THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

VOL. 18 ■ NO. 8 ■ ISSUE NO. 193 ■ September 6, 2003 CIRCULATION: 5,100 RESIDENCES; 200 BUSINESSES

Sponsored by The Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 644-4228

agenda: RCPC General Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.

Rockridge Branch Library
Community Room
5366 College Avenue at Manila

- **Kitchens, Books, and Bungalows.**
  - **"Classic Kitchen" authority** Jane Powell and expert architect/ designer Kathy Rogers will offer professional advice on kitchen remodeling with a slide show. (See article below.)
  - **Rockridge Kitchen Tour tickets** will be available for purchase at the meeting.
  - **A copy of Jane Powell's *Bungalow Kitchens*** will be given to a lucky audience member.

Rockridge Kitchen Tour Is Here

Order tickets now for the September 28 tour

by Natalie Mehta

Nine outstanding redesigned kitchens will be on display Sunday, September 28, from 1 to 5:30pm for the fifth biennial Rockridge Kitchen Tour. This popular RCPC fundraiser offers visitors a rare opportunity to see inside some of our most attractive Rockridge homes, where owners have taken innovative approaches and used unique materials in remodeling their kitchens.

Creative and affordable ideas are presented in this year's tour, and kitchen styles range from contemporary to Arts and Crafts. Visitors will see a variety of kitchen layouts, appliances, cabinet finishes, and color schemes. Those looking for kitchen counter ideas, for instance, will be treated to beautiful examples of tile, granite, limestone, and even custom-made zinc counters. This unique walkable tour has become a popular Rockridge event since its inception in 1995, with nearly 1,000 visitors participating. An equally large crowd is expected this year.



Michael Tompkins and Luann DeVoss get cooking tips from Christopher Cheung, owner and chef of College Avenue's Marica Seafood Restaurant. The couple's kitchen will be featured on the September 28 Rockridge Kitchen Tour.

PHOTO: SUSAN MERRELL

To further bolster our fundraising efforts, this year's tour features a raffle of fabulous prizes from local merchants. One $2 raffle ticket provides a chance to win a generous gift certificate from our local donors: À Côté, Cactus Taqueria, Christensen Heller Gallery, Citron, Crêpevine, Dreyers Grand Ice Cream, Filippo's Pastaria, Garibaldi's, Grasshopper, Homesteader, Hudson Bay Caffe, Ildi & Company, Katrina Rozelle, La Farine, Loot Antiques, Lulu's Kitchen, Maison d'Ètre, Marica Seafood, Market Hall, Nan Yang, Oliveto, Pendragon Fine Books, Rustica Café, Rockridge Café, Rosso Mano, Ruta's Indian Kitchen, SOI-4, and Zachary's.

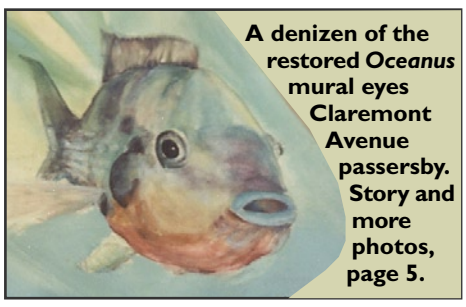
KITCHEN TOUR, PAGE 7

Changes: Kitchen Design Then and Now

Granite, limestone, tile, or Corian countertops, six-burner stoves, stainless steel appliances, two-drawer dishwashers, and recessed spot lighting: These are all on the A-list of kitchen accoutrements in the 21st century. A hundred years ago, however, kitchens had a very different look and role in everyday life. Two local kitchen experts will offer a slide show and lecture on kitchens of both centuries at the September 18 RCPC General Meeting.

Jane Powell, author of *Bungalow Kitchens*, explores the history of the "modern"

KITCHENS THEN..., PAGE 11



A denizen of the restored *Oceanus* mural eyes Claremont Avenue passersby. Story and more photos, page 5.

City Cuts Not as Painful as They Could Be

About $750,000 will be available for capital improvement projects in North Oakland over the next two years, thanks to efforts by Councilmember Jane Brunner to redirect some money from downtown to the neighborhoods.

Brunner and her staff are looking at possible streetscape improvements up and down College Avenue, as well as a gateway to the area. Although Rockridge has a national reputation as a workable neighborhood, it's hard to know when you've arrived. A gateway or signage might correct that. Actual plans will be discussed with community organizations, including the Rockridge Community Planning Council.

Brunner and the City Council worked hard this summer to save valued neighborhood institutions—the Rockridge Library and Fire Station 7—from devastating budget cuts related to shrinking state and city revenues. The

BUDGET CUTS, PAGE 11



Around the Neighborhood

by Jacqueline Tasch, Editor, **The Rockridge News**

Secrets of the S'ters

Among my guilty secrets, the oldest is this: I liked school. In August, when all my friends were wailing about the approach of Labor Day—school, in those days, always began two days later—I nodded sympathetically, but my heart danced with excitement. A new school year meant new notebooks and lunch pail, new pencils and pens, maybe a new color ink: midnight or peacock blue, even purple? There would be new dresses in dark cottons—light colors were banned after Labor Day, whatever the temperature—to wear for the few weeks before the first snowfall (I grew up in Buffalo).

But of all the new things a school year brought, the most precious of all was new textbooks. We used to buy mine secondhand from a family up the street whose daughter was a year older. I remember walking the two or three blocks to her house, and drinking lemonade politely with Patsy and her mother before the transfer took place. Then I ran home, plopped the books on my bed, and sat all afternoon examining the wonders on tap for the coming year: unfamiliar words, pictures of unfamiliar people in far-off times and places, incredibly unfamiliar numerical calculations.

I have no idea how this book transfer came to be. I wasn't friends with Patsy, and our parents knew each other only from church. My envy of Patsy is still another guilty secret. It seemed to me then—although they both laughed later when I told them—that my parents would have been happier with the more extroverted Patsy for a daughter.

With all of these guilty secrets floating around, some readers will surely have surmised that the school I went to was Catholic, taught mostly by "S[is]ters" in long brown dresses with cords at the waist and black veils bound to their heads with uncomfortable-looking starched white cloth. It must have pinched and chafed, but I'm sure the S'ters happily "offered it up," as we were regularly told to do. (Offering it up was their translation of "No pain, no gain," with salvation as the prize.)

There used to be a mythology about Catholic schools: that by some magic, the S'ters could turn out brilliant students on a shoestring. It's a myth that I hear occasionally in times like these, when public schools are facing budget cuts. The obvious explanation is that the S'ters, at least in the olden days, worked for room and board. But there are other elements, too.

In my Catholic grade school, class size often approached 50, and so there was little individual attention except for those who misbehaved. I didn't hear a language other than English until high school, and even then, the "language lab" was an aging tape recorder. The year I took biology, we dissected earthworms because there wasn't enough money for frogs. No joke.

Ways to do more with less

So it pains me to hear how our Rockridge schools struggle from year to year to provide more with less. I talked to several school leaders for the report that appears on the facing page, and they are remarkably resilient and cheerful in the face of the cutbacks that followed the state takeover. Magically, they are creating new programs.

I also asked how we could help, and you'll find some ideas there. Please have a look. Remember that among the dour-faced kids heading back to school, there may be a few who are secretly delighted. We should encourage that.

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Weds, Thurs, Sat:	10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday	12 – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Monday	CLOSED

LIBRARY DETAILS: SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15.

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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- Are there community issues you'd like to see covered in ***The Rockridge News***?
- Do you have questions about newsletter distribution?
- Would you like to volunteer to be a *Rockridge News* block captain?

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

Editor: jatasch@mindspring.com
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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING/DEADLINES

Publication date of the next issue is
☛ October 4, 2003;
☛ October deadline is September 18.

Advertising rates are $22/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. To advertise, call Lauri Scharber at 655-2196. *(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)*

Helping Our Schools

Public schools are an important part of our community, and you're invited to provide support, from money and materials to time and energy. Here's what's needed. What can you contribute?

Claremont Middle School

- Contributions for a $10,000 fundraising drive.
- Volunteers to periodically freshen bulletin boards and public areas.
- Assistant tutors for afterschool programs for underperforming students.
- Volunteers for afterschool enrichment programs in home economics, movement, computer technology, the arts, etc.
- Contact PTA President Edith Gambrell Hanspard at 879-2010.

Chabot Elementary School

- Funds and material contributions for the garden, the library, and music, art, and computer programs.
- Contact PTA President Nora Mitchell, nora@bidmaker.com, or 879-1060.

Far West

- Volunteers for garden workdays the third Saturday of every month from 10am to 1pm.
- Garden materials and tools.
- Artist volunteers to work with students.
- Art supplies.
- Books for middle and high school students on the arts and social justice themes.
- Ideas for community service projects.
- Contact Principal Linda McCluskey, lmcclusk@ousd.k12.ca.us or 879-1580.

Peralta Elementary School

- Contributions for a $50,000 fund-raising drive.
- Volunteers to water and tend the garden.
- Mentors to spend one-on-one time with students during the day or afterschool.
- Contact Parent-Teacher Group Co-chairs Margit Birge, 428-0366, and Rose Rice, 655-9075.

Schools Rally to Beat Cuts

There's a new principal at Claremont Middle School this fall, and Arts Far West has lost part of its name and its K through 5 student body. Peralta Elementary has lost state and federal funds supporting several programs. Cutbacks related to the school district's fiscal crisis and the state takeover are whittling away at the already spartan budgets of local schools. Nevertheless, there's an ambitious new reading program for sixth graders at Claremont, new garden spaces at Far West and Peralta, and an expanded afterschool program at Chabot. Details follow:

Claremont Middle School

David Chambliss is the new principal at Claremont Middle School, after two years as assistant principal of the Havenscourt Middle School and several years working on school reform with RPP International. Assistant Principal Carolyn Gramstorff returns, but former Principal Dorothy Wiggins and Assistant Principal Bill Kaufner have taken other assignments.

Based on a projected decline in enrollment, Claremont will lose the equivalent of three to four full-time teachers, but Chambliss believes some will be restored when more students than expected actually turn up for classes.

A major focus at Claremont this fall will be a reading program for all sixth-grade students; an existing program for those significantly below grade level will be complemented by an enrichment program for those at or above grade level. In addition, the afterschool program is expanding, with the invigorated PTA coordinating volunteers.

Chabot Elementary School

An already active PTA at Chabot was galvanized by last spring's budgetary crisis, and an organization called Chabot Parents Respond fought for local control of Oakland schools. While they lost that effort, they continue to monitor the changes in the school district. Chabot parents took the lead in forming a citywide network of parent leaders, Parent Leadership Alliance Network, now including about 60 parents.

Principal Denise Saddler was able to avoid any significant cuts at Chabot, and no teachers were laid off. Meantime, parents are prepared to cover losses of money to cover supplies. Call the school, 879-1060, to sign up for a tour with Saddler any Friday in October from 8-9:30am.

The PTA-coordinated afterschool program will be enlarged with several new subject areas, from circus arts and global education to rhythm rock and Chinese brush painting. Check the new website, www.chabotelementary.org.

Far West (formerly Arts Far West)

Although Arts Far West is losing part of its name, it will continue to have a strong focus on art. As part of a collaboration with nearby California College of the Arts, artists will work with teachers to introduce a component of art in every curriculum.

Far West is also losing its K through 5 students and will be a middle school of 100 students and a high school of 125 students. Some students were traded with Kaiser Elementary School, which closed its Middle School component. Also, about 25 students are coming to Far West from private schools.

None of these changes were related to budget cuts. Far West lost four K-5 teachers and has hired two science teachers. In space made available by the dismantling of play equipment for the youngest students and some asphalt, a garden — initiated last year by a Japanese artist — will be expanded.

Peralta Elementary School

A beautiful new garden opened in May at Peralta Elementary, and work is planned to enhance the Alcatraz side of the school yard. Despite district budget cuts, the band teacher will be back for the fourth and fifth grades, and parents are sponsoring two notable guest music teachers: well-known folk singer Bonnie Lockhart (K-3) and Q.B. Williams, director of the Vukani Mawethu Choir (4-5).

The Parent Teacher Group at Peralta is working hard to plug the holes created by losses of federal and state funds that mean limited resources for afterschool programs, special needs children, social services, mentoring, and a Family Resource Center. The demise of the State Arts Council means parents will also have to raise money for arts instruction.

While no teachers were lost at Peralta, increased enrollment is expected to provide a challenge to present resources.

September 20 FROG Playground Work Party And *Oceanus* Mural Dedication

by Sally Fitzhugh

Help install more tiles at FROGpark, fix up play structures, and celebrate the restoration of the *Oceanus* mural. You can do all of the above on Saturday, September 20, by joining Friends of Rockridge-Temescal Greenbelt (FROG) for its semi-annual playground work party. FROG work takes place from 8:30am to 5pm, followed immediately by a dedication ceremony at 5pm for the newly restored Oceanus mural on Claremont across from Hardy Park. (◗ *Oceanus* story and photos, page 5.)

Besides installing new tiles, the FROG work party will add some new features and perform regular maintenance on the existing play structures. FROG is looking for both skilled and unskilled workers. No prior experience is necessary.

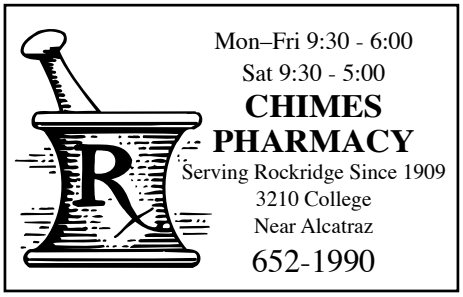
Volunteers for the playground maintenance should bring their own gloves, a garden rake, broom, and shovel to help sand, seal, rake, sift and build. Mark your name on any tools you bring to ensure their return. Check in at either the Hardy Park Playground or the Redondo Playground (corner of Redondo and Clarke) before proceeding to the Hardy Park or Redondo play structures. Bagels and coffee will be provided at Hardy Park (first-come, first served), and FROG will host a hot dog barbeque (courtesy of Niman Ranch) in Hardy Park at noon for all volunteers. Refreshments will be served at the 5pm *Oceanus* Mural dedication ceremony as well.

Sorry, no childcare. Parents with children under the age of 13 are encouraged to participate in the creek clean-up, a family-friendly event which is run by the City of Oakland, Friends of Temescal Creek and DNA, on the same day, from 9am to noon.

FROG needs some basic tools and equipment for the day. Please let us know if you can lend us any of these items:

- (30) Brooms: both hand & whisk types and regular sweeping types.
- (10) Shovels: triangular (pointed) types preferred, but square types OK.
- (20) Rakes: garden type with metal tines (for raking fibre wood chips)
- (5) Wheelbarrows
- (2) Twenty-foot or longer extension ladders
- (6) Eight-foot or taller step ladders
- (10) Cordless screw guns with Phillips drivers (charge the batteries & bring spares)
- (6) Cordless orbital or palm type sanders (charge batteries & bring spares)
- ✔ Miscellaneous wood files, extension cords, hammers

Please contact Lisa Kaplan at 653-5870 or Lisak_k@yahoo.com or visit the FROG website, www.frogpark.org, for more details.









Mural Miracle: *Oceanus* Restored After 26 Years

by Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

Tio is a sailor from Martinez who aspires to an art career. Eleanor is a master drawing teacher. Roberta works for the City of Oakland. Julie lives in the neighborhood. Teenage sisters Caitlyn and Chelsa were looking for some vacation fun.

These are just a few of the 80 people who restored the mural *Oceanus* to its former glory this past summer. From July 9, when the Department of Public Works under coordinator Jamil Blackwell removed all the graffiti and dirt and pulled off the invasive ivy, through July 20, when Jamil's crew sealed the surface with a graffiti-resistant covering, the site under Highway 24 on Claremont was alive with people from every walk of life.

"This has renewed my faith in humanity," said the mural's creator, Gary Graham, seeing the 3,000-square-foot work restored to life under the expert and amateur hands of dozens of paint-stained people. A teacher at Vista College in the 1970s, Gary convinced Caltrans to allow him and his students to paint the wall. Its since-defaced beauty inspired the summer project funded by the City of Oakland, RCPC, FROG and private donations.



Caitlyn (l.) and Chelsa Greene bring new life to seaweed.

Photo: Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

Every day, Rockridge resident and project director Kate Runyan signed in volunteers, provided snacks and drink, and painted with zest. Amid the comings and goings along the orange-coned area, with tarps and paint cans spread along the sidewalk, Gary counseled and cautioned, taught and urged, painted and checked from close up and afar as the work progressed.

Among the crew were some well-known area artists: muralist Dan Fontes, creator of giraffes and zebras under another freeway; Temescal's Jeff Norman, author of the Fire Station Eight historic walkway; and Herschel West, President of Pro Arts. Eleanor Dickinson, a renowned human figurative artist and 30-year professor at the California College of the Arts, serenely took on the "hard stuff" like bubbles and reflections. She took pains to maintain the "dreamlike" quality of the divers, while giving them a bit more volume and anatomical credibility.

There were also contributors like Roberta Babcock, Oakland's assistant public art coordinator, who assembled the financing for this project, then supervised while adding her hand to images on the far right. Tio's school counselors advised him not to study art, so he joined the Navy. But, awaiting orders to ship out, he stumbled across the mural project and turned up every day thereafter. While he painted, Gary explained color theory and design, reviewed Tio's portfolio, and offered career advice.

Gary also worked diligently with the less experienced. Caitlyn and Chelsa Greene, graduates of the Berkeley Arts magnet school, took time between their summer classes and camps to revive purple/yellow sea grasses under Gary's patient direction, while their mother, Carol Greene, cheerily grumped that she "got to clean brushes." Perched on a ladder, landscape design student Julie Franklin cheerfully sharpened the shark's teeth.

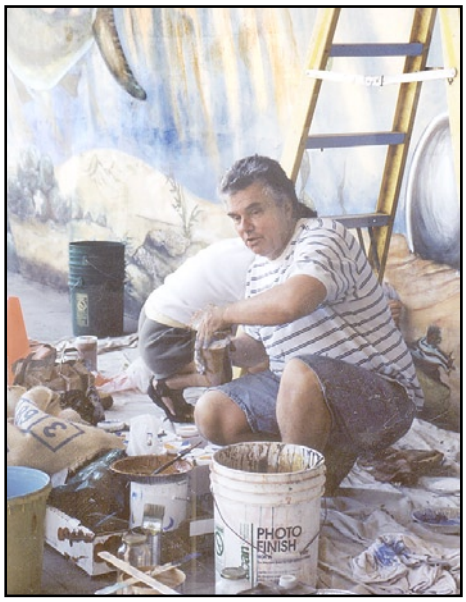


Photo: Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs

Artist Gary Graham mixes paints and coaches technique during restoration of his mural *Oceanus*.

On the scaffolding, Joël Blondeau, a close friend and associate of Gary, sponged, scratched, and scumbled the surface of the whale, bringing the huge beast to life again. Joël is a renowned restorer, having worked for major clients such as Disney.

Oceanus is an environmental mural with a political message. Besides the whale, the fish, and the waving seaweed, it depicts divers retrieving barrels of radioactive waste (some had been found near the Farallon Islands about the time the mural was created).

As the work went on, drivers tooted and gave thumbs up. Dog walkers cheered and wandered over to stare and admire. "It was a life-changing experience," said Kate, the organizer. "I wonder if there are other neighborhoods we could organize to do this? The most wonderful thing was the huge diversity of people who came together to get this done."

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Rockridge Crime Network Goes Yahoo

by Susan Montauk, Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network Moderator

Rockridge has a new tool to fight crime and respond to quality-of-life issues. The Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network has recently been converted to a Yahoo Group, giving citizens the ability to communicate on these matters with blocks throughout the community.

About 10 months ago, in response to a surging crime rate in the City of Oakland, residents throughout Rockridge began signing up to be block captains for the newly formed Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network. An e-mail web was created and used by the captains to alert residents of each block about incidents of crime and suspicious behavior. By April, 37 volunteer block captains had stepped forward.

In July, the Network converted to a Yahoo Group. Those familiar with the Oakland Police Yahoo Group, moderated by North Oakland Lieutenant Lawrence Green, know just how effective such a system can be. That group, through member e-mail chats, can boast of helping Oakland Police arrest offenders, shut down illegal businesses, and apprehend code violators. Monthly police reports are posted on the system, and Oakland Police respond to reports by members and follow up when warranted.

The Rockridge system will not be directly tied to the Oakland Police Department, but the moderator will distribute relevant monthly police reports to members along with other crime-related messages. In addition, residents will be able to post any notices or concerns they have regarding crime or quality-of-life issues and to chat with members who might have helpful suggestions.

Blocks that are not already represented by a block captain are invited to join the Network. A list of those blocks can be viewed on line at www.rockridge.org. Click on "Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council" and then on "Watch Network."

If you would like to represent your block, you may send an e-mail to smontauk@juno.com. State your full name, address, and the block you wish to represent. When your membership is approved, you will be asked to keep in touch with your neighbors through a block e-mail list.

Sex Offenders in Rockridge: Evaluating the Risk

by Michael Whitfield

Among Rockridge's 15,000 or so residents are 11 registered sex offenders. Five have committed offenses involving minors, four of them with children under the age of 14. All are classified as serious offenders, a middle category between low-risk and high-risk. These facts were gathered during a visit to the Oakland Police Department, which provides access to information about sex offenders to anyone 18 years or older.

An officer with OPD's Special Victims Unit explained that while there are no set guidelines for classifying sex offenders, the level of violence and likelihood of new offenses are major elements leading to a high-risk rating. Low-risk offenders often are those caught with child pornography or using suggestive language with children. Serious offenders probably committed actual sexual acts, but not in combination with other crimes—breaking into a house or using violence other than the sexual act itself.

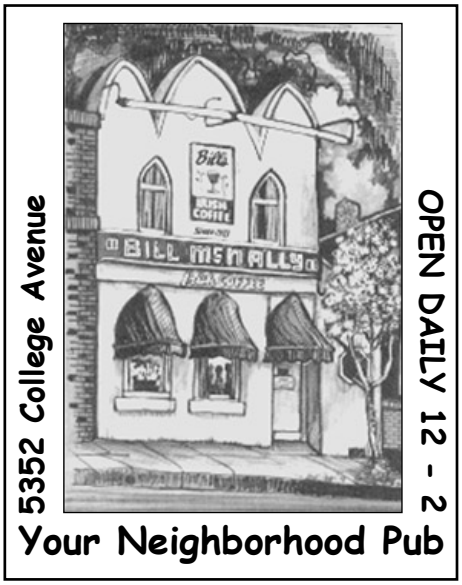
In trying to evaluate the level of risk in Rockridge, demographic statistics may be useful. The state's 97,000 registered sex offenders account for .28% of its population — please note the decimal — which indicates that the rate is 28 per 10,000 rather than one in four. In the Bay Area, Alameda County has the second-highest number of registered sex offenders with 2,351, but they account for only 16 per 10,000 residents. The city of Oakland (1,092 offenders) approaches the state's rate at 27 per 10,000. By comparison with all these, Rockridge's 11 registered sex offenders account for only .07% of the population, or 7 per 10,000 residents.

To review the OPD's information on registered sex offenders living in the 94618 zip code, visit Oakland police headquarters, 455 7th Street, Room 313, between 8am and 11:30am or 1pm and 3:30pm Monday through Friday, or 10am to noon on Saturday and Sunday. Appointments can be made by calling 238-2191, but are not necessary. You will need to show a California driver's license or other ID, to state your purpose, and to sign a statement that says, among other things, that it is illegal to use the information to harass, discriminate, or commit a crime against a registered sex offender. The CD-ROM provides the offender's name and any aliases; a photo, if available; gender, physical description; offenses; and county and zip code of residence, but not an address.

Oakland Police point out that registered sex offenders may pose less risk to residents than offenders who have not yet been arrested and convicted of crimes.

Police urge all residents to take precautions, particularly with young children. Some suggestions from the Oakland City Attorney are available at http://www.oaklandcityattorney.org/megan.html





Kitchen Tour

from page 1

Get Your Tickets Now! Four convenient ticket purchase options are available for this year's tour:

Mail: $25 advance purchase tickets are available via the coupon at right below. Mail-in ticket orders received before September 15 will be filled by mail; orders received after the 15th will be held at the registration desk, 5951 College Avenue (College Avenue Presbyterian Church) starting at 11am.

Online: Advance tickets are also available for purchase online, using a credit card, at www.rockridge.org. Tickets purchased online will be held for pick up at the registration desk.

Local Businesses: Tickets are also available during business hours at Rockridge Realty, 6019 College Avenue (655-2330), and at Maison d'Ètre, 5640 College Avenue.

Registration Desk: $30 day-of-tour tickets will be sold at the registration desk.

Tour hours are 1pm to 5:30pm. For additional information, visit the RCPC website, www.rockridge.org or call 644-4228.

Docents Needed

Docents play a key role in the success of the tour, and volunteering provides an easy way to become involved and assist in this neighborhood fundraising effort. Two docents are assigned to each home for a 2-1/2-hour shift. They are treated to a pretour of three homes and a free ticket to the tour. To be a docent, contact Nancy Sale at 655-4625.

Merchants Bring Food, Fun, Fair To College Ave in September

by Roberta Klugman, Rockridge District Association

While you're visiting houses on RCPC's fabulous Kitchen Tour September 28, you'll find College Avenue hopping with a street fair, "Out and About in Rockridge," from 11am to 5pm: The street will be alive with musicians, clowns, street performers, and sidewalk sales.

Organized by the Rockridge District Association, the street fair features food, fun, and entertainment. Child stilt walkers and clowns from the Prescott Circus Theatre will perform, as will Crying High, a Brazilian Choro-style jazz band. Other performers will play at various locations, and a Bolivian carnival troupe will travel College Avenue entertaining folks. A cable-car trolley will transport visitors from Broadway to Alcatraz. Market Hall's annual "Picnic in the Street" will have tasty treats, comparative tastings, cookbook signings, and the Used Cookbook Exchange.

A sidewalk chalk art contest, hip-hop dance demonstrations, videotaped gait analysis, a 5K Fun Run, the Oakland Zoomobile, search and rescue dogs, and a feng shui lecture are just a sampling of what College Avenue merchants are planning.

For more information, contact the Rockridge District Association at 604-3125, info@rockridgedistrict.com, or visit www.rockridgedistrict.com.

2003 Rockridge Kitchen Tour
Advance Ticket Order Form

Yes! Save me a spot for the:

2003 Rockridge Kitchen Tour

Sunday, September 28, 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please send me the following number of tickets:

_____ **tickets @ $25 ea. advance price = $** _____ **total enclosed**

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Please mail this coupon, a self-addressed stamped envelope, and your check or money order payable to:

RCPC Kitchen Tour, 5245 College Avenue PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618

Thank you! *The Rockridge Kitchen Tour Committee*



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5943 Ocean View	3/2	$ 699,000	$ 699,000	8/13/2003
5946 Manchester	3/3	$ 1,295,000	$ 1,200,000	8/15/2003
5405 Carlton	2/2	$ 495,000	$ 495,000	8/22/2003
5506 Taft	2/1	$ 595,000	$ 652,000	8/22/2003
6016 Auburn	3/2	$ 675,000	$ 801,000	8/26/2003

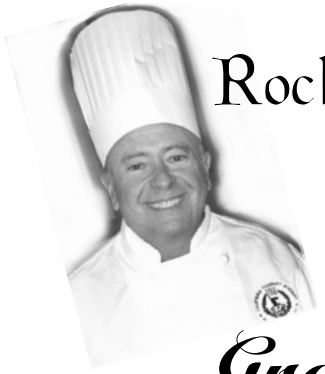
The average price paid per square foot was $412, up 12% from last year.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Grandma Food

Several years ago at the Jewish Film Festival, I saw a short documentary film on three generations of Jewish women preparing gefilte fish. The grandmother went to a live-fish market, picked out a perfect carp, had it killed, and brought it home where she filleted the fish, hand-chopped it, and used the bones to make a perfect broth to poach the fish. Her daughter brought home filleted pike and white fish, chopped it in the Cusiniart, and poached the fish in store-bought fish stock. Her granddaughter opened a jar of prepared gefilte fish, arranged them on a plate with lettuce leaves, and topped each gefilte fish with a small carrot slice saying, "That's the key, the sliced carrot."

We have just become grandparents. Our culinary genealogy—three and more generations of special dishes passed down from grandmothers to mothers to grandchildren—is fresh on my mind. Following my mother's secret recipe, our daughter has for many years made zucchini (not potato) latkes on Chanukah and perfectly light matzo balls for Passover. Every Passover my partner makes kosher potato knishes she learned from her mother. Sweet and sour Romanian stuffed cabbage and Swedish meatballs are also part of the heritage.

Many years ago, I asked my partner's grandmother for the recipe for her special Romanian eggplant. I will never forget her smile when she held out her hand to indicate measurements and said, "about this much of… and about that much of…." Her fist expanded and contracted for each ingredient.

We can buy the latest "in" cookbooks, but it is our mother's, grandmother's, and great-grandmother's recipes we yearn for. I will never forget when my then-10-year-old daughter asked my mother for her zucchini latkes recipe. My mother told Jennifer that she learned to make zucchini latkes from her mother and her mother before her. Jewish food historian Claudia Roden believes the dish originated in the Turkish Jewish community and spread throughout the Ottoman Empire and to Italy.

A number of years ago, when my mother-in-law passed away, we returned from the cemetery to a lavish meal of Jewish appetizers that included smoked, baked, and pickled salmon; chopped egg salad with mushrooms; smoked whitefish, carp, and sturgeon; and herring in wine and cream sauce. Our daughter, who loved and misses her grandmother to this day, calls this food "grandma food." The other day my partner was making cole slaw. My dad, who was a salad chef, made the best cole slaw and potato salad. After tasting and adjusting for the perfect balance of lemon, salt, pepper, and mayonnaise, my partner asked me: "As good as your father's?" "Better," I replied.

What a comfort it is to connect to memories of our loved ones through the delights of special food. Every time we make a "grandma" dish, we bring the generations closer to our hearts. I look forward to the time when my new granddaughter makes zucchini latkes or Passover potato knishes and we tell her that these were handed down from her great-grandmothers Laura and Ida.

Passover Potato Knishes

(Gail Kaufman, as told to her by Ida Moskowitz)

Ingredients

(As with all grandma recipes, measurements are not exact.)

6-8 large russet potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
1-2 large onions, chopped
Butter
½ cup matzo meal
Salt and pepper to taste
3-4 egg yolks mixed until uniform

Directions

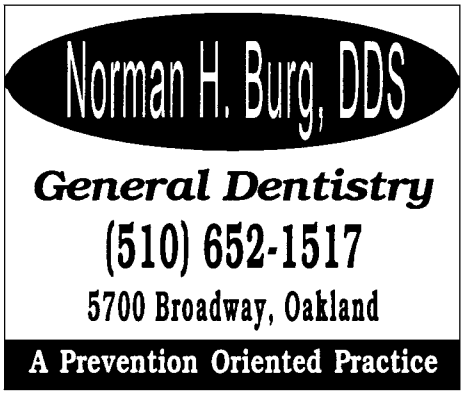
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Boil potatoes until very soft.
3. Sauté onions in butter over low heat until caramelized (slowly caramelizing the onions until golden brown is the secret to this recipe).
4. Mash potatoes and mix in onions, 2 tablespoons of butter, matzo meal, and salt and pepper to taste.
5. Butter a large baking pan.
6. Form mixture into flattened balls about 3-4 inches in diameter.
7. Place on baking pan and brush egg yolk mixture on top of knishes.
8. Bake until golden brown on top and bottom. Serve fresh and hot.

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. His e-mail is kaufman42@earthlink.net. Barry is available for private cooking classes and fundraising events

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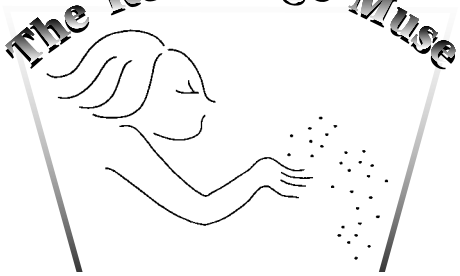


Rockridge Photo Exhibition The Subject Is Us

If you were asked to capture in a photograph something about yourself or the environment we share here in Rockridge, what would you decide to reveal? That is the question some 20 Rockridge photographers are asking themselves at this moment as they prepare to present another slice of Rockridge life in the third annual Rockridge Photo Exhibition. They know a good photograph needs to be more than just a pretty picture. They know that to take a good picture requires intense observation and concentration. If you are practiced, and a bit lucky, all that concentration just might transform what you see into a new image with its own constellation of meanings, intended or not. So a rose will no longer be just a rose. That new revelation can be both exciting and a little scary, as all mysteries are.

Rockridge Dew 574 — **Chris Holmes**





by Ortrun Niesar

This year, our talented artists are creating an amazing kaleidoscope of new thought images for you. Chris Holmes meditates on light refracted through a dewdrop, while Courtenay Redis' photos literally burst with the joy and laughter of children at play at Elizabeth House. Stephen Seche lets the incidental detail tell the whole story. Why write a book when you can say it all in a sentence? Bill Kepner captures the lively energy on Shafter on a Saturday morning. Nick Wirtz sees local history and classic beauty in architectural structure. Gary Nakamoto is working on long exposures of church interiors in our area. Claire Isaacs finds the roses of Claremont irresistible. And so it goes, to each his (or her) own, each adding another thread to the fabric that is the Rockridge community experience.

Other artists include photojournalist Lydia Gans; Wendy Wheeler and daughter, Tassia Reoutt, age 6; Martha Snider (photo collages); Thomas Dalpino, now 8, who has participated for the past two exhibits; Robert Hofmann, Alan Stross, Ortrun Niesar, Jeff Lindeman, Ted Williams, and Irving Wiltshire.

The exhibition will open at the Rockridge Library with a reception for the artists on Friday, September 12, from 6pm to 8:30pm and will run through Friday, October10. All are cordially invited. You will be able to purchase many of the works directly from the artists.



Grandma's Valedictorian **— Courtenay Redis; Elizabeth House series**

Box Art/Art Box Annual Fundraiser For Pro Arts

This is a year when all of us who think that the arts are an important part of life must go that extra mile to help our community arts organizations make it through tough funding times. But this is not drudgery by any means. Arts groups are enormously imaginative when it comes to fundraisers. Their events could be a much better night out than the perennial movie and a pizza.

Pro Arts will be holding the opening event of its second Annual Box Art/Art Box fundraiser, silent auction, and raffle on Thursday, September 4, 6 to 8:30pm, followed with three weeks of silent bidding, and a smashing closing event and auction on Thursday, September 25, from 6-8:30pm. Friendly competition for the wonderful box creations contributed by over a hundred well-known Bay Area artists will help to raise much-needed funds. We hope you will join in on the fun and bid on a piece by a favorite Rockridge artist. You'll be glad you did. Call 510/763-9425 for more information.

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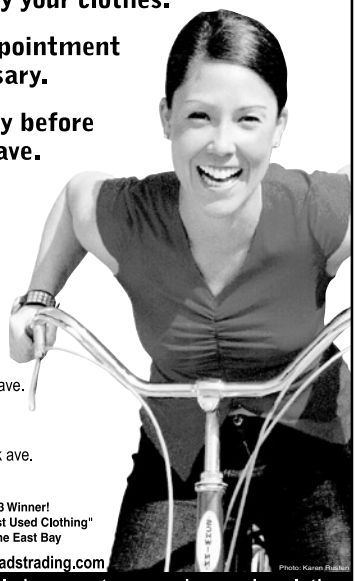
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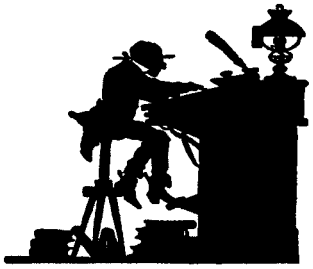
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RCPC Bylaw Amendments Approved at July Meeting

by John Gussman

At the RCPC general membership meeting on July 17, the members voted to approve two changes to the organization's bylaws. These clarify the length of elective terms on the Board of Directors and adopt term limits for elected directors.

The amendments, which had been recommended by the Board, became effective upon adoption. The term of an elected director now expires at the end of the annual meeting in the second calendar year after that person was elected. Henceforth, no person will be eligible to serve more than three elective terms on the board, with certain exceptions.

Further information on the bylaws can be found in the July issue of *The Rockridge News* or on the RCPC website, rockridge.org.

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En Français

Maison Nouveau...Qu'est que ça veut dire? Est-ce du mauvais Français?

Non, pas du tout. Maison Nouveau provient de «La Maison du Nouveau Siècle» qui pourrait se traduire en anglais par «The House of the New Century» or «The Firm of Change» .

De la même façon que «L'Art Nouveau» à révolutionné l'art en général à l'aube du vingtième siècle, nous transformons le marché immobilier dans la région de la baie de San Francisco en offrant de meilleures prestations de services et des prix plus competitifs pour le vingt-et-unième siècle.

In English

Maison Nouveau . . . What is this? Bad French?

No, not at all. Maison Nouveau is derived from "La Maison du Nouveau Siècle" which translates as "The House of the New Century", or "The Firm of Change".

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Budget Cuts

from page 1

council also restored money for neighborhood services coordinators, library materials, and recreation program directors. About $420,000 was put aside for park maintenance and cleanup.

False Alarms May Enrich City Coffers

Rockridge residents with home alarm systems may find themselves helping to fill the city treasury. The mayor's budget proposed, and the Council approved, the creation of a new security alarm permit: $25 per year for residential and $35 per year for commercial tenants.

Most home alarm systems are set up to trigger a police response if residents don't quickly issue an all-clear. Sometimes—in fact, about 34,000 times each year—police respond to what turns out to be a false alarm. Under new rules, residents will be allowed one free false-alarm response each year. After that, they will pay a fine of $100 for each false-alarm response. This fine is an effort to deter false alarms while also generating revenue to balance the police resources used in responding to such alarms.

At the July RCPC Meeting

Hollywood Boosts Neighborhood Beautification Work

Imagine Sean Penn showing up at your door, asking to borrow your house for a month or so. That's what happened to one family in the 5200 block of Locksley last June, as Penn's film crew found in Rockridge an "East Coast-like" neighborhood where a character in their movie could "live."

Besides the brush with Hollywood, the lucky householders got to spend a month in the Claremont Hotel at Penn's expense. And, it turns out, the whole neighborhood will also benefit. A check for $500 from Penn's production crew was turned over to Friends of the Locksley Gardens Project, a group aiming to transform the neglected parcel of Caltrans land under Highway 24 at Locksley and Forest into a community bright spot.

The transaction took place at RCPC's July General Meeting during a forum for efforts to make Rockridge a prettier place to live. Besides the Locksley Garden group, representatives of Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt and the UnderBART improvement committee were present.

Niccolo DeLuca of the City of Oakland's Public Works Agency offered information on how the Adopt-a-Spot Program can help other area residents who want to transform their neighborhood's public areas, whether parks or median strips. Beautifying a spot could be as simple as picking up trash regularly or as complicated as removing graffiti or planting a garden. If your spot qualifies, the city may provide tools, pick up collected trash, and offer support or advice. For more information, contact Adopt-a-Spot at 434-5131.

[Penn's movie, "The Assassination of Richard Nixon," will be released in 2004.]

From Students to Teachers Via Scholarship Program

Oakland Tech students Kimber Towers and Leah Oliver moved to the other side of the teacher's desk this summer as the initial participants in the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) Summer Scholarship Program. Now back at Tech for their senior year, the pair spent two months coordinating the library's "Summer Reading Game."

Towers and Oliver trained and supervised more than a dozen volunteers for the successful program, which encourages youngsters to read at an early age. They also coordinated the volunteers' schedules.

"Every morning I'd get to the library and wonder how we could have done this program without Leah and Kimber. They were terrific," said Susan Stutzman, Teen Specialist librarian.

Towers and Oliver each received a $1,250 stipend from FORL, which will continue the scholarship program next year.

New Hours for the Rockridge Library

Following recent budget cuts, the Rockridge Library has a new schedule:

Tuesday	12:30-8pm
Wednesday	10am-5:30pm
Thursday	10am-5:30pm
Friday	12-5:30pm
Saturday	10am-5:30pm
Sunday & Monday	CLOSED

The Lawyers in the Library program, providing a free consultation with a volunteer lawyer, will now be on the first Tuesday evening of each month from 6-8pm. There will be no program on October 7, when the library will be a polling place for the recall election.

Other branches have also had schedule changes. Schedules are posted on the library's website at www.oaklandlibrary.org.

Kitchens Then...

from page 1

kitchen—the one found in all early 20th-century houses, not just bungalows. She discusses how it changed women's lives, the various elements it contained, and practical ways to use 21st-century improvements without compromising the period look. An Arts and Crafts restoration expert, Powell is a lecturer and consultant on all aspects of early 20th-century houses.

Kathryn Rogers worked in design/build firms as a carpenter and an architect for several years before starting her own design firm, Sogno Design Group. She specializes in residential remodels and additions with a focus on rethinking the flow of spaces inside and outside the home. Her interests include using found and recycled objects; exploring combinations of elements, light, and color in her designs; green building; and most important, working with clients to produce designs that suit their needs and complement the original architecture of their house. One of Sogno Design's kitchens will be featured on the September 28 Rockridge Kitchen Tour.

Both experts will address the meeting in the Rockridge Library Community Room at 7:30 pm September 18. Audience members will get a chance to win a copy of Powell's *Bungalow Kitchens*. Tickets for the Rockridge Kitchen tour will also be on sale at the advance price of $25.

ROCKRIDGE ZONING COUNTER

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Proposal: To establish a fitness weight-loss business

Applicant: Palapa Dreams, Inc. - DBA. Curves

Owner: Wilson Associates

Planning Permits Required: Minor Conditional Use Permit for a Group Assembly Commercial Activity in the C-31 Zone

Case Planner: intern Amy Million, 238-6661 or Crescentia Brown, 238-6190 or cbrown@oaklandnet.com

437-439 65th Street

Proposal: Application for a condominium conversion of two existing residential units.

Applicant/Owner: Matthew Wadlund/Mark Mumm.

Planning Permits Required: Tentative Parcel Map for condominium subdivision.

Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: C2+.

Case Planner: Pete Vollman, 238-6167 or pvollman@oaklandnet.com.

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FIT for a Change

The Neighborhood Merchant

by Theresa Nelson



Photo: Don Kinkead

FIT Clothes for the Modern Lifestyle

Joyce Gardner, Owner

When you walk into FIT Clothes for the Modern Lifestyle, you'll meet two savvy women who will listen to what you want and what you don't like, and who won't tell you that everything looks good just to get you to buy it. "Between me and store manager Denise Mitidieri, we have almost 60 years of retail experience," said Joyce Gardner, who opened FIT Clothes for the Modern Lifestyle last December, "and we know how to dress women."

She explained that she talks to a woman to understand who she is, what her body image is, what she wants to highlight and what she wants to minimize, how she wants to look, and what's going on in her life. Then, she suggests clothes that truly fit the woman's needs. Many women come back to FIT and say that they're wearing their purchases all the time and receive compliments, Joyce said. That's the reward she hopes for.

After nearly 20 years as a partner in a chain of four women's clothing stores in San Francisco and Burlingame, Joyce took a break, then decided to open a store here in Oakland, where she lives. She was familiar with the neighborhood and knew the quality of the shops and restaurants in the area. When the current space became available just a few steps from the Rockridge BART station, she signed a lease.

Joyce said the response from the neighborhood has been great. "This area has a lot of women who are 35 and up and who are looking for a sense of style, interesting clothes that are stylish and of good quality.



FIT Clothes owner Joyce Gardner displays some of the wide variety of styles she carries.

Photo: Jackie Tasch

That's who I buy for."

Growing up in New York City, Joyce worked in her mother's clothing store after school, learning about the business and how to work with women customers. She went to the Fashion Institute of Technology and later moved to California, working as display director at Casual Corner, among other positions, before opening the four stores she had until recently. Like her mother's store, FIT is a neighborhood store, where women come back over and over. "Here you get to know women and build relationships," she noted. "Buying a dress in a new store is like getting a haircut for the first time… I need to hear about your preferences and what you like, because no woman wants *just* a dress anymore than she wants *just* a haircut."

As we walked around the bright, airy store, the new Diane Von Furstenburg items leapt out at me, with her signature inventive print. There's also a black and tan chevron knit skirt, jacket, and dress in a fabric that just melts in your hands, and a stunning black and white dress with eye-catching details. A number of fall items are from Poleci, including a versatile optical shirt in a brown, gray, sage green, charcoal, and tan print, with coordinating pants and jackets in sage green and gray. The synthetic material feels like soft wool but travels very well (you can see more at the trunk show on September 13 at the store).

Joyce also carries a number of shirts by Farinez, including a French-blue shirt with an open neck and interesting cuffs in a smooth sateen-finished cotton. She carries the "perfect basic white shirt" in a comfortable stretch fabric. The well-known blue dot pants are also available in inviting fall colors, updated classic shapes, and materials from cotton to a leather that looks better the more it is worn. These are pants with personality.

FIT also offers a full range of basic cashmeres and wools, the sweaters and tanks that fill out any wardrobe. Joyce carries these items in a medium weight, "autumn cashmere," rather than the heavy weight appropriate to colder climates.

A Rockridge neighbor happened to be in the store, picking up an outfit for her 20th high school reunion, a big moment in any woman's life. Joyce had suggested a lovely black silk two-piece dress, highlighted with blue and taupe embroidery. Denise, a jewelry designer who shows some work at the store, made a pair of lovely earrings to go with it. The customer said Joyce is "good at telling you what looks good on your body and putting outfits together. I don't have to go to San Francisco anymore to find something stylish, I can just come here and know that I'm supporting unique local stores as well."

She left knowing that she would look great for this important event. What more could any woman want?

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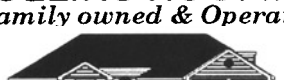
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

E-mail Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210, or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

Councilmember Jane Brunner's Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday each month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph). **Note:** No September meeting. For information on future meetings: 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com.

Oakland City Council Meeting

Every Tuesday, 7pm, City Hall.

Oakland Planning Commission

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, 6:30pm, City Hall. Agendas, details: www.oaklandnet.com.

The Greater Rockridge N'hood Crime Prevention Council

Steering committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 to 8:30pm, Fire Station #8 community room, 463 51st Street. For more information see the link to the NCPC webpage at www.rockridge.org.

2003 Rockridge Kitchen Tour

Sunday, September 28, 1-5:30pm. This RCPC fundraiser will feature nine beautifully remodeled Rockridge home kitchens with the latest trends in architectural styles. For tickets, go to www.rockridge.org and click on 2003 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, or use the coupon on page 7.

Out & About In Rockridge

STREET FESTIVAL Sunday, September 28, 11am to 5pm. Music, entertainment, and displays from our local shops and restaurants. Sponsored by the Rockridge District Association: 869-5600 or www.Rockridgedistrict.com

Oakland Creek to Bay Day

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9am till noon. Neighborhood volunteers meet at DMV parking lot off Claremont Ave. at Cavour St. to clean Temescal Creek. Potluck lunch to follow at noon at the corner of Cavour and Redondo. Sponsors: DMV Neighbors Assoc., providing coffee and snacks, and the City of Oakland Environmental Services Division, supplying gloves, tools, bags, et al (or bring your own tools). See if we can find a winner for the California Coastal Commission's yearly contest for the most unusual piece of garbage. For any questions, call Margaret at 655-1767.

FROGpark Work Party

Saturday, September 20, 8:30-5pm, followed by dedication of the newly restored Oceanus mural. Volunteers meet at Hardy Park. Refreshments: morning coffee and bagels, hot dog BBQ lunch and snacks at dedicaton. Mark your tools. No children under 13. Details: Lisa Kaplan, 653-5870 or FROG website, www.frogpark.org.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Ave. Call 597-5017 for information about pre-school, toddler, and pajama-time story hours, and special programs.

- Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8pm. Sign-up begins 5pm. (NO MEETING in October; library is a polling place for the recall election.

Note: New Library Hours

Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5:30pm; Friday, 12 to 5:30pm. Sunday and Monday, CLOSED.

Rockridge Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, 7pm. Veterans Building 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. Improve public speaking skills in a friendly and supportive environment. For information call Kathy, 601-6176 or e-mail www.rockridgetoastmasters.org

Writer's Support/Critique Group

Rockridge Branch Library, 1st Saturday of the month: 2:30 to 5:30pm. ALL writers welcome. Bring 6 copies of 5 pages of your prose for on-site reading/discussion. Sponsored by the California Writers Club, Berkeley branch (www.berkeleywritersclub.org/) For more information: 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com

Third Annual Rockridge Photo Exhibition

Rockridge Branch Library, September 12 through October 11. Local photographers present their impressions of life in Rockrige. Contact Ortrun Niesar: 986-9560, 326-2161 or oniesar@aol.com

Oakland Tours Program

Free city-sponsored guided walking tours on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises. Eight different tour itineraries are repeated throughout the season. All tours start at 10am and last 90 minutes. For a 2003 tour schedule, call 238-3234 or visit www.oaklandnet.com.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

5433 College Ave. All Events are free and open to the public.

- Wednesday, 9/10, 7:30pm, Alice Wilson-Fried: *Menopause, Sisterhood, and Tennis: A Miraculous Journey Through the "Change."*
- Thursday, 9/11, 7:30pm, Clive Matson, Editor, & Other Bay Area Poets: *An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind*. Poems in response to the events of 9/11.
- Wednesday, 9/24, 7:30pm, Robbie Conal: *ART-BURN: The Twenty-First Century Shots from a Guerrilla Artist.*
- Thursday, 9/25, 1pm, Ann Perry: *No Graves as Yet*.
- Friday, 9/26, 1pm, Vicki Robin: *Your Money or Your Life*.

For more information about readings, book discussion groups and classes, Call 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts

2640 College Ave., Berkeley. **Treasure Sale**: Sunday, Sept. 21. Proceeds to benefit this exquisite historical building and theater. Donations of items in good condition accepted through Sept.12. Call to arrange donation drop-off. We will send a tax donation receipt. 845-8542 x376 or rica@juliamorgan.org

Free Comedy Showcase & Open Mic

Start your career in comedy at A 'Cuppa Tea, 3200 College Ave, (corner of Alcatraz). Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9pm. Be there by 7pm to sign up. **Also**: Call 420-0196 to find out about free acoustic music performances from 7 to 9pm.

College Avenue Adult Center

College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. Every Wednesday, 9:30am to 1:30pm. Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music. Hot lunch available at noon for $1.75. For details about upcoming field trips and special programs, call Kathy at 531-6724.

North Oakland Multi-Purpose Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Center Hours: Monday – Friday 8:45am to 4:45pm - closed Tues., Sept. 9th, Admission Day. **Celebrating Five Years!** Open House, Wednesday, September 17 1 to 4pm. The community is welcome to celebrate with us: Exhibitions, official speakers, live swing band and light refreshments. Classes, workshops and educational/social events. The Newsletter, *North Oakland Senior Times* provides a schedule of classes and a monthly lunch menu : (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $1.75 and $4 under age 60). Call 597- 5085 for details about membership, newsletter, class or appointment times, and volunteer opportunities.

Elder Care Support Group

Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 3rd floor, room 3369B (take elevator B). Free for family/friends caring for older adults. 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5:30pm. For information on all support/education groups offered by Alta Bates/Sutter Health: call Monica at 802-1725 or e-mail Monicalcsw@alum.calberkeley.org

Volunteers Needed

- **Alameda County Community Food Bank**. All welcome, including groups and kids age 10 or older. Assist in the warehouse or office; staff the Hunger Hotline, the Food Bank's toll-free food referral service. Call Volunteer Mgr. Mary Schoen: 834-FOOD(3663) or www.accfb.org.
- **Oakland Elizabeth House.** A Transitional Residence for Women and Children in Rockridge 6423 Colby St., Oakland. Residential and support services to homeless and low-income women and children. Help with childcare, homework, mentoring, field trips and house chores. 658-1380, ext.4, or e-mail volunteer@oakehouse.org
- **Oakland Parents Literacy Project** Join our Community Activists for Reading Excellence (CARE) program. Volunteer one day or evening per month, either at a School Clean Up or a Family Reading Night. OPLP hosts Family Reading Nights at 37 Oakland Schools, including two events each at Emerson, Santa Fe, and Golden Gate Elementary Schools. Care members are eligible for various benefits and prizes. For more information, call George Willcoxon, Program Director, at 889-5903 or www.oplp.org



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