and cooked through. Drain on paper towels. Keep making more pancakes the same way.

Serve with dollops of yogurt or sour cream.

Makes about 10 pancakes

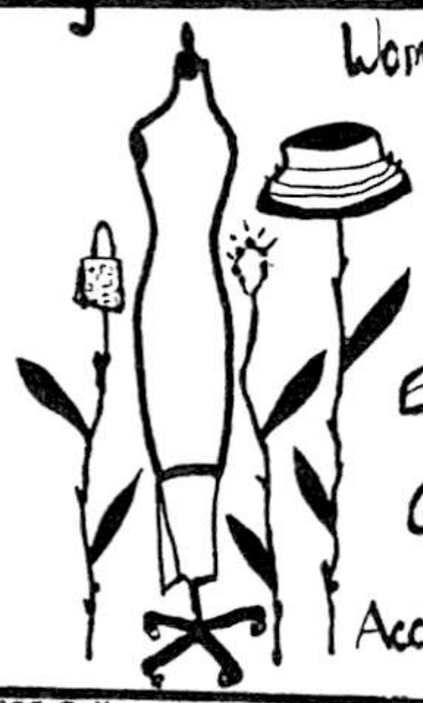
Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. He can be reached at kaufman@sirius.com. Barry is available for cooking classes.



Getting the News

Didn't get your copy of *The Rockridge News* or need another? Generally, extras are available in the Rockridge Library foyer and in many shops on College Avenue.
Or call 814-6060.

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Rockridge Real Estate Prices Shift; Market Strong

Sales brisk but prices slowing

by Ortrun Niesar, Prudential Real Estate

For the first time this year, sales prices have slowed their rapid ascent in Rockridge. Sales continue to be brisk, but buyers have sent a message that enough is enough: overbids are generally less extravagant.

Nevertheless, homes prepared properly for sale will still attract multiple offers, driving the sale price to 20% or more over the asking price. The current median price for a home in Rockridge is $520,000. Should sales slow down a little more, or more inventory come on the market, it is likely that you will see homes priced a bit more aggressively. That's because homes continue to be initially priced somewhat below market at this time in anticipation of multiple bids. The end result in a slower market may actually be close to the same.

This may be a good time for home owners to assess their real estate holdings and make some good decisions for the future.

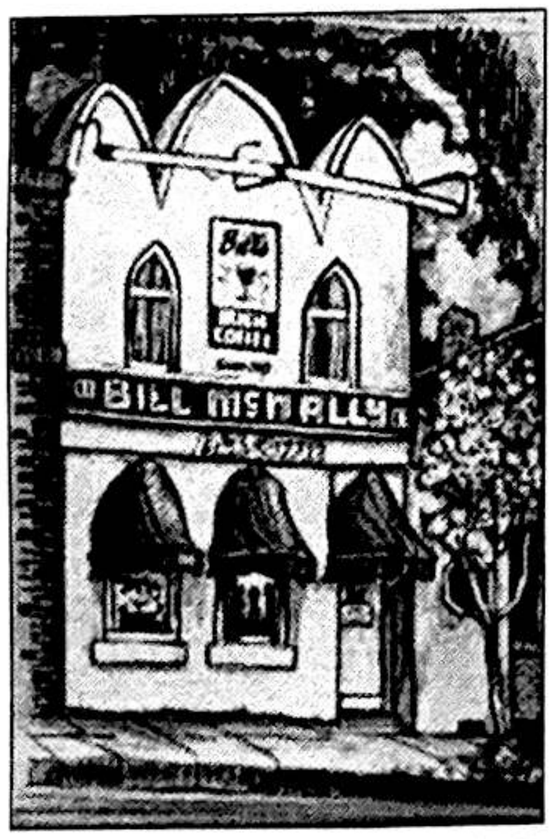
The $500,000 exemption from taxable gains from the sale of a personal residence is still in effect, and you are not required to buy a home of equal or greater value to escape capital gains taxation. Homeowners whose children have grown and moved out may want to consider selling that large house and purchasing a smaller home and a vacation home, or even a future retirement residence. That retirement residence could be leased out until you are ready to move in.

Tax base transfers for persons over 55 are also still available if you are purchasing a home of equal or lesser value within the county of Alameda or counties which have a reciprocal agreement with Alameda. For more information on this, talk with your tax consultant.

Recent Home Sales in Rockridge

Address	Br	Ba	SaleDate	Days/Mkt	Ask Price	Sale Price	S:l%
5335 Broadway Terrace	2	2	9/15/00	15	295,000	346,000	117
6329 Colby Street	2	1	8/30/00	11	305,000	405,000	133
5169 Shafter Avenue	2	1	8/1/00	18	349,000	325,000	93
5248 James Avenue	2	1	8/28/00	3	385,000	385,000	100
5659 Broadway	2	1	8/18/00	26	399,000	416,000	104
6322 Colby Street	2	1	8/29/00	9	419,000	506,000	121
5784 Miles Avenue	3	2	8/15/00	23	425,000	425,000	100
5114 Coronado Avenue	2	1	8/1/00	25	429,000	485,000	113
5249 James Avenue	2	1	8/8/00	11	445,000	455,000	102
5336 James Avenue	2	1	8/22/00	14	459,000	580,000	126
5435 Locksley Avenue	3	2	9/14/00	10	495,000	653,000	132
5668 Buena Vista Avenue	3	2	8/22/00	35	499,000	499,000	100
6000 Broadway	4	3	8/4/00	17	499,000	611,000	122
4987 Harbord Drive	3	2	8/1/00	20	518,000	520,000	100
5404 Lawton Avenue	3	2	8/2/00	13	559,000	725,000	130
5529 Kales Avenue	4	2	8/15/00	13	595,000	663,000	111
5863 Chabot Court	3	1	8/14/00	0	599,000	66,0000	110
5609 Golden Gate Avenue	3	2	9/14/00	15	599,000	665,000	111
5848 Ocean View Drive	3	3	8/30/00	12	599,000	747,000	125
6249 Buena Vista Avenue	3	2	8/18/00	19	685,000	747,000	109
5721 Presley Way	4	3	8/29/00	11	699,000	710,000	102
6045 Chabot Road	4	2	9/8/00	16	745,000	889,200	119
6040 Chabot Road	3	2	8/11/00	9	925,000	1,270,000	137
6182 Contra Costa Road	4	3	8/18/00	12	985,000	1,015,000	103
5678 Margarido Dr	3	4	8/1/00	10	990,000	1,034,000	104

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The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Photo: Chris Ahlstrand

FORM Vintage Modern
5332 College Avenue, Oakland 420-1950
Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

by Theresa Nelson

Walking into FORM for me was like stepping into a well-designed home or office, circa 1960: filled with modernist furniture from the height of the period, tastefully collected and displayed, with interesting accents that foretold some of the pop culture revolution brewing in society.

Joe Kunis, the friendly and enthusiastic owner of FORM, is a California native who grew up in Berkeley's Elmwood district. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz and S.F. State in education, he taught creative arts at two local Jewish Community Centers for several years and took additional courses in architecture and art, pursuing his personal interest in modernism.

Though he grew up in a Berkeley craftsman-style home, his maternal grandparents in Connecticut inspired his love of all things modern. Many artists and architects of the day were clients of his grandparents, including Philip Johnson, Jens Risson, Marcel Breuer, and Elliot Noyse. At 21, he received his first Eames chair from his grandparents and was hooked.

Last fall, Joe went on a major buying trip, secured the former Rockrose space on College Avenue, and moved in. He said, "College Avenue is a well-positioned corridor for shopping, walking and driving, with other furniture and design stores nearby. I knew this location would bring credibility to a new business."

While we were talking, a 20-something woman came in to ask about a 1952 George Nelson bubble lamp. The large, flattened sphere is made of a special plastic over metal ribs. Hanging from a ceiling or on a table, it appears to float in space, rather like a UFO. Another couple in their 60s came in to look at a white leather chair and some lamps, exclaiming over a wood and brass sunburst clock like one they had years ago when they were first married.

Besides the colorful, autumn-toned rya rugs, tall glass and steel etagéres, teak cabinets and soft olive green couch, Joe has some very unusual pieces available. Current favorites include the charming 1950s Italian "Atomic" espresso maker, the epitome of new and modern in its time, and the mesmerizing "aurora" clock, with rotating disks housed in stainless steel that change color as they go around the clock face. The biggest eye-catcher was an original, late '60s "pod chair" of aqua velour and white fiberglass, pictured above. This futuristic chair and ottoman houses a pair of speakers at ear level, which literally surround you with sound while enclosing you in an extremely comfortable easy chair. Customers often use these for watching films as well as listening to music. I had the chance to sit it in and enjoy the cool jazz on the stereo for a few minutes before the chair was delivered to a waiting customer.

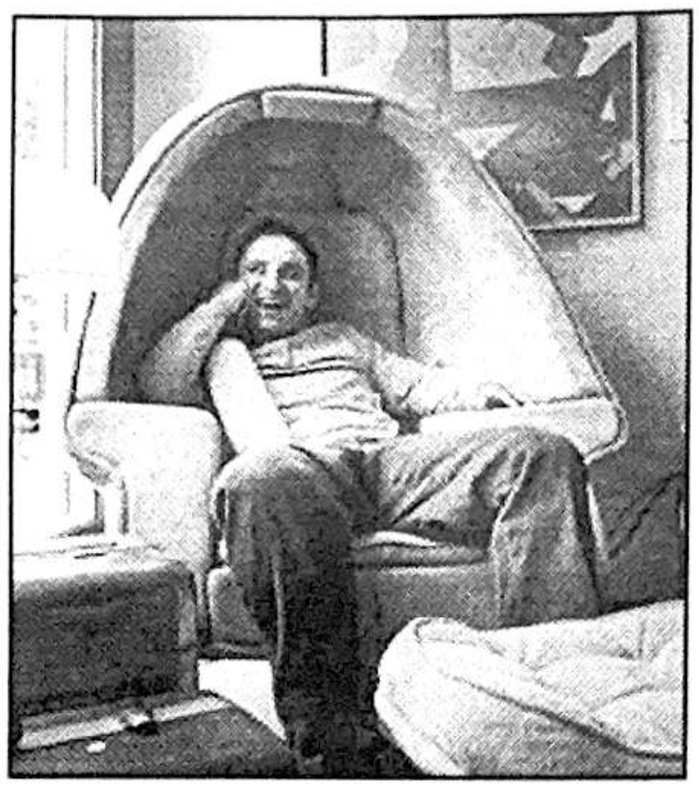


Photo: Courtesy of Joe Kunis

The "pod" chair in use by FORM owner Joe Kunis.

A few minutes later, Michael Thanos from Rustica came in to browse the latest arrivals. Michael said, "As someone who goes to lots of vintage furniture stores, I can say that Joe has the best selection at the best prices. That's why we bought several pieces here for the Conga Lounge [upstairs from Rustica on College Avenue]."

While he collects and sells a wide range of periods, "from deco to disco," Joe's love is the mass-produced pieces from the '50s and '60s, when good design was available at reasonable prices. His customers range in age from 20 to 70, some seeking the retro-hip look, others enjoying the revival of treasures from their own past. "I enjoy thinking about how something will look in people's homes, whether they want something that's whimsical or a modern design piece that's very collectible." He carries nothing that is new or new reproductions of older items. The authenticity of the original items is very plain: "I'm a purist," Joe says, "and that comes through in what I offer here at FORM."

So stroll down College this weekend and stop in for a very up-to-date view of the past. You might find that perfect glass-top coffee table or vintage orange Hobie skateboard you've always wanted.



Saraya Motley

If you are buying or selling in Rockridge look to your Complete Real Estate Resource- Saraya Motley (510)280-2162

Rockridge Trivia

Win Dinner for two at Filippo's Pastaria on College!

Question: The term "Rockridge" is said to have commemorated the Livermore family's favorite picnic area. This large rock is located near what two streets today?

Call me with the correct answer and your name will be entered in a drawing for a delicious dinner for two at Filippo's Pastaria. Entries must be received by October 19th. The winner and answer will be posted in next month's issue of *The Rockridge News*.

Red Oak Realty
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Acting Up At Any Age

The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar

Have you heard of Stagebridge? I hadn't until quite recently when I heard someone say she couldn't wait to be "old" enough to join. She was 55. Hmm. I went to check it out. Stagebridge meets over at the First Congregational Church at the corner of 27th and Harrison Streets every Wednesday and Friday for classes and rehearsals. What I found there was a most lively group of seniors, and a few curious juniors, getting together and learning to perform on stage, tell stories professionally, do improvisations, write stories for radio and much more.

I have to admit I was totally fascinated and have been back ever since. I am particularly riveted by the storytelling classes. Here is this wonderful treasure trove of living history, this natural laboratory for the study of human experience to be had for the asking. Members come from all over and all kinds of backgrounds, offering up stories fashioned from memories often dating back to times few still know anything about. They tell their stories with artistry, passion and an unmistakable sense of urgency. There is a ring of truth about these wonderful stories such as you will never find in a Hollywood movie. It's the truth of the experience, actually lived, that makes your spine tingle.

Stagebridge has been around for 22 years. In fact, its first home was the gym at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church. By now it has gained national recognition and serves as a model for other areas of the country. Professional drama teachers and storytellers help members prepare for plays and shows, radio performances, storytelling in schools, even professional acting in commercials. KPFA-FM hosts personal life stories told by seniors all through the month of January 2001. Other well-known productions include "Grandparent Tales," which reaches thousands of school children, and "Never Too Late," which tours retirement homes. Some seniors I met have even taken on gigs on cruise ships, in commercials, and all kinds of workshops and festivals. Plans are also in the works for a new "Festival of Creative Aging," which will take place next spring in Berkeley.

If you are a born ham still yearning to take center stage, or a person with love for young and old and a story to tell, Stagebridge is for you. Classes are not terribly expensive, even free, and easy to get to. The number to call for more program information and registration is 444-4755.

Rockridge 2000, A Pictorial Essay Update

We plan to meet for tea at the home of Lydia Gans on Thursday, October 12, 5-6:30 p.m. Photographers, please join us to create a pictorial essay of our neighborhood. For more information, call Ortrun at 652-6664 or write to oniesar@aol.com.



PHOTO: ORTRUN NIESAR

Taft Street residents gather for their annual neighborhood picnic on a recent September day.

Living on Taft

by Ortrun Niesar

Discover with me a very special neighborhood within our neighborhood. It's a street you and I have traveled many times between College and Broadway, probably thinking only about getting from point A to point B, wondering how long this street is, and just how many speed bumps there are, anyway.

But walk down the street and it won't take you long before you sense something very special about Taft. Comfortable bungalow homes are crowded rather closely together behind sunny porches and small front yards filled with garden furniture and beds of fragrant flowers and herbs. Despite the never-ending traffic, there are toys on the sidewalk and watchful parents out front. Stories and bright hellos are swapped from yard to yard and across the roofs of cars carefully negotiating the speed bumps. Taft to Broadway is 26 homes long, 52 homes in all, not counting duplexes. And yet, Taft is a real neighborhood!

How did they manage to do it? Well, lots of kids (five babies born just this year) and work-at-home adults and grandparents on the block can't hurt. But it takes organizing skill and cooperation to pull it off. I spoke with Annie Boddum, chief organizer, about how she does it. She told me an e-mail tree and e-newsletter help tremendously. So do speed bumps, block garage sales, neighborhood potluck barbecues, and common issues to rally around. By the way, Annie Boddum, an interfaith minister, school nurse and a grandmother, will be glad to come and talk

See "Taft Street," page 15

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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.

House Sitter

Let me put your mind at ease while you travel. Seminary student will house/pet sit. Experienced. 547-7775.

Seeking 1-Week House Rental

Rockridge resident seeks to rent a large house in Oakland or Berkeley for a family gathering February 17-24, 2001. Need 4-5 bedrooms. Call Susan 653-1564 or Jennie 450-0430.

Tai Ji Quan (Tai Chi)

In Rockridge at Danspace. Vitalize your life: Low-impact, grounding, meditative movement. Great way to start the day! Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday morning classes, 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. 20 years experience. Beginners welcome. Karen 601-1619.

Check Your...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit Items To RCPC COMMUNITY CALENDAR,
5856 College Avenue, #130, OAKLAND 94618 or call 814-6060.
Deadline is next to the last thursday of the month.

Fire Ecology Hikes At Merritt College Environmental Center

Take hikes and do hands-on work in the hills and along the creeks. An exciting new partnership centered at Merritt College's Environmental Center will be hosting outdoor activities this Fall. Call Bruce Douglas at Friends of Temescal Creek for information. 655-0341.

Moderate Hike to a Fire control site.
October 8, Sunday: 10 a.m. 240 Alvarado Road, Berkeley. We will also discuss low flammability green building material
retrofits and water retention options for direct use near and on houses in fire ecology zones with guest Dr. Gary Scott and Prof. Robin Freeman.

Development Issues On Vicente Creek in The Temescal Watershed
November 4 Saturday, 10 a.m., meet at Lake Temescal parking lot. Hike leader; Bruce Douglas, President of Friends of Temescal Creek. Bring lunch; dress for the weather; easy to moderate hike. Visit two branches of Temescal Creek's headwaters.

Jane Brunner

Monthly Advisory Meeting
Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m.-noon at Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street. New Design Review standards and zoning updates for city.

NCPC Meetings

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

PRO ARTS

Holiday Art Fest Mercantile Fair, Wednesday, October 25 through Saturday, November 11. Three weeks of early bird shopping at 461 Ninth Street, Oakland. Call 763-4361 for information.

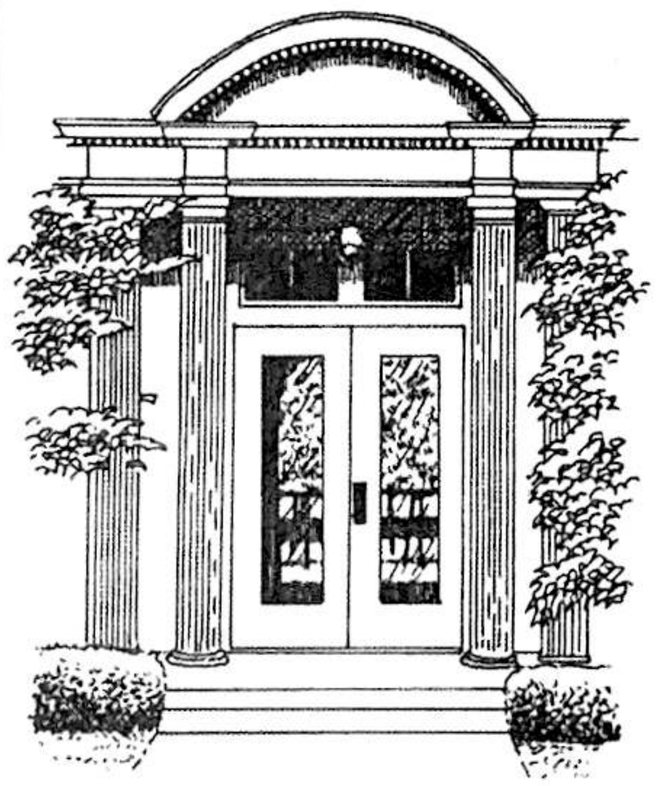
Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Avenue, 597-5017. **Rockridge Branch Library Storytimes** for October, 2000:
Pre-School Story Hours: Tue 10/17: 10:30 & 11 a.m.
Toddler Story Time: Sat 10/07: 10:30 a.m.;
Sat 10/28: 10:30 a.m.
Pajama Story Time: Wed 10/11: 7 p.m.;
Wed 10/25: 7 p.m. Halloween Story Special Event
Book Discussion Group
Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.
October 18: *Seize the Day*, by Saul Bellow.
November 1, *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen and *St. Joan* by George Bernard Shaw. Call 597-5017.
Lawyers In The Library: Free advice 6-8 p.m., 1st Thursday each month. Signup starts at 5 p.m.

TOASTMASTERS

Early risers: Conquer your fear of public speaking and develop leadership skills in a supportive, relaxed and friendly environment. Join Toastmasters, 7 a.m. every Thursday. Please call 510-251-3066 or email: spk2@flash.net

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Letter to The Editor

The Rockridge News
5856 College Ave., #130
Oakland, CA 94618

Rockridge Eviction Unfair to All

Dear Editor:

I was glad to hear about the demonstrations for tenants' rights in front of City Hall recently. I hadn't heard of "Just Cause – Oakland," but I know something about a recent eviction, right in our own Rockridge neighborhood, and it seemed a sad event indeed.

My 86-year-old friend has enjoyed her pleasant apartment on Chabot Road for 22 years, a four-plex near College Avenue, with a small garden and a level entry. She felt safe and happy there.

The eviction letter, written by an attorney, came as a complete shock. She had no warning nor any prior hint from the owners, despite the fact that they lived next door to her. The letter said she is an exemplary tenant, and blithely offered "references." But my friend was completely unprepared, emotionally, for the loss of her home.

"Can you tell me why?" she asked the landlady politely.

"We need the apartment for my mother, who's moving here," was the response.

Oh, that's understandable. But it's hard to see why she chose the eldest, most established tenant to evict. Still, if they need to provide for their mother....

Then we learned from a reliable but reluctant source that the owner's mother has no plans to move to Chabot Road. She lives independently in another state, near an attentive son. She recently traveled to Europe. She wants to stay in her current home, where she is happy. She said she would be very unhappy here.

So: Why is my friend being evicted? What is the need to upset TWO elderly women?

Money? After twenty-two years of only modest rental increases, my friend's rent was less than the current market value. But, unlike many, she is able — with help from her children — to pay more.

When offered more rent, however, the attorney angrily declined, insisting that his clients want to persuade their mother that she should move here.

Moving is high on the list of stress-producers. It is particularly painful for older people. We watched my friend — normally active and outgoing — grow anxious, and withdraw. She seemed depressed; we feared for her health.

Her children, who live in the Bay Area, worked fast and fervently to find a new home for her. We hope she can adjust and feel safe and happy again. We know it will take time.

But it seems so unnecessary to treat people that way. Couldn't they have talked it over? Called a mediator, if necessary, instead of an attorney? Where are our values, our respect for one another? Perhaps demonstrations for tenants' rights will help.

Nancy Galloway
Formerly of Ivanhoe Road

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.

Arrests

Officer Watson, our Community Policing Officer, reports two arrests for auto break-ins, one on Monday, August 28 on the 500 block of 51st Street, and the other on Friday, August 25, on the 5200 block of Manila Ave.

Officer Watson reports that three men in a stolen car held up a woman on the 5200 block of Shafter at around 9 p.m. on Thursday, September 14. The good news is that the suspects, who committed several other robberies in other neighborhoods, were arrested by the OPD later that same night.

A resident of the 400 block of Cavour reports that on Thursday, July 20, between 5:30-6:00 p.m., an intruder entered their home through the unlocked front door. A neighbor witnessed the act and telephoned the resident who than discovered the strange man in their living room. The suspect fled and was subsequently arrested by police.

Commercial Burglary

A store on College Ave. near Chabot was broken into at approximately 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 10.

Theft

A resident of the 5200 block of Coronado reports that two very large plants were stolen off of their front porch between 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 25.

Car Break-in

A resident of the 5400 block of Manila reports their car was broken into on the evening of Thursday, September 7.

The Crime Alert Hotline

The Rockridge Community Planning Council's Crime Alert Hotline is a volunteer effort sponsored and funded by your donations to RCPC. Members of the community can leave messages about criminal activity by voicemail at (510) 814-2255, or by e-mail at: rcpc_crime_hotline@yahoo.com. Weekly updates can be heard at the same phone number, and are being sent to this list on a trial basis. When making reports please include the date, time and location of the incident that you are reporting, as well as your name and telephone number. All identifying information will be kept confidential.

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

CCAC Opposition Is Selfish

Dear Editor:

It's obvious to anyone following the "Storm Over the Dorm" that the opposition against it is purely selfish with little regard for what's best for the community. The whole thing reeks of "not in my backyard."

Broadway Terrace is filled with condos that are bigger and uglier than the proposed housing. Yes, we believe in investing in Oakland and more student housing is a part of that investment.

Look on the bright side: the dorm might block your view of the gas station.

Sincerely,
J. A. Albright, Hudson

Oakland's First Business Improvement District Likely for Rockridge

Business assessments will generate funds for beautification of College Avenue

by Susan Montauk
Chair, RCPC

In 1997, when College Avenue business owners Jan Christensen-Heller (Christensen Heller Gallery) and Joyce Seuss (Rockridge Rags) co-chaired the Rockridge Area Merchants and Professional Association (RAMPA), their discussions about creating a Business Improvement District (BID) were just a dream. Across the country, city governments were facilitating the formation of BIDs — assessment districts within business communities. Berkeley had established a downtown BID and Lakeshore property owners were in the process of forming a PID (Property owners Improvement District). Oakland had yet to adopt a BID ordinance.

When Christensen-Heller took over the chairmanship of RAMPA in 1998, she worked tirelessly with representatives from CEDA, the City Manager's Office and Councilmember Jane Brunner to move the process forward. Oakland finally adopted the BID ordinance in 1999. One of two annual grants of $7,500 was subsequently awarded to RAMPA to hire a consultant who began the process of determining the feasibility of creating a District in Rockridge. With a further loan of $25,000 from the city, months of meetings and circulation of petitions, RAMPA met the signers' quota of 20% of the area's businesses. Ballots were mailed in mid-August, 2000, and the vote was tallied in September. Out of the 406 business license holders in the area, 154 had voted, 90 in favor and 64 opposed. The BID passed.



Photo: Lydia Gans

Jan Christensen-Heller, left, passes the RAMPA torch to Cathy Smith, owner of Goodnight Room.

If the City Council approves the Rockridge BID, which is practically guaranteed, the available funds from Rockridge businesses will surge from the $10,000 that RAMPA currently manages to over $170,000. The assessments will be collected from the business owners as part of their annual business taxes by the City of Oakland. In addition to College Avenue businesses from Broadway to the Berkeley border, the District will include Poppy Fabrics and Washington Mutual Bank on Broadway.

When assessment money is made available to the BID in February of 2002, the steering committee will address the concerns of business owners in this order: 1) Safety (crime and homelessness); 2) beautification (landscaping and litter control); 3) parking; 4) marketing and promotion of Rockridge businesses; and, 5) planning and zoning. Christensen-Heller's satisfaction was apparent when she said, "We now have the ability to make an impact on the Avenue, to make it safe and clean. We will be able to hire a coordinator and everyone will pay their share, which will change how the Avenue conducts business."

Christensen-Heller has stepped down as RAMPA Chair now that her hard work is done. Taking over as interim Chair is Cathy Smith, owner of Goodnight Room, one of the newest children's stores on the Avenue. Smith laments the fact that most business owners in Rockridge have a full agenda managing their families as well as their businesses. In addition to the care of her two small children and a new business, she has taken on the additional demanding job of RAMPA Chair. She said, "All our lives are full but I felt the need to volunteer in order to make it happen. I'm maxed out, but if we all do just a little bit, it will lighten the load."

The last step in this long process is City Council approval. For information call Cathy Smith at 601-6390.



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Goblin Time: 9th Annual Rockridge Children's Halloween Parade Planned

by Barbara Stewart

The ninth annual Rockridge Halloween Parade for young children takes place along College Avenue on Saturday, October 28, 2000. This year's festivities will begin with Halloween Tales told by our own storyteller, Ms. Gay Ducey. She will be in the rear lot of the Rockridge Branch Library beginning at 2 p.m. The Parade will follow the storytelling. It will begin at the library and proceed up both sides of College Avenue and end at Claremont Avenue. Participating College Avenue merchants will be distributing treats to the children in the parade.

Babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and elementary-school children are invited to attend in costume. All children must be accompanied by an adult to participate. Over 40 merchants support the parade and trick-or-treat, and their involvement in this community event is greatly appreciated. Heavy rain will cancel the parade.

The parade is sponsored and organized by the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), with special help from Rockridge Kids children's store on College Avenue, and the cooperation of College Avenue merchants.

For more information, contact Parade Chair Barbara Stewart, 601-1237.



PHOTO: B. STEWART

Bumblebee Margaret Hunger and Princess Danielle Foreman invite all the kids in Rockridge to the annual Halloween parade, October 28.



PHOTO: LYDIA GANS

Taft Street

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to any group about some of the neighborhood activities she has spearheaded. You can reach her at annie@tio.net.

Best of all are, of course, the block parties. This is the magic moment when, for just a few hours, your street belongs to you and only you, the residents. The City of Oakland is to be commended for permitting occasional closures of residential streets, even busy ones, for the sake of neighborhood events. On September 9, Taft had its moment in the sun. Everybody was there to celebrate with music, food and fun.

Life on Taft is good!



PHOTO: ORTRUN NIESAR

LEFT, Janet Somers at the keyboard during the September Taft Avenue block party.
ABOVE, photo record of babies born since last year's event and expected to attend many future block parties.

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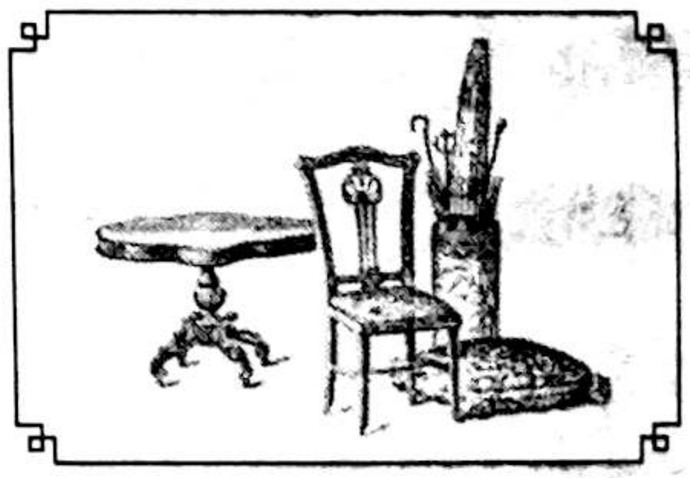
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