THE Rockridge News
www.rockridge.org
VOL. 18 ■ NO. 9 ■ ISSUE NO. 194 ■ October 4, 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, October 16, 7:30 p.m.

Rockridge Branch Library
Community Room
5366 College Avenue at Manila

- **City officials led by Interim Planning Director Claudia Cappio will discuss proposed rules for new housing and additions to single family homes. A pending review of the city's Tree Protection Ordinance is also on the agenda.**
  - Have you ever considered adding a new room or even a second story to your home but wonder what rules you will need to observe?
  - Is the open view and sunlight you have enjoyed for years about to be blocked by a blank wall after a second-story addition is built next to your home?
  - Is there a marvelous old tree in your neighborhood that is being threatened by a proposed construction project?

  If your answer is "Yes" to any of the above, you won't want to miss the October 16 RCPC General Meeting. For additional information, see stories below and on page 8.

Hallowe'en in Rockridge: Focus on Parade, Not Candy

This year's Hallowe'en Parade will be just that: a parade. About 11 a.m. on Sunday October 26, children and their parents will gather at the Rockridge Library for Hallowe'en stories, then stroll in festive costumes up the Hudson Street sidewalks to FROG Park.



Pictured on College Avenue in last year's Hallowe'en parade, Fairy Starbright Madeleine Nelson, at left, admires the Snow White Halloween costumes of friends Carolyn Stephens and Julia Cunniffe.

Many parents said they would prefer an event that focused on the parade and put less emphasis on candy. There will be some special treats at the park, and parents, children, and their friends are welcome to remain there after the parade. However, there will be no organized trick-or-treating along College Avenue.

Please do not go to Rockridge merchants expecting to Trick-or-Treat for candy because they are not being asked to prepare for that.

The Rockridge Community Planning Council and Rockridge Kids continue to co-sponsor the parade. Look for more details on posters at the Rockridge Library and at Rockridge Kids store.

Views and Sunlight at Stake In City-Proposed Residential Design Review Rule Changes

by Jacqueline Tasch

Only "picture postcard views"—not views of gardens, trees, and open sky—would be protected under proposed city rules governing new residential construction in Rockridge. Similarly, sunlight entering outdoor patios would be protected but not the sunlight that brightens kitchens and other spaces inside the home.

At the October 16 RCPC General Meeting, Oakland's planning staff and Planning Commission will present their proposed rules and regulations to govern new homes and additions to single-family residences. Staff will explain why the city wants to implement them and take public comments on needed changes and improvements to the proposals. The rules that are finally adopted will determine what is allowable in

DESIGN REVIEW, PAGE 7

At the September RCPC Meeting

Evolving Kitchen Design Fitting Topic for RCPC Meeting

by Natalie Mehta

In early kitchens, the focus was on the functional, whereas modern kitchens focus on aesthetics and personal expression. At the September 18 RCPC General Meeting, two local kitchen experts discussed both design approaches to the hearth of every home, treating an audience of more than 40 to a slide show and lecture.

Jane Powell, author of *Bungalow Kitchens*, identified various elements of early kitchens and provided a history of their evolution:

- Early kitchens were crafted out of local and affordable materials—granite countertops would have been found only in the quarry owner's kitchen.
- Linoleum, a natural flooring

SEPTEMBER RCPC, PAGE 6

2003 Kitchen Tour Story and Photos: Page 3



Around the Neighborhood

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

Exercise, Like Politics, Is Local

If I were running for governor or president or grand guru of the great wide world, I would tell you that I decided to get out and walk my neighborhood so I could meet the people and see what it's like on the sidewalks. But that would not be true. I started hitting the streets this fall in hopes of walking off a few pounds.

Since exercise has never been my strong suit, it seemed like a good idea to get it over with before my body was fully awake and could protest. So I roll out of bed, into some sweats, and through the front door, stopping only to feed the cat and grab my bright yellow radio headphones.

For the first few days, I pretty much kept my eyes on the sidewalk, which is not in such great condition in some parts of Rockridge, I learned. Then little things caught my downturned eye: initials, of course, but also political appeals and, on one block, an apparent effort to make the sidewalk look like it's composed of concrete flagstones.

Eventually, I looked up and started taking in the scene. Even in a car going 30 mph you notice the well-kept houses and carefully tended gardens, but now I saw things you miss on a drive-by visit. For example, I love the trees joining hands over some streets as if they were kids playing London Bridge Is Falling Down. I'm intrigued by the houses designed for corner lots, with the front walk curving out to where the streets meet.



Frank

Some houses call attention to themselves with, say, giant butterflies on the front wall, or a bright red staircase leading up to a dark gray house, or an enormous colorful dragon hovering under the slanted roof of a Craftsman porch. Other distinguishing features are more subtle, like the scrawl on a gate that tells you this is "Skyler's House."

There are a few people on the streets with me, mostly going to work or school, and I usually say hello. Market Hall is just starting to open when I pass by, but one day a waiter was sitting at an outside table folding silverware into napkins, and he smiled as I went by.

If I had started my walks a few months ago, I might have run into Frank, who used to set out about 9 o'clock every morning to do errands and see the local sights. You may remember him by the backpack, the fedora, and the cane. Until his wife died a few years ago, she was always with him.

Frank was part of the oldest generation of long-time Rockridge residents, a little thread in the fabric of his community. Kids seeing his white beard sometimes confused him with Santa Claus, and he was certainly a benign presence. Frank never intruded on neighbors, but he welcomed a chance to chat, and many folks got to know a little bit about him over the years. Others recognized him but never knew his name. Lately, he's been missed. Frank joined his wife in early September, and we wanted to let all the friends he's made over the years know what happened to him.

As for what's happened to me, it's nice that I'm having a good time because I don't think I'm making a lot of progress on my original goal. Then again, I haven't dug out the scales lately. So if you should happen to find one of my lost pounds on your sidewalk, don't worry about returning it. I have more than enough to get by.

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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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- 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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Publication date of the next issue is
☛ November 8, 2003;
☛ November deadline is October 23.

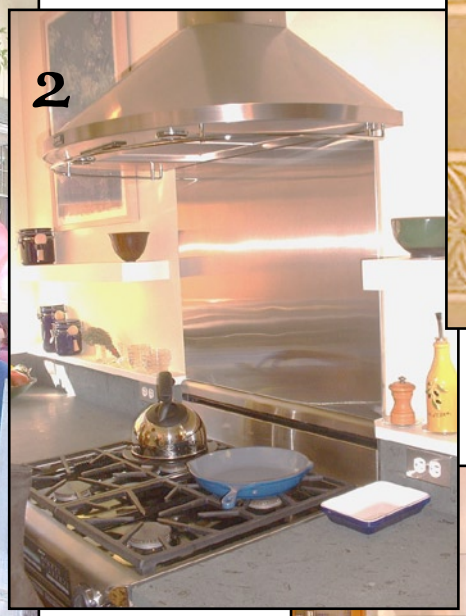
Advertising rates are $22/column inch. Six-month pre-pay rate available. To advertise, call Lauri Scharber at 655-2196. *(RCPC reserves the right to refuse any display or classified ad that it deems inappropriate.)*

October 2003
Rockridge Kitchen Tour
Impressive Visitors

Beautiful kitchens and fair weather contributed to the success of the 2003 Rockridge Kitchen Tour, held September 28. While many Rockridge visitors enjoyed Market Hall and other "Out and About" activities, about 800 visitors toured nine local residential kitchens. Tourgoers were looking for inspiration, noting special details, and speaking with the knowledgeable docents, architects, and homeowners who were sharing renovation stories.

The November *Rockridge News* will report more fully on the event, but here are a few photos capturing the spirit and some sights of the day.









Text and Photos 1-4: Natalie Mehta

Photo 1: Visitors waiting their turn to visit a Tour home enjoy a moment of coffee and conversation as they anticipate their visit.

Photo 2: Stainless steel ventilator hood shows unusually soft details for such a robust job.

Photo 3: Tourgoers admire the craftsmanship and design detail inside a kitchen.

Photo 4: Tiling detail on a stove backsplash provides a visual focal point and display area.

Community Spirit Drives *Oceanus* Mural Restoration



Visitors and volunteers take a close look at and admire the painstaking work done on the restored mural *Oceanus*. Amateurs and experts alike worked under the supervision of original artist Gary Graham to restore and preserve the mural.

PHOTOS: CARROLL MOORE



At a rededication ceremony September 20, Oakland officials praised the community spirit and activism that resulted in the refurbishing of the 3,000 square-foot Claremont Avenue mural, *Oceanus*, which had been defaced by graffiti. Particular acknowledgment went to Kate Runyan, organizer of the team of volunteers—from rank amateurs to nationally recognized artists—who spent about 10 days in mid-July restoring the mural depicting undersea life to its original beauty.

Councilwoman Jane Brunner rejoiced in the spirit of North Oakland in turning the mural from an eyesore into a proud addition to the landscape. Roberta Babcock of the city's Cultural Arts and Marketing Department recalled how funds were found for graffiti abatement in a tight city budget. She also read a letter from Jamil Blackwell, Superintendent of Public Works, which praised Rockridge's resourcefulness and creativity. He said the effort and the results were an inspiration to his entire Public Works staff as well as to his grandsons. Both departments contributed funds and labor; Public Works cleaned the mural and later applied a strong, new graffiti-resistant surface covering.

Claire Wahrhaftig-Isaacs, member of the Public Art Advisory Committee that helped coordinate the project, introduced the speakers, including Theresa Nelson of RCPC's Board, Runyan, and Joel Blondeau, representing the artist, Gary Graham, who had a prior teaching commitment.

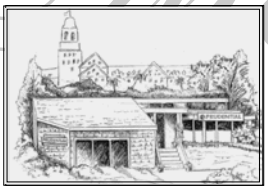
Graham and Vista College students created the original mural in 1976, and he led more than 80 volunteers—with help from professional restorer Blondeau—in restoring and repainting the huge mural under the freeway on Claremont across from Hudson Street. It had been damaged by graffiti, fading, and ivy growth. Also acknowledged for their contributions were local artist Jeff Norman, former RCPC Chair Susan Montauk, and former FROG Chair Steve Costa.

The ceremony was held at Hardy Park, a cheerful, frequently-used playground for children and their families, located across the street from the mural.

Not surprisingly, it was Runyan and her crew that provided refreshments: a cake in the shape of a whale. — *C W-I*



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FROG Workers Spruce up the Old and Add New Treats

by Jacqueline Tasch

Teenagers are a species not often found in FROG Park, the community playground created by Friends of the Rockridge Greenbelt (FROG). But on September 20 more than 80 teenagers swarmed the area, and although the play structures were a little small for them, they seemed to be having a good time.

The freshmen from College Prep High School were the core workers for FROG's fall cleanup day at the parks: sealing the wood on fences and play structures, sifting sand, sweeping sidewalks, and helping with the larger tasks of installing new tiles and a new spiderweb for small tots.

"The students are the foundation for creating a successful event," said FROG Chair Sally Fitzhugh. "Community volunteers have always been generous with their time, but the teenagers give us a strong, basic workforce."

This fall, the cleanup workers added 70 new tiles to the fences at Hardy Park, creating a second horizontal row. After seeing how dark some of the early tiles turned out, the families who paid $25 to add additional tiles tended to go for lighter colors. A new spider web was installed at Redondo Park, which is designed for small tots from 2 to 5 years old. Carroll Moore prepared the master list of tasks, Kate Runyan organized food, Karen Cheever provided the tiles, and Lisa Kaplan was the liaison with College Prep High School.



College Prep students joined community volunteer workers on FROG fall cleanup day. Photos: Jacqueline Tasch



New tiles adorn the playlot fence, adding to the existing hand-painted collection installed when the park opened.

The connection between the FROG parks and the students at College Prep dates back to the original build in 2001, when College Prep students dug postholes and did other heavy work. They returned for last year's and this year's fall cleanup, "even though the work is less glamorous," Fitzhugh said.

Every class at College Prep has a community project, all of them directed by Community Services Director Cynthia Geddes. This year's freshman class adopted the FROG parks, and the whole class turned out for the Saturday workday. Students also engage in individual projects, Geddes said, but the FROG project teaches a particularly useful lesson.

"Even though you only do a very small amount of work," she said, holding fingers an inch or so apart, "you can see that if you do it together you can do a lot. That's a good thing for them to learn."


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Yahoo!: New Neighborhood Watch Network Up and Running

Residents of 12Y and 13X are invited to join

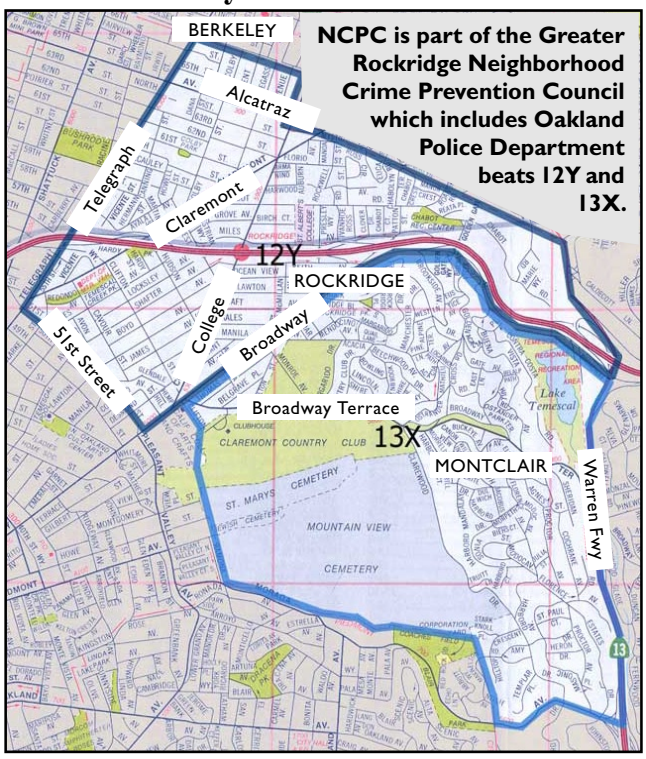
by Susan Montauk, Group Moderator

Community response to the newly-formed Rockridge Neighborhood Watch Network Yahoo Group has been very positive. The group is part of the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, which includes Oakland Police Department (OPD) beats 12Y and 13X.

Fifty community members have already signed up since its formation in August. In September, they used this e-mail group to share crime reports, the majority of which were automobile break-ins and auto accessory thefts in areas above College Avenue. Group members seek to establish patterns for these activities by sharing their information as the first step toward finding the culprits, according to OPD officials.

Residents of OPD beats 12Y and 13X are invited to join the group. Boundaries for 12Y are: the Berkeley border, Telegraph Avenue, 51st Street and Broadway. 13X boundaries are Highway 13, Moraga Road, Clarewood, and Broadway. To join, log on to www.yahoogroups.com, go to "Join a Group" and enter RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork. The application includes profile information about residency which will determine your acceptance into the group.

NCPC boundary includes Beats 12Y and 13X



September RCPC

from page 1

material, was equally useful as a countertop material and came in patterns ranging from single colors to elaborate "Chinese carpet" designs.

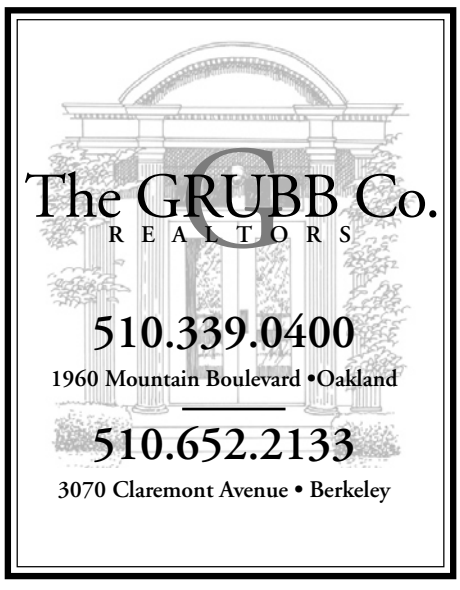
- The "kitchen triangle" concept was born out of early kitchen design's effort to increase efficiency.

At the other end of the historical spectrum, Kathryn Rogers, owner of Sogno Design Group, showcased several of her recent projects and illustrated the impact of rethinking the flow and features of spaces:

- The sun's path across the home is an important consideration in space planning—a kitchen nook and its occupants will appreciate the morning light, while the den may be better placed in a darker, cozier location.
- One client's interest in found objects and personal expression resulted in a kitchen layout that was planned around a baker's cabinet, and the backsplash incorporated tiles of characters that now "live" in the kitchen.
- Kathryn's own studio incorporates materials from her client's projects and offers seamless views into her garden, a source of positive energy and inspiration.

RCPC thanks both Powell and Rogers for sharing their evening and experiences with us. Powell's books may be purchased in local bookstores.







Design Review

from page 1

A review of the draft rules (for a full set contact City staffer Chris Buckley at 238-6983) turned up some surprises. Many of the regulations come from the "S-14" post Firestorm Area rules. These were designed to facilitate the necessary rebuilding of an entire area of more expensive, hillside homes. Whether this template can properly be transferred to the bulk of Rockridge and Oakland deserves public input.

While there is view protection in the draft, it turns out only "picture postcard" type views of San Francisco, the Bridges, and city skylines are valued. This may work fine for homes in the Oakland Hills, but those who live in the flatlands will receive no real view protections. Views of trees, open areas, blue sky, or the local cityscape have no perceived value and therefore receive no protection in the proposed regulations. Some argue that to protect these "less significant views" will unfairly restrict expansion of and addition to existing buildings in Rockridge. Others believe that a home does not need to have a "million dollar view" to deserve view consideration and protection.

"Solar Access" or sunlight seems to be protected in the draft regulations, but only for exterior spaces such as decks and patios. Many feel that to make urbanized areas such as Rockridge livable, there needs to be a "right to light." While protection of solar access and sunlight in outdoor spaces is important, many feel it is only a start. The "sun-filled kitchen" or bedroom "flooded with morning light" that are prominent features of real estate ads, and that make smaller, tightly grouped Rockridge homes so livable, are not protected by the new regulations. General solar access or sunlight streaming into interior living spaces is not considered in the city's proposed Design Review.

These proposed regulations deal in a limited way with privacy and the impact of windows, additions, and second stories on the right to privacy in close quarters. The overall bulk of the building and its neighborhood impact are considered as well. The details merit close scrutiny.

Everyone concerned about maintaining the character and livability of Rockridge has an interest in these regulations, and the city needs to hear what residents believe is necessary to keep Rockridge a special and livable urban space.

The "sun-filled kitchen" or bedroom "flooded with morning light" that... make smaller, tightly grouped Rockridge homes so livable, are not protected by the new regulations...sunlight streaming into interior living spaces is not considered in the city's proposed Design Review.

ZONING COUNTER

6461 Regent Street

Proposal: To construct a second-story addition to the rear of an existing single family dwelling.
Applicant/Owner/Phone: Harvey Levine & Beth Schoenberger/420-4578
Planning Permits Required: Minor Variance to allow a 3'-1" side yard where 5'-0" minimum is required; and Special Residential Design Review for a residential addition.
Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property (PDHP); Survey rating D1+
Case Planner: Andrew M. Smith at 238-6414 or asmith@oaklandnet.com

5634 College Avenue

Proposal: To renovate the facade of an existing commercial building.
Applicant/Contact Person/Phone: Patrick Sheahann/849-3934
Owner: Robert E. Anderson
Planning Permits Required: Regular Design Review to renovate the facade of an existing commercial building in the C-31 Zone
Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: D2+
Case Planner: Leigh McCullen at 238-4977 or lmccullen@oaklandnet.com

392 61st Street

Proposal: To add a one-story, 400 square foot addition to the rear of a two-story single family dwelling.
Applicant: Nilus Designs
Contact Person/Phone Number: Ian Glidden/415-826-3434
Owner: Tim and Jane Goodman
Planning Permits Required: Special Residential Design Review for a residential addition; Minor Variance to maintain 2'-6" existing non-conforming side yard setbacks where 5'-0" minimum is required
Historic Status: Potential Designated Historic Property; Survey rating: D2+
Case Planner: Miroo Desai Brewer at 238-6935 or mbrewer@oaklandnet.com



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455 Hudson	$799,000	$785,500	9/25/03

✔ 3rd quarter sales show the median price of a home in Rockridge at $672,500- a 1.5% decrease since the 2nd quarter but still nearly a 7% increase over the 1st quarter.

✔ In September 2002 there were 10 sales versus only 5 sales in September 2003. This is representative of a 50% decrease in inventory rather than a decrease in interested buyers.

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City Will Review Enforcement Of Protected Tree Ordinance

by John Gussman, RCPC Legal Adviser

A dispute over the City of Oakland's handling of a construction project which might damage a prominent oak tree near Rockridge has led the city to initiate a review of how the Tree Protection Ordinance is being administered. Councilmember Jane Brunner will coordinate the review, which is to be jointly conducted by the Planning Department and the Office of Parks and Recreation.

In the review, the two agencies will analyze the administrative processes under the Tree Protection Ordinance, with the goal of making any needed changes in policies and procedures. The review will focus on how the agencies interact when dealing with tree permit applications; the measures being taken to identify protected trees that are affected by development proposals; and the role of project redesign in carrying out the intent of the ordinance.

The Tree Protection Ordinance provides safeguards for Coast Live Oak trees which are at least 4 inches in diameter and other trees (except Eucalyptus and certain Monterey Pines) at least 9 inches in diameter. A developer's site plan must indicate the location of any protected tree which is within 30 feet of proposed development activity.

If the project will involve the removal of any such protected tree (including cutting, girdling, or other specified actions which might destroy the tree), or if any such tree is located within 10 feet of the proposed construction, the developer must file an application for a tree permit with the city's Planning Department, along with any zoning application. The tree permit application is then referred to the Tree Division of the Office of Parks and Recreation for detailed analysis and a final decision.

The forthcoming review was triggered by a project proposed last year on Ayala Avenue near Forest Street. The applicant, who wanted to build a second house on her lot, failed to disclose in the project plans that there was a 35-foot high Coast Live Oak, with a trunk diameter of 2 feet and a 45-foot canopy, sitting on the boundary of the lot, less than 5 feet from the proposed structure. Since the planning department made no onsite inspection and required no public notice, it was unaware of the tree when it issued a design review approval for the project.

When the department later learned of the existence of the tree, it let the approval stand and continued to accept zoning applications for the same project. Months later, after two zoning variances had been approved by the Planning Commission on appeal, the applicant finally filed for a tree permit.

Invoking a procedure in the Tree Ordinance, a next-door neighbor promptly requested a Site Design Conference with the applicant and the city's tree reviewers. By then, however, the applicant was unwilling to consider any significant design changes. Since it could not be shown that the project would cause the certain destruction of the tree, the Tree Division was unwilling to deny the permit. The tree permit was ultimately approved with conditions, but without significant changes to the siting or design of the structure. Only time will tell whether the tree will be saved.

During the forthcoming review of poli-

Top of next page, first column

Michelle Syracuse
Color Consultant

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cies and procedures, the city will solicit comments from interested community organizations. Residents who have observed problems in connection with the administration and enforcement of the Tree Protection Ordinance, or who have comments about how trees are dealt with in the design review process, should contact the RCPC Land-Use Committee at the RCPC mailing address. Comments may also be forwarded to the author of this article at 655-8817.

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FORL to Hold Donor Appreciation Party at the Rockridge Library

On Monday October 20 from 6:30pm-8pm the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL) will host their First Annual Donor Appreciation Party. 2003 has been a difficult year for Oakland, and branch libraries have not been immune to cuts in services. Thanks to many extremely generous donations to FORL, the Board of Directors was pleased to present many books and other materials not covered under the city budget to the library. The donor appreciation party is being held to thank all FORL donors who have helped the Library over the past year. Light refreshments and some entertainment will be provided, and children are invited. Your invitation is below.

If you haven't given a 2003 donation yet, please come and join us anyway. We will be discussing FORL's gifts to the library this year that have been made possible by many generous tax-deductible donations. And, we will also let you know about our exciting gift plans for the Library for 2004.

The Rockridge Library is located at 5366 College Avenue, at Manila.

Questions? E-mail FORL chair Marilyn Citron: mbcitron@yahoo.com

You Are Invited

The Board of Directors
Of
The Friends Of The Rockridge Library
Invite You To

Our 1st Annual Donor Appreciation Party

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003
Time: 6:30pm - 8pm
Place: Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue at Manila
Haven't given a 2003 donation yet? Not a problem.
Stop by and say hello to us and learn about how we've helped the library this year, and our plans for 2004.

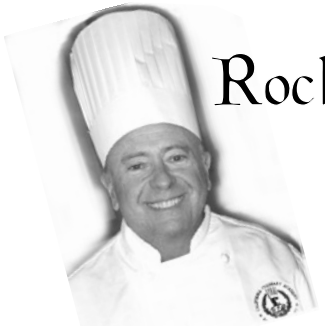
Friends Of The Rockridge Library
5245 College Avenue, #311, Oakland, CA 94618

Dear Rockridge Residents:

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

Fusion Cuisine?— Nothing New

To hear people talk these days, you'd think that fusion cuisine was the newest thing in town. Asian-French, North African-Spanish, American Southern-Caribbean, and Italian-Chinese — these are just a few fusion combinations now becoming restaurant themes. However, fusion cooking has been going on for centuries.

When I was a student at the California Culinary Academy, I was required to take a course called Global Cuisine. For six weeks, we studied the spices, herbs, and esoteric ingredients found throughout the world's cusines. We cooked classical dishes from India, China, Japan, Southeast Asia, North and West Africa, the Middle East, Mexico, and Latin America.

During this globe-trotting food adventure, I was suddenly struck by the prevalence of lime, cilantro, and hot chili peppers in both Mexican food and the cuisine of Southeast Asia. How did these ingredients come to be the foundation for two cuisines located in far corners of the world?

Peppers originated in Mesoamerica. One of the results of the Spanish conquest was that chilies were brought back to Europe and beyond. Five hundred years later, the *Capsicum* family (peppers) plays a central role in the cuisines of Africa, the Szechuan region of China, India, Mexico, South America, and Southeast Asia. Cilantro or coriander is probably one of the first spices to be used by early civilizations in the Mediterranean region, and limes stem from Southeast Asia. Three ingredients originating in three distant parts of the word came together to create the unique flavors of Mexican and Southeast Asian cuisine. Now that's fusion food.

The ingredients did the traveling in the previous case, but it was the people and the place that created the fusion cooking of southern Louisiana. In 1785, after the French and Indian War, the British forced French Arcadians out of their Nova Scotia homeland. As early North American war refugees, Arcadians emigrated to the French colony of Louisiana. Arcadian transmuted into Cajun. Today, many confuse Cajun cooking with Creole cooking. Although there are points of similarity, there are distinct differences. Cajun cooking is a combination of French and low-country Southern cooking. As with most French-influenced cooking, Cajun-style cooking uses a dark roux of fat and flour.

Creole cooking, on the other hand, refers to a more refined cuisine with a Spanish influence. In the early 18th century, the term Creole was applied to an upper-class cultural background with an appreciation for an elegant lifestyle. Today, Creole cooking reflects the integration of French, Spanish, and African cuisines. With an emphasis on butter and cream rather than pig fat, the style is more sophisticated than Cajun cookery. Also Creole cooking uses more tomatoes, while Cajun cuisine involves more spices. However, both cuisines rely on the "holy trinity" of green peppers, onions, and celery. The most famous Creole dish is gumbo. Gumbo is a derivation of the African word for okra, which is used to thicken the traditional New Orleans seafood stew. French, Spanish, African, and low-country Scotch-Irish – what could be more fusion than this?

Like all melting pot cooking, fusion cuisine brings new flavor combinations to our plates, but it also diminishes the authenticity of regional cuisine. Imagine Boston clam chowder made with Southeast Asian ingredients such as lemongrass and fish sauce. It would probably be delicious, but would it be Boston clam chowder? Chinese hoisin and soy sauces are increasingly showing up in barbecue recipes. Believe me, the result tastes great, but is it North Carolina or Kansas City barbecue sauce?

The combinations and permutations of global ingredients are infinite. Spices, herbs, and exotic ingredients from all over the word are showing up in recipes and on menus of upscale restaurants. When we lived in New York, we often ate at hole-in-the-wall Cuban-Chinese restaurants. My favorite dish was stir-fried squid in ink with fried plantains, Cuban beans, and Chinese steamed rice. Yum!

The following recipe is a favorite in our home. A combination of Indian, Italian, American, and Chinese influences, it is called three-flavored noodles. This is the standard dish we bring to potlucks. It is always a hit and can be served cold. Best part – no oil is used.

Three Flavored Noodles

Ingredients

½ pound angel hair pasta
2 medium onions
2 medium tomatoes
½ cup ketchup
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon sugar
pinch of white or black pepper
½ teaspoon light soy sauce
1 teaspoon hoisin sauce (available at all Rockridge markets)
4 tablespoons curry powder
½ cup chicken stock or water

Directions

1. Boil the pasta until al dente. Drain in colander and rinse with cold water.
2. Cut onion in half, then into thin half-moon slices. Cut tomatoes into ¼-inch thick wedges.
3. In a small bowl, combine ketchup, salt, sugar, pepper, and soy and hoisin sauces.
4. Place onions with curry powder in a wok or large saute pan over medium-low heat. Toast curry powder for 2 minutes or until pungent. Stir occasionally to prevent curry from burning.
5. Add the stock or water. Turn heat to high and bring liquid to boil while stirring. Add the ketchup-hoisin mixture. Add tomatoes. Stir well to mix ingredients and blend flavors.
6. To serve, pour sauce over the noodles and blend.

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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The Rockridge Muse

by Ortrun Niesar



▲ *Signs* ▼
(Series)
Stephen Seche

The Third Annual Rockridge Photography Exhibition turned out to be a wonderful blend of humor, whimsy, esthetic sensitivity, wit and passion for both the medium and the subject. We thank all of those who participated and look forward to next year's offering. You can enjoy the show at The Rockridge Library through October 10!



▲ *College Avenue Hallowe'en* ▼
Robert Hofmann







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NOCCS Dines to Celebrate Community

by Deborah Larson
Vice Chair, Rockridge Community Planning Council

Can a few concerned citizens change the world? Addressing that question is deeply rooted in the philosophy of the North Oakland Community Charter School (NOCCS), which opened in September 2000. The goal is for its kindergarten through fourth-grade students to understand that the answer is, "Yes" — and to do their part in making it so.

With a little help from the Rockridge Community Planning Council, NOCCS students and their parents provided a lasagna dinner once a month for low-income and homeless Oakland residents during the past school year. Last March, NOCCS received the first RCPC Community Service Grant in the amount of $1,000. NOCCS used the grant monies to help fund their Community Dinner Project, held the second Friday of every month during the past school year at the College Avenue Presbyterian Church, which is home base for NOCCS.

RCPC's stated goal for the Community Service Grant is to "create stronger bonds between the local community and its local schools." What better way to create those bonds than to open up the doors to people in need and feed them a warm meal in an inviting environment?

According to school director Jen Bloom, "The school was interested in being involved in a hands-on community project that would engage our children's notion of service to others,

NOCCS Celebrates, page 13

A friend of NOCCS, Megan Pendleton, her mom Lara, and 1st/2nd grade teacher Ms. Kelly enjoy serving lasagna, salad and other NOCCS specialties!





The MacMillans, Crandalls, Katiyah and Khareasha sit down with guests and enjoy their dinner

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NOCCS Celebrates

from page 12



Brea Silver Kaye and Veronica Moss arranging flowers and placemats for the tables.

ALL PHOTOS: SUSAN MURRAY, NOCCS PARENT.

and empathy to those with fewer resources. This project not only directly addresses certain needs of the community but also helps to reduce barriers between the school and its community."

The final NOCCS dinner was held on May 9, and it was an evening of warmth, delicious food, and a sense of community spirit, bubbling with laughter and joy. NOCCS students, their siblings, and parents prepared the dinner and served their less fortunate guests, then sat down to chat and enjoy the food with them. The students made colorful placemats for the tables and flower arrangements to decorate the tables, and it was a great evening of sharing.

The NOCCS project illustrates that everyone—students, parents, the hungry and homeless—can benefit from working directly to address a community's needs. According to Amber, a NOCCS student, "When we feed the homeless and needy, it makes me feel great, because I care about the homeless." Rockridge also gains: By taking care of those in need, NOCCS worked to improve the overall health of the community.

The RCPC says thank you to NOCCS for its hard and loving work in creating a stronger Rockridge.

Carnival Fund-Raiser And School Site Tours Highlight Chabot School Fall Events

Everyone in the community is welcome

by Susan Poncelet

The annual fall carnival sponsored by the Anthony Chabot Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) will be held November 2 from 11am to 3pm at the Chabot School lower playground in Rockridge. Everyone in the community is welcome. The school and playground are at the intersection of Chabot Road and Patton Avenue.

Each class, kindergarten through fifth grade, participates by sponsoring a game booth such as Ring Toss, Lucky Duck, Cake Walk, and Bean Bag Throw, with prizes offered. Arts and crafts opportunities include pumpkin decorating, mask making, and crazy hat design. The haunted house is always a highlight. Music, a costume parade, a bake sale, and a visit from a fire truck complete the event.

The fall carnival is a major fundraiser for the Chabot Elementary PTA as well as an opportunity for the school and neighboring communities to meet. The Chabot PTA supports the school's music, art, garden, and computer programs, maintains the school's library, and contributes to new playground facilities and other improvements to the physical plant.

Also at Chabot School, kindergarten tours are being offered from 8 to 9:30 every Friday morning in October and the first Friday of every month following October. These tours give prospective kindergarten parents an opportunity to meet Principal Saddler, speak with Chabot parents, and tour the school grounds. Please call 879-1060 to indicate which date you would like to join a tour.

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Jazz and Classical Piano Lessons

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Bug Guard , Cellu-Sculpt, BeComing and mark. See the August *Allure* magazine, page 58, for more information about mark – for women between the ages of 16 and 24. Call Claudia 510/655-4258.

Temporary Room Rental

Having out of town guests and nowhere to put them? Large, sunny room available in Craftsman home in Rockridge/Elmwood area. See website for photos and info.: http://geocities.com/cayenne2810 or call 547-8788.

Violin Lessons, All Ages

Principal Second Violinist of Berkeley Symphony, Symphony San Jose, Del Sol Quartet. We're new in town! Stop by to say hello. Rick (violin) and Irene (piano). 595-7310.

Knitting Lessons – All Ages

Come learn to knit (or refresh your memory) in a cozy Rockridge studio. All levels welcome. Evenings as well as after school times available. Call Lori, 652-0883.

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Compiled by Jo Ellis

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

NOTE: no meeting October and November. For information on future meetings: 238-7001 or 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 NCPC webpage link at www.rockridge.org.

Legal Forum Part Two: "Crime Reduction – The Revolving Door," Saturday, Oct. 18, 9am to 12:20pm (registration: 8:30am). North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, 597-5085. Meet with local law enforcement and county officials and explore solutions to alleviate crime in our area. A local treatment provider will discuss services available for first time offenders. Sponsored by North Oakland Leadership Group, Area One, District Two – NCPC Chairpersons, in collaboration with Oak. Police Dept. and Community Agencies. RSVP to NCPC Chair 10X, Josephine Lee, 655-7270 or Sandi Mauricio, 615-5929, by October 14.

Chabot School Fall Carnival

November 2, 11am to 3pm. Chabot School, at Chabot Road and Patton Avenue, lower Playground. PTA fundraiser – all welcome.

Rockridge Halloween Parade

Sunday, October 26. Meet at 11am in front of the Rockridge Library for Hollowe'en stories, then join the parade up Hudson Street to FROG Park for treats. Please do not go to Rockridge merchants to Trick-or-Treat because they are not being asked to prepare for that.

FORL First Annual Donor Appreciation Party

Monday, October 20, 6:30 to 8pm at Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Ave. Sponsored by the Board of Directors of Friends of the Rockridge Library (FORL), to thank all of last year's FORL donors. Light refreshments and entertainment. All, including children, are invited. FORL chair, Marilyn Citron: mbcitron@yahoo.com.

Dedication of Postmark Temescal

Saturday, October 18, 10am to noon. On site: the new Post Office, 4900 Shattuck Ave.

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Ave.

For Children:

- **Toddler Story Time**, Saturday, 10:30am: 10/4, 10/11, 11/1, 11/8.
- **Pre-School Story Hours**, Wednesday, 10:30 & 11am: 10/15, 11/5, 11/19.
- **Pajama Story Time**, Tues, 7pm: 10/14, 11/25.
- **Special Fantastic Halloween Story Time**, (all ages welcome; not TOO scary): Tues, 10/28, 7pm.
- **Drop-in Craft for Halloween**/*Dia de los Muertos*: Kids of all ages, stop by the reference desk to make a Papel Picado or a skeleton. Kids under 5 should bring a grown-up.

For Young Adults:

- Teen Hip-Hop Workshops, ages 12 to 18. History, MC'ing, DJ'ing, record your own rap. 7 Saturdays: Oct. 4 through Nov. 22 for 2 hours sessions. Sign-up in person, or call Susan or Rocky: 597-5017.

For Adults:

- Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. First Tuesday of each month, from 6 to 8pm. Advance sign-up 5pm. Note: No lawyers Tues. Oct.7, as library will be a polling place for the recall election.

SPECIAL EVENT: Tues., Oct.14, 6:30 to 8pm. Author Tim Holt: *Rethinking the American Dream* – a discussion from his essays and novel.

New Library Hours:
Tuesday, 12:30 to 8pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5:30pm
Friday, 12 to 5:30pm
CLOSED: Sunday and Monday.
NOTE: As part of citywide furlough, all libraries may be closed Friday, Oct. 31. Call to confirm.

Rockridge Toastmasters

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

Speaking Without Fear

Free Workshop: Sunday, October 26, 1:30 to 3:45pm, at the College Ave. office of Susanne West, Chair of the Dept. of Liberal Arts at JFK University. Call 415/721-0766 for office address, more information.

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 Rockridge. For details: Ortrun Niesar, 986-9560, 326-2161 or oniesar@aol.com.

Free Comedy Showcase & Open Mic

Start your career in comedy at A'Cuppa Tea, 3200 College Ave, (corner of Alcatraz). Every Tuesday, 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.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

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

- Sunday, 10/5, 3 to 5pm, local Omnidawn Press Publication Party: readings from their new fall poetry publications.
- Thursday, 10/9, 7:30pm, Sylvia Boorstein: *Pay Attention for Goodness Sake: Practicing the Perfections of the Heart – the Buddhist Path of Kindness*.
- Friday, 10/10, 7:30pm, *The Guerrilla Girls: Bitches, Bimbos and Ballbreakers: The Guerrilla Girls' Illustrated Guide to Female Stereotypes*.
- Thursday, 10/16, 7:30pm, John Hart and David Sanger: *San Francisco Bay: Portrait of an Estuary*.
- Sunday, 10/19, 4pm, Marilyn Stablein: *Sleeping in Caves: A Sixties Himalayan Memoir*.
- Tuesday, 10/21, 7:30pm, Alexander Cockburn: *The Politics of Anti-Semitism*.
- Thursday, 10/23, 7:30pm, Deborah J. Haynes: *Art Lessons: Meditations on Being an Artist*.
- Tuesday, 10/28, 7:30pm, Mark Salzman: *True Notebooks*.
- Wednesday, 10/27, 7:30pm, Sobonfu Some and Linda Joy Myers: *Falling out of Grace: Meditations of Loss, Healing and Wisdom*. Also, *Becoming Whole: Writing Your Healing Story*.
- Sunday, 11/2, 4pm, Heather Woodbury: *What Ever: a Living History*.
- Tuesday, 11/4, 7:30pm, Don Novello: *From Bush to Bush: the Lazlo Toth Letters*.
- Wednesday, 11/5, 7:30pm, Bill Caldwell: *Oakland: a Photographic Journey*.
- Thursday, 11/6, 7:30pm, Nancy Levine: *The Tao of Pug*.

For inf. about readings, discussion groups and classes: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com.

College Avenue Adult Center

College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. Every Wednesday, from 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:

- Flu Shots: 10/21, 9am
- Free Health Screenings: 10/28, 10am to noon
- Flea Market: 10/11, 8am to 4pm

Variety of classes, workshops and educational/social events;

- Computer Classes
- Craft and sewing classes
- Walking groups and field trips.

The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a full schedule of classes as well as a monthly menu for lunch: (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $1.75 and $4 for those under age 60). Call 597- 5085 to get details about membership, newsletter, class or appointment times, and opportunities to become a volunteer.

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.



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